

Homages



ISKCON Centers

Abentheuer

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, all glories to ISKCON, and all glories to all your followers who are helping the tree of your worldwide mission flourish.

We want to thank you for the great miracle you performed in the life of each of us. We were lost in this world of Māyā, desperately trying to find some sense in our lives, when suddenly you appeared. Most of us did not meet you personally, having come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness many years after you left this planet. But your influence reaches far beyond any materialistic considerations. By your teachings you are always present.

Who would not desire to meet you personally? Who would not be sad that he wasted so much time with useless things before “meeting” you? Finally, all of us met you—in your books, your recorded classes and videos, and finally in your followers, your disciples who have dedicated their lives completely to your mission. Already the fourth generation of spiritual masters is growing up, and they have the potential to be no less powerful than the other generations.

In Germany there is a saying that one has to judge a person according to the fruits of his actions. Seeing the movement you created, we can understand what a great personality you are. Wherever we go today, we will find devotees, temples, centers—all around the world! So many different personalities are united in the house of ISKCON you built for us. You never compromised in your presentation of the philosophy, but you adjusted the process if necessary. And by your mercy, kindness, and love you conquered the hearts of thousands.

You conquered our hearts! We are so happy that we met you, so happy that you opened our way back to Godhead. You saved us in so many ways that it would take hours and hours to list them all. In general, one can say that in these modern times, when everything seems available, you gave us the only thing that was missing: Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

More accurately, you showed us the way to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Now it’s our responsibility to continue, to accept the commitment to maintain the house you built for us. Sometimes it’s not so easy, sometimes we have to struggle, but mostly these struggles stem from our own shortcomings.

We can’t change ourselves just by decision. We have to learn to live together, to serve together, to accept and respect each other with all our distinctions, to just be happy about the great opportunity to serve Rādhā–Madana-mohana here in this peaceful atmosphere of the German countryside, surrounded by forests.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to do more. More for you, more for Lord Kṛṣṇa. There is so much more to do—more preaching, more *harināma*, more *saṅkīrtana*, more *prasādam* distribution. Please help us by inspiring us and bestowing upon us spiritual strength. Help us really work together. We depend on your mercy every day, and every moment.

Perhaps you could even inspire other devotees to join our community. You were so expert in whatever you did. May your example inspire and empower us to become your worthy followers—not just by lip service but by real endeavor to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over this country and the world.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you gave us, most of all for your personal example. We can learn so much from you. Please help us become really Kṛṣṇa conscious.

Your servants in Goloka Dhama, in Abentheuer, Germany.

(written by Revatī Devī Dāsī)



Adelaide

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances on this auspicious day.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu willed that the holy name of Kṛṣṇa would be chanted in every town and village throughout the world. So here we are in a small town called Adelaide. Your ISKCON center here has been established since the 1970s. Adelaide is a conservative Christian-oriented town where over the years ISKCON has struggled to make inroads in preaching. Regardless of the difficulties, your devoted followers have insured that your mission of fulfilling Caitanya Mahāprabhu's desire, a mission given to you by your own Guru Mahārāja, has continued.

Despite the difficulties, we have managed to establish solid *prasādam* distribution programs to the needy through the help of the Lord Mayor of Adelaide. He took shelter of your free *prasādam* distribution program when he attended the university, and now, later in life, he insures that this program is being continued for others. We have re-established *harināma-saṅkīrtana* through the center of Adelaide every Friday night after a long absence due to a supreme court ruling prohibiting devotees' chanting through the city and distributing books. Books are regularly distributed from our Kilburn Temple to eager persons who have been coming for the daily *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes. Govinda's restaurant distributes Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara's *mahā-prasādam* every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Even though these programs are insignificant compared with what you were able to achieve in such a small amount of time, the devotees of ISKCON Adelaide are committed to insuring that the people of this small town can take advantage of the mercy you are distributing for Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year you will hear the sounds of the infrastructure of your Bhaktivedanta Ashram being fixed. This renovation has been a couple of years coming, but once finished, you and your beloved Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara will be situated in a first-class facility.

Even though we have made progress in many preaching areas, problems have arisen. These problems began from within and then spread to the outside. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have said that nothing can stop this *saṅkīrtana* movement except fighting among ourselves. In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā* 10.7, you have written,

Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī therefore offers equal respect to all the preachers of the cult of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who are compared to the branches of the tree. ISKCON is one of these branches, and it should therefore be respected by all sincere devotees of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

This is the only opinion we wish to have of this sacred ISKCON society and the followers of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu who serve within it. To hold any opinion other than this is spiritual suicide, and we wish to keep it at bay, far away from yourself and your dedicated followers. This is our current challenge. Falling at your pure lotus feet, we pray that we can insure that this element of Kali-yuga is kept far away from the preaching movement.

So here in this small town of Adelaide your ISKCON society is looking forward to another year of representing your preaching mission with renewed enthusiasm.

Your servants at the Bhaktivedanta Ashram, ISKCON Adelaide, Australia.



Allahabad

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

At this time, when your Vyāsa-pūjā is being organized and celebrated in your honor all over the world, all of us—your granddisciples, life members, and general followers in Allahabad—gratefully offer our respectful obeisances to you, the spiritual ambassador of India to the world.

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda, though most of us did not get an opportunity to see you or hear you in person, by going through the spiritual literature provided by you, we find that you offer extensive instructions on how to bring about peace in this turbulent ocean of modern-day Kali-yuga life. We are happy to know that you once resided at Allahabad (Prayāga), a spiritual place situated at the confluence of three holy rivers—the Gaṅgā, Yamunā, and Sarasvatī. This place, as you know, is well known not only for the Kumbha-melā but also, since time immemorial, as a place conducive to achieving *nirvāṇa*. In truth, Prayāga has become truly glorious for once being a place of residence of you, the great saint who spread all over the world the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement initiated by Bhagavān Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. In expanding it to the whole world you broke down the boundaries of caste, religion, country, and creed. Thus you have excelled all the other saints who lived and worked in and around Prayāga. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, as formulated by you, has greatly changed the lives of your innumerable followers. In the broader society, materialistic ambition has been diminished very much by your influence.

During your stay at Prayāga for more than thirteen years, you attended to your pharmaceutical business while also working to push on the mission of your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura. It is here in this city famous for its spiritual and cultural heritage, at the Gauḍīya Maṭha on South Mallaca Street, that you took *dikṣā* from him in 1932. We residents of Allahabad feel proud that we live in the city where you once resided—such an exalted personality who conquered the highest peaks of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. And not only did you dwell at the highest peaks of *bhakti*, but you had a plan to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the whole world and you did it.

Most remarkably, you humbly and courageously undertook the most difficult episode of your preaching mission in old age. America was a foreign land, you had no proper facilities, support, or followers, yet still you undertook the seemingly impossible task of preaching in the West while embracing the essential teaching of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in His *Śikṣāṣṭaka*:

*ṭṭṇād api sunīcena taror iva sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena kīrtaniyaḥ sadā hariḥ*

“One who thinks himself lower than grass, who is more tolerant than a tree, and who does not expect personal honor but is always prepared to give respect to others, can very easily always chant the holy name of the Lord.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were born in a relatively well-to-do, educated family and could have led a comfortable life. Yet you chose the path of sacrifice for carrying out the will of your Guru Mahārāja and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and initiated your journey to the West alone. It was as if you were shooting an arrow from a bow in darkness. The problems you faced—lack of facilities and even necessities, noncooperation of your godbrothers, scarcity of money, etc.—could not weaken your resolve. Rather, your dedication to work, extraordinary intelligence, and great devotion and love for Kṛṣṇa made you successful in your commendable mission. During the early days in America you were virtually alone and penniless. Practically speaking, you were the orator and listener both. How difficult was this situation! But you dealt with it courageously. By the mercy of Lord Kṛṣṇa, you overcame the obstacles scattered on your path and spread transcendental knowledge for the benefit of mankind.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were a great social reformer. In the 60s and 70s innumerable American young men and women had lost their purity and beauty of life due to the impact of drugs. Many had serious mental and emotional problems. It was only you who taught them cleanliness, gave them a regulated life, and trained them in *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. You brought them into a cultured Vedic society. A social reformer can do nothing more than what you have done.



So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your devotion to Kṛṣṇa, your transcendental intelligence, your discourses and knowledge, your writings, and above all your simplicity and purity have opened new vistas to be followed by mankind to achieve peace and real prosperity in life. We offer you millions of obeisances.

Thank you.

Your unworthy granddisciples, life members, and general followers in Allahabad, India.

Amritsar

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this blessed day, which can purify even the most sinful person on this planet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have always cared for and protected us here in Amritsar because you are very merciful. We can still recollect those days in 1996 when we first got this Amritsar center and humbly started our service to Their Lordship Śrī Śrī Gaura-Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa on the orders of Our Guru Mahārāja, His Holiness Navayogendra Swami. We were opposed by the local people to the extent that they even threatened to kill us. But then you came in 1998 in your *mūrti* form, and by your mere presence things started to be solved and all the trouble vanished.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are like a kind father who have also guided distressed devotees and visitors by coming to them in their dreams and relieving their distress. Once you came to a resident devotee in his dream and asked him for new spectacles and slippers, which we offered to you during your Vyāsa-pūjā day. When we started making *bhoga* offerings to you every morning, you visited a devotee in a dream and asked for *kacaurīs* along with your nightly milk. Many times visitors have seen you move as you sit on your *āsana*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we do not believe those who say you have left the planet. You are still with us, and if we are sincere in our service you will definitely guide us back to Godhead.

Your servants, all the resident devotees at Śrī Śrī Gaura-Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa ISKCON temple, Amritsar, Punjab, India.



Amsterdam

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept us as surrendered souls at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came here to Amsterdam in 1972 and made this fallen place a holy *tīrtha*. Your Divine Grace installed Lord Jagannātha, His brother Lord Baladeva, and His sister Subhadrā, and thus you established the Lord's fort in Māyā's favorite place, Amsterdam, famous for a vast variety of ways and means to openly break the principles of dharma.

Following the mesmerizing calls of Māyā, many, many lost souls visit here with a burning desire to become happy through unrestricted intoxication and sex, but Māyā is expert at satiating their senses until they get sick of these gross and fleeting pleasures. Their brains become devastated, and finally they arrive at a big crossroads in their lives and ask, "Is something wrong here? I'm more miserable than ever! Is there perhaps something more?"

And if they really ask these questions from the depths of their hearts, by Lord Kṛṣṇa's sweet mercy they find us here, just around the corner from the canal, the one with red lights on all night, where we maintain a small temple with a leaky roof and mice. The temple is the size of a storefront, no bigger than your 26th 2nd Avenue temple in New York City, the place where it all began. And here we are, Śrīla Prabhupāda, a 108% dedicated *pūjārī* who, without fail, every morning and evening for the last fourteen years, has worshiped her beloved Śrī Śrī Karuṇā-Nitāi-Gaura-Chandra Deities, and an expert cook who every Sunday makes a delicious feast for so many of Amsterdam's lost and found souls. Many get touched by your love and awaken here to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but some can't help make remarks like "Amsterdam is too intense a place to practice spiritual life" and end up moving to other temples.

We pray that by your mercy you will please convince some of them to stay. We are just a few striving to maintain this very important and strategic bastion just to please you!

We maintain this temple for all spiritual seekers of the Absolute Truth passing through, and also for ourselves, because there is no sense to this chaos we call the modern world. Nothing makes sense except the path you have shown us. There is nowhere else to go, nothing more worth living for. And now, dear Māyā-devī, watch out: ISKCON strikes back! We are getting a beautiful house to shelter additional inquisitive souls and facilitate them on their way to Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

And Śrīla Prabhupāda has sent us his very faithful son and daughter, Dhanañjaya Dāsa and Bāla Gopāla Dāsī, to lead the way.

No doubt exciting times are coming to Amsterdam. There is danger of a serious flood in Māyā's capital, a flood of *kṛṣṇa-prema*. Her foundations are shaking!!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your fortkeepers are on a mission.

From all the servants of Śrī Śrī Karuṇā-Nitāi-Gaura-Chandra at ISKCON Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

(written by Śyāmānandinī Devī Dāsī)





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Aravade

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you!

Our Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla temple has been opened for more than a year now. The new temple is attracting more than four hundred people a day, and on Sundays and national holidays many thousands of people come to take *darśana* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla and rest a little in the beautiful Vṛndāvana garden.

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla are worshiped nicely according to the standards set by the ISKCON Deity ministry, and They are smiling.

You once said that if at the end of our lives we see the Deities smiling at us, then that will be the perfection of our lives. We have faith that this will be possible if we follow your instruction very strictly and sincerely. We beg for your mercy to be able to do this.

In our temple we are really trying to focus on taking care of your devotees by giving them all facility to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As far as possible we are trying to meet the needs of body, mind, and soul.

Also, we are working on self-sufficiency. We have some land where we are growing vegetables, and our twenty cows are giving us milk and gobar for our upcoming gobar-gas plant. Our goal is to be completely free from the demoniac tendencies spreading all over the world and to show by example how one can live happily according to the principles of simple living and high thinking.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are taking such nice care of us through your valuable books and your representatives. So it is our prime duty to take care of the devotees who come here to Aravade to take your shelter. We are also trying to increase the number of souls in this dark material world who have your books. By Śrī Kṛṣṇa's mercy we had a very good Christmas marathon, distributing 20,000 *Bhagavad-gītās*.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servants at ISKCON Aravade, India.



Baroda

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

My most dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

This year I was invited to celebrate the *āvīrbhāva-tithi* of Śrī Caitanya Mahaprabhu at your ISKCON center in Baroda, Gujarat. It seemed that the whole city had come to help celebrate Lord Caitanya's advent. For two days the entire complex was completely filled with people coming and going all day and well into the night.

The wonderful temple complex here has been developed over the years by your dear disciple His Grace Bāsu Ghosh Prabhu, who is so dedicated to spreading your glories through your ISKCON society

wherever he goes. My experience at the Baroda Temple was so good that I want to share it with you.

The center is situated on a large tract of land in a very good area of the city. Surrounding the beautiful temple are many green park areas where people congregate with their families. After coming to take *darśana* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Mahārāṇī, people like to find a nice spot on the lawn where they happily take *prasādam*. The line for taking *prasādam* is so long that it sometimes stretches for more than five hundred meters.

I was reminded how you once explained to me the concept of sharing. You remarked that the mentality of a thief is that he steals what belongs to someone else and keeps it for his own benefit. In this connection you told me that wherever I went I should share the teachings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that you have given me. If I simply kept the knowledge and teachings for my own benefit, you explained, then I would have the mentality of a thief because the knowledge belongs to Kṛṣṇa and no one else. Conversely, if I shared that knowledge with many other people, then I would be rightly situated and would have the mentality of a sādhu.

Here in ISKCON Baroda, the devotees under the leadership of Bāsu Ghosh Prabhu are freely sharing all the gifts you have shared with us, and thus they have the sādhu mentality. There is a first-class *prasādam* restaurant, where wealthy Hindu families can come and take sumptuous *prasādam* served in an aristocratic manner in an opulent setting. There is also a snack bar catering to the general public that serves south Indian and Gujarati snacks and sweets.

Every day there are groups of women who sit in the temple for hours at a time singing beautiful *bhajans* in glorification of the Lord. Their singing is very simple yet so very sweet that the sound vibration takes the mind back to the simple lifestyle of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in Goloka Vṛndāvana.

At the back of the property is another large parklike area where children can run and play freely. On one side is a wonderful *gośālā* with many native-breed cows that provide milk for the Deity offerings, as well as for the restaurant, the snack bar, and *prasādam* distribution.

All in all, the Baroda Temple complex is a huge success and is one of your most successful projects in India. I was so inspired by the wonderful service done by Bāsu Ghosh Prabhu that I am simply praying to you today, during your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, that you also bless me that I may do something wonderful for your ISKCON society and thus spread your glories unlimitedly.

Your grateful eternal servants at the ISKCON temple in Baroda, India.

(written by Vaiyāsaki Dāsa)



Beed

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

On this auspicious 114th anniversary of your appearance, I am very glad to have the opportunity to purify my words by glorifying the pure devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

*sānnidhyāt te mahā-yogin pātakāni mahānty api
sadyo naśyanti vai puṁsām viṣṇor iva suretarāḥ*

“Just as the atheist cannot remain in the presence of the Personality of Godhead, so also the invulnerable sins of a man are immediately vanquished in your presence, O saint! O great mystic!” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.19.34)

In this text Mahārāja Parīkṣit glorifies the presence of the pure devotee of the Lord. Only by the presence of pure devotees like you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, will people become free from sins and take up devotional service. Not caring for yourself, you gave your association to everyone and gave everyone in the whole world the chance to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Only by your desire can the conditional souls come in contact with devotional service. If you desire to deliver the conditional souls, then Lord will fulfill that desire, because He fulfills the desires of His pure devotees. You have spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in such away that no one will every match. You preached in the Western countries to eradicate the atheism, impersonalism, and voidism there, and you established the authority of the *Vedas* all over world, just as Śaṅkarācārya established the authority of the *Vedas* in India and subdued Buddhism.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the *ācāryas* of all four *sampradāyas* tried their best to establish the authority of the *Vedas* and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but you stand unique among *ācāryas*. Just as building a temple requires everything—foundation, brickwork, columns, paint, etc.—you provided everything needed to build the four-*sampradāya* temple.

You have bestowed special mercy on the conditional souls and delivered them. At the Kumbha-melā people wanted to touch your lotus feet, and some devotees were reluctant to let them do that. You stopped your devotees and allowed the people to be blessed by your divine touch, and they became fearless. Wherever saints like you go, that place becomes a holy place. As Yudhiṣṭhira Mahārāja said to Vidura (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.13.10)

*bhavad-vidhā bhāgavatās tīrtha-bhūtāḥ svayaṁ vibho
tīrthī-kurvanti tīrthāni svāntaḥ-sthena gadābhṛtā*

“My Lord, devotees like your good self are verily holy places personified. Because you carry the Personality of Godhead within your heart, you turn all places into places of pilgrimage.”

And in the Fourth Canto (4.30.37) the Pracetās say:

*teṣāṁ vicaratām padbhyām tīrthānām pāvanecchayā
bhītasya kiṁ na roceta tāvakānām samāgamaḥ*

“Dear Lord, your personal associates, devotees, wander all over the world to purify even the holy places of pilgrimage. Is not such activity pleasing to those who are actually afraid of material existence?”

Without discrimination according to country, caste, race, etc., you preached all over world, encircling the globe fourteen times in twelve years. In the Vālmiki *Rāmāyaṇa* Jāmbavān reminded Hanumān of his strength to cross the ocean: “I have become old now, but in my youth I circled the globe twenty-one times when Lord Vāmanadeva appeared.” Similarly, you circled the globe fourteen times, Śrīla Prabhupāda, converting many places on the earth into places of pilgrimage—New Vrindavan, Gītā-nāgarī, New Dvārakā-dhāma, New Māyāpur-dhāma, etc.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavata-Māhātmya* Bhakti-devī says that she will go to the Western countries. You have fulfilled her desire and also the prediction of Lord Caitanya that His name would be chanted in every town and village on the earth. Throughout the whole world you have spread the holy water of Bhakti-devī like the Gaṅgā flowing everywhere. All kinds of sinful, lusty, angry, burning souls—*mlecchas* and Yavanas, *sūdras* and butchers, Andhras, Pulindas, Pulkaśās, etc.—are becoming purified by taking a bath in the holy river of *bhakti* and engaging in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Nārada Muni’s prediction to Bhakti-devī that devotional service would be established in all towns and villages is coming true due to your efforts. Wherever you visited, took your bath, and placed your lotus feet—all such places have become holy places, places where Mother Earth rejoices.

In his *Bhakti-sūtras* (71) Nārada says about pure devotees: *modante pitaro nṛtyanti devatāḥ sa-nāthā ceyam bhūr bhavati*. “Thus the pure devotees’ forefathers become joyful, the demigods dance, and Mother Earth feels protected by good masters.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, not only did you teach the spiritual wisdom found in Vedic literatures like the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, but you also gave guidance on things far beyond that, such as



divorce, abortion, the women's liberation movement, nuclear war, pollution, and the decline of moral values in society.

The whole world atmosphere is permeated with constant fear, and people are suffering from the above calamities and more. Only by your mercy can these things be minimized— by distributing books, by preaching, and by *prasādam* distribution. We have been constantly remembering you in such situations. Sometimes while we preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness and spread your mission, difficulties arise and our mind gets disturbed. But when we remember how you struggled so much to establish and spread this movement, we are soon able to adjust our mind. We remember your words: “For all problems there is only one solution: spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.” We are trying our best to follow the path you have given. By your mercy all the devotees have gotten the chance to cultivate pure devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Nārada Muni says in his *Sūtras* (39): *mahat-saṅgas tu durlabho 'gamyo 'moghaś ca*. “The association of great souls is rarely obtained, difficult to understand, and infallible.” Only by associating with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the greatest of great souls, can we achieve Lord Kṛṣṇa's shelter. Your Divine Grace has built a home in which the whole world can live together.

Please glance on your insignificant servants trying to catch hold of your lotus feet and serve your servants. Please give us the strength to preach with our full capacity the message you have given.

Your servants at ISKCON Beed, Maharashtra, India.

(written by Śruti-parāyaṇa Dāsa)



Brahmapur

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Because of your causeless mercy, last year we established a small *satsaṅga-bhavān*. We are so happy that many people are coming to hear *bhāgavata-kathā* and also hear about your glorious work for Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Here in Brahmapur there is always a shortage of drinking water. Recently we dug a well near a pond close to the temple. By your blessings and the mercy of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, this well is now giving plenty of potable water for the Deities and devotees. Many cows come here often to drink water, and this place therefore appears like a mini-Gokula.

Now, although we do not have enough room to accommodate all our devotees, still we are trying our best to build the main temple for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhākānta and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu so that many people can get an opportunity to practice pure devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, as per your guidelines.

We temple devotees, congregational devotees, and well-wishers here in Brahmapur pray at your lotus feet on this 114th anniversary of your auspicious appearance day. Please shower your mercy on us so that we can try to finish our temple as soon as possible.

The devotees of ISKCON Brahmapur, India.

Brampton

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances with our deepest gratitude. All glories to you!

In the life of the devotees at ISKCON Brampton, a moment doesn't pass without our feeling the most sincere gratitude to you for saving us from nescience and placing us on the path of absolute realization.

With every advancing day we can see Kali's noose tightening around the neck of every living entity around us. Māyā is laughing, playing her tricks of illusion on every conditioned soul. And amidst all this chaos we devotees feel safe and sound because we are under the shelter of your lotus feet—like a child cuddled up in the lap of his parent.

At a time when there is disarray in the whole world, we feel that we are always in Vaikuṅṭha. Thank you for giving us the simple prescription to fight the onslaught of Māyā with the chanting of the *mahā-mantra*, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

You have made associating with the Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, who is not accessible to the most advanced yogīs (*na . . . yoginām hṛdayeṣu . . . yatra gāyanti mad-bhaktāḥ tatra tiṣṭhāmi nārada*), an easy task. And relishing every moment of it, we thank you.

You have made the Vedic literature so simple and available through your BBT that there are no national or international boundaries for the conditioned souls seeking knowledge from your books.

ISKCON Brampton is eternally indebted to you for giving us this opportunity to follow the *śāstras* and principles laid down by you. We are confident and sure that our service is reaching you through your authorized disciplic succession.

Please forgive the offenses we commit out of ignorance and keep us eternally engaged in your service, the service of the Vaiṣṇavas, and the service of Lord Caitanya.

Eternally in your service,

Your servants at ISKCON Brampton-Mississauga, Canada.



Budapest

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you!

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

This year we would like to remember those great efforts you made to establish and build the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, ISKCON. Following Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī's instruction, you fulfilled the *paramparā's* dream by making many Western people Kṛṣṇa conscious. In India you had planned this: you had dreamt how you would give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the Western people.

Of course, it was not an undisturbed and smooth process. In 1952 you traveled to Jhansi, where you got a building, the Bharatiya Bhavan, and in 1953 you established The League of Devotees. Your dream was that this building would be the basis of the international movement you would establish later. You invested all your life and property in this building, but it was taken away from you. The governor's wife wanted the building for a women's club, and if you had not given the building to them, they would have taken legal action against you. But you did not have money to litigate, so you had to leave.

You lost the Bharatiya Bhavan, but you did not lose your enthusiasm. In fact, you became more determined and enthusiastic. You received a free ticket to New York City on the *Jaladuta*, a cargo ship. At that time you were 69 years old. While you were crossing the Arabian Sea you had two heart attacks. When you arrived in New York there was nobody to help you. You were a stranger with forty rupees. At that time in America rupees could not be exchanged for dollars, so in effect you had no money when you arrived and had nobody to support you. When you returned to India in 1967, you still had that forty rupees.

Often you said that when you came to the West you tried to do things that seemed impossible. You didn't know whether you would succeed, but you knew that your guru and Kṛṣṇa would be satisfied if you tried and didn't give up. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you tried and never gave up—and you created a world-wide movement.

Twelve years after you arrived in America you had more than one hundred temples all over the world and nearly five thousand disciples. Your publishing company, the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, had become the largest publisher and distributor of Vedic literature in history. Since its inception, hundreds of millions of your books have been printed and distributed.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you made the effort and never gave up. You were sure that your efforts would satisfy your guru and Kṛṣṇa. This is the success. You wrote in your prayer just after landing in America: "How will I make them understand this message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness? I am very unfortunate, unqualified, and the most fallen. Therefore I am seeking Your benediction so that I can convince them, for I am powerless to do so on my own. . . . O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like."

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please show us how we can sacrifice everything in Kṛṣṇa's service, how we can make every effort and never give up in spite of failures and mistakes. Please teach us how we should see the failures and difficulties as milestones on the way to success, to Kṛṣṇa's satisfaction. Please accept us as your servants. Let us be puppets in Kṛṣṇa's hands. Let us be His real servants.

Your servants in Budapest, Hungary.

(written by Līlā-śuka Dāsa)



Canberra

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, your disciples and granddisciples at the Canberra temple, bow down together at your lotus feet to offer you our most humble obeisances.

On your Vyāsa-pūjā this year, we would like to report to you that the Canberra temple started year 2010 by having a twelve-hour *kīrtana* on New Year's Day, and that this was an initiative of your Jagannātha Youth Group. The Jagannātha Youth Group also took part in the twenty-four-hour *kīrtana* program at the Sydney temple, which provided them with further encouragement and enthusiasm. Your youth group is now actively collecting funds to hold big *kīrtana* programs in Canberra in May and July involving devotees from other parts of Australia and overseas. Please shower your mercy upon them so they can serve your mission nicely throughout their life.

You will be pleased to know that a few of your grandchildren have begun the *bhakti-śāstrī* course run by the VIHE, in Vṛndāvana. Moreover, there are currently six of your grandchildren in the process of taking *harināma* initiation, a new milestone for your Canberra temple. We bow down to your lotus feet and commit ourselves to serving your mission so that more and more members of the community may take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

ISKCON is a great benediction for everyone, and it provides protection for those who resolve to accept the shelter of your lotus feet. For those who commit themselves wholeheartedly to spreading Lord Caitanya's mission, your mercy is unlimited. We are grateful to you for showering your mercy upon us, since otherwise it would not have been possible for us to practice and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this Western world.

We have the tendency to run away from you; please hold our hands tightly so that we will always remain at your lotus feet. Please also bless us so that we will care about each other and inspire one another to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, so that we will carry out all your orders cooperatively and in the right spirit, and so that we will follow your very high standards and thus make the nectar of your pure loving nature available to future generations. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us this opportunity to serve you.

Your aspiring servants at the Hare Krishna Center in Canberra, Australia.

(written by Raṅganātha Dāsa)



Cape Town

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Who Will Not Take Shelter of the Lotus Feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda?

Who will not take shelter of the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda, whose bold preaching and truthful speaking of the pure message of Lord Caitanya have forever changed the world we live in?

What pious person will not take shelter of the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda, who appeared in this world like an ocean of mercy from Goloka *dhāma* and got the whole world to chant the glories of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa?

Who will not take shelter of the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda, who gave the world the topmost knowledge of our true spiritual identity, beautiful Deities of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa to worship, the all-auspicious holy name, and *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*?



What pious person will not take shelter of the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda, who received the order from his Guru Mahārāja to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in English and took that order as his life and soul, who fixed his determination to carry out that order, never once deviating from his sincere effort to please his Guru Mahārāja, and who as a result saw all his preaching activities crowned with glorious success?

Who will not take shelter of the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda, who is a true friend to us all? He never desired to exploit anyone, nor did he ever withdraw his mercy. He always closed his letters with the words “Your ever well-wisher.” The spiritual relationship with him that we all enjoy is the rarest of all spiritual gems, and an intelligent person will certainly appreciate it and guard it as life’s dearest treasure.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I hope you will always remain my ever well-wisher.

Śrīla Prabhupāda’s servants at ISKCON Cape Town, South Africa.

(written by Jyotirmoy Dāsa)

Chandigarh

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

One more year has passed in the history of this material world, and as we reflect back we realize more and more the importance of your gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The more we contemplate, the more we feel indebted to you for giving us this divine knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which can dissipate the darkness of our hearts.

Modern man is busy trying to make material advancement in this world, running very fast to acquire newer and newer things so as to be happy. But somewhere along the way the happiness is lost, and he does not get any satisfaction in his heart. Still he keeps on running after the illusory pleasures of this world. As you write in the Preface to your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*:

Human society, at the present moment, is not in the darkness of oblivion. It has made rapid progress in the field of material comforts, education, and economic development throughout the entire world. But there is a pinprick somewhere in the social body at large, and therefore there are large-scale quarrels, even over less important issues.

You appeared among the hippies of the 1960s just to give them the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The remedy you offered—rendering loving devotional service unto the all-loving Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa—is the solution to all the problems of the world. But you did not just offer this philosophy; rather, you gave a practical demonstration of it through your own life and through the lives of those whose hearts you transformed.

It was not a cakewalk for you to implant the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout human society. You underwent all sorts of pains, beyond what we can imagine. We have heard how, to produce your books, Your Divine Grace would type the manuscripts, proofread them, get the corrections done, purchase the paper, take the manuscript to the publisher, get the book printed, take it to the binder, and thereafter distribute the books as well. All this was not an easy task—and we have to just distribute your books.

Once you were walking on the streets of Delhi in the blazing-hot summer, distributing your “Back to Godhead” paper, when you fainted due to sunstroke. On the way to America you suffered two heart attacks, and you had a stroke in America as well. There were numerous other times when you were physically ill, but your enthusiasm to execute the orders of your spiritual master never waned.



The difficulties you faced to begin, develop, and maintain ISKCON were enormous. And while facing these difficulties during the day, very early in the morning or, on second thought, late at night you dictated your books, offering the greatest benediction to the whole of humanity, the benediction of your Bhaktivedanta purports. These purports are the guiding light for all humanity for the next ten thousand years, offering the deepest insights into the understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Although you gave us so many gifts—the holy name, the Deities, *prasādam*, temples, *saṅkīrtana*, your books, your wonderful devotees, etc.—still the illusory energy of the Lord is also very strong. Modern man, bewildered by the glare of the material energy, pursues illusory goals and often succumbs to various bad habits—drug addiction, for instance, or other habits that sometimes lead to suicide. More than ever before, the world is in dire need of your gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

As practicing devotees, we need to be on guard against the various allurements of Māyā. As we try to tread the path, the difficulties sometimes seem insurmountable. Internally the difficulties can take the form of a lack of faith and determination, a result of our conditioning over millions and millions of lifetimes, while externally the difficulties can be presented by the atheists or agnostics we confront in trying to propagate Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Our only hope to overcome these difficulties is Kṛṣṇa’s mercy coming through you. As His Grace Drutakarmā Prabhu put it, “Śrīla Prabhupāda is our expert mine sweeper as we walk through the mine field of this material world. We need to expertly follow the path carved out dexterously by Śrīla Prabhupāda. The moment we step off the path, there can be an explosion.”

Here at your center in Chandigarh, we have the privilege of engaging ourselves in your most compassionate preaching movement. Encouraged by the blessings of His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Mahārāja, we were able to distribute 21,200 *Bhagavad-gītās* during the 2009 marathon, which is the most for us so far. Youth preaching is going on nicely. Our young educated *brahmacārīs* are preaching in three engineering colleges and Punjab University, apart from having regular programs for youth in the temple. We have opened two BACEs—one in Chandigarh and the other in Patiala.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our Youth Forum for Girls and Bhakta Prahlad schools for your children are also running nicely.

You will be pleased to know, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we have arranged a Bhakti Shastri course to be conducted in Chandigarh for our *brahmacārīs* and congregational members. The course, to be conducted by MIHE, started in April 2010 and will be completed in about one year. Forty devotees will take advantage of this course.

We are trying to cater to the Kṛṣṇa conscious needs of all age groups by your divine mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

On this auspicious day, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we invoke your blessings upon us so that we may be able to give up lethargy and be ready to fight on your behalf—to successfully practice and preach the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in and around Chandigarh. The spiritual master gives the guidance, but it is the duty of the disciple to follow the instructions properly. Therefore, please bless us so that we can renew our commitments to you. Please bless us so that we may gain more and more love, faith, devotion, and dedication to following in your footsteps through the *guru-paramparā*.

Thank you once again for giving us this wonderful gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your servants at ISKCON Chandigarh, India.



Coventry

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

What is Love?

Love is unconditional, like the golden rays of the sun,
Spreading unending beams of pure love of Godhead
On a world suffocated by darkness.

What is Love?

Love is sacrificing the sublimely transcendental Vṛndāvana *dhāma* at the age of seventy
To liberate people stuck perpetually in the miserable material condition of life
Yet acutely unaware of their plight.

What is Love?

Love is circling the globe fourteen times, initiating thousands of devotees,
Building 108 temples, restaurants, and farming communities,
Doing that which for anyone else would be truly impossible.

What is Love?

Love is using every minute of every day to translate books, give classes, make devotees,
Inspire us up until your very last breath,
Proving unequivocally that a pure devotee's heart beats
Only to serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa, only to do His work.

What is Love?

Love is being flawless so we can believe in you with every fiber of our being
And use your words as a boat to sail over this vast ocean of the material world,
Back to Śrī Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

What is Love?

Love is being dear to those who have never met you,
Who were not even born when you were here,
Who never even had the chance to see you face to face,
Yet who owe their very lives and everything they have to you alone.

What is Love?

Love is being soft-hearted like a rose,
Whose petals are reddish like Śrī Kṛṣṇa's lips,
Whose touch is like silk,
Soothing everyone who is fortunate enough to have met you.



What is Love, I ask you ?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, . . . Love is you.

Your servants at ISKCON Coventry, UK.

Denver

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

In the purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.18.9, you state the following:

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam and *bhāgavata-dharma* are meant for persons who are completely free of envy (*parama-nirmatsarāṇām*). Therefore Prahāda Mahārāja prays in this verse, *khalah prasīdatām*: “May all the envious persons be pacified.” The material world is full of envious persons, but if one frees himself of envy, he becomes liberal in his social dealings and can think of others’ welfare.



Living as a community has proven to be a great challenge in regards to relating with one another in a cooperative spirit, without envy, and thinking of each others’ welfare. As aspiring servants of the *saṅkīrtana* mission, we want to hold this principle you speak of in this purport as in ideal way of conduct so that there are substance and genuineness in our attempts to reach out to the common people. We may think that the people outside need to change, but we ourselves require constant vigilance in our own ongoing transformation. Later in the purport you state,

If the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement spreads all over the world, and if by the grace of Kṛṣṇa everyone accepts it, the thinking of envious people will change. Everyone will think of the welfare of others. Therefore Prahāda Mahārāja prays, *śivam mitho dhiyā*. In material activities, everyone is envious of others, but in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, no one is envious of anyone else; everyone thinks of the welfare of others. Therefore Prahāda Mahārāja prays that everyone’s mind may become gentle by being fixed at the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you exemplify these qualities to the fullest. We can see this in how you have transformed the hearts of people from all walks of life. You fulfilled Lord Caitanya’s prophecy that the holy name of Kṛṣṇa would be spread to every town and village. Only when we learn this art of becoming free of envy, becoming liberal in our social dealings, and thinking of others’ welfare will our preaching have a meaningful impact.

May we continue to work toward practicing these principles in our daily lives—with one another and with the world at large.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servants at New Badarikāshram, Denver, Colorado, USA.

Detroit

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Our dearest ever well-wisher Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances in the dust of your most merciful lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
dhyāyan stuvāms tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam̐
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, only by your mercy are we able to continue on the path of devotional service. You have given us the most merciful Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjabihārījī, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha Svāmī, Baladevījī, and Subhadrā Mātā, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Lord Śrī Nāthajī, along with all your loving and caring devotees. Serving them, our year went by very quickly, even though many challenges came. Please continue guiding us so we can make the right decisions to maintain and expand this *yātrā*.

The historical ground-breaking ceremony of your most prestigious project, The Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, gave us the great inspiration that if we are sincere and steadfast, nothing is impossible. This year we have applied for the permit to build a sea wall to protect the temple structure from water damage. We have also started to replace the old electrical system throughout the building. We have many smaller projects planned to maintain the historical building very nicely. Please bless us so that we can finish these projects quickly.

The Bhakti-ṛkṣa program is growing and adding many attractive children’s programs. Their participation is the vital force in developing a strong base for the future of your temple in Detroit. They are very enthusiastically expanding *harināma*, distribution of your books, and Sunday school programs.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us so many ways to participate in pure loving service of Lord Kṛṣṇa, but we have the tendency to run away from your shelter.

Please hold our hands tight so that we can remain at your lotus feet until we leave our bodies.

Seeking the forgiveness and blessings of all your followers,

Your humble and most fallen servants at Devasadan Mandir, Detroit, Michigan, USA.

(written by Jagad Guru Dāsa)



Durban

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Twenty-Five Years

In October of this year the Rādhā-Rādhānātha Temple will have been open for twenty-five years. For twenty-five years the radiant beauty of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha have blessed all those who visited, and for twenty-five years the mercy expanding from Lord Caitanya's lotus feet has gone out to save thousands of conditioned souls. Such an impact has this temple had on the lives of people in South Africa! We feel privileged to be associated with this beacon of amazing grace in this apparently godforsaken area.

This temple re-ignited hope, not just for those concerned with Hindu people being converted to Christianity or for those concerned with the degeneration of society's moral fiber, but hope leading us to the ultimate solution of all material sufferings. This temple helped reestablish our forgotten connection with our eternal Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

It is by your desire, which you expressed when you visited over thirty years ago and envisioned a glorious temple in Durban, that we are not godforsaken. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! Thank you for desiring. When a pure devotee desires something for the benefit of the conditioned living entities, the Lord is impelled to make that desire a reality.

Without your intervention we would still be attached to the trappings of mundane religiosity, or be sinking in the quicksand of economic and personal growth, which are the current measures of success, or be floating in the illusion of political freedom and social justice based on the false understanding that we are black, Indian, or white. Thank you for freeing us from these shackles of material life, which pose as solutions to the countless sufferings in this world.

On this holy day we also express a great depth of gratitude to the devotees who served tirelessly to establish this temple as an offering to Your Divine Grace. Now what is left for us is that we utilize every inch of this facility for the service of Kṛṣṇa. In that spirit we pledge to embark on the next twenty-five years.

All glories to your divine desires! Thank you for blessing us all with the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha!

Your servants, the residents and congregation of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha Temple, ISKCON Durban, South Africa.



East Hartford

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

“I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet. Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.”

Every day for the last two months we’ve been reading something about Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda. The main realization we have gotten from this reading is how you have imbibed the mood of your Guru Mahārāja.

His aim and interest were in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and that was also your main interest. He started and managed many temples, or *maṭhas*, and you started many temples and managed them. He tried to preach outside of India, and you followed his example and preached all over the world. He was very pleased when Kṛṣṇa conscious books were published and distributed, and you followed in his footsteps and published and distributed books in many different languages. He loved his disciples and took personal care of them, and you love your disciples and are still caring for them.

You did not have much direct association with your Guru Mahārāja—not nearly as much as many of your godbrothers—but still you imbibed his mood, his love, and his determination to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, which you did more than anyone else has ever done. We can only imagine how pleased Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja Prabhupāda is with you.

From your example we can learn that anyone who imbibes your mood and determination, even if they had little or no direct association with you, can do wonderful things in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

We pray that we will put all personal ambition aside and imbibe that same mood and mission, so that our lives may become a proper offering to you.

Your servants at ISKCON East Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

(written by Pyāri Mohan Dāsa)



Ghana

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Appreciating Śrīla Prabhupāda

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is becoming increasingly clear that your books are an oasis in the dangerous desert of Kali-yuga. As Kali-yuga progresses, the people’s vision is becoming more and more covered by ignorance. Consequently they cannot distinguish between right and wrong. But as soon as any sincere person peruses the pages of your transcendental books, he or she immediately gets enlightened. That’s why the profuse distribution of your books is crucial.

Śrīla prabhupāda, your worldwide spiritual family is simply amazing. We feel very fortunate to belong to your worldwide spiritual family, which is the safest place to be. Material association creates great attachment to matter, but by associating with members of your transcendental family one can feel oneself

become free of material bondage. Your devotees are everywhere—in every town and village—just to give good association to the unfortunate conditioned souls of this world, and thus make them fortunate.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your Food for Life program is feeding millions of hungry people and giving them the opportunity to serve the Lord by taking *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. This program has served many millions and will continue to serve many for many years to come. It has created many wonderful devotees and will continue to increase the devotee population for many more years to come.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your Bhaktivedanta Institute is enlightening scientists the world over by bringing them to the supreme scientist, Kṛṣṇa, the origin of all actual science. The Bhaktivedanta Institute is teaching the nonmechanistic science of Kṛṣṇa, which is beneficial for all living entities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your Deity worship program is attracting millions of souls to Kṛṣṇa. Many people talk of the Supreme Lord, but they have no idea of the form of God. By installing Deities and encouraging Deity worship in your temples, you have given many souls the chance to see and be attracted by the transcendental form of the Lord, and by further engaging in the worship of the Lord they are becoming purified.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your worldwide Ratha-yātrā program is attracting millions of souls to Lord Jagannātha. In more than a hundred cities around the world your Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā festival is going on every year, attracting unlimited numbers of conditioned souls to the Lord of the universe. Śrīla Prabhupāda, this shows that your mercy and compassion for the conditioned souls are incomparable.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your *harināma* program is purifying all living entities. Indeed, the public congregational chanting of the holy names that you instituted is the only purifying program for all living entities in this age. The entire universe is getting purified by this *saṅkīrtana* program. Who else could have instituted such a program? Only an empowered soul of your caliber could perform such an extraordinary feat.

Your servants in Ghana.



Gītā-nāgarī

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā!

On your way back to Vṛndāvana in 1977, when your health had deteriorated, you discussed with your personal servants your desire to come to Gītā-nāgarī. They inquired as to why you wanted to go to Gītā-nāgarī and you replied, “I will sit and teach them *varṇāśrama*.” (*Memories of Śrīla Prabhupāda*, Abhirāma Dāsa). Prior to that you invested much love and time in “The Conception of Gita Nagari,” an essay you published in large part in your *Back to Godhead* magazine in 1956, and in another essay written in 1948 and popularly known as “The Gītā-nāgarī Prophecy.” The latter ran to more than thirty-five pages, being a comprehensive explanation of how the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* can be realized and practiced in Gītā-nāgarī, “the place where the *Bhagavad-gītā* is sung.” “The Prophecy” described principles of training, leadership, a cultural center, facilities for residents and guests, and what was needed to organize the effort to help the mission of Gītā-nāgarī permanently. You visited here in 1976, again encouraging and inspiring your dear servants. Even as you traveled and devotees wrote you, you sent blessings. And today, we again seek your divine blessings.

Today we beg for your blessings so we can contribute toward achieving your desired goals for Gītā-nāgarī, so we can help realize your vision for the benefit of all your devotees and humankind. You wrote in “The Conception of Gītā-nāgarī”:



The inhabitants of Gita Nagari shall therefore engage their everything, namely their life, their wealth, their intelligence, and their words, in the service of the Lord. That is the practical way of living a life of Bhagavad Gita.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you took the trouble to explain everything. You have even shown by your very personal example, though you need not have, how to follow the teachings so as to attain the goal, and in this way you have set the bar. Yet we fall short.

Feeling regret at this situation, we humbly submit our efforts of service to you, by which we will attempt to construct in practice the various facets of your “Prophecy.” This year we will grow our own food and have enough extra to supply neighboring temples. We will not increase our herd of precious cows and oxen but will rather increase our care and protection of them. We will enhance our worship of your most beloved Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara, who enchantingly manifested Their *līlā* all over North America and now reside here in Gītā-nāgarī. And we will do our utmost to deepen our relationships with each other, to increase our level of co-operation and expand our service to each other within the Gītā-nāgarī community. Please bless us so we may honor our commitments and serve you with pure love and surrender.

We remain eternally situated in loving service at your divine lotus feet.

Your servants at the Śrī Gītā-nāgarī Dhāma farm community in Port Royal, Pennsylvania, USA.



Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this auspicious anniversary of your appearance.

Your manifest presence on this planet has fostered great auspiciousness that will shape the course of civilization and the way people think for millenniums. Our appreciation for you increases simply by recollecting your glorious struggles for the benefit of humanity. Here in Guyana we can with great pride say that you have always been very kind to us, even though we are rough-edged in many ways. You have chosen to liberally give us the chance to render service within your ISKCON, and by doing so we automatically share in the great fortune resulting from your empathy. What you have done for the world in such a short time is incomparable in the history of religion. Simply to reminisce on your achievements boggles our minds and leaves us feeling most indebted to you. But in this upside-down Age of Kali, common, fifth-class men are given so many accolades. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you alone deserve all the special honor the world over, year after year. Those who know Your Divine Grace, even a little, spontaneously adore your unlimited magnificent divine qualities. Your personal life of honestly sacrificing so selflessly to please guru and Kṛṣṇa will be the inspiration for everyone in the future.

On this auspicious day commemorating your appearance in this world, we humbly prostrate ourselves at your lotus feet and earnestly plead that you allow us to know your wishes and disposition and be willing to follow your instructions to execute your mission. Kindly help us learn how to serve all those who are dear to you, those who are helping your missionary work. Please continue to shower your blessings on us by directing us the way you always do. We are aware that if we help improve the spiritual foundation of your ISKCON here in Guyana, this will satisfy Your Divine Grace. We also know well that whatever success we may achieve is due only to your blessings.

We admit our many frailties. Sometimes we fall prey to thoughtless conjecture about the practical applications of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, although you give such clear instructions about this. Obviously we still lack experience in the matter of properly understanding the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Many of us are still practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to drive away the dangers of material existence, or to achieve some gross or subtle gain from this time-tested process. We sometimes forget that the real goal is to achieve genuine devotion. We know that little by little, by your blessings, the higher taste of devotional service will propel us to serve Kṛṣṇa only with pure motives and in an uninterrupted way.

Your pristine character is our constant inspiration. You are the energy that activates and buttresses ISKCON of Guyana. Sometimes we cannot understand you because we are still involved in petty-mindedness and fault-finding, and this impurity leads to misunderstanding of your simple instructions. Please forgive us. We are realizing how each of your words is a precise reminder that leads to the discovery of the real dimension of spiritual consciousness. If we deviate from what you have taught us, it is because we have not yet digested the real meaning of the word *surrender*.

We, your very fallen and lowly servants here in Guyana, are ever eager to keep up the spirit of your mission. Kindly bless us to not stay small-hearted, and protect us from the insanity of becoming usurpers and hypocrites. May we never forget your transcendental qualities. Whether we are honored or trampled under your feet, we pray to remain your servants unconditionally. Kindly help us learn the proper meaning of Vaiṣṇava *sevā*, and let our personal standard be respect and service to the Vaiṣṇavas. Show us how to serve and protect your ISKCON here so that everyone connected with your society may be contented and naturally want to serve in all circumstances. Please continue to guide us so that we can make the Guyana *yātrā* such a wonderful community of Vaiṣṇavas that no one will ever think of leaving the association of devotees. Please inculcate within each of us the fortitude that is born of loving service and sacrifice. Today we are very much embarrassed to not be able to offer you much except our resolve to serve you forever and to try to safeguard the Guyana *yātrā* from detractors. We desire that our constant offering to you be our purified, compassionate hearts, spiritual vision, combined prayers, and endeavors for unity. There is still much for us to learn, since we are yet beginners. Please tolerate us and be patient with us. We depend on you and long to please you through our every devotional endeavor. Please continue to inspire us so that we can purify ourselves and share Kṛṣṇa consciousness for the benefit of all souls in Guyana.

Your aspiring servants in Guyana.

(written by Paramātmā Dāsa)



Israel

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I am realizing more and more how faithful you are to the Vaiṣṇava *siddhānta*, how rigidly you have followed the footsteps of your Guru Mahārāja, and how innovatively but carefully you are implementing Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the modern world.

You faithfully followed in the footsteps of your Guru Mahārāja in your presentation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Just as people criticized Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī because he refrained from publicly discussing the esoteric Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa *līlās* (something he did in his effort to carefully fight with and avoid the *sahajiyā* mentality of so many Vaiṣṇava paths), similarly some criticize you for giving only the “basics” of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. But that is part of your glory, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Seeing far into the future, you were so careful to stress the basics of Kṛṣṇa consciousness so as to lay the foundation for future generations of Vaiṣṇavas, so that we shall not deviate into *sahajiyā*, so that we shall properly clear from our hearts all *anarthas*, and then, at the proper time, after properly practicing basic *sādhana*, be able to appreciate Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa *līlā* with a pure heart.

You were as conservative as Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta in refraining from dwelling on the higher subjects,

and like him, you had full faith in the power of the holy name. You also followed his footsteps in the worship of Gaura-Nitāi and in maintaining his mood of widespread preaching, but you expanded that mood by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the whole world. You also went far beyond what any other *ācārya* had done in being flexible and innovative in implementing Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the modern world.

You fully mastered the *yukta-vairāgya* principle of Rūpa Gosvāmī. This is apparent in the way you handled so many sensitive issues of the modern age, like women's purported equality with men and the unavoidable mingling of the sexes. Being on the highest level, you were equal to all. Your spiritual vision was so elevated that just by seeing a mere glimpse of *bhakti* in the hearts of your Western disciples, who were so far away from the genuine *bhakti* culture and standards, you could turn them into full-fledged devotees. Although your disciples lacked so many good qualities, just by their *guru-niṣṭhā* they were able to overcome all sorts of shortcomings and proceed toward the supreme perfection of *bhakti*. This is indicative of your relationship with Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa and your ability to connect one with Them.

You have shown us another great example, which I have now come to appreciate so much. In old age, following the order of your Guru Mahārāja, you took up the heaviest mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village on the globe. I too am getting older. Still, I pray that you will bless me with such *guru-niṣṭhā* that I shall be able to transcend the limitations of mind and body and be able to follow your example of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness with full vigor till my last breath.

Your servants in Israel.

(written by Guṇāvatāra Dāsa)



Japan

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We humbly submit ourselves at the shelter of your lotus feet. We beg to take the dust of your lotus feet. Allow us to bathe in those saffron mercy particles that have been in contact with your lotus feet.

Śrī Prahlāda says that for persons like us, who are entrapped by material consciousness and addicted to material enjoyment but who want to become free of such enslavement of the material mind and body, there is only one hope, there is only one solution:

Unless they smear upon their bodies the dust of the lotus feet of a Vaiṣṇava completely freed from material contamination, persons very much inclined toward materialistic life cannot be attached to the lotus feet of the Lord, who is glorified for His uncommon activities. Only by becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious and taking shelter at the lotus feet of the Lord in this way can one be freed from material contamination. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.5.32]

Our faith in devotional life is very meager. Our attachment to this material body and the phantom self is very great. How are we to make tangible progress in spiritual life? How are we ever going to become attached to the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa? Certainly our only hope is to bathe in the dust of your lotus feet. The dust of your lotus feet will cure our material disease and awaken our attraction to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a pure Vaiṣṇava, a Vaiṣṇava whose only interest in life is serving your spiritual master and Lord Kṛṣṇa twenty-four hours a day. Due to your unequalled dedication and devotion, your lotus feet are emanating golden rays of mercy and compassion for all souls. We pray to be able to visit all the places you blessed with your presence—places where you preached, took morning walks, and so on. In those holy places we will roll on the ground and bathe in the dust that has touched your lotus feet, unconcerned about what the uninformed bystanders may think of us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg to always hear the sound vibration emanating from your lotus mouth. Your words in the form your books, lectures, videos, letters, and conversations are not ordinary sound vibration. Your words have touched the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa. Your illuminating words have mixed with the saffron mercy particles that surround the lotus feet of the Lord. Those fortunate souls who receive your sound vibration require nothing else for their spiritual perfection.

When Lord Viṣṇu asked King Pṛthu what benediction he would like, Pṛthu Mahārāja said that his only requirement was to have the opportunity to hear the sound vibration spoken by great devotees of the Lord.

My dear Lord, You are glorified by the selected verses uttered by great personalities. Such glorification of Your lotus feet is just like saffron particles. When the transcendental vibration from the mouths of great devotees carries the aroma of the saffron dust of your lotus feet, the forgetful living entity gradually remembers his eternal relationship with You. Devotees thus gradually come to the right conclusion about the value of life. My dear Lord, I therefore do not need any other benediction but the opportunity to hear from the mouth of Your pure devotee. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 4.20.25]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this holiest of holy days, the day of your divine appearance on this earth, we pray that our faith in the shelter of your lotus feet may become diamondlike in purity and strength. We pray that we always have the association of the great devotees who are unceasingly attached to hearing the sound vibration resounding from your lotus mouth, and who are always eager to share those saffron mercy particles with others.

Your servants in ISKCON Japan.



Karuna Bhavan

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-salākayā
cakṣur unmlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

We would like to thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the most difficult and most merciful sacrifice you performed for the sake of all of us. You are the personification of sacrifice, mercy, and compassion. Your purifying power is inconceivable. How many thousands of people's hearts were changed and been

purified, and how many seeds of devotion were planted, when you were present on the planet? And, inconceivably, how many thousands and thousands of people have become and are becoming purified years after you departed from this planet? Your mercy will be available for many generations to come—indeed, for the next ten thousand years—because it is Lord Nityānanda’s and Lord Caitanya’s mercy. Those who never met you personally can directly experience your mercy by reading your books, by associating with your devotees, by visiting your temples, by taking *prasādam*, by glorifying you, and by executing your instructions. By all these means one can actually feel connection with you, relationship with you, reciprocation with you.

We also, Śrīla Prabhupāda, never personally met you but have received your mercy. You saved us all here in Scotland and engaged us in devotional service to you, to your mission, to your disciples and granddisciples, and to our worshipable Śrī Śrī Khoda-Nitāi and Māyāpur-śāśi. We know you have special sentiment toward Scotland because you were educated in Scottish Churches’ College in Calcutta. At the same time it has been very, very difficult for your disciples to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness here. You were so disappointed when the first temple in Scotland, in Edinburgh, was closed, and you demanded that it be reopened. After you left the world, the Glasgow temple was opened and also closed. A very strong focus on distribution of your books helped to establish a temple for the third time, in Lesmahagow, Karuna Bhavan. Devotees would get arrested and harassed by the police, but they always felt strength coming from you, along with reciprocation and bliss when you were pleased that your books were distributed under difficult circumstances. Devotees were determined to carry on. How kind you were to engage us in the transcendental service of book distribution! Many pieces of transcendental literature have been distributed and many seeds of devotion planted, as you desired. In return for your mundane education at Scottish Churches’ College, you are personally giving the highest education—Kṛṣṇa consciousness—to the people of Scotland in the form of your books.

In a battle, for the sake of victory some soldiers and generals have to lay down their lives. It was a similar battle to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Scotland. By the inconceivable ways of the Lord, devotees had to undergo many difficulties from outside and inside. Some devotees left Scotland. But what a wonderful proof of your mercy that all those who gave their lives to book distribution were protected by you and, one way or another, remained in devotional service. We are very, very grateful to every single person who has helped to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Scotland and by whose mercy others can now come to receive your mercy.

You explained that if Kṛṣṇa is particularly merciful to someone he will have to undergo great difficulties in life. Who can understand the inconceivable will of the Lord? You yourself were faced with so many apparent injustices when you were preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but you never complained. You were always eager to move forward despite everything. This is the substance of your society—your forgiveness, compassion, and humility. Kindly give us the strength to follow in your footsteps and be forgiving, grateful, and at the same time determined to execute your mission. Kindly let us learn what we need to learn, realize what we need to realize, and also deeply grasp your instructions and what you are saying in your books. Your final instruction was “You will show your love for me by how you cooperate to spread this movement after I am gone.” It is a most difficult instruction in the age of quarrel and hypocrisy. However, by your mercy let us remain united to execute your instructions despite all difficulties.

Many books have been distributed and many seeds planted here. Now we would like to attempt to give much more attention to watering the seeds with *harināma*, *prasādam* distribution, and, of course, more book distribution. We would like to really much more personally nourish these growing seeds by personally caring for the people who come to your society. You explained that your society is nourished by six loving exchanges between devotees, and by this process an ordinary person can become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious. You were so expert at creating such an environment of love and care around you that people were deeply inspired to surrender and give their lives to Kṛṣṇa. You did not have to force them. Following in your footsteps, we would like to create an environment where people who read your books will be attracted to come and live by the books and become inspired to take shelter of Kṛṣṇa. That’s why we are trying to make our temple an attractive place by renovation—by making convenient facilities for the people to come.

But even more important, we would like, by your grace, to create atmosphere of love, trust, and care so that people who come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness will never want to leave. You said that love and trust is the oil that keeps all the different parts of this movement working nicely together. Therefore we beg for



your mercy to become instruments of your compassion. We beg for the ability to develop loving relationships and look after each other and all the souls that you send to us. Let us be able to train them up in such a way that they completely dedicate their lives to your mission and feel protected. That mercy also comes through the *guru paramparā*, through your dearest disciples. Except for your very dear disciple and our greatest well-wisher, His Holiness Śivarāma Swami, we seldom get traveling visitors here. To heal the wounds we need so much Vaiṣṇava association. Thus we are hankering for the association of great souls. Kindly give us their association and let us be able to please them in every respect.

You wanted very much to have centers in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Kindly let us become instruments to fulfill your desires in due course of time. Please, no matter what happens, keep us under the shelter of your lotus feet and also enable us to bring others to your lotus feet. The real glorification of the spiritual master is to follow his instructions. Thus we beg you that fulfilling your desires and following your instructions always remain the foremost goals in our lives.

Aspiring to become the servants of your servants,

The devotees at Karuna Bhavan, Scotland.

Kecskemet

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to the dust of your lotus feet! All glories to you!

On the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I would first like to describe the mood at our center, which was established and is operating according to your instructions.

Kecskemet is a city in the middle of Hungary, in the heart of Europe. It is so wonderful that, by your mercy, we are able to hold *maṅgala-ārati* every morning at dawn, and that we can worship the Pañca-tattva by singing and *ārati*. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and bliss because we are able to chant the holy name of Kṛṣṇa in a materialistic Western country, where we otherwise would just spend our miserable days in complete ignorance until senseless death comes.

Ours is a small *saṅkīrtana* center with five or six devotees who distribute books, one *mātājī* who cooks, and the temple president and his wife. Every day we distribute your books in the neighboring towns and villages. In our hearts we deeply meditate that we would like to get your books to every tiny town and village so that people can hear about Kṛṣṇa and glorify Him.

By the effective preaching of Dāmodara Prabhu and Dharmīṣṭhā Mātājī, a nice Kṛṣṇa temple awaits visitors. There is a nicely kept garden and a pond with a statue of Gopāla. After entering the arches of the temple, which has nicely painted glass windows with lotuses, a visitor sees a beautiful relief of the Pañca-tattva crowning the altar. Your portrait reminds us that we owe you gratitude for making all this possible. In the small Indian shop, visitors can buy the paraphernalia of the Vaiṣṇava tradition and Āyurvedic products. The congregation consists of about thirty to forty people who actively participate in the preaching activities of the community, which include *prasādam* distribution once a week. On Sundays, we hold Love Feast programs, Bhakti-ṛkṣa programs, lectures, music instruction, and *bhajana* marathons. This small temple is the island of the spirit soul in our city.

Please let us express our feelings and thoughts in connection with you, as a confession of our love and admiration, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Although we do not have your physical association, and most of the devotees in our temple would not know you in person, through your well-preserved teachings we are tied to Your Divine Grace by eternal, unbreakable ties. You are our spiritual grandfather, who by your life showed us a perfect example of how we can make our lives perfect.

In your childhood you imbibed the devotion and deep love of God from your father. As a *grhastha* you supported your family and brought up your children. Then you left them to devote the rest of your



life to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Most importantly, you made your spiritual master's desire your life and soul: to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western world. Despite the many difficulties, you showed a perfect example in every stage of life.

What you mean to us cannot be expressed in a page and a half, not even in a whole book. Your glory could be sung endlessly in all three worlds—and not only once a year but every day. Your greatness is easier to grasp if we consider how hollow and tedious the world would be without Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your wonderful disciples, some now *sannyāsīs*, have acquired such realizations during the many years of serving you that when they share them it is as if the spiritual world was manifesting. By your causeless mercy several farming communities have grown, where those longing for spiritual life find devotees and wonderful Deities. We would be just suffocating in the ocean of death in this material world if you had not reached out to us and given us shelter. In appreciation, we are also trying to share our good fortune with others. Through reading your books, anyone can gain your association and that of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In this way they can attain perfection in their lives in a moment, which is an act of mercy unmatched in any of the previous *yugas*.

You made an immense sacrifice for us, taking responsibility for bringing us back to the spiritual world. Your books are the law books that guide our daily lives, and this association with you every day is the lifeline of our spiritual advancement. Even though you are an eternally liberated person, still, you came to us because you saw our sufferings. This is the highest order of love, as stated in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 8.7.44:

*tapyante loka-tāpena sādhaveḥ prāyaśo janāḥ
paramārādhanaṁ tad dhi puruṣasyākhilātmanaḥ*

“It is said that great personalities almost always accept voluntary suffering because of the suffering of people in general. This is considered the highest method of worshiping the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is present in everyone's heart.”

You demonstrated to us this highest method of worship, which is unknown to the practitioners of any other religious process. You must be very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, because what you did could not have been achieved without supreme assistance. Following your instructions, we strive to fulfill the desire of your spiritual master and the mission of Lord Caitanya. We request everybody we meet to participate in the *saṅkīrtana yajña* and chant the holy name, for there is no other way!

*harer nāma harer nāma harer nāmaiva kevalam
kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva nāsty eva gatir anyathā*

“In this Age of Kali there is no other means, no other means, no other means for self-realization than chanting the holy name, chanting the holy name, chanting the holy name of Lord Hari.”

From you we have received the nectar of knowledge, bliss, and eternal life; having tasted it, we increasingly desire it, and it is also our desire to fulfill your desire that others get it as well.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for being there for us. You gave meaning to our lives. You are our gem, which we lock up in our hearts and without which we could not live any longer.

Remaining your insignificant servants,

The devotees in Kecskemet, Hungary.



Kundinyapur

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day, kindly accept our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, under the auspices of your beloved disciple Lokanāth Swami, we are striving to glorify Rukmiṇī Mātā's *dhāma* by developing an excellent ISKCON center here to satisfy you. Kindly bless us to serve you well.

Your granddisciples at ISKCON Kundinyapur, Maharashtra, India.

Las Vegas

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances into the dust of your lotus feet.

Being so compassionate, you always make caring arrangements for us, the conditioned souls, to purify our materially contaminated consciousness and help us come back to our original consciousness, Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Since your last Vyāsa-pūjā, by your causeless mercy we were blessed with a few very valuable realizations. Some of them refer to points you explain in the Introduction to *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*:

Material consciousness has two psychic divisions. One is that I am the creator, and the other is that I am the enjoyer. But actually the Supreme Lord is both the creator and the enjoyer, and the living entity, being part and parcel of the Supreme Lord, is neither the creator nor the enjoyer, but a cooperater. He is the created and the enjoyed. . . . This cooperation will actually help us, just as food taken by the stomach will help all other parts of the body. . . . The central figure of creation and of enjoyment is the Supreme Lord, and the living entities are cooperaters. By cooperation they enjoy. The relation is also like that of the master and the servant. If the master is fully satisfied, then the servant is satisfied.

Our present conditioned life began when the Supreme Lord blessed us with fulfillment of our perverted desire to imitate Him as controllers and enjoyers. Over the course of many births we have suffered and enjoyed almost everything that a conditioned soul can experience. It is only by your divine mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we have understood the hopeless uselessness of illusory, temporary, and limited material sense gratification, which brings only frustration. As you always stressed in your preaching, we are not enjoyers and controllers. You have explained this in your purport to the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*:

The illusion is that we are all trying to be lords of material nature, while actually we are under the grip of her stringent laws. When a servant artificially tries to imitate the all-powerful master, he is said to be in illusion. We are trying to exploit the resources of material nature, but actually we are becoming more and more entangled in her complexities. Therefore, although we are engaged in a hard struggle to conquer nature, we are ever more dependent on her. This illusory struggle against material nature can be stopped at once by revival of our eternal Kṛṣṇa consciousness.



Śrīla Prabhupāda, only by your mercy are we getting a clearer understanding that simple living and high thinking is a wonderful solution for all our problems, especially at the present time of global recession. Absorption in thought of your and Lord Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet is the remedy for our entanglement in conditioned life and the solution to all kinds of problems.

Another wonderful realization you blessed us with refers to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's instruction in the *Bhagavad-gītā* where He says, "You have a right to perform your prescribed duty, but you are not entitled to the fruits of action. Never consider yourself the cause of the results of your activities. . . ."

During preaching Kṛṣṇa's philosophy to others, especially if there is a visible result of our activities, it is easy for us conditioned souls to fall under the illusion that by our own endeavor we have achieved the desirable result. But in actuality the result is up to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Lord Kṛṣṇa is the real cause of making somebody Kṛṣṇa conscious, not our own ability.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you very much for blessing us with those sublime and important realizations, which are helping us progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

This year we wanted to prepare a nice offering for your Vyāsa-pūjā in the form of a poem glorifying your lotus feet. However, the intense schedule at our regular work in the Post Office unfortunately gives us very little time to do something significant for your lotus feet. We regret that after work our physical and mental exhaustion prevented us from fulfilling our desire to write a nice poem for your divine pleasure. Nonetheless, we did prepare a short poem-prayer for your sweet satisfaction.

Please accept our humble attempt to satisfy you on this sublime day of your appearance. Your satisfaction means everything to us. When you are satisfied, we are assured of making progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. When you are satisfied, Lord Kṛṣṇa is satisfied. And when you and Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa are satisfied, there is nothing more to achieve. Yours and Kṛṣṇa's satisfaction is the ultimate perfection of everything.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda please helps us fully realize that we are not doers,
We are only your humble tools.
Let us become your more useful and effective tools,
So your teachings shine in our hearts like precious jewels.

Let us become your mercy carrier, a transmitting wire
That will cut through the material existence's blazing fire
And spread Kṛṣṇa's glories to the conditioned souls.
May distributing your blessings become our eternal goals.

Our entire life is of yours and Kṛṣṇa's causeless mercy made.
Without it we would eternally suffer hallucinations' masquerade.
Please allow us to grow spiritually and develop pure *bhakti* to your lotus feet
And be always engaged in pure devotional service, the soul's finest retreat.

What is the use of these illusory, temporary, and limited material toys
When there are no Kṛṣṇa consciousness or spiritual joys?
Only Māyā's bewildering, ordering voice:
"Work very hard, buy, consume, and enjoy."

Between Kṛṣṇa and Māyā, help us always choose Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet
So desire for surrender to our beloved Lord in our hearts can firmly sit,
Thus uprooting Māyā's selfish sense gratification desire—devastating weed.
In this way Lord Kṛṣṇa's protection and shelter be ready to meet,
And requirements qualifying to go back to Godhead certainly fit.

Please forgive us for all nonsense committed knowingly or unknowingly due to our ignorance, weakness of heart, and bad habits. Let us accept the full shelter of your lotus feet and remain always eager beggars for your mercy.



Your humble and grateful servants in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

(written by Surapāla Dasa and Kṛṣṇa-mayī Devī Dāsī)

Lenasia

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda!

ISKCON as a whole finds itself in an interesting position, nestled between the time of bustling temples full of *brahmacārīs* (and *brahmacāriṇīs*) and temples dominated by a young congregation-based community. The transition from old school to new school is challenging.

We're doing things differently, which tends to challenge legendary heroes of yore on how things should and could be done. "Would Śrīla Prabhupāda approve of such actions?" "Would Śrīla Prabhupāda approve of such radical preaching methods?" "Would Śrīla Prabhupāda . . . ?" The questions come streaming through. It's hard for us to say with complete confidence that you would approve of every action we're performing, but we can say with confidence that everything and anything we are doing is part of a humble attempt to make you happy, since your pleasure is the pinnacle of our success. The bonus will be that it is the vehicle to bring mercy to all of us here in Lenasia.

We are trying our utmost to be a sincere bunch. We're still young in so many ways, which tends to lead to many mistakes. You always tolerated your young disciples' mistakes and, with patience, nurtured those disciples. As your grandchildren, we require even more care and patience. It seems demanding, but your personal touch is our only hope to develop our Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We have confidence that by honoring every little drop you gave us, we will become full-fledged devotees. But the time between now and that destination is when we need you most.

Honoring what you have given us is an art on its own. Due to so many *anarthas*, we are like a little stuck jalopy that needs constant kick-starting. Due to conditioning, we keep getting dragged back. To counteract this tendency, we look for those moments that show us your mercy flowing through so that we can clutch onto them as hope for our salvation.

Recently I received a report from our book distribution department. The scores were amazing, relative to our standards. On investigation we found out that a new devotee in a remote suburb, with little devotee association, was selflessly distributing a significant amount of books. Where does he get that kind of *śakti*? Only from you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. A full-time devotee voiced complaints about how we were doing things. We asked him to look inward and try to be more accommodating, to try to contribute more to the solution than compounding the problem. Two weeks later, he showed great determination and assisted in resolving many issues he had brought up. He took responsibility. Where did he get the inspiration to cooperate, as you desired? Only from you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Yet another devotee came forward: "Can I coordinate twelve-hour *kīrtanas*?"

"Why, sure!" was our reaction.

How are these devotees being fueled to do more and more service? Only from you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

These may be small and simple instances in someone's eyes, but when we speak to these devotees, we can hear that their hearts have been touched by you in such a way that they are happy to increase and refine their service.

From instances like these we draw inspiration to continue acting in ways to attract your mercy. We see Kṛṣṇa consciousness as something dynamic and very personal. We see care, love, and affection



among the devotees here. We see progress and commitment. We see the prediction slowly manifesting. It's everything you have taught us. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help us in our meager endeavors to constantly serve you with love and devotion.

We will always look out for drops of your mercy, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Lenasia, Johannesburg, South Africa.

London (North)

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*om̐ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*



120

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

This year I have been given the glorious service of writing your Vyāsa-pūjā offering on behalf of the devotees here at ISKCON London's Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara *dhāma*. I am inspired to offer you a heartfelt poem, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and I pray that you will accept it.

Here we stay with your beloved, praying every day
That we'll be blessed to preach your message straight and never stray.

Give *prasāda*, the holy name, book distribution—
Preaching is the essence of your institution.

Cooperate and tolerate—this is how we'll show
Our love for you, through and through, to help the mission grow.

We practice this and, full of bliss, we distribute the name.
Surrendered at your lotus feet, we preach to spread your fame.

“Chant and dance and take *prasāda* and distribute some book.”
If we follow, then the *guru-paramparā* will surely come to look.

They'll take us firmly by the hand and lead us back to home,
Where Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundar freely dance and roam.

Thus who we are and what we do will no longer be obscured.
By our following you, dear Prabhupāda, our destiny's assured.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Bhakto 'si me sakhā ceti: only you could understand
The process of fulfilling Gaurasundar's hidden plan.

You saw the need and with great speed traveled round the globe,
Saving souls entangled in Māyā's deep dark hole,

Illuminating, name vibrating, trav'ling to all poles:
“*Jīv jāgo, jīv jāgo:* wake up, sleeping souls!”

North, south, east, and west—no stone was left unturned.
What you found were souls so bound—they'd all been badly burned.

Devoid of trust and filled with lust, these souls were so frustrated,
But by your grace they turned bright-faced—their sins were dissipated.

So now we know you came to show your miracle to us,
Transforming hippies into happies, removing Kali's curse.

We keep in mind this golden time and preach without cessation,
To glorify your name and fame and purify the nation.

Once you said, “From Oxford Street, we can reach the world.”
So here with faith we stay and pray to someday see the turn,

When McDonald's becomes Govinda's and the pub a *kīrtan* house
Full of intoxicated *bhaktas* dancing and calling out,

The parks all lined with flowers to be offered to the Lord;
We barter in the market place without desire to hoard;

There'll be a *goshāl* in Hyde Park, and a Vedic museum too.
By your grace, dear Prabhupāda, we'll offer this to you.

Please keep your glance upon us, with your oceanic smile
That melts our hearts and makes the hell of London all worthwhile.

In a mood of loving gratitude and warm appreciation,
Your servants here at ISKCON London's frontline preaching station

Wish to thank you for the chance of going back to home,
Where Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara freely dance and roam.

Śrīla Prabhupāda-*kī jaya!*

Your servants in North London, UK.

(written by Bhakta Sean McNamara)



London (South)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this glorious appearance day of yours, please accept the humble obeisances of all your grand-disciples from South London at the dust of your divine lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for providing us with so many temples all over the world for all the devotees of the world. Many of our members have traveled far and wide, and there is always a temple nearby where devotee association and *prasādam* are available, and where, best of all, there are beautiful Deities to give Their divine *darśana*, which takes our breath away. It seems as if one is in Vṛndāvana at any of the temples, and the devotees all feel like they have arrived home.

Your training and instructions through your books and disciples have been out of this world, and your disciples and granddisciples are carrying on the *sevā* just as you have taught them. *Maṅgala-ārati* and all the later *āratis*, right through to the last *ārati* at night, are always on schedule everywhere, and it feels great that no matter where you are in the world you can be sure of the timings of any *ārati*. You have left a great heritage, which is being carefully kept alive by your disciples. In November 2009 we celebrated forty years of the London temple, and those six pioneering disciples took us back to those days at the beginning. They took us all the way to Goloka Vṛndāvana, and your presence was felt throughout the night.

We would like to thank you for giving us so much and for setting up such an extraordinary society, which does not bar anyone on the basis of class, color, or creed. Words cannot express our gratitude, so allow us to serve your mission in whatever way we can to help you spread the holy names in every town and village.

Your fallen granddisciples in South London, UK.



Longdenville

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you on this most auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you struggled.

In India you struggled as a householder to assist your spiritual master in his preaching mission. You struggled to ignite some interest in Kṛṣṇa consciousness among your countrymen. You struggled to publish and distribute your *Back to Godhead* magazine. And afterwards you struggled to translate and print your First Canto books. Then you struggled to get people to buy them and read them. For many years you struggled to find a way to the West to fulfill your spiritual master's instruction to preach the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the whole world.

Onboard the *Jaladuta* you struggled with two heart attacks. Alone in New York City, you struggled to

plant the seed of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. And even after you had established your ISKCON, you struggled against the debilitating effects of old age and ill health as you traveled around the world spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. All the while you struggled to manage the Society, always having to deal with the neophyte tendencies of your disciples—their faldowns, their inexperience, their quarrels.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you struggled until your last breath to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the world. And your struggles bore glorious fruit—a vibrant worldwide *bhakti* movement, with thousands of devotees made, dozens of temples established, millions of books published and distributed. And, most important of all, your spiritual master and Kṛṣṇa were pleased, which was the goal of everything you did.

Life is made up of struggles.

The materialist struggles for better and increased sense gratification.

The devotee struggles to please Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master, to purify his consciousness and reawaken his dormant love for God.

One struggle initiates an endless sea of further struggles, a chain of action and reaction that binds us to miserable material existence.

The other struggle is the struggle that sets us free. And it is the only struggle that can bring the living entity true and unending happiness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your glorious struggles have given us a priceless opportunity to attempt the latter struggle. Thus we are completely indebted to you. We read about your struggles in *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* and also hear of them from disciples of yours who had your personal association. These accounts awe us, inspire us, and endear you to us. Your struggles were not ordinary. They were transcendental—a manifestation of your love for guru and Kṛṣṇa and all the conditioned souls. It is purifying just to hear about them.

We struggle too, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We know you are well aware of that. We struggle to control our senses. We struggle to chant attentively and without offense. We struggle to follow the principles and your instructions. We struggle to find the enthusiasm to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others. We struggle to get along with each other.

We struggle just to keep struggling to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Sometimes it seems like a hopeless task. How can we succeed when we are often our own worst enemies?

Our success lies in simply remaining faithful to you and never giving up the fight. You have given us so many blessings to make the struggle easier that it hardly seems proper to beg for more. Yet we shamelessly beseech your mercy so that we can find the strength to continue on this path and not be deviated, not become disheartened or discouraged by our own weaknesses and *anarthas*. It may take us many lifetimes (although you urged us to finish up our business in this life), yet there is no more worthwhile struggle than the one to attain one's real self.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you could have lived comfortably, absorbed in your *bhajana*, and still have been perfect. Yet out of your love for Kṛṣṇa and for us you accepted a whole lifetime of struggle to give us the best opportunity to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Thus you have become the most perfect of the perfect. Thank you for that, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We can never repay the debt we owe you for the gifts you have given us. We pray that our hearts may become softened by your love and compassion so that we can make our lives successful and spread your love and compassion to the rest of the world.

That will surely please you and make all our struggles sublime and triumphant.

Your loving servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha Mandir, Longdenville, Trinidad.



Malaga

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

One more year has past, and now we again assemble at your divine lotus feet, trying somehow or other to express our appreciation and gratitude for all that you have done for us.

Today we all should ask ourselves, Where would we be, on this very day, at this very moment, if we had not received your boundless compassion?

You changed our lives, hopefully forever.

You made us fortunate. As you once said to one of your disciples, “I have created your good fortune.”

For us, the ten thousand golden years of Kali-yuga have already begun. We are saved—as long as we always unconditionally accept you as our captain.

*tvam naḥ sandarśito dhātrā dustaram nistitīṣatām
kalim sattva-haram puṁsām karṇa-dhāra ivārṇavam*

“We think that we have met Your Goodness by the will of providence, just so that we may accept you as the captain of the ship for those who desire to cross the difficult ocean of Kali, which deteriorates all the good qualities of a human being.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.22)

There is no time to lose. People are degrading so fast. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, strengthen our desire to preach and spread the holy name. You had so much faith in the holy name. Please help us develop this same faith. You started this movement on the strength of the holy name.

When devotees meet in a place where there is no Kṛṣṇa consciousness, there is no harm, for they take the opportunity to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and infuse the place with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This opportunity should always be taken. It is not that one should close himself up in a room and chant alone. The great sage Nārada is a spaceman who travels all over the universe. Although he can dwell in the most elevated planets, he sometimes goes to hell and preaches there. That is the beauty of a servant of God—he is always acting out of love for Kṛṣṇa and his parts and parcels. (*The Science of Self-Realization*)

What is most pleasing to you might mean, for us, that we have to come out of our comfort zones and dedicate more time and energy to your mission. But if we take the risk, by your mercy we can become valid instruments in your mission. And that is the only way to please you—to try to repay a fraction of our debt and thus assist you in making the still-unfortunates fortunate, too.

On this auspicious day of your divine appearance, we beg for your causeless mercy so that we may, one day, come up to your expectations.

Please allow us to always remain under the shelter of your lotus feet.

Your aspiring servants in Villa Varṣāṇā, ISKCON Malaga, Spain.

(written by Rasasundarī Devī Dāsi)



Melbourne

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-salākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my spiritual master, who has opened my eyes, blinded by the darkness of ignorance, with the torchlight of knowledge.

*śrī-caitanya-mano-'bhīṣtaṁ sthāpitaṁ yena bhū-tale
svayaṁ rūpaḥ kadā mahyaṁ dadāti sva-padāntikam*

When will Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī Prabhupāda, who has established within this material world the mission to fulfill the desire of Lord Caitanya, give me shelter under his lotus feet?

*mūkaṁ karoti vācāraṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

By the mercy of the guru, even a dumb man can become the greatest orator and even a lame man can cross mountains.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Kṛṣṇa is the best friend and well-wisher of everyone. He looks out for the welfare of all, especially those who are sincerely seeking Him. He appears in the form of the spiritual master to guide them back to Him. Those who are found by this arrangement are most fortunate. By following the order of the spiritual master, one gains the mercy of Kṛṣṇa and becomes eligible to return to Him.

It isn't difficult to recognize a spiritual master. Just as a salesman can be recognized by his work on behalf of the company he represents, so similarly a spiritual master can be recognized by his work on behalf of Kṛṣṇa. He represents Kṛṣṇa, faithfully speaking His message just as a postman faithfully delivers messages without changing or interpreting them in any way.

Dedicating one's whole existence to Kṛṣṇa, working on behalf of Kṛṣṇa, speaking His message, and guiding sincere seekers back to Him are characteristics of the bona fide spiritual master.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, just as a tree is recognized by its fruits, you are recognized by the expanding society you created and the tens of thousands of devotees within it. Just as a tree starts from a tiny seed, your society started from humble beginnings. Indeed, when you met Mr. Ruben the New York subway conductor, you had no more than a vision. Temples, devotees, and books were to come. Now they are spread all over the world and expanding.

We have had the privilege of witnessing and participating in the expansion of your community of Kṛṣṇa conscious devotees. Based on the six exchanges of love, your society of devotees in Melbourne has grown considerably in the last three decades.



We have witnessed how sticking to the basics brings results. We have worshiped the Deities and distributed Their *prasādam*. The local populace respects us for the food we distribute. We have chanted Hare Kṛṣṇa on our beads and on the streets. Whenever the chanting party goes out, people respond happily and enthusiastically. Your books are being distributed and, more importantly, being studied. The devotees participating in the systematic study of your books are becoming book distributors and are further increasing the number of devotees.

The process of preaching is like drying out wet grass. We want to ignite Kṛṣṇa consciousness within the people's hearts, but before we can do so we need to dry them out. The Deity worship, *prasādam* distribution, *saṅkīrtana*, and book distribution are slowly but surely paving the way for more devotees to take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

They simply need to imbibe the same faith you had in these practices and strictly apply them to their lives, and then they will experience the same results. Gradually a community of devotees is manifesting based on the principles you taught. As we stick to and apply these practices, the community of devotees grows.

When I was a teenager I could tell where all the Hare Kṛṣṇa books were in my friends' homes. They were the books with fluorescent covers. All my friends had one or more of them—*Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, Kṛṣṇa book, *The Nectar of Devotion*.

I opened *The Nectar of Devotion* one day to see if I could interpret the text within. I discovered a description of Kṛṣṇa—what He looked like, who His friends were, and what He did. I was amazed. There was no interpreting this message. It hit me: a knockout punch. I quietly put the book back onto the shelf, realizing that there was no match for Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Prior to joining ISKCON I often bumped into the devotees chanting on the streets. I was attracted to the *mahā-mantra*, my ears pricking up at the sound of the *ching, ching, chiiiiing* of the *karatālas* and the accompanying chanting. The devotees were your salesmen and your books your calling card. I felt the all-attractive, irresistible allurements. It was only a matter of time before that attraction would do its work and I would be in the association of the devotees, under the shelter of your instructions, making advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please let us take shelter of your instructions.

Please allow us to serve you.

Please allow us to follow in your footsteps,

Your servants at the Mahāprabhu Mandir in Melbourne, Australia.

(written by Aniruddha Dāsa)



A mortar and pestle used to grind together some of Śrīla Prabhupāda's medicines.

(Item courtesy of
Śrīla Prabhupāda's Quarters,
New Dvārākā Temple)

Miami

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Prabhupāda!

(To be sung to the melody of “Gopīnātha!” by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura)

Part 1

(1) Prabhupāda, please accept our humble obeisances.
All glories to
Your divine lotus feet, to which we bow incessantly.

(2) Prabhupāda, you gave us much to live for.
Lifting us from Māyā’s lap,
You’ve engaged us by your mercy on the path of pure devotion.

(3) Prabhupāda, as our loving father,
You said be intelligent
To distinguish philosophically what is right and what is wrong.

(4) Prabhupāda, you’ve taught us that religion
Without philosophical base
Is nothing more than sentiment and potential fanaticism.

(5) Prabhupāda, you’ve given all we needed
Within your perfect books
To become pure devotees of the Lord without a taint of sense desire.

(6) Prabhupāda, you’ve given us the mercy
To worship our great Lord
As the *arcā-vigraha*, to learn to serve Him with devotion.

(7) Prabhupāda, you gave us *sādhu-saṅga*
To enhance our fragile creeper’s great
Ongoing struggle to become pure devotees of the Lord.

(8) Prabhupāda, you’ve given us the order—
“Establish *varṇāśrama-dharma* now!”—
To help the world be peaceful and gradually develop *prema-bhakti*.

Part 2

(1) Prabhupāda, please accept our humble obeisances.
We fall so short
Of fully utilizing the selfless blessings that you’ve given us.



(2) Prabhupāda, although rescued safe from Māyā's lap,
Again and again
We glance toward her and are sometimes changed to mice again.

(3) Prabhupāda, although armed with the best philosophy,
Again and again
We answer to the dictates of our lower self as we strive to surrender.

(4) Prabhupāda, although you always taught us,
“Don't blindly follow
The laws of God,” we sometimes forget the reason and reject those guides.

(5) Prabhupāda, although all is found within your books,
We foolishly
Neglect your guide thinking higher treasures will be found beyond your words.

(6) Prabhupāda, you established many temples,
To make more strong
Our *sādhu-saṅga*; still we unchastely venture beyond your great society.

(7) Prabhupāda, you entrusted us to worship the Lord
With firm resolve,
Yet we worship superficially with such a lack of *mānasa-pūjā*.

(8) Prabhupāda, you ordered, “Establish *varṇāśrama-dharma*,”
Your unfinished work,
Yet we justify our failure due to being distracted from your mission's truth.

Part 3

(1) Prabhupāda, please accept our humble obeisances.
We vow to you
To fully utilize in fact all of your blessings that you've given us.

(2) Prabhupāda, we understand that all things
Are created to
Teach us that we're servants of the servants of the Lord.

(3) Prabhupāda, even the most horrible conditions
That test our faith
We won't allow to divert us from your sacred mission so sublime.

(4) Prabhupāda, by worshiping our Deities
With faith and love,
We're convinced the Lord will bless our small endeavors to succeed.

(5) Prabhupāda, to distribute your kind mercy,
We're striving to
Engage many lucky souls to join us on the perfect path of *bhakti*.

(6) Prabhupāda, to enlighten people fully
To serve the Lord,
We'll establish many schools to teach them how to practice *bhakti*.



(7) Prabhupāda, the world desires to please the tongue,
Most voracious sense,
By giving out tasty *prasād* and the holy name we'll please their hearts.

(8) Prabhupāda, Lord Caitanya fully blessed us.
With a joyful heart
We'll one day offer you our gift of Coconut Grove as a Vaiṣṇava city.

Your servants in Miami, Florida, USA.

Montreal

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

“I Am Never Afraid”

It is of no small significance that at birth Śrīla Prabhupāda was given the name Abhay Charan, “fearless at the Lord’s feet,” which was confirmed by his guru’s conferring upon him the same name at his *harināma* initiation in 1933—Abhay Charanaravinda Dāsa. And Śrīla Prabhupāda’s whole life was to pointedly exemplify this glorious truth: that Lord Kṛṣṇa’s devotees are personally protected by the Lord at all times. During the course of his amazing life, many incidents dramatically demonstrated how the Lord protected Śrīla Prabhupāda while he was threatened by imminent danger, whether in his childhood or when he made his arduous ocean-crossing on the *Jaladuta*, or later when he traveled worldwide on his preaching mission. Śrīla Prabhupāda was thus fully aware of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s complete protection, especially when he fearlessly embarked on his trip to America to fulfill his great teacher’s sacred order. And he was able to also inject his many sincere followers with the same conviction of divine protection in their own epic efforts to spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement all over the world. This worldwide propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is no small feat, as religious historians have duly noted.

One of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s very inspiring statements allows us a very revealing glimpse into the heart and mind of such a pure lover of God. Upon arriving in Dallas in 1974, Śrīla Prabhupāda was duly greeted and honored by dozens of his loving disciples. One reporter observing this unique loving exchange candidly asked him what endeared him so much to his followers and what it really meant to be self-realized. Śrīla Prabhupāda answered in his own unique way with this simple yet profound statement: “I am never afraid.” Within these succinct words is of course revealed an essential truth: that only the Lord’s fully surrendered servant can possibly cross over the insurmountable material existence, which keeps us all in the grip of ignorance and fear. No one in this world can ever honestly say that he or she is never afraid. In this world of unavoidable danger, the silent stalker of death also awaits us all.

Only those great *mahātmās* like Śrīla Prabhupāda, who have unconditional faith in the Lord’s benevolent control, actually exist on the plane of deathlessness, forever free from all fear of death. And it was Śrīla Prabhupāda’s merciful desire to help us all rise to that plane of pure spiritual consciousness, of ceaseless trust in God. Śrīla Prabhupāda traveled the whole world to offer the only sure antidote for all fear: the constant glorification of the Lord with body, mind, words, and soul. Being thus blessed with Śrīla Prabhupāda’s perfect example of total absorption in the glorification of Lord Kṛṣṇa and Lord Caitanya,



we are now secure in the conviction that we can also aspire for such perfection: completely dedicating our whole being to the spreading of the *saṅkīrtana* movement. Śrīla Prabhupāda gave us a hint of this state of perfection when he said that “*saṅkīrtana* is the safest place in the universe.” We know this to be factual by our own experience of how secure we can all feel when we are fully absorbed in the Lord’s *kīrtana* and service: it really feels like home. If it works for us, surely it can work for all.

It is now becoming urgently obvious that, as mankind totters on the brink of ecological, economic, and political chaos, Śrīla Prabhupāda’s sobering yet hopeful prediction will come to pass, namely that the *saṅkīrtana* movement will save mankind in its darkness hour of fear. Śrīla Prabhupāda has shown the whole world that *kṛṣṇa-kīrtana* is the great sun that alone can push back Kali’s invading darkness. Every day we continue pushing on with Śrīla Prabhupāda’s fearless mood, so that we can keep deepening our connection to him and the endless flow of *gaura-śakti* he carries in his fearless heart, the greatest force in the universe. Under his solid shelter only are we assured of ultimate victory, secure in the deep conviction that Śrīla Prabhupāda can and will protect the whole world from its own destructive course.

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your grateful servants at ISKCON Montreal, Canada.

(written by Gokulānanda Dāsa)



Mumbai (Chowpatty)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet!

As the years roll on and we study your books, listen to your lectures, and discuss among ourselves the glories of your preaching, *kīrtanas*, studies, etc., we all marvel at how much time you gave to individual disciples, understanding their problems and giving them expert advice based on your divine knowledge and experiences.

For the first time I have understood that the only qualification Lord Kṛṣṇa is seeking from all of us to join Him is to be truly humble, without the egoistic display of humility or, for that matter, any other quality.

You practically demonstrated this throughout your life, accepting reversals as Kṛṣṇa’s mercy, facing impossible situations at tremendous risk to your finances, life, and future, and totally serving Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura’s orders—indeed, taking their fulfillment as your only goal in life. Most of us have multiple goals of life, and we are now seeing this multiplicity as a real problem and a cause for us to lose focus.

Your example shows there has to be one focal point, and that is the order of the spiritual master to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, serve the Vaiṣṇavas, fight the Māyāvāda philosophy, appreciate exquisite Deity worship, and distribute books for the pleasure of the spiritual master. It is not surprising that your life was miraculously extended by Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself, and we can appreciate that the very existence of our spiritual life is due to the preaching you did after a lifetime of preparation.

Words fail us. We are unable to thank you sufficiently or repay you for the great sacrifices you made. In the current totally chaotic situation—with economic calamity and wanton terrorism in every direction—the world should appreciate very much more your teachings as the only way to bring peace on earth and provide a means for going home, back to Godhead.

Please continue to bless us and guide us from Goloka Vṛndāvana, as we are sure that your keeping your benevolent eyes on us will encourage us on the right, narrow, and straight path.



Yours sincerely, in the service of the *guru-paramparā* and Lord Kṛṣṇa,

The devotees at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha Temple, Chowpatty, Mumbai, India.

(written by Śrī Nāthjī Dāsa)

Mumbai (Juhu)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

For the second year in succession we hosted the mid-year GBC meetings in Juhu, in October 2009. We did our best to serve the GBC members with all possible means. Satisfied with our service, the GBC has decided to hold the upcoming mid-year GBC meeting in October/November 2010 in Juhu. Please guide us to serve your GBC Body nicely.

In December 2009 we purchased a parcel of land in Kopargaon measuring 745.15 square meters. We are planning to build a student preaching center there, called Centre for the Heritage of Indian Culture and Education (CHOICE). Please bless us to plan this project nicely. We are also conducting a student preaching program under the banner of CHOICE in Surat, Raipur, and Jalgaon. We pray for your mercy upon the students, so that they will take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and serve your beloved Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī.

ISKCON Juhu stood in second position for the year 2009 in your transcendental book distribution program. We seek your blessings to increase our book distribution.

On Makara-saṅkrānti, January 14, 2010, we installed Garuḍa flags on top of the Deity domes. May this please Your Divine Grace.

The construction of the new building for the Bhaktivedanta Swami Mission School on your property in Sastri Nagar is in full swing. Please guide us properly so that we can complete the project by 2011, as per our plan.

The renovation of rooms built by you in the old guesthouse is underway. Most of the rooms are already completed. We hope they are befitting the standard of “your office.”

We are also planning to convert the present school building in Hare Krishna Land into a kitchen/office/residential complex. Kindly guide us to plan and execute this nicely.

We have acquired a building in Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma* and named it Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī Bhavan. This three-storey building, consisting of twelve rooms, will be used for accommodating devotees, donors, and guests who are visiting the *dhāma*. We seek your blessings for proper maintenance of the place so that it serves the desired purpose.

A member of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī committee, Mr. B.K. Goenka, has come forward to donate about thirty-five acres of land in Talasari. We are planning to make a farm community to organically grow flowers, fruits, vegetables, and grain. We will also have a *gośālā* and retreat center in this project. We pray for your blessing to make this project a reality.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us this rare opportunity to render service at the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Juhu, Mumbai, India.



Mumbai (Mira Road)

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you!

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura wrote the following stanzas to Kṛṣṇa, but they apply equally to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda:

*ki jāni ki bale, tomāra dhāmete,
hoinu śaraṇāgata
tumi doyā-moy, patita-pāvana,
patita-tāraṇe rata*

“How has one such as me come to your shelter? Surely it is by your mercy alone, for you are ever seeking the purification and deliverance of the fallen souls.

*bharasā āmāra, ei mātra nātha!
tumi to’ karunā-moy
tava doyā-pātra, nāhi mora sama,
avaśya ghucābe bhoy*

“You are my only hope, for you are full of compassion and mercy. There is no one who needs your mercy more than I. You will surely drive away all fear.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is due only to your causeless mercy that we have come to Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

On this auspicious day, the anniversary of your appearance in this world, we have an opportunity to renew our commitments to your service and review our failings and accomplishments over the past year. It is a time to reflect on the sacrifices you made to bring us into contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is without doubt the most important day of the year for all the devotees in ISKCON

On this day we devotees of ISKCON Mira Road gather together to try to express the gratitude we feel toward you for your herculean preaching efforts, your patience, your dedication, and, most of all, your compassion.

There is no one in the three worlds who can give anyone something more valuable than what you gave us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you love Lord Caitanya, you love Lord Kṛṣṇa, and you love the forgetful souls who loiter in this material world. We still love the illusion of independence, despite that illusion’s repeated kicks upon us. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help us learn to love as you do. Without your mercy, we have no shelter.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for filling our every minute with Kṛṣṇa consciousness by setting up our daily routine. Without it, we would have no hope. As said in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.1.10):

*prāyeṇālpāyusaḥ sabhya kalāv asmin yuge janāḥ
mandāḥ sumanda-matayo manda-bhāgyā hy upadrutāḥ*

We are quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky, and, above all, always disturbed. And we have a tendency to waste time, which is Kṛṣṇa. But out of your compassion for fallen souls like us you have given us a



program to filled our whole day with Kṛṣṇa conscious activities. But still, due to being conditioned, we waste time. Please shower your mercy upon us so that we can use our time as do all your senior disciples, who have dedicated their lives to pleasing you and Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami, in spite of his serious health condition, is still preaching by his example—how we can serve the Lord and pure devotees like you in every situation. His Holiness Rādhā-Govinda Swami, in spite of his serious health condition, gives *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam-saptāha*.

Following in your footsteps, your disciples have dedicated every minute of their lives to serving Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Please empower us to similarly serve you without wasting time.

We all know the struggle you went through in India and America to establish ISKCON. It was only due to your determination and firm faith in your spiritual master's order that you were able to fulfill Lord Caitanya's prediction that the holy name would be chanted in every town and village on this planet. Similarly, it is His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami's dream to build a nice temple on Mira Road. You wanted your temples to be well managed, devotees to be well trained, and book distribution to keep expanding. Real success will come only when we work together to fulfill these goals. Please empower all of us here at Mira Road ISKCON to make this attempt successful.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for . . .

Your divine books, by which we can perfect our lives . . .

Ratha-yātrās, by means of which we are able to access Lord Jagannātha's causeless mercy and distribute it to others . . .

Showing us how to go back to Godhead . . .

The all-potent holy name, which not only wipes out our sinful reactions but even removes the tendency to sin . . .

Mahā-prasādam, which is nondifferent from Śrī Kṛṣṇa and which gives us such easy access to the Supreme Lord—"Eat your way back to Godhead!" . . .

Revealing the holy *dhāmas*—Vṛndāvana, Māyāpur, Jagannātha Purī—which fallen souls like us have received permission to enter because of taking shelter of you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year being the five-hundredth anniversary of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's taking *sannyāsa*, and also the fiftieth anniversary of your taking *sannyāsa*, we devotees of Mira Road ISKCON have commemorated these sacred anniversaries as follows:

Last year ISKCON Mira Road celebrated the World Holy Name Festival between September 6th and 20th. Devotees completed a total of 11 million holy names for the "japathon." About six hundred devotees chanted twenty-five rounds a day during this period.

By your mercy, the new temple construction has commenced. The ground-breaking ceremony was conducted on January 16 of this year. with lots of *kīrtana* and *mahā-prasādam* distribution.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy and the guidance of His Grace Jagjīvan Prabhuji, His Grace Mādhavānanda Prabhuji, His Grace Haridās Prabhuji, His Grace Kamalochan Prabhuji, His Grace Vanamālī Prabhuji, and His Grace Harsha Govinda Prabhuji, we have started a counseling system for better preaching. By your mercy, there are around fifteen counselors and 350 counselees.

The monthly youth preaching program—Upasana—is attended by a hundred college boys who live in the vicinity of Mira Road. As a follow-up for this program, Bhakti Vṛkṣa classes are conducted for the boys every week .

Bhaktivedanta college: Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year His Grace Śāstra-svarūpa Prabhuji, His Grace Śuddha-sevaka Prabhuji, and His Grace Rāmāi Prāṇa Prabhuji are intensely preaching the Bhakti Sadachar course in Hindi, with a regular attendance of fifty students.

Children's preaching: Narasimha's Institute for Children's Education (NICE): This year, for summer vacation, ten *mātājīs* are going to preach to the children for ten days. The children will learn to recite *Bhagavad-gītā ślokas* and Kṛṣṇa's pastimes from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

This year, due to the preaching of devotees from ISKCON Mira Road, we had Lord Jagannātha Ratha-yātrās apart from the one on Mira Road, in Thane, Kandivali, Borivali, and Bhayender.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said, "ISKCON is my body, and book distribution is my heart." Śrīla Prabhupāda, during the last Prabhupāda Marathon we distributed 25,000 *Bhagavad-gītās*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bestow your causeless mercy upon us so we may chant offenselessly and attentively. Like a child who asks his father for a small amount of money to purchase a very simple but love-soaked gift on the father's birthday, similarly, on your Vyāsa-pūjā day we beg your mercy to be



able to offer you a small but very beautiful temple that will be dedicated to the worship Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī for centuries to come.

Begging for your mercy,

Your servants at ISKCON Mira Road, Mumbai, India.

Nagpur

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā day.

Forty years ago you pointed your finger at a map of India and said, “We should have a temple there.” You had pointed to the city of Nagpur, which is in central India. On several occasions you had passed through Nagpur when you had traveled by train from Calcutta to Mumbai.

Although we were able to open a center here in Nagpur some twenty-five years ago, because we are such fallen souls full of *anarthas* we have not yet been able to build a glorious temple here. We ask for your forgiveness and request you to recommend us to Lord Kṛṣṇa, for without His mercy and your blessings we will never be able to build a home for Him in Nagpur.

Please inspire us and guide us how to go about it. You were able to establish so many temples in such a short span of time in many different countries. We know that you also faced many problems, but the difference is that we lack the ability to solve them. So please, please let us know where we are going wrong. Why is it that despite our best efforts, nothing tangible is happening? We need a miracle.

You had such wonderful qualities, those of a true visionary leader—qualities such as integrity, courage, fearlessness, humor, truthfulness, heartfelt compassion for your followers, and the ability to capture their hearts by intently listening to them and helping to solve their problems. You taught by your own example and felt deeply indebted to your disciples for helping you spread Lord Caitanya’s mission. But as with all the best leaders, when the tasks were accomplished and the work was done, you allowed your followers to feel as if they had done it all themselves.

We really need you to give us confidence and optimism to build the “Glory of Central India” temple. We know you can perform miracles. The devotees of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha here in Nagpur desperately require you to perform a miracle so that we can come before our godbrothers and proudly announce to them that at last we have succeeded in building a temple here in Nagpur, a temple glorifying Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha and Their beloved pure devotee, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Nagpur, India.



New Biharvan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Baṅkebihāri, the presiding Deities of Boise.

The year 2010 started with the celebration of Lord Caitanya's 500th anniversary of taking *sannyāsa*. Coincidentally, the year 2009–2010 also marked the 50th anniversary of your taking *sannyāsa*. We celebrated the anniversary by enacting a play on Gaura Pūrṇimā. Lord Caitanya took *sannyāsa* so His preaching of the holy name would be taken seriously and He could distribute *kṛṣṇa-prema* freely to one and all. He left his widowed mother Śacīmātā, His young, beautiful wife Viṣṇupriyā, and His friends and devotees in Nadia to fulfill His mission and His prediction recorded in the *Caitanya-bhāgavata*, *Antya* 4.126:

*pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma
sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*

“In every town and village all over the world, the chanting of My name will be heard.”

In the twenty-minute play we spanned the five-hundred-plus years of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, interspersed with the fervent prayer by Śrīla Bhaktinoda Thākura asking Lord Caitanya to send His *senapati* (commander) to fulfill the prophecy not just in India but throughout the world, so that the chanting of Kṛṣṇa's name would be heard in England, France, Russia, Germany, America, and so on.

The second half of the play was all about you. It dawned on us and the audience what a critical role you played in fulfilling Lord Caitanya's prediction and why Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī had asked you to take *sannyāsa*—for the same reason that Lord Caitanya had taken *sannyāsa*: to distribute Kṛṣṇa's name and *prema* freely to the world.

The Vedic standard and the example set by the previous *ācāryas* was that if one wanted to lead a preaching movement, *sannyāsa* was required. Of course, Lord Caitanya was the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and so *sannyāsa* was not required for Him, but when His young students were disrespectful toward Him, treating Him as an ordinary man, He took *sannyāsa* because in India a *sannyāsī* is automatically respected. As soon as He began traveling throughout India as a *sannyāsī*, He immediately attracted thousands of followers to the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Knowing that many cheaters would accept the saffron dress and abuse the respect given to *sannyāsīs*, Lord Caitanya advised against accepting *sannyāsa* in the Age of Kali. He knew that cheaters in the guise of *sādhus* would act immorally, accumulate funds for their own sense gratification, and make many followers simply to enhance their own prestige. Posing as *svāmīs*, they would cheat the public. Because the people in Kali-yuga are unable to follow the rules and regulations of *sannyāsa*, Lord Caitanya recommended that they simply chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. However, if a person could actually follow the rules, and especially if he had to spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement, *sannyāsa* was necessary.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.6.13, you explain:

It is the duty of a mendicant (*parivrājakācārya*) to experience all varieties of God's creation by traveling alone through all forests, hills, towns, villages, etc., to gain faith in God and strength of mind, as well as to enlighten the inhabitants with the message of God. A *sannyāsī* is duty-bound to take all these risks without fear, and the most typical *sannyāsī* of the present age is Lord Caitanya, who traveled in the same manner through the central Indian jungles, enlightening even



the tigers, bears, snakes, deer, elephants, and many other jungle animals.

Following the mood of Lord Caitanya, you knew the real purpose of *sannyāsa*. *Sannyāsa* was for preaching, and like Him you left everything. Two weeks before your departure for the urban jungles of the USA, when you came to the urban jungle of India, Calcutta, where you had lived most of your life, you had severed all your connections. All that was left of the family was a list of names. You had no place to stay; only a handful of people came to see you off as you walked up the ramp of the freighter *Jaladuta*.

In the Age of Kali, you had explained, *sannyāsa* is especially difficult. One who takes the vow of renunciation of family life should not imitate *parivrājakācāryas* like Nārada Muni and Lord Caitanya but should sit down at some holy place and devote his whole time and energy to hearing and repeatedly chanting the holy scriptures left by great *ācāryas* like the Six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana.

Yet you were traveling as a mendicant missionary, a *parivrājakācārya*. Having already attained the advanced stage wherein the pure devotee resides in Vṛndāvana and chants Hare Kṛṣṇa incessantly, you chose to travel for the good of the whole world. Like Nārada Muni, you traveled to all parts of the world. As a reporter in India appropriately titled you, you were “a jet-age *parivrājakācārya*.”

The results of your *sannyāsa* have been amazing. Most *sannyāsīs* who came to the West made their headlines by their falldown into *māyā*. You made headlines by your victory over *māyā*. You conquered the whole world with the power of the *mahā-mantra* and your sincerity, purity, and compassion.

You demonstrated how a Vaiṣṇava *sannyāsī* should travel all over the world, working with all his might to reclaim the fallen souls on behalf of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

You told Dr. Thomas Hopkins: “*Sannyāsa* does not mean change of dress. *Sannyāsa* means everything for Kṛṣṇa.” And to Jayapatāka Mahārāja you said, “As soon as you fully engage yourself in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then immediately you become more than a *sannyāsī*.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, although you are beyond the *varṇāśrama* designation of *sannyāsa*, you were nevertheless the best *sannyāsī* and the creator of many other *sannyāsīs*, whom you instructed to follow in your footsteps. You set a new standard for your *sannyāsīs*. You said that they should do even more than you—make more followers, publish more books, establish more ISKCON centers and “preach, preach, preach.”

As for most of us, here in Boise you left us with the instruction of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

Sthāne sthitāḥ śruti-gatām tanu-vān-manobhiḥ. One may stay in whichever *āśrama* is suitable for him; it is not essential that one take *sannyāsa*. If one is sexually agitated, he can enter the *grhastha-āśrama*. But one must continue fighting. For one who is not in a transcendental position, to take *sannyāsa* artificially is not a very great credit. If *sannyāsa* is not suitable, one may enter the *grhastha-āśrama* and fight *māyā* with great strength. But one should not give up the fighting and go away. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 8.2.30, purport]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day, please give us your causeless mercy so we can also fight *māyā* by distributing your books, engaging in *harināma*, distributing *prasādam*, and preaching.

All the fallen conditioned souls in New Biharvan, Boise, Idaho, USA.

(written by Anantarūpa Dāsa)



New Dvārakā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

On this 114th anniversary of your appearance in this world, we pray that you will accept this homage although our attempt to glorify you is woefully inadequate. Hearing and chanting your glories is the life and soul of the international spiritual society formed by you—your ISKCON.

In the *Bhagavad-gītā* Lord Kṛṣṇa declares Himself to be the benefactor and well-wisher of all living entities (*suhṛdam̐ sarva-bhūtānām̐*). As his pure representative, you are also the benefactor and well-wisher of everyone you meet. Thus, we know that you viewed all your disciples and followers with equal vision, not favoring any one of them over the others. However, we residents of New Dvārakā Dhāma have always felt specially favored by you.

You visited this temple more than any other in the Western world. Records show that you visited New Dvārakā on the following occasions: February 25–August 9, 1970; June 26–27, 1971; June 29–July 16, 1971; July 2–4, 1972; August 10–29, 1972; September 13–October 5, 1972; November 30, 1973–January 14, 1974; July 8–16, 1974; February 9–11, 1975; June 20–27, 1975; July 22–25, 1975; June 1–11, 1976.

In an address upon arriving in Los Angeles on June 20, 1975, you said:

We have no new discovery. We don't manufacture. This is our process. We simply follow the predecessor's instruction. That's all. Our movement is very easy because we haven't got to manufacture something. We simply repeat the words and the instruction given by the predecessor. Kṛṣṇa instructed Brahmā, Brahmā instructed Nārada, Nārada instructed Vyāsadeva, Vyāsadeva instructed Madhvācārya, and, in this way, then Mādhavendra Purī, Īśvara Purī, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, then the Six Gosvāmīs, then Śrīnivāsa Ācārya, Kavirāja Gosvāmī, Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura, Viśvanātha Cakravartī, Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, Gaurakīśora dāsa Bābājī, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, and then we are doing the same thing. There is no difference. That is the specific procedure of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. You are singing daily, *guru-mukha-padma-vākya*, *cittete koriyā aikya*, *ār nā koriho mane āśā*. Very simple thing. We are receiving the transcendental knowledge through *guru-paramparā* succession. So we have to simply take instruction from guru, and if we execute that to our heart and soul, that is success. That is practical.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you wanted New Dvārakā to set a high standard of Deity worship, and thus you patiently instructed us in the proper mood and execution of this fine devotional art. The following letter to Jayatīrtha Dāsa and Mañjuālī Devī Dāsī (10 November 1975), shows your concern for our advancement:

Please accept my blessings. I am in due receipt of your card dated October 25, 1975, along with the beautiful photographs of Sri Sri Rukmini-Dvarakadhisa of New Dvaraka. So do it nicely. I have invited Kṛṣṇa and He may not be insulted by disrespectful behavior. I have introduced this system of Deity worship amongst the non-believers, the atheists, the mlecchas, the yavanas and I pray to Kṛṣṇa that I am inviting You to come, so please, because You are seated in their hearts, please give them the intelligence how to serve you so that You may not be inconvenienced.

At the same time you expected us to take the time to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness, following in your



footsteps. In another letter to Jayatīrtha Prabhu (20 November 1975), you expressed appreciation for our efforts in this regard and gave us invaluable instruction for practical application of the philosophy:

I am very pleased with the distribution that the New Dvārakā temple is doing. When I hear of your advancement of devotional service by book distribution, it invigorates me although I am an old man. Although I am traveling all over the world, my mind is always in Los Angeles. So do everything very nicely so that very soon I may go there and see the improvement. The mrdanga-making is very important. The new bhaktas, they can be engaged in the mrdanga-making and also help Bharadrāja with the doll-making. The nursery school program is very good. That is good that the mothers are being freed to increase their devotional service. It is not that women should only produce children, but they are meant for advancing in devotion. The sign Hare Krishna Colony is very good idea. You can add the words Come and Join.

As a child you eagerly and insistently performed the Ratha-yātrā festival of Lord Jagannātha, engaging your entire neighborhood in the endeavor. Therefore it was not surprising that you brought the Ratha-yātrā festival to the cities of the West. You particularly desired to see Ratha-yātrā festivals performed in the major cities of the United States, such as New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. In our efforts to please you, we are now set to present the 34th annual Los Angeles Ratha-yātrā. The following excerpt from a letter written by Tamāl Krishna Goswami (6 September 1977) on your behalf gives some indication of how you regarded our efforts:

Now the photographs depicting Rathayatra in Los Angeles arrived from you. His Divine Grace was fully entranced on how all of you, his loving disciples and children, dedicated all of your energy in this ceremony. With keen interest Srila Prabhupada heard the description of each photograph and glanced so lovingly at each of you who were engaged in the service of Lord Jagannatha. There were tears in Srila Prabhupada's eyes and they made a path down his cheeks as he shook his head from side to side, so much appreciative was he of the effort which you have all made. When the photographs showing the three Chariots on procession were shown to him, Srila Prabhupada made a long humming sound, and with His eyebrows very arched he declared, "We have never seen such carts!" When the photographs showing the long lines of people lining up to see the "Changing Body" exhibit were shown to him, Srila Prabhupada was deeply pleased and said, "I told you this would happen. I am very much glad to see this." The experience of seeing these photographs was so much moving to His Divine Grace that he was unable to sit for his massage, nor could he take his meals. We requested him to have his massage, but in a choked voice He said "Not now." Then after two hours he retired to bed, deeply in trance meditating on the Rathayatra of Lord Jagannatha at Los Angeles.



Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are eternally indebted to you for toiling ceaselessly to instruct us in the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and waiting patiently for us to give up our *anarthas* and become serious about executing those instructions. In this next letter (14 August 1976) you instructed us how to try to repay our debt to you:

My dear Sons and Daughters;

Please accept my blessings. I am in due receipt of your letter dated August 9, 1976, and the enclosed daksina and pictures of the murtis in New Dvaraka which I am having framed and put on my wall here in Bombay.

If you feel at all indebted to me, then you should preach vigorously like me. That is the proper way to repay me. Of course, no one can repay the debt to the spiritual master, but the spiritual master is very much pleased by such an attitude by the disciple. In the *Bhagavad-gita* it is said, *vyavasayatmika buddhir ekeha kuru nandana*, "Those who are on this path are resolute in purpose, and their aim is one." Our only business is to be fixed up in devotional service by pleasing the spiritual master. Those who are not fixed up they have various lines of action (*eka* means "one" and *bahu* means "many").

The real ocean of mercy is Kṛṣṇa, and it is the duty of the spiritual master to tell his disciple

to come to the ocean and be happy. The spiritual master's duty is to lead the disciple to this ocean. I am trying my best, and if you try to follow surely you will benefit.

Bhaktivinode Thakura has sung, "*kṛṣṇa sei tomara, kṛṣṇa dite para, tomara sakati ache. Ami ta'kangala, kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa boli, dhai tava pache pache.*" "Kṛṣṇa is yours and you have the power to give Him to anyone you wish. I am poor and wretched and running behind you shouting Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa!"

Kṛṣṇa is unlimited, no one can catch Him, but if someone follows the parampara, He agrees to be captured.

Naturally after your departure chaos ensued in your beloved ISKCON society. The New Dvārākā community was no exception. We struggled in our efforts to stay afloat in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to remain faithful to your vision and strictly follow your instructions. Although the community is currently strong and vibrant, a lot of problems could have been avoided if we had deeply meditated on the following statement of yours (Arrival Speech, 17 May 1977, Vṛndāvana):

Whether I am present or not present, it doesn't matter. As Kṛṣṇa is living eternally, similarly, living being also lives eternally. But *kīrtir yasya sa jīvati*: "One who has done service to the Lord lives forever." So you have been taught to serve Kṛṣṇa, and with Kṛṣṇa we'll live eternally. Our life is eternal.

Although we understand this intellectually, Śrīla Prabhupāda, individually and collectively we miss you and need you now more than ever.

Your disciples and granddisciples in New Dvārākā, Los Angeles, California, USA.

(written by Arcita Dāsa)



New Gokula (Australia)

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*om̐ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

We offer our respectful obeisances unto our spiritual master, who has opened our eyes, blinded by the darkness of ignorance, with the torchlight of knowledge.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your beautiful lotus feet on this auspicious day of your transcendental appearance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are our strength; you are the mercy that forms our attraction for Lord Kṛṣṇa.

By your mercy, you manifest our good qualities, for without your causeless grace, we have none.

Your sublime teachings are our infallible inspiration.

Like a searchlight on the ocean of delusion, your mercy enables us to see everything that is good and pure and gives us the ability to discriminate between temporal matter and eternal spirit.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The life of Kṛṣṇa's devotee is very special, for his consciousness is purified by always striving to please you by his service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The life of Kṛṣṇa's devotee is very special, for he relishes the nectar of the holy name—an extraordinary mercy that nondevotees cannot fathom.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The life of Kṛṣṇa's devotee is very special, for he takes shelter of a bona fide spiritual master and renders him transcendental service with unalloyed love.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The devotees here on Lord Gokulānanda's farm are very special. They protect Gopāla's cows, harvest crops for the pleasure of Kṛṣṇa, cook sacred food offerings for His enjoyment, worship His exquisite form as Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda, preach the compassionate message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, given to us through your causeless mercy, invite people to take up this process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and show by their example how to lead a simple life, depending entirely on Kṛṣṇa, His land, and His cows.

Each weekend, many people visit Rādhā-Gokulānanda's farm to take your *darśana* and the *darśana* of our all-attractive Deities, the charming transcendental couple Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda.



Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Why are these devotees so special? Because they have intelligently taken shelter of your lotus feet, followed your instructions, and pled for your benevolence every day, thereby strengthening their dedication to advancing their loving devotional service to your devotees and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, your unworthy servants at the New Gokula farming project, humbly and tirelessly pray on this auspicious day that you will glance upon us mercifully and bestow upon us all the necessary qualifications to realize harmony and the spirit of pure devotional service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please grant that by your Vyāsa-pūjā next year we will be able to offer you a greatly enhanced Kṛṣṇa conscious farming community, with more gardens, better harvests, and a proper *gośālā* for our dear mothers, śrī Gokulānanda's darling cows.

Please grant us the means and inspiration to expand Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission of delivering Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all suffering souls, by developing attractive and inviting facilities for accommodating devotees and guests, especially our revered *sannyāsīs* and gurus. *Lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya. As Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 22.54) confirms, by even a moment's association with a pure devotee one can attain all success.*

On this auspicious anniversary of your bright appearance in this world of darkness, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are grateful to experience your immaculate association.

We humbly pray, O *sad-guru*, ocean of compassion, please stay within our hearts and minds forever and keep us always, under all circumstances, engaged in your loving service.

Please be merciful to us, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We aspire to eternally remain the servants of the servants of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda's devotees and you, who are the most merciful of all Kṛṣṇa's blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The devotees at the New Gokula farm at Millfield, NSW, Australia

(written by Ādi-puruṣa Dāsa)



New Gokula (Canada)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we, your followers in New Gokula-dhāma, Vancouver, wish to offer you our

very best heartfelt appreciations on this happy occasion of the anniversary of your sacred appearance in this world.

When is he arriving . . . yes, . . . yes, we will leave right away. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is to arrive in Portland in a few days. We are going to be there to greet him, so the temple is going to be closed while we're gone. . . . Do you want to come? We can always make room for another.

They were all going to pile into an old car and drive almost non-stop, some two thousand miles (we were coming from Edmonton via Vancouver and Seattle), just to see their guru. *Guru* was a new word to me, but he must be an important person, since those at the temple were going to drop everything and go see him with just one short call as incentive. I would go too. I had met devotees for the first time just a few weeks before, and after visiting every day for three days, I moved in. Everything was new. An inner voice said it was all right; it's where I belonged.

Then the plane touched down and it stopped, and we ran out onto the tarmac as the workmen put a ramp in place and people came streaming off. Then there you were—not a tall man, but you did not have to be, as they say good things come in small packages. There was a great presence about you; you radiated confidence, determination, and pride—pride in the importance of your mission. I was stunned; I did not know what to do. I do not remember how I came to have a rose in my hand. You smiled and took the rose I offered you. These moments are forgotten often, but they come back when they seem to be needed, and then I know that all is well. Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the controller, and He will protect us. That is what I learned that day, even though you did not speak to me.

You spoke when you arrived at the temple. Unfortunately I was unable to hear due to many reasons—my unruly mind among them. It was very crowded, and as you picked up the *karatālas* you set aside the rose, which had opened in your hands. After the *kīrtana* and talk you went to view some prospective property. Unable to accompany you and your entourage, I felt that I was the loser. However, by some good fortune, when you were departing I found myself at the foot of the stairs leading up to the plane. You were leaving us after so short a stay. Though I was ignorant of the proper etiquette, and though my senses were so imperfect and my resources so limited, again I had a red rose in my hand to offer you. How it had come to be so was surely the result of some caring soul other than me, since of my own accord it would not have been. Kṛṣṇa always sees that his devotee is properly honored, just as when Śrī Nārada Muni was visiting Rukmiṇī's palace in Dvārakā. I was so fortunate to be able to give you something. You wore so many garlands, petals cascading down around your lotus feet. Again you paused and smiled. Then I, always the bungling fool, managed to hand to you that rose, and your smile grew. Thinking back on this is my only solace in this miserable world.

Your servants in New Gokula Dhāma, Vancouver, Canada.



New Goloka

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our obeisances on this most glorious day of your appearance. You are our eternal well-wisher and spiritual guide. As members of the New Goloka community, we once again dedicate ourselves to your service and pray that you will be pleased with our small efforts to carry on your great mission of giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness freely to all and bringing them under your loving shelter.

Many times when people first come into our temple room and notice you sitting on the *vyāsāsana* with a bead bag in your hand, they comment, “Oh, he looks so real. I thought he was alive.” Yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, not only are you personally present in your *mūrti* form but you live on in your books and instructions.

You gave us a well-balanced formula for success in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Books are the basis, preaching is the essence, utility is the principle, and purity is the force. The more we study your books, the deeper our own understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness becomes, and we become jubilant and enlivened to share it with others. You continue to speak to us through your divinely inspired purports. You have given us the greatest gift of chanting the holy names of the Lord and connecting us with this wonderful *sāṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We also pray to you to give us the intelligence and understanding we need to present these teachings in a way that will be attractive to people in our present-day society.

This year we are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Golokānanda. I am happy to let you know that we are now moving ahead on building a larger temple facility to accommodate our growing congregation and spiritual activities. You have taught us how important it is to build on a firm foundation. By our being steady in our service to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Golokānanda, things have naturally grown and expanded. We pray to have your blessings for this project so that we may bring many more souls under your guidance and protection. You have given us such a happy, beautiful life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We are eternally indebted to you.

Our gardens have now expanded, and when people come they are very pleased to see the beautiful flowers and attractive, peaceful atmosphere. It inspires them naturally in the mood of devotion. The devotees have continued with the college *prasādam* programs, and we are looking forward to having a larger kitchen to continue with these programs. Your books are being distributed around town in “smart boxes.” We are trying to increase our focus on hearing and chanting, and we have established more programs to encourage and enliven the congregation to take shelter of the holy names. So many challenges will always be there in our spiritual lives, but we pray for your mercy to always follow your wonderful example and continue in our service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Please bless our community so that we may always stay close to you and the disciplic succession and remain under your guidance and protection. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for being such a kind father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Your eternal servants in New Goloka, Hillsborough, North Carolina, USA.



New Govardhana (USA)

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your divine lotus feet!

O Jagat Guru, on this inconceivably auspicious day of your appearance, this ragtag band of aspiring servants cries out in a desperate plea to Lord Nityānanda, the deliverer of Jagāi and Mādhāi. Counting on Lord Nityānanda’s principle of freely distributing special mercy to the most fallen, we plead at His lotus feet for the sincere desire and ability to please you.

Lord Nityānanda is the Mūlya Mahājana, or proprietor of the market place of the holy name. Therefore we are begging permission to continue serving there for the pleasure of Your Divine Grace.

Though we have no qualification and reside in a dangerous and dank corner of the material world known as San Diego, we still boldly pray for a small drop of nectar from the ocean of kindness that pours from your lotus feet. We fervently beg Lord Nityānanda to let us utilize the potency of that nectar to deliver those maddened materialists who wander within the seemingly impermeable walls of illusion that fortify this city.

Indeed, your pure kindness is so powerful that only by the Lord's grace are we allowed to use that gift. And only when we accept the gift of your kindness does Lord Nityānanda permit us to distribute the holy name to others. Then those who are transformed also become empowered to distribute your unlimited kindness. Our hope is that by such a humble group effort we will have some success in our attempt to serve you.

This is our only hope for even trying to repay you, Śrīla Prabhupāda—you, who in an act of unprecedented compassion, voluntarily left the eternal abode of the all-attractive couple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī, and traveled to the darkest regions of America to deliver unqualified fools such as ourselves. What can we do? We have to give back something! But our only valuable possession is the kindness you rain down upon us. So, we have no choice but to utilize that kindness, which is already yours, in your service. This lopsided attempt at repaying you is all that we have! Our hope-against-hope prayer is to please you in this way by delivering at least some of the lost souls within this metropolis of the threefold miseries called San Diego.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, forgive us our inadequacies and do not kick us away. Strengthen our determination to expertly serve our most beautiful lordships, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī, so we may increase our service to you. Bless your devoted *pūjārīs*, who meticulously care for our divine Lordships, so we may increase our service to you. Enliven your dedicated cooks and those who take care of Śrīmatī Tulasī-devī, so we may increase our service to you. Bless your exalted devotee-scholars to continue in their service as loving mentors and spotless examples, so we may increase our service to you.

Help us cultivate a mutually loving service attitude among your temple and household devotees, so we may increase our service to you. Help us to properly train and care for your eager young *brahmacārīs* who now live at your temple, so we may increase our service to you. Empower us to teach and inspire those enthusiastic ladies and men who are new to your congregation, so we may increase our service to you. Bless your responsible household devotees who work hard each day, caring for their families, that they may continue to keep their hand in the bead bag and their eyes on the goal, so we may increase our service to you. Continue protecting the oldest member of your community and your oldest living disciple, Mother Vraja-vadhū, and bless those patient souls who personally care for her, so we may increase our service to you. Protect your tireless senior devotees who have dedicated their lives to the development of New Govardhana, so we may increase our service to you.

Shower your causeless mercy upon all of our preaching efforts, so we may perfectly execute and increase your college *prasādam* program, your Krishna Lounge, your *16Rounds* newspaper, your Bhakti-śāstrī program, your congregational outreach program, your transcendental book distribution, your new temple project, your Friday night *harināma* party, your Sunday Feast Program, your Saturday Night Satsang, and your congregational support groups, so we may increase our service to you.

Help us to keep the loving care of your devotees at the forefront of our mission, so we may increase our service to you. Empower us to avoid offending anyone and in this way attract everyone, so we may increase our service to you. And, last but not least, bless us to continue taking Lord Nityānanda's mercy on our heads, to insure our eternal employment at the marketplace of the holy name, so we may increase our service to you. With unlimited gratitude and love,

Your fallen but hopeful servants in New Govardhana Dhāma, San Diego, California, USA.

(written by Yudhiṣṭhira Dāsa)



New Kulīna-grāma

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance!

All glories to the ISKCON society you established for us to get the wonderful association of Vaiṣṇavas!

All glories to your transcendental teachings of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which perfectly follow the divine disciplic succession descending from Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu!

All glories to your personal example of unalloyed *bhakti* and your implicit faith in Śrī Guru and Śrī Kṛṣṇa!

All glories to your Bhaktivedanta purports! Reading them has not only cleared our doubts but also cut the knots of material attachment in our hearts. We feel that it is our great fortune to have received such transcendental knowledge from such a powerful ambassador of Śrī Goloka-dhāma.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, although we never met you personally, we have grown to love you so much. Whenever we hear your transcendental sound vibration from an audio machine, we feel your presence and never feel that we have not seen you personally. We feel you are always taking care of your grandchildren every day. Despite our inability to serve your mission properly, and despite our shortcomings, we gain strength from your loving glance. Sitting on the temple-room *vyāsāsana*, you inspire us to remain firmly attached to our only business: glorifying Lord Kṛṣṇa and helping to spread Lord Caitanya's mission. Our success lies in regularly and rigidly following our routine of rising early, attending *maṅgala-ārati*, chanting sixteen rounds, reading from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and performing *saṅkīrtana*. Please bless us so that we can meet these simple standards set by you in this difficult age of quarrel and hypocrisy.

Attracted by the beauty of our presiding Deities and by your mercy, our congregation here has grown steadily. We are trying our best to improve and maintain nice Deity worship for the pleasure of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurasundara and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā-devī. Our Deity worship needs to be improved to the highest standard. Their Lordships have been patiently receiving our neglectful services because of your repeated requests to Them to tolerate our faults. Please bless us to correct our mentality and attitude so we may serve Them better, with the understanding that they are persons (not statues), that They are personally present, and They need our personal attention.

Our maintenance efforts have allowed us to renovate this very old temple building, including its kitchen and temple room. We built a new Tulasī house for the pleasure of Tulasī Mahārāṇī. We hold a yearly Ratha-yātrā in Baltimore. This year will mark the eighth annual chariot festival. We distribute books through "smart boxes" and by participating in ethnic festivals. We conduct a small version of a Bhakti-ṛkṣa weekly home program. These are quite small steps toward fulfilling your desire, but we hope you are pleased with our tiny efforts. Your pleasure and satisfaction constitute our success.

In comparison to the great things being accomplished by so many other ISKCON centers, we have not done anything glorious or outstanding. We have so much to do. We still have to transcend our limitations to achieve a higher goal. We need your blessings so that we can see the good in others and be able to cooperate and serve Your Divine Grace by propagating the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Your insignificant servants at New Kulīna-grāma Dhāma, ISKCON of Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

(written by Jaya Gaurasundara Dāsa)



New Navadvīpa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your divine presence in our lives!

One reason you are so attractive and your association is so desirable is that you externally manifest the qualities of pure devotion. You bring the qualities of a pure devotee to life right before our eyes, and when and if we surrender to your service we feel this purity emanating from you. This feeling inspires us with gratitude for your association, which in turn gives us impetus to serve you. So, we may ask, What is it that creates within us this feeling of deep gratitude toward you? Your qualities of pure devotion or our surrender to your service? Of course, both are essential, but for us the most important is our surrender to your service, because that is within our limited power. And even for that surrender we must pray to you. Like a child who has nothing but wants to offer his father something out of love, we beg you for surrender so we may honor you through our service.

“If you really want to honor someone, don’t just build a statue or memorial building. The most potent way to honor someone is to build a community that exemplifies the values that person taught.”

Here in Honolulu, at New Navadvīpa, devotees have been serving you and your mission for many years, and by your mercy we will continue to carry on, refining our devotion to you in a way that will attract more of the conditioned souls of Hawaii to your lotus feet and the service of the Lord. We are forever in your debt for this transcendental opportunity.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The ISKCON devotees in New Navadvīpa Dhāma, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.



New Pānihāṭi

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance we are blessed to have the opportunity to try, in some humble way, to offer you our heartfelt appreciation. Our hope is that by offering this humble and sincere praise we will become ever-increasingly inspired to continue serving you.

It is understood from the *śāstra* that one cannot hope to repay the spiritual master for what he has given his disciples and followers. This is especially true for all of the members of your glorious ISKCON movement. You have so kindly prepared this movement to function as a reservoir of spiritual inspiration and training for all Vaiṣṇavas worldwide.

As members of ISKCON, we should continually strive to push forward this movement for the benefit of all mankind, and in so doing give pleasure to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants here at New Pānihāṭi Dhāma are very happy to inform you that we are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of this wonderful temple. Many of the devotees here are planning various commemorative events to mark this important milestone. One such event was suggested by one of our youth. The idea is to hold a forty-hour nonstop *kīrtana*. This suggestion is very encouraging, because it proves that this movement can and will go forward even after most of

your senior disciples have gone on to serve you wherever you are conducting your pastimes of service to Lord Caitanyadeva.

Every day we see more and more how people are taking your teachings very seriously and are adjusting their lives to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. How wonderful this is! And it gives us great hope and inspiration to continue preaching.

When you visited here in 1975 you said that you were pleased by the cooperative spirit of the devotees here. Of course, there were devotees visiting from various temples, but still the mood was so infused with the desire to please you.

The more that we focus on your mission and take shelter of your divine instructions, the more we will be able to serve you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Our purpose in life will be fulfilled if we can somehow give you pleasure by pushing forward the work of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness here in Atlanta.

The devotees here are very enthusiastic for *harināma* and book distribution. We go out weekly for *harināma* on Wednesday, and then once a month, as part of our celebration for you called Śrīla Prabhupāda Super Saturday, thirty-five to forty devotees assemble for *harināma*. At the Super Saturday program we gather together to offer you *guru-pūjā*, and then we sit down and listen to one of your video lectures. After the lecture, devotees share their realizations of what you presented during the lecture. This has been going on for almost eleven years.

It is so encouraging to see the devotees' faith in you and their commitment to serve you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we hope that you will continue to shine your blessings upon us here at New Pānihāṭi Dhāma.

We want to always be engaged in your service, and given the current situation in society today, your message is needed more than ever. Please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with renewed enthusiasm and focus, so that we will never lose the taste for assisting you in giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone we meet.

Our only hope is to remain firmly fixed at your lotus feet in a spirit of complete surrender and to strive for pure devotional service every day of our lives. You have given us the promise of eternal life in the spiritual kingdom of God, Goloka Vṛndāvana, and also to have the association and eternal service of the Lord and His divine associates, headed by Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. This hope animates our souls, and thus we are forever grateful to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Our debt to you can never be repaid, and so we can only hope to have the opportunity to serve you eternally.

Every day we strive to deepen our understanding of the wonderful instructions you so painstakingly provided for us in the form of your translations and purports, as well as the thousands of personal letters and recorded lectures and conversations. In a lecture you gave in Vṛndāvana just after your visit to New Pānihāṭi, you made special mention of our temple:

So our only request is that this simple thing:

*harer nāma harer nāma harer nāmaiva kevalam
kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva nāsty eva gatir anyathā*

—this formula of the Vedic *śāstra*. And you will be surprised. I invite you to come to our different centers in Europe and America, how they are chanting, dancing before the Deity—Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda, or Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Recently I had been to Atlanta for the first time. But the boys and the girls there, they have taken three big, big houses. The middle house has been transformed into temple. How nicely they are chanting and dancing! You will be surprised if you go. [Address, Vṛndāvana, 20 April 1975)

How blessed we are that you were thinking of our humble temple here in Atlanta while you were in the most holy of *dhāmas*, Śrī Vṛndāvana! It is our solemn duty and honor to continue your memory here far into the future. You are so merciful to us, and for this we thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The devotees here are working very hard to maintain and expand your vision of chanting and dancing before the Deities of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana, and Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadra. The *kīrtanas* are simply wonderful, and all the devotees and visitors participate with great enthusiasm.



Śrīla Prabhupāda, if we can simply stick to the principle of nicely chanting and dancing before the Deities, then it is assured that we will always have your blessings in our lives.

Remembering your sacrifices for developing this wonderful Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement gives us great strength and motivation.

Please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we can always be engaged in the *saṅkīrtana* movement with enthusiasm and conviction.

Your humble servants of New Pānihāṭi Dhāma, ISKCON of Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

(written by Balabhadra Bhaṭṭācārya Dāsa)

New Ramaṇa Reti

We offer our respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, haven taken shelter of His lotus feet.

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Very dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

By the depth of your compassion and your purity you inspired us conditioned souls to begin the path of surrender to Lord Kṛṣṇa. We feel totally indebted and grateful to you.

Here in Alachua, in north central Florida, we are diligently trying to push on the mission of Lord Caitanya, as was your desire. You wrote:

For some time now I have been thinking to have a nice place in Florida, and now it looks like you are trying for it. . . . So just work hard for Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and His mercy will fall upon you like torrents of rain in the monsoon season. [Letter to Abhirāma, 6 Mar 1973]

By your grace we have installed Deities of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma here this year. To do so we had to raise funds and construct a brand-new huge kitchen, plus spend two years sewing outfits to match the existing Deity outfits.

You would be proud of our two excellent schools here at New Ramaṇa Reti: the Bhaktivedanta Academy, a *gurukula* day school, and the Alachua Learning Center, a public charter school taught by devotees with an award-winning *prasādam* cafeteria. Both are caring environments that give over two hundred students specialized attention.

And we feel that you would be very pleased that we now hold eight major Ratha-yātrās every year in Florida. Thousands of conditioned souls are receiving the blessings of Lord Jagannātha. As you so perfectly taught us, “Compassion for the eternal soul is self-realization.” (Bg. 2.1, purport)

Here in Alachua we are so fortunate and blessed, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by the association of more than two hundred of your direct disciples, along with hundreds of your granddisciples and great-granddisciples. Every one of us direct disciples has carried you within our hearts for the past thirty-five to forty years, and by the blazing fire of your saintly association even our ironlike hearts have become infused with the fire of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Once in nearby Gainesville one of your disciples wanted to know how you expanded in so many pictures to receive the offerings of your disciples. There are thousands of devotees; how can you be



present in all these places to receive the offerings? You replied to him by letter, Śrīla Prabhupāda:

The spiritual master is present wherever his sincere disciple is trying to serve his instructions. This is possible by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa. In your attempts to serve me and in all your sincere devotional sentiments, I am with you as my Guru Maharaja is with me. Remember this always. [Letter to Bhakta Don, 1 December 1973]

You once told one of your disciples, “I pray to Kṛṣṇa every night to please protect me from *māyā*.” (*Memories*, Vol. 1, p. 367). Later you complained, “My disciples flirt with *māyā*.” (remembrance, Viśāla Dāsa) Sadly, we not only flirt with *māyā* but we embrace *māyā*. We encounter obstacles, but somehow or other you are always there when we turn back to you and try to rectify ourselves. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Another reason we are grateful to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that with brilliant simplicity you exposed the bluffs of the scientists:

Why is the sand crab running? Scientists would say it is due to instinct, but there is no such thing as instinct. . . . Instinct is a word coined by scientists to cover up the fact that there is Supersoul, there is God, and there is past experience. . . . You have been in the body many lifetimes, so you know to look for the mother’s breast. The baby animal is nudging for the mother’s breast. It’s past experience, the past lifetime, and it’s the Supersoul within the heart that guide the living entity—it’s not instinct. There is no such thing as instinct. . . . If you analyze it you will see that it means absolutely nothing. Yet the scientists have convinced everyone that the whole of nature is moving by instinct; it is moving by Supersoul. [*Memories*, Vol. 1, p. 35]

We have sometimes seen that disciples may stray away and go elsewhere, but you very clearly told us: “For an intelligent disciple, what his spiritual master provides is sufficient. . . . If you simply follow my instructions, everything will be revealed to you from within.” (*Memories*, Vol. 1, pages 192 & 196). And you also told us: “You may know it that I am eternally your guide, but if you don’t accept me as your guide, what can I do? . . . So eternally I want to remain your guide, provided you want to accept me.” (Letter to Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, 9 September 1972) Yes, please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are begging you to please keep us at your lotus feet. There may be other gurus, but you are the only one who is our guru, and we pray to remain eternally devoted to you.

Your humble servants in New Ramaṇa Reti Dhāma, ISKCON of Alachua, Florida, USA.

(written by Nartaka Gopāla Devī Dāsī)





New Remuṇā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you on your most glorious and auspicious appearance day!

This year's offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is about gratitude and prayer.

It wasn't so long ago that the countless books you have provided us with were simply thousands of marginless papers that you had carefully and meticulously typed and stored in bundles. It wasn't so long ago that the books we now treasure were once thoughtful words flowing from your transcendental lips and into a dictating machine. It wasn't so long ago that these spiritual books, which have saved all of us, were unavailable to the world. And it wasn't so long ago that there was only one ISKCON temple in a little storefront on Second Avenue in New York City, when your society consisted of just a handful of sincere and wonderful young followers.

Today your ISKCON has grown into a large, loving family, all under your guidance, protection, and care. It was all possible because of your love and blessings, which encouraged and motivated so many empowered devotees to assist you in seeing your vision through—devotees who blissfully sacrificed so much to paint the pictures we now see every day in your books, to type and edit your manuscripts, to travel to remote places in the world to open new centers. We are eternally grateful to you and your dear devotees who have set the stage for us, your humble servants at New Remuṇā Dhāma, to try to expand your society here in Toronto.

The last year has been an exciting one for us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The outreach efforts have expanded because of some extremely humble and motivated devotees who have assumed leadership roles and engaged the rest of the congregation. We would like to share a few of our humble efforts with you today.

University outreach continues to move forward at the University of Toronto and York University. *Prasādam* distribution to the homeless, as well as at large food expos, is occurring regularly. A new center has opened in a suburb of Toronto called Scarborough. The Ratha-yātrā festival continues to grow and attract tens of thousands of people. Our wonderful temple band, Gaura-Shakti, shares the holy name on a regular basis with the broader yoga and *kīrtana* communities in Toronto. Another center, called Urban Edge Yoga, has opened in the heart of the city. It is geared primarily to the Western/newcomer audience, with programs at least five days a week involving *kīrtana* sessions, cooking classes, and philosophical discussions.

The internal programs are also taking place, such as our Bhakti-vṛkṣa programs, *Bhagavad-gītā* classes, children's programs, and youth-run service days.

Perhaps our biggest offering to you this year consists of the efforts of our newly formed Toronto Saṅkīrtana Team. Inspired by your dear disciple His Grace Vaiṣeṣika Prabhu, this team has lovingly guided the Toronto congregation in regular, focused book distribution. In 2009 more than ten thousand books were distributed, three thousand during the December marathon! The team has set an ambitious goal of distributing twenty thousand books in 2010.

The bliss that comes from these outreach activities has caused a stir—it is contagious to want to spread the holy name and distribute your transcendental books!

Our sincere prayer, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that you continue to shower us with your mercy so that we can increase the enthusiasm and determination behind all our outreach efforts. Our prayer is that we remain *grateful* to you and all the devotees who helped us get here, and who will continue to bless and support us. Our prayer is to continue serving, and to do so in a humble state of mind. And we pray that you will arm us with the spiritual strength, intelligence, and protection to do so while looking after one another and cultivating purity as the force. Please don't ever stop showering your loving glance on all of us.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your never-ending mercy.

Your loving servants at New Remuṇā Dhāma, ISKCON Toronto, Canada.



New Tālavana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisance at the dust of your lotus feet.

On this auspicious day, it is our honor to glorify Your Divine Grace.

Since your departure, our limited intelligence has struggled to develop your New Tālavana. Yet we remain steadfast in our attempts. One of your instructions to us was “at least maintain what I have established.” So we persevere, praying that your mercy and instructions guide our determination.

As Westerners, we saw vacant land and austerity in Vṛndāvana, Māyāpur, and Bombay. Your desire and vision manifested beautiful temples in those holy places to glorify Lord Kṛṣṇa. Everything you gave us—your books, your temples, your classes, your personal instructions, etc.—were all meant to give us the opportunity to become Kṛṣṇa conscious again.

Your New Tālavana is another part of your mercy, a place you blessed with the touch of your divine lotus feet. We pray that we can take advantage of this great opportunity to serve one of your *tīrthas*.

You taught us “simple living and high thinking.” So if we come together to grow foodstuffs to offer Kṛṣṇa, protect mother cow, congregate to chant the Lord’s holy names, hear *Bhāgavatam*, and worship Tulasī, we will be successful. In fact, when you gave *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class here in 1975, you told us that by following this simple process we will go back to Kṛṣṇa.

You gave unlimitedly of yourself, sacrificing in so many ways to give the fallen souls of this age the opportunity to reawaken their dormant love for Kṛṣṇa.

Please allow us to follow in your footsteps, to serve you by working in such a way as to continue your mission of mercy.

Please help us to appreciate each other, to learn from all our realizations how to better serve your lotus feet, and in so doing give others the opportunity you have given us.

We humbly beg to remain fixed at your lotus feet.

Your humble servants at New Tālavana Dhāma, Carriere, Mississippi, USA.

(written by Vedānta-kṛt Dāsa)



New Varṣāṇā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Because you built a solid foundation before your departure, your ISKCON remains a strong movement, giving real knowledge of the soul and one’s relationship with the Supreme Lord.

We live in a constantly changing world, and in today’s society “reincarnation,” “vegetarianism,” “yoga,” and “karma” are common words acceptable to the everyday person. So it is not hard to think that in the future “You’re not the body but spirit soul” could also be common knowledge, making it easier for people to understand your books.

Book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, making devotees, and temple construction are still the main focus of your society.

We are about to start the construction of the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, which was predicted by Śrīla Bhaktivīnoda Ṭhākura and is one of your personal projects.

India at the moment is surpassing the rest of the world in temple construction and devotee-making, and it is number one in the world in book distribution, all of which are pleasing to you. It is hard to imagine the impact this new temple will have on India and the rest of the world. As one of the biggest temples ever constructed, it will attract millions of people from all over the world and give a new dynamic to your society.

You must think we are ready, since this temple is being built only by your mercy and the hard work of a few of your dedicated disciples, who are endeavoring to fulfill this personal desire of yours in their lifetime.

We are a new society, just over forty years old, and like any forty-year-old, we still have lots to learn. However, the special character of this society is that we always have your guiding hand in the form of your books. We can also see you in your personal form in your DVDs, so you are never too far away, which makes it easy to remain Kṛṣṇa conscious.

Your servants at New Varṣānā, ISKCON Auckland, New Zealand.

(written by Kalasamvara Dāsa)

New Vraja Dhāma



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-salākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

The world is changing . . .

Not just simply changing, but changing at a speed never experienced before. All the world's living creatures are facing extreme challenges from this rapid change. If we look at the environment, there is a crisis. Twenty-five species living on the earth today will be extinct tomorrow. Climate-change forecasters say there will be a lack of drinking water, the sea level will rise, insects, animals and plants will transfer their habitats to places they have never been before. Vast numbers of people will have to relocate, since the sea level's rise will affect more than a billion people. These climate refugees will try to find another place to live, creating social unrest. Agriculture will fail and there will be food scarcity. We need energy resources other than fossil fuels, but scientists say that we do not have time to invent any.

In addition, we can see the results of the economic crisis all around us. Many economists say that the present financial crisis is worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s. Unemployment is growing. People's savings are vanishing. Large financial institutions are collapsing. Prices are increasing. Salaries are lagging behind price increases.

And besides the environmental and economic crises, there is a social crisis. The overall mood of people is becoming depressed. The number of suicides is increasing. There is a growing gap between the poor and the rich. Consumerism on one side, and millions of hungry people on the other.

All of these crises are strongly connected. At the COP15 meetings, several politicians and scientists

said, “Unless we can figure out how to change people’s habits, attitudes, and needs, we will fail at making a global change.” So we can see that what is at the root of all the other crises is the moral and ethical crisis. The value system of human beings has become corrupted by artificial habits and needs; the demand for personal joy and happiness have become dominant. The importance of families, friendships, and real relationships has diminished, and competition, exploitation, and personal success have become predominant.

In this time of need, our role as devotees is to point out the problems and give practical solutions. This is what you always did, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You clearly wrote and boldly spoke about the present problems of society, and you gave detailed solutions to each and every problem. You gave the tools that we can use in changing the world. You said:

We have to create self-sufficient farm communities. We should produce our grain and milk; if we do this then there is no question of scarcity. So develop these farm communities as much as possible. These communities should turn into ideal societies based on natural resources and not on industry.

Is what you told us theoretical or realistic? Do we believe it can be done? Do we think it should be done? I think we should recall the statement at the COP15 meeting: “Unless we can figure out how to change people’s habits, attitudes, and needs, we will fail in making a global change.” We should work on changing the world. As disciples of your disciples, we should accept the responsibility of proving that what you wrote in your books, what you told us during classes and conversations, is practical. Furthermore, not only is it practical, but it is the only way the world can be saved.

Here in New Vraja Dhāma we strive to show a working example, a replicable model for everyone, of each and every aspect of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in practice. We try to show it in a way that most people can relate to, can accept, and can apply in their lives. We want to bring your message into the highest levels of leaders’ circles, just as you did. You stated in the Preface to the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* that you wanted the message of the *Bhāgavatam* to be taken seriously by educators, government officials, and other leaders of society. This is the heritage we should live up to—your heritage of being the commander in chief in changing the world.



The devotees of New Vraja Dhāma, Hungary.

(written by Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

New York (Brooklyn)

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

*dīvyad-ṽṛndāraṇya-kalpa-drumādhaḥ-
śrīmad-ratnāgāra-sirnhāsana-sthau
śrīmad-rādhā-śrīla-govinda-devau
preṣṭhālībhiḥ sevyamānau smarāmi*

“In a temple of jewels in ṽṛndāvana, underneath a desire tree, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, served by Their most confidential associates, sit upon an effulgent throne. I offer my most humble obeisances unto Them.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We bow down to you in awe and reverence, with a mellow feeling of love and devotion in our hearts, on this most blessed occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, and we dedicate our life and soul to Your Divine Grace and the service of your mission, birth after birth. Everyone loves you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and today we stand united in allegiance with respect, admiration, and loving devotional aspirations to serve your divine lotus feet forever.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please lead us to pure devotional service at the lotus feet of Śrī Govindadeva.

*smerām bhaṅgī-traya-paricitām sāci-vistīṛṇa-dṛṣṭim
vaṁśī-nyastādhara-kiśalayām ujjalām candrakeṇa
govindākhyām hari-tanum itaḥ keśī-tīrthopakāṅṭhe
mā prekṣiṣṭhās tava yadi sakhe bandhu-saṅge 'sti raṅgaḥ*

“My dear friend, if you are indeed attached to your worldly friends, do not look at the smiling face of Lord Govinda as He stands on the bank of the Yamunā at Keśī-ghāṭa. Casting sidelong glances, He places His flute to His lips, which seem like newly blossomed twigs. His transcendental body, bending in three places, appears very bright in the moonlight.”

Blessed by soothing waves of mercy sent by Śrī Nityānanda Rāma and Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu in this dark age of Kali-yuga, you were anointed by Śrī Nityānanda Rāma's unconditional love in order to deliver the fallen conditioned souls and distribute *kṛṣṇa-prema*, love of Kṛṣṇa. It was offered in every town and village by the peaceful and blissful illumination of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi's mercy, as revealed in the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. Only a rare and special person receives pure *bhakti* from Lord Kṛṣṇa, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and Your Divine Grace is such a very special pure devotee. Śrī Kṛṣṇa is reluctant to bestow pure *bhakti* on a person, since once He gives such a matchless gift, that person can control Kṛṣṇa with such love. Although you always danced according to the desire of Śrī Nityānanda Rāma and Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the most munificent Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi also danced according to the pure desire in your heart. And in that exchange it is self-evident that Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi are yours and Your Divine Grace is Theirs. Others came to the West before you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, attempting to bless the fallen souls with Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and many will follow, yet no one's legacy will be so obviously linked to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi's empowerment as is the miraculous body of spiritual work and accomplishment of Your Divine Grace. No one dances for Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi with such grace and beauty as you do, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

You provide us absolutely perfect guidance in your great literary works and discourses. “He reasons ill who says that Vaiṣṇavas die, when thou art living still in sound. The Vaiṣṇavas die to live, and living try to spread the holy name around.” It is our responsibility to apply what you have delivered to us, pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness, in our daily lives. It is our choice to be either intensely eager to have Kṛṣṇa consciousness, to strive for pure devotional service to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, or to be complacent, not properly surrendering to Kṛṣṇa and remaining asleep in the lap of the witch called Māyā. No one can ever convince us for even a moment that you did not sufficiently teach us the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Such foolish sound vibrations unfortunately are on occasion polluting the atmosphere in this age of quarrel and hypocrisy, Kali-yuga.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please lead us to pure devotional service at the lotus feet of Śrī Govindadeva.

Generally, people in their conditioned life engage in the pleasure of society, friendship, and love.



This so-called love is lust, not love. But people are satisfied with such a false understanding of love. Vidyapati, a great and learned poet of Mithilā, has said that the pleasure derived from friendship, society, and family life in the material world is like a drop of water, but our hearts desire pleasure like an ocean. Thus the heart is compared to a desert of material existence that requires the water of an ocean of pleasure to satisfy its dryness. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 5.224, purport]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I recently heard you say in a lecture that in the material world attachment is there and that it is natural, although we have to transfer our attachment to Kṛṣṇa. You went on to say that we have to think Kṛṣṇa is ours and we are His, and that this consciousness will guide us to the ultimate goal of perfect surrender to Kṛṣṇa. Continuing, you stated that when Kṛṣṇa came five thousand years ago He spoke the *Bhagavad-gītā* to teach everyone how to surrender to Him, but no one could follow. You concluded that Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu therefore appeared in order to teach us this same surrender to Kṛṣṇa in a more practical way for the conditioned souls of Kali-yuga.

I look around and see many wonderful loyal long-term members of our International Society for Krishna Consciousness, and I am very concerned about their Kṛṣṇa-conscious well-being heading into that all-important final exam known as death. Hair is getting gray, skin is getting wrinkled, aches and pains are daily associates now, organs are malfunctioning, and feared disease becomes an ally as a fortunate reminder from Kṛṣṇa that the end is getting closer. We must prepare more eagerly, since that final exam shall be given soon, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

As you lay on your bed in Vṛndāvana in 1977, you looked up at your disciples and exclaimed, “Do not think this won’t happen to you.” We know it will, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We know we are rapidly closing in on that moment. Yet it is not too late, and the topmost goal of pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness can be achieved by those with an intense eagerness to have it. With such unmotivated and undivided devotion, we can please Your Divine Grace and receive your mercy by satisfying you. And then we will receive the ultimate benediction, being anointed by Śrī Govindadeva with His priceless salve of love. Yes, death will happen to all of us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the title of one of your lectures so appropriately reveals: “Death Everywhere.” Your Divine Grace was once asked why the death rate in India was so high, and you replied that the death rate in India was 100%, just like everywhere else. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we must wake up very soon and prepare more intensely, with much more eagerness for pure *kṛṣṇa-sevā*, something we should have striven for from the very beginning of our Kṛṣṇa consciousness practices.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, there is a conversation in the Vedic scriptures between two great souls—Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira and Yamarāja, the superintendent of death. Yamarāja asked Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira, “What is the most wonderful thing in this material world?”

King Yudhiṣṭhira wisely answered, “The most wonderful thing is that a man sees everyone dying around him—parents, relatives, friends, well-wishers, even pet animals—yet still he thinks that he himself will not die.” Because a man thinks he is immune to death, he misuses and spoils his valuable human life. This illusion fosters mundane complacency, which leads into Māyā’s death trap, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Nothing in this world is more important than submissively hearing and serving with love and devotion such a great *mahātmā* as Your Divine Grace. We will please you the most, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by showing you that we are learning to love Kṛṣṇa and that we are learning to love Śrī Nityānanda Rāma and Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please lead us to pure devotional service at the lotus feet of Śrī Govindadeva.

If there is a drop of water in the desert, one may indeed say that it is water, but such a minute quantity of water has no value. Similarly, in this material world no one is satisfied in the dealings of society, friendship and love. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 5.224, purport]

Your Divine Grace is the *śikṣā-guru* for all ISKCON members. Yours is a unique *śikṣā-guru* position in ISKCON, a position I do not see any other person sharing with you, now or in the future. Those who do not follow your guidance, or are not aware that they have such a fortunate opportunity to hear and follow your empowering guidance, are unfortunate indeed and have simply been cheated and robbed of their precious time by illusion. We must get firmly established on the Kṛṣṇa conscious path now,



before it becomes too late in this life, by absorption in devotion to Kṛṣṇa and eagerly hearing from Your Divine Grace. Those fortunate souls who surrender to this simple process of intense eagerness to hear you and render you devotional service understand that Kṛṣṇa is theirs and that they belong to Kṛṣṇa, body, mind, and soul. Such devotees will be purified by the illumination of Kṛṣṇa consciousness within their hearts and minds in this life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please lead us to pure devotional service at the lotus feet of Śrī Govindadeva.

Therefore if one wants to derive real pleasure within his heart, he must seek the lotus feet of Govinda. In this verse Rūpa Gosvāmī indicates that if one wants to be satisfied in the pleasure of society, friendship, and love, he need not seek shelter at the lotus feet of Govinda, for if one takes shelter under His lotus feet he will forget that minute quantity of so-called pleasure. One who is not satisfied with that so-called pleasure may seek the lotus feet of Govinda, who stands on the shore of the Yamunā at Keśītīrtha, or Keśīghāṭa, in Vṛndāvana and attracts all the *gopīs* to His transcendental loving service. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 5.224, purport]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, personally I have no good qualities. I am insignificant, a fool with no redeeming qualification. I truly possess the character that the great *ācārya* Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura reveals in *Gītāvalī*:

I have fallen into the ocean of material existence as a result of my selfish activities, which are without beginning, and I see no means of deliverance from this great ocean of nescience. Day and night my heart burns from the vicious poison of these worldly activities, and on account of this my mind never finds any satisfaction or happiness.

Hundreds and thousands of desires, like nooses around my neck, constantly give me misery and trouble. In that great ocean of nescience play the waves of ever-increasing materialistic tendency. In this world there are many thieves and rogues, of whom six are prominent; lust, anger, greed, illusion, madness, and envy. They are causing me great fear, and in this way my life is coming to an end.

The two highway robbers known as mental speculation and fruitive activity have cheated and misled me, and finally they have thrown me into the ocean of misery. At such a time as this, my dear Kṛṣṇa, You are my only friend, for You are the ocean of mercy and compassion. I have no strength to get out of this ocean of nescience, so I pray to Your lotus feet that You will be kind and by Your strength uplift me from this ocean of suffering.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, if there is any menial service you may allow us to offer you, please consider our urgent plea. Praying to remain your servants forever, we bury our hearts at your lotus feet.

Your unqualified, unfortunate, insignificant, and foolish servants in Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda Mandira, Brooklyn, New York, New York, USA.

(written by Rāmabhadra Dāsa)



Noida

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble and respectful obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet! All glories to the Vyāsa-pūjā day!

On this auspicious day, the anniversary of your appearance in this world, we have an opportunity to renew our commitments to your service and review our failings and accomplishments in the past year.

Vyāsa-pūjā is a time to reflect on the sacrifices you made to bring us into contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is without doubt the most important day of the year for all the devotees in ISKCON. It is a day that brings us together and strengthens the unity of your spiritual family. It is a festival that no devotee can afford to miss. It is a day on which we cancel all other business and prepare ourselves to be totally and wholly in your service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day we always try to submit our gratitude at your lotus feet by updating you on our tiny efforts toward pushing on your divine movement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your Noida project is not fully completed yet, but we are in the finishing stage now. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we really need your blessings more than ever so that we can inaugurate the whole project by Śrī Nityānanda Trayodaśī, 2011. We have come a long way in this town as far as construction and preaching are concerned. The Deities have been moved up a floor, from the basement to the ground floor, and eventually Their Lordships will be moved to Their permanent floor, which is one step higher. Your teachings and personal guidance from your books make it possible for the cultivation of devotees and devotee-care programs to be nicely managed. Now we have ten weekly Bhakti Vṛkṣa programs, and we have vowed to double them by end of this year. Youth preaching, school and college preaching, corporate preaching, and *nagar saṅkīrtana* are going on by your mercy, but we need your continued guidance and blessings so that we can come up to the standards set by Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, with your blessings we organized a seminar week with the theme “Rejuvenation 2010,” wherein so many disciples personally trained by Your Divine Grace shared their realizations and conducted seminars to improve our Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

It was very successful. About one hundred fifty devotees and congregation members attended the seminars and received the valuable association of your disciples and granddisciples.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you describe an ideal temple in the following way:

The temple is a place not for eating and sleeping, but as a base from which we send out our soldiers to fight with maya. Fight with maya means to drop thousands and millions of books into the lap of the conditioned souls. Just like during war time the Bombs are raining from the sky like anything. [Letter to Ramesvara, 3 August 1973]

Although we strive to follow your instructions, it is so hard to be that solid man you want us to become:

Stick to the standard; then your life is successful. It is not at all difficult. But don't deviate. Then you are *pakka*. Yes. *Pakka* means solid. *Mām eva ye prapadyante māyām etāṁ taranti*. If you remain solid in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the *māyā* cannot touch you. [Address, 15 July 1974, Los Angeles]



Please bless us so that we may live up to your expectations in temple management and day-to-day activities.

Thank you very much Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda Vyāsa-pūjā mahotsava-kī jaya!

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON and the Bhaktivedanta Academy for Spiritual Science, Noida, India.

(written by Vraja Bhakti Vilāsa Dāsa)

Oslo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our respectful obeisances in the dust of your exalted lotus feet.

We devotees in your little center here in Oslo, Norway, are happy to be able to say on this auspicious day that one more year has gone by filled with ecstatic devotional service to the great cause you have so kindly allowed us to be a small part of.

It was not our plan to end up here. In fact, we thought that Norway was about the last place we wanted to go. But there are many examples of devotees being asked to do just what they didn't want to do and becoming ecstatic surrendering to the desire of guru and Kṛṣṇa.

One example that comes to mind is our great departed ISKCON leader Tamāl Krishna Goswami. In 1976, I think it was, after the controversy around the schism between the North American temple presidents and the Rādhā-Dāmodara party, he sarcastically said to you that he might as well go to preach in China. You did not take it as a joke, however, much to the frustration of Goswami Mahārāja. When your servant came to call him, he sensed what was on your mind and said, "I am not going." Of course, as a fully surrendered servant of Your Divine Grace, he ultimately relented, and, as they say, the rest is history. Tamāl Krishna Mahārāja got the credit for actually opening up one of the largest and most important preaching fields in the world.

Norway does not have the same significance as China, but neither do we compare with Tamāl Krishna Goswami, so it makes sense that we were sent to Norway while Goswami Mahārāja was sent to China. Still, we feel it is an honor to serve you as pioneers in this country.

Things are moving slowly here, to say the truth, but we get so much inspiration from the example you showed in your own life. For so many years you struggled alone, seemingly without success. In fact, a person seeing you in New York in 1966, before you moved into 26 2nd Avenue, would probably conclude that your whole life was a failure, a vain struggle for a lofty ideal, without result. Nobody could know what was to come in the next few years—that is, nobody except you and Kṛṣṇa.

However, you did reveal your vision to one person at that time, a Jewish subway conductor. Later he remembered his conversation with you on a park bench in New York. You told him, "There are many devotees and temples. Only time is separating us," although at that time you were still struggling alone.

As Kṛṣṇa says in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (2.38):

*sukha-duḥkhe same kṛtvā lābhālābhau jayājayau
tato yuddhāya yujyasva naivam pāpam avāpsyasi*

"Do thou fight for the sake of fighting, without considering happiness or distress, loss or gain, victory or defeat—and by so doing you shall never incur sin."



Homages from ISKCON Centers

You are a great Vaiṣṇava general, ready to lay down your life on the battlefield of preaching. If you will only allow us to assist you and also lay down our lives on this battlefield, we will consider it the perfection of our lives.

Your humble servants in Oslo, Norway.

Ottawa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*vāñchā-kalpatarubhyaś ca kṛpā-sindhubhya eva ca
patitānām̄ pāvanebhyo vaiṣṇavebhyo namo namaḥ*



On this auspicious and glorious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we beg you to please accept our humble obeisances in the dust at your most merciful lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, although the desire to always be engaged in offering all glories, gratitude, honor, and respect onto you is always there, I am often at a loss for the right words to properly do so on Vyāsa-pūjā day.

However, by your causeless mercy, just yesterday I received a letter from one of your dear and faithful sons, His Holiness Nirañjana Swami, in which he said, “Śrīla Prabhupāda is the very root from which these devotees grow.” I have since become fully absorbed in the meditation and realization that, without any doubt whatsoever, you are the root from which all of us grow, that you are the one by whom we are all maintained, and that it is only because of you that we can exist in a healthy condition.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you often cited the analogy of giving our attention to watering the root of a tree as the only proper way to ensure that the entire tree remains nourished and healthy. In the same way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am realizing that the only guaranteed way by which the ISKCON branch of the Caitanya tree, and specifically the ISKCON Ottawa branch, will continue to remain nourished and healthy is to fully focus all our attention and our service efforts on keeping you as the root and center of all our activities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you also said that “disciple” means following discipline. We pray that you will continue to bestow your causeless mercy on us all so that we may become worthy disciples and grand-disciples by faithfully endeavoring to follow your discipline, rules, regulations, standards, and, above all, your perfect personal example of purely following and preaching in accordance with the previous ācāryas. In this way we hope that we will always keep you as the root from which we and others in the future will all continue to grow healthy and happy in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Ottawa, Canada.

(written by Śaṅkara Dāsa)

Pandharpur

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet on the occasion of the 114th anniversary of your appearance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year we humbly offered you a festival commemorating the five hundredth anniversary of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's taking *sannyāsa*. In the presence of *sannyāsīs*, a hundred devotees joined together to install the lotus footprints of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu, and Śrī Viśvarūpa Prabhu here in Pandharpur.

We possess twelve cows, five bulls, and eight calves in Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharinātha's *gośālā*. According to the Vedic scriptures, the bull represents *dharma* and the cow is our mother. Bulls plow the fields and help harvest the grain, while cows supply milk to human society. A few days ago, my Guru Mahārāja called me and instructed me to care for the cows nicely. When cows are happy, the temple devotees are happy and the general populace are protected. After this call I realized that by protecting cows we can protect the other four categories of beings that are protected in any civilized society:



C for child protection
O for old-people protection
W for women protection
S for *sādhu* or *brāhmaṇa* protection

We devotees in Pandharpur are trying our best to love and serve cows as our own mothers. The cow is the mother of all human beings, and hence she is called Gomātā.

Yours servants at ISKCON Pandharpur, India.



Paris

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

To Śrīla Prabhupāda . . .

Departing and rebirth, in cycle forever,
Are likened to the flames of a forest fire.
In the jungle ablaze, the living entity
Alone cannot escape his cruel destiny.

Similar to a cloud, the spiritual master,
Drawing from the ocean of unending mercy,
Is kindly showering cooling falls of water
On the suffering world to end its agony.

When of Mahāprabhu, tasting the *saṅkīrtana*,
The spiritual master engages in *kīrtana*,
His ecstasy is deep when absorbed in dancing,
And he plays instruments to enhance his singing.

When feelings overwhelm his usual gravity,
Every hair stands upright on his golden body.
From his eyes flows of tears are becoming a river,
While the limbs of his frame start shaking and quiver.

Presenting articles during the *ārati*,
The spiritual master is guiding patiently
Dutiful disciples in the proper *pūjā*
Intended in temples for Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

In opulent clothing they dress the Deities,
Adding jewels and flowers to increase Their beauty.
On the floors of the shrine he fights impurities
By leading everyone in cleaning thoroughly.

The Lord on the altar is presented with food
Which can be sucked or licked, and also drunk or chewed.
Bhāgavat-prasādam, after being offered,
The remnants sanctified by the Guru are served.

It is a delight for the spiritual master
To watch his followers, all sitting together.
He makes sure everyone has received a portion
Large enough to honor the tasty salvation.



The eager listener is always elated
To depict the glories of Rādhā-Mādhava,
Their countless qualities and names unlimited,
Their forms fascinating, combining in *līlā*.

His being an expert making him endearing,
The spiritual master is always assisting,
Through tasteful arrangements, in the groves, the *gopīs*,
For the Divine Couple's conjugal ecstasies.

Servitor of the Lord, highly confidential,
He is to be treated on a footing equal.
The guru, with Hari, sharing divinity
Is confirmed in scriptures making authority.

The Lord's grace coming through the spiritual master,
His slightest desire should be a tall order.
Whenever he is not granting his agreement,
On the path there is no possible advancement.

For these reasons we do lovingly remember
And broadcast the glories of the divine master.
We bow down at his feet with great veneration,
Especially today, a special occasion.



Your servants in Paris, France.

(written by Mādhavendra Purī Dāsa)

Pecs

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to ISKCON!

Year after year I have to say "Thanks" to those devotees who ask me to write an offering to you. I find it a special opportunity to remember your divine qualities.

Today I heard in the morning class that you once said that the only problem of your Western disciples is that they are not afraid of *māyā*—they don't take *māyā* seriously. Once as you were praying before the Deities one of your disciples humbly asked you what you were praying for. You answered, "I pray to Kṛṣṇa every day to protect me from *māyā*." The devotee was shocked: "If my pure spiritual master prays for protection from the material energy, what to speak of myself?"

Some may think you were just teaching us, but the fact is that all the previous *ācāryas* prayed in the same way. They thought they were insignificant. Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja wrote in *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 5.205):

*jagāi mādhai haite muṇi se pāpiṣṭha
purīsera kīta haite muṇi se laghiṣṭha*

“I am more sinful than Jagāi and Mādhāi and even lower than the worms in the stool.”

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura wrote in his *Śaraṇāgati*:

*āmāra jīvana, sadā pāpe rata,
nāhiko punyera leṣa
parere udvega, diyāchi je koto,
diyāchi jīvere kleśa*

“My life is ever given to sin; in it there is not a particle of good. I have caused others great anxiety, and have troubled all souls.”

Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja thought like this and was empowered to write *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, the greatest biography of Lord Caitanya. Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura thought like this and was empowered to write more than a hundred books and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have always thought like this, and you were empowered to translate and add your commentary to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and other Vedic literatures. You were empowered to spread the message of Lord Caitanya throughout the whole world.

Please give us your mercy so we can follow your example and be empowered to take part in Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Your insignificant servants in Pecs, Hungary.

Perth



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

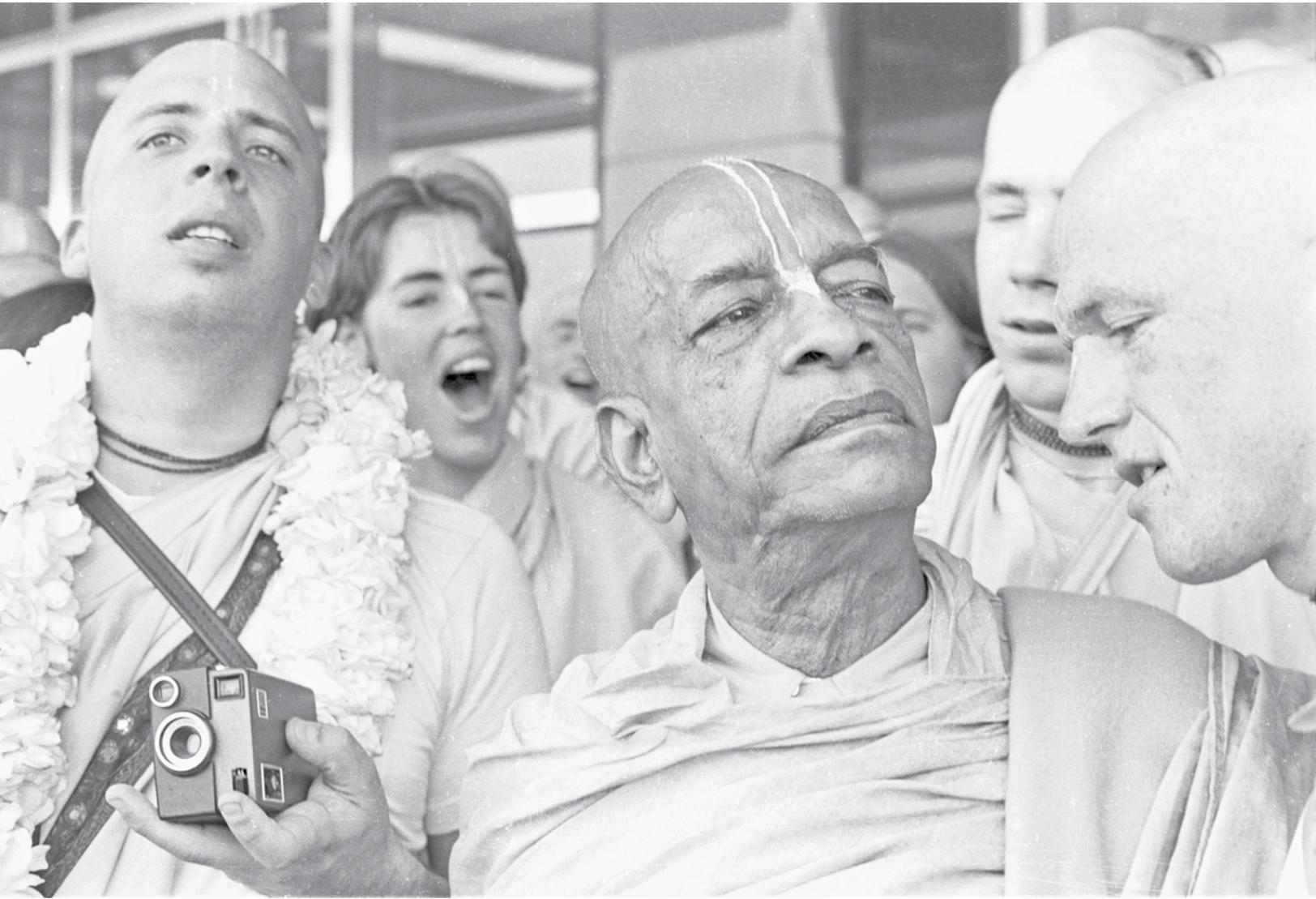
Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga! All glories to your lotus feet!

Before I give you a report on the Perth *yātrā*, I would first like to thank you for your great endeavor of leaving the comfort of Vṛndāvana more than forty years ago to travel to America to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Without your undertaking this austerity, we would all have been smashed by the whirlwind of material consciousness. By the time you left your body and entered Kṛṣṇa’s eternal *līlā* in His spiritual abode, you had produced a glorious legacy that has continued to grow and grow, providing nectarean shelter and guidance for those who strictly follow you.

We devotees in Perth have been getting that nectar ever since you first set foot on this soil. The Perth *yātrā* started with a small group of dedicated devotees renting a spot in downtown Perth. Eventually they were able to purchase a small building in Bayswater, and now we have a large, attractive temple in the hills of Kalamunda.

Over the last one and half years, since the new temple was purchased, the number of people attending the programs has continued to grow, and the temple is now abuzz with activities of all kinds. We have started a regular Sunday Love Feast, we observe all the regular festivals such as Janmāṣṭamī, and we were even able to organize a Ratha-yātrā at Fremantle. Even though there was a manpower shortage, the enthusiasm of a few dedicated devotees produced an influx of volunteers who felt the positive



energy of devotional service and wanted to be part of it. All this is happening because of your causeless mercy, my dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and the mercy of our presiding Deities, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

This coming year will see some big challenges. In some ways we have gone back to basics, meaning we are preaching more systematically so that those coming regularly can have some foundation in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and will be more inclined to surrender to your teachings and ultimately to the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa. We hope to attract more souls to dedicate themselves fully to the service of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. We also have two very important projects that need to be finalized: renovating the new restaurant, which needs immediate attention, and renovating the temple, which we hope to start as soon as possible. We pray for your blessings so that we can successfully meet all these challenges.

Finally, on this most auspicious anniversary of your appearance in this mortal world, we pray that you will continue to help us surrender more and more to the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help us chant the *mahā-mantra* more purely, without any offenses, so that we can always remember Kṛṣṇa and never forget Him.

Your servants in Perth, Australia.

Philadelphia

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Despite the many years since your departure, your personal presence remains palpable to us all. Even those of us who never had the opportunity to meet you in person strongly feel that you are still with us. Some of our celebrations, such as Ratha-yātrā and Janmāṣṭamī, may be larger in terms of attendance and budget, yet we experience year after year that your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration is the sweetest and most heartfelt of all. In Philadelphia we are fortunate to have several of your dear disciples who are very much active in your service. Through their association we are all brought closer to you.

Although much is left to be desired in our service, we hope you will be pleased with some of what is happening here. Attendance at our Sunday Feast program has been on the rise, and we have recently added an additional classroom to accommodate an increase in our Sunday School program. We have a strong congregation, Śrīla Prabhupāda. In addition to attending temple functions and providing financial support, our congregational members eagerly render service at the temple and host Kṛṣṇa conscious programs in their homes. A large Ratha-yātrā festival in downtown Philadelphia is now a regular annual event. Some local university professors bring their classes to the temple, and many more students come on their own. We see new faces nearly every week, and we have seen some of them become regulars. There has even been recent discussion of reviving a temple expansion/renovation plan, which has been on hold for a couple of years. We wish that we could serve you better and ask you for your blessings.

Your servants at ISKCON Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

(written by Giri-govardhana Dāsa)

Phoenix (South Africa)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you!

One may search far and wide, but one will never find anyone as qualified as you are in presenting the teachings of Lord Caitanya so purely and concisely. Many people may claim to be the propagators of Lord Caitanya's mission, but they certainly do not get the results you got. The reason is that you are the bona fide representative of the Supreme Lord. Lord Caitanya said that He would send His commander in chief, and that is you.

Your mercy has extended to this southern part of Africa. When you visited South Africa in October of 1975 you stated that there should be a regular Ratha-yātrā and a beautiful temple in Durban. This temple manifested by your desire, and along with your desire for Ratha-yātrā you sent Lord Jagannātha to Durban that same year. This proved to have far-reaching effects that no one foresaw.

By your divine mercy, Lord Jagannātha came as a festival Deity, and we did not realize what the Lord's plan was. In 2007 Lord Jagannātha decided to become more than a festival Deity, and He was installed in the temple here in Phoenix, which is situated on a hill so that everyone can see it from many kilometers around. The temple became New Jagannātha Purī.

This temple was built solely by congregational devotees and is being maintained by the congregation to this day. By your mercy the devotees have taken up the service of trying to propagate your teachings, and it is their dedication to you that enthruses them and enables them to carry on with the preaching mission you entrusted to your followers.

A wholly congregation-supported temple presents many challenges, but they pale in comparison with the bliss the devotees enjoy whenever festivals are organized. These festivals are further evidence of their love for you and their determination to please you in the face of any adversity.

On this auspicious day of your appearance, we pray, Please always keep us engaged in your mission of preaching the message of Lord Caitanya, because by this engagement we will be able to develop and maintain our loving relationship with you.

Your servants in Phoenix, South Africa.



Phoenix (USA)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Recently I was listening to one of your early lectures. It was in New York City in 1967. You were speaking about the twenty-six qualities of a devotee. You asked a disciple to read the different qualities. When he came to the quality of kindness, you said, "Yes, a devotee is very kind." When I heard you say that, I felt that you were the full embodiment of kindness. I could just hear the kindness in your voice. You were so kind to give up everything at an advanced age to come to the West and give us Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You took so much trouble to teach us, persons who knew nothing about Kṛṣṇa, how to practice spiritual life, how to be devotees.

When I listen to your early classes from the 1960s in New York, I can just hear in your voice the intense desire to teach us Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Like a loving father teaching a young child, you patiently taught us everything we had to know to become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious, while overlooking our faults. You are

actually our eternal loving spiritual father, and we are your spiritual children. You not only wanted us to become Kṛṣṇa conscious, but you also wanted to free us from all suffering. You could see our suffering, and you wanted us to become happy. That is true kindness and compassion. You weren't looking for name and fame; you just wanted to give us something very wonderful: Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This was something we didn't even know existed, yet you knew that we needed it, that it would relieve us of all distress and make us very happy. So you wanted us to have the highest happiness. Your only goal was to give us Kṛṣṇa consciousness and inspire us to give it to others.

You planted the seed of devotion in our hearts, and it has fructified in so many of your followers. By your grace and kindness we have the opportunity to meet Kṛṣṇa face to face. You wrote in *Kṛṣṇa* book: "One may search for Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, through the pages of the *Vedas* and *Upaniṣads*, but it is difficult to find Him there. However, one who is fortunate enough to associate with a devotee can see the Supreme Personality of Godhead face to face." We are eternally indebted to you for this wonderful gift. Now it is our obligation to give it to others. One way we can do this is by distributing your books. This is not actually a burden but is the most ecstatic and enjoyable activity. Our natural love for Kṛṣṇa and all living beings is aroused when we distribute your books. It works like magic to purify our hearts and the hearts of those whom we meet. That is your kindness—giving us this process to elevate ourselves as well as others.

We humbly pray to be a part of your mission and a member of your loving family of devotees. It is wonderful to be with all your devotees and reciprocate loving exchanges with them. Please allow us to assist you in your mission of bringing all fallen souls back to Kṛṣṇa. Please keep us always fixed in the service of your movement—humble, submissive, with a good service attitude, and working together cooperatively. We offer our prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your humble servants in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

(written by Cakrī Dāsa)



Port Elizabeth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurasundara!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are all very indebted to Your Divine Grace for giving us such a great and wonderful organization as ISKCON. You have said that ISKCON is your body and therefore nondifferent from you. We thank you for giving us your sons, our spiritual masters. They are invaluable to this world.

Thank you for revealing the *dhāmas* to us. If it were not for you, none of us from the West would have been able to relish our holy *dhāmas*.

Here in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, we have been maintaining a preaching center for the past six years. It is only by your blessings and those of our spiritual masters that it runs smoothly. All the devotees in the congregation lovingly cooperate in performing various devotional activities. Also, we do regular Food for Life, university preaching, Sunday programs, college programs, and congregational cultivation. All of these programs are having a positive impact in our area, and thus people are becoming committed to your ISKCON.

Thank you very much for allowing us to do this service. May your glories be continuously spread all over the universes!

Your servants at ISKCON Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

(written by Śvetadvīpa Dāsa)

Prague

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmīne*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

The burden of impersonalism and voidism, of agnosticism and atheism, weighs heavily on the lives of people in the Western world, or people living according to the Western standards—in sheer ignorance of the soul. According to the Western so-called scientific knowledge, life is just a random biochemical phenomenon. There's no personal soul sustaining the life of living entities, or the life of the universe. Conception, birth, growth, maturity, old age, and death—all take place on the impersonal, void, material plane.

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda removed this burden by introducing in the Western world, for the first time in recorded history, the scientific method for realizing the personal and spiritual identity of the soul, as well as the personal and spiritual identity of the Supreme Soul, God. This scientific method is the chanting of the holy names of the Lord: Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. In addition, for the first time in the West Śrīla Prabhupāda introduced the worship of personal Deities of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, according to the Vedic standards of pure *bhakti*, or loving devotion. He also introduced the distribution of delicious *bhāgavata-prasādam*, remnants of pure vegetarian food cooked and offered with love and devotion to the Deities of Kṛṣṇa.

To accomplish all this, in 1966 Śrīla Prabhupāda founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). And, of course, he provided English translations and commentary for authorized books of scientific, transcendental, and eternally valid Vedic knowledge, most notably *Śrī Īśopaniṣad*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, and *Śrī Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu* (*The Nectar of Devotion*). These authorized books of transcendental knowledge, published by the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT), remove all ignorance and materialistic illusions from the hearts of any sincere reader. Between 1966 and 1977 Śrīla Prabhupāda succeeded, with the assistance of his disciples, in distributing millions of books in all the major world languages and establishing more than a hundred ISKCON centers throughout the world. Since Śrīla Prabhupāda's disappearance from our mundane vision in 1977, the number of ISKCON centers has more than tripled and the number of books distributed has increased to hundreds of millions. Śrīla Prabhupāda's impact on the lives of countless people throughout the world is thus increasing exponentially. Every day more and more people experience the joy in life that comes with being freed from the troublesome burden of impersonalism and voidism—all by the mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are eternally your debtors.

The servants of your servants at Nītāi-Navadvīpacandra Mandira and Govinda's restaurant, ISKCON Prague, the Czech Republic.

(written by Jaya Gurudeva Dāsa)



Pretoria

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most wonderful day! Here we are again trying to glorify you. What can we say, Śrīla Prabhupāda?

All we can do is thank you for everything from the bottom of our hearts. Last year we were able to distribute your books to the people of Pretoria and surrounding areas. We hope for some improvement by your mercy and the mercy of your disciples and granddisciples. Our plan this year is to renovate the temple room and increase book distribution to the local people of Pretoria. You gave us everything—books, *prasādam*, *harināma*, and temple *kīrtana*, and we in Pretoria are happy to have these. Thank you.

You said our love for you would be shown by how we cooperate after you were gone. Simply by preaching the glories of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu we can come closer to your divine lotus feet. We hope we can try by becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything.

In a letter you wrote:

So my mission has come out a success by the mercy of my guru maharaj, who sent me on this mission. That was my only qualification in coming to your country, that I had the blessings of my guru maharaj. [Letter to Danavīr, 17 October 1974]

We beg that one day we may truly understand the importance of your spiritual master's instruction, so that we may also follow.

Thank you again and again for saving our lives.

Your servants at ISKCON Pretoria, South Africa.



Radhadesh

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, the residents of Radhadesh, Belgium, beg to offer our prostrated obeisances in the divine saffron dust of your lotus feet. We are so happy to be allowed to serve you in this holy *yātrā*, one of the many Vaiṣṇava communities created by your transcendental glance.

On April 5, 1975, in Māyāpur, you gave a brilliant explanation of how the cosmic manifestation is created and animated by the transcendental glance of the Lord.

Those who are not devotee, they cannot see that over the chunk, total material energy, there is the vision of Mahā-Viṣṇu. That they cannot see. Just like you'll find on the ground, so many flowers and grasses are coming up. How? By the sunrise, the glance of the sun. Where there is no sunshine, there the vegetables do not grow. We have got practical experience. . . . Therefore the field or the earth is not exploding with the vegetation. It is due to the sunshine. Therefore it is coming out. It is the real cause.

What you said then, Śrīla Prabhupāda, brings to mind a passage in chapter seventeen of your *Nectar of Devotion*:

By the process of executing regulated devotional service, one is actually elevated onto the transcendental stage, beyond the material modes of nature. At that time one's heart becomes illuminated like the sun. The sun is far above the planetary systems, and there is no possibility of its being covered by any kind of cloud; similarly, when a devotee is purified like the sun, from his pure heart there is a diffusion of ecstatic love which is more glorious than the sunshine.

Of course, we know that you are a *nitya-siddha mahā-bhāgavata* devotee, but this passage describes you in that the diffusion of ecstatic love emanating from your illuminated heart is so glorious that it has created, and is continuing to create and animate, whole communities and congregations of devotees. As the sun's glance causes life forms to manifest and develop, your transcendental glance continues to inspire your followers and descendants, against all odds, to try to advance in devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Even more astonishing is that although in this barren Age of Kali it is practically impossible for people to live together peacefully, devotees here in Radhadesh, and in your communities around the world, cooperate under your watchful gaze in order to fulfill your transcendental desires. Just as we should not take the blessings of Sūrya-nārāyaṇa for granted, we should never forget that without your merciful glance we would have nothing to aspire for, no hope for genuine love and happiness.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that just as you have given us life, and just as you continue to nourish and maintain us, we may also become instruments of your causeless compassion, bearing the torch of transcendental knowledge so that we may enlighten one another and assist you in bringing those outside the purview of your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement into the radiant and blissful effulgence of your transcendental loving glance.

Aspiring to be of service in your transcendental mission,

Your Radhadesh-vāsīs, in the Belgian Ardennes.



Richmond Hill/Markham

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We wish to glorify you on this most auspicious occasion,
As this is an opportunity to write down our feelings of appreciation.

We are forever indebted to you, who brought us out of hibernation.
The miracle of meeting you pulled us out of this materialistic illusion.

We were pursuing a life of materialism and condemnation,
But you opened our eyes and became our salvation.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your qualities are beyond description,
There is no question of your exalted spiritual position.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

You are a pure guru, part of the Mādhva-Gauḍīya *sampradāya* disciplic succession.
You fulfilled Lord Caitanya's and Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura's predictions.

No one else before you or since has been so successful in Kṛṣṇa propagation.
Your accomplishments are unsurpassed in Lord Caitanya's mission.

You are like a lotus flower, rising above this material world's pollution.
You are our real life-guide to the path of perfection.

You gave access to Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone without discrimination.
Your desire for all to benefit, whether rich or poor, was your determination.

You took your Guru Mahārāja Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī's instructions
And followed through with unwavering dedication.

In 1965 you traveled on the *Jaladuta* with your wish of Lord Kṛṣṇa's benediction,
Arriving with only a suitcase, umbrella, cereal, and 40 rupees as your possessions.

But you also brought books, as these were your ammunition
In your battle to create a demon-to-devotee transformation.

Establishing in 1966 the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, ISKCON,
You began what would become a worldwide revolution.

Coincidentally, you started with a storefront named Matchless Gifts—what symbolization!—
As the gift you gave us was truly something that was unique and uncommon.

You emphasized what the true purpose of life is, that Kṛṣṇa is our liberation,
That going back to Godhead should be our destination.

You published many books, from *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* to the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.
This important contribution is creating devotees generation upon generation.

Over sixty volumes of Vedic literature you put to English translation.
Your books have become available in over eighty languages, espousing Vedic religion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us everything from cooking to *ārati* to *bhajan*.
With fatherly love and patience you showed us how to render devotion.

You explained that everything can be used for Kṛṣṇa by redirection,
Prasadam, chanting, reading, dancing, and dramas would be the attraction.

Even at a young age you were practicing Vedic tradition.
Then you brought so many ways to glorify Kṛṣṇa through festivals and celebrations.

Because of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON is known in every nation and region.
Hare Kṛṣṇa devotees even appear in Hollywood movies—such is the saturation.

You would clearly explain philosophy no matter what the question;
You left no doubt by giving us the science of self-realization.

You stressed that books are the basis, placing emphasis on book distribution,
Telling us that you would live on through your publications.



You encouraged, for Kṛṣṇa, the use of all sorts of communications.
Now devotees use everything from radio to the Internet to create the Kṛṣṇa connection.

It is widely accepted that you are the most important religious leader of the millenniums.
The Bhaktivedanta Archives is performing the task of all your works' preservation.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will never forget the moment when we first had your *darśana*.
You were glowing with grace and pure devotion.

We are some of the fortunate few to have received your personal association.
You generously showed us so much affection.

You visited only a few homes across the nations,
But you visited ours twice, showering us with your compassion.

No words can express our deep feelings of appreciation.
Your kindness toward us is something we can never abandon.

As we constantly remember you with endless adoration,
We beg for your continued mercy upon us without limitation.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! Jaya Gurudeva!

The humble servants of you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara in Richmond Hill/Markham, Canada.

(written by Mīnākṣī Devī Dāsī)



St. Louis

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

In the *śāstra*, the peaceful mind or countenance of a great soul is often likened to a pristine and calm lake. Your love for us, your aspiring disciples, is also like such a lake, for it provides such an inviting refuge and is deeply soothing and unagitated. Through your words, your eternal *vāṇī*, you are constantly providing the greatest gift: relief from the material perspective and its concomitant suffering. Among the many gifts you bestow upon us, this is the most valuable and is in tune with the conclusions of your purports, in that if any philosophy or welfare work is to be assessed, it must address the ultimate need of transcending material suffering, birth and death. Thank you for being such a great and merciful soul. Thank you for your sharing the peace and fearlessness of the spiritual world—this is so much mercy and sustenance for us in this time of great need.

In one of your many thousands of beautifully composed purports you write, “Because the disciples of a devotee have taken shelter of a great soul, they become very calm and quiet and are not agitated by the waves of the material world.” Because you are so fixed, we are also becoming fixed, not only in the

sense of becoming focused but also mended. By teaching us to always be solely engaged in devotional service, you instilled the freedom of the transcendental, spiritual perspective deep within our hearts. We pray that, though rooted deeply, this divine vision will also flourish more and more prolifically even on the surface of the heart. Then maybe we can become true disciples, carrying your banner in a manner appreciative of your benediction.

As this overly fast-paced world grows increasingly challenged and the boils of intense passion and ignorance reach their bursting point, please, please keep us under your shelter. Empower us with that prime quality of *sahiṣṇunā*, tolerance. We know that the swanlike devotees are so tolerant that they can handle any sufferings or reversals by dint of their accepting everything as being the Lord's providential arrangement. Thus they always remain unattached and fully trusting in the Lord's will. And why not? You've taught us to chant, to beg to be engaged in the Lord's service, and Kṛṣṇa Himself promises that He will always protect one so engaged.

Again, please, please fire up our strength, our faith in your gifts. The next few decades promise to be times of great purging and reformation. Kindly help us be genuinely tolerant by maintaining your gift of spiritual vision, so that, unagitated, we can serve Kṛṣṇa's will and be anchored in His "calm amidst the storm." Let us always hold your perfect example of fearlessness in our hearts, so that we may rise to the platform of *vyavasāyātmikā buddhiḥ*, being resolute in purpose: to know and serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Bhagavān. And, as you declare in your purport to this verse (*Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41), "faith means unflinching trust in something sublime." Only because you are a sublime ocean of calm, peace, and devotion can we insignificant drops still feel the depth of what you offer. As our kind father, please remember us, who are ever in debt to you, and keep pulling us along the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā we offer you our repeated obeisances and pray to serve your lotus feet.

Your servants at Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.



Scarborough

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your transcendental lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have inundated and continue to inundate the entire world with Kṛṣṇa consciousness through your worldwide ISKCON centers, your books, your lectures etc.

In a very infinitesimal way, a few devotees have come together to glorify you by starting a new ISKCON center in Scarborough. We aspire to be a part of your divine mission for many lifetimes as we start this exciting new project.

It's only by your grace and the grace of your devotees that we are able to serve you in this way. We beg your blessings and ask you to give us the courage and impetus to carry on as you did in the early days alone in New York.

We beg you earnestly for a small drop of your mercy so that we may be able to make this center a tool for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the countless fallen souls of the Scarborough/Markham area.

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, we devotees of ISKCON Scarborough promise that, even under trying circumstances, we will continue to serve your mission by serving your devotees and the devotees of your devotees.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we've rented a small place and have begun regular programs three days a week. In addition, we've been conducting training programs to enhance our knowledge of your teachings. Several of your devotees have very bravely begun book distribution to fulfill your desire, as

well as the desire of your Guru Mahārāja.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly bless us so we may always remember your glorious pastimes and be able to share them with others.

We beg to remain at the dust of your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servants of ISKCON Scarborough, Toronto, Canada.

Seattle

Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances! All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance!

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



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You came to the West, leaving your comfortable situation in Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara temple, Vṛndāvana, taking on the hardships of heart attacks and seasickness, only because you wanted to teach us about devotional service. Your causeless mercy on us is the only qualification in our spiritual life. Like a kind father, you taught us everything so that we can come out of this gross ignorance and reestablish our loving relationship with Kṛṣṇa. What hope would we have had if you had not come into our lives? Surely we would have been condemned for countless lifetimes.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as our most loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, please accept the following sincere albeit tiny and simple offering of services to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. This offering, which is an expression of our heartfelt love and appreciation for you, is like taking some Ganges water and offering it back to Mother Gaṅgā.

First of all, we received a brand-new life-size *mūrti* of Your Divine Grace, which will be installed in the temple very soon. We pray that you personally manifest in this *mūrti* and continue to guide us. Our Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Nīla-Mādhava, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa and Hanumān, will receive a beautiful new altar this year. By your causeless mercy, our Deity worship standards have increased tremendously, and many people are getting attracted to the Deities. Last year our head *pūjārī* was invited to the Washington State History Museum to demonstrate his skills in Deity dressing. Many Westerners took *darśana* of our smaller Deities and felt so much attracted that we have been invited again for this year's festival. Many devotees are taking second initiation to serve Their Lordships.

We are happy to let you know that your mission is growing here in Seattle, and many fortunate souls are seriously taking up the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This year we are focusing more on preaching, and with your blessings we have started a Vedic University with the aim of educating both the general mass and the devotees in the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness under the guidance of your dear disciple His Grace Harivilāsa Dāsa. About fifteen devotees completed their Bhakti-śāstrī studies last year, and this year more devotees have been inspired to take up such systematic śāstric study. Such courses attract many guests to understand the principles of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Our Sunday school has been a continuous source of inspiration for many children and parents. Our

devotee teachers are working hard to make this process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness a blissful experience for the children by engaging them in different Kṛṣṇa conscious activities. The children are learning *ślokas*, acting in dramas, and participating in many cultural events, in addition to getting trained in the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

You had a great insight that the educated youth would be the best recipients of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We are successfully doing college preaching for the second year now by conducting weekly cooking classes. The response is very good, and we hope to expand the program in the coming year, by your causeless mercy. We are also trying to develop a youth mentoring system for our growing group of devotee children, according to your instructions.

You always emphasized the importance of cooperation among devotees. We are experiencing how important cooperation is now that we are expanding our preaching mission. Increasing the scope of our temple services is creating a closer relationship between the devotees of our congregation. Devotees are coming together to serve your mission with their life and soul.

In his *Gurv-aṣṭaka* (8) Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura writes:

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
dhyāyan stuvāns tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.”

Therefore, please continue extending your causeless mercy to us, without which we are doomed. Thank you for giving us these experiences and for everything that you have given us. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your lifetime of compassion. Thank you for your books, lectures, and personal instructions, which are the basis of our lives. Please bless us that we may always please you and never displease you. Please shower upon us your endless mercy and keep us engaged in your service, life after life. We pray to always remain under your shelter and follow your example.

All glories to your Vyāsa-pūjā celebrations!

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Seattle, Washington, USA.



Silicon Valley

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

Your appearance day is important to all living beings, even if some of them don't know it yet.

Such people, sitting unaware in their homes, will soon be visited by a devotee who, on your behalf, will personally deliver to them a *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, a *Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, or even a full set of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*!

The resident will hear a knock at the door and will say to his wife, “Are we expecting anyone?”

Curious, he will look through the peephole on his door and see a young woman standing next to a baby carriage, clutching a stack of books in her arms. When he opens the door the man and his family inside will be struck with the young woman's gentle enthusiasm and determined smile.

“Hi, we’re with the local ISKCON center and we’re going all over the neighborhood today meeting people. Have you lived here long?” she’ll say.

When the man answers that he and his family have lived there for two years, the young woman will show him a *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. Placing it in the man’s hands, she’ll say, “This is a book on yoga and meditation that will help you get free from stress.” Then she’ll ask him, “You’ve heard of stress before, right?” And he’ll answer, “Yes, of course!”

Showing him the back cover, the young woman will mention that Emerson, Thoreau, Gandhi, and Einstein read the *Gītā*, that it’s world famous, and that it has been translated into English hundreds of times. She’ll show him a list—just behind the front cover—of favorable reviews written by university professors about the “As It Is” version. Then she’ll flip through the color pictures inside the book, giving a running commentary on the paintings while showing the man “Changing Bodies,” “Karma,” “The Universal Form.”

She’ll expertly involve him by asking him questions like “You’ve heard of karma before, right?” And she’ll compliment whatever answer he gives, making him feel special (because she knows that he is).

While showing him the “Changing Bodies” painting, she’ll ask him, “Where are you in all this?” He’ll smile and point to one of the bodies that is about the same age as his.

She’ll tell the man that because the book is spiritual and therefore too valuable to sell, she will only accept a donation for it based on his desire to help spread this important knowledge to the world.

When the man hesitates, she will encourage him by saying, “We don’t need the money. The only reason we accept donations is that when a person gives in return for a spiritual book, he gets the ability to read and understand the book more deeply.”

The man, heartened by her honesty and conviction, will close the door slightly, go back inside for a few minutes, and then return with two ten dollar bills in his hand, his donation for the book and for spreading spiritual knowledge.

After he hands her the donation, she’ll ask him if he believes in the power of prayer. When he says “Yes,” she’ll hand him a card with the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* printed on it and say, “This is an ancient prayer—passed down through generations—that wakes up pure love for God within the heart of anyone who repeats it . . .”

Then she’ll ask, “Are you ready?” And without waiting for his reply she’ll begin: “Repeat after me: Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.”

The man, caught in the jet stream of the young woman’s ecstatic enthusiasm, will repeat the mantra after her, two words at a time. When he completes it, he’ll ask, “What does it mean exactly?”

She’ll tell him that the names of God are forever sacred and that the three names Hare, Kṛṣṇa, and Rama are personal names of God that mean “O energy of the Lord (Hare), O all-attractive Lord (Kṛṣṇa), O reservoir of all pleasure (Rāma).”

Then the young women will reach into her side bag, pull out a sweet ball neatly wrapped and labeled, and hand one to the man, another to his wife, and one to each of his two children, who by now have given up watching television to come see what is happening at the front door.

After the young woman leaves and the man closes the door, the man’s wife and kids will ask, “Who was that? What’s that book? Can we eat these sweets? What did she make you say?”

The man, not able to answer completely, will sit down to page through the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, thinking to himself, “Now, let me see what I’ve given my hard-earned money for.”

He’ll marvel for a moment at the name of the author, “His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, Founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.” When he sees a picture of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the Supersoul within the man’s heart will say to him, “Take shelter here. You’re finally in good hands.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all beleaguered souls can soon expect relief because of the force of your campaign to liberally distribute Lord Caitanya’s mercy country to country, city to city, village to village, and door to door.

Your success as a world *ācārya* has come from your strict adherence in following your guru, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura. Before coming to America, in an offering to him you called *Viraha-aṣṭaka*, you wrote these verses:



Homages from ISKCON Centers

4.5

*nāma-gāna sei haya śrī-gurura vāṇī
bhuliyā-o e kathā satya nāhi māni*

To chant the holy name of the Lord is the explicit command of my worshipable spiritual master. I could never honestly neglect that order.

4.6

*tava mukhya kīrti—para-dharama vistāra
mahā-mantra māne yei tāra adhikāra*

Your greatest acclaim is that you propagated the topmost religious culture. Anyone who accepts the holy name from you becomes spiritually qualified.

4.8

*adhikāra lābhe yadi sabe śiṣya kare
tabe ta duḥkhita jīva saṁsāra nistāre*

If all those who have attained this qualification were to go out and make disciples, then the miserable conditioned souls would all be delivered from the world of birth and death.

8.2

*jagāi-mādhāi uddhāri' prabhu dayā kare
sei se pracāra kārya bujhāle sabāre*

“Just as the Lord delivered Jagāi and Mādhāi out of His own causeless mercy,” you explained to everyone, “this same method of preaching has to go on.”

8.3

*jagat bhariyā geche jagāi-mādhāi
sabā-i heriche bāṭa caitanya-nitāi*

The world has now filled up with many Jagāis and Mādhāis to deliver. Everyone is anxiously looking down the road waiting for Caitanya-Nitāi to come to their rescue.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the world has indeed filled up with many Jagāis and Mādhāis, but because of your success in following your guru and sticking to the path of the *ācārya*, the world is also now filling up with pure devotees.

Your ability to create pure devotees is your greatest success.

Here at ISKCON of Silicon Valley our desire it to follow you carefully so that we can someday be counted as one of your success stories.

Since you live in the intelligence of your sincere followers who apply your teachings—even amidst the daily struggles of life—we will struggle on with your mission.

As your followers, we, the members of ISKCON of Silicon Valley, pray to honor you on this Vyāsa-pūjā day by following your example, dutifully taking the medicine you brought, and distributing it to others, as you have prescribed.

Your servants at ISKCON of Silicon Valley, California, USA.

(written by Vaiśeṣika Dāsa)



Slovenia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

Knowing you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, is much different for us, your grandchildren, than it is for your children, the first generation of devotees in the West. I remember how, as a young *bhaktin* in the temple, I secretly borrowed the *Lilāmṛta*, the wonderful biography of you written by His Holiness Satsvarūpa Dāsa Goswami. There was only one set of those books in the temple, and it was stored in the guru room. I smuggled them out one by one and read them in the corner of the *mātājī āśrama* after everyone went to sleep. In those times, almost twenty years ago, it was a rule in our zone that we had to first read all the books you wrote and only then could we read the books written by other authors. The *Lilāmṛta* was in this category, but I really couldn't wait that long! I was secretly discovering more and more about you—your wonderful dealings with your disciples, the revolution you'd started in the world, and the crowds joining you wherever you went. I happily shared the stories with the other ladies in the *āśrama*. Since that time when I learned so much about you, you've always remained a wonderful, caring, and warm grandfather to me. So many times I regretted not having the good fortune to meet you in person. But now I know your presence is still very strong and I can always be in touch with you.

Times have changed, and your movement has become bigger and broader in many ways. We translated your biography many years ago into the Slovene language, and it is being widely distributed, together with your books, to people in our country. People appreciate your movement here. They are respectful, and many silently appreciate the way we live. Over the years we have become an integral part of the society. Many projects are going on—education, *padayātrā*, book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, caring for children—and we have plans for much more. By your blessings, these plans will bear fruit.

We are fortunate to have many of your wonderful sons and daughters, your dedicated disciples, visiting our Ljubljana temple, inspiring us and showing us with their lives what love for one's spiritual master means. We try to serve them and pray to become to our masters even a little bit of what they are to you—great instruments. By their love, dedication, and absolute surrender to your lotus feet, we can see what an amazing personality you are. There is no question of personal comfort for them. Their only desire is to carry out the mission you have given them. When reading all the wonderful books they have written about you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we imbibe the desire to also develop such unwavering faith and dedication to the words and instructions of our spiritual masters. They had no second thought whenever you gave them any instruction: they went wherever you sent them to preach, and they're still doing so.

We pray that we can become worthy heirs of your movement. We pray to have the strength, purity, and blessings to spread your mission. We pray for the revolutionary spirit you and your sons and daughters have, and that we will not fall into the comfort zone, thinking that everything has already been done and now it's time to rest. We pray for the intelligence to be able to spread your teachings in many different ways, sticking to every principle you taught and are teaching in your books.

We know that we are just unqualified beginners, but we have also experienced through the years that with your blessings and the blessings of our spiritual masters nothing is impossible. Please keep giving us the strength, faith, and wisdom to carry out your mission in the area where we are entrusted to perform our devotional service.

Your servants in ISKCON Slovenia.

(written by Maṇḍitāṅgī Devī Dāsī)



Solapur

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We devotees in Solapur offer our most humble and respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet.

Your Divine Grace appeared in the material world on Nandotsava, the day after Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, to deliver the conditioned souls and send them to Kṛṣṇaloka. In this you were fulfilling the mission of Lord Caitanya, the incarnation of Lord Kṛṣṇa who appeared more than five hundred years ago and freely distributed love of Godhead all over India. He predicted,

*pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma
sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*

“In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard.” Today that prediction is coming true by your mercy.

Physically you are not present in the world, but your *vāṇī* (words) are still with us. Your dear disciples are still guiding us, and your books are the most valuable treasure in the modern world.

You wrote in a letter: “The real preaching is selling books. . . . What your lecture will do for three minutes, but if he reads one page his life may be turned.”

Here in Solapur we have been preaching for the last fifteen years. We now have five hundred congregational members who are chanting the *mahā-mantra* and following the four regulative principles.

You wrote in a letter:

You can thin milk by adding water and you can make it thick by boiling. Now is the time for us to begin the boiling process. Now you know everything how to be a Vaisnava brahmana, now you must practice these thing or the whole thing will be a show only. Better to develop the small number of devotees we have, make them truly Krishna conscious boys and girls, than to go on getting many followers who do not understand and practice the real principles. Better one moon that many stars. [Letter to Dāmodara, 9 May 1972]

After reading this letter, the local leaders are getting ready to boil milk by setting up a council system in our temple.

Śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu, adhama janāra bandhu. You are an ocean of mercy and a friend to all fallen souls. Please bless us that we can follow in your footsteps and assist your mission. That will please both you and the Lord very much. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for engaging us in the service of your missionary work, which purifies us. You are the great devotee who have done even more than Lord Caitanya in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. Of course, the father always wants the son to excel him. You opened the gateway to the whole world for Lord Caitanya’s spiritual message. You planted the tree, and all over the world people are relishing the fruits of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1.13.10 states:

*bhavad-vidhā bhāgavatās tīrtha-bhūtāḥ svayam vibho
tīrthī-kurvanti tīrthāni svāntaḥ-sthena gadābhṛtā*

“My lord, devotees like your good self are verily holy places personified. Because you carry the Personality of Godhead within your heart, you turn all places into places of pilgrimage.”



So Your Divine Grace left Vṛndāvana to create Vṛndāvana all over the world.
Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your servants at ISKCON Solapur, Maharashtra, India.

Soweto

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to Śrī Śrī Dayāl-Nitāi-Vijaya-Gaurāṅga!

Now is the time of the year when devotees around the world glorify Your Divine Grace. What you did or gave us will never be forgotten. You inspired in us a lifetime commitment of dedication to and love for Your Divine Grace.

By your example you showed us how to love Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. You gave us the knowledge of our relationship with the Divine Couple. You taught us how to act upon this relationship and attain the end result, *kṛṣṇa-prema*. You showed us how to always remember Kṛṣṇa and never forget Him.

You structured ISKCON so nicely to keep its purity, thus providing us with the opportunity to perfect our lives and go back home, back to Godhead.

If we take a closer look at your ISKCON motto, we can see that everything is there to help us help others. You gave us four aphorisms: (1) Purity is the force; (2) Preaching is the essence; (3) Books are the basis; and (4) Utility is the principle. The ISKCON movement is being driven on these four wheels. ISKCON is going forward based on these four aphorisms.

To keep the purity of ISKCON, you told us to have strict *sādhana*, or the practice of devotional service. As long as we keep ourselves pure for preaching, we shall have all good results. This makes us rise above the modes and beyond suspicion. When purity of heart is there, then preaching is effective. In this way we can affect the lives of the masses through your books. When the people's lives change, they will utilize their resources in Kṛṣṇa's service. Then we are able to accomplish your vision of building a house in which the whole world can leave peacefully.

Your books are a guiding light in this age of quarrel and hypocrisy. We are living in hard times, and there is danger at every step. Nothing is guaranteed in Kali-yuga. We can see more difficult times ahead. But your appearance in this world has brought hope and prosperity. You brought a bright light of knowledge into this dense darkness of illusion. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for tirelessly writing and translating your books for the guidance of mankind. May your books reign supreme, raising consciousness and delivering countless Jagāis and Mādhāis. Soweto is no exception in this regard.

This year, just a few days before we left for this year's annual Durban Ratha-yātrā festival, a certain incident took place that glorifies your books. A young man in his late twenties or early thirties arrived at the center to pay a visit. It was in the evening, during the week. Prior to this, about a week earlier, he had met a devotee who sold him one of your books (*Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers*). After reading it, he was convinced to come and visit. But this was not the first time he had read a book of yours. He told us of an incident that had happened more than five years earlier.

He had a girlfriend who was critically ill and was told that she wouldn't live long. The girlfriend had your *Bhagavad-gītā* and had been reading it for a couple of years. She gave him the *Bhagavad-gītā*, telling him to read the book with understanding and visit the devotees for more books. For the last five years, this young man has been reading your *Bhagavad-gītā*, without any contact with devotees. For the last two years he has been a vegetarian, still without any contact with devotees. For the last one year he has been chanting (not regularly though), and still without any contact with devotees. Also, this man knows how



to pronounce some of the Sanskrit words very clearly, as though he had been taught by someone.

We are convinced that there are many such devotees around Soweto—devotees who are hiding—but they are not ready to surrender to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We hope that as we continue to spread your glories through your books, they will eventually come out and joyfully surrender at your lotus feet.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you have done for us. We promise to keep the ISKCON flag flying high.

Your servants at ISKCON Soweto, South Africa.

(written by Mahāprabhu Dāsa)

Stockholm

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

Please accept our offering for your Vyāsa-pūjā 2010.

Prabhupāda, the Incarnation of Compassion

You engage us in Lord Kṛṣṇa's loving service by chanting the holy names.
You free us from the illusion of Māyā's cruel devious games.

We fall at your feet and pray for your grace,
For it's only you who can help us leave this degrading place.

Prabhupāda, you're giving us a second chance,
Our spiritual lives to gently enhance.

This chance doesn't come so often.
Prabhupāda, you're kindly taking our hearts to soften.

Gradually our lives we can change.
Closer to Kṛṣṇa you can arrange.

Thank you for your mercy, which is as big as the ocean,
Your wonderful smile, and your deep devotion.

Showing us how to serve the Lord, you're guiding the way.
All credit and honor we offer humbly to you on this special day.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! You're just like the sun's sweet rays,
Which can dissipate the darkness on the darkest of days.

The Hare Kṛṣṇa center in Stockholm is engaged primarily in preaching work. We pray for your blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Through your grace we may be engaged in Lord Kṛṣṇa's eternal blissful service. Please bestow upon us the strength and resolve to nicely spread the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.



With grateful thanks from all the devotees of the Stockholm *yātrā*.
Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

(written by Advaita Ācārya Dāsa and Arcyā Devī Dāsī)

Taipei

Dear and most esteemed Śrīla A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

Please accept the sincerest obeisances from all of us in Taiwan, who are trying to assist in your mission of preaching, book distribution, and learning to practice *bhakti-yoga*. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to the Supreme Master, Śrī Kṛṣṇa!

Thank you for your mercifully spreading Lord Kṛṣṇa's absolute knowledge in Taiwan through your books, your recordings, and your wonderful disciples and granddisciples.

Those Taiwanese people who are interested in pursuing knowledge about the Absolute Truth are thus blessed to be able to learn the correct and peaceful approach of spiritual culture—that is, re-establishing our good and beautiful relationship with God, Kṛṣṇa, and gradually obtaining the truth of returning to the supreme kingdom.

As you have taught us, inquiring about the truth is the first duty for human beings. Accepting the truth is human beings' highest wisdom. Spreading that truth is human beings' highest mission. Obeying God's holy instructions, realizing the truth (serving God), and returning to Godhead are human beings' highest goal.

For many years, due to Kṛṣṇa's and your merciful protection, devotees in Taiwan have dutifully endeavored as far as their intelligence enabled them to cultivate their own Kṛṣṇa consciousness and spread this great transcendental knowledge islandwide. This beautiful island of Formosa (Taiwan) has thus been blessed with life's true brilliance.

At present we have regular activities in Taipei, Taoyuan, Taichung, and Kaohsiung, led by local senior devotees. We regularly hold chanting sessions, lectures, outdoor *harināmas*, and other activities.

Every year we celebrate the appearance days of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Śrī Rāmacandra, Lord Narasimhadeva, and Their devotees, such as Your Divine Grace.

We also celebrate the appearance and disappearance days of our spiritual masters, your disciples.

In the last few years, aspiring to assist you in your work of introducing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all people, we have resumed our participation at the yearly International Book Fair, held in Taipei City. And in 2009 we held the third annual Ratha-yātrā festival. Since we don't have many devotees or the needed organizing know-how yet, we have been celebrating the festival in the frame of a larger parade. We hope that in the near future we will be able to celebrate ISKCON's own Ratha-yātrā in Taiwan for your pleasure.

Because of everybody's combined devotional efforts, our heart's inherent Kṛṣṇa consciousness is being slowly awakened. By your mercy we look forward to a future of increased energizing spirit, delightful emotions, lofty ambitions, steadfast belief, and spiritual joy.

On this important occasion celebrating your all-glorious appearance, your disciples and disciples' disciples pledge to stick to your instructions to further walk and expand this spiritually cultivating path.

At your feet, I to pray for God's and your protection to help us open the windows to the spiritual world, so that our lives may be enriched with life's profound wisdom and full spiritual happiness, and so that we may eventually return to the shelter of the Supreme Personality Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Finally, I would like to offer the highest respect to you on behalf of all the devotees in Taiwan and all the Taiwanese people.

Your servants at ISKCON Taipei, Taiwan.

(written by Lokabandhu Dāsa)



Togo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Please accept our prostrated obeisances on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you personally delivered the fallen souls in the Western world, and you empowered your followers to follow in your footsteps and thus continue the job of bringing the lost *jīvas* to the shelter of Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

You gave your special blessings to those who spread Lord Caitanya's cult in Islamic countries, saying that you would put the dust from their feet on your head. In this way you showed your appreciation for those who helped you push on the mission of Lord Caitanya in every town and village, especially in difficult areas.

We also heard that you said that the best type of preaching for Africa and India is *prasādam* distribution and *harināma saṅkīrtana*.

Somehow we have had the good fortune of assisting your mission in Africa. Preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Africa is of course not an easy task, since most of the people are not only illiterate but also poor. So we can understand your compassionate heart when you said *prasādam* distribution and *harināma saṅkīrtana* should be our means of reaching out to the people.

Here in Togo, a French-speaking country, we have been applying your strategy, and it is working miraculously. It is barely seven years that a temple has been established in the center of the capital city, Lome, and for the past five years we have distributed *prasādam* both to the needy on the streets and to the disadvantaged students in the university, five days a week, serving an average of three hundred plates daily.

Even though our presence is relatively new in the country's social milieu, ISKCON is already accorded such a level of recognition that we are invited to participate in every state function where religious leaders are invited. Presently, in the newly formed "*Alliance Inter-Religieuse dans la lutte contre le Sida*," an interreligious alliance against AIDS, six major religious bodies are represented, and the position of the Vice President was given to the ISKCON representative.

Another important preaching avenue is a weekly radio program donated to our society to explain Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the Vedic culture to the populace. Members of the audience call in to ask questions. The result is that whenever devotees are seen on the streets they hear the familiar greeting "Hare Kṛṣṇa!" Also, whenever our Food for Life bus is seen, almost at every moment people are asking if there is something to eat.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for by your mercy the hopeless are becoming hopeful, the hungry are being fed *prasādam*, and the homeless are getting shelter. Though we often face tough challenges, since when your movement is being nicely appreciated envious demons are also very busy making overt and covert efforts to stop our progress, still, by your mercy we are able to carry on. So on this special day we pray to you for more mercy, so that our activities will not be disturbed by subtle living entities, by envious demons, or by Brahma-rākṣasas.

You have built a house in which the whole world can live. May we be capable instruments to fill this house for Your Divine Grace.

Your servants in Togo.

(written by Varāhadeva Dāsa)





Tucson

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

In Your Eyes

What would you see, isn't it grand?
The new Māyāpur temple is beginning to stand;
Your vision unfolds, so long ago planned,
Determined servants under your command.

How would you feel, wouldn't you be proud?
Your disciple speaks to a very large crowd
In the State Senate, the opening prayer,
Such an honor bestowed in this august affair.

Would you be happy, much preaching being done,
Purified existence, many hearts being won.
Giving out the nectar to all that we meet,
Showing the beauty of the Lord's lotus feet.

What would you do, would you be concerned?
Vaiṣṇavas are fighting, many camps have emerged.
Will a house you built for all to live
Be that much stronger when we practice to forgive?

What would you say if you were here with us now?
So many claim they know the answer somehow.
But one thing is certain, that all would agree,
We could be more loving and kind in our Society.

Would you be surprised at the success in some places,
Or sad at the loss of many familiar faces?
Would you be disappointed in what has diminished?
Or find hope in what is yet to be finished?

Despite the problems that we all face,
We can overcome with your sweet grace.
Ungodly qualities please help us erase,
Your mercy and compassion allow me to embrace.

So much service yet to do,
Telling of the boy that's blue.
Speaking what is pure and true,
Offering my heart to you.



Your servants at the Tucson yātrā, Arizona, USA.

(written by Sandāminī Devī Dāsī)

Ujjain

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī iti nāmīne*

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

No metaphor, simile, analogy, or allegory can ever be enough to describe your glory. Yet, in our humble and inadequate attempt to gain some insight, these linguistic devices can give us a tiny glimpse of your divinely empowered ability to distribute the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you so selflessly and magnanimously gave us. No one ever did what you did, and no one will ever be able to repeat it.

A magnet is a piece of metal, usually iron, that has been empowered to attract magnetic material. Only a few metals, such as iron, steel, nickel, and cobalt, are magnetic objects and are therefore attracted by magnets. Nonmagnetic objects, such as wood, plastic, glass, and copper, are not attracted to magnets. Like a magnet, the spiritual master is empowered to attract others. He attracts people of a certain quality, those who are inclined to devotion. Others, namely mundane materialistic people with wooden hearts and artificial, plastic demeanors, will not be attracted.

The area around a magnet is called a magnetic field. Iron filings are attracted by the magnetic force within this field, and they form a beautiful pattern around the magnet. Iron filings outside the magnetic field are not attracted and are scattered here and there. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the magnetic force you create forms the beautiful ISKCON pattern around your lotus feet. As long as we insignificant little iron filings stay within your magnetic field, we can be part of this beautiful ISKCON.

The magnetic field is invisible, but the iron filings that align themselves in this magnetic field give an indication of its existence. Many people do not recognize your divinely inspired magnetic force, but by your ISKCON thousands of little iron filings, beautifully aligned with you, our strong magnet in the center, can give the world an indication of your potency and influence.

A magnet can attract and support a long chain of paper clips. Magnetism is transferred through the metal clips, and each clip effectively becomes a temporary magnet. Likewise, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you attract and support so many devotees. As long as we stay connected to this chain—devotees in disciplic succession—we stay magnetized by your divine association. We become empowered to distribute Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the next spiritually magnetized devotee in this devotee chain. But as soon as we break contact with this devotee chain and its original spiritual-master magnet, we lose our spiritual potency. We lose our ability to inspire others to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We lose our magnetism. We have to completely surrender to you, because as soon as we desire independence we tumble to the ground, to be lost among the other debris of material existence.

With magnets, opposite poles attract and like poles repel. If we understand that we can never be on the same level as the spiritual master, if we become completely surrendered to him, we can stay attracted. As soon as we think ourselves alike—like poles—we will never be able to get close to your lotus feet.

Electromagnets work only when in an active circuit and are therefore not permanent magnets. Likewise, bogus gurus and false spiritual guides seem to be real, but as soon as their power supply is switched off, they are just a collection of insubstantial, low-grade metal bolts, bars, and twisted wires pretending to be bona fide. In front of a potential victim of their magnetism, they appear strong and



confident, but wait until someone pulls the plug . . .

The comparison does not end here. A magnet can be used to show direction. A compass needle is a suspended magnet. When a spinning compass needle comes to rest, one end will point to magnetic north. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you show us the way toward Kṛṣṇa. Without your guidance we are completely lost. You came to lead us, step by step, to that divine abode of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Your instructions are our spiritual compass. How can anyone cross this ocean of nescience and material suffering without you, our compass, showing us how to reach Goloka Vṛndāvana? On this perilous journey of the soul through material existence, you gave us everything we need to reach the ultimate destination.

You so aptly said: “You are drowning in an ocean of material sense enjoyment. This *Bhagavad-gītā* is like a good boat, and the spiritual master is like a good captain, and the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* is like a good breeze. So you should take advantage of so many auspicious things and cross that ocean.” (Hayagrīva Dāsa, *The Hare Krishna Explosion*)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our compass, our best-ever compass, our only-ever compass. Please help us always follow your direction, and allow us to always remain attracted like insignificant little iron filings at your divine, magnetic lotus feet.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Ujjain, India

(written by Ārati Devī Dāsī)

Villaggio Hare Krishna



Dearest lord and master Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer you my prostrated and most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. *Vando mui sāvadhāna mate!*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year my main realization is that you are *timeless!* As we read in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.9.14), when Bhīṣmadeva, one of the authorities in our line, contemplated the problems faced by the Pāṇḍavas and Queen Kuntī, he said,

*sarvaṁ kāla-kṛtaṁ manye bhavatām ca yad-apriyam
sapālo yad-vaśe loko vāyor iva ghanāvaliḥ*

“In my opinion, this is all due to inevitable time, under whose control everyone in every planet is carried, just as the clouds are carried by the wind.” And you commented: “All the big gigantic planets, including the sun, are being controlled by the force of air, as the clouds are carried by the force of air. Similarly, the inevitable *kāla*, or time, controls even the action of the air and other elements.” Everything, therefore, is controlled by the supreme *kāla*, a forceful representative of the Lord within the material world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we see this every single day of our life: everything and everybody is growing old. All things must pass. What a cause of suffering! Big, big people disappear, big, big monuments disappear, big, big love disappears, big or small everything disappears. Even the remembrance of all these things slowly

disappears. Time is so strong! Kṛṣṇa said to Arjuna: *kālo 'smi loka kṣaya-kṛt pravṛddho*. “Time I am, the great destroyer of the worlds.” By time’s influence we grow old, and we become sick, tired, and despondent.

But as powerful time goes by, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we can see more and more clearly that you are timeless. You came down from the place beyond time, and your activities, and especially your teachings, are timeless. At the advanced age of sixty-two years old, just one year before entering the *sannyāsa* order, you seriously felt that you had barely begun your work of preaching, your service to your spiritual master. Where was there any idea of retirement? You were deeply and completely absorbed in the mood of service to the preaching mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and your Guru Mahārāja.

Time had no influence on you. After some years of service in Vṛndāvana *dhāma*, chanting and writing in the place where Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī and Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī had stayed, you received their full blessings and felt confident to come to the West. Neither old age, poor health, lack of money, nor the absence of help from others was a problem for you. You departed anyway, and you remained on the battlefield of America when the situation became seemingly impossible.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are timeless, and everything related to you is also timeless! You will never die!

I can see that your mission and your servants—your devotee soldiers—are by your grace also becoming timeless like you. The inevitable approach of old age, disease, and death do not affect your faithful servants as they do others. Even with ourselves we see that, by remembering and following you, and especially your teachings, we are becoming timeless by your mercy. We always feel young and confident like you; our age doesn’t really matter.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, if we would stop criticizing devotees, if we would learn how to cooperate—one of your main commandments to us—then we would really become timeless, as you desire us to be.

If we understand that preaching is the real and utmost interest of Śrī Kṛṣṇa because He is the father of all living entities, and that preaching is your very life, we will not become old and weak too quickly, and we will become timeless.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, if every day we read your books, and if we strongly desire to get a clear understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness by serving the spiritual master with inquiries and submission, as you wrote in the *Gītā*, and if we follow the four rules and chant sixteen rounds daily and regularly attend the programs you prescribed for us, starting with *maṅgala-ārati*, then we will become spiritually strong and therefore timeless like you.

Finally, Śrīla Prabhupāda, if we really put you in the center of your ISKCON society, and in the center of every one of its aspects, without concocting anything new, then we, and especially your ISKCON, will become timeless.

When the great devotee Bhīṣmadeva quit his body, all the sages present became silent, like birds at the end of the day. They admired his spiritual power and greatness when he entered the eternity of the Supreme Lord. Thereafter drums sounded, flowers fell from the sky, and the royal order commenced honoring him in the same we honor you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your matchless qualities and behavior.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I conclude that you are really timeless.

I pray again and again to Śrī Kṛṣṇa and all the devotees of Kṛṣṇa: Please, please give me the strength to glorify Śrīla Prabhupāda every single moment of my life! When I sit, when I walk, when I speak, when I am silent, when I dream, when I act, let me serve Śrīla Prabhupāda always and everywhere!

Let this be my lifestyle:

*yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'Prabhupāda'-upadeśa
āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa*

Śrīla Prabhupāda's servants in Villaggio Hare Krishna, Bergamo, Italy.

(written by Dayānidhi Dāsa)



Vṛndāvana

*orñ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-salākayā
caḅsur unmīlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet on this most auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day. We feel greatly honored and extremely privileged to glorify and remember your transcendental qualities as a bona fide representative of the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

During your manifest pastimes in this world, unlimited conditioned souls were saved from a hellish material existence merely by your divine glance and association. However, many more conditioned souls are still receiving your mercy and benedictions at the temples you created as oases throughout the world, and also by the divine instructions in your books, audio recordings, and videos, through *prasādam* distribution, and the *harināma sankīrtana* conducted by enthusiastic devotees all over the world. Our contaminated senses cannot fathom just how all this is happening, but we can see the results day after day. You are always guiding us and giving us inspiration and protection so that we can remain fixed in our attempts to do some kind of devotional service for your pleasure and for Their Lordships. Our main goal here is to assist and facilitate all of your devotees and followers who come to visit Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma*, as well as the thousands of guests who enter our gates daily.

The Deity worship and book distribution have expanded thousands of times, and the festivals are a joy to behold. Your presence is so strong in your *mūrti* in the temple room that sometimes visitors ask when you will speak or move from there. This is the nature of the spiritual energy and the service rendered by the community of devotees. We also clearly see that all the other temples in Vṛndāvana are taking the cue and engaging in transcendental competition for increasing the standard of worship and celebrations.

Vṛndāvana is your home. You have given us the opportunity to serve you here, where we can intensify our progress of realizing the Supreme Personality of Godhead and ourselves, and reach so many souls who visit here. Anyone who visits Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira can easily experience your presence, especially in your *samādhi*, where we can show your larger-than-life videos in your museum, and in your own quarters, where the *sevā-pūjā* is being maintained and carefully executed every day. Our devotees have beautifully renovated your rooms, cleaned the original paintings, added new paintings, expanded the library, and increased the exhibits of many of the articles you used personally, and they are about to refurbish your garden.

Your Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir is the temple of all ISKCON temples—the heartbeat of our movement. Our Deities, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara with Lalitā and Viśākhā, are the Deities of all ISKCON devotees. Whatever goes on in ISKCON Vṛndāvana reflects outward to our entire society. The devotees who come to the *dhāma* feel the love you have planted, which is continually and faithfully nurtured by your dedicated and sincere servants. We pray that we may cultivate what you have sown and maintain it maturely. You often explained that we did not have any previous piety but that you actually created our *ajñāta-sukṛti*, even as we grew in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In spite of our inadequacies and shortcomings, you never gave up on us. On this most auspicious day, we pray that you may please continue to shower your divine grace upon us.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servants at Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir, Vṛndāvana, India.

(written by Janārdana Dāsa)



Washington, D.C.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, and to your sincere followers all around the world.

On this auspicious day of your divine appearance, I am trying to glorify your unlimited divine qualities on behalf of your disciples, granddisciples, and other followers in New Hastināpura Dhāma, ISKCON of Washington, D.C. Most of us were not fortunate enough to have your direct *darśana* or association, but by your causeless mercy your disciples captured each and every instruction you gave. From your lectures to your *darśanas*, from your morning walk conversions to your *kīrtanas*, we are fortunate to have access to immeasurable numbers of your recordings, videos, and photographs. And what to speak of your books? In this way each of us may take full advantage of your association.

Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa sent you from Goloka Vṛndāvana to this material world to propagate His *sankīrtana* movement all over the world. This *sankīrtana* process is the only way a fallen soul can go back to Him in this Age of Kali.

You are a great representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, for whom the tradition of Vyāsa-pūjā offerings was first started. He presented the vast Vedic literature to benefit the fallen souls in this Age of Kali. It is very difficult for degraded people to understand the purpose of the Vedic literature. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you translated these great literatures into English and then ordered them translated into hundreds of other languages, revealing their profound meaning through full collaboration with the previous *ācāryas*. Thus you firmly established the foundation of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness on the basis of *sādhu*, *sāstra*, and guru.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself, says in His *Śikṣāṣṭaka* prayers, *nāmnām akāri bahudhā nija-sarva-śaktis tatrāpitā*. Having invested His holy names with all His potencies, Lord Caitanya personally distributed them in the form of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* to the whole of India, and he empowered you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to distribute the holy name to the whole world. It was you who convinced people worldwide that by simply chanting the holy name one can change one's life from the lowest platform of materialism to the highest platform of spiritual bliss. And you proved the effectiveness of this process by transforming the lives of thousands of your disciples and granddisciples throughout the world.

You also gave your mercy through the mass distribution of *prasādam*. Before you, outside of India no one had even heard the word *prasādam*. Even in India, only people of Hindu faith were aware of *prasādam*. But they knew it only as a small sweetmeat retrieved during a visit to a temple. It was you who taught us the true meaning of *prasādam* by your practical example of sharing sanctified food on a grand scale with people of all faiths, nations, and cultures. You thus showed us that by honoring *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* anyone can be blessed to become a pure devotee of the Lord.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us the essence of the vast Vedic literature in the form of your books with purports, books that will guide the entire humanity for the next ten thousand years. These books give knowledge of not just spiritual science but also politics, philosophy, economics, and many other subjects.

You also gave us ISKCON, a spiritual organization in which all souls can learn the science of self-realization and go back home to Goloka Vṛndāvana. Your ISKCON provides wonderful temples of Lord Kṛṣṇa, opportunities for pure devotional service, the Sunday Love Feast, *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, association of devotees, the *guru-paramparā*, festivals like Janmāṣṭamī and Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, Food for Life, and many other blessings that can help guide everyone to achieve the highest goal of life, going back to Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us so many things that I can't describe them all. You have poured your heart and soul into your ISKCON, and it is a great responsibility of your disciples and granddisciples and future followers to preserve and expand what you have given.

At our New Hastināpura Dhāma, under the leadership of your GBC Body, we pledge ourselves to work very hard to please you and serve your mission. We know that if you are pleased, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madan-Mohan will be pleased. *Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādah*.



On this auspicious occasion, we beg you for your causeless mercy. Please forgive us all for the offenses we may have committed at your lotus feet.

Your servants at New Hastināpura Dhāma, ISKCON of Washington, D.C.

(written by Advaita Ācārya Dāsa)

Wiesbaden

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet! All glories to Your Divine Grace!

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to express our deep thanks for changing our lives.

You are the savior of the world, who brought the true religion to the West and told the people who they are, what to do, and where to go. You wept upon seeing and hearing about the suffering of the people in this world, whether in capitalist, communist, or third-world countries. In this way you showed your deep compassion for the conditioned souls. Your struggles to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness are glorious. In your childhood you insisted to your father that you wanted to put on a children's Ratha-yātrā, and later you spread Ratha-yātrā around the globe, giving Lord Jagannātha's *darśana* to millions and making Lord Jagannātha, Lord Balarāma, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā the symbols for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your heart is the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. Please let us eternally serve you and understand you fully.

You were expert in managing according to time, place, and circumstance. In many regards you were revolutionary, but at the same time you insisted on a basic spiritual standard that cannot be changed. I pray that you give all your followers the intelligence to expertly deal with challenges so that your movement remains attractive and relevant to the world. We pray not to be swept away by mundane influences, which will destroy the purity of your movement.

Like little children, we learned everything from you: when we should get up, take a shower, brush our teeth, and change our clothes, what we should eat, what we should abstain from, what we should think about. Thank you for taking us by the hand and showing us how to live. Everything you taught us helps us become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Please help us accept your blessings.

Your books are saturated with your spiritual energy and change our very lives. You are our spiritual master and our savior. From you we receive so much happiness and love. Now we are able to give God a name—"Kṛṣṇa." This is possible only due to your mercy. We humbly ask you to please give us your blessings so that we may eternally be engaged in the service of the servants of the servants of your servants.

We thank you for all you did for humanity—for knowledge of Kṛṣṇa and faith in Him, for spiritual culture and all our godbrothers and -sisters. Our debt to you is huge. Please bless us so that we may develop love for Kṛṣṇa and serve Him eternally.

We are very thankful that we were able to find Kṛṣṇa deep in our heart. Before, there was no real reason to live. Now we know that we can do everything for Him. The association with the devotees in ISKCON, of which you are the founder-*ācārya*, is very powerful. When we are together, our hearts fill with happiness. Our lives in the past had lots of suffering and ununderstandable moments. Our present life, with Kṛṣṇa in the center, explains a lot of things and helps us avoid a lot of painful situations. You open the eyes of humanity and also ours. Thank you for your translations and explanations. Your books can be understood not only by devotees but also by materialists. We know that, thanks to your mercy, we will be able to serve Kṛṣṇa with love and devotion.



You appeared in this world to spread the chanting of the holy name and in this way spread the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the *guru-paramparā*. Thanks to your unconditional grace, our lives are filled with significance. Now we know what is worth striving for to attain true happiness. Thanks to your mercy, we have attained the association of devotees, and by such association we are developing a taste for devotional service in full Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Even though our false ego is tremendous and separates us from pure love for Kṛṣṇa, we are completely convinced that through your mercy our hearts will be purified. We have developed this faith by watching the lives of your disciples. Their love for you inspires us. Our great desire is to never lose the association of your devotees, and our hope is to become sincere Vaiṣṇavas.

Please accept our very best wishes.

Your humble and surrendered servants and congregational members at Hari Nāma Desh, ISKCON Wiesbaden, Germany.



Kārtamīśa Kṛṣṇa
(Courtesy of
Śrīla Prabhupāda's
Quarters,
New Dvārakā
Temple)