



# **The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust**

**For Attention and  
distribution:**

**ALL ISKCON MEMBERS**

**Celebrating the  
400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
*Sri Caitanya Caritamrta***

**A BBT Global Communications Communique**



# About this day

In the concluding verse of *Caitanya-caritamrta*, Antya-lila 20.157, Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami writes:

"In Vrndavana in the year 1537 Sakabda Era [A.D. 1615], in the month of Jyaistha [May-June], on Sunday, the fifth day of the waning moon, this Caitanya-caritamrta has been completed."

This year 2015 marks the 400th anniversary of the completion of *Sri Caitanya Caritamrta* (CC). Using the above information, the exact date of the completion of CC appears to be Krsna-pancami, May 17, 1615, the disappearance day of Srila Ramananda Raya.

17th May falls on a **Sunday**, and provides a wonderful opportunity for this auspicious event to be celebrated as part of the Sunday Love Feast.

All BBT and ISKCON leaders are requested to bring to attention of all ISKCON devotees, particularly temples and centres under their influence, the importance of this event. Some important points to remember are:

- The rarity of CC during Bhaktivinoda Thakur's time and his difficulty in procuring a copy.
- Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur's emphasis on CC (his favourite book).
- Srila Prabhupada chose to translate CC as it is a crucial work to establish the Gaudiya Vaisnava siddhanta. It was done in a marathon period of 18 months in 1974-1975! The BBT produced most of the books (all of Madhya-lila and Antya-lila) –artwork included –during the famous 11-books-in-2-months marathon.

*Some suggestions for action:*

- It is appropriate that the Sunday morning and Love Feast class be given from *Sri Caitanya Caritamrta*, and the history of the CC discussed.
- An altar set up where the CC can be worshipped in a festive ceremony.
- A display of CC in the foyer with a short explanation (see last page – you can simply copy this message, adapt it if you wish, or write your own)
- A determined plan could be made to sell *Sri Caitanya Caritamrta* sets to your congregation during the Sunday feast, or distribute sets leading up to the event which can be announced as sankirtan scores (see [distributebooks.com](http://distributebooks.com) for a really good ideas).
- Ask everyone to read some aspect of CC on that day.

The following note may be printed and used alongside your display. You may use as is, adapt as you see fit, or write your own note.

## 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Sri Caitanya Caritamrta*

*Sri Caitanya Caritamrta* is one of the main biographies describing the life and teachings of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (1486–1533), the incarnation of the Supreme Lord, who appeared in Mayapur, West Bengal, and founded the Gaudiya Vaishnava sampradaya. This biography, written in a specific poetic metre by Krishna Das Kaviraja (b. 1496), is mostly in the Bengali language, but includes many Sanskrit verses.

Today, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the completion of this great book (AD 1615).

This biography describes the life of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and contains philosophical discussions about the process of *Bhakti yoga*, which is the deeper message of the science of loving God–Krsna and the chanting of His names.

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada specifically chose to translate this literature as a crucial work to establish the Gaudiya Vaisnava siddhanta (conclusions). He did it in a marathon period of 18 months in 1974-1975! The BBT produced most of the books (all of Madhya and Antya) –artwork included.