

# **History of New Shantipur Varnashram Eco-village**

« *The Miracle of Oublaise* »

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWTgwsCWawA>

This french 1957 film shows the story how after the world war II, humanist commandant Perrette, (serving in a tank division under General De Gaulle) gave shelter in his castle (to be New Mayapur) to brothers in arms to begin with, then to any post war soldiers and finally resumed justice who have been hurt morally and physically. It shows them working hard and expertly to build houses of the actual New Shantipur and getting close to self sufficiency.

In 1974 he shifted to a smaller (15 ha/37acres) place across the road (New Shantipur now) and sold the castle with 90 ha (222acres) land to ISKCON : the well known 'New Mayapur'.



## 1

Mr Perrette's dream of a village for his proteges came to an end because of harassment from the local administration. He had to close down and began to sell his shares to the devotees to what became 'New Shantipur' : a home for hundreds of devotees : a beautiful oak trees forest with a lake, swimming pool, 17 houses, a 50 rooms guest house, a 2000 m<sup>2</sup> (21500 sqf) factory and a 600 seats theater where an unforgettable play of Lord Nṛsimhadeva appearance was directed by Indradyumna Swami , the leader of that time.



2

During several years, every single house, every single room was occupied and families lived a nice Vaiṣṇava village life : a Varnashram Dharma village that Śrīla Prabhupāda wanted as the second half of his mission.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXBzPk0Gr0k>

***Incredible memories from Abhiram prabhu on this subject matter.***

Unfortunately, things came to an end when the total bankrupt of the French Yatra came up to the point that New Mayapur was sold at auction. Also Gaudruma farm (110ha/271acres with a river and a pond), Paris beautiful (and costly) restaurant (L'arbre à souhait) was lost along with Śrī Śrī Radha Paris Īśvara Temple, a very costly historic castle, far North of Paris.

Mismanagement, waste of money, huge debts, were the results of the distortion of the Sankirtan yajña from book distribution to money collection. Our leaders gave up and the yatra went deeper into total chaos with temple presidents succeeded one after another.

Fortunately, New Shantipur was not legally involved but we were minority trustees with only 28% of the shares.

***The Threat***

In 2014, our shares were threatened to be given by the New Mayapur authorities to a far right group (*La dissidence française*) whose project was to make a bootcamp for their military training although the local and government authorities were against their implantation.

**<https://tinyurl.com/ycwk4ndo>**

**3**

***SOS campaign : Save Our Shantipur***

Having violent and noisy meat eaters drinking alcohol neighbours across the road of New Mayapur was spontaneously unacceptable for Laksminath das (70).

Becoming a trustee of the property gave him the right to oppose the sale although the highest authorities of ISKCON wanted to give it up. In spite of the low price (55 000€) no one answered to his calls for help.

His sole motivation was to save the property and give it like a legacy to the future Vaiṣṇava generations.

## **VICTORY**

A 5 years juridic struggle with the help of ACBSP Kishori dd was successful : on September 2019 a new trust (SCI OUBLAISE) now owns the property. It is not an individual ownership but :

**« *That was a good fight!* »**

By 'chance', during the summer 2019, HH Bhakti Raghava Swami, director of ISKCON 'Daiva Varnashrama Ministry' was visiting New Mayapur for the first time. When seeing the great potential of New Shantipur, he encouraged us to go on with the project.



4

**New Mayapur and New Shantipur will become the center of a great Vaiṣṇava city.**

It may take decades or centuries but the Sankirtan Movement inaugurated by Lord Chaitanya will last for 10 000 years. For centuries our Ācāryas are endeavoring to make His desire a reality, not only for India but for the whole world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda has been empowered to convey Mahāprabhu’s desire, he is His Senapati :

*ebe nama sankirtana  
tikshna khadaga laiya  
antara asura jivera  
phelibe katiya*

“Taking the sharp sword of the congregational chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, (nama-sankirtana) I will root out and destroy the demoniac mentality in the hearts of all the conditioned souls.”

*yadi papi chadi dharma  
dure dese yaya  
mora senapati-bhakta*

*yaibe tathaya*

“If some sinful people escape and giving up religious principles go to far off countries, then my senapati-bhakta (military commander) will come at that time to give them Krishna consciousness.”

– Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in *Śrī Caitanya Mangala, Sutra-khanda*, by Locana das Thakura.

## 5

***‘You’ll never be short of water here.’***

*(Śrīla Prabhupāda in New Mayapur)*

Our friendly Mayor, who met Śrīla Prabhupāda in his youth, is the water manager of the area. He confirmed : the largest water table of Europe is under our feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda first saw the huge factory on his visit to New Mayapur and planted an instruction as a seed, one out of many :

***‘Very good, we can utilize this place to provide jobs for devotees so that they don’t have to work outside.’***

*(ACBSP Visvambhar prabhu’s testimony)*

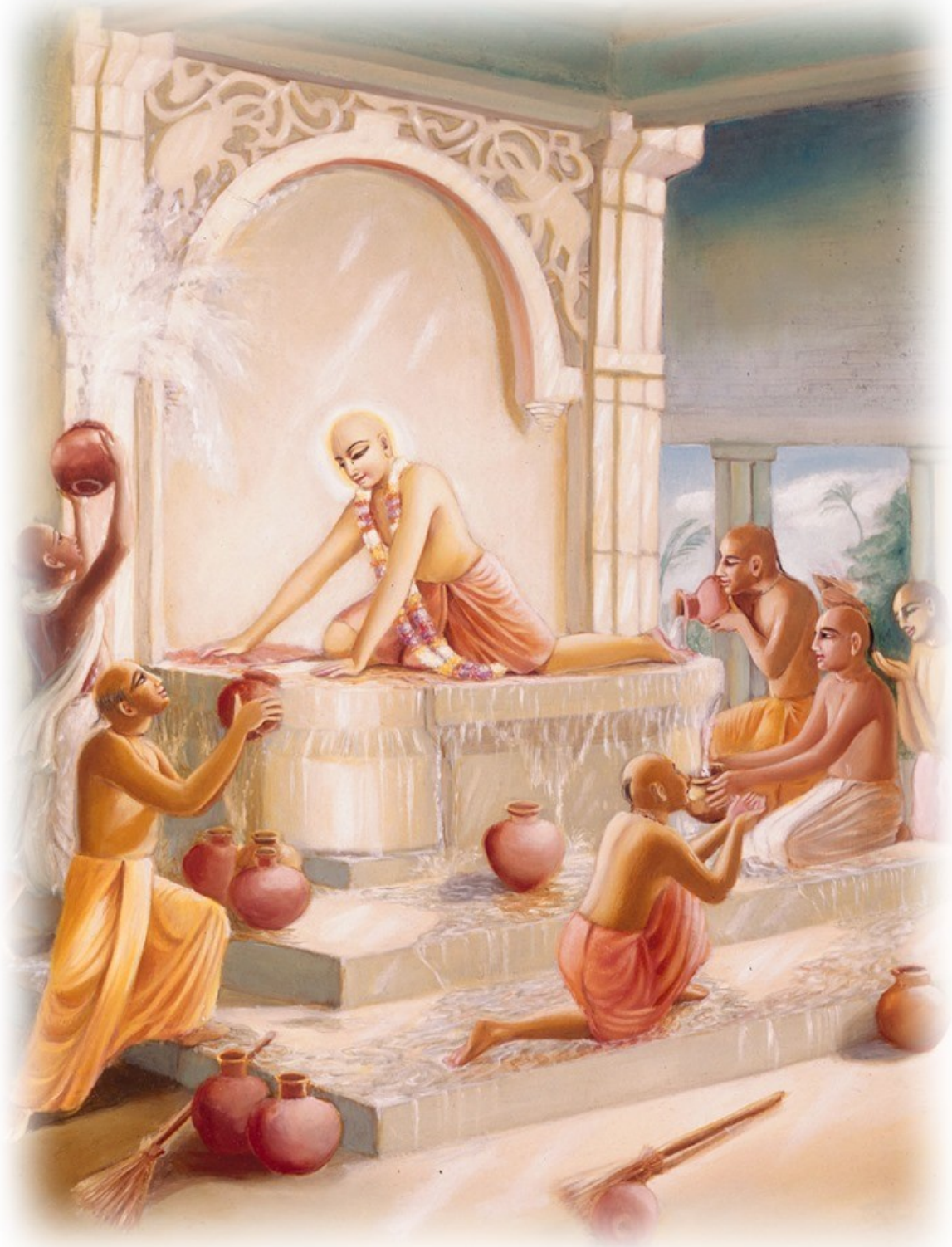
He came to visit it (*August 2nd 1976 : conversations*) since Spiritual Sky had some activity there.



## 6

Watering this seed is our priority and we are busy cleaning the huge amount of detritus, result of 30 years of vandalism : we are joyfully sweeping out our anarthas by remembering the 'Gundica temple cleansing pastime'.







Help is welcome by any means to make it a place of life, our 'head quarters' for festival gatherings, artistic activities, handicraft and recycling workshops, storage, kitchen (using wood), restaurant, refectory, dormitory, offices, cyber cafe, shops...

Next to the factory is a quarry, hundreds meters deep. It gave the stones for building, including New Mayapur castle.



From this factory (*'La Fabrique'*) we can plan the development of the project and welcome devotees who have a pioneer spirit, ready to cooperate in order to manifest the vision of our Founder-Ācārya which has been obviously neglected in spite of his warnings, 50 years ago :

**« Civilization will collapse very soon all over the world. »** (*Morning walk, Delhi, November 29th 1975*)

The word 'collapse' is quite common nowadays and non devotees are very aware and reactive to the situation. Numerous Eco-village already reached the stage of self sufficiency or are closed to it, all over the world. Many people are taking survivalist courses, some even have their backpack ready to run away from cities in case of emergency.

« **People will be trapped in cities like rats.** »

## 9

With the understanding that cities are obviously not the right place to be during the collapse that already started, intelligent persons recommend to have collective projects, not to isolate themselves.

« **If live nearby temple, it is easier, or in the temple. But aloof, that is dangerous.** »

<https://tinyurl.com/y8vg6hyh>

The disaster scenario foretold by Śrīla Prabhupāda has become a reality.

Many are fearing for their safety and want to protect their families. Many understand that it is not the end of the world but a 'New Age' coming.

### **'Kṛṣṇa consciousness is THE positive alternative'**

The spiritual dimension is given with Kṛṣṇa consciousness : Daivi Varnashram Dharma, meant to please the Lord and His pure devotee by elevating the jivas to their eternal position of servant of the Lord.

Of course, the great asset for the future residents of New Shantipur is the proximity of the Temple and Darshan of Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa Balaram, Śrī Giri Goverdhan, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and Śrī Śrī Radha

Govinda Madhava residing across the road, in New Mayapur.  
Generations will be grateful to benefit that ideal spiritual life.

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The required mood is the sincere desire to adopt the mood of our Founder-Ācārya who came from the Uttama to the Madhyam platform in order to instruct us. To really understand his mood we have to elevate from Kanistha to Madhyam.

### **‘Simple living and high thinking’...**

... can be achieved with the help of Varnashram Dharma which gives facilities to gradually go deeper into spiritual practices and, by doing so,

move from the external energy to the internal energy of the Lord...

This makes the difference with any other mondain Eco-village but everybody is welcome :

« **Let them come and by good association, they will follow by themselves.** »

## 11

Our village has to be a **‘Vaikuṅṭha place’ : Shanti.**

Some of the 7 ISKCON purposes are specific :

**3. To bring the members of the Society together with each other** and nearer to Krsna, the prime entity, and thus develop the idea within the members and humanity at large that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Kṛṣṇa).

**5. To erect for the members, and for society at large, a holy place of transcendental pastimes, dedicated to the Personality of Krsna.**

**6. To bring the members closer together** for the purpose of teaching a simpler and more natural way of life.

The great volume of instructions given by Śrīla Prabhupāda on the Varnashram Dharma system is more than enough for his followers to make the project a success, generation after generation, with determination, enthusiasm and patience...

### **New Shantipur is a Matchless Gift.**

The ‘New Shantipur Team’ offers you an opportunity to be part of the project and invest

your energy with a Kṛṣṇa conscious spirit. Personal commitment is privileged.

However, any practical advices and technical informations (construction, farming, forest management...) are welcome in order to make it a reality.

Most important : any suggestion regarding the way to run the community is also welcome. Every resident has to feel safe in the frame of our Founder-Ācārya's will.

It is a pioneer work, a lot has to be done :

- . Cut fallen trees and save firewood.

## 12

- . A few of the 17 houses (good foundations, walls and roofs) are already booked and will be fixed soon.

- . Build more houses or cottages according to taste and means :



- . Clear the lake and swimming pool.
- . The Guest house could be partly used as a retiring home for our elders :

***“Those who have given their lives for Krishna should be taken care of at the end.”***

*(the end is near for many of us)*

- . The theater can be turned into a temple for Lord Jaganath, Baladev and Subhadra.
- . Flowers and fruit trees need to be planted all over.
- . Part of the forest has to be cleared for gardening
- . A green house is to be built.
- . Laundry
- . Nursery
- . And much more....

**13**

During summer time you can visit us and enjoy a stay in the forest : bring your tent, caravan,



camper... Prasad will be respected together since Śrīla Prabhupāda instructed :

**«Members of a community should take Prasad together every day.»**

Let's have a good start with delicious Kishori's cuisine : *Kishori (77) was Śrīla Prabhupāda's personal cook for years in Vrindavan (during the Kṛṣṇa Balaram Mandir construction under the supervision of her husband Surabhi prabhu).*

*She directed the 2019 Vaiṣṇavis 'cooking for Prabhupāda' seminar in Goverdhan. She will give cooking courses in New Shantipur.*

We are happy to offer New Shantipur to the Vaiṣṇava community present and future and to serve them for the pleasure of the Lord and His pure devotee.

You are welcome as a guest, a visitor, a resident or a donator, if financial help is the way you choose to participate. You can donate according to your means and interest in this project in order to water the seed planted by our Founder-Ācārya 45 years ago.

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.  
Thank you,  
Laksmīnath das, coordinator.

For more informations : [jldelvallee@yahoo.fr](mailto:jldelvallee@yahoo.fr)

0033621622256

Facebook : 'La Nouvelle Shantipura'

NB : *If you have any photos and/or souvenirs of the time (80's) when New Shantipur was a Vaiṣṇava village, please send them.*



### **How to visit us ? → 1) Train Stations :**

If you are coming from the **Paris** city centre, it is best is to take a train to **Châteauroux** from the **Paris-Austerlitz** train station.

From **Châteauroux**, there are buses available that need to be booked, going to : **Écueillé/Luçay-le-Mâle** at **5.30 pm** (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat)

And **6:25 pm** (Mon to Fri).

*For booking your trip, call : +33 800 77 86 21. Ask to be dropped off at **Château d'Oublaise**, Luçay-Le-Mâle.*

Price : 3€ per person.

### **2) Driving :**

**GPS indication : La Fabrique, Luçay-le-Mâle.**