



Every Town & Village

Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Newsletter of the Hare Krishna Centre in Leicester, UK

Siksa Blessings

Devotees at the Hare Krishna Centre performed a *Siksa* Blessings Ceremony in which six devotees took their vows at various levels such as *Sraddhavan*, *Krishna Sevak*, *Krishna Sadhak*, *Srila Prabhupada Asraya* and *Sri Guru Caran Asraya*.

According to these levels of devotional service devotees chant one, four, eight or sixteen rounds of the Hare Krishna *maha mantra* daily, refrain from meat eating, intoxication, gambling and illicit sex. They also study devotional literatures such as *Bhagavad-gita* and *Srimad Bhagavatam* and attend the various training programmes at the Hare Krishna Centre or take part in its activities.

The highlight of the ceremony was a Vedic fire *yajna* after which devotees received certificates according to their particular level of achievement in devotional service.

Devotees who took part in the ceremony felt much inspired and expressed their desire to make further spiritual progress. The evening finished with a sumptuous vegetarian feast.



Offering Oblations into the Sacred Fire - Svaha!



Chanting the Brahma Samhita Prayers for Auspiciousness



Vastu Homa

Devotees from the Hare Krishna Centre in Leicester performed a *vastu homa* after one of its congregational members moved into her new home. A *vastu homa* is performed to create an auspicious atmosphere.

Kalasha pooja is a very important step in the *homa* for it is here that the main deity of the *homa* is invoked and worshipped in the *kalasha*, which is a copper pot filled with water.

A coconut is placed over the mouth of the *kalasha* and the coconut is surrounded by five or seven mango leaves. This *kalasha* is further decorated with flower garlands and a cloth is draped over it.

The *kalasha* is then placed at the North-Eastern corner of the *homa kunda* or the sacrificial pit. *Puja* is performed to the respective deity in the *kalasha*.

Another significance of the *kalasha* is that it absorbs all the positive energies generated during the *homa* and hence the divine water in the *kalasha* is sprinkled upon and distributed to the participants at the end of the *homa*. This water becomes charged with all the divine energies and has immense healing powers.

After some kirtan the sacred fire



Purna-Ahuti - Placing Bananas into the Sacred Fire

was evoked and oblations were placed into the flames. The *yajna* finished with the *purna-ahuti* or the final oblation. Thereafter devotees performed more kirtan. The afternoon concluded with a delicious prasadam feast for all.



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