

Thailand's Royal Bhagavatam Collection



Presented by Hrisikesh Das & Champakalata Dasi

In Sridham Mayapur around 1995 we collected all volumes of the complete Bhagavatam translation published by the BBT. We brought the set back to Thailand where we had a teak wood throne built to hold the books. The bookstand is tailor-made and coated in 10 coats of black lacquer. On top is a pure gold nameplate with a flawless Blue Sapphire (for vairagya) and a flawless Yellow Sapphire (for jnana), and the title written: "AUM Maha-Purana Srimad Bhagavatam - Srila AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada." The nameplate weighs about 90 grams of 24k gold, and is fixed on top of the throne with solid gold screws (no glue is used).

Approaching the President of the Privy Council we arranged to present this collection to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej Rama IX through His Majesties' Principal Private Secretary M.L. Thawisan Laddawan at the Grand Palace. There was a reception, after which we were given a private

tour of the normally locked grand throne room. The King was not present because we didn't attempt to meet him personally. We were then given gifts from the King – including publications by the palace. Afterwards we received an official royal letter of thanks from the King's Principal Private Secretary.



Note: Dealing with a real King and Queen is done through the Privy Council and Royal Secretaries. It's not like meeting the so-called princes in India. Subsequently both the King's Secretary M.L. Ladawan and the Privy Council President General Prem informed us that the collection is a permanent part of the royal library in the King's Chitralada Palace residence in Bangkok.

Here is what Srimad Bhagavatam itself states about gifting the Purana...

SB 12.13.13: If on the full moon day of the month of Bhadra one places Srimad-Bhagavatam on a golden throne and gives it as a gift, he will attain the supreme transcendental destination.