

# CON

by Ambrose Fierce

*Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Hare Hare. Amen.*

I am now a Hare Krishna-ite.

Krishna is Lord of the Universe, and His Divine Grace the Swami is Krishna's avatar. His Divine Grace is God.

I know this to be true; I have his own word for it. In the (I think) March, 1972 issue of *Back to Godhead*, the appealingly glossy and slick little comic-book-formatted Krishna Consciousness periodical, there is a fascinating essay by His Divine Grace. In this essay he lists the various proofs for his divinity, should anyone be disposed to doubt it. Many of these proofs have faded from my memory, but one, the most convincing, has remained: His Divine Grace observed that he must be God, because only God could know the names of all the demons on all the planets, and His Divine Grace knows the names of all the demons on all the planets. Every single planet, every single demon.

Now, a prideful and strong-minded person, such as, for example, Mrs. Torrance, might react to this pronouncement with an incredulous snort or an expression of contempt: "Feh." I, however, find such logic exhilarating, and would not change a word of His Divine Grace's assertion. Furthermore, I challenge Mrs. Torrance and all the other superannuated flinty intransigents — very high church, all of them, no doubt — to refute His Divine Grace, to prove him wrong. You cannot do it; His Divine Grace is God; those pigheaded enough to doubt this truth simply know not Krishna. Remember: every single planet, howsoever remote; every single demon, howsoever obscure. Beat *that*.

But, Mrs. Torrance will likely point out with a sneer, there are a number of people around these days claiming to be God; indeed, one could only with difficulty swing a cat without hitting one or more of these modest folk. There is, for example, the Maharaja Ji ("PEACE WANTS YOU"); there is this Korean Moon person; there is the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who, though not openly saying that he *is* God, is nevertheless rather coyly not denying it, either. Mrs. Torrance would likely point out further that we have also a more than ample supply of home-grown low zanies, and that yours was a very Merry grading upward from Garner Ted

Armstrong and his hormones, to Rev. Charles Manson (who will be *out* soon, and occasion to which his many followers look forward with fierce eagerness.) I also admit that our cities and hamlets teem with crazy, street-corner evangelists, and that we are aswam with fundy revivalists, whose services, granted, sound like the monkey house just before feeding time.

All this I admit. I can even understand when Mrs. Torrance bridles, as she no doubt will, and raps out some such pungent epithet as, "Preposterous balderdash! All these clowns are just a bunch of P.T. Barna. They could maybe fool Olaf Norgaard. Not me." Let me repeat: I concede Mrs. Torrance her points; I understand her attitude.

Then how can I argue for His Divine Grace? How can I be so absolutely positive that he is *the* one — out of so many contenders? I can be sure because he said the rest are frauds and that he himself is not; since he is, by his own infallible testimony, genuinely divine, it follows that he is God, and any further questions relating to his *bona fides* become impertinent, absurd, and ultimately blasphemous. It is that simple. I *believe*.

There is also His Divine Grace's well-known contempt for money. That reassures me. As I sit here listening to a cassette of His Divine Grace singing beautiful and nasal hymns accompanied by electric sarod, I am also writing out large cheques for more such cassettes, and I am comforted by the knowledge that His Divine Grace does not really want this money. As I write out more and heftier cheques for memberships, tours, books, magazines, and everything else that I must have to make me more Krishna conscious, and as I speculate on the likelihood of being able to meet next month's mortgage payment, I am soothed by the reflection that His Divine Grace is totally beyond sordid fiscal concerns, is hardly the man to scramble for a sleazy buck. So join us, Mrs. Torrance, I entreat you. That your liver made it through the holidays, for the 104th time, is astounding. Gorging bloody gobbets of meat. Swilling alcohol. Feh.

Mrs. Torrance, I nevertheless hope and trust that yours was a very Merry Krishnas.

## CWY offers exchange program

Three hundred young Canadians will find adventure, work and education this year when they go on an international exchange program sponsored by Canada World Youth (CWY). The program offers a unique opportunity to live and work in Canadian communities overseas and is open to any Canadian between 17 and 25 who has the desire to learn and the ability to adapt to new situations.

Applications for participants are now being accepted and programs beginning in July and September. Further information is available from Canada World Youth Centers, High

Schools, and Canada World Youth at 10250 - 121 St.

The CWY program is an eight month experience — four months in Canada and four in one of ten CWY exchange countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The CWY participants are grouped into small teams of people from across Canada and a particular exchange country.

As volunteers, the participants work on community projects gaining first-hand experience in agriculture, social services or small industries. These projects are to increase the participants understanding of

the cultural background of the community, and it's economic and social development problems. The team members may be billeted individually with families, or live together as a group. CWY supplies food, lodging, transportation and emergency medical treatment.

The program is designed to promote an understanding and appreciation of international development and co-operation while fostering a deeper awareness of the individual's responsibility to create a better world. It is a demanding program ... but it is also fun.

## Lessons

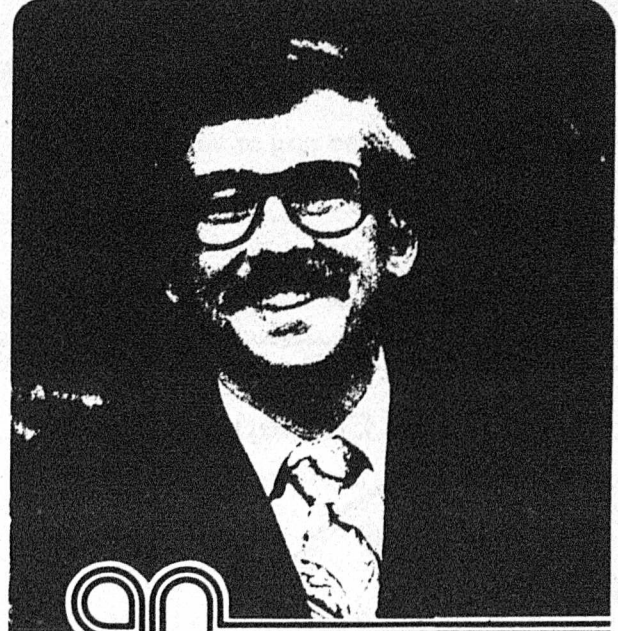
Swimming lessons are now being taken in the January program. There is room in most of the levels, register now to avoid disappointment. Classes are offered to adults and children, in Beginning, Intermediate, Competitive, Fitness, Red Cross Learn to Swim and RLSS classes. Brochures are available at the pool office, Physical Education and Recreation Centre, telephone 432-3570.

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