



Homages from ISKCON Centers

Abidjan

Dear grandfather Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We were not fortunate enough to see you personally, or even hear about you when you were living on this planet. But as an expert and merciful *ācārya*, you built a house in which everyone can live. In that house you left so many of your wonderful direct disciples, whom you perfectly trained, and they are now spreading your ISKCON mission as if you were still physically present.

Of course, most of the time our dirty minds make us think, “Oh, Śrīla Prabhupāda has left us.” But what gross nonsense! What did Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura say?

He reasons ill who tells that Vaiṣṇavas die,
When thou art living still in sound!
The Vaiṣṇavas die to live and, living, try
To spread the holy name around.

This statement gives great joy to us, your grandchildren who did not meet you physically. You live with us forever in many forms of sound: your books, your *kīrtanas* and *bhajans*, your lectures, your letters, etc.

We simply have to take advantage of these sound manifestations of you and, guided by your GBC, at least remain alive on this transcendental path of devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa until we realize that, in fact, your mercy has been there waiting for us for so long. We simply have to wake up and take it.

Please, dear grandfather, we have some plans and projects to develop. The only thing we need for them come to fruition is your divine intervention.

The servants of your servants in the ISKCON temple in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire, Africa.

Agartala

*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*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I have realized that you are the most important personality on the planet earth because you are a pure devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Therefore you have the capacity to serve Him perfectly, and you teach us how to love Him through the process of devotional service.

I joined ISKCON in 1982 at Villa Vṛndāvana, Italy, and today, after thirty years in the movement, I can see how ignorant and coarse I was, even though I had taught *haṭha-yoga* for the previous eight years and was vegetarian.

Now, due to your mercy, I am conscious of Kṛṣṇa and know that the goal of my life is to serve Him with love and devotion, constantly.

Due to the inconceivable mercy of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, I had the great good fortune to meet your disciples many years ago, and I started to read the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. Then I started to swim in the ocean of nectar. By the weapon of knowledge my ignorance was destroyed.

As time went on, more and more love came from my heart and went to the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. And automatically the same love went to you. Many years ago I realized that you are a very special great soul, but a few months ago, while taking the Bhakti-śāstrī course in Māyāpur under the guidance of some of your wonderful senior disciples, I saw the real depth of your knowledge of the Supreme Lord and His energies, and also your direct experience of Him. Even if I spent hours and hours glorifying your qualities, I could not adequately describe your greatness and the nobility of your soul.

The work that you did in translating and writing a commentary on the *Bhagavad-gītā*, resulting in your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, as well as *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* and other books—this work is very, very extraordinary and everlasting. The greatest value of your books is that anyone who reads them is immediately inspired to become a devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and is helped to go back to Kṛṣṇa in Goloka Vṛndāvana. Your books: immense work, immense value. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you. I feel indebted to you forever.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I always need your help. Please give me your mercy again and again. I am ready to be a channel between you and all living beings for the transmission of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's servants in ISKCON of Agartala, Tripura, India.

(written by Premadatta Dāsa)

Ahmedabad

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

On this auspicious day of your appearance, we simply pray for your causeless mercy so that we may remain at your lotus feet life after life, forever, because, as “Prabhupāda, you are always at the feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa. On the other hand, we, as small *prabhus*, your servants, remain as dust particles at your lotus feet, and thus we also see Kṛṣṇa. People of this world are so bewildered they have totally failed to see the power of this simple process: taking shelter of the dust of the your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your auspicious appearance day is a reminder to all the sincere souls looking for solutions to the sufferings of the fallen human society that there is a Supreme Personality of Godhead, that He cares for us, that He personally comes to deliver us, and that He also sends his dearmost devotees to bring us back home, back to Godhead. Your appearance day also reminds us that there is no difference in quality between the Lord's appearance day and that of His pure devotees. Both are equally divine and transcendental. They complement each other. Perhaps that is the reason Kṛṣṇa arranged for His pure devotee to appear on the very next day after His own appearance.

As we recall how the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement began, we remember you saying again and again that your only credit in establishing this worldwide spiritual movement was that you simply repeated without adulteration the message of Lord Kṛṣṇa, Lord Caitanya, the Six Gosvāmīs, and your spiritual master. Simply by doing this, you slowly but surely unfolded the mysterious spiritual process of *śravaṇaṁ kīrtanaṁ viśṇoḥ* in the most adverse environment, twentieth-century Kali-yuga New York,

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USA. In this simple way you inaugurated the most powerful spiritual movement in the history of mankind. Even though the Lord is the most merciful, He chooses to bestow His mercy only through the agency of His pure devotees. And of all such *mahā-bhāgavata* agents, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are very special, and therefore whoever takes full shelter of you is also very special. You single-handedly purified and engaged thousands of *mlecchas* and *yavanas* in devotional service. Lord Caitanya told Sanātana Gosvāmī:

*prabhu kahe,—“tomā sparśi ātma pavitrīte
bhakti-bale pāra tumi brahmāṇḍa śodhite*

The Lord replied, “I am touching you just to purify Myself, because by the force of your devotional service you can purify the whole universe.” [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 20.56]

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura said one’s advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is measured by how many persons become Vaiṣṇavas by his association.

Your unique fourfold formula sums up the essence of spiritual life: “Books are the basis. Purity is the force. Preaching is the essence. Utility is the principle.” You used the perfect balance of this formula to the maximum capacity, and that is why you are the most successful preacher in the missionary movement of Lord Caitanya. In fact, such a perfect balance of activity in Kṛṣṇa’s service is possible only by the power of Kṛṣṇa.

*kali-kālera dharma—kṛṣṇa-nāma-saṅkīrtana
kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana*

[Vallabha Bhaṭṭa said:] “The fundamental religious system in the Age of Kali is the chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Unless empowered by Kṛṣṇa, one cannot propagate the saṅkīrtana movement.

*tāhā pravartāilā tumi,—ei ta ‘pramāṇa’
kṛṣṇa-śakti dhara tumi,—ithe nāhi āna*

“You have spread the saṅkīrtana movement of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Therefore it is evident that You have been empowered by Lord Kṛṣṇa. There is no question about it.” [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya* 7.11–12]

[Purport] Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura explains that unless one is directly empowered by the causeless mercy of Kṛṣṇa, one cannot become the spiritual master of the entire world (*jagad-guru*). One cannot become an *ācārya* simply by mental speculation. The true *ācārya* presents Kṛṣṇa to everyone by preaching the holy name of the Lord throughout the world. Thus the conditioned souls, purified by chanting the holy name, are liberated from the blazing fire of material existence. In this way, spiritual benefit grows increasingly full, like the waxing moon in the sky. The true *ācārya*, the spiritual master of the entire world, must be considered an incarnation of Kṛṣṇa’s mercy. Indeed, he is personally embracing Kṛṣṇa. He is therefore the spiritual master of all the *varṇas* (*brāhmaṇa*, *kṣatriya*, *vaiśya* and *śūdra*) and all the *āśramas* (*brahmacarya*, *grhastha*, *vānaprastha* and *sannyāsa*). Since he is understood to be the most advanced devotee, he is called *paramahansa-ṭhākura*. *Ṭhākura* is a title of honor offered to the *paramahansa*. Therefore one who acts as an *ācārya*, directly presenting Lord Kṛṣṇa by spreading His name and fame, is also to be called *paramahansa-ṭhākura*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the only true *paramahansa-ṭhākura* that I have ever met and seen in my life, and yet you are the most humble person. Even though you are the life and soul of Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, you never projected yourself in any way. You simply glorified Kṛṣṇa and thus demonstrated to all *bhogī yogīs* how different you are from them. In fact, you are the only one who had disciples in



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most countries of the world. By your humble efforts “Hare Kṛṣṇa” became a household word in the whole world. You are the only one who truly deserves the title Jagad-guru, yet you never encouraged us to use such lofty titles for you. You never felt in your heart that you were the great inaugurator of Lord Caitanya’s worldwide *saṅkīrtana* movement. You were always ready to do even the smallest thing to encourage your young and inexperienced disciples.

I remember when you came to Sanand, a small village near Ahmedabad, in December 1975. You spent eight days there and traveled to nearby villages. You taught the village people the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra by chanting half the mantra at a time, because such simple village folk could not remember the whole mantra. Then you came with us to look for a house to rent. We went to see five or six different houses. I feel so foolish now to have troubled the *jagad-guru senapati*, the general of Lord Caitanya’s army, for such a small thing, but you never felt hesitant to help us with such simple matters. When you did something for Kṛṣṇa, you never thought it was small. This incident reminds me of Śukadeva Gosvāmī, who was so transcendental that one minute he was surrounded by foolish women and children who were harassing him, making fun of him, and throwing rocks at him because he was roaming naked and carefree, and the next moment, as he entered the assembly of demigods and eighty thousand sages on the bank of Gaṅgā, they all stood up to honor him and had him sit on the esteemed *vyāsāsana*. So nicely does Sūta Gosvāmī pray to him:

*yaḥ svānubhāvam akhila-śruti-sāram ekam
adhyātma-dīpam atititṛṣatām tamo 'ndham
saṁsāriṇām karuṇayāha purāṇa-guhyam
tam vyāsa-sūnum upayāmi gurum muninām*

Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto him [Śukadeva], the spiritual master of all sages, the son of Vyāsadeva, who, out of his great compassion for those gross materialists who struggle to cross over the darkest regions of material existence, spoke this most confidential supplement to the cream of Vedic knowledge, after having personally assimilated it by experience.

Like Śukadeva, you were simultaneously the most humble and transcendental yet bold and forceful. By your mercy even your most fallen followers like me do not hesitate to meet even prime ministers and presidents, billionaires and scientists, and humbly address them as Śrīla Prabodhānanda Sarasvatī wrote in *Caitanya-candrāmṛta* (90):

*dante nidhāya tṛṇakam padayor nipatya
kṛtvā ca kāku-śatam etad aham bravāmi
he sādhaḥ sakalam eva vihāya dūrād
gaurāṅgacandra-caraṇe kurutānūrāgam*

Holding a straw between my teeth, I fall at your feet and beg you hundreds of times: “Oh perfect, gentle saints, whatever your ideas of the Absolute Truth, God, philosophy, etc., please throw them far, far away and develop love for the lotus feet of Śrī Caitanyacandra.”

Once I walked into your room while you were reading *Kṛṣṇa* book, and I said, “Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are reading your own book?”

You smiled and said, “This book is so nice. I cannot write such a nice book. Kṛṣṇa must have written this.” It was a simple statement made by you in utmost humility, but it gave me a profound realization that it was true. Because of your cent percent surrender, everything you said and did was dictated by Kṛṣṇa.

Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja’s wonderful description of how the Pañca-tattva plundered the storehouse of love of God and distributed that love to even ordinary persons has been brought alive by you as the true representative of the Pañca-tattva. You so kindly explained this in your Bhaktivedanta purports.

In the following verses and purports (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 7.20–26), every word is saturated with your faith and resolve for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, following in the footsteps of the Pañca-tattva:

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*sei pañca-tattva mili' pṛthivī āsiyā
pūrva-premabhāṇḍārera mudrā ughāḍiyā*

*pāñce mili' lute prema, kare āsvādana
yata yata piye, tṛṣṇā bādhe anukṣaṇa*

The characteristics of Kṛṣṇa are understood to be a storehouse of transcendental love. Although that storehouse of love certainly came with Kṛṣṇa when He was present, it was sealed. But when Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu came with His associates of the Pañca-tattva, they broke the seal and plundered the storehouse to taste transcendental love of Kṛṣṇa. The more they tasted it, the more their thirst for it grew.

[Purport] Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is called *mahā-vadānyāvatāra* because although He is Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself, He is even more favorably disposed to the poor fallen souls than Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. When Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself was personally present, He demanded that everyone surrender unto Him and promised that He would then give one all protection, but when Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu came to this earth with His associates, He simply distributed transcendental love of God without discrimination. Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī, therefore, could understand that Lord Caitanya was none other than Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself, for no one but the Supreme Personality of Godhead can distribute confidential love of the Supreme Person.

*punaḥ punaḥ piyāiyā haya mahāmatta
nāce, kānde, hāse, gāya, yaiche mada-matta*

Śrī Pañca-tattva themselves danced again and again and thus made it easier to drink nectarean love of Godhead. They danced, cried, laughed and chanted like madmen, and in this way they distributed love of Godhead.

[Purport] People generally cannot understand the actual meaning of chanting and dancing. Describing the Gosvāmīs, Śrī Śrīnivāsa Ācārya stated, *kṛṣṇotkīrtana-gāna-nartana-parau*: not only did Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His associates demonstrate this chanting and dancing, but the Six Gosvāmīs also followed in the next generation. The present Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement follows the same principle, and therefore simply by chanting and dancing we have received good responses all over the world. It is to be understood, however, that this chanting and dancing do not belong to this material world. They are actually transcendental activities, for the more one engages in chanting and dancing, the more he can taste the nectar of transcendental love of Godhead.

*pātrāpātra-vicāra nāhi, nāhi sthānāsthāna
yei yāñhā pāya, tāñhā kare prema-dāna*

In distributing love of Godhead, Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His associates did not consider who was a fit candidate and who was not, nor where such distribution should or should not take place. They made no conditions. Wherever they got the opportunity, the members of the Pañca-tattva distributed love of Godhead.

[Purport] There are some rascals who dare to speak against the mission of Lord Caitanya by criticizing the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement for accepting Europeans and Americans as *brāhmaṇas* and offering them *sannyāsa*. But here is an authoritative statement that in distributing love of Godhead one should not consider whether the recipients are Europeans, Americans, Hindus, Muslims, etc. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement should be spread wherever possible, and one should accept those who thus become Vaiṣṇavas as being greater than *brāhmaṇas*, Hindus or

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Indians. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu desired that His name be spread in each and every town and village on the surface of the globe. Therefore, when the cult of Caitanya Mahāprabhu is spread all over the world, should those who embrace it not be accepted as Vaiṣṇavas, *brāhmaṇas* and *sannyāsīs*? These foolish arguments are sometimes raised by envious rascals, but Kṛṣṇa conscious devotees do not care about them. We strictly follow the principles set down by the Pañca-tattva.

luṭiyā, khāiyā, diyā, bhāṇḍāra ujāḍe
āścārya bhāṇḍāra, prema śata-guṇa bāḍe

Although the members of the Pañca-tattva plundered the storehouse of love of Godhead and ate and distributed its contents, there was no scarcity, for this wonderful storehouse is so complete that as the love is distributed, the supply increases hundreds of times.

[Purport] A pseudo incarnation of Kṛṣṇa once told his disciple that he had emptied himself by giving him all knowledge and was thus spiritually bankrupt. Such bluffers speak in this way to cheat the public, but actual spiritual consciousness is so perfect that the more it is distributed, the more it increases. Bankruptcy is a term that applies in the material world, but the storehouse of love of Godhead in the spiritual world can never be depleted. Kṛṣṇa is providing for millions and trillions of living entities by supplying all their necessities, and even if all the innumerable living entities wanted to become Kṛṣṇa conscious, there would be no scarcity of love of Godhead, nor would there be insufficiency in providing for their maintenance. Our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement was started single-handedly, and no one provided for our livelihood, but at present we are spending hundreds and thousands of dollars all over the world, and the movement is increasing more and more. Thus there is no question of scarcity. Although jealous persons may be envious, if we stick to our principles and follow in the footsteps of the Pañca-tattva, this movement will go on unchecked by imitation *svāmīs*, *sannyāsīs*, religionists, philosophers or scientists, for it is transcendental to all material considerations. Therefore those who propagate the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement should not be afraid of such rascals and fools.

uchalila prema-vanyā caudike veḍāya
strī, vṛddha, bālaka, yuvā, sabāre ḍubāya

The flood of love of Godhead swelled in all directions, and thus young men, old men, women and children were all immersed in that inundation.

[Purport] When the contents of the storehouse of love of Godhead is thus distributed, there is a powerful inundation that covers the entire land. In Śrīdhāma Māyāpur there is sometimes a great flood after the rainy season. This is an indication that from the birthplace of Lord Caitanya the inundation of love of Godhead should be spread all over the world, for this will help everyone, including old men, young men, women and children. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is so powerful that it can inundate the entire world and interest all classes of men in the subject of love of Godhead.

saj-jana, durjana, paṇḍu, jaḍa, andha-gaṇa
prema-vanyāya ḍubāila jagatera jana

The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement will inundate the entire world and drown everyone, whether one be a gentleman, a rogue or even lame, invalid or blind.

[Purport] Here again it may be emphasized that although jealous rascals protest that Europeans and Americans cannot be given the sacred thread or *sannyāsa*, there is no need even to consider whether one is a gentleman or a rogue because this is a spiritual movement which is not concerned

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with the external body of skin and bones. Because it is being properly conducted under the guidance of the Pañca-tattva, strictly following the regulative principles, it has nothing to do with external impediments.

All the statements in the above purports are the vivid projection of your mood and consciousness, which we pray to inherit and imbibe from you. Please give us the power to participate in the pastimes of the Pañca-tattva to taste the nectar and distribute it to all the fallen souls.

It is indeed the greatest miracle that I, the most fallen and unqualified person, had the privilege and fortune to personally see your transcendental smiling face, talk to you, hear you, be initiated by you, and known by you. Had you not showered this causeless mercy, who would have taught us even the first letter of spiritual life? If you hadn't taken the risk of traveling to the USA, I shiver at the thought of what kind of deep dark hell I would be living in. This reminds me of your prayer to your spiritual master. We humbly pray to you with this same prayer:

Had you not come,
Who had told
The message of Krishna,
Forceful and bold?

That's your right,
You have the mace.
Save me a fallen,
Your Divine Grace.

The line of service
As drawn by you
Is pleasing and healthy
Like morning dew.

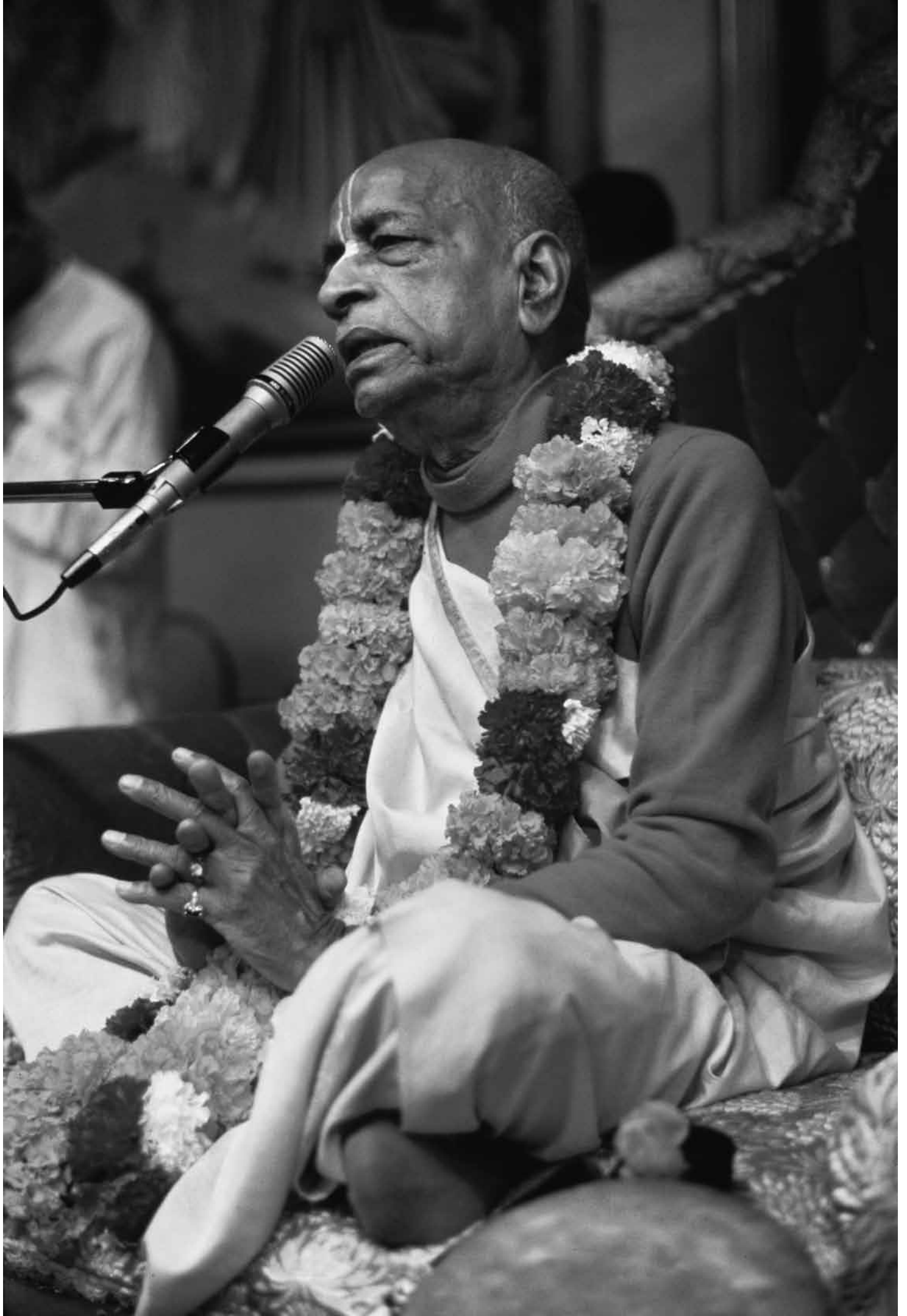
The oldest of all,
But in new dress.
Miracle done,
Your Divine Grace.

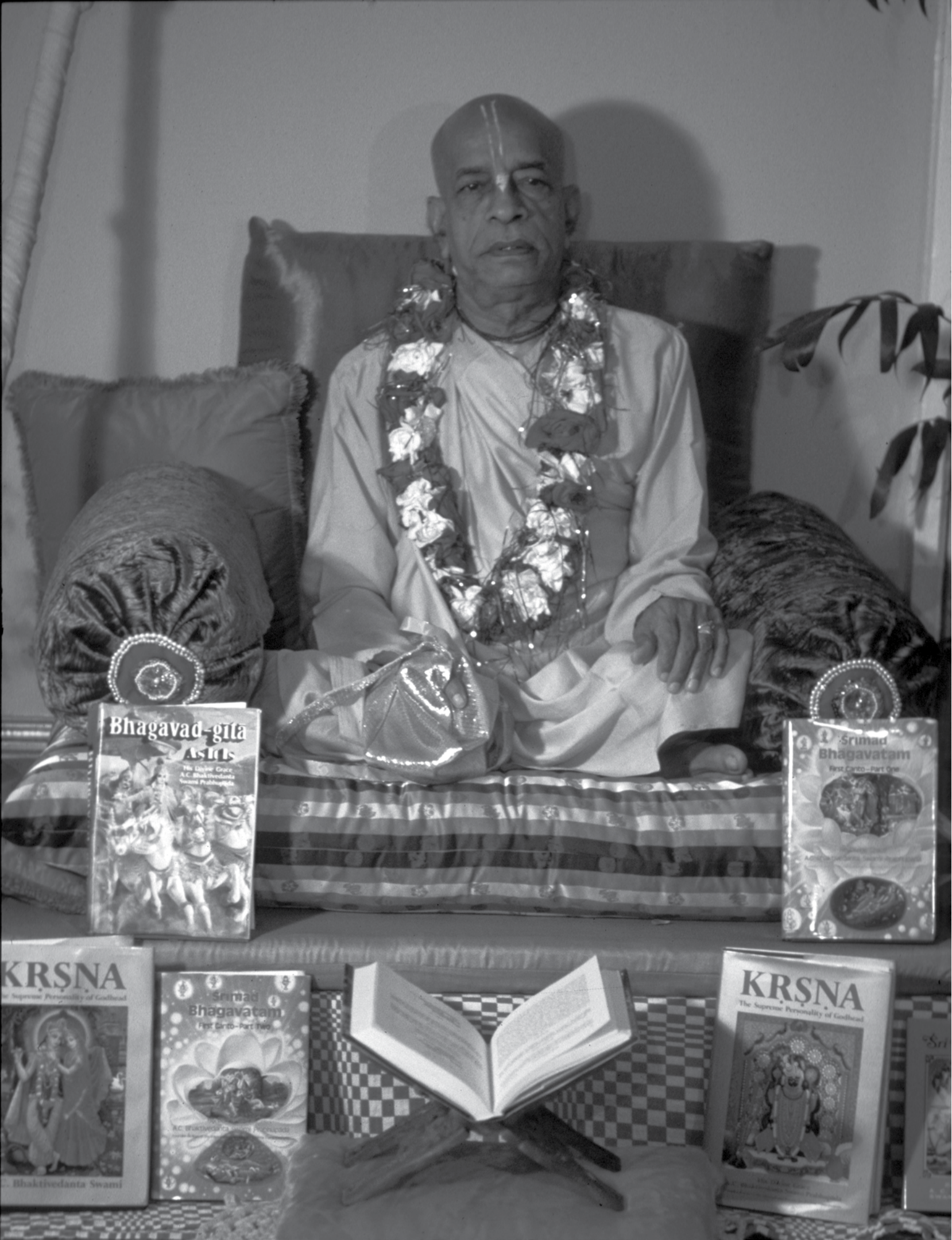
Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, thirty-four years have passed since you left us to serve Kṛṣṇa in His abode. Now your movement needs a push. At the age of seventy you single-handedly pushed this movement, and in twelve short years the Hare Kṛṣṇa revolution spread throughout the world. We saw this with our own eyes. We know you have the power to empower even the most sinful and degraded person to become saintly and then preach all over the world.

Therefore we humbly pray, Please give us the strength to inundate the world with Kṛṣṇa consciousness, as Śrī Pañca-tattva desired. Please make us worthy disciples and successors of Your Divine Grace, the most successful, powerful, and sincere servant of the Pañca-tattva.

Your servants in ISKCON Ahmedabad, India.

(written by Yaśomatīnandana Dāsa)





Almviks Gård

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

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

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this auspicious day we celebrate your appearance here at New Śrī Caitanya Candrodāya Mandir, Almviks Gård, Sweden, a remote corner of the world that you blessed with your presence in September 1973. At that time we rented a house in a suburb of Stockholm. We were young and enthusiastic. Those of us who were there with you are still here. We might not be so young anymore, and youthful enthusiasm might be lacking in some ways, but there is still dedication.

Now there are more devotees in Sweden, with more centers firmly established. One of those is the New Śrī Caitanya Candrodāya Mandir, situated south of Stockholm in a forest by a nice little lake. What if you would come here and visit us now? What would you see and what would you say? There are more than a dozen families here, and quite a few children. The parents endeavor to provide a Kṛṣṇa conscious education and environment for the children. There are some cows and oxen. Some devotees are learning to train the oxen and work with them. There are gardens where we grow vegetables, flowers, and fruits. There are also a bakery and some small businesses. Finally, what gives it all meaning is the temple, where Śrī Pañca-tattva are worshiped.

The project is like a firmly rooted tree. Strong roots are necessary if a tree is to grow tall and big. This is also a place where one gets rooted, materially and spiritually. You connect us to our spiritual roots. This tree gives shelter to many birds (devotees). Some birds migrate, and some are more permanent. The devotees themselves are also like trees, and at the same time they are each uniquely part of the community tree. There is tolerance of heat and cold. Like any tree, this one might not seem to move much, but the branches are growing, and if one looks carefully one can see flowers budding, waiting to blossom. It is our hope that these flowers, pollinated by your mercy, may one day mature into the ripened fruits of love of Godhead. These fruits will be very tasty and attract the attention of many people, souls from all over the universe. When the fruits are eaten, the seeds will get carried by the birds to various parts of the country, and new trees will sprout and flourish.

And you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the one who first planted the seeds here in the West. This allegory of the tree indicates what it will become (hopefully): a nice big tree in whose shade you could come and perform your *bhajan*. We could sit at your feet and hear your *kṛṣṇa-kathā*—*guru-mukha-padma-vākya*. That would be the perfection of our life. It might be a dream, but it is a dream that can keep us alive in our spiritual pursuits. If we look carefully, we can see that you are already here with us in different ways: in your *mūrti*, in your books, in your instructions . . .

We ask the blessing to be able to recognize you when you come in your various ways.

When you visit this place, you will certainly see many things that can improve, but we ask you to look upon us with kindness. Life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness can sometimes be quite hard. Assured of your mercy, we will go on with our lives, spiritually and materially. May we help spread your glories.

Your community of aspiring servants at New Śrī Caitanya Candrodāya Mandir, Sweden.

(written by Smita Kṛṣṇa Swami, with help from Yogīndra Dāsa)

Amravati

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful humble obeisances unto the dust of your divine lotus feet on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā festival, commemorating the 115th anniversary of your appearance in this world.

On this auspicious day, as we start meditating on your divine glories, we find that words fall short in their ability to express our unlimited gratitude toward you. Your bestowing the matchless gift of *kṛṣṇa-prema* upon degraded people like us is like a rich person's giving a big mansion to a street beggar. *Yogyatā-vicāre kichu nāhi pāi*: what qualification did we have to receive it?

On Gaura Pūrṇimā we heard how “Lord Caitanya has appeared in the Age of Kali by His causeless mercy to bestow what no incarnation has ever offered before: the most sublime and radiant mellow of devotional service, the mellow of conjugal love.” But if you had not appeared in order to channel Lord Caitanya's mercy toward us, we would have had no chance to get it. To paraphrase a song by Vāsudeva Ghoṣa:

*yadi prabhupāda nā hoito, tabe ki hoito,
kemone dharitām de
gaurera mahimā, prema-rasa-sīmā,
jagate jānāto ke*

“If Śrīla Prabhupāda had not appeared, then what would have become of us? How could we have tolerated living? Who in this universe would have ever learned about the topmost limits of loving mellows that comprise the glory of Śrī Gaura?”

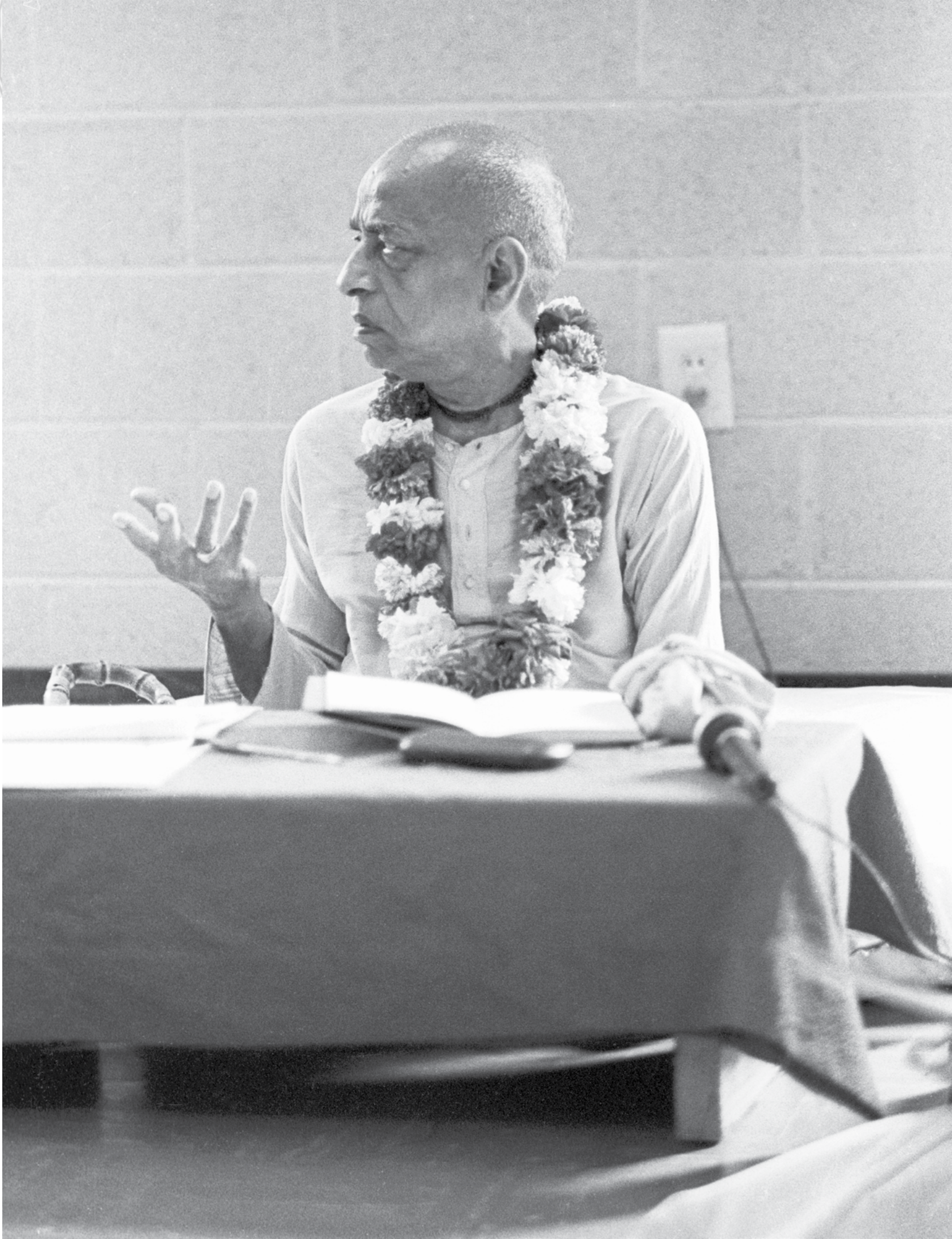
In *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* I read of the inconceivable sacrifices and austerities you underwent to found and spread ISKCON. Every quality of yours can certainly bring tears to the eyes of even a stone-hearted person (*paśu pākhī jhure pāṣāṇa vidare/ śuni' jāṇra guṇa-gāthā*). When I read about how you translated your books and produced your Bhaktivedanta purports, I realized that only a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra* like your divine self could perform such a herculean task. Very soon the whole world will see the divine potency of your books. According to one estimate, more than six hundred million of your books have been distributed on this planet. In all of human history no *sampradāya* or institution has ever done anything like this. To paraphrase *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 8.15:

*śrīla-prabhupāda-dayā karaha vicāra
vicāra karite citte pābe camatkāra*

“If you are indeed interested in logic and argument, kindly apply it to the mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda. If you do so, you will find it to be strikingly wonderful.”

You have performed a historically unparalleled feat by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. Your wonderful qualities comprise the extremely powerful force behind this. People may not understand fully what you are teaching, but inspired by your incomparable personality, they are ready to follow you. People are disillusioned by so many role models who turn out to be fallible. But after coming in contact with you, they know that you are someone who can lead us, someone who deserves our obedience and veneration. Your extraordinary intelligence, compassion, and discipline make people take you very seriously. With your intelligence you figured out how to turn forty rupees into a worldwide movement of devotees. With your compassion you were willing to clean up after the hippie youths who attended your programs in 1966. With your discipline you never for a moment tried to enjoy the millions of dollars and thousands of followers at your disposal.

We can never repay you for all the matchless gifts you have given us. The only way we can even begin to repay you is to completely dedicate our lives to your mission, without any personal considerations or



reservations. Our real offering to you on this day is our insignificant service.

Here at Amravati, which is next to the divine abode of Śrī Rukmiṇī Devī's birthplace, Śrī Kuṇḍinapura *dhāma*, people are beginning to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness very seriously. During 2010–11 we held many seminars, *kathās*, and festivals. The World Holy Name Festival brought all the devotees together. They performed twenty-four-hour *saṅkīrtana* without a break and chanted 12,500,000 names in one week. We had *kathās* on Janmāṣṭamī, on the first day of Kārtika, on Gaura Pūrṇimā, on Rāmanavamī, on Rukmiṇī-dvādaśī, etc. Also, our Bhakti Vriksha camp has inspired our congregation to become systematically trained for preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We will soon establish a *brahmacārī* training program. Youth preaching has shown very wonderful results by attracting both boys and girls to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously. By your blessings, we will start the New Youths' BACE very soon. But there is a long way to go. Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this day we beg you to abundantly shower us with your causeless mercy.

Finally, there might be thousands of reasons to disagree, to not cooperate, and to fight, but there is one overwhelming reason to agree, cooperate, and serve together: to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON of Amravati, India.

(written by Ananta Śeṣa Dāsa)

Amsterdam

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Please keep showering the mercy upon the fallen souls of Amsterdam, as you did from the very beginning of your preaching mission in the West. In 1969 you came to this city for a brief visit. At the time, the devotees had had musical success with the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and were performing under the name "The Radha-Krishna Temple." They were quickly climbing in the pop charts. In October 1969 they were invited to appear on a popular Dutch television program called Toppop.

You expressed the desire to appear with the devotees on TV to explain the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It was negotiated that after a three-minute performance of the *mahā-mantra*, a two-minute slot was reserved to allow you to speak. Mukunda Dāsa asked you if it would be worth a whole day's travel from London to speak for two minutes on Dutch television. You said, "Two minutes is enough. I can explain the whole philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in two minutes." And you did. On the television program you said, "Chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra is the process of God realization recommended by Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu for this age. It is the universal medicine for human society. It is so simple even a child can do it. . . . When you chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa dances on your tongue. This is recommended for everyone: to chant the names of the Lord."

You traveled the whole world to spread Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's message, and the many temples you founded are still oases of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the world. They are embassies of the spiritual world, giving the fallen souls an opportunity to take up the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which you explained so well and so efficiently. You are so expert in describing the process of self-realization for each spirit soul, and you manage to present the ocean of knowledge in such straightforward language that even the most fallen of us can understand it easily.

You explained to the whole world that just as we as citizens are component parts of the state, similarly we are part and parcel of the Supreme Whole, or God. So what is our position? What is our identity? We

Homages from ISKCON Centers

are eternally parts and parcel of God. That is our position. In the conditioned state we identify with our body: “I am American”; “I am Indian”; “I am a man”; “I am a woman”; “I am black”; “I am white”; etc. These are simply temporary designations. This is illusion.

You shared the process of self-realization with the world, showing how to reach liberation through the chanting the holy names of the Lord. Self-realization is a very simple thing, you said: “Self-realization does not mean anything very extraordinary.” You then quoted *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.10.6: “*Hitvānyathā rūpaṁ sva-rūpeṇa vyavasthitiḥ. Mukti*, this is called. *Mukti* means liberation or self-realization. What is that? *Hitvā anyathā-rūpaṁ*: giving up a different identity. . . . Self-realization is [understanding] that ‘I am neither American nor Indian nor black nor white nor anything: I am a spirit soul, part and parcel of the whole, Kṛṣṇa.’ This is self-realization.”

You gave the most fallen the greatest mercy. You gave us the simple and effective process of realizing our true identity. And you set the best example for the whole world to follow, how to reconnect with God. You showed how to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa through serving the guru, the servant of the servant. We owe you our deepest gratitude for that. We thank you with all our heart for appearing in our lives.

Your devotees in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

(written by Bhakta Bas)

Austin

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories unto you, the most powerful and most magnanimous of all spiritual masters.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (4.31.5) the Pracetās address Śrī Nārada Muni as follows: “By the traveling of the sun, people are relieved from the fear of the darkness of night—a fear brought about by thieves and rogues. Similarly, your traveling is like the sun’s, for you drive away all kinds of fear.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the pure empowered emissary of the Lord, you are just like Śrī Nārada Muni in that your traveling all over the world to spread the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness bestows fearlessness upon all those who come in contact with you.

Please bless us, O greatest of spiritual masters, that we humble souls at your center in Austin may become absolutely fearless in our practice and propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We want to assist you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, in making the people of this city completely fearless by introducing them all to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your servants in Austin, Texas, USA.

(written by Viṣṇupriyā Devī Dāśī)

Baha

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

*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*

Our revered Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Anyone who reads or hears about your divine character and activities will bow their head and pay obeisances in sincere acknowledgement that you are a great holy person who is delivering the world from illusion. We offer our humble obeisances to the spiritual masters who have taken shelter of you and surrendered to you, and we also offer our obeisances to the devotees who are sincerely and faithfully trying to please you by following the orders of their spiritual masters, and of course we offer our respectful obeisances again and again to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please bestow upon us divine eyes so that we can cooperate to please Guru and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an ideal person full of tenderness and charisma who are able to give comfort to those aspiring for spiritual life in this Age of Kali. No other personality can compare with you, since you are in every way always superior to all. You are like the moon among thousands of stars, shining a pacifying light upon the world. Your humility, purity, and renunciation amazed the world and evoked respect from countless people. Before you, others made unsuccessful attempts to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness outside India, but when you went to the USA on the order of your spiritual master, you gained wonderful success. It's a fact that ISKCON was born in the USA and not India.

Your appearance in this world and your success were predicted by Lord Caitanya, as revealed in the *Caitanya-maṅgala*, by Locana Dāsa Ṭhākura. He writes, "Lord Caitanya said, 'I will flood the whole world with the chanting of the holy name. I will personally flood India with *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, and my *senāpati-bhakta* [commander-in-chief devotee] will appear in order to preach in foreign countries and flood the world with the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa.'" Time has proved that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are that *senāpati-bhakta*.

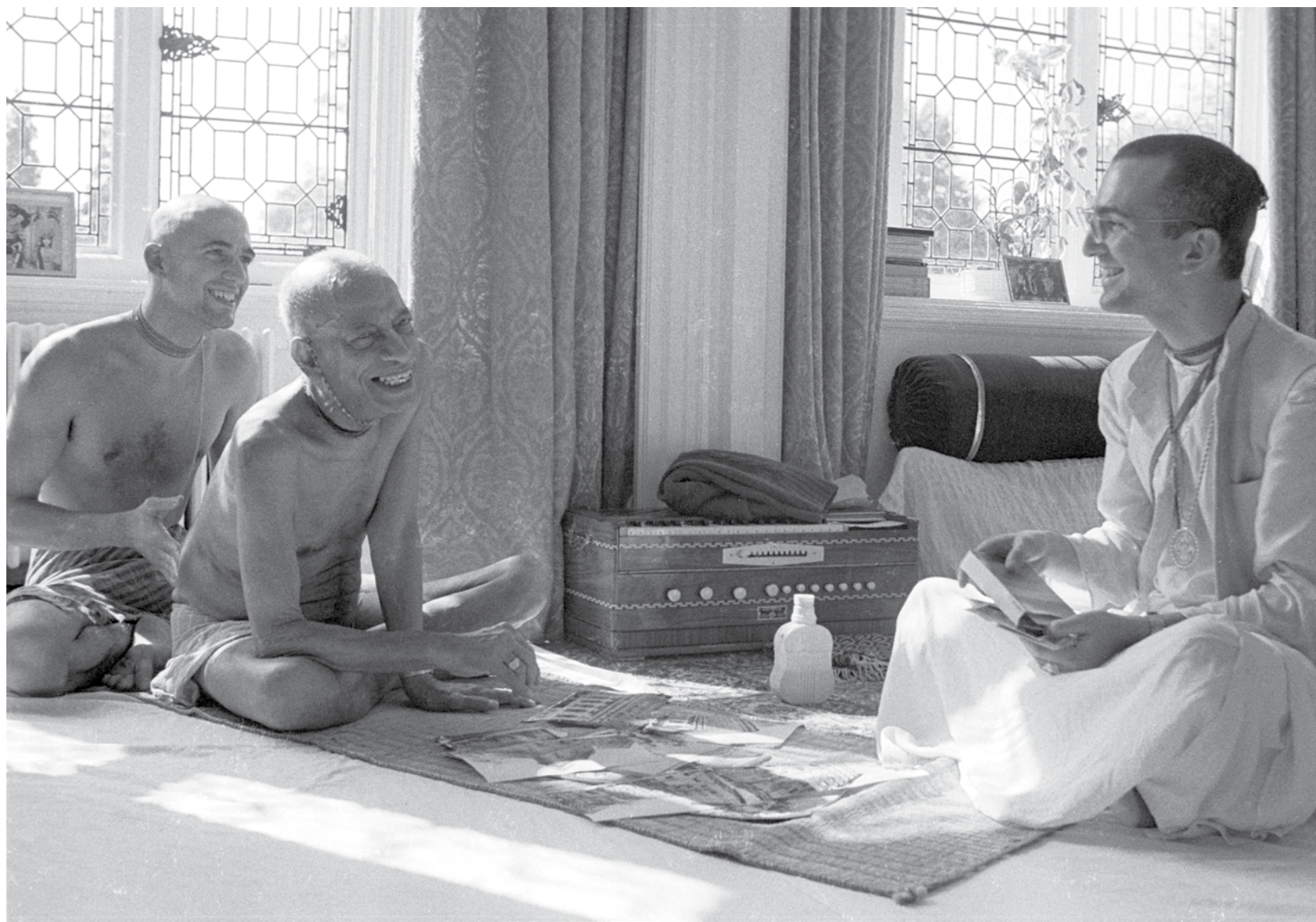
O Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always consider yourself the humble servant of your spiritual master. You consider all your success to be due to the mercy of your guru and the predecessor *ācāryas*. You have taught us how to take shelter of the spiritual master and how to become a good disciple. The Supreme Lord Himself taught the same when He appeared on earth. You taught us that the spiritual master is the representative of the Supreme Lord, His external manifestation.

Your great personality is like a combination of two other holy personalities: Nārada Muni and Śrīla Vyāsadeva. You rightfully hold the title Bhaktivedanta, since it is as if Śrī Vyāsadeva has appeared in you to reestablish Vedic knowledge. Nārada Muni, "the transcendental spacemen," always travels to all the universes and, accompanied by his *vīṇā*, glorifies the holy name of Lord Nārāyaṇa. So, similarly, your success in spreading Lord Kṛṣṇa's holy name around the whole world leads us to suspect that Nārada Muni may have manifested himself through your personality.

At an age when people usually retire, you very enthusiastically preached Kṛṣṇa consciousness in many countries around the world and continually wrote books that destroy the nescience of the Age of Kali.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we can feel your wonderful influence nourishing the spirituality of the world. Physically you are not present now, but your influence can be increasingly felt as your teachings continue to be spread through distribution of your books and through other means. As Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura wrote on the tomb of Haridāsa Ṭhākura:

Homages from ISKCON Centers





Homages from ISKCON Centers

He reasons ill who tells that Vaiṣṇavas die
When thou art living still in sound!
The Vaiṣṇavas dies to live and, living,
Try to spread the holy name around!

Empowered by the Supreme Lord, you have published many books to help us in our spiritual life in this Kali-yuga. You know all about the bad qualities of Kali-yuga, such as ignorance, so without your books how could we become enlightened? That's why you always stressed the publication and distribution of your books. You humbly said, "If you love me, please distribute my books."

In addition to your books, you built a house in which the whole world can live: ISKCON. ISKCON is your body, you said, and since your body is pure, ISKCON is also pure. If one thinks that ISKCON is material, one can easily lose faith in ISKCON and eventually leave ISKCON. ISKCON is like a big boat in the middle of the ocean of *māyā* that is taking humanity to the world without suffering. And you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the captain of that boat.

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, we believe you are a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra* for this age, delivering us from the illusion of ignorance. You have prepared everything for us: books, ISKCON, and your representatives, whom you have sent to every country. In Indonesia there are now several preaching centers and temples. Here in Bali we have the Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurāṅga Ashram, where the presiding Deities are Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurāṅga, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha, the main Deities. All this is possible only by your causeless mercy.

On this auspicious day we beg that you always take care of us by sending your representatives to guide us so that we will be able to cooperate to increase our devotional service to Guru and Kṛṣṇa.

The devotees at the Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurāṅga temple in Baha, Bali, Indonesia.

(written by Śrutadeva Dāsa)

Bangkok

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We feel most fortunate to have the chance to glorify you and all of your achievements. Most of all we thank you for bringing us to the path of devotional service to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. We know that we are not at all qualified but that it is all your causeless mercy. We pray that we can establish your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement here in Thailand.

You once gave some instructions regarding preaching here. Although you had planned to visit here, somehow your plans changed and you could not come. But in a letter dated 14 December 1974, you sent a message to the people of Bangkok. You wrote:

The Krishna Consciousness mission is not sectarian. We want to do what the United Nations has failed to do. The human form of body is an opportunity for solving all the problems of life. Through evolution we come to the human life for solving this problem. The real problem is the repetition of birth, death, disease, and old age.

But there is another status of life where there is no birth, death, disease, and old age. The Krishna Consciousness movement is the means for promoting the human being to that status. This is a great science, and it is elaborately explained in the Bhagavad-gita.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2011

More instruction came in a room conversation at the French farm community in 1976, related in volume 3 of Hari Śauri Prabhu's *Transcendental Diary*:

Prabhupāda said that formerly Thailand was known as Siam, which means “Śyāma,” a name for Kṛṣṇa. “So they are devotees originally,” he said. He also mentioned that they manufacture very nice *mūrtis* of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Since Thailand is now predominantly Buddhist, Yogeśvara wondered whether they might object to someone preaching what they may construe to be Hinduism.

“Don't establish Deity,” Prabhupāda told him. “Talk on philosophy.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are just now preparing to reprint your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in Thai, and we pray that with these books we can attract many Thai people to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We beg your blessings in this attempt. May we remain free of material desire so that we can properly represent you and the glorious tradition of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Begging to remain in your service,

The devotees at ISKCON Bangkok, Thailand.

(written by Bhakti-vighna-vināśa Narasimha Mahārāja)

Baroda

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this 115th anniversary of your appearance day, kindly accept our humble plea to remain your servants, in the service of your ISKCON.

ISKCON Baroda, just one tiny branch of the worldwide institution that you began forty-five years ago, is one of ISKCON India's larger centers, a center where hundreds visit every day for the *darśana* of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmsundara, Śrī Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Devī, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

On our six-acre campus are Their Lordships' temple, a *gośālā* with forty-five cows, calves and bulls, a Govinda's restaurant, a Govinda's snack bar, a gift shop, a twenty-five room guesthouse, and two large community halls for both in-house and rental functions.

ISKCON Baroda is famous in Baroda city for its two major annual festivals, Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā and Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī. We are happy to report that these festivals attract the participation of Baroda's political leaders from both major parties, as well as tremendous local press coverage.

ISKCON Baroda celebrates most major Vaiṣṇava festivals with massive *prasādam* distribution, often feeding up to thirty thousand visitors. And every day after the *sandhyā ārati* we distribute *prasādam* to hundreds of members of the visiting public, in front of the temple.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

ISKCON Baroda has a very active congregational and youth preaching program, and a number of newcomers regularly attend lectures, temple festivals, and even the daily temple functions. They do regular *harināma saṅkīrtana* and book distribution at various places in the city.

We know that we are far from perfect and can improve the temple campus in several ways. We are planning to continue to gradually increase the beauty and functionality of the six-acre campus, which you have mercifully given us to manage.

Your humble servants here pray that you continue to bless our humble efforts from your abode in the spiritual world, so that ISKCON Baroda can increase the success that we have experienced in the eleven years since the inauguration of the temple on the auspicious day of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, 1999.

With the utmost humility and gratefulness for the service you have so mercifully given us, we remain

Your servants at ISKCON Baroda, India.

(written by Bāsu Ghosh Dāsa)

Bologna

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet, which are still traveling throughout this world in the form of your books, saving it from the tidal wave of the Kali-yuga.

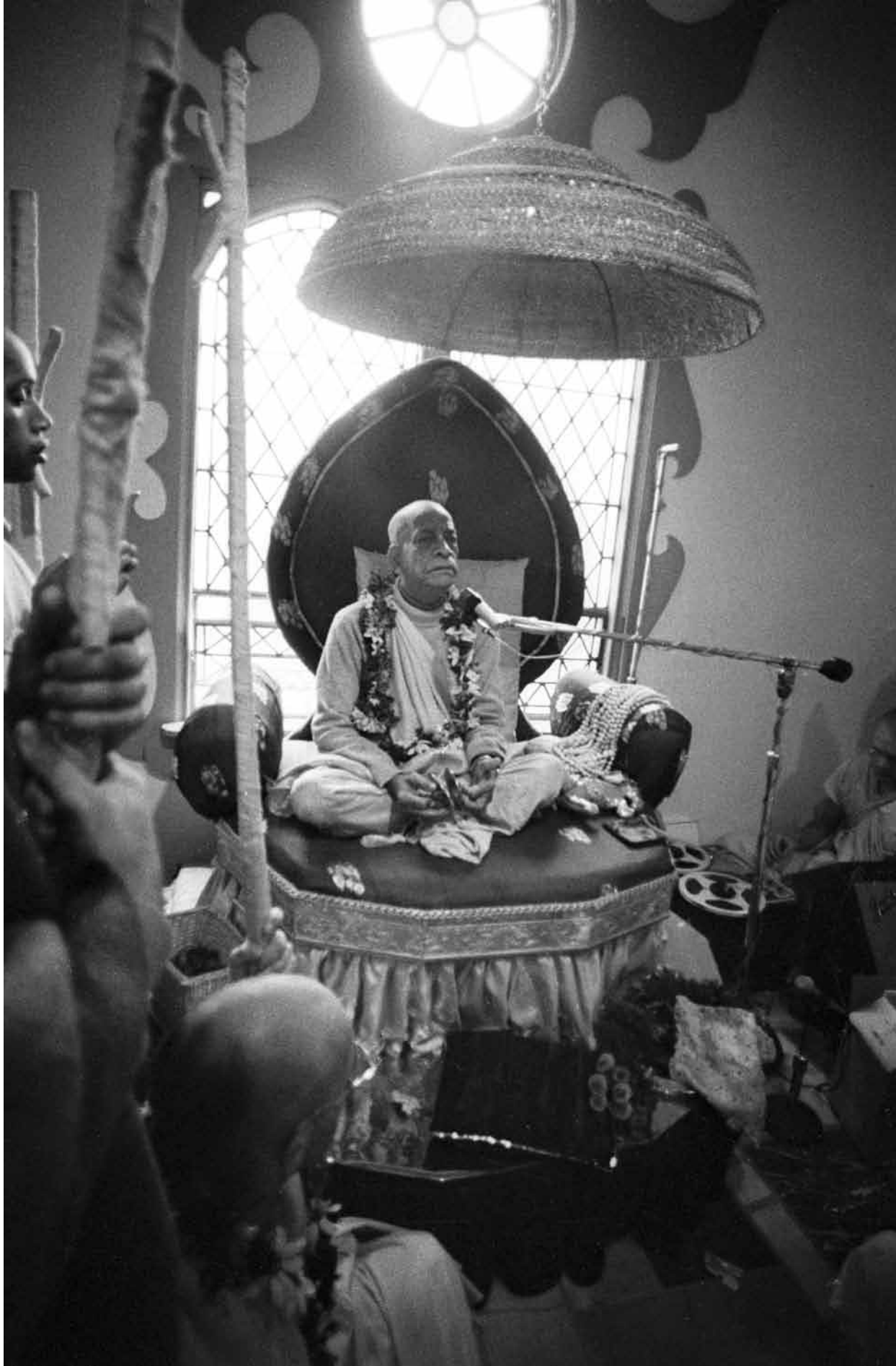
In this remote little place we are trying to spread your teachings through your books. We are taxing our tiny brains, trying to find novel ways to attract new people to our little preaching center, called Centro Vaikuntha. The people here are suffering so much anxiety due to the ever-increasing pressures of Kali-yuga, and we are sure that if they come in contact with you they will experience the Vaikunṭha atmosphere and become free from anxiety.

This city is home to the oldest university in the Western world, and therefore it has a great number of atheists and speculators. So it is a good field to conquer. In March of 1972 you wrote to me when I lived in the temple in Berkeley, a university town much like Bologna:

That is one of our most important branches, especially because it is located just in a very large university area, well known in your country as a famous seat of learning. So now it will be very important to flood Berkeley city with our books and literatures, because if we can convince the intelligent class of men of our Krishna philosophy, then our success for changing the position of your country and the rest of the world from a very dangerous condition is assured.

You once called the modern schools slaughterhouses, and here we can see how true that is. The students' spiritual nature is being systematically destroyed; therefore they fall to the most degraded materialistic life. You gave the solution for this most fallen student class in another letter to me concerning preaching in Berkeley:

I am pleased to know that all of you are enthusiastically engaged in distributing our books. In this modern Godless civilization, everyone is greatly suffering due to lack of the real knowledge of Krishna consciousness, and our task is very great and very important. We must deliver this pure science of God to everyone and give them the chance to make their lives successful. [5 May 1972]



Homages from ISKCON Centers

Then, even though I was so uneducated, you sent me to another university city—Boston—and wrote to me again, showing how concerned you were with recruiting some good men from the educated class. They are not easy to deal with, but they have the greatest potential to do something for this movement. You wrote:

Recruit some educated men from the colleges, schools in Boston, train them up for preaching mission, in this way develop the quality of your men to be the most surrendered servants of Kṛṣṇa. That will please Kṛṣṇa, and you will feel also yourself becoming more and more happy in perfecting your life. [27 December 1972]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Kṛṣṇa will be pleased only if you are pleased. You gave us clear directions on how to please you: to give up all personal considerations and give our life and soul to carrying on this mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In addition to book distribution, we do a weekly *harināma* right through the university area, when all the students are out after the week's classes are over. Our one devotee who was once a student here is in his turn finding novel ways to introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the students. We hope the little efforts of all the devotees here please you in some way, since that is the only goal of our lives—to see you smile on us.

Your servants at the ISKCON yātrā in Bologna, Italy.

(written by Trai Dāsa)

Brahmapur

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̐ iti nāmine*

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your causeless mercy the devotees of ISKCON Brahmapur made you a fine new wooden *vyāsāsana*, with a peacock theme. Visiting devotees find your *vyāsāsana* very pleasing and also feel your physical presence in this temple. Indeed, here you are the center of attraction for everyone.

Our main temple construction work has reached up to the first floor, one floor above ground level. For the second floor up to roof level, all the pillars are ready. This year we hope to finish all concrete construction work up to the dome level. Then, step by step, we will try to complete the interior, by your mercy.

Since your great desire was that we distribute as many of your books as possible, we are trying our best to distribute more and more of your books to the general public and life members.

We, the temple devotees, congregational devotees, and well-wishers in Brahmapur, pray at your lotus feet on this 115th anniversary of your auspicious appearance day. Please shower your mercy on us so that we can finish our temple project as soon as possible.

The devotees of ISKCON Brahmapur, Orissa, India.

Brampton

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

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

Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Where do we begin? How can we ever show our complete gratitude? Why have you been so merciful to us all? We can never truly comprehend the answers to these questions, and we can also never fully reciprocate all that you have given us. We've been so blessed to have you and your legacy around us in so many ways—from your books, to your disciples, to your philosophy, to your establishments, and mostly to the imprints that you have left in society right up until today. Hope for a better, God-conscious future seems possible when we think of you, and achievable with your guidance. Our desire to go back home, back to Godhead, has arisen only by your mercy. Your courage, along with your passion to serve Lord Caitanya and His mission, has left an impression in so many ways and has taught us to be fearless as we pick up the armor of the holy name and use it to defend against the illusionary energy of this material world.

You did this all not only to serve your guru, going above and beyond an ordinary person's capacities, but also to help us mere mortals who were clueless until we caught a glimpse of your energy and efforts.

Our congregation has had the good fortune of being established near a city, Toronto, where you once left your mark and which has become one of the main hubs for Kṛṣṇa consciousness in North America. Some of your great followers in Toronto have brought together devotees in the suburb where we dwell and helped us form another stand-alone Kṛṣṇa conscious center.

From the days of traveling a long distance to the only temple in the Toronto area, to renting a nearby gymnasium one morning a week, to eventually being able to lease a building we now call the Bhaktivedanta Cultural Centre—none of this would have been possible if you were not the shining example you are. A good portion of our congregation consists of couples investing in their children's future by having them attend our Sunday school, which is based on the Vedic educational philosophy you set out for us. The success of our school has generated attendance numbers that are already starting to surpass our immediate adult congregation. Just as you've taught us, we see that our children are the future of this movement, and their determination and hard work have forced us to raise our own devotional standards so as to ensure that we are doing a diligent job as leaders and, more importantly, servants.

Through attrition, we have felt the challenge of accepting the fact that some of our senior members, who were the core of our congregation and who helped pioneer what you represented, are moving on to bigger projects to help spread the holy name. For those of us who were spiritually guided by them, their absence has forced us to raise our own devotional standards.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, not only have you left us your magnificent institution, ISKCON, but you are currently teaching us to grow and accept our responsibility, as you beautifully explain in your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. Not only are we trying to continue to serve you and carry forward all that you demonstrated, but we want to serve all those who have served you and granted us the opportunities we now have to perform devotional service. Our congregation has grown and matured devotionally and really begun to identify themselves as servants of the servant. Now that we have established ourselves as one of your many ISKCON centers in the world, we are attempting to take what you've taught us out to others in any way we can. Devotees have stepped up to ensure that we are not only preserving our Sunday program but also taking care of our congregation as best as we can. They are adamant to serve you to the best of their abilities, and our devotional services team is making sure that not only are we well prepared for Sunday's and festivals but that we are also utilizing our Fridays and eventually other

Homages from ISKCON Centers

days of the week so that we are all well prepared and inspired to perform some form of *saṅkīrtana* in the region of Peel. The desire of the congregation is pushing us to go beyond the perimeter of the temple, and their sincerity is lifting us above the walls that house our Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara. Now all we need is the dedication, determination, and enthusiasm you demonstrated—and, of course, your blessings and mercy.

We beg at your lotus feet that the streets of Brampton, Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington, and eventually Milton can hear the joyous chanting of the *mahā-mantra* and get a glimpse of your army, whose mission it is to take us all out of our misery by chanting:

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare
Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for connecting us to Lord Kṛṣṇa and inspiring us to connect others to Him also. Even though most of our congregation never had the opportunity to meet you when you were on this earth, your name, your books, and your devotees make you more tangible than we ever thought possible.

We can never repay the debt we owe you for saving us from a bleak, miserable existence and giving us the opportunity to purify ourselves—in body, mind, and soul. We pray that we may remain forever at the shelter of your lotus feet. Please continue to guide us, and bless us so that we may grow stronger and stronger in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and spread the holy name of Kṛṣṇa further and wider, as you wanted us to.

Your congregation at ISKCON Brampton, Canada.

Brisbane

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

Year after year we hear the story of how you spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the whole world. But it seems that as time passes and we mature, the story only becomes more astonishing. We grow older and often seek comfort and solace in these times, but in 1966, at the age of seventy, you wrote:

I am here alone without any devotee companion. But I have come here to serve the Lord and not for personal happiness. I am prepared to live in hell even if I am able to serve the Lord. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu wanted that this mission should be propagated all over the world and that is my objective. I do not mind the inconvenience personally felt. ACB

For this statement alone, we owe you lifetimes of gratitude and service. Lord Caitanya mercifully gave *bhakti*, the highest, to the people of this fallen age, the lowest. But it was you specifically who delivered His mercy to us. Your actions are unique and unparalleled in the history of the world. Not only did you come for us, fearless and fully surrendered, but you were so kind and had such attractive personal qualities that it was easy to become attached to you and serve you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our greatest hero. We offer you our humblest obeisances, and our hearts.

Your servants at ISKCON Brisbane, Australia.

Canberra

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Today is Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, the day set aside for honoring the representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva. The representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva sits on the *vyāsāsana*, the seat of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, and is part of an unbroken disciplic succession. The spiritual master, having heard and realized the transcendental message, and acting under the direction of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, delivers the fallen souls from the network of *māyā*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are your followers at ISKCON Canberra, Australia, and although our temple is quite small we are trying to use to the best advantage the facilities that Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa has provided. We have nine thousand square meters of land in a prime location in Canberra, and we are planning to build a new community center and temple there in the future.

We are trying to follow your teachings on how to become Kṛṣṇa conscious, how to reactivate that which we've lost due to our contact with *māyā*. We are holding festivals and coming together in a spirit of co-operation, trying to create a spiritual atmosphere of *sādhū-saṅga* to carry on the mission of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We all feel the beneficial effects of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, and our understanding of what is matter and what is spirit is deepening as transcendental knowledge is revealed to us. Of course, we are in our infancy as devotees and are struggling to become free from *māyā*, but this struggle is the greatest thing that a human being can do.

Previously, before coming in contact with you, we did not know this. We were not aware of the value of the human form of life—we were not taking advantage of this gift. We were lost as in a dream, thinking illusion to be reality.

So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we owe our lives to you alone. We owe everything to you for the bounty we have received.

Thank you for going to America on the *Jaladuta*, thank you for your determination and for your vision of how to reach those who had never heard of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Thank you for Ratha-yātrā, thank you for the Deity of the Lord, thank you for your books, thank you for the recordings of your *bhajans*, and thank you for devotee association. And most of all, thank you for the holy name.

On this great occasion, our collective prayer is to always be able to remember you, the one who gave us Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Canberra, Australia.

(written by Svayambhur Dāsa)





Cape Town

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It is not easy for ordinary conditioned living entities such as ourselves to estimate your glories, but we welcome the opportunity to make this offering to you based on whatever little realization we may have. We consider this a wonderful opportunity for our purification.

While thinking of your glories, we decided to take help from Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī. In the second chapter of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta's Antya-līlā*, he informs us that Lord Kṛṣṇa, in the form of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, descended to this world to deliver all the living entities of this universe. He further describes that He caused their deliverance in three ways: He delivered the fallen souls in some places by meeting them directly, in other places by empowering a pure devotee, and in still other places by appearing before someone Himself. Later in the chapter, Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Goswami says: "To deliver the people in regions throughout the universe who could not meet Him, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu personally entered the bodies of pure devotees."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it seems to us that Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has entered your body. Your monumental achievements prove it. Specifically, you have achieved what even Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself did not do. Lord Caitanya spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement all over India while He was present, but you have fulfilled His own prediction that His name would be chanted in every town and village all over the world. From the fact that Lord Caitanya reserved this glory for you, we can understand how dear you must be to Him. This, however, is not the full extent of your glory.

It is said that a man's greatness is measured not by his achievements while present in this world but by his influence once he has departed. By this definition, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your true glory becomes clearly visible. Even after your departure from this world, you continue to influence the souls of Kali-yuga to take up the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and purify their lives. This you achieve through the agency of your books, and it is truly miraculous. But there is more. Your glorious ISKCON society provides the environment where everyone can come to gain shelter from the blazing fire of Kali-yuga, to benefit from the association of devotees and make spiritual progress. ISKCON is your *āśrama*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and your *āśrama* extends all over the world. Therefore you have been designated *jagat-guru*, the guru for the whole world.

In the *āśrama* of the guru, he is naturally the most prominent personality. This is the proper understanding in ISKCON also. Therefore you insisted on the title founder-*ācārya*. Not to gain personal prominence, but to protect your *āśrama* after your departure. Also, in the *āśrama* of the guru everyone naturally has a close relationship with him. In ISKCON this is also the case, for those that want it. It is a mistake to think that it is impossible to have a close relationship with you today because you are no longer physically present. You are available in many ways. You yourself said, "If you want to know me, read my books." You are also very much present in your *mūrti* form, watching over us like a loving father. Another wonderful way to have a close relationship with you is through your followers. All our own spiritual fathers, along with our spiritual uncles, bring your presence so close through their remembrances and realizations. They amplify your presence and illuminate your moment-by-moment influence and guidance. They allow us to come close to you in ways that would otherwise be impossible.

Another way that we can understand your designation as *jagat-guru* is that in a broad historical sense you are the current *ācārya* who guides the destiny of the community of Vaiṣṇavas. An *ācārya* is understood as one who teaches not only by instruction but by his own personal example. Therefore the term *ācārya* is used to indicate a bona-fide spiritual master—a learned teacher of the spiritual science. But in the highest sense, the *ācārya* is the soul sent by Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself to teach the whole world. This is the truest sense of the term as it is applied to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All those who wish to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the most perfect way must validate their realizations and conclusions in reference to your teachings.

By careful analysis of your life and teachings, we cannot but come to the conclusion that Śrī Caitanya

Mahāprabhu has personally empowered you to reveal in the clearest and best way the Lord's desire for this world. Also that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, embody most perfectly the Supreme Lord's mission in this world in the current age.

These statements represent our broad understanding of your glories, but on a deeply personal level there are so many things that we want to say to you. We want to thank you so much for revealing our own spiritual fathers to us. We have no doubt that this is completely your mercy. We feel so blessed by our glorious spiritual fathers and so many spiritual uncles. We also feel blessed that you are easily and so personally available in your books, in your *mūrti* form, and through your followers. We feel so blessed to be part of your ISKCON, your *āśrama*.

It is true that so many blessings are there when one is a member of your ISKCON *āśrama*. It is also true that for *āśrama* members there are responsibilities. It seems to us that the responsibility we have to you, our own spiritual masters, our spiritual uncles, and the previous *ācāryas* is essentially quite simple. Namely, that having realized something of your glories and the incredible mercy you are offering us, we must try to connect others to that mercy. We must become your goodwill ambassadors, Śrīla Prabhupāda, "transparent via media" to you. We know that no one can spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness without the mercy of Lord Caitanya. We also know that you are undoubtedly very close to Him. Therefore, we are hoping that you will kindly ask Him if we might be allowed to do something to spread His mission.

Your servants at ISKCON Cape Town, South Africa.

Chandigarh

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Once again we have the opportunity to directly glorify Your Divine Grace. Though the opportunity to glorify you is there at every moment if we live by your guidelines, still, being able to write of your oceanic qualities in a Vyāsa-pūjā homage is special.

Recently His Holiness Bhakti Cāru Swami, one of your wonderful disciples, visited Chandigarh. He emphasized that ISKCON was founded by you not to last for a few years but for ten thousand years. Therefore the teachings in your books are meant to be applied not only to our lives but to the lives of many, many generations of devotees to come. This is one reason why His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami, our GBC, pushes us to increase book distribution every year. In the 2010 marathon we achieved the highest score in the history of our Chandigarh center, distributing over 26,000 copies of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, all by your blessings and the enthusiastic encouragement of Gopāl Krishna Mahārāja.

Sometimes we cannot understand the importance of book distribution, but as we read your purports more and more, we understand the value of your books more and more. The message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, explained in your purports, is clear and consistent, i.e., to render uninterrupted loving devotional service unto the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa without any expectation of profit, material or spiritual. Just to quote a few examples:

Homages from ISKCON Centers

The supreme occupation [dharma] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.6, translation]

The real perfection of life is therefore to be engaged in the transcendental loving service of the Lord. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.7.48, purport]

In pure devotional service, the only motive should be to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead. That is not actually a motive; that is the pure condition of the living entity. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.29.8, purport]

Another senior devotee who recently visited our center explained that it is only by your mercy that the understanding of Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead is so clear and so easily available to us. As seen from the few quotations above, you always focus on the goal, i.e., rendering pure devotional service, without compromise. As the saying goes, “You can lead others to where you yourself are prepared to go.” Since you are an unflinching servitor of your spiritual master and Kṛṣṇa, you can carry the whole world on the wave of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Otherwise, even in India, in the name of so-called Hinduism, so much hodge-podge goes on. There is no clarity, no focus. Some give importance to various demigods, lumping in Viṣṇu and Kṛṣṇa among them, and others get absorbed in performing rituals for some material return. But hardly anyone is teaching the concept of loving devotional service to Kṛṣṇa. Many advocate vegetarianism, cow protection, preserving nature, etc., but where is the stress on pure love for Kṛṣṇa alone? It is only by your causeless mercy that we have access to this divine knowledge. You have meticulously chalked out our path, by choosing very carefully what is to be given and what is not.

Although you were busy with so many services—spreading the movement far and wide, managing the Society, managing individual temple projects, dealing with devotees’ personal issues, responding to challenges from governments and other sources—still you always gave priority to the dictation of your Bhaktivedanta purports, since this was the direct instruction from your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Knowing the importance of these books, you sacrificed your sleep and just dictated your Bhaktivedanta purports.

O dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! Please shower your causeless mercy on us so that we can also bathe in the nectar of your purports, relish them, digest them, apply them in our lives, and distribute them to others.

Congregational preaching is increasing in our center, with regular structured courses. Also, devotees are getting strength from senior devotees who visit. A Bhakti Śāstrī course is being conducted by devotees from the Māyāpur Institute of Higher Education (MIHE). Forty devotees, including temple *brahmacārīs* and congregational members, are taking advantage of this highly enlivening spiritual course. This is our humble attempt to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, since you always wanted your followers to be well versed in the *śāstras*.

Youth preaching in the temple and at colleges is gradually expanding, and we have many young devotees practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness under your shelter. We are also catering to the spiritual needs of young girls and small children through the IYF girls program and the Bhakta Prahlad School, respectively.

On this divine day of your appearance, we beg your blessings so we may fulfill your mission successfully. The blessings of the spiritual master cure the disciple of the disease of ignorance and lethargy and empower him to preach. Please bless us so that we can understand your teachings in truth and become useful instruments in your hands to spread the mission of your spiritual master.

Yours servants at ISKCON Chandigarh, India.

Czech Republic

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Please accept our most humble obeisances.

There is nothing new to be said. Everything is in my books. Therefore, if you want to know me, read my books.

So there is nothing new to be said. Whatever I have to speak, I have spoken in my books. Now you try to understand it and continue your endeavor. Whether I am present or not present, it doesn't matter.

My books will be the law books for the next ten thousand years

These quotes resound deeply in our hearts, enlivening us with the certainty that we will always have Your Divine Grace's association as long we read, study, contemplate, and accept everything you said, without the slightest doubt, second thought, or hesitation.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your purports are clear, straightforward, and unequivocal. The same points are repeated again and again, and are further confirmed in your lectures and your conversations with disciples and guests. You explain every principle from all sides, with numerous examples. Thus the unique philosophy of the soul's relationship with the Supreme Lord is expounded by His dearmost servant, following in the footsteps of the previous *ācāryas*.

Increasing faith in your words compels us to please you and to surrender our life to your desire.

There is no greater pleasure than discussing your plans, visions, ideas, and instructions and in this way discovering how they apply to every aspect of our lives. There is no greater pleasure than reading your words glorifying Kṛṣṇa and His devotees. Your books are alive, filled with transcendental potency, always available as our best friend. Living with your books, we are never alone, for we have the best possible association in the three worlds.

We are confident that imbibing from Your Divine Grace your knowledge, values, principles, and mood of complete surrender will place us under the shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord.

Please bless us that we never forget that success in Kṛṣṇa consciousness means becoming completely dependent on your mercy so that we can become fully dedicated devotees wherever we are. Please give us the intelligence to think, decide, and act as you would, leaving aside our own ideas and plans born of ignorance.

Let us never forget your words but rather keep them always alive and fresh in our hearts. In this way we will repeat them with full realization for the benefit of the upcoming generations of your students.

Your servants at Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Navadvīpacandra Mandir, Czech Republic.

(written by Narākriti Dāsa)

Debrecen

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Today is your Vyāsa-pūjā, celebrated every year by your devotees all over the world. Although most devotees here in Hungary know you only through the teachings you have given in your books and through the memories of your disciples, these devotees have been serving you with wonderful enthusiasm since the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement began here. At this time of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we express our gratitude to you for the chance you gave us to perfect our lives.

You traveled on the *Jaladuta* in very difficult conditions just to bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West. During the twelve years you preached in the Western countries, you carefully trained your disciples, some of whom are now able to lead us in spiritual life. Just to look after us, you arranged for your grandchildren to be guided by your disciples just as your disciples were personally guided by you.

Our guides follow you systematically, consistently, and unwaveringly, and they don't do anything else. They don't want to change the process; they don't want to add to it or take anything away from it. Just as you translated the *Bhagavad-gītā* "as it is," they follow the devotional process "as it is," teaching us by their own simple and pure example. And from this simplicity and purity they get unbelievable spiritual strength. Our greatest good fortune is that one of your followers came to Hungary and, out of his mercy, gave us the opportunity to join this wonderful spiritual movement. If we put faith in and follow his advice and do what he asks, we can also go home, back to Godhead.

We try to follow you through our authorities here in Debrecen. We understand that Kṛṣṇa consciousness can spread if devotees who do not live in a temple show that it is possible to lead an exemplary family life and be Kṛṣṇa conscious at the same time. Therefore we founded a little cultural center where we can practice and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and we also began a restaurant that provides *prasādam* for the fallen souls. We just try to do our duty, and because the congregational devotees conjointly founded and now support a preaching center and a restaurant, we have become an example in the Hungarian *yātrā*. To tell the truth, we don't really understand why it works, but we experience that Kṛṣṇa reciprocates with our tiniest attempt to follow your follower, to do what he asks, and we get everything we need for our preaching.

Whatever we have now is all due to your love for the fallen souls and your sincere desire to save us through Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please give us your mercy so we can hear and follow your followers and develop our service.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your fallen servants in Debrecen, Hungary.

Denpasar

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, late in life, when most men stay home with their family, you set out to fulfill the order of your spiritual master to spread the knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. Thus you spent your life in the best way.

In the *Caitanya-bhāgavata* Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu predicted that “In as many towns and villages as there are on the surface of the earth, My holy name will be preached.” Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura predicted that there would appear a great personality who would spread the teachings of Lord Caitanya in the West. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you fulfilled that prediction, spreading *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* all over the world.

You built a house in which the entire world can live in peace. You are the true spiritual master for this universe. A *śaktyāveśa avatāra*, you have been empowered to save the human race. By reading your transcended books, millions of people have come to understand their real constitutional position and have gotten answers to life’s most important questions: “Who am I?” “Who is God?” “What is the goal of life?” By your oceanic mercy, the world is awakening from her long sleep.

Your books are truly a matchless gift, the guidebooks and lawbooks for the next ten thousand years. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!!

Your devotees in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.

(written by Padma Locana Dāsa)

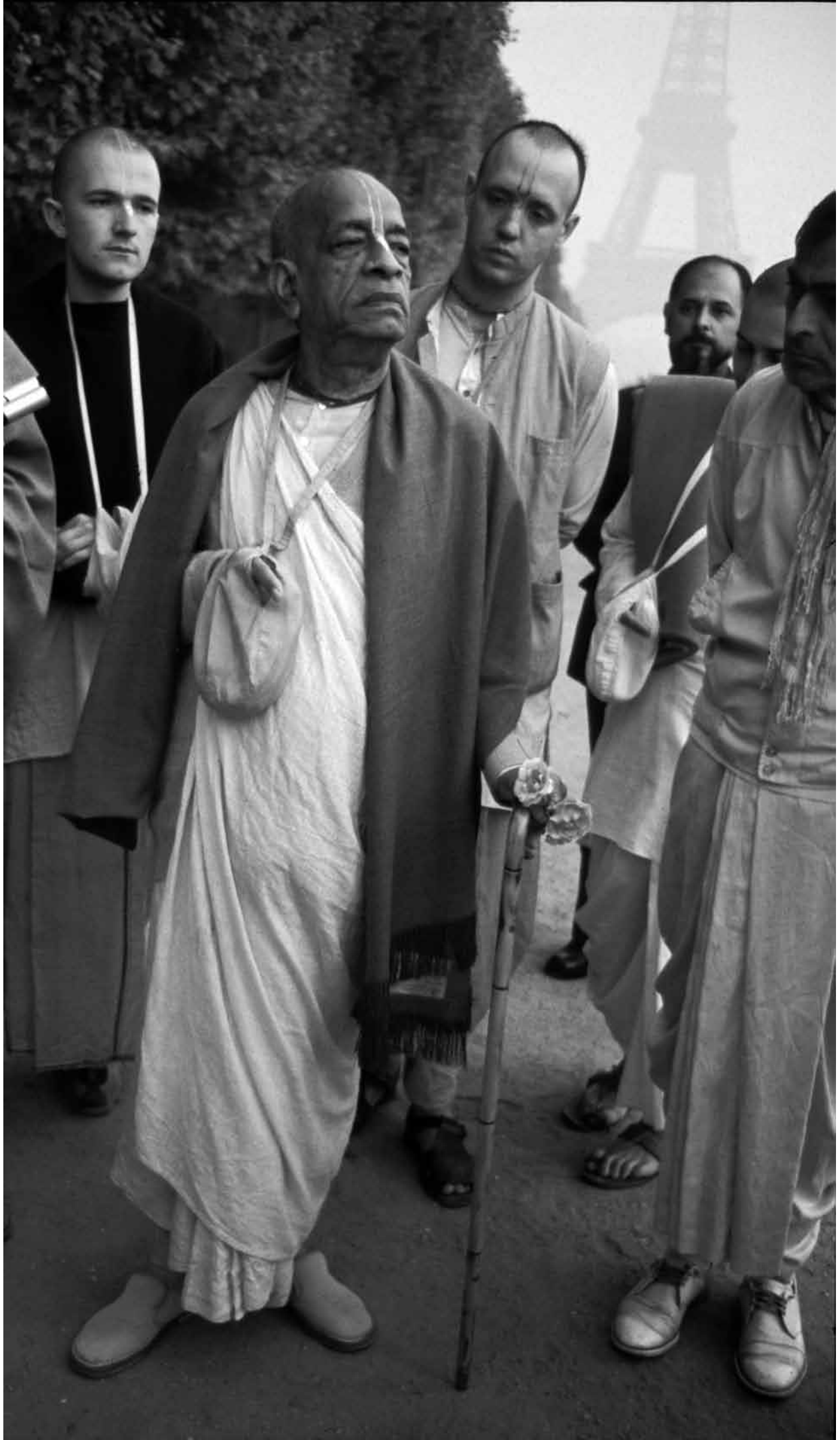
Durban

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha.

The devotees at your Rādhā-Rādhānātha Temple are always trying to fulfill your desires. You are so full of compassion and love for the conditioned souls that you tried to give every living entity an opportunity to be engaged in devotional service. Somehow, all of us serving here are trying in some little way to fulfill your desires. We would like to mention a few.

We are very blessed that you came to South Africa in 1975. During that visit you met Professor S. P. Olivier from the University of Durban Westville. In your lecture you stressed how the living entity is different from the body, and somehow, by your mercy, he seemed to understand this point. He expressed the view that there should be a detailed study of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, and when you asked him to allow a devotee to teach this spiritual subject matter at the university, he agreed. Our devotees had some discussions with the head of the religious studies department at the university, and we are happy to



report that your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* has been used as a standard textbook over the years. Students from many different backgrounds have studied your *Bhagavad-gītā*, and we have received an amazing response from them. Since your visit, the preaching on this campus, as well as at other educational institutions, has increased tremendously. Devotees who study at these institutions have formed the Bhakti Yoga Society, which hosts eight programs weekly on six campuses around Durban. To cater to the students who reside in dorms on campus, two programs are held in the evening. Attractive festivals are held, such as music festivals featuring talented young devotees and food festivals featuring *prasādam*. Twice a year we organize a retreat for students, where they have a chance to get a deeper insight into Kṛṣṇa consciousness and develop relationships with devotees. The success attained in preaching at the various educational institutions around the country is evidence of the importance of college preaching.

You once said that *Back to Godhead* magazine was the backbone of your Society. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the temple has a team of dedicated devotees responsible for the distribution of magazines. In the course of doing so, they have endeavored to bring new people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness (visitors to the temple, people we meet on the streets, friends and family, etc.) and engage them in devotional service. They have a list of approximately one hundred people who are engaged in the packing the BTG magazines. Many have started chanting the holy names, embracing the process of devotional service seriously.

Recently there have been many health fairs, well-being fairs, and astrology fairs in Durban. We have taken advantage of such opportunities to distribute books and magazines. These fairs are becoming very popular and attract a wide spectrum of society; we will increase our efforts to distribute books at such venues.

Our annual BTG Marathon and Durban Beachfront Festival of the Chariots are the yearly highlights for intense preaching and distribution of books and BTG magazines. Every year has seen an increase in distribution. In the course of the year, we arrange donor cultivation programs, in which we present a full Kṛṣṇa consciousness program (*kīrtana* and *ārati*, class, *prasādam*) where a significant number of donors live. At these programs, donors and their immediate families can experience intense Kṛṣṇa consciousness. These programs also allow us to personally interact with our donors, the result of which is sometimes increased monthly donations. The team also makes personal visits to donors' homes to offer them *prasādam*. Donors are touched by this effort.

You began crying in Māyāpur when you noticed that children were beating off dogs with sticks to get remnants of *prasādam* devotees had left on their plates. You said, "Nobody within a ten-mile radius of our temple should go hungry." Our devotees are trying to the best of their abilities to apply that principle here and serve *prasādam* without discrimination. Our recent *prasādam* distribution at the various campuses has attracted many students to enquire about the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is clearly evident that *prasādam* is one of your important weapons to attract people to the process.

Your Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture has been expanding over the years, and I'm sure you'll be happy to learn that through the efforts of the College many academics and professionals are studying your books. Prisoners have also enrolled in courses at your College through the mail. It is indeed inspiring to see that they painstakingly complete their assignments. Recently a prisoner who had seriously taken to the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and been released began serving at your BBT House in Johannesburg.

To help your institution function in a smooth and efficient manner, our Rādhā-Rādhānātha Temple management has organized strategic planning meetings. Devotees with various abilities were chosen to participate in these meetings, and it is pleasing to report meaningful progress. As you said, organization and intelligence are important factors for your movement to continue.

On this auspicious day we all beg for your mercy and pray that you give us the intelligence necessary to execute devotional service purely.

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your servants at the Rādhā-Rādhānātha Temple, Durban, South Africa.

(written by Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

East Hartford

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Our most humble obeisances to you on this auspicious day of your appearance.

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, as we do every year, we reflect on so many of your wonderful pastimes. The devotees who had your personal association here on earth are getting fewer, and hearing the nectar from them is becoming even more precious. Here in East Hartford we have been most fortunate, with visits from so many of your disciples, each one of them inspiring so many in our congregation to serve Kṛṣṇa and hear more and more about Him.

This year several of your *bhakta-vṛnda* who have been inspired by your teachings through the years had the good fortune of receiving initiation from your beloved Nirañjana Swami. Everyone was ecstatic, and the initiations were witnessed by a large gathering of devotees joyful for the new initiates. Your mercy is so widespread that it sweeps even the most unfortunate souls into the good fortune of your association. Receiving help from your early disciples, listening to their stories about you, witnessing their examples, and associating with you through your books, we feel that you have captured our hearts, and we also feel that we are on our way home, back to Kṛṣṇa—that our search for what is true has ended. But if only it were so easy. At every turn we encounter *anarthas*—pride and false ego, material attachments and desires, foolish fears and lethargy—that slow our progress toward the goal. You and your disciples help put out the fires of *saṁsāra* that we encounter every day as we struggle on our way back home. We beg for your continuous mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and the mercy of your loyal followers.

So many of your servants here at East Hartford ISKCON are pushing forth to carry out your instructions of distributing your books using Smart Boxes. Even when we are not trying, your books have a way of distributing themselves. Such is your potency and the potency of your books. We know that you are still present here through your books, and we feel grateful that you continue to inspire us, even in our fallen condition.

Our most humble obeisances are unto you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and to all your disciples and granddisciples who are carrying forth your mission and serving you with so much dedication. We can never repay our debt to you, or to them, for giving us this most valuable and permanent treasure of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!!*

Your humble servants at ISKCON of East Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

(written by Gītāmālā Devī Dāsī)



Gainesville

Our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. On this auspicious day of your divine appearance, we submit this short poem composed for your pleasure.

A Few Things You Taught Us

The spirit drives the body as a person drives a car.
Our bodies sicken, age, and die, however great we are.
When we grow tired and expire, we're not finished yet;
Another body's waiting, and who knows what kind we'll get?

Take all the rest you need, but not at dawn or just before;
Eat all you can digest, and if you're young, perhaps some more;
Get married to a proper mate, if you desire sex;
Protect yourself when needed, but in general, pay respects.

Lamenting over what is done will only squander fuel;
To hanker for some paradise consumes the lives of fools.
The present day is all we have to cultivate success,
and if we give this day to Kṛṣṇa, surely we'll progress.

Be sure to listen eagerly to someone more advanced
and show compassion to those souls of lesser circumstance.
And when you're choosing friends, select some saintly devotees,
for one becomes like one's companions—that is guaranteed.

The *śāstras* are our basis, and our force, integrity;
utility's our standard, and our essence, SKP.
In transcendental sacrifice, all things are absolute.
To nourish leaves and branches, pour the water on the root.

Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa daily and your life will be sublime.
A million dollars can't buy back a moment of lost time.
A Person far surpasses an impersonal supreme.
Discussions of Lord Kṛṣṇa are the most enchanting themes.

To decorate the Deity infuses one with bliss.
A daily round of *sādhana* distills one's consciousness.
To cook for Kṛṣṇa's pleasure makes a drudgery a joy,
for serving Kṛṣṇa far surpasses merging in a void.

A simple flower, sweetly offered, makes Lord Kṛṣṇa pleased.
Do not delay to douse a fire, debt, or some disease.
And should the Lord provide a pure devotee as your guide,
the truths you'll know, and debt you'll owe, cannot be quantified.

Your servants at Krishna House, ISKCON Gainesville, Florida, USA.

Gaura Hari Ashram

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

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

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

All glories to your holy lotus feet. Those who take shelter under your lotus feet are very fortunate in this material world.

On this very auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your causeless mercy upon us here at Gaura Hari Ashram in Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia. If you hadn't left India to spread the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, our lives would certainly have been spoiled. It is only by your mercy that we have gotten the great opportunity to chant the *mahā-mantra* and practice devotional service.

How wonderful it is that we can still feel your presence here through your disciples, our gurus who regularly visit and mercifully give us their association. How nice it is that we can get your association from your books and your audio and video recordings. Even though we are only disciples of your disciples, still, by your mercy we consider ourselves very lucky to have come in contact with this movement. You live forever in your books and your divine instructions.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, here in our Ashram we are trying to create a community for devotees. Fourteen devotee families now live nearby the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Temple. We hope that by your mercy the number of devotees will increase manyfold. We hope that someday we will be able to establish a Vaiṣṇava village here. We are also trying to be self-sufficient in the matter of meeting the *bhoga* needs of our temple. By your mercy we have been able to plant paddy in a rice field near the temple, and we are also trying to plant some vegetables and some fruit trees on the land we have here.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are very insignificant. How can we describe your unlimited glories? It's impossible, because the glories of a pure Vaiṣṇava like you are limitless. You have built a very wonderful home where the whole world can take shelter. In the history of the human race, you will always be glorified and remembered as the one whom the Lord sent to save us in our darkest time.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are very grateful for your causeless mercy. We beg your forgiveness for our offenses and mistakes. We pray at your holy lotus feet that we here in Gaura Hari Ashram can carry on your movement and that someday we will be able to establish a village based on *varṇāśrama-dharma*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

Your aspiring servants at Gaura Hari Ashram, Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia.

Ghana

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

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

Let us offer our respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace Śrīla A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa in this world, 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.

It is said that if one does not know to which port he is sailing, no wind is favorable. Similarly, worship of the Supreme without knowledge of the Supreme is unfavorable for the cultivation of *bhakti*. In the Western world there is so much worship of God without any knowledge of the Supreme Godhead. The consequence of such worship is atheism, impersonalism, and voidism.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your gifts to world are too numerous to enumerate, but your revelation to the world that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality Godhead stands supreme. How can we serve and love a Supreme Person we do not know? It is impossible to relate to a person we do not know!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your appearance on this day, in this world, is of great importance to the entire world. You have kindly appeared in order to reveal the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa, to the confused people of this world. This you have done so expertly, so much so that even very fallen people like us can know and love the Supreme Lord just by chanting His holy names. On this most auspicious anniversary of your divine appearance, we pray that you kindly bless and empower your followers in Africa to embark on a massive distribution of your books, so that the African people may also come to know Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead and make their lives perfect.

Your devotees in Ghana.

(written by Śrīvāsa Dāsa)

Gītā-nāgarī

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

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

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances in the dust of your divine and sweet lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most blessed day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Although we have been given knowledge and understanding about Kṛṣṇa and the means to approach Him in disciplic succession for some time, we may take for granted what you have brought with you to this realm. The whole cosmic manifestation exists so that we may have access to spiritual guides who can teach us how to reform our consciousness and return to our original spiritual home, Goloka Vṛndāvana. The fact that you came to this world 115 years ago just to reclaim us is a miracle. And when you left Vṛndāvana in 1965 to come to New York City, that was truly an exhibition of Kṛṣṇa's supreme mercy. How inconceivable it is that your mercy continues to deepen at every moment, making us more fortunate to have access to your grace.

It is said that of all Kṛṣṇa's unlimited characteristics, His greatest is His compassion on the fallen souls. You are the personification of the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This morning we read in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* that the fault of the conditioned souls is that we are all averse to the transcendental loving service of Kṛṣṇa.

Today we insignificant followers of yours pray to you that we may be freed from envy and become eligible to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara again. As Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura quotes Lord Caitanya in his *Aruṇodaya Kīrtana*: "I have descended just to save you. Except for Me, who is your friend?" As Lord Caitanya's representative, you are our actual friend because you are the one who entered the burning building of this material world to pull us out.

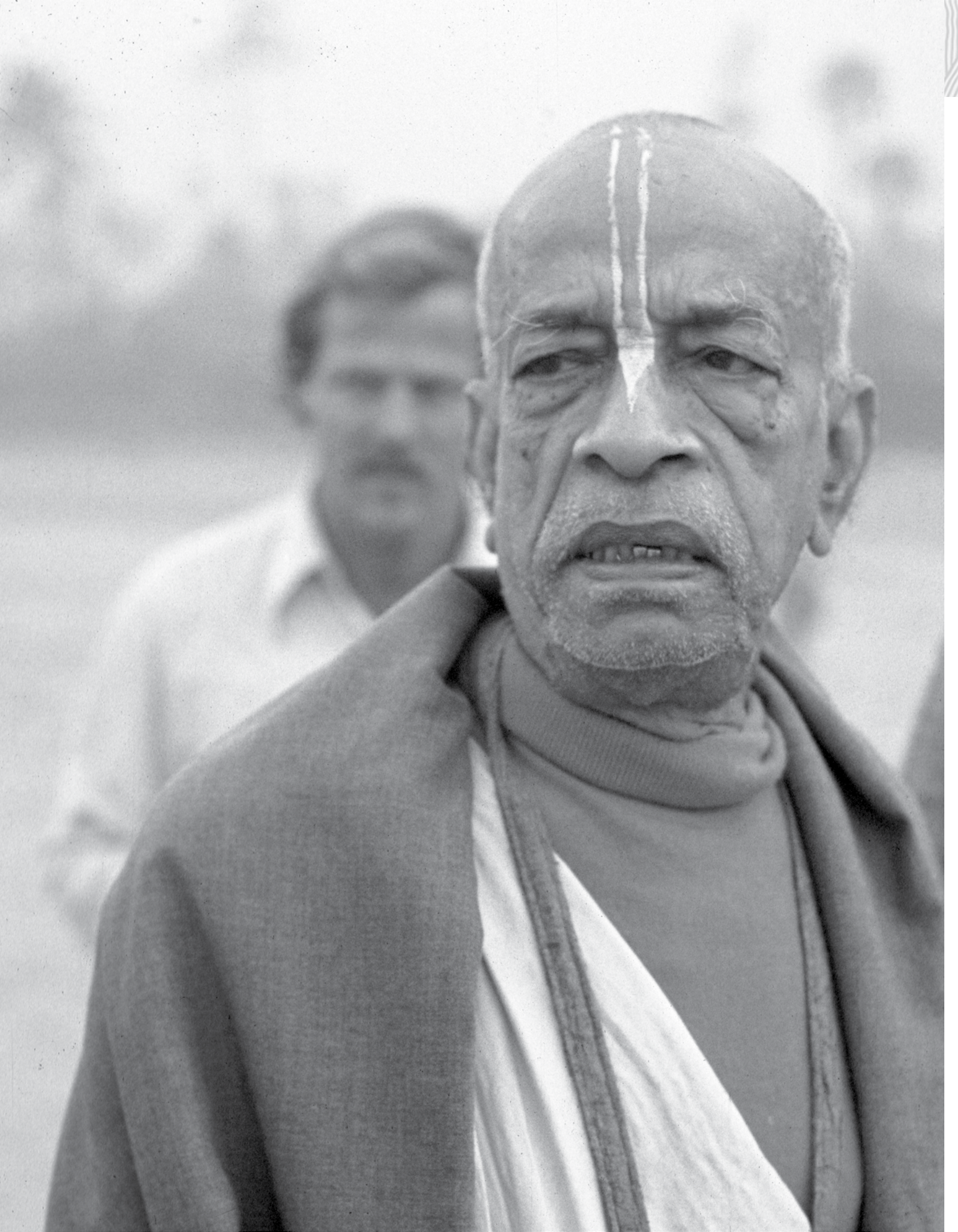
Here at Gītā-nāgarī we are endeavoring to maintain your farm project according to your desires. Many sincere devotees here hanker in their innermost heart to serve your mission of rescuing the fallen souls by tirelessly endeavoring to fulfill your request that we exemplify "simple living and high thinking." There is much more that we can and will do in this regard, but in the meantime please accept our small attempts to serve and take care of your Gītā-nāgarī farm.

The images of your visit to Gītā-nāgarī in 1976, lovingly captured by your faithful disciples, remain a daily inspiration for us here. As we go about our daily services, we visualize you leisurely walking through the fields and grounds, inspecting everything to make sure it is the best it can be, given our conditioned natures and limited capacity. You encourage, tolerate, chastise, and never cease to be merciful. We carry in our hearts the sincere yearning to manifest your prophecy for Gītā-nāgarī, based on your instructions to us and your service to your spiritual master and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara. On this most auspicious day, we continue to pray that you will always bestow on us your protection, guidance, and love, and that we will always remain in your loving service, eternally.

Cakhu-dān dilo jei, janme janme prabhu sei, divya jñān hṛde prokāśito. You have opened our darkened eyes and filled our hearts with transcendental knowledge. You are our lord, birth after birth. We owe you everything, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your movement is simply wonderful, your followers are simply wonderful, and you are simply wonderful. We thank you and we love you with our life and soul. All glories to you, our dearmost, beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda!

We beg to remain your eternal and eager servants.

Your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at the Gītā-nāgarī farm community in Port Royal, Pennsylvania, USA.



Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

None of us here in Guyana were lucky enough to have your personal association. Still, through your *vāṇī*, your *mūrti*, and your transcendental voice we feel very closely connected to you. Today I feel humbled, knowing well how unqualified to be asked to praise your glories on this special day, your Vyasa-puja. I am therefore begging you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to please kindly accept this simple homage, our offering of love to you. We feel very confident that just as a loving grandfather feels pleased with the shoddy attempt of a grandson to please him, you may be satisfied with our meager endeavor to glorify you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have created our good fortune here in Guyana in the form of your ISKCON institution. More and more we are realizing how you have given our lives meaning, aim, and direction. We can never hope to repay you for your many, many invaluable transcendental gifts. If we really value these gifts, we will treasure them within the core of our hearts. You have left the greatest heritage: a house in which the whole world can find shelter. If we truly realize the value of your legacy, we will adjust our lives and do whatever it takes to maintain and expand your ISKCON movement.

We understand that your ISKCON movement is a direct manifestation of your compassion. Your ISKCON is complete, and because it was fashioned by your own hand, there cannot be any lack or flaw. If anyone sees inadequacy, it is because of their own defective vision and because of not applying themselves properly. By serving loyally within your ISKCON, we will automatically be blessed with the opportunity for spiritual enlightenment and purification, and our path back to Godhead will open.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we feel very obligated to you when we see how so many people are being transformed and becoming happy by taking to devotional service. Before you came to the West and founded ISKCON, we had never heard of Kṛṣṇa, but now, through your kindness, we are getting to know a bit about Him.

As an offering to you, we now have temples in all the counties in Guyana. We conduct three Rathayātrās a year, and we have also introduced a yearly *padayātrā*. Many of your senior sons visit our *yātrā* yearly to give us spiritual guidance and inspiration.

To show you how much we love you and how much we appreciate what you have given us, this year we are commissioning the construction of two new temples. The Nimai-Pandit Study Centre near the University of Guyana, probably our most important project, had its ground-breaking ceremony on Rāma-navamī 2011, marking the start of construction of a three-storey, 140-by-40-foot *mandira*. The second project is another temple, which has begun construction at Line Path, on the Corentyne.

We are all extremely grateful to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you have given us. Therefore the least we can do is sincerely dedicate our lives to fulfilling your mission and pleasing you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, again we thank you for everything you have done for us—for saving us and so many others.

Your aspiring servants in Guyana.

(written by Paramātmā Dāsa)

Hong Kong

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

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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Hare Kṛṣṇa. Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you.

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmilitam yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

I was born in ignorance, but mercifully my spiritual master has opened my eyes with the torchlight of knowledge. You came to distribute love of Godhead to the most fallen. We are the most fallen, and therefore we are the most highly qualified to receive your mercy.

*‘sādhu-saṅga’, ‘sādhu-saṅga’—sarva-śāstre kaya
lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya*

We are grateful to you for sending sādhus into our lives. Your beloved disciples continue to carry the compassion you exemplified, transforming our very lives and those of many others. We see this transformation vividly in this region, the Far East, where devotees are dedicating their lives to Kṛṣṇa consciousness out of love for you and your disciples. Some might have seen a devotee only once. Some might have just heard of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Some do not understand the language due to being from very remote parts of Khasadesh. Still, their love for Kṛṣṇa consciousness manifests in their smile, their dealings with devotees, and their service attitude toward Vaiṣṇavas. Some have been serving for countless years, dedicating their family life in the service of your mission. Some have taken on hardships to propagate your message by preaching in remote and unexplored parts of the world.

From the dedication of all these devotees to your mission, we can understand and experience your divine grace upon us. We beg for the gift of the twenty-five qualities of devotees so we can offer them in service to you. This will give us joy in our barren hearts and allowing us to experience Lord Kṛṣṇa’s protective shelter among the insecurities of modern life.

Please bless the humble steps we are taking to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness to students in schools, colleges, and universities. We pray for the day when your name and the names of your beloved Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and Lord Kṛṣṇa will be heard and echoed in the halls of academia. Without your mercy, it is impossible for us to bring about the transformation of hearts in the upcoming generations of devotees.

We are forever grateful and indebted to you, our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us the transformation of heart enabling us to offer this glorification to you.

Please forgive our foolish offenses and continue to guide us and shower your merciful blessings upon us. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Hong Kong.

Karuṇā Bhavan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace, all glories to your ISKCON, all glories to the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is self-satisfied and does not really need our service. On the contrary, it is us who need to serve Kṛṣṇa, for by such service we are immensely benefited. Similarly, on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony, you do not really need our words of praise and glorification. On the contrary, we are purified by our attempts to remember and glorify you.

Kṛṣṇa is unlimited: His name is unlimited and His glories and qualities are unlimited. Ananta Śeṣa, who has unlimited mouths, has been glorifying Kṛṣṇa unlimitedly since time immemorial, yet He still has not reached the limits of those glories. Since you are Kṛṣṇa's pure representative, your glories and qualities are unlimited like a multifaceted diamond. We can never reach the end of them. But still, for our own purification we shall try to describe some of those glories.

"Whatever action a great man performs, common people follow, and whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues." You set the perfect example in all respects: you taught us how to hear, how to chant, how to preach, how to dress, how to cook, how to clean, how to live, how to die, how to see everything in relation to Kṛṣṇa. You taught us how to engage everything and everyone in the Lord's service. This is the meaning of *ācārya*—one who teaches by example. You did not instruct us to do anything that you were not prepared to do, indeed, that you were not doing yourself. The real leader is one who can follow; therefore you, being a perfect follower of the *guru-paramparā*, are the perfect leader.

At the time of your initiation, when your name came up as a candidate, you Guru Mahārāja said, "Yes, he likes to hear. . . . I have marked him. I will accept him as my disciple." You told us that you were always very enthusiastic to hear from your spiritual master, and that because of this enthusiasm for *śravaṇam* you became very enthusiastic about *kīrtanam*. By your *kīrtanam* you instilled faith in the faithless, you made atheists into lovers of God, you transformed an insatiable desire for material enjoyment into devotion to Kṛṣṇa, you changed ignorance into cognizance, you brought light where there was darkness, you transformed our futile lives into something of real meaning. You are still transforming our lives, and indeed the lives of countless souls.

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.

Therefore your presence is wholeheartedly felt by those who follow your teachings. You showed us that all success comes in spiritual life when one dedicates one's life to following the order of the spiritual master. You also taught us that one should never take credit for oneself but should give all credit to guru and Kṛṣṇa, and in this humble state of mind one can chant the holy name constantly.

In one of your Bhaktivedanta Purports you state that becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious is more or less a declaration of war on Māyā. Just as Māyā inflicts suffering upon the living entities with her trident of the threefold miseries, so you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have given us the three-pronged attack on Māyā in the form of book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, and distribution of the holy name. This is the winning formula: people become purified by chanting the holy name and honoring *prasādam*, and then they become qualified to read your books. And by understanding your books, they perfect their lives.

You taught us to practice and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness side by side. The only way to make spiritual advancement is by receiving your mercy (*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi*). By receiving your mercy, we receive the mercy of Lord Nityānanda and Lord Caitanya, and only by Their mercy can we be delivered. You have shown us by your personal example that we should preach until our very last breath. You said that you wanted the benediction of dying on the battlefield

of preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You also told us that an ease-loving mentality and spiritual life go ill together. Therefore we pray to be able to follow in your footsteps and dedicate our lives to your mission. By following your instructions and example we will no doubt achieve success. It is guaranteed.

You have shown us that there is no greater happiness than seeing others take their first steps in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, because this brings the greatest happiness to the Lord. You exemplify the mood of a true Vaiṣṇava, of *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī*, unlimited compassion for others who are suffering. As Guru Dāsa once told you, “Sometimes when I see the suffering of others I become unhappy,” to which you replied, “Only sometimes, Guru Dāsa? Only sometimes?”

You have given us everything, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We pray that we can not only take wholeheartedly what you have given but that we can share our good fortune with others by continuing to spread your mission here in Scotland. Please give us the strength, the determination, and the inspiration to constantly rededicate our lives to practicing and preaching your teachings, side by side.

Please forgive our short-comings and continue to bestow your unlimited mercy upon us.

Your servants at Karuṇā Bhavan, Scotland.

Kharghar

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We beg to offer our respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Kharghar is one of the youngest temples in your ever-expanding worldwide movement, and we are very happy to make this offering at your lotus feet for the first time. We hope that you will be pleased to hear the report of our progress, because everything that we do is a direct result of your blessings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, although you did not wish to open many big temples, still they manifested in many parts of the world to broadcast the timeless message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your temples in Mumbai, Vṛndāvana, and Māyāpur, along with many other temples all over the world, attract so many different kinds of people and uplift the fallen souls of this age. Now, following in your footsteps and depending on your mercy, we are trying to establish the Glory of Maharashtra Project and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madanmohanjī Mandir here in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. In a lecture you mentioned that there should be twelve temples in the greater Mumbai area, and we are doing our part to fulfill your desire.

We have a beautiful 8.5-acre plot in a prime location of Navi Mumbai, flanked by a majestic mountain range and verdant golf course on one side and the newly developed Central Park on the other. Surrounding the campus are many high-rise luxury apartments springing up in this quickly growing city. We plan to develop an entire spiritual center, with a beautiful temple for Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madanmohanjī, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Śrī Śrī Sitā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān. We also hope to establish a *prasādam* restaurant; a *vānaprastha-āśrama*; venues for musical and dramatic performances and light-and-sound shows; a spiritual art gallery; and a multidimensional showcase of Vaiṣṇava saints, *caitanya-līlā*, *kṛṣṇa-*

Homages from ISKCON Centers

līlā, and your own transcendental *līlā*. When completed, this mega project will serve as a spiritual oasis to soothe the parched, desertlike hearts and minds of the materialistic people of this city.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the task before us is tremendous, and we do not find the patience, perseverance, or ability within ourselves even to attempt it. As Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura has sung in one of his prayers to the spiritual master: “When I examine myself, I find nothing of value. Your mercy is therefore essential to me.” We are insignificant and undeserving of your compassion, yet your mercy is everything for us. We have taken this onerous challenge upon our heads because we believe in you and your divine mission. We bow down before your lotus feet and pray that, by your causeless mercy, we may become useful to you. Our only hope and fervent prayer is that we can become humble instruments of your compassion, dancing puppets in your pure hands.

This April (2011) we commemorated the second anniversary of the installation of the *utsava* Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madanmohanjī and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and the establishment of a makeshift temple on our campus. Over the two-day festival, more than five thousand people from all over Navi Mumbai and other areas came to take *darśana* of the Lord, honor *prasādam*, and listen to *kṛṣṇa-kathā*. This achievement is certainly a manifestation of your immeasurable blessings for our own spiritual advancement and future progress.

We feel your presence with us every day—though your recorded instructions, through your books, and through your disciples and granddisciples. Your mercy sustains us and allows us to grow. Now we have thirty residential devotees and a growing congregation. Recently more than fifty devotees took *harināma* initiation from your dear disciple and the Governing Body Commissioner for this *yātrā*, His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami—proving that your mercy is expanding as we try to become more sincere. Between three- and five-hundred devotees regularly attend the Sunday Feast program, the “love feast” you so ingeniously established. We realize that if we can simply follow your instructions with enthusiasm and humility, we can quickly achieve the ultimate success. We have several preaching programs, including special classes for youth, new *bhaktas*, and congregation members, to teach the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, because you taught us that “Preaching is the essence.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we collectively pray that we can work harder and more sincerely as humble ambassadors of your movement. We hope that we can cooperate as we strive to simply follow your teachings without any deviation. Without your mercy, we cannot achieve anything, as confirmed by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura:

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi*

“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.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us everything we need, but we are sometimes stubborn and foolish and riddled with doubts. We hope that, as a loving father or grandfather forgives the offenses of his children or grandchildren, you will overlook our shortcomings and mistakes as we find the courage to become your true followers. Again and again we take refuge in the dust of your lotus feet, our only and everlasting shelter.

Your unworthy servants at ISKCON Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Klungkung

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

*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*

*pañca-tattvātmakam kṛṣṇam bhakta-rūpa-svarūpakam
bhaktāvatāram bhaktākhyam namāmi bhakta-śaktikam*

*jaya śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda
śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*

*hare kṛṣṇa, hare kṛṣṇa, kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa, hare hare
hare rāma, hare rāma, rāma rāma, hare hare*

O Paramaguru Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept our obeisances at your merciful lotus feet. By your mercy we conditioned souls in this material world are receiving knowledge of self-realization, like light dissipating the darkness of ignorance.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, we conditioned souls who are attached to material enjoyment have no qualifications at all for praising your unlimited glories, but by our devotional love we feel impelled to express a few words to glorify you on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, O Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura, your mercy is flowing in Indonesia, especially in the island of Bali. Due to your books, your recorded teachings, and the guidance of your disciples, thousands of people here have become Kṛṣṇa conscious and are engaging in devotional service to Śrī Gaurāṅga and Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Your disciples regularly come to Bali and with full enthusiasm give us their blessings and guidance. As a result, in Bali there are now eight ISKCON temples and thousands of devotees. This enables us to maintain many programs, such as Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, *harināma*, book distribution, Food for Life, Bali-Saṅkīrtan, preaching through Balinese cultural shows, and full observance of Vaiṣṇava festival days in each temple. We devotees in Bali feel transcendental bliss because we can be part of the *saṅkīrtana* movement, working to spread the holy name to every town and village in Bali and Indonesia. We devotees in Klungkung, a small town in the eastern part of Bali, due to your and your disciples' mercy, and due to the enthusiasm and cooperation among the devotees, have been able to establish a temple of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjavihārī. The presiding Deities are Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjavihārī. And every day we glorify you by doing your *guru-pūjā*. *Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, O Jagadguru, you have indeed been sent by Lord Kṛṣṇa to this world to take up the mission of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu: to spread the holy name to every town and village around the world and to save the fallen souls in this material world, such as us. You have proven your dedication and devotion to your guru, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, by following his order to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western world. You have succeeded in introducing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to Western culture, which is full of passion (*rajas*) and ignorance (*tamas*). Millions of copies of your books have been distributed throughout the world, in many different languages; ISKCON has established many temples around the world; and most important, you have produced disciples who are dedicated to spreading your teachings through books, classes, and following the example you showed.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, O Patita-pāvana, O destroyer of the sins of the fallen souls, you have given us the matchless gift of devotional love to Lord Kṛṣṇa (*kṛṣṇa-prema-bhakti*). By your mercy anyone can attain

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the perfection of spirituality as divine knowledge rises in his heart, giving *prema-bhakti* and destroying the ignorance. You are the *paramaguru*, an ocean of mercy, a friend of the fallen souls, and you are the guru for everyone and the life of all. O *paramaguru*, please give us your mercy and the shelter of your lotus feet. May your glories be sung throughout the three worlds.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day we pray that our aspiration to have a Vaiṣṇava village here in Bali will be fulfilled. We are very hopeful, since it is clear from your lectures that you also wanted your followers to establish exemplary Vaiṣṇava villages, in which devotees would live according to the principles of *varṇāśrama-dharma*. Please give your mercy to your disciples, especially the GBC and co-GBC of Indonesia, His Holiness Kavicandra Swami and His Holiness Rāmāi Swami, so that they will always enthusiastically visit Bali and guide us. By your mercy many ISKCON gurus have visited Bali to encourage us and guide us, and also to accept disciples. Some of them are His Holiness Gour Govinda Swami, His Holiness Bhaktisvarūpa Dāmodara Swami, and His Holiness Bhaktirāghava Swami. In addition, many other devotees from abroad have mercifully given us their association, to encourage us to continue your mission and follow your teachings.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all your gifts and for inspiring so many of your senior disciples to show so much mercy to us here in Bali. May the whole world be at peace and enjoy the highest spiritual happiness by chanting the *mahā-mantra*:

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare
Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*
ISKCON *guru-paramparā kī jaya!*
Śrī Śrī Gauracandra-Nityānanda-rāma *kī jaya!*
Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā-devī *kī jaya!*
Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjavihārī *kī jaya!*

Your servants in Klungkung, Bali, Indonesia.

(written by Kusumāpīḍa Dāsa and Ādipuruṣa Dāsa)

Las Vegas

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This day of your Vyāsa-pūjā is the most auspicious day for all living entities on this earth planet! Just as the rising sun brings the auspiciousness of day by dissipating the darkness of night, similarly your appearance dissipates the darkness of Kali-yuga's misguided, godless civilization and spreads the illumination of knowledge of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

For your followers, your Vyāsa-pūjā day is also a unique and wonderful opportunity to meditate on the glories of your lotus feet. Your lotus feet are the real shelter in this material world for thousands and thousands of conditioned souls suffering the reactions of their past misdeeds. Being unlimitedly compassionate, you have educated and rescued countless conditioned souls from the clutches of the illusory energy and helped them achieve liberation from the entanglement of material bondage.

Therefore the whole world is deeply indebted to Your Divine Grace for your hard work of bringing to human society the spiritual knowledge of God, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. You not only imparted the purest spiritual knowledge of the Absolute Truth but also practically demonstrated how to implement this essential wisdom in day-to-day life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when I listen to your lectures, I am completely enchanted by the power of your conviction. I feel a strong need to surrender to Kṛṣṇa, a need so obvious and natural that I feel I have to do this immediately. The purifying and inspiring power of your words encourages me to become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in total ecstasy. Your potent, inspiring words expressing your unlimited intimate knowledge of Kṛṣṇa have the power to motivate anyone to take up the process of *bhakti* and follow your instructions without the slightest doubt. This is the incredible potency of your unblemished purity and unconditional, deep love for Kṛṣṇa.

It is inconceivable how during your presence on this planet you had such immense power and vigor to propagate Kṛṣṇa consciousness yet remained truly humble, extremely kind, a perfect gentleman . . . For those who were not fortunate enough to meet you personally at that time and thus receive the mercy of your personal association, you have left volumes of your informative books. As you once said, “If you want to know me, read my books.” You even stated that your books are better than you because through your books you are making yourself available to future generations, for the next ten thousand years. Your books are as good as Kṛṣṇa. Anyone who even touches one of your books receives immense benefit.

So, despite the fact that I received your unlimited mercy three years after your departure from this planet, by reading your books I can relish every day the spiritual intimacy of your divine, enlightening association. Although I unfortunately suffered the loss of my *dīkṣā-guru* due to the attacks of *māyā*, I survived and was helped by the mercy of your divine ISKCON movement, which is full of devotees dedicated to your lotus feet. This year I am going to accept re-initiation from another disciple of yours, His Holiness Devāmrita Swami. He inspired me, guided me, and trained me in Kṛṣṇa consciousness from the very beginning of my joining your ISKCON movement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the life of anyone who takes shelter at your lotus feet and follows the practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness becomes auspicious, regardless of any previous material circumstances. Thus only your unlimited causeless mercy has enabled your temple in Las Vegas to flourish within the last year. Not only were we able to move to a new, more convenient location, but we were also able to increase our temple programs for the benefit of suffering souls who are sincerely seeking genuine relief. Now not only do we have a Sunday Love Feast but also weekly *Bhagavad-gītā* classes and a daily morning program, with participation of devotees from outside. Since your last Vyāsa-pūjā, we held three major festivals and many smaller programs, with a total participation of hundreds of guests.

However, this capital of Māyā’s kingdom, Las Vegas, needs more of your mercy than any other place. Therefore, to make your mercy more accessible we plan to expand our preaching activities to a local university and share this supreme knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with young people searching for the meaning of life.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the true strength behind our endeavors and the inspiration behind our preaching ideas. You are the intelligence behind our expansion plans and the love behind our compassionate behavior. You are the true lover of God. You are the true touchstone, since anyone who comes in contact with you becomes transformed from a sinner to a saint.

Please help us keep your lotus feet in our hearts so we will become immune to Māyā’s allurements and always take shelter of the holy names of the Lord.

Please help us always accept your unlimited mercy so we will become Kṛṣṇa conscious and empowered to help others become Kṛṣṇa conscious as well. Please bless us with the intelligence to always choose Kṛṣṇa and be fully engaged in loving devotional service to your lotus feet, according to your directives.

The humble and very grateful servants of your servants in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

(written by Surapāla Dāsa)



Ljubljana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, because all the spiritual knowledge I have received has come from your books, your lectures, and your followers. My last twenty years are based on your courage and determination to strictly follow the instructions of your spiritual master. Several times you declined to take credit for your preaching success, saying that the only things that enabled you to succeed were your strong faith in the holy name and in the instructions of your spiritual master. You fulfilled your goal in twelve years while you . . .

Traveled around the world
And cut with the *śāstra*'s sword
The ignorance of Western world
That is to sense gratification sold.

At New Yoga Pīṭha
On *vyāsāsan* you sit,
And Padayātrā you lead
At Pañca-tattva's feet.

By your divine grace
We are able to face
The difficult race
That Māyā dictates.

Chanting and singing
The Lord's holy name,
We are spreading your fame
Without any shame.

Devotees here are extensively using multimedia to spread the glories of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Representatives from the local TV station often visit the temple and broadcast some festival, or they prepare some spiritual show and ask us to comment. Recently they had a show called "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" We explained that it is due to the law of karma, that one has to suffer or enjoy the fruits of one's work. But if one works for the pleasure of the Lord, we explained, then one is free from karmic reactions, good or bad.

Temple devotees are undergoing many book distribution marathons to raise *lakṣmī* so we can renovate the temple.

Every day lots of students come to Govinda's restaurant to take *prasādam*.

We devotees in Slovenia beg your blessings so that we can be useful tools in spreading the mission of Lord Caitanya.

Your servants at New Yoga Pīṭha, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

(written by Indulekhā Devī Dāsī)

London (Kings Cross)

A million obeisances unto you,
My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
To pray to remember
All the mercy that I've had.

To say that I'm a fool
would be an understatement;
my lack of taking the mercy
Is my life's one true embarrassment.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you created a society
That could purify the devotee community.
I must try harder to get the mercy,
Before I miss this opportunity.

I'm fully aware of the goal,
I'm fully aware of your mercy,
I'm fully aware for my faults,
And aware of this controversy.

I pray for the glorious day
When I seriously bow to your feet
And take your instructions seriously;
Then my life will be complete.

Your servants in Kings Cross, London, UK.

(written by Paraśurama Dāsa)

London (Soho)

To our most dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories unto you!
All glories unto Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara!

Thank you for your causeless mercy and your compassionate love for the most undeserving and fallen. It is only through your words and the sincere devotees who follow you that we can learn about *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*, the ultimate happiness. All glories to you, for you are the bridge that carries us over the dangerous river of this material world.

Your disciples must take shelter of your lotus feet to achieve Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy. And your mercy is nondifferent from the Lord's mercy. Please be merciful to us.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, only because of you we have gotten Kṛṣṇa! Please send us back home, back to Kṛṣṇa—we implore you!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I truly believe your books save souls, and feeling indebted to you, I hope to serve you always by distributing these books, as you have truly saved my soul and shown me the light and truth in Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us everything, simply everything: the beautiful, breathtaking Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara and the jewels of Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, personalities who would otherwise have remained hidden from us; access to the most wonderful transcendental literature; a process to attain pure devotional service; and so much more.

O Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara, although we will forever remain indebted to this very dear devotee of Yours for the causeless mercy he has shown us, please shower us with opportunities to serve His Divine Grace, and please empower us to always remember and never forget what Śrīla Prabhupāda has given us— everything.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your grace, many lost souls are returning home, back to Godhead. By your mercy we are learning how to serve Kṛṣṇa and break the shackles of ignorance.

You write in *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, “If we have a strong sense of love for the Supreme Lord, then we can discharge our duty and at the same time remember Him.” In our daily lives may we follow and share this principle, as you did.

Through your mercy we fallen souls have been given an opportunity to engage in devotional service. You said that book distribution “is our most important activity.” To please you, I pray that we continue to give Kṛṣṇa to all the fallen souls.

Your most grateful servants in Soho, London, UK.

London (South)

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It is amazing how your mercy works. In so many different ways you engage all kinds of living entities in serving the Lord with devotion. It is your purity that enables you to do this. The following verse in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.1.15) wonderfully explains your qualities:

*yat-pāda-saṁśrayāḥ sūta munayaḥ praśamāyanāḥ
sadyaḥ punanty upaspr̥ṣṭāḥ svardhuny-āpo 'nusevayā*

“O Sūta, those great sages who have completely taken shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord can at once sanctify those who come in touch with them, whereas the waters of the Ganges can sanctify only after prolonged use.”

Your disciples are so fixed up in carrying on with your mission of spreading the glories of the holy names that it feels as if Your Divine Grace were here, guiding all the *jīvātmās* back to Godhead. Recently we were blessed to have a twelve-hour *kīrtana* at the temple. It was hugely successful in increasing our devotional life, and we have only you to thank for making this possible. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.13.10 explains the potency of pure devotees like Your Divine Grace:

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*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.”

Your legacy of opening up new temples and improving on existing ones is being carried out by the humble souls you have inspired. Soon we will see a beautiful temple open up in Mombassa, Kenya, a holiday destination for many people. For many devotees around the world this will be a spiritual haven, for a visit there will give them a break from the everyday hectic life of a devotee while allowing them to maintain or improve their *sādhana*. Temples such as these are nondifferent from the holy *dhāmas* in Bhāratavarṣa, and they enable your mission to flourish in every nook and cranny of the world. In this way more and more souls are being attracted to join Lord Caitanya’s movement. As stated in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (3.29.16):

*mad-dhiṣṇya-darśana-sparśa- pūjā-stuty-abhivandanaiḥ
bhūteṣu mad-bhāvanayā sattvenāsaṅgamena ca*

“The devotee should regularly see My statue in the temple, touch my feet, and offer worshipable paraphernalia and prayer. He should see in the spirit of renunciation, from the made of goodness, and see every living entity spiritual.”

We cannot thank Lord Kṛṣṇa enough for sending you to this material world. It is only due to Your Divine Grace that we are able to get a glimpse of Goloka Vṛndāvana on this earth, and not just in places such as Māyāpur *dhāma*, Vṛndāvana, etc., but also in the hundreds of ISKCON temples around the world. You made sure that your disciples and granddisciples had every facility for improving their *sādhana* and staying fixed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Please keep on showering your mercy on all of us, helping us advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness so that one day we can all go back to Goloka Vṛndāvana and serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa to our heart’s content.

Your foolish disciples in South London, UK.

Malaga

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you, the *jagat-guru* and savior of the whole of humanity in this Age of Kali!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, no words will be sufficient to glorify you. Writing this offering is like offering Ganges water to the river Ganges.

We were very touched and felt ourselves honored to be asked to write this offering on behalf of our temple in Churriana, near Malaga, Spain. Over the past eighteen years, since coming in contact with the devotees, we have seen how you have touched so many people’s lives in different ways, even after leaving this planet. As you said, a Vaiṣṇava never dies but lives forever through his instructions.

In 1994, when the temple was about to be closed due to a lack of funds and very few visitors, suddenly, by your divine arrangement, you sent my wife Hema-gaurī Dāsī with a donation of \$300 dollars. She explained to the president, Dharmarāja Prabhu, that she had collected the money from a children’s Diwali show and that she wanted to give it as a donation. Hearing this, Dharmarāja asked her to arrange for

some children to dance on Janmāṣṭamī. In this way she introduced her Indian friends and their families to the movement. With her involvement, our own family also met the devotees, and in due course we were all introduced to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

My father Puruṣottama Kṛṣṇa Dāsa was originally just an ordinary Hindu believer who worshiped Guru Nanak, but at the advanced age of sixty-five his whole life was transformed when he came in contact with your competent disciples Bhakti Chāru Swami and Girirāj Swami. Soon after my mother Bhagavatī Dāsī left her body five years ago, he settled in the holy land of Vṛndāvana, in a place just opposite the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir. He strictly attended all the temple programs, chanted sixty-four rounds a day, and served the Vaiṣṇavas and the cows, which service became his only goal in life. Such is the potency of great Vaiṣṇavas like yourself, who can make the blind see and the lame walk over mountains. The day before my father left his body, he told us how Your Divine Grace had appeared to him in a dream very vividly and how you personally came to take him and my mother with you to Kṛṣṇa's abode. This is your most merciful nature.

You also came in a dream to a German lady who had no idea who the Hare Kṛṣṇas were. One summer, at our Ratha-yātrā festival in Malaga, she saw your *mūrti* and was reminded of the person she had seen in her dream. She followed the devotees and finally ended up at the temple. Today she is known as Karuṇā-śakti Dāsī, an initiated disciple and a staunch member of your ISKCON movement.

Another lovely French couple, Murāri Govinda Dāsa and Kṛṣṇa-līlā Dāsī, became devotees when we were distributing *prasādam* in Marbella during a local fair. Abandoning all their old material routines, they shifted to the temple premises and for almost three years now have given themselves entirely to the service of the temple and the devotees.

Another Indian lady, presently called Lāvaṇya-mayī Dāsī, who at first was not at all interested in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, got hold of your *Bhagavad-gītā* on CD, which she posted to her son in America. He became inquisitive to learn about Kṛṣṇa and thus got in touch with some local devotees. Soon the whole family—the two children and their respective spouses and parents—all became wonderful full-time devotees.

Even I, although coming from the business community and still being an active businessman, have received brahminical initiation, and I am actively preaching to the Indian community of Malaga and Gibraltar. It sounds unbelievable, but still it is fact, and all this has been made possible by your causeless mercy.

Around the year 2004–05 we had a setback in our temple due to the lack of proper leadership, which caused us enormous anxiety. We urgently tried to find dedicated devotees to take care of the daily functions, because otherwise the only alternative was to open the temple only on Sundays, just for the feast, when *grhastha* families living outside could participate. A request was sent all over Europe, but for months there was no response. Our anxieties multiplied with each passing day as we kept a close watch on our email inbox to see if there was any luck. Finally, with your magic working from behind the scenes, Vedavyāsa Prabhu and his wife Rasāmṛta Dāsī, along with their daughter Gaurāṅga-līlā Dāsī and her husband Caitanya-candra Dāsa, took charge of the temple and, with great ease and grace, brought it under control in a very short time. Today, thanks to them, the temple is running very smoothly, with a constant congregation of about sixty devotees and another fifty devotees who visit off and on.

During this year's Gaura Pūrṇimā festival we installed, as an expansion of the existing set of small brass Gaura-Nitāi Deities, a set of beautiful big neem Gaura-Nitāi Deities. To accommodate Their Lordships on the altar, His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami donated a magnificent *śṛṅgāsana* hand-carved from teak wood, which was shipped to us from Ujjain under his careful supervision.

There are so many diversities in this movement, but, above all, everything is spiritual and devotional. People have become devotees through books, *prasādam*, and paraphernalia, and even by just coming to the temple on the pretext of buying some locally grown vegetables.

Thank you so much, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for establishing such a wonderful organization, which is so perfect and complete in every aspect. We pray for the protection of our small congregation, and we beg for your mercy and blessings to be able to help you in your mission to pull more and more souls into this great movement of congregational chanting of the sweet holy names of Lord Kṛṣṇa, as inaugurated by Lord Gaurāṅga, and thus relieve them of their miseries.

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Your most fallen servants at the ISKCON temple in Malaga, Spain.

(written by Vinod Vihārī Dāsa and Hema-gaurī Dāsī)

Melbourne

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

I was born in the darkest ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge.
I offer my respectful obeisances unto him.

*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 vācālaṁ paṅguṁ lañghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

I offer my respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of my spiritual master, by whose mercy a dumb man
can become an eloquent speaker and a lame man can cross mountains.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

As Kali-yuga rolls on, imperceptibly crushing all good qualities before it, there is an eddy, a current, a rising tide that is bucking its trend. From whence did it come? From the efforts of one unique soul—you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are unique in your single-handed effort to fulfill the order of Guru and Gaurāṅga. You are a special ambassador of the spiritual world, carrying the message of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Caitanya to one and all without discriminating. You ventured to a place incongruous for holy men of pure goodness, the Lower East Side of Manhattan, to plant the seeds of *bhakti* in the hearts of men and women so far from Goloka Vṛndāvana, trapped in the depths of material ignorance.

From nowhere, it seems, you established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Who could imagine? Certainly none of the followers of your then fledgling Society could fathom what was going on. Why, even fifty years on we have trouble understanding your vision. We imagine we are following your orders, only to discover years later that we only understood a minute fraction of what you taught and gave.

You knew exactly what you were doing.

“I am not a poor man. I am rich. There are temples and books; they are existing, they are there, but the time is separating us from them.”

As we participate in your Society and watch it grow, we can’t help but admire how your efforts are coming to fruition. There are problems, just as there were problems when you were present. Yet the momentum you started at 26 Second Avenue on the Lower East Side, which traveled west, east, north



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and south, now truly spans the globe. Obstacles appear, but just as a tsunami propelled by subterranean forces can't be stopped, so similarly your ISKCON moves forward, imperceptibly, unstoppable, forceful, occasionally wavering, but wherever there are devotees dedicated to following your orders, it continues to grow. It started with your clear vision, the printing and distribution of books. Not ordinary books but spiritually potent books describing the original message of the eternal truth, books imbued with a vision of the workings of the material and spiritual worlds, the processes of liberation, and the pinnacle of human achievement, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the culmination of the science of self-realization.

Just as a mighty banyan tree grows from a small seed, so your International Society grew from one small center to many in a matter of a few short years. Your books also grew. After *Back to Godhead* magazine came *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā*, then *Teachings of Lord Caitanya*, Kṛṣṇa book, *The Nectar of Devotion*, more volumes of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and then *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. Enough learning for everyone to practice and perfect spiritual understanding, and a society of devotees in which to put it to the test.

By steady application of that simple process of following your instructions, everything grew. It is simply a matter of time before it grows further.

Just as you had a vision of what you wanted to achieve, you knew also that those who follow your instructions would traverse the same terrain covered by the previous saints and, despite obstacles, achieve success.

You are a special personality. A rare, unique, once-in-a-millennium person, the likes of whom will not be seen for many thousands of years to come.

In meditating on Your Divine Grace, we pray that we may become like you. Not that we can at all match your transcendental qualities. We live in hope that by your association we can catch the mercy you so clearly hold and magnanimously give away, that we can hold and follow your divine instructions, for our benefit and for the benefit of the world.

Please accept us as your servants. We pray to be worthy of your grace.

Your servants at ISKCON's Mahāprabhu Mandir in Melbourne, Australia.

(written by Aniruddha Dāsa)

Miami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Once, when responding to glorification that you had written so many wonderful books, you humbly replied, "Drops of water wear away the stone." You were referring to your daily regimen of spending six hours daily writing books in the early morning. You would write only a few pages each day, but over a period of weeks, months, and years you wrote many large volumes of transcendental literature.

Practically, that one statement describes your mood in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You did not come to this country with a large bank balance, lots of followers, or any other kind of material support. You came only with your pure desire to spread the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, under the order of your spiritual master. And just as water constantly and perpetually dripping on a stone wears it away, little by little you have been wearing away the stonelike coverings of our unwilling hearts by consistently delivering the message of Lord Caitanya.

You have set your ISKCON movement in motion. You stated that “This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement will continue to increase for the next ten thousand years.” This movement will spread, not overnight by violent revolution, but one person at a time. And over time, millions of people will become Kṛṣṇa conscious. The most important thing is consistency. *The Nectar of Instruction* states that enthusiasm, confidence, and patience are all necessary for us to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Enthusiasm without patience is in the mode of passion, and patience without enthusiasm is in the mode of ignorance. So enthusiasm and patience, together with confidence born of faith in Lord Kṛṣṇa, are the perfect combination to ensure that we become Kṛṣṇa conscious. It is also the secret to becoming a successful preacher. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* (9.22) Lord Kṛṣṇa states:

*ananyāś cintayanto mām ye janāḥ paryupāsate
teṣāṁ nityābhiyuktānām yoga-kṣemaṁ vahāmy aham*

“But those who always worship Me with exclusive devotion, meditating on My transcendental form—to them I carry what they lack, and I preserve what they have.”

This verse is very significant. For a pure devotee like your good self, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we can easily see how Lord Kṛṣṇa carried what you appeared to lack materially due to old age, ill health, lack of qualified followers, and other considerations. He empowered you to do the impossible—to transplant Vedic culture to the land of the *yavanas* and *mlecchas*. You were empowered because, as a pure devotee, you unconditionally dedicated your mind, intelligence, body, and words to the service of the Lord, and He gave you all you needed to succeed.

Similarly, as your servants, we can also become empowered to do wonderful work on your behalf, to the degree that we can fix our consciousness on the service of the Lord. You said, “Actually, Kṛṣṇa does not care for how much we give to Him, but He sees how much we are keeping back for ourselves.” Lord Kṛṣṇa will carry what we lack, but we need to be sure that we are really lacking it. Lord Kṛṣṇa knows what each of us is capable of and if we are really giving Him all we can. Externally, what each of us can give varies, but the goal is to give the Lord everything we can. If we do that, then He will carry what we lack and make our Kṛṣṇa conscious endeavors a success.

This is actually quite encouraging and enlivening. We each determine how surrendered we will be, and based on that surrender to the Lord we can become empowered to succeed and serve your mission, as you served your spiritual master’s mission. This movement is not lost, nor will it ever fail. Any person in contact with this movement for the next ten thousand years can succeed if he or she accepts and applies to their own lives the knowledge you gave us. There are no material impediments that can prevent any of us from becoming pure devotees of the Lord if we desire that goal. We need to see daily how we can take advantage of our individual situations to help us become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Especially once we’ve committed ourselves by taking initiation, Lord Kṛṣṇa takes charge of our lives. Our lives may bring us material happiness or distress, but in any condition we can utilize our life’s situation for making spiritual advancement, if that is our goal.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you taught and practiced the principle of “Drops of water wear away stone,” so we can attempt to follow your example. For us the drops of water are our daily chanting of sixteen rounds, following the four regulative principles, studying your books, helping our the local temple, and working in a cooperative way with the temple management and other devotees to serve your mission. If we just carry out these simple endeavors regularly, whether we feel like it or not, the result will be that each of us will become Kṛṣṇa conscious and we will become empowered to serve you and your mission wonderfully. Thank you for giving us this wonderful opportunity, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Miami, Florida, USA.

Montreal

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this glorious day of your appearance we take the time to reflect on our relationship with you. Despite the joyous characteristic of such a day, our position is very contradictory, since we remain stunned and gladdened (conscious) miserable beggars in front of their king. We are poor and indebted fellows assembled at your lotus feet. If there is one day throughout the year to be humble, this is it—today, on your Vyāsa-pūjā day. And the humbler we are, the happier we are! We don't mind. Provided you are glorified to our heart's content.

Usually, from a material point of view, a miserable person has no reason to be stunned and gladdened in front of the nation's king, because his natural tendency is to blame others, criticizing them and cursing them because of negative whims of a lowborn destiny. This is especially true in Kali-yuga, when everyone is a lowborn *śūdra*. No amount of materialistic education can cover up this lowborn characteristic of men and women born in Kali-yuga.

But in Kali-yuga the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa sometimes sends a real leader for society. A real role-model king for such unfortunate souls. An empowered preacher whose followers, within no time, begin to become truly educated about the real values of life and who act accordingly. After a short while, such persons become effulgent, wear *tilaka*, and dress as *Vaikuṇṭha* men or women, and when they open their mouths there issues forth a flow of nectarean descriptions of the glories of the Supreme Lord and His sublime service offered by His innumerable servants in the best of conditions, in the spiritual world, or unconditionally and uninterruptedly in the material world. Gradually, but with greater enthusiasm as days go by, such persons begin to revive their divine qualities, which had remained dormant within for such a long time. Slowly, they recover from the nasty anesthesia of material existence en route to their normal, healthy state of life.

But who has made all of this possible? It is not the Santa of Western folklore but the real *santa*, or saint, of modern times—you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Being a true *santa*, a pure devotee of the Lord, you are also *śānta*, perfectly peaceful, because, as we sing every day, you are *viṣṇu-pādāya*, i.e., you have taken complete shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. And because of that steady and perfect shelter, you are *abhaya*, one who has no fear of anything. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are truly *patita-pāvana*, a friend of poor souls like us.

We find all of those characteristics in you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and because of the education we have been incredibly fortunate enough to embrace in the form of your sublime teachings, we have reawakened a bit to our constitutional position. Nonetheless, we should not forget our previous fallen condition and should feel eternally indebted to you. We are like the characters that Victor Hugo would have suitably called “the misérables.” We admit our low birth, but nonetheless by your causeless mercy, by the power of the spiritual knowledge we have received from you, we have recovered enough sanity to feel enormously grateful to you, whom we accept as our worthiest leader, our *śikṣā* or *dikṣā* guru, the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, a society of practicing devotees, of sincere, genuine, aspiring positive *bhakti-yogīs*.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, despite our being in the material atmosphere, you have indicated to us in so many encouraging ways that we should fully embrace the taste of eternity in this very lifetime within the *saṅkīrtana* movement by chanting the holy name in *kīrtana* and in *japa*; by cooking, offering, and partaking of *prasādam*; and by *bhajana*, *kīrtana*, *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, *sevā*, *sat-saṅga*, transcendental literature production and distribution, etc. You have given us education, you have given us engagement, you have given us proper, worthy, healthy invaluable association, and you are still sharpening our judgment to

properly focus on the ultimate goal of life, the Supreme Person, the most attractive Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, thus putting an end to all our doubts about real worthy life. Therefore today we are feeling extremely grateful at your lotus feet, and we beg to ever be mindful of the shelter afforded by your tender lotus feet. Even though we may not be very well educated from an alpha or omega point of view, it does not matter as much as our attitude of devotion to follow in your footsteps, which means nothing less than to be a servant of your wide-open heart, ever flowing with compassion toward all the suffering conditioned souls.

Yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we don't mind being described as miserables. This is just a sign of proper understanding of our true fallen condition, whereby we are compelled to embrace your cause, the cause of spreading Kṛṣṇa awareness or Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which is the only real engagement of anyone who has understood your sincere and deepest desire: to save all the fallen conditioned souls for the sake of Kṛṣṇa by taking part in the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

On this auspicious day we pray to remain sheltered at your lotus feet and to fully understand three fundamental principles: 1) *sevyā*, the immediate object of our service, namely their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Manohara; 2) *sevā*, how to serve their Lordships intelligently, obediently, and with purity, seriousness, and sincerity, avoiding offenses; 3) *sevaka*, the servitor with blessed understanding of what it means to be a servitor of their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Manohara in the assembly of devotees.

We are not perfect, but for miserables like us, you are our perfect model to follow. By the mercy of both Your Divine Grace and Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Manohara, we know beyond any doubt that in this life we have already tasted eternity and that we will never be satisfied with anything less than that.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us what nobody else could ever have given us, namely the higher taste of being fixed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. On this most memorable day of your appearance, we beg to reciprocate with you by rendering you fully surrendered, dedicated, unmotivated service in the blissful assembly of similarly-minded devotees. We remain your fortunate beggars of such precise mercy. The taste you have given us drives us that way. We believe we are becoming mad after Kṛṣṇa consciousness, that highest taste of which we cannot give up anymore. Thanks so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your causeless mercy. May we join you again for eternity.

Your ever-grateful servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Manohara Mandir, Montreal, Canada.

(written by Prābhava Vighraha Dāsa)

Mumbai (Chowpatty)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Today we remember you most through your superlative books and the divine instructions you have given us through them. In many of your purports, letters, and lectures, you have instructed us to chant a minimum of sixteen rounds of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* daily. You have also given us the four regulative principles and lovingly assured us that if we can chant our rounds without offense and observe these regulations sincerely, Kṛṣṇa will take us back home, back to Godhead in this lifetime. At such difficult times in the Kali-yuga as these, through these simple instructions you have given all of us an opportunity to be elevated to the eternal devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have also mercifully taught us the sacred principle of being a humble servant of the devotees. In a *Bhagavad-gītā* purport (13.26) you write, "One should learn to become the servant of those who are in knowledge of the Supreme Lord. If one is fortunate enough to take shelter

Homages from ISKCON Centers

of a pure devotee, hear from him about self-realization, and follow in his footsteps, one will be gradually elevated to the position of a pure devotee.” Through the wonderful association of devotees (*sādhū-saṅga*) at your lovingly created ISKCON centers, you have given all of us unlimited opportunity to perfect our lives by hearing about Lord Kṛṣṇa. It’s in this *saṅga* that following the regulative principles and chanting our rounds become an easy and happy experience.

You personally followed these principles and established the highest standard of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your example proves that the Kṛṣṇa conscious lifestyle is fulfilling and most satisfying for any soul. You were the personification of true spiritual bliss; even in the midst of serious calamities like the heart attacks you faced or the envious people in the initial days in Juhu, you always remembered Kṛṣṇa and sung the Lord’s glories happily.

These wonderful, transcendental qualities of yours give us hope that if we can somehow remain connected to you and your wonderful devotees, we can survive the cyclonic attacks of *māyā*. We are spiritually weak and are struggling with *anarthas*, and we are also driven by our false ego, yet your causeless mercy can take even us unqualified souls back home, back to Godhead.

Please continue to shower your divine mercy on us, your spiritual grandchildren, and help us stick to the basic rules and follow the advanced devotees, your disciples. We want to please you by following these instructions of yours as our life and soul.

Your unworthy servants at the 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 year 2010 ISKCON Juhu stood in the third position in the world in your transcendental book distribution program. Please bless us to increase our book distribution.

The construction of the new building of the Bhaktivedanta Swami Mission School is already completed. Please bestow your mercy so we may shift the present school at Hare Krishna Land to this new building as soon as possible.

By your mercy the life membership program is going well. We also re-started the Saturday evening program for life members. Please bless us to make them more and more Kṛṣṇa conscious.

Our student preaching program, known as the Centre for the Heritage of Indian Culture and Education (CHOICE) is developing nicely in Powai, Surat, Raipur, Jalgaon, Kopargaon, and Jaipur. Please bless the students to become wonderful servants of your beloved Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī.

In pursuit of your vision for systematic study of the Vedic scriptures, we are offering a Bhakti Śāstrī course. Last year fourteen devotees were awarded the Bhakti Śāstrī degree. A new batch of students has enrolled for the Bhakti Śāstrī course, and your blessing is required to make this program successful.

We are making good progress in the farm project at Talasari. Your blessing is essential to tap a water resource at the land.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for engaging us in the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Juhu, Mumbai, India.

Mumbai (Mira Road)

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

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

Śrīla Rupa Goswami writes in his *Stava-mālā*:

*yad api samādhīṣu vidhir api paśyati na tava nakhāgra-marīcim
idam icchāmi niśāmya tavācyuta tad api kṛpādbhuta-vīcim*

“Even Brahmā in full *samādhī* cannot catch a glimpse the effulgence emanating from the tips of Your toenails. Still, O Acyuta, because I have heard of the waves of Your astonishing mercy, I long to see that effulgence.

*bhaktir udañcati yadyapi mādharma na tvayi mama tila-mātrī
parameśvaratā tad api tavādhika-durghaṭa-ghaṭana-vidhātrī*

“O Mādhava! Although I don’t possess even a sesame seed of *bhakti* for You, still, since Your inconceivable power makes the impossible possible, please fulfill the heart’s deepest desires for that *bhakti*.”

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, although it seems impossible for us to become pure devotees, you can make the impossible possible. So, we are cherishing a hope against hope that we can become pure devotees and serve you exclusively for your pleasure and the pleasure of the Supreme Lord

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your purports bring life to the verses of the *śāstra*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all twenty-six qualities of pure devotees are found in you. We would like to highlight three of these qualities, namely “caring,” “clean,” and “compassionate.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an emblem of compassion, as shown by your overwhelming compassion for us. “Overwhelming compassion” means that the person feeling this compassion has so much love for the objects of his compassion (the poor conditioned souls) that his actions are controlled by that love. How concerned you were with the welfare of your disciples! You were never too busy to make sure your disciples were well cared for. Thus you taught us compassion by your personal example. Caring for devotees is indeed the most important component for the success of ISKCON’s preaching. Please bless us so that we will love all of Kṛṣṇa’s devotees. We will do everything within our means to set up whatever systems are necessary to ensure that all the devotees are taken care of now and in the future.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your cleanliness was so profound and far-reaching that you were able to purify the lives of thousands of men and women who previously had no proper concept of spiritual or personal cleanliness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you had firm determination to preach the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you had absolute conviction of the spiritual truth, and you had unflagging determination to push forth this ISKCON movement against all odds. Your strength gives all your followers strength. 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 the association with you we experience by reading your books every day is the lifeline of our spiritual advancement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda you are . . .

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Surrendered to Śrī Kṛṣṇa
Respectful
Intelligent
Loving
Awesome

Peaceful
Reliable
Ambitious for Kṛṣṇa
Bold
Happy to see Kṛṣṇa consciousness spread
Understanding
Pure
Appreciative for any service
Determined
Always thinking of Śrī Kṛṣṇa

You had your grand strategy. You saw that everyone was chasing America. If you could turn America toward Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you would turn the world. Others said it was impossible. You said, “*Impossible* is a word in a fool’s dictionary.” Because of your complete confidence in Kṛṣṇa’s ever-presence and His unlimited potency, you were fearless. Once, in New York, your disciples advised you to take a break for rest and recuperation. You responded by saying, “Don’t take away my privilege to struggle for Kṛṣṇa.” Your example is very important for all present and future devotees of this movement.

Report of ISKCON Mira Road

(1) Temple construction: Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy the temple construction is progressing nicely. The new temple hall is ready, and we celebrated Śrī Gaura Pūrṇimā there.

(2) *Sanikīrtana*: Encouraged by the blessings of His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Mahārāja, we were able to distribute 35,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* during the 2010 marathon.

(3) Youth preaching: More than one hundred boys come every month for the Upāsanā Festival, which is exclusively conducted for boys aged 15 to 25. Our *brahmacārīs* are preaching in and around Mira Road, apart from having regular programs for young people in the temple.

(4) Children preaching: We started a new Saturday school for children in Kandivali, and more than 150 regularly attend. By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our Youth Forum for Girls and NICE institute for children are also running smoothly.

(5) Counselor system: The counseling system is gradually developing, with fifteen counselors and about five hundred counselees registered.

(6) Ratha-yātrā: We had Ratha-yātrās at Mira Road, Thane, Bhayender, and Kandivali.

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 *sanikīrtana*, more *prasādam* distribution. Please help us by inspiring us and endowing us with spiritual strength. Please help us really work together. We depend on your mercy every day, and every moment.

No matter how busy we may be, our activities should always revolve around you, and our attachment to your lotus feet should increase with the passing of time, not decrease.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we can become effective instruments in this wonderful mission you have established, and please allow us to be engaged in your service life after life. Bless us so that we can serve your lotus feet steadily, just as our Guru Mahārāja is serving your holy instructions.

You famously said that the way we can show our gratitude for all you have done for us is to cooperate in pushing on this movement. So we are trying to cooperate, and we hope all the devotees will cooperate for Your Divine Grace’s pleasure.

On this auspicious day we pray to Your Divine Grace to please bless us all with the intelligence, determination, tolerance, flexibility, and Kṛṣṇa consciousness to overcome our differences and cooperate fully, as you desired, so that ISKCON may flourish and thus provide more and more devotees and conditioned souls with the chance to take shelter in your great society.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Mira Road, Mumbai, India.

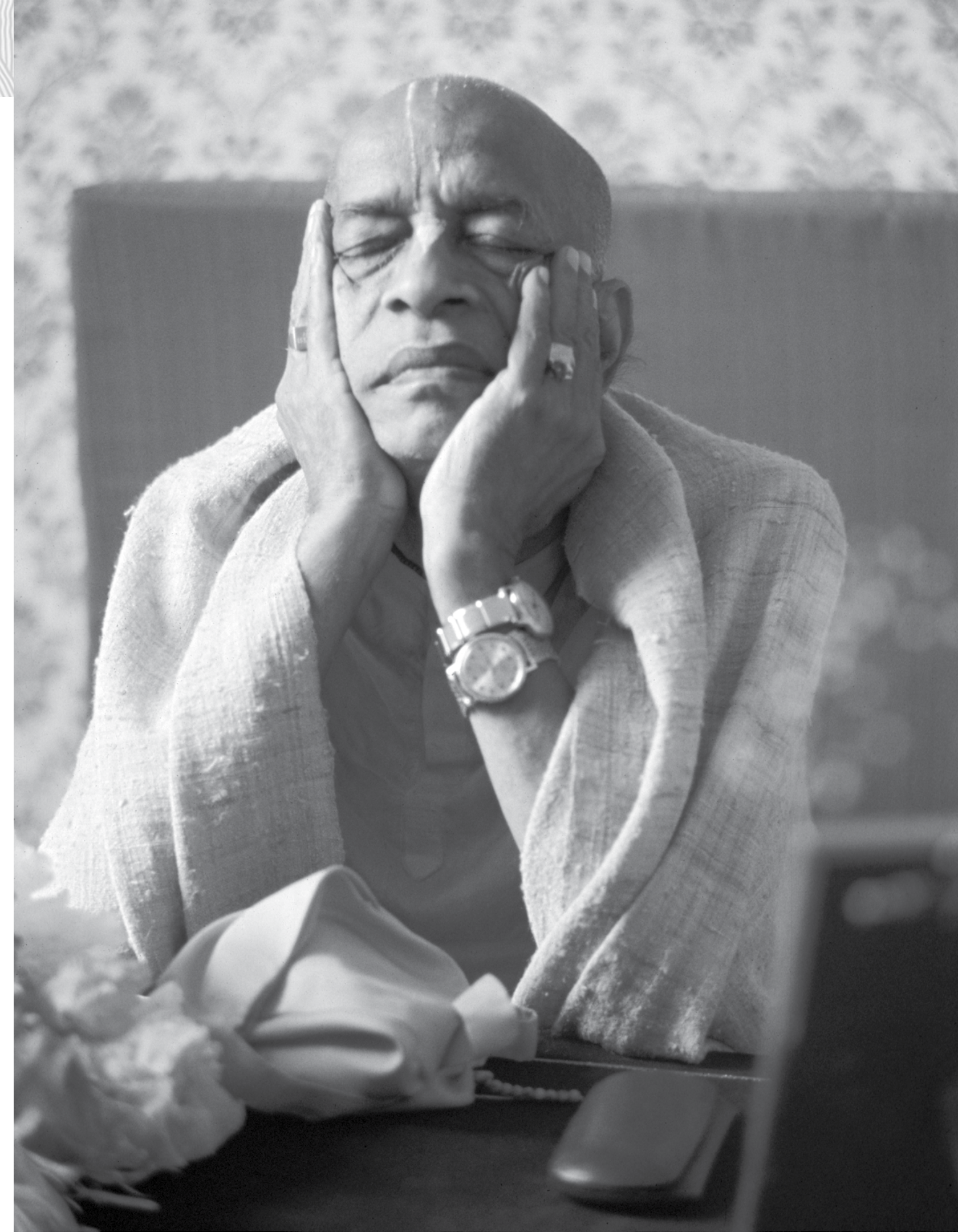
Nagara-Saṅkīrtana Mandir

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda

Your teachings . . .
Are like the *cintāmaṇi* stones in Vaikuṇṭha.
Your words . . .
Are as powerful as the thunderbolt that attacked Govardhana Hill.
Your mercy . . .
Is as strong as the shower of devotional love.
Your smile . . .
Is like the blossoming flowers in the forests of Vṛndāvana.
Your books . . .
Are like a sword cutting the handcuffs of Māyā-devī.
Your appearance . . .
Is the destroyer of material attachment.
Your presence . . .
Is an unlimited shower of mercy.
Your coming to the West . . .
Is enthusiasm.
Your existence . . .
Is hope.
And . . .
Your Vyāsa-pūjā . . .
Is your love that penetrates all boundaries.
O jewel of the *Vedas* . . .
O the jewel of *bhakti*,
Your life is for the eternal,
Your sincerity changes the world,
Your faithfulness attracts the heart,
And . . .



Your works
Are a source of inspiration.

Your servants at Nagara-Saṅkīrtana Mandir, Bali, Indonesia.

(written by Maheśa Paṇḍita Dāsa)

Nagpur

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to you on your Vyāsa-pūjā day. All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, many good things have transpired in ISKCON Nagpur during the last year. We had the best book marathon ever in our history, distribute more than eight thousand *Bhagavad-gītās* during the month of December. Our distribution teams went out every day.

A stronger and more united management team has been established in Nagpur, so that more care and spiritual guidance can be given to the temple devotees, as well as the congregation members.

Just a month ago, due to the ceaseless *tapasya* and never-ending enthusiasm of our beloved Guru Mahārāja, His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, and your eternal and causeless mercy upon all of us, we were offered a completely new temple building, with all facilities, right in the center of Nagpur. We are now in the process of taking over this wonderful property, and we have high hopes this move will further advance the preaching mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

We have also acquired some land in another very promising location, right next to Nagpur's international airport. We hope to build a beautiful temple there for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha, making it a distinct landmark for the city of Nagpur.

We clearly see Kṛṣṇa's hand at work. When we are united, everything becomes auspicious and wonderful.

From the story of the Pracetas in the Fourth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, we can understand that Śrī Kṛṣṇa is bestowing the same mercy upon us as He bestowed on them when they stayed unified during their ten thousand years of *tapasya* underwater. You famously said, "You will show your love for me by the way you cooperate once I am gone," and we are trying, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The only way we will be able to achieve our goals in Nagpur is if you shower your mercy on us. First we need your causeless mercy and the mercy of our entire *guru-paramparā*, and only then can we expect the mercy of Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa. We therefore most humbly and sincerely pray at your lotus feet that you will empower us to reach out to one another and to all the souls in Nagpur. Please give us a little taste for the holy name, and please forgive all our shortcomings and offenses at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!* You are the savior of the most fallen.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Nagpur, India.

New Badarikāśrama

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your inconceivable service to Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

The *śāstra* informs us that hearing about your glory is so unlimited that it is far beyond the stage of *brahmānanda*, so we ordinary fallen souls can get only a glimpse of understanding about the mercy of the dust from your feet from authorized scriptures and great self-realized personalities. Through the eyes of the authorized scriptures you have so magnanimously presented to us, we can, only by your causeless mercy, acquire some comprehension of your unimaginable glory.

Many of us have had the good fortune to associate with you personally through your books, recorded lectures, and videos. It is said that contact with a pure devotee such as you for even a fraction of a moment, even without formally receiving any teachings, will remove any attraction one might have to the results of pious activity or the culture of so-called knowledge. So now what interest can we have in the rewards of material life, except for engaging all such rewards in the propagation your transcendental cause, this Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. We can follow in the footsteps of Lord Śiva and beg the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa to bless us with your association, for you are always merciful upon fallen conditioned souls. We do not have your physical company at this time, and therefore our real benediction is to take shelter of your books and the processes you have prescribed for reviving our dormant love for Kṛṣṇa.

There are many processes for understanding the Absolute Truth, but for us the only way the Absolute Truth will be revealed is if we receive your mercy. It is you who have kindly given us the invitation to enter into the eternal festival of spiritual life.

What good fortune to have achieved a human birth on this earth during this time of the inauguration of your ISKCON movement! There is no use striving for material gain to enjoy profuse material comforts. Such a life bars one from taking shelter under the shade of your lotus feet.

Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, informs us in the Eleventh Canto about you, stating how dullness, fear, and ignorance are destroyed by engaging in the service of a pure devotee. The Lord tells us the pure devotee is peacefully fixed in absolute knowledge and is the ultimate shelter for souls like us, who are repeatedly rising and falling within the fearful ocean of material life. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are indeed just like a strong boat who have come to rescue us, who were on the point of drowning in the sea of perplexities.

Just as food is the life of all creatures, just as Kṛṣṇa is the ultimate shelter of the distressed, and just as religion is the wealth of those who are passing away from this world, you, Kṛṣṇa's pure devotee, are the only refuge for persons like us, who are fearful of falling into a miserable condition of life.

Whereas the sun allows only external sight, and that only when risen in the sky, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, can bestow divine vision, like that Kṛṣṇa gave Arjuna to behold His universal form. O Śrīla Prabhupāda, intimate servant of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, you are our real worshipable deity and real family. You are all we are made of, and ultimately you are nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa.

We may not have your personal association (*vapu*), but we can relish your companionship in a superior way by scrutinizingly studying your books and hearing from your bona fide representatives about your instructions (*vāñī*). In this way, free from mental concoction, free from the mind's agitation due to accepting and rejecting, and free from intellectual wranglings, we can achieve the perfection of love for Kṛṣṇa.

All of us beg for your mercy to make progress on the path back home, back to Godhead. We wish to show this advancement by cooperating with authorities and other devotees while rendering our various services.

Thank you so very much.

Your eternal debtors at New Badarikāśrama, Denver, Colorado, USA.

New Biharvan

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, and all glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Baṅkebihārī, the presiding Deities of New Biharvan, Boise.

Every day, every year in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is special. This year, 2011, saw the 525th anniversary of Lord Caitanya's appearance; today is the 115th anniversary of your most divine appearance; in July we will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the incorporation of ISKCON; and, in a very small measure, this year will see the 25th anniversary of the founding of our temple in Boise.

As all the activities on this planet are happening because of the presence of the sun, so we celebrate all these anniversaries because of you.

The body of ISKCON runs because you are the heart of ISKCON. Here in Boise we would have not survived one year, what to speak of twenty-five years, had it not been for your divine, mystical presence here.

We still remember the first true Sunday Feast we held in Boise, in November of 1986. We had observed devotees in Los Angeles and Chicago do it. Now it was our turn. Sitting on a cushioned chair, you watched us struggle in a small kitchen.

The phone rang. Janakīnātha Prabhu was on the other end. "I am in Boise. How do I get to the temple?" He had shepherded us into Kṛṣṇa consciousness through your books. We had lost touch with him. How did he know we were here? Janakīnātha Prabhu came and showed us how to do a Sunday feast. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

A year later, a disciple of Vīrabāhu Prabhu named Prabhupādasevā Dāsa showed up at our door. We had met him very briefly in Los Angeles. In the early days of our temple, every time a devotee visited us in Boise, we knew you had sent him or her. Something needed to be done for our survival. Sure enough, Prabhupādasevā Prabhu was an accountant by trade and thus knew about incorporating companies. He told us how we should incorporate. He stayed with us for a week, making sure all the paperwork was submitted and approved. As his name implied, he had come to do *sevā* for you—to make sure that your temple was on sound legal ground. His legal work has guided us through these twenty-five years. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We made our first devotees—Brijdevī Mātājī and Sādhumārga Prabhu—when she miraculously got her vision back and he ate thirty *gulabjāmons*, your "ISKCON bullets," in one sitting. You sent us Mother Yaśodāmāyī with our first Jagannātha Deities and the skill to do our plays at Ratha-yātrā, Mother Revatī Devī Dāsī with the big Jagannātha Deities and the ability to sew the dresses and huge curtain for the altar. Mother Īśvarī painted Them; Kāmagāyatrī Mātājī got us our own *ratha*. You sent Āśā, Śāśijī, Ṣaḍbhujā Dāsa, and Āratī Devī Dāsī as our order-suppliers in India, our two preaching faces, and four sets of helping hands, and you sent Rādhikāramaṇa, Gopālhari, and Kamalānanda Prabhu to keep your temple brand new. How can we forget the *sevās* rendered by Tulasī Kṛṣṇa, Mādhurya Rādhā, Mālātī Mātājī, and Shyāmājī? The temple became a community with Amṛta Mātājī, Śrīhari, Śrīnivās, Upendra, Balabhadra, Candra Prabhu, and our *bhaktas* and *bhaktins*—Anurag, Garnett, Jayant, Nalini Steve, and Tim—who have settled with families near the temple and serve the Deities. These are just a few of the many devotees you sent to help us keep the temple running. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all the devotees.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Above all, you sent four of your best assistants to hold our hands and guide us—Badrinārāyaṇ Prabhu, Gaṇapati Swami, Gopāl Krishna Goswami, and Hanumatpresaka Swami. Year after year, for twenty-five years, they have guided us and reminded us of your presence and your divine mission, and prodded us to carry on. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Our biggest fear in this remote Idaho desert was how we would handle all the trials and tribulations that every temple goes through. In hindsight, our fears were unfounded. We realize you were with us all the time.

One night I had a dream . . .
I dreamed I was walking in the hot desert sands of Idaho.
I was walking along the desert with you.
Across the sky flashed scenes from the temple.
For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand:
One belonged to me, and the other to you.

Twenty-five years later,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that many times along the path
There was only one set of footprints.
I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in the life of the temple.
This really bothered me, and I questioned Baṅkebihārī about it.
“Lord, You said that once I decided to follow You,
You would walk with me all the way;
But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times
There is only one set of footprints.
I don’t understand why in times when I
needed You the most, You should leave me.”
Baṅkebihārī replied, “My innocent child,
I love you, and I would never,
never leave you during your times of
trial and suffering.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that My Prabhupāda was carrying you.”
(adapted from “Footprints in the Sand,” by Mary Stevenson)

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for carrying all of us in your lap, in Boise.
Stuck in the hot material sands of Idaho, we remain

Your servants in Boise, Idaho, USA.

New Dvārakā

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

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

A few years ago a disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda passed away, and just before he left his body his Christian mother told him, “Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!” That is the inspiration for the following poem.

“Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”

We were searching for the highest of highs,
Not knowing where we’d land.
“Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”
a kind soul we met did demand.

We heard you speak in the park one day,
And *māyā* was literally crushed.
“Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”
A voice spoke and our attachment was hushed.

Saṅkīrtana and book distribution
throughout the day and night.
“Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”
Our devotion reached great heights.

Devotees joined in huge numbers.
Many youths really wanted a chance
to “Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”
and take to your process of chant and dance.

We thought you’d stay with us forever;
Your personal association was so sweet.
But we had to “Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”
In separation we worshiped your lotus feet.

“Carry on the legacy; cooperate to spread
Kṛṣṇa consciousness in your land.”
“Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”
The future is in our hand.

For ten thousand years to come
your books the law books will be.
“Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”
This will be the key.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

*Ante nārāyaṇa-smṛtiḥ.
Bhagavad-gītā says it all.
“Think of Kṛṣṇa! Go to Prabhupāda!”
The writing’s on the wall.*

Śrīla Prabhupāda’s servants in New Dvārakā, Los Angeles, California, USA.

(written by Sura Dāsa)

New Gokula

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*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*

On this, your Vyāsa-pūjā day, the devotees of New Gokula Dhāma (ISKCON Vancouver) wish to acknowledge their great fortune to be servants at your lotus feet. The following poem, “Śrīla Prabhupāda—Your Loving Ways,” expresses their feelings:

Śrīla Prabhupāda—Your Loving Ways

You followed your guru,
And we follow you.
Without you, Śrīla Prabhupāda,
We would not know Kṛṣṇa, the Absolute Truth.

We swing Him on swings,
He dances on our tongues,
We eat His Mahā remnants,
And chant in *kīrtan*.

That blue cowherd boy
Who you love so much,
By your causeless mercy
Is now known to us.

Happiness and joy
Accompany our days;
Love and devotion
Decorate our ways.



What words can we express?
What can we say?
We love you, Śrīla Prabhupāda,
For your giving ways.

Selflessly you engaged us,
Total strangers from the start.
You melted our steel-clad hearts,
Which were dirty and dark.

You saw within us the soul's tiny spark,
Which you carefully fanned into flames.
And now we sing, dance, and chant
Kṛṣṇa's transcendental holy names.

We will do all of this
Till the end of our days,
And then we will meet you,
Śrīla Prabhupāda, face to face.
Thank you, Your Divine Grace.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

With love from . . .

The devotees at New Gokula Dhāma, Vancouver, Canada.

(written by Padyāvalī Devī Dāsī)

New Goloka

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day, we bow at your lotus feet and offer our heartfelt, humble obeisances. Śrīpāda Nayanānanda Bābājī related the following anecdote:

The last year that our *gurudeva* [Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura] organized and performed Navadvīpa-dhāma Parikramā, thousands of pilgrims assembled at our Cāṇpāhāṭi temple. There was an entire village of tents stretching in all directions. On the afternoon of the last day, one of our godbrothers had just arrived in Navadvīpa, recently come from London by ship. He had gone there to preach but had returned without meeting full success. That evening during his lecture, Guru-mahārāja explained his earnest desire that Caitanya Mahāprabhu's teachings be spread in the Western countries. He said that this was the last request of his mother, Śrīmatī Bhagavatī-devī, to him before she left this world, and that indeed it would happen. Consequently, he had been willing to take the lifeblood of the Gauḍīya Maṭha funds to send devotees there, yet their attempts had been largely unsuccessful.

At that point in his talk I noticed something mysterious happening. Guru-mahārāja had been looking out at the packed crowd of devotees, especially in the front, where all the *sannyāsīs* and *brahmacārīs* in red cloth were. Then he turned his head and looked over to his left side, where I was standing. He was looking at someone and became silent for some time. I happened to look behind me and saw that the person with whom he was making eye contact was Abhaya Caraṇāravinda Prabhu. I felt that they were looking at each other in a special way. Then Guru-mahārāja turned and again addressed the audience in front of him and said, "But I have a prediction. However long in the future it may be, one of my disciples will cross the ocean and bring back the entire world." [Śrī Bhaktisiddhānta Vaibhava, Vol. 2, pp. 392–93]

At your very first meeting with Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, without even any formalities of exchanging introductions, etc., he expressed his desire that you preach to the English-speaking world.

We are immensely grateful to him for sending you to rescue all of us, and we are immensely grateful to you for spending your life preparing to carry out that request, and then actually doing it. Indeed, across the entire world devotees are engaged in distributing your message. How the entire disciplic succession must rejoice in your triumph!

We stand on the shore of that vast, unfathomable ocean of *bhakti* that you have selflessly delivered to us. And although we have experienced but a drop, we know that it is very deep. All of us want to be better devotees, to utilize our precious time for advancing in loving devotional service. To perfect our lives. But some of us are so distracted by our self-imposed material obligations and the external degrading influences of our environment that we feel lethargic and uninspired. Yet we know the solution. But knowing doesn't make a big difference.

More than anything, now more than ever, we need your illuminating guidance to apply ourselves to the simple and sublime process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, with all its variety of services. Let us continually hear from you by reading your books and listening to your recorded words. May we chant the holy name purely. We also pray to be empowered by you to spread the rays of the benediction moon, as per your *gurudeva*'s prediction.

With deep gratitude,

Your eternal servants at New Goloka Dhāma, Hillsborough, North Carolina, USA.

(written by Kamalinī Devī Dāsī)

New Govardhana (Australia)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

On this auspicious day of your appearance, on behalf of the New Govardhana community, I would like to thank you for all you have done for us, known or unknown.

The world is being shaken by natural disasters—floods, tsunamis, earthquakes—as well as manmade disasters like terrorism. Had you not come, would the world have been taken over by aliens? Or ruined by natural catastrophes? Perhaps by now the drunks in the Bowery would have set the standards of behavior for everyone.

It appears that we have made progress in our behavior as humans: we are not hippielike anymore, more empathy is being taught, tendencies are moving toward saving the planet, and we seem to have the ability to recover from major catastrophes. But who has set the trends? Who has made the human race less animalistic and more inclined toward sattvic activities and respect for one another? What is it that has prevented a force-5 cyclone from wiping out a total state, as it was meant to?

Is it Facebook technology? Better work ethics? Is it science, which blindly reacts to mother nature's hard blows? Is it the evolution of the species, or perhaps the green movement?

I dare say it is none of the above. It is simply Your Divine Grace's teachings; the chanting of the holy name you have spread all over the world; the distribution of millions of plates of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*; all the temples you have established as bridges from the material plane to Kṛṣṇa's abode; all of Kṛṣṇa's devotees you have made, regardless of their previous sinful activities—devotees who are daily chanting Kṛṣṇa's glories; all the festivals celebrated, as you taught us. All of this creates the countercurrent to impious activities in this Age of Kali.

It is certain that without you the world would now be a lot worse and Kali would have stepped in a lot faster. But you, as strong as Parīkṣit Mahārāja, drew the sword of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and chastised Kali and set him back ten thousand years.

But as usual, rampant impersonalism has robbed everyone of the intelligence to give Kṛṣṇa and you, His representative, the credit for all those wonderful achievements.

You once said:

If a man makes an artificial imitation of nature, say by barking, people go to see and even pay money. When it comes to the natural barking, no one cares. And when these big so-called scientific rascals claim they can manufacture life, people give all sorts of praise and awards. As for God's perfect, natural process—millions and millions of beings born at each moment—no one cares. People don't give God's process very much credit.

Let us gather today and praise you, giving you due credit by honoring your achievements in defeating Kali and his agents. Please bless us with the ability to serve and honor you rightly as we undertake this challenging and unique task of crediting Kṛṣṇa and his envoy.

Hoping this meets with our approval, we remain

Your servants at the New Govardhana farm community in Australia.

New Govardhana (United States)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

You taught us that the spiritual master is very merciful because he gives the best possible boon—devotional service—to his disciples. Because of your loving kindness, we are receiving that gift in great measure here in New Govardhana. Out of gratitude for this great gift, we pray that you will allow us to increase our service to you.

In 1961, on the Vyāsa-pūjā day of your spiritual master, you advised your godbrothers that one who serves the guru's message really worships him. In defining your message, and the message of your guru, you asked your followers to accept the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who said to the *brāhmaṇa* Kūrma: "Tell everyone you meet about Kṛṣṇa, and by My command become a guru and save this land." This, you said, was your mission.

We are so very grateful, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your instructions and for the mercy you give us as we attempt to serve your mission. By the grace of sincere devotees in your New Govardhana community, we are spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in San Diego. Your Krishna Lounge program, 16 Rounds newspaper, Sunday KrishnaFest, and Bhakti Śāstrī course continue to attract new people to the practice of *bhakti-yoga*.

In 1961, you told your godbrothers:

Act for the welfare of others. This is the storehouse of happiness both now and after death. So much work has fallen into your hands. Everyone should join together and do something about it. . . . The world is simply insurmountable *māyā*. If there were a kingdom of Viṣṇu and Vaiṣṇavas on earth, then everyone would be happy.

Your devotees in New Govardhana are making sincere efforts to act for the welfare of others, as you instructed. By giving shelter to new devotees in your *āśrama* and through your Bhakti Chakra and Bhakti Śikṣā programs, we get the priceless benediction of participating in Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement. Through the efforts of sincere book distributors, teachers, lecturers, mentors, and dedicated *pūjārīs*, and through loving exchanges between friends, new devotees become more and more engaged in the precious gift of devotional service.

By cooperating to serve you, we find that we are part of a family of devotees. We find that everyone has something meaningful to offer you, from the senior leaders to the brand-new *bhaktas* and *bhaktins*. We see that your young *brahmacārīs* can take shelter of good instructions from your senior *grhasthas* and that your *grhasthas* can become enlivened by the enthusiasm and sincere practice of your young *brahmacārīs*. We see that the newest devotees can be the most fired-up preachers of your message, decorating their friends with *tilaka* and bringing them to worship Lord Jagannātha.

Most of all, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we see that you empower our tiniest efforts to serve your message, making participation in Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission both successful and sublime. We pray that you will enable us to increase our cooperation in your service, to increase the number of devotees in New Govardhana, to increase our commitment to Kṛṣṇa's service, and to increase our love for you.

Your aspiring servants in New Govardhana Dhāma, San Diego, California, USA.

New Navadvīpa

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace and your sincere followers.

As elsewhere, most of your present followers in Hawaii never saw you walk this earth. When I tell them what it was like to see you, they always want to hear more. So to please those who are pleasing you, I will describe what it was like for me to see you for the first time.

By July 1971, I had been reading your books and listening to your voice for about a year. On Friday the 16th we arrived in Detroit from New Vrindaban, where I had found my Kṛṣṇa consciousness finally “taking root” after joining your movement a year earlier in Boston. You had been away from America that year and had recently returned to Los Angeles, the first stop on a cross-country tour in which you were initiating the hundreds of devotees joining your “Hare Kṛṣṇa explosion.”

From New Vrindaban; Ontario, Canada; and the American Midwest we trekked, descending on Detroit’s Metro Airport in a way unthinkable today. *Ching-ching-ching, boom-boom-boom* resounded our *kīrtana*, transforming the airport and beckoning your late-arriving jet. Even after it landed, you must have been the last one off the plane, the *kīrtana* building to a nearly unbearable crescendo until at last you appeared.

I couldn’t see you, but I knew you must be there because—left, right, and center—whole swaths of devotees were cascading to the floor, dumbstruck by what they saw. And then it happened to me. “Absolute power flowing through absolute humility,” I later reflected. You don’t see that in the material world. But if you do, the soul spontaneously responds. Total joy tackles you and down you go. *Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

Floating atop a sea of devotees, you made your way across the gate’s lounge to a makeshift, canopied *vyāsāsana*, where you sang Hare Kṛṣṇa and surveyed the new faces riding the *saṅkīrtana* wave. Holding high a silver chalice, you air-dropped a steady stream of water into your lotus mouth. When someone presented a tray of sweets, you tossed one through full lips and flicked in an errant crumb with your *surabhi* tongue. “*Jaya om viṣṇupāda paramaharisa . . .*” you commanded, sending us to the floor again. Then you spoke.

It has become very satisfactory that so many devotees, boys and girls, are taking part in this great movement, Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. It is very important movement because it is correcting the human civilization. There is a great defect in the modern civilization, and people are accepting this body as self, and based on this mistake in the foundation, everything is going wrong. The basic principle of civilization—accepting this body as the soul—is the beginning of all problems.

Mentioning your recent Moscow talks with Professor Kotovsky, you continued the same message, a simple message, but to hear you say it with such profound truth and beauty elicited the highest praise I knew: WOW!

So basic principle of this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is to correct the wrong foundation of the human civilization. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* this is the beginning of spiritual knowledge. When Arjuna was identifying himself with this body and bodily relationship, Kṛṣṇa first of all corrected that “You are not this body.” So if we do not understand these first steps of spiritual knowledge, then where is the question of making further progress?

Suddenly, from the public address system boomed the airport’s own concern about progress: “Ladies and gentlemen, I have to ask you to clear the boarding area. We have a flight leaving here in about thirty minutes. We have to check it in. So if you’ll kindly clear the boarding area, please.” Your Divine Grace was the first to comply.

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Your business finished, you led us back to the temple, where the following day you kindly initiated me. But that's another story, Śrīla Prabhupāda, one your younger followers also ask about. And why not? You may be my initiating spiritual master, but in ISKCON you are everyone's founder-*ācārya*. We are your *anugas*, your instructed followers, and to enhance our common, core kinship, I beg your permission to go on sharing my little "Prabhupāda stories." For aging eyewitnesses like me, what better service, what greater fortune? Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants in your New Navadvīpa community, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA,

(written by Sureśvara Dāsa)

New Raman Reti

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

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

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most glorious occasion of your appearance, we are eager to present our offerings unto you for your pleasure. These offerings are the combined efforts of many hundreds of devotees in the New Raman Reti community, and they encompass many devotional and preaching activities.

Last year we were able to install Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma in Their temple here at New Raman Reti. This was done with the help of more than four hundred families and individuals who came forward in large and small ways to make their contribution to serve Their Lordships. Seamstresses completed the sewing on many new outfits so that Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma would have new outfits matching the many outfits already in use by Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. These outfits were graced with all new jewelry, ornaments, and crowns. Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma stand on a hand-carved base on an exquisitely carved *siṃhāsana* on Their beautiful altar. To properly store all Their dresses and paraphernalia, the *pūjārī* room was expanded, and many cabinets and closets were installed there by dedicated devotees who wanted to see that you had a most excellent facility for serving Their Lordships.

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma were then installed on Their altar and worshiped in an unforgettable festival. The Deity installation was performed by many *brāhmaṇas* and senior devotees. The elaborate procedures were absorbing for everyone and done with great expertise. The two-day festival had continuous ecstatic *kīrtanas*, and the *prasādam* seemed to overflow continuously.

To facilitate future ever-expanding plans to prepare huge quantities of *prasādam*, we had a new, modern kitchen built. It is well equipped and professionally designed. It is truly a most wonderful facility. The Deities have Their own separate kitchen, so all Their daily offerings can be easily and expertly prepared.

All our feasts are served outdoors, and for years the guests and devotees often had to sit out in the open air. Again the devotees and congregation came together to construct a *prasādam* pavilion, which will shelter everyone from the sun and rain. It also offers a nice facility for dramas and other performances.

Mothers Laxmimonī and Ākūti have created the Bhakti Bhavan, a *bhaktin* training center. There they

hold many training seminars and teach Bhakti Śāstrī courses, which facilitate young women who want to learn the details of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Book distribution, which is so dear to your heart, has increased. Many books were distributed during the very successful December marathon because of a united effort by the community of devotees. The devotees are very inspired to serve you in this way, and many of them were personally involved in the distribution.

Prasādam distribution continued to expand this past year, as we increased the number of persons served daily on the campus of Santa Fe College.

Many devotees helped the Ratha-yātrā team, headed by Bhadrā and Dharmarāja Prabhus, put on Ratha-yātrās in seven cities across North Florida. These events were attended by over 100,000 visitors and hundreds of devotees.

New Raman Reti is situated on a 127 acres of land. On that land our Save the Cow team continues to take excellent care of your cows. We also have expanded our vegetable gardens, which supply the Deities with organic produce year round.

A Vaiṣṇava Care team, which cares for elderly and terminally ill devotees, has been further expanded.

The second-generation devotees have continued to make our festivals extraordinary, putting on dramas, creating a Village of Vrindavan exhibit of holy places, and performing many other services. These festivals attract thousands of devotees and congregation members, including our expanding Indian congregation, who come from all over North Florida.

The second generation is also taking major responsibility for teaching in the Bhaktivedanta Academy, which trains our children.

We hope that these offerings are pleasing to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. They represent the combined efforts of the devotees in the temple community.

We continue to beg for your mercy so that we can continue to expand the glories of the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa and bring more and more conditioned souls to surrender at your lotus feet.

Your humble servants at the New Raman Reti rural community in Alachua, Florida, USA

New Tālavana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisance. All glories to your divine, transcendental loving devotional service. You are tasting the nectar of Lord Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet, and we are very happy. Please allow us to continue serving your transcendental orders and attempting to fulfill your sublime desires, so that we may achieve shelter at your transcendental lotus feet.

Are we actually in touch with you? Are other members of your International Society for Krishna Consciousness in touch with you? Certainly the answer can be found in *śāstra*, or by speaking with advanced devotees. We have learned from you that the *vāṇī* (the message) of the spiritual master is greater than the *vapu* (form), or in other words that the instructions of the guru is more important than his physical presence. Consequently we can always be in touch with the spiritual master through his instructions. Surely his physical presence is spiritually enlivening, but his instructions are with us forever. They give us his guidance, his sweet loving words, and the transcendental perspective.

Therefore, according to our degree of comprehension and following of your instructions, we are in



touch with you. Is there any doubt about that? Let us assume there is some doubt. Can it be dispelled? Is it so strong that it creates a negative mode in our devotional service and keeps us from dispelling it? Let us assume it is that heavy. Still, it absolutely can be dispelled by the power of devotional service. But we've assumed we cannot do it. What is not possible for us is possible for the spiritual master, *sādhus*, *śāstras*, and Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Devotional service begins with this faith.

By good fortune one becomes eligible to cross the ocean of nescience, and when one's term of material existence decreases, one may get an opportunity to associate with pure devotees. By such association, one's attraction to Kṛṣṇa is awakened. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 22.45]

By associating with a devotee, one awakens his faith in devotional service to Kṛṣṇa. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 22.49]

Please forgive me, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for insufficiently quoting scriptural references to prove my logic. Certainly I can do the research, but I prefer to go on, and if time permits I will add more. My point is that any devotee can stay in touch with you even though you are not physically present. Your touch is our desired object. All humans are motivated by an objective. Unfortunately, most are motivated by temporary and very limited objectives pertaining only to this world. A few, with some conception of transcendence, desire liberation or mystic powers. Our objective is your service, because that service is the best welfare for all living entities and gives us your association. You have so nicely explained everything concerning transcendental knowledge that we unequivocally want your association and service forever. Factually your explanations of Vedic knowledge can deliver the hopeless conditioned souls throughout the universe and keep us in connection with you.

It is your arrangements that have brought us to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is your devotional service and your words—your logical arguments, scriptural references, and explanations—that have changed our thinking and given us the desire for God, or Kṛṣṇa consciousness. *Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo*: by the spiritual master's mercy, the disciple gains Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy. You taught us this prayer by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura (*Gurv-aṣṭaka* 8), and you showed us the truth of this prayer by your personal example of unflinching service to your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

Writing, producing, and distributing your translations of the most important Vedic literatures for mankind certainly constitute your most important devotional service. It is through these great literatures and the transcendental devotional service they teach that we and others can continue to associate with you, clear our hearts of doubts and delusion, become more and more Kṛṣṇa conscious, and ultimately join you and the Lord. Your divine mercy makes it possible for us to be one in interest with Śrīman Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement and to take guidance from God within.

Kṛṣṇa is situated in everyone's heart as the *caitya-guru*, the spiritual master within. When He is kind to some fortunate conditioned soul, He personally gives him lessons so he can progress in devotional service, instructing the person as the Supersoul within and the spiritual master without. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 22.47]

Some people are skeptical when they hear someone claiming to directly take God's guidance, since there are so many fools and rascals who make similar claims. But taking such guidance is the natural way of life for devotees, and it is very practical. Everything is easily verifiable by consulting the scriptures you have given us, your words and those of the previous *ācāryas*, and the instructions of saintly *sādhus* or holy men. Materialists spend thousands of hours researching their papers, plans, and books, but you have taught us how to get in touch with God very quickly and easily, and we do not need modern technology or libraries. We've learned to contact the Absolute Truth simply through His sound incarnation. You are the connection, and you've given us one simple mantra to do the trick, giving us results that are far beyond what *karmīs*, *jñānīs*, and *yogīs* can attain even after dedicating massive amounts of time, facilities, and endeavor. Surely we owe you more than our very life.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

O my Lord! Transcendental poets and experts in spiritual science could not fully express their indebtedness to You, even if they were endowed with the prolonged lifetime of Brahmā, for You appear in two features—externally as the *ācārya* and internally as the Supersoul—to deliver the embodied living being by directing him how to come to You. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.29.6]

You are so generous that you have given us the same transcendental life you lived, breathed, and spoke about. We are endeavoring to follow your teachings and example, Śrīla Prabhupāda. When I look around at your dear granddisciples here at New Tālavana, I see them growing up into young transcendentalists eager to lead Kṛṣṇa conscious lives. All of them who are following your teachings I see as happy as transcendental cowherd people. Yes, you have done the wonder you so many times referred to while convincing others of this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. It is still going on and getting better and stronger. Sure there are still calamities, but that is part of living within the material universe. You have taught and showed us how to deal with reverses. You have empowered us to call upon the name of God, not to fulfill our petty material desires but to carry on the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

We cannot adequately express our thankfulness. It is simply wondrous that we are gaining more and more fulfillment by carrying out your order to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all. When we try to do so, contact with you becomes a reality. Yes, the shade of your lotus feet is our most valuable object, and that is our objective.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us this opportunity to link with you and the Supreme Personality of Godhead, His devotees, and His mission. Thank you for remaining our ever well-wisher and allowing us to continue serving your lotus feet, birth after birth. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your ISKCON, your BBT, your farms, and everything else you've given us. All glories to your devotional service!

Sincerely,

Your disciples and granddisciples at New Tālavana Dhāma, Mississippi, USA.

(written by Yogīndra Vandana Dāsa)

New Varṣāṇā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

During my visit to the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara Temple in Śrī Vṛndāvana this year, I happened to come across a realization you wrote that entered deep into my heart. So this year I would like to make your realization my offering, for I feel it to be one of the most amazing things I have ever read—your personal realization, written in your room in the hub of the spiritual world. It is full of great spiritual insight and gives hints to all as to how through advancement in spiritual life one can have the association of the great *ācāryas* and can also be with you eternally.

Those who stay there [at the Rādhā-Dāmodara Temple] will realize that those *ācāryas* [Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī, Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī, and Śrīla Bhūgarbha Gosvāmī] are still living there. And if one is actually advancing in the spiritual field, one can still take instruction from the *ācāryas* living there. It is up to the individual how he realizes this by his devotional service. By staying there you must realize how pure the environment is. The environment itself gives a high taste of consciousness. Rādhā-Dāmodara are there, and the great *ācāryas*' *samādhis*

are there. There cannot be any other better place to live than Rādhā-Dāmodara temple. This corner of the Rādhā-Dāmodara Temple is just like the hub of the wheel of the spiritual world. It is the center. I eternally reside in my rooms at the Rādhā-Dāmodara Temple.

I personally cannot find anything greater than to have your eternal association.

Your servants at New Varṣāṇā, ISKCON's rural farm community in New Zealand.

(written by Kalasamvara Dāsa)

New Vraja-dhāma

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is to spread the only medicine effective in this sinful Age of Kali: the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. He predicted that one day the holy name would be chanted everywhere:

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

“In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard.” (*Caitanya-bhāgavata, Antya 4.126*)

Lord Caitanya could have spread *harināma saṅkīrtana* all over the world Himself, but He left this special mission to you because He takes more pleasure when His devotees are glorified. It was the strong desire of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura that the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu be spread to every country of the Western world. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī therefore gave this instruction to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western countries to anyone who displayed some intelligence and spoke English. This was the first instruction that he gave you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and you were the only disciple among the many who received it who really took his instruction seriously. You left Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma and came to the West, taking on a lot of risks and austerities to fulfill the desire of your beloved spiritual master.

Vāsudeva Datta, a very intimate associate of Lord Caitanya, prayed to the Lord in this way:

*jīvera duḥkha dekhi' mora hṛdaya bidare
sarva-jīvera pāpa prabhu deha' mora śīre*

“My Lord, my heart breaks to see the sufferings of all the conditioned souls; therefore I request You to transfer the karma of their sinful lives upon my head.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 15.162*)

Reflecting Vāsudeva Datta's deep sympathy and humble mood, you wrote onboard the *Jaladuta*, in your “Prayer to the Lotus Feet of Kṛṣṇa”:

Homages from ISKCON Centers

“When all the sinful, miserable living entities become happy, the Vaiṣṇavas’ desire is then fulfilled.”

And then a few days later, in your “*Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma*” poem, you prayed to Lord Kṛṣṇa when you arrived in Boston:

“If You so desire, I wish that You may deliver them.”

By your personal example you showed the attitude of a perfect Vaiṣṇava, someone who is ready to accept suffering to give the opportunity for others to go back to Godhead.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the day of your appearance is the most auspicious celebration for us because you brought us the most valuable gift to save us: the original, pure teachings of Lord Caitanya. With a grateful heart we thank you. With your books and lectures you taught the entire world and presented the spiritual practices that are able to elevate anyone to the platform of pure devotion. By your serious efforts and great sacrifice you established numerous temples, preaching centers, Govinda’s restaurants, and farm communities around the world, and with your pure and effulgent personality you attracted many thousands of people to join ISKCON.

You taught that farm communities provide a good opportunity for devotees to live a simple Kṛṣṇa-conscious life, a life based on farming and cow protection, with Kṛṣṇa’s service at the center. Following the principles you set out, devotees under the leadership of your beloved disciple His Holiness Śivarāma Swami established a farm community here in Hungary eighteen years ago, naming it New Vraja-dhāma. A few years later, in 1996, our beloved Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, came to us to mercifully accept the daily worship and devotion of Their devotees. All this was possible by your mercy and by the mercy of your wonderful disciples, for which we are eternally grateful and indebted to you.

In the last eighteen years many aspects of New Vraja-dhāma have gradually unfolded due to the significant efforts of your disciples and granddisciples. First, the farm community has moved more and more toward self-sufficiency centered on protecting cows and engaging oxen in farming, all so that we can offer Rādhē-Śyāma tasty preparations made from homegrown vegetables, fruits, and grain, as well as milk from Their own cows. In this way we would like to set an example of “simple living and high thinking.” In addition, New Vraja-dhāma is a wonderful holy place, the ever-beautiful realm of Rādhē-Śyāma, where tens of thousands of tourists and many devotees visit to get the *darśana* of the most enchanting Rādhē-Śyāma, taste the sweetness of the holy name, and become filled with the devotional mood that pervades here. And above all, New Vraja-dhāma is the spiritual home of our Kṛṣṇa-conscious community, where our children take birth and grow up in an ideal spiritual atmosphere, where the loving care of devotees grows, and where the service of Rādhē-Śyāma and the Vaiṣṇavas is in the center of devotees’ hearts. Our greatest treasure is the association of the Lord’s devotees, and so we gratefully thank you and your disciples for allowing us to live in such a nice Vaiṣṇava society.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the purpose of all our endeavors is to please you and the *guru-paramparā*. We can express our love and gratitude toward you best if we cooperate in the service of your mission. On behalf of our community, I would like to offer all our efforts and activities and service at your lotus feet and humbly ask for your mercy so that we can assist one another in the service of our spiritual master in a selfless mood and cooperative spirit, all aimed at realizing your transcendental vision of *daivī-varṇāśrama*.

Your servants at New Vraja-dhāma, Hungary.

New Vrindavan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this glorious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, please accept our most humble obeisances.

For ten thousand more years, ISKCON, the *saṅkīrtana* movement of which you are the founder-*ācārya*, will be the vehicle by which to cross the dangerous shark-infested ocean of Kali-yuga, in which the fearful people of the world are at present drowning without relief. In view of this astounding fact, can there be a more auspicious day for the conditioned souls than the anniversary of your appearance? Can there be a gratitude more prescient than acknowledging our exceeding good fortune in becoming your disciples and granddisciples during this brief window of opportunity in earthly affairs, after which time the thorough degradation of the human spirit will become a foregone conclusion?

Choosing America to begin your movement because of its leading and exemplary position among the nations of the world, you came here and gave yourself cent percent to anyone who had the slightest inclination to hear your divine message. Thus you sowed the seeds of their redemption by empowering them to forego their mostly degenerate lifestyles. In this way you not only brought relief to their conflicted and bewildered minds, but you saved them from the tragic circumstances of conditioned life—namely, the repetition of birth and death. How could you have voluntarily put yourself in that unenviable position night and day unless you were a pure lover of Lord Kṛṣṇa and felt the true compassion for His parts and parcels that is a quality of a pure unalloyed devotee?

You warned of the dire consequences of thinking that the acquisition of money will solve our devotional problems.

You warned of the danger of relegating our main concern for ourselves and others to that of physical well-being and comfort.

You told us that the unregulated free mixing of the sexes was detrimental to spiritual life, as also the uncontrolled wagging of our tongues.

You told us explicitly what to accept and what to reject; indeed, you taught us everything required to protect us from the pernicious effects of the bodily concept of life.

You brought the very welcome news that there was another world in which we should be freely manifesting our affections, a world of knowledge and bliss, a world without toil and extinction. You explained the circumstances which would make that home of Lord Kṛṣṇa our rightful inheritance.

If we have failed thus far in clearly establishing for ourselves the goals and practices that you so mercifully implored us to adopt, it can be for no other reason than that we have not taken your instructions sufficiently to heart, that we have not yet made them the most important and pressing aspect of our lives. What simpler remedy for all our shortcomings and confusions than for us communally to establish ourselves in this empowering aspect of devotional life?

We are not simply surmising that it was your dream that communities like New Vrindaban become exemplary in pure spiritual living, because you wrote as much. A perfect community practical for all types of people and based on brahminical culture was what you envisaged, a community dependent on agriculture and cows as a means of livelihood.

So if we chant and worship, and till and sow and reap, and care for the cows, and educate our children in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, as was your fond desire for the residents of New Vrindaban, we will without doubt experience the benefits derived from pleasing you. Thus we will experience a new happiness transcendental to any to be experienced endeavoring to satisfy selfish yearnings. As you assured us on so many occasions, it will be a joyous undertaking without limit, and also without the inherent deficiencies of the purely materialistic way of life.

In our fidelity to you we will of course also be pleasing their Lordships Rādhā-Vrindāvan Chandra and the rest of the Deities, whose presence here we accept as being the result of the causeless mercy that you have bestowed, mercy we trust you will continue to bestow upon your surrendered servants through the everlasting medium of your *vāñī*. Thus in the ultimate satisfaction of Lord Kṛṣṇa we will achieve the perfection of our lives and establish fully the miracle of your invaluable association.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

We remain eternally indebted and thankful.

Your humble servants at New Vrindaban Dhāma, West Virginia, USA.

New York (Brooklyn)

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāminn 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.

*tvaṁ naḥ sandarśito dhātrā dustaraṁ nistitīṣatām
kalim̐ sattva-haraṁ puṁsām̐ karṇa-dhāra ivārṇavam*

We think that we have met Your Goodness by the will of providence, just so that we may accept you as 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.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We come together on this most blessed occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā as insignificant beggars lacking adequate devotional qualities to qualify for the ultimate causeless mercy of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and Śrī Kṛṣṇa—love of God, *kṛṣṇa-prema*. We simply bow down and stand before you, at your transcendental lotus feet, our hands held out, hankering for your mercy, eagerly awaiting your love, your inspirational acknowledgement of our eternal relationship, our hearts blossoming with humility, hoping, praying, and shamelessly begging for a Kṛṣṇa Cookie of your divine mercy, love, and elevation to the sincere, steady, and highest spiritual platform of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the prime benediction for every living entity.

Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu provides the recipe to prepare those delicious Kṛṣṇa Cookies of mercy and love that Your Divine Grace so fondly likes to feed us, your insignificant children:

Glories to the *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana*, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years together. Thus the fire of conditioned life, of repeated birth and death, is extinguished. This *saṅkīrtana* movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge, it increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it helps to *have* a taste of the full nectar for which we are always anxious. [*Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka* 1]

Bowing down and standing before Your Divine Grace, seated regally and appearing beautifully on your *vyāsāsana*, our eternal father, our eternal master, and our ever well-wishing friend, we become childlike servants in your glorious presence. You bring out the best in all of us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Every devotee wants to offer you his or her love and devotion, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please help us. We are drowning in an ocean of sorrow, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your association enriches us beyond the limits of our present spiritual advancement. Your association empowers us, and it enables us to serve and surrender to your guidance, teaching us rapidly with each act of sincere devotional service our great responsibility and the great need to be kind and share your mercy and love with other, less fortunate and unfortunate parts and parcels of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrīla Govindadeva, the Supreme lovers and friends of the wonderful Brijabāsīs, the eternal residents of Śrī Vṛndāvana Dhāma.

We become humble, kind, loving servants and friends as we receive matchless gifts of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you offer to all of us who want to serve you with love and devotion, and even to those of us who stand before you, insignificant fools like me, shameless beggars at your lotus feet. We congregate at your divine lotus feet, our empty hands and hankering hearts just waiting for you to notice us, to acknowledge our eternal relationship, waiting to see when these hard, cold hankering hearts will become sincere, meek, and humble, thus qualifying us for one of those priceless Kṛṣṇa Cookies, which nourish and fill our hearts and souls with the bliss of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and deepen our fortunate attachment and dedication to serving your mission.

We need your mercy and special blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are in darkness, we cannot see, we are blind prisoners, victims of Māyā's illusions. Please help us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are fully dependent on your mercy and love. Especially today, on your Vyāsa-pūjā day, your appearance day, we beg on behalf of all Kṛṣṇa consciousness practitioners, all friends of this great movement, the International Society for Krishna consciousness, Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's movement—we beg Your Divine Grace again and again, and yet again, for one of your special Kṛṣṇa Cookies of mercy so we may clean off the dust of Māyā covering our consciousness and polluting our hearts. We beg Your Divine Grace for causeless, pure devotional service in the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, birth after birth.

We beg you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for a little bit of your all-powerful mercy so we will surrender our life, our hearts, and our souls in pure devotion to Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Golden Avatar, who has a heart of gold which is the repository of an unlimited ocean of eternal love and devotion available for everyone who comes in contact with the free and causeless devotional service Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi distribute in the marketplace of the holy name. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has planted the seeds to transform this Iron Age of Kali into the Golden Age of Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. Now if we act as meek and humble assistants and water those seeds of causeless devotion planted by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, we are certain that Your Divine Grace will smile upon us with blessings and that Lord Gaurāṅga will lovingly embrace us to His golden heart of eternal bliss and love.

The great Vaiṣṇava *ācārya* Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura surely knows the revealed path leading to the blessing of mercy and love from Your Divine Grace:

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
dhyāyan stuvaṁś 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.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, more of us in our assemblies need and must seek the path of full surrender to your purifying *śikṣā-vāṇī*, your Kṛṣṇa conscious directions. All who do and who dare to become attached to hearing and serving Your Divine Grace in the form of that spiritually superpotent *śikṣā-vāṇī* will quickly



forget all their miseries, which are deep and dangerous like an ocean of birth and death. Those who surrender will become free from birth and death, sheltered on Caitanya Mahāprabhu's spiritual ship, the ship which you captain, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the peaceful, blissful, and loving ocean of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu's and Śrīla Govindadeva's ocean of the nectar of pure devotion.

“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.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we need your love. Please give all of us more of those superdelicious Kṛṣṇa Cookies directly from your divine lotuslike fingers, frosted with love and friendship from your pure Kṛṣṇa conscious heart. We hanker for one of those Kṛṣṇa Cookies and may dry up and die without one.

Your unfortunate, insignificant servants and beggars at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva Mandir, Brooklyn, New York, USA.

(written by Rāmabhadra Dāsa)

Noida

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this very memorable day, on behalf of ISKCON Noida and its congregation, we offer our *daṇḍavat pranāmas* to your lotus feet. Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, and all glories to your appearance on this planet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you know, ISKCON Noida is dedicated to your divine teachings and is known formally as The Bhaktivedanta Academy for Spiritual Sciences (BASS). By your mercy we are making a little progress. Whenever we organize educational seminars, especially courses on various topics of Vaiṣṇava philosophy, they attract lots of people, and the people's appreciation reminds us that you have given this material world a matchless gift. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this special day I would like to give you a brief report, particularly on our preaching to the youth—how they are coming in contact with your great movement here at the Noida ISKCON center.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you said, youth is a special blessing of the Lord, a time when one is full of energy, quite receptive to new ideas, and relatively free of social responsibilities. A young person can easily be taught to practice the path of perfection and easily imbibe a genuine service attitude toward humanity.

In this fast-growing tech-savvy India, cities like Noida have become technology hubs in terms of high-end education and employment. From all parts of India, large numbers of youths not yet even eighteen come to Noida for training in information technology (IT) and management, as well as to find lucrative jobs. At such an age, they find themselves far from the guidance and shelter of their respected parents and relatives, who to one degree or another had tried to inculcate them with good culture and moral values. In big cities like Noida, where the influence of Kali-yuga is strongest, these tender-aged youths easily fall victim to bad influences and begin indulging in nefarious activities like intoxication, illicit sex, and meat-eating.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the leaders of our youth preaching, well aware of the above facts, are convinced that the remedy for all sorts of problems is Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and that the best and easiest way for one to become Kṛṣṇa conscious is to take shelter of your divine teachings. So our youth leaders are constantly making many kinds programs to attract youths: Saturday Love Feasts, festivals, preaching programs at reputed marketplaces, schools, and colleges, etc. In this way they take every opportunity to bring these youths closer to your great movement, and they are having some success here at Noida ISKCON.

Lord Kṛṣṇa is attractive to people of all ages, but He seems especially appreciated and accepted by young men and women. We have all heard how, when Your Divine Grace started preaching in the USA in 1965, all-attractive and all-youthful Lord Kṛṣṇa very easily captivated the minds of the most bewildered and lost youths of that age, cleansing their hearts of all malice and filling them with love and service.

So, we seek Your Divine Grace's blessings. Kindly shower your mercy upon us so that we can be inspired to contact, convince, and cultivate new youths for your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bestow your mercy upon all the young people of Noida so they can escape the strong clutches of materialism, accept the path of self-realization, and attain the ultimate goal of life.

Your servants at ISKCON Noida, India.

(written by Vraja Bhakti Vilāsa Dāsa)

Pandharpur

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

*namas te sārasvate 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 115th anniversary of your appearance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are very fortunate to live and serve in your wonderful temple here, right on the bank of Chandrabhaga River, in Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma. Last year was a great source of transcendental joy and ecstatic thrills for us as we engaged in your services.

We have concentrated on youth preaching and congregational Nāmahaṭṭas in the areas surrounding Pandharpur, i.e., villages and towns in the districts of Solapur, Osmanabad, and Latur. To encourage college students to study and realize the unique importance of *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā*—which teaches how to perfect one's life by dovetailing all one's actions in the service of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead—we conducted the Bhaktivedanta Talent Search (BTS) Competition in Pandharpur, Osmanabad, and Latur. Eight hundred students from more than thirty colleges took part in the BTS Competition, which was based on the first six chapters of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. The Competition was well received by many college students and their professors, so the prospects for conducting a similar program during the next academic year are high. For Nāmahaṭṭa preaching, the weekly *sat-saṅga* programs and street *harināma kīrtanas* followed by *prasādam* distribution and book distribution are being conducted in villages, towns, and districts in the surrounding areas. As a result of this preaching, the number of visitors to the temple of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharinātha has increased. As usual, Food for Life was the main program in our temple here at Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma. The Ekādaśī Festival was observed with great devotion and charm; around 1.5 million pilgrims visited, and 300,000 were served *prasādam* in Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma during the festival period.

We get life and strength by distributing your transcendental books. Our first priority during last December's marathon was to increase the *saṅkīrtana* scores. Our specific plan was to approach those who had not yet received any of your divine literature, which paves the path back home, back to Godhead. Our *saṅkīrtana* parties thus visited for the first time so many small towns and villages near Pandharpur.

The state government of Maharashtra has appointed the Pandharpur Development Authority (PDA) to oversee the multimillion-dollar project of developing Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma. The aim is to make it a most beautiful pilgrimage place equipped with all facilities for the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to enjoy the natural spiritual atmosphere here in Bhūvaikuṇṭha. It is here that Mother Chandrabhaga flows so magnificently, providing everyone an opportunity to bathe in her divine waters and cleanse away all sins. By thus receiving the causeless mercy Mother Chandrabhaga, one becomes qualified to touch the transcendental lotus feet of the all-merciful Śrī Śrī Viṭṭhala-Rukmīṇī.

Out of all the *āśramas* and cultural organizations in Pandharpur, ISKCON of Pandharpur was accepted by the Pandharpur Development Authority as most suitable to educate the misguided younger generation, cultivate human values in them, and inspire them with true devotion to Lord Viṭṭhala. The PDA will draw up the blueprints for the Pandharpur Development Project in consultation with ISKCON of Pandharpur. Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma has been a place of pilgrimage since ancient times. We encourage ISKCON temples in Maharashtra and throughout India to bring *yātrās* (spiritual tours) to Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma. Here they can conduct various seminars and engage in *kṛṣṇa-kathā* in the most jubilant and enlivening spiritual atmosphere. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us by giving us the opportunity to repeatedly serve you in Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma, where tears come to our eyes out of love while we serve you!

Your servants at ISKCON Pandharpur, India.

Paris

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Kṛṣṇa so wonderfully arranged for you to appear in this world on the day after Janmāṣṭamī; after all, without your transcendental association we could not possibly understand the nature of Kṛṣṇa's birth and activities in this world.

It is Your Divine Grace who revealed the truth of Kṛṣṇa! Prior to your arrival in the Western world, there was so many translations of the *Bhagavad-gītā* available, but none of them produced even a single devotee of Kṛṣṇa. In France, for centuries scholars had read the *Gītā*, but no one concluded that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Godhead. Your English translation of *Bhagavad-gītā*, which was later translated into dozens of other languages and distributed all over the world, has transformed the hearts of millions of souls, from the lowest *mlecchas* to the topmost Vaiṣṇavas. This is your power, the power of a great personality who is completely surrendered to the loving service of the Lord.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you often said that the greatest service we can render to Lord Kṛṣṇa is to promote His transcendental glories far and wide. You showed this by your own example: out of deep compassion for the fallen conditioned souls, in the mood of Nityānanda Prabhu and Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, you distributed the mercy of Kṛṣṇa freely to everyone, not discriminating among who was fit or unfit.

When you left Vṛndāvana, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Kṛṣṇa followed you in the form of His holy name. Kṛṣṇa followed you to Bombay, as you sailed on the *Jaladuta* across the Atlantic ocean to America, and as you then traveled to Europe, to Moscow, to South America, to Australia. For thirteen years Kṛṣṇa followed right behind you. You were constantly hearing the tinkling of His ankle bells (which you told us Śrī Parisīśvara should always wear), and therefore you had the complete faith needed to fearlessly preach His message to everyone. In the form of the holy name, Kṛṣṇa bore witness to your words, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and anyone who chanted it received the supreme mercy of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave Kṛṣṇa in the form of His holy name and taught us that whoever we are and wherever we are, whenever we sincerely chant the holy name in a mood of humility and service, Kṛṣṇa will be there. *Tṛṇād api sunīcena taror iva sahiṣṇunā/ amāninā mānadena kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ*. If we chant the holy name in a spirit of service, humble like the blade of grass, tolerant like the tree, and ready to offer all respects to others while not expecting any in return, Kṛṣṇa will inspire us to chant eternally.

On this 115th anniversary of your appearance in this world, let us try to understand the glories of your compassion, Śrīla Prabhupāda. If we do so, Kṛṣṇa will surely reveal Himself to us in full. Why? Because your compassion, Śrīla Prabhupāda, embodies the supreme mercy of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisīśvara, and to understand your compassion we must follow your instructions, and your main instruction is to always chant the holy name—Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

Your servants in Paris, France.

(written by Rāma Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Perth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Here in the Perth *mandira* we have been reading once a week from Satsvarūpa Mahārāja's *Līlāmṛta*, and we are amazed at how much compassion you showed the conditioned souls by leaving Kṛṣṇa's abode of Vṛndāvana to preach among unregulated, intoxicated, and often disturbed people in the Bowery of New York.

We would like to extend a small portion of your mercy to the people of Perth. Over the last twelve months we have become entangled in a dispute with the local council over our plans to complete your temple here. We do not know what the outcome of this dispute will be, nor do we know Kṛṣṇa's plan for the Perth *yātrā*. How we would love to offer our obeisances to you, describe the situation to you, and hear your analysis. We could then proceed with such confidence.

We suspect that Kṛṣṇa has a plan in mind beyond our limited comprehension, and on this Vyāsa-pūjā day we pray that you help us all progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness so that Kṛṣṇa's plan for the Perth *yātrā* will become manifest to us.

Begging to remain eternally your humble servants,

Your devotees in Perth, Australia.

Philippines

Without A Doubt

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to your blessed appearance day!

There is not the slightest doubt in our minds that you came directly from Kṛṣṇa's abode and appeared on this earthly planet just to save fallen *jīvas* like ourselves and bring us back to Kṛṣṇa. No other *ācārya* accomplished what you did. And even though you have left our vision, your legacy, the ISKCON movement, is continuing to spread all over the globe. This is due to the spiritual potency of your divine personality. Without a shadow of a doubt history will record that you, by the sublime teachings in your books, saved the whole world. The world today is steadily gliding down to a hellish condition of life. Practically speaking, if we depend solely on material remedies, there is no hope of mitigating the unending miseries all around us. Kali-yuga is rapidly progressing, and spirituality is diminishing. In fact, this is not at all surprising. You have taught us in your books that this would happen. Therefore you very expertly made arrangements so those who wish to seek refuge and ultimately escape the clutches of repeated birth and death can be saved by taking shelter in your movement, ISKCON.

You are without a doubt an empowered representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Thus you are not an ordinary human being like the rest of us. Even so, what makes you very special is your quality of being *patita-pāvana*. Your compassion knows no bounds. Although we are most unworthy of your mercy, you still picked us up from our deluded lifestyle and somehow transformed our consciousness,

making us Kṛṣṇa conscious devotees. Because of the love you gave us, we know we should at least attempt to reciprocate. But honestly, our efforts remain futile and even shameful. We can only pray that you kindly accept our endeavor to please you and engage us in devotional service, life after life.

From the bottom of our hearts we sincerely thank you for your kindness, mercy, tolerance, and most of all the love you unconditionally gave us. We can never repay you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. So we request that you kindly make us your humble and menial servants. In this way we hope to eternally serve you and bring many more fallen, conditioned souls to the shelter of your divine lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā *kī jaya!*

Your servants at the Philippines yātrā.

(written by Śrīdāmā Dāsa)

Phoenix

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Recently we were recounting your pastimes before coming to America and soon after your arrival. We were amazed at how much you struggled to establish this movement. Before coming to America, while traveling to America, and during your early days here, you encountered so many difficulties. But you remained undaunted in your determination to fulfill the order of your spiritual master. He asked you to print books and propagate Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West. You wrote the books, printed them, and also distributed them by yourself. You cared very little for your personal convenience. Your only thought was to satisfy your spiritual master and give us Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We are inspired by your dedication and determination. By your example you showed us how to overcome all obstacles and become successful. Such success is possible only by following the instructions of the spiritual master.

Due to your efforts, everything is now easy for us. We have temples, your books, the holy names, and your wonderful disciples, who are carrying on your mission. These disciples are like bright moons illuminating this planet with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Expertly trained by you, they are enlivening all the devotees. We are so fortunate to have their association and guidance in our spiritual lives. This is part of the legacy you left us—the many wonderful devotees who are inspiring us in your physical absence and carrying on your mission.

You also established for us the proper conclusion of spiritual life. In a poem to your spiritual master you wrote, “Absolute is sentient, thou hast proved/ Impersonal calamity thou hast removed.” You showed us that the Absolute is a person, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and that we can have eternal loving pastimes with Him. You dispelled all our illusions about real spiritual life.

By your mercy we can achieve that goal. On your arrival in America you wrote a beautiful prayer to the Lord, entitled “Preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness in America.” In that prayer you humbly prayed to the Lord for His mercy, for the ability to spread His message. You fully depended on the Lord for success in your mission. You wrote, “I wish that You may deliver them.” By your will this is happening, since Kṛṣṇa is obliged to His pure devotee.

You were able to import the entire Vaiṣṇava culture to the West, without change, including exclusive devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa. No one thought this could be done. Your godbrothers couldn't understand how Lord Caitanya's prediction that His name would be chanted in every town and village would be fulfilled.

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But you believed it, and you were empowered to fulfill it.

You requested us to take what you gave us, become Kṛṣṇa conscious, and then give it to others. We pray to you that we may fully embrace your teachings and instructions. As you struggled for our welfare, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we enthusiastically work for the welfare of others. We pray that our only motive will be to obtain pure devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa by your mercy, and to give it to others.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

(written by Cakrī Dāsa)

Phuket

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Our center, located near the beach in Phuket, Thailand, was begun on Rāma-navamī 2007. At our recent fourth-anniversary celebration, in addition to celebrating Lord Rāma's appearance we held our first Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā. In attendance were many exalted devotees, including our GBC, His Holiness Kavicandra Mahārāja; our co-GBC, His Holiness Bhakti-vighna-vināśa Narasimha Mahārāja; His Holiness Vedavyāsa-priya Mahārāja; and many international devotees. We hope we can hold bigger programs in the near future. We beg to become eternal servants of your divine lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so we can progress in our spiritual life and help others do so as well.

Your servants at ISKCON of Phuket, Thailand.

(written by Ravikula Rāma Dāsa)

Port Elizabeth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

First of all we would like to thank you very much for giving us your wonderful sons, who are selflessly working very hard to develop your preaching mission, and who are always there to pull us out of *māyā* and engage us in loving devotional service. On the Internet we are able to see and hear how His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami, despite serious health concerns, is continuing to travel and preach extensively. We realize that all this is possible only by your causeless mercy. His Holiness Girirāj Swami (my Guru Mahārāja), His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami, His Holiness Pārthasarathi Mahārāja, His Holiness Gopāl Kṛṣṇa Goswami, His Holiness Rādhānath Swami and all your other sons and daughters whom you left to



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guide us—all are very valuable to us. Without them we would all be helpless in our efforts to progress in devotional service. We would have lots of impediments and would end up like stray dogs on the street, with no master or proper shelter. We would catch all kinds of diseases, especially the most pernicious one of always blaspheming swanlike devotees instead of glorifying them. Śrīla Prabhupāda, out of your oceanic compassion you have given us so many facilities for us to come out of our suffering condition. Yet many of us end up going back to our miserable lives. It's amazing.

On this very special day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we all beg you to please keep our spiritual masters, your beloved sons, very healthy. Please continue to give them and all of us your blessings and make us all very strong. We will never be able to thank you enough for giving us the golden opportunity to taste the nectar of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in our lifetimes.

The servants of your servants at ISKCON of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

(written by Śvetadvīpa Dāsa)

Puerto Rico

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you, our master and guide.

We were all drying up for want of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and there you appeared, like an oasis in a desert.

Here in Puerto Rico we are all trying to please you in different ways. Even though we are a small temple, we are accomplishing something. The temple now owns a restaurant, where we daily distribute *prasādam* and preach. It is situated in a populated area and is doing well.

The Deities' program has been maintained so far, and the agriculture program has also been going on. The temple is now growing such foods as plantains, pumpkins, cilantro, and zucchini. We beg you to accept these humble offerings of ours. Even though we are so few and insignificant, we are trying to do something to please you. Our love for you is shown in substantive ways. Similarly, your love for your Guru Mahārāja took the form of a gigantic worldwide society of Vaiṣṇavas—ISKCON. We pray to become instruments in the service of your mission.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your books, because without them we could not make it in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. They are essential both for our own hearing and chanting and for distributing to the conditioned souls, who do not know anything about Kṛṣṇa. Just recalling how pleased you would become by hearing the book scores is enough for us to keep passing them out. With the rise in oil prices, the economy is getting worse, so we use this opportunity to distribute more books. The people's suffering is increasing, and so is book distribution worldwide. We get the most pleasure by distributing your books to the ignorant people of this Age of Kali. It is not a difficult task, and we are very thankful to you for giving us this service. You said, "Distribute books! Distribute books! Distribute books!" We have made this our life, and we know this is the only way for us to please you. Every day we meet people who have one or more of your books, and we can see how their lives are being changed. More and more souls are reading your books and coming in contact with your movement. Your great work is going on unendingly. You are constantly at work delivering the fallen souls. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please engage us more and more in your service, as you see fit. We at ISKCON Puerto Rico are helplessly trying to push on your mission of spreading Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement. Just like the little bird who was trying to dry up the ocean with its beak, we feel very tiny and helpless in the face of this gigantic task of preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Kali-yuga.

Your fallen servants in Puerto Rico.

(written by Navanīta Taskara Dāsa)

Radhadesh

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We residents of Radhadesh beg to offer our prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

Although you never personally visited Radhadesh, we are daily blessed to be happy and grateful that our Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Devī were personally installed by Your Divine Grace. Not only that, but in a letter to Locanānanda Prabhu of 5 January 1976, you mercifully wrote, "Your Deities shall be named Rādhā-Gopīnātha." Thus when we take *darśana* of our *iṣṭa-deva*, we recall that without your causeless compassion we would never have had such a vision of the Lord. In fact, practicing Vaiṣṇavism would have been inconceivable for us. Further on in that same letter, you wrote

Upon your recommendation I am pleased to accept as my initiated disciples: First initiation; Mr. Claude Nowe—Klesapāda-dasa, Bert de Vos—Vrsnivamsa-dasa, Belgin Kaya—Vedasmrit-dasi, and Maria Eugenia Jorquera—Marutvati-dasi; Second initiation; Jaya Gopala dasa, Janaraja dasa, Aharadi dasa.

Three of these souls have passed away since then, and we are fully confident that because of your merciful intervention in their lives, and because of their decades of devoted service in your mission, their destinations can be nothing other than auspicious. You were always so grateful to your disciples for their giving their youthful energy and lives to you, and they remain eternally indebted for your endless sacrifice to bring them to the Lord's devotional service. Furthermore, it was Your Divine Grace who advised those early followers not to rent the castle and property now named Radhadesh, but to wait until it was to be sold. Because your servants followed that directive, not only are we now sheltered in this *yātrā*, but it is also a haven for many devotees who come here from around the world to attend Bhaktivedanta College and to participate in the many transcendental retreats and festivals held here several times a year. Not only does Radhadesh serve as a transcendental home and shelter for a thriving community of devotees, but it also hosts thousands of visitors yearly. All these visitors have the opportunity to take *darśana* of Their Lordships, chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, receive *prasādam*, and learn of your voyage across the Atlantic while advanced in age and frail in body and your miraculous feats in establishing the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement worldwide. For devotees preaching all over the Benelux, it is not unusual to meet people who are familiar with Radhadesh, having visited the *yātrā* repeatedly because of its friendly and peaceful atmosphere.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we who are privileged to serve in your Radhadesh *yātrā* are, of course, aware of our weaknesses and the challenges we face in carrying on your mission here. We pray that by your

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continuing blessings upon us we may not take for granted our being allowed to serve in this holy place, and that we may overcome our shortcomings in your service by working cooperatively, as you desired, to always guard and improve the standard of our offering to you and Their Lordships. Kindly continue to glance favorably upon us so that we may remain enthusiastic and useful in your service, and so that we may also extend the opportunity for others to do so, for your satisfaction.

Your servants at Radhadesh, Belgium.

Richmond Hill

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmine*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this day so auspicious
We desire to reflect on what you mean to us.

Without you, where would we be?
In the clutches of Māyā, most certainly.

We were wandering around clueless,
Pursuing nescience in this age of darkness.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the only reason
That we have a chance to get out of Māyā's prison.

You took your Guru Mahārāja's instruction
And followed through with unlimited success and precision.

You worked constantly day and night
To save us from our plight.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Bhagavad-gītā As It Is—
Without deviation or misrepresentation, you gave us all this.

You showed us the path to true happiness,
The path we must pursue in order to achieve success.

What you have accomplished is nothing short of miraculous.
The gift of *bhakti-yoga* so precious.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2011

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura foretold of an *ācārya* so great.
For you to come in our lifetime, we are so fortunate.

Lord Caitanya predicted that the holy names would spread in every town and village,
And you came and accomplished that with boldness and courage.

You gave us the genuine treasures,
Certainly worth immensely more than gems, jewels, and material pleasures.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are our savior;
You exemplified perfect Vaiṣṇava behavior.

You gave us hundreds of temples worldwide,
Giving us Lord Kṛṣṇa personified.

You wrote scores and scores of books,
Encompassing everything we need if we'd only look.

You explained everything in thousands of lectures,
Cared for us like a father with your loving gestures.

Your lotus feet traveled around the globe fourteen times,
Opening our hearts and minds to Kṛṣṇa's pastimes.

You started the *Back to Godhead* magazine,
Giving everyone the opportunity to see what life should mean.

You are perfect in every way—you are bona fide.
Your instructions we wish to follow and abide.

You wrote personal letters in the thousands,
Your words more valuable than diamonds.

You accurately answered every doubt and question,
Explaining and answering with purity and perfection.

We humbly wish to follow your request;
Although we are not qualified we want to try our best.

You wanted to take us back home, back to Godhead,
And gave us all the tools to put us in good stead.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness has been and will be exposed to generations upon generations.
Your *vāñī* continue through your books, lectures, and instructions.

You provided us with the true meaning of life,
Saving us from material misery and strife.

You are our spiritual master;
We bow down at your feet forever.

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You are our guru;
We truly are among the lucky few.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by Your Divine Grace
We have been given this nectar so great.

Actually, it would take too many words to describe what you mean to us.
We hope this humble attempt will be accepted by you—so gracious.

Thank you for having mercy upon us fallen souls.
Thank you for giving us the highest priorities and goals.

Please allow us to continue to serve you and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and Kṛṣṇa.
Please help us continue in the realm of the beat of the ISKCON *mṛdaṅga*.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! Jaya Gurudeva!

Your humble servants in Richmond Hill, Canada.

(written by Mīnākṣī Devī Dāsī)

Rome

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my respectful obeisance to you, the spiritual master of the whole universe.

You have given us access to the spiritual mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and you have given us the opportunity to participate in the intimate, transcendental pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, whose pastimes in the guise of a compassionate devotee are flooding the whole universe with love and devotion to God.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's state of mind, day and night, was practically identical to Rādhārāṇī's state of mind when Uddhava came to Vṛndāvana to see the *gopīs*. The Lord constantly exhibited a state of mind reflecting the madness of separation. . . . Blood flowed from all the pores of His body, and all His teeth were loosened. At one moment His whole body became slender, and at another moment His whole body became fat. . . . The joints of His hands and legs would sometimes become separated by eight inches, and they remained connected only by the skin. Sometimes Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's hands, legs, and head would all enter within His body, just like the withdrawn limbs of a tortoise. In this way Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu used to manifest wonderful ecstatic symptoms. . . . Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu used to express His mind in this way: "Where is the Lord of My life, who is playing His flute? What shall I do now? Where should I go to find the son of Mahārāja Nanda? To whom should I speak? Who can understand My disappointment? Without the son of Nanda Mahārāja, My heart is broken." [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 2.4–6, 12–16]

Such incomparable ecstatic feelings are seen only in the Lord and in the hearts of His intimate associates, His pure devotees.

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, I do not know Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, or Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, but I'm able to perceive your boundless compassion for all the conditioned souls of this material world and your extraordinary ability to offer anyone who desires it the chance to go back to Kṛṣṇa in the spiritual world.

I desire to feel those same ecstatic symptoms of separation toward you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Sometimes I wonder, "Where are you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, spiritual master of my life? Where are you now playing your *saṅkīrtana*'s 'big *mṛdaṅga*'? How can I serve you constantly and without personal material desires? Separated from you, my heart is broken."

Under the incessant flow of time, for an instant these thoughts arise in my mind, just to unfortunately disappear the next moment, giving way to useless material thoughts.

At times, just for a blessed moment my understanding may capture the profound significance of the words in your wonderful books, but then some pressing material necessity easily distracts my mind from the spiritual objective that you have kindly donated to us.

When I think of your spiritual greatness, I realize my complete disqualification, but whenever I obtain the mercy to do something that pleases you, I get permeated by the strong feeling of being empowered to overcome any hurdle. With you near us, by your causeless mercy all difficulties are shattered and it becomes possible to accomplish any goal.

Every day, while trying, as a humble offering to Your Divine Grace, to develop the project here in Rome by spreading your absolute spiritual vision, we persistently experience the feeling of being incapable of eventually attaining success. But as soon as we simply try to apply your instructions according to the same priorities and modality that Your Divine Grace established, everything immediately becomes feasible.

The hindrances are due only to our seemingly feeble confidence in your teachings, teachings that have already surpassed the test of time and are by themselves the definitive means to overcome every obstacle.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, if we do not feel separation from you, deeply appreciating your pure unalloyed devotion to your great spiritual master and to the Lord, then we are still spiritually sick and must work hard to re-establish our normal condition and at least be considered human beings.

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, your divine lotus feet have walked the streets of this city, and as a result Rome, the so-called "eternal city," has been transformed forever.

We are simultaneously enthused and very curious to know how you will engage us in devotional service in this place that is at the at once so degraded but, because of your presence here, so fascinating and mysterious.

Your Divine Grace's aspiring eternal servants in Rome, Italy.

(written by Līlānanda Dāsa)

Sacramento

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We were born in the darkness of ignorance, and you opened our eyes with the torchlight of knowledge. Therefore we fall at your feet again and again.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, if we had not met Your Divine Grace, we would have been swallowed by all-devouring Time and fallen into the endless caverns of hell, all the while thinking ourselves successful

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people in this material world. Until we came into contact with Your Divine Grace, we never knew that this world is a place of endless birth and death or that we should use our intelligence to try to find a permanent way out of this dangerous situation.

Along with this secret knowledge of transcendental existence, we are experiencing a higher taste of happiness that washes away all material cares and gives us a new vision of the purpose of life. Also, it amazes us to know that real knowledge of the position of Lord Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Enjoyer and Supersoul situated in the heart of all living entities was lying hidden for so many generations in five-thousand-year-old texts, the true import of which was known to only a few *sādhus* and *bābājīs*, but which are now speaking volumes of transcendental instructions to us, the children of a technologically advanced post-industrial society. That is the miracle of your translations of Śrīla Vyāsadeva's sacred texts, such as the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Now we are able to go through these books with relish and find that every word, originally written on ancient palm-leaves, is urgently relevant to us today.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have brought this ancient knowledge from obscurity to the light of day and thus given all the fallen souls of Kali-yuga the opportunity to get out of their horrible predicament.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, merciful savior of the three worlds, we are eternally indebted to you. Please accept us into your eternal association.

Your humble servants at ISKCON of Sacramento, California, USA.

San Antonio

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this is the first time we devotees in San Antonio have written an homage for your Vyāsa-pūjā book, although Lord Caitanya's mission has been going here since 1972, when your dear devotee His Holiness Viṣṇujana Swami started a center here.

Today, by the mercy of another dear devotee of yours, His Holiness Guru Prasāda Swami, we are honored to continue your legacy here as the ISKCON Mission Society.

Historically, San Antonio is the site of many centuries-old Christian missions and pioneer churches, whose remains are still visible. The only way to keep the spirit of these missions going today is by what you gave us—Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Otherwise, nothing remains but ruins.

*pāhi pāhi mahā-yogin deva-deva jagat-pate
nānyam tvad abhayaṁ paśye yatra mṛtyuḥ parasparam*

“[Uttarā said:] O Lord of lords, Lord of the universe! You are the greatest of mystics. Please protect me, protect me, for there is no one else who can save me from the clutches of death in this world of duality.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. 1.8.9)

For several years now, your mission here in San Antonio—the ISKCON Mission Society—has been attracting more and more local youth, especially artists and musicians, all very talented and sincere souls. On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, we pray to your lotus feet that you see to the spiritual welfare of these sincere souls. Please guide them and provide them with whatever is necessary so that they can please Kṛṣṇa and return to Him.

As we take these pioneering initiatives, we are certain you are attentive and very interested to see

your mission here flourish. We pray to the holy name of the lord and to the most merciful Pañca-tattva for the strength to be an instrument in your hands as you lead us to newer and newer frontiers of your (still) pioneering movement.

Always depending on your mercy, we remain

Your servants in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

Scarborough

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Even though we're unqualified, we beg that you accept this small offering and favor us with your mercy.

One more year has passed in separation from you, but still you're with us, every day, in your divine instructions. Just as a lighthouse warns passing ships of dangerous shoals, so your divine instructions continue to provide direction for many misdirected living entities.

Here in your Scarborough temple, we're trying hard to follow your instructions by engaging in preaching activities and conducting our temple programs. We've expanded our preaching activities outside the temple by conducting regular home programs. Every evening during the month of Dāmodara we visited a different home and conducted *kīrtana* and a short class. All the householders and their friends and families got an opportunity to offer ghee lamps to Lord Dāmodara, many for the first time.

Last year we organized a unique *sarīkīrtana* cruise aboard a ship on Lake Ontario. The program introduced many people to the holy name for the first time. Some are now showing keen interest in taking up Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We've increased our preaching by other means too, such as person-to-person contact, radio, and the Internet.

Over the past year we were fortunate to receive the association of several senior devotees, who are helping to keep us in touch with you and your instructions.

We have a strong team of devotees who serve your center in various ways, such as cooking, Deity worship, and book distribution.

In closing, we pray for your mercy so we can humbly engage in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. With sincerity we beg for your blessings to continue to serve you as we attempt to fulfill the purpose of your mission.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.



Silicon Valley

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer you our obeisances on the occasion of your divine appearance day.
In 1970, you wrote:

Our Movement is a declaration of war against Maya, that you can understand very well, so we have to recruit many fighting soldiers—so do it vigorously.” [Letter to Līlāvati, 3 May 1970]

The *ācārya*, the representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, is a hero in the war against Māyā. He clears the path of freedom for millions, breaks down philosophical barriers, slashes misconceptions, establishes armories and outposts in strategic locations, and carpet bombs the countryside with transcendental literature.

Just as a military general takes on his head the grave responsibility of carrying forth the national flag, the Vaiṣṇava *ācārya* carries the flag of Vyāsa and plants it strategically around the world. Enlisting sincere souls as spiritual soldiers to help the cause, he moves them about to propagate the message of the *paramparā* as far and wide as possible.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you recruited, trained, and dispatched spiritual warriors to every continent of the world, asking them to join the battle against Māyā, warning them that Māyā is very strong and that some of the devotees in this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement may fall down. “But,” you said, “whatever is done sincerely is to their permanent credit.” (*Teachings of Lord Kapila*, pp. 25–26)

The US Marine Corps manual on war-fighting says that in war the leader must “tolerate friction which is caused by competition, ideological tension, occasional crises, and the ongoing clash between opposing wills. He must fight effectively despite the existence of such friction and prevail by the strength of will and a persistent strength of mind and spirit.”

As an ideal leader, you tolerated such friction and trained your followers to do the same. Dispatching your troops to every continent of the world, you advanced a grand war against Māyā.

Remarkably, when you first stepped off the cargo ship *Jaladuta* onto the shores of America’s East Coast, not one such soldier accompanied you; nor did you have money to attract mercenaries. Leaving everything to Kṛṣṇa, you prayed:

I have no devotion, nor do I have any knowledge, but I have strong faith in the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. . . . Although my Guru Mahārāja ordered me to accomplish this mission, I am not worthy or fit to do it. I am very fallen and insignificant. Therefore, O Lord, now I am begging for Your mercy that I may become worthy, for You are the wisest and most experienced of all. [“Prayer to the Lotus Feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa”]

In this submissive mood and with indomitable faith in the transformative power of Kṛṣṇa’s holy names, you went on to assemble a formidable army of devotees within only a few years, leading them victoriously in spreading Lord Caitanya’s teaching’s all over the world.

It is not so easy to build an army from nothing. Even government leaders who have millions of citizens at their disposal usually resort to conscription to build their military force. And even when recruited in the best of circumstances, the soldiers they enlist usually fight only half-heartedly. Many American soldiers who fought in Vietnam, for instance, cared more about coming home unharmed than they did about winning the war.

But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, assembled from practically every continent of the world sincere followers who were eager to give their lives, without pay.

Citing scripture, you taught us that the miraculous power to do this comes to a disciple who fixedly dedicates him or herself to the service of Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master and who has firm faith in their instructions:

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*yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau
tasyaite kathitā hy arthāḥ prakāśante mahātmanah*

“Only unto those great souls who have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of Vedic knowledge automatically revealed.” (*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* 6.23)

*vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana
bahu-śākhā hy anantāś ca buddhaya vyavasāyinām*

“Those who are on this path are resolute in purpose, and their aim is one. O beloved child of the Kurus, the intelligence of those who are irresolute is many-branched.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41)

Military experts say that armies win or lose due to the of spirit of their leaders. U.S. Marine Corps General A. A. Vandegrift writes: “Positions are seldom lost because they have been destroyed, but almost invariably because the leader has decided in his own mind that the position cannot be held.” And Military historian B. H. Liddel Hart says, “In war the chief incalculable is the human will.”

Incalculable indeed was the potency you displayed, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you overcame all obstacles to fulfill the orders of your spiritual master.

Kṛṣṇa’s promise in the *Gītā* that he will protect all who surrender to Him is open to all souls. After hearing this, any soul may voluntarily decide to raise himself to the highest spiritual standard by willfully accepting Kṛṣṇa’s offer.

Saying “O Bhārata, stand and fight,” Kṛṣṇa advised Arjuna to arm himself with yoga and slash the ignorance in his heart with the weapon of knowledge. The bona fide spiritual master, repeating Kṛṣṇa’s words, teaches his followers the same thing. Any soul who takes these instructions fully to heart, dedicating his mind, body, and words to them, becomes victorious in the war against Māyā and can lead others in the battle with Māyā.

Seeing his disciples taking fully to Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the greatest satisfaction for the spiritual master. In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 7.91) you write: “If by the grace of Lord Caitanya and the spiritual master a disciple attains the standard of pure devotional service, the spiritual master is very happy.”

You also told one of your disciples:

The spiritual master wants that each and every one of his disciples becomes as powerful as he is or more than that. That is his desire. Just like a father wants every son to be as qualified or more qualified than the father. But it is up to the student or to the son to raise himself to that standard. . . . If you are incapable of raising yourself to the standard of becoming spiritual master, that is not your spiritual master’s fault, that is your fault.” [Conversation, 29 June 1972]

Voluntarily, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you took the order of your spiritual master as a grave responsibility; expressing your determination to “die on the battlefield,” you accepted many hardships to conduct the war.

Military theorist Carl von Clausewitz wrote, “Everything in war is simple, but the simplest thing is difficult. The difficulties accumulate and end by producing a kind of friction that is inconceivable unless one has experienced war.”

Those who preach Kṛṣṇa’s message also face such difficulties and friction.

The great *ācārya* Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura faced opposition as he established the teachings of Lord Caitanya all over India. The *smarta brāhmaṇas*, for example, opposed him and, failing to defeat him philosophically, tried to kill him. Others openly criticized Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta for his straightforward preaching. However, he was undeterred by all such adversities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your campaign to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, you also faced setbacks and disappointments. As an ideal *ācārya* following your spiritual master, you too tolerated this inevitable “friction of war,” staying always fixed in Kṛṣṇa.

The true *ācārya* has no interest separate from Kṛṣṇa’s interest. He is therefore called *brahma-niṣṭham*, “fully fixed in serving the Supreme Personality of Godhead.” In you, Śrīla Prabhupāda we find this qual-

ity. You have no separate interest outside pleasing Kṛṣṇa, and no material desire; hence, there are no cracks in you for Māyā to exploit. You are our perfect leader and commander.

Your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, was a great general who fought and won innumerable battles, big and small, while establishing Lord Caitanya's movement all over India. Following in his footsteps, you widened the war on Māyā, spreading it to every continent of the world, using the weapons passed on to you by your spiritual master.

You wrote:

There is no doubt about it, to distribute books is our most important activity. 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 Rameśvara, 3 August 1973]

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we worship you as the best of all spiritual generals and *ācāryas*, the transcendental warrior who has valiantly fought and won the greatest of spiritual victories in the history of the world.

As the number of committed warriors grows each year at ISKCON of Silicon Valley, we pray to follow your example, rising to the spiritual platform so we can boldly face and win the many battles that are to come.

Param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam!

Your servants at ISKCON of Silicon Valley, California, USA.

(written by Vaiśeṣika Dāsa)

Srinagar

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your divine personality.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the savior of the whole world because you are preaching *sanātana-dharma* (Kṛṣṇa consciousness) throughout the whole world. You have fulfilled the desire of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are now fulfilling Lord Caitanya's prediction even in this part of the world (Kashmir), which had heretofore been left untouched. For the last five years we have been trying to establish ISKCON under the guidance of your sincere disciple His Holiness Nava Yogendra Swami. It is very difficult, since Vedic culture is almost invisible here because of the demoniac atmosphere.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said that if one preaches in a Muslim land “I will take the dust of his feet on my head.” On this day of your appearance we beg you to please give us the strength to help establish a pure Kṛṣṇa conscious center here for your pleasure and that of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This, you also said, is the perfection of the human form of life.

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Śrīla Prabhupāda, your ISKCON is Vaiṣṇava in this material world. One can experience that by living in an ISKCON center where your instructions are being followed sincerely and strictly. We see Kali-yuga spreading its influence everywhere, but your divine literature will push back the influence of Kali and guide humanity for the coming ten thousand years. Please give us the strength to distribute your divine literature, which can save humanity from going to the dogs. Anyone can experience your presence in your divine literature and, by following your teachings in your books, can ultimately realize his relationship with the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this land of Kashmir was once considered the highest seat of learning. But nowadays it is the highest seat of Kali-yuga—filled with quarrel and hypocrisy. It will only get worse, Śrīla Prabhupāda, unless you mercifully empower us to spread far and wide your divine literature and the holy name of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa to the inhabitants of this tract of land. Please bless us in this way.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

All glories to ISKCON!

Your servants at ISKCON Srinagar, Kashmir.

(written by Sudarśana Dāsa)

Stockholm

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you on this glorious day.

Once Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Goswami had a dream in which he saw you give a preaching report to the *guru-paramparā*. In that report you said, “My disciples are not very knowledgeable, not very renounced, and also not very cultured. But they have one good qualification: they are very committed to serving me.”

When Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Goswami related this dream to you, you confirmed that the dream was a true and accurate description of reality. Although we may claim that the qualifications of your followers have improved since the 1970s, this does not change the fact that we are solely a product of your mercy and therefore that our attachment to you and our commitment to your service are our main assets, even today.

As you yourself said, you gave us the qualification to serve in Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s *saṅkīrtana* mission. You allowed us and invited us to serve. Moreover, as a pure representative of Lord Nityānanda, you tirelessly traveled all over the world to canvass everyone to worship Lord Gaurāṅga by chanting the holy names. And you continue to do the same now through your books and the services of your followers.

Thinking of your life, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we find the lines from the famous verse recited by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu ringing in our ears: *gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsaḥ*. You demonstrated by your own life of service to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura that the position of being a servant of the servant of Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the perfection of life and the eternal position of the soul.

By so kindly accepting our service, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have directly placed us in our eternal position as a spirit soul. There is nothing more to ask for, there is nothing more to pray for. It is just a question of gradually waking up and realizing that you have actually brought us to the spiritual world.

Therefore please continue to accept our attempts to serve you. And to be able to serve you in the best way, we pray that you please give us the association of those followers of yours who know your heart and thus, by their example and realization, can show what it means to be a Prabhupādānuga.

Your aspiring servants in ISKCON Stockholm, Sweden.

Sydney

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
I offer my humble and prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

The year 2011 marks the fortieth anniversary of your arrival on the shores of this big southern land. In May of this year we celebrated the milestone event with great festivity and joy. More than 150 of your initiated Australian disciples converged on your ISKCON Sydney temple and joined with hundreds of second- and third-generation disciples to glorify the day in 1971 when you installed the Divine Couple Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha in Their tiny storefront temple here and entrusted Their care into our unqualified hands.

We recalled how unsuitable we were to look after Them, and how you requested Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa to empower us and inspire us to come up to the proper standard.

When you returned into our midst almost a year later and saw with joy the sparkling new temple and altar in the Sydney suburb of Glebe, you told us, “When I last left, I prayed to Lord Kṛṣṇa: ‘You please give help to these boys and girls, all *mlecchas*, to worship you nicely.’ Now I am very happy to see that He has given you such good intelligence. Everything is very nice.” At that time perhaps hardly one of us could recall the moment only ten months earlier when you had stood before Rādhā-Gopīnātha with folded hands, and even if we had, we could not have known the details of your intimate prayer.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were fond of quoting this half-verse from *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*: *vaiṣṇavera kṛiyā, mudrā vijñeha nā bujhaya*. “Even the most intelligent person of this world cannot understand the activities of a Vaiṣṇava.”

But the fact remained that on your inaugural visit you had indeed stated to your worshipable Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa that since you were leaving They would have to empower us, his *mleccha* caretakers, to look after Them. You had in fact made this extraordinary request:

Now I am leaving You in the hands of the *mlecchas*. I cannot take the responsibility. You please guide these boys and girls and give them the intelligence to worship You nicely.

Mleccha is a term used to denote those meat-eating men and women who do not conform to the moral and religious norms of the Vedic society. You write in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.16.20: “The people of this age will not perform any sacrifice. The *mleccha* population will care very little for performances of sacrifices. . . .”

Yet you had entrusted us with the intricacies of Deity worship. How was that possible?

Elsewhere in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (2.4.18) Śukadeva Gosvāmī recites a famous verse (a favorite of mine) that you often quoted in your lectures and books:

*kirāta-hūṇāndhra-pulinda-pulkaśā
ābhīra-śumbhā yavanāḥ khasādayaḥ
ye 'nye ca pāpā yad-apāśrayāśrayāḥ
śudhyanti tasmai prabhaviṣṇave namaḥ*

Homages from ISKCON Centers

“Kirātas, Hūṇas, Āndhras, Pulindas, Pulkaśas, Ābhīras, Śumbhas, Yavanas, members of the Khasa races, and even others addicted to sinful acts can be purified by taking shelter of devotees of the Lord, for He is the supreme power. I beg to offer my respectful obeisances unto Him.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, during your first visit you gave me spiritual initiation, and some of us you also gave second initiation, and along with it the authority to worship the Deity in the temple. So our *mleccha* habits would hopefully be a thing of the past. You were also fond of quoting a verse from the *Tattva-sāgara* that Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī includes in his *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* (2.12):

*yathā kāñcanatām yāti kāmśyam rasa-vidhānataḥ
tathā dīkṣā-vidhānena dvijatvaṁ jāyate nṛṇām*

“As bell metal can turn to gold when mixed with mercury in a chemical process, so, by bona fide *dīkṣā*, or initiation, anyone can become a Vaiṣṇava.”

Lowborn boys and girls like ourselves had been given the opportunity to become *brāhmaṇas*. Such is your power, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your entrusting worshipable Deities into the hands of ex-*mlecchas* did not go unnoticed in the Vaiṣṇava world. You later recalled in Melbourne:

The others are seeing “How these *mlecchas* and *yavanas* can become Vaiṣṇavas?” They are seeing like that. Therefore they object. In Vṛndāvana they protest: “How can these Europeans worship the Deity?” The point is that when one becomes qualified, he is no longer a demon.

It was in this spirit that you continued to expand your mission in what you referred to as “the southernmost part of this globe” by installing Deities on your subsequent six visits to Australia and New Zealand. Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī appeared in Auckland, and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vallabha, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nītāi appeared in Melbourne, and they were all personally installed by your loving hands.

And although you did not personally install the ever-smiling forms of Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā in Melbourne, your disciples Dīpaka Dāsa, Nartakī Devī Dāsī, and Dvaipāyana Dāsa had carved them lovingly before their inaugural appearance at Ratha-yātrā in 1972. In fact, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were particularly enthusiastic to establish the worship of Jagannātha in the West. As you explained in a letter to a friend in India:

When we first start a temple, we start with Jagannatha Swami. My guru maharaja recommended temples of Jagannatha in these countries because He is kind even to the *mlecchas*.

You visited Sydney for the last time at the quaint house-cum-temple in Hereford Street, Glebe, in 1973, and again you spoke encouragingly about how impressed you were with the gorgeous worship of Rādhā-Gopīnātha. In fact, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you recalled the wonderful pastimes of Rādhā-Gopīnātha on a number of occasions in your remaining years with us in this world. You were speaking in your room at the home of Ugrāśravā Dāsa in Melbourne on Tuesday, 2 July 1974:

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Hmm. Nice pictures. In Sydney, the Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Deity is also nice, very nice. What is this?

Dīpaka: These are our Tulasī plants, Śrīla Prabhupāda. They grow very nicely.

Prabhupāda: Hmm. There’s also very nice worship at Sydney. Eh?

Dīpaka: Those pictures were taken on Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s appearance day.

Prabhupāda: Oh? Kṛṣṇa is giving intelligence. The more you serve Kṛṣṇa, the more He will give you intelligence. [You look at the photographs of Rādhā-Gopīnātha and recall your first visit to Sydney in 1971.]

So, when I installed the Deity, then I prayed to Kṛṣṇa, that “I am leaving You in their hands, so give them intelligence and take Your service. No responsibility. Now it is Your business. Give them intelligence and they will serve You nicely. Otherwise, don’t take my offense.” [The devotees laugh affectionately.]

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2011

Yes, when I left Sydney after installing, I actually prayed to the Deity: “I am leaving You here in this *mleccha-deśa*. [More laughter.] Now, these devotees, they have come to You. Kindly give them intelligence so that they can serve You nicely. This is my prayer.”

Cāru: You said we were all nonsense at that time.

Prabhupāda: [Agreeing with Cāru, you nod and add:] But Kṛṣṇa will give you sense . . .

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day of your appearance, we devotees in the Sydney temple thank you for requesting Kṛṣṇa to give us good sense. If we remain pure and never return to our *mleccha* ways, then surely you will continue to shower us with your mercy and empower us to make advancement on the path of pure devotional service, the goal of the lives we have dedicated to you.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The devotees at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha Temple in Sydney, Australia.

(written by Kūrma Dāsa)

Taiwan

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

Even though many of us never saw you in person in this lifetime, we are convinced there is a close bond between us. You are so familiar to us. Whenever we study your books, we deeply feel your personal presence in our heart of hearts, beyond the limits of time and space. Your profound, straightforward, wise words have guided us through lots of hardships and trials since we met you in your teachings. The more we fulfill your desire by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the people of Taiwan, the more we develop faith in you and love for you.

It's your teachings that make us understand that our real happiness comes from cooperating with the Lord and serving Him in a loving relationship.

It's you that make us realize the infinite power and bliss resulting from the nectar of the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

It's you that make us experience the spiritual sweetness and attraction of purity and humility through your advanced disciples all over the world.

It's your mercy that provides us with a real home for self-realization with good association.

It's you that help us distinguish temporary, invalid material opulence from the true value of the eternal blissful inner world connected with Kṛṣṇa.

It's you that help us uproot the false belief that we are the doer and the enjoyer of the results of our actions.

The more we preach, the more we realize how tough it is to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the material world in this Kali-yuga, when people are so much influenced by sinful activities and where lust, anger, envy, and greed prevail.

How brave a spiritual warrior you were to fight and save people from the endless, miserable cycle of birth and death in the barren wasteland of the material world!

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we meditate on one of the wonderful prayers you composed in September 1965, just after you arrived in Boston carrying within your heart the orders of your spiritual master to spread the teachings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu throughout the entire world.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Only by Your causeless mercy will my words become pure. I'm sure that when this transcendental message penetrates their hearts they will certainly feel englanded and thus become liberated from all unhappy conditions of life.

These ever-fresh and beautiful prayers to the Lord you wrote upon your arrival in the West have very much touched us, for they perfectly express your compassionate mood as a humble servant of the Lord. These prayers also remind us of our real identity as a servant of Kṛṣṇa and protect us from the deep-rooted selfish desire for recognition and adoration, especially when preaching.

We pray for your blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please bestow upon us determination and a fearless spirit, so we may conquer our weaknesses and continue rendering our service in your mission under your protection, free from the influence of false ego.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servants in Taiwan.

(written by Śyāmasundarī Devī Dāsī)

Togo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

The time of year has arrived when we solemnly come before you to render an account of our progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to report on what we have been doing with the talents you have given to us through the various aspects of Vedic culture.

You taught us how to arm ourselves sufficiently, with your teachings, for our protection against *māyā*, and to be able to equally protect others also. You said you were especially glad when you noted that all your disciples were feeling so much enthusiasm to work very hard to spread this preaching mission. That enthusiasm must be maintained under all circumstances. That is our price for entering Kṛṣṇa's kingdom. And *māyā* is always trying to take away our enthusiasm to serve Kṛṣṇa, because without enthusiasm everything else is finished. This is one of your lessons to us.

Sometimes we are proud of how much service we have done, or how elevated we have become, but the truth is that we are being monitored by Kṛṣṇa and His agents. Our elevation in consciousness has been arranged by them for a higher purpose. As long as that purpose is served, we remain rock-bed solid in our position, but as soon as that purpose—Kṛṣṇa's plan—is not served by our so-called success or advancement, then everything falls apart like a collapsing house of cards.

I am short of words to explain how abundantly your mercy has been coming through, especially at the most difficult times, and how the Lord's amazing grace has seen us through our darkest nights. At the end of each encounter we rise and give praise to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your intercession on our behalf, for your supplication to the Lord at our time of need.

We pray that with each passing year we can still be here to say "Thank you" for saving us. We pray that through the many years to come our many dangers, toils, and snares will simply provide subject matter for us to recount the blissful experience of being protected and kept safe in all circumstances by your mercy, and ultimate we pray that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, will lead us back home, back to Godhead.

Your servants Lome, Togo.

(written by Varāha Dāsa)



Trinidad

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble, respectful obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I feel very privileged and honored to have been asked by the devotees of our temples here in Trinidad to write this offering to Your Divine Grace. I also feel very unqualified to do so, since I have no proper intelligence to choose the proper words to glorify such a great and pure devotee of the Supreme Lord as Your Divine Grace. I can therefore only pray to Lord Kṛṣṇa to please give me the words so that I can make this offering of some worth.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, words are too limited and time is insufficient to describe all your qualities. It would not be possible for us, even if we had countless mouths like Lord Ananta or the lifetime of Lord Brahmā. Still, we pray that you will accept this heartfelt though meager offering.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the order of your Guru Mahārāja you came to the Western world to teach us what the genuine higher taste is, and how anyone can experience it through the wonderful process of devotional service to the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. You built a house, this great ISKCON movement, that can shelter all of mankind. You gave us your books and the holy names of God, and you also taught us by your own example how to serve the Supreme Lord. All of this so that we might become qualified to go home, back to Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on behalf of all the devotees of the Trinidad *yātrā*, I would like to say thank you for all the special mercy you have shown us.

Your disciples and granddisciples in Trinidad.

(written by Rasika Mauli Dāsa)

Villaggio Hare Krishna

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The year 2000 marked the beginning of the Śrīla Prabhupāda Millennium. This is the first century that began with your glories already known to the world. It will end with your personality, teachings, and achievements more clearly understood by the human inhabitants of this planet. We, the members of your ISKCON society, have for the last forty-five years been attempting to educate the world about the fantastic achievements of your lifetime, thus helping to perpetuate the standards of religious living you kindly brought to our attention. You were fully convinced that the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement would save a

humanity “gone south,” so to speak, and you considered it the only panacea for the crippled cultures of this planet. You took it upon yourself to help folks who view declining moral principles as a form of advancement and who perform degraded activities while leading pointless lives in pursuit of material gratification—or, in other words, just about everyone.

Who would even take the time to bother with such a despicable lot as our wretched Western selves? The powerful leaders, big politicians, had a solution for us: lies. They fed us more and more promises that through science and technology we would soon reach the end of our incompleteness and finally reach fulfillment, realizing full happiness. Maybe we would find it on the moon!

But you took the time, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to teach us the real path to fulfillment. Unselfishly, you considered the human race worth saving. Displaying the love and compassion that only a kind parent can feel, you took mankind under your wing. With understanding that no one else of this era could manifest, you surrendered your total energy to enlightening dying humanity, and blessed them with real transcendental knowledge. Certainly this describes not the stuff of ordinary dealings, or the character of any ordinary man, but the activities of a true modern saint—very rare.

I lived through the last part of the previous millennium, witnessed the ebbing fortunes of so many disappointed souls (including myself), who had harbored hopes for happiness and success but had gotten on the wrong path, boarded the wrong train. In the early 60s I and many other disciples of yours went through adolescence—puberty, high school, and all the rest. *Something* was happening; everyone seemed to sense it. Change was in the air. Suddenly, rock & roll bands were all singing about it, young people were sporting long hair and ragged dress and trying to “get high” through drugs and intoxication. Space exploration, assassinations, political upheavals, questioning of values, spiritual searching—all became part of the norm.

We know now what was *really* happening. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, were introducing a strange new serum into society’s veins. It was the “drug” of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. Your timing, Kṛṣṇa’s timing, couldn’t have been better—just what the doctor ordered!

The way you changed things was phenomenal. In an amazingly short time, through your fortitude, you accomplished what your godbrothers and your family and friends had thought impossible. Suddenly, in one decade, there were temples all over the globe, major festivals, millions of books published and distributed, vegetarian cooking classes, *gurukulas* established, etc. This was totally unprecedented. But you pulled it off, in your humble, unassuming way, as though introducing God’s holy names into the midst of an ignorant, demoniac culture was the most natural thing to do! Well, for you it *was* natural, since you never compromised your pure spiritual principles.

As you said in the last stanza of the poem to your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī:

The oldest of all,
But in new dress.
Miracle done,
Your Divine Grace

We can appreciate that you would want to give all credit to your spiritual master, and that he would credit his spiritual master, who in turn would credit his, all the way back to Lord Caitanya and ultimately Kṛṣṇa Himself. Such is the way of transcendental spiritual transmission: we develop so much appreciation and love for our immediate (and predecessor) benefactors.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, being Kṛṣṇa’s pure representative and instrument, are the holy beacon of the modern age, a saint whose glorious activities many of us were fortunate enough to personally witness. So it is in fact an understatement to say that we Kali-yuga spirit sparks are forever indebted to you, and that we should thank you eternally.

Your servants at Villaggio Hare Krishna, Italy.

(written by Rudradeva Dāsa)

Vṛndāvana

To our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All of the devotees and pilgrims here at your wonderful Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira fall down at your lotus feet hundreds of times in prostrated obeisances. We are moved to thank you every morning in *guru-pūjā* and at every *kīrtana* for establishing this spiritual home for the many aspiring devotees from around the world who have become attracted to Vṛndāvana due to your preaching and your books. By your grace, millions of conditioned souls are now receiving the blessings and mercy of the holy names of the Lord.

Until you traveled outside of Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma*, with no money or support, at the age of seventy and in very poor health, no one had successfully taken the mission and message of Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu outside India. After going to the West, with only your infallible *bhakti* to attract us, you converted thousands of *mlecchas* to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. After returning back to the soft sands of Ramaṇa Reti as a victorious hero, you built Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira, which is now the most popular temple in all of Vṛndāvana, and for that matter the entire world.

We are focused on distributing your books and distributing *prasādam*, but our number-one priority is the perpetual chanting of the *mahā-mantra*. The *kīrtana* is always going on in the temple, and millions of pilgrims are amazed at how the powerful transcendental sound vibration is moving them and transforming their lives.

Your Bhaktivedanta Gurukula is doing very well indeed, with good leadership, more students than ever, and qualified teachers who are training the students to regularly enter the temple for chanting and *darśana*. With your blessings and by your desire, we hope to develop the project according to your directions.

In your last months, in Vṛndāvana, you expressed your desire to establish *varṇāśrama* based cow protection and living off the land. Until now we have not made much progress toward this divine goal, but now we are praying to your lotus feet to give us the intelligence to understand how to manifest this socially revolutionary concept in this wretched age of *ugra-karma*. Perhaps the devotees of your Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira can help lead the world in *go-sevā* and living off the land. Then your mission of preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness and establishing *daivī-varṇāśrama* could both be said to have begun here in Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma* and then been spread all over the world, bringing about a full re-spiritualization of human society.

We all thank you for everything you have given us: a new life of freedom, happiness, and Vaiṣṇava *saṅga*, and the opportunity to render devotional service to the Supreme Lord, which illuminates the path back home, back to Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I and all the kind devotees at Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira simply desire to become fully surrendered to you and to enthusiastically engage in your service.

We beg to always remain under the shelter of your lotus feet.

Your devotees at the Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira, Śrī Vṛndāvana dhāma, India.

(written by Pañcagaṇḍa Dāsa)

Washington, D.C.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Today is the most auspicious day of your appearance. On this day the devotees of New Hastināpura *dhāma*, for their own purification, request your permission to glorify you, reminisce about you, and report to you the current state of affairs.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in February 1936, in Bombay, hundreds of Vaiṣṇavas listened spellbound to your powerful and eloquent offering to your *gurudeva*, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You stated:

But all of us can lend our eager ears for the aural reception of the transcendental sound transmitted from that region to this through the unadulterated medium of Śrī Gurudeva or Śrī Vyāsadeva. Therefore, gentlemen, we should surrender ourselves today at the feet of the representative of Śrī Vyāsadeva for the elimination of all our differences bred by our unsubmissive attitude.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you spoke, so you practiced—you are an *ācārya* in the truest sense of the word. You were so eager to hear from your Guru Mahārāja that he noticed and remarked, “This boy does not go away. He hears.” In a conversation about your Guru Mahārāja, you once mentioned with characteristic humility, “In the beginning I could not understand what he was speaking, but I wanted to hear him. That’s all. I was very much anxious to hear him. That he marked. And he was kindly pleased upon me.”

You not only heard faithfully but also absorbed what you heard and followed his instructions. In November 1935, standing by Rādhā-kuṇḍa, he told you, “If you ever get money, print books.” And you certainly printed books, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You produced more than sixty volumes of commentated English translations of classic Vedic scriptures. For their authority, depth, and clarity, your books have won praise from professors at colleges and universities like Harvard, Oxford, Cornell, Columbia, Syracuse, Oberlin, and Edinburgh. Your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* is now available in over sixty languages around the world. Every year millions of people receive and read your books and learn about Kṛṣṇa.

In 1922, at your first meeting with your future spiritual master, he immediately remarked to you and your companion, “You are educated young men. Why don’t you preach Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s message throughout the entire world?” You took the seed of this instruction in your heart and carefully nurtured it for over four decades. After a thirty-five-day sea journey from Calcutta, you reached Boston’s Commonwealth Pier at 5:30 a.m. on September 17, 1965, with just a few books, a bag of dry cereal, and forty rupees. But with unflinching faith in the order of Śrī Guru, you inundated the world with the mercy of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. The echoes of *harināma* you initiated are still reverberating in the hearts of your disciples and granddisciples. Śrīla Prabhupāda, appreciation of the gravity of your movement is now becoming more and more widespread. On January 28, 2011, Wikipedia featured on its front page, as the “Picture of the Day,” the poster advertising the “Mantra-Rock Dance,” an event held exactly forty-four years earlier in which you chanted the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra at the Avalon Ballroom in San Francisco. The poster showed an image of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with links to articles on you, the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, and ISKCON. More than five million people saw this picture, got your *darśana*, and read the mantra. Recently you were also profiled in the CNN’s Living section, entitled “Famous Folks Who Launched Careers After 50.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have mercifully entrusted us with a wonderful legacy. We are grateful that you have given us some service for our own purification. Here at New Hastināpura *dhāma* we carefully hold your instructions in our heart and try to manifest them in our actions. Even though you were equally merciful to everyone, we consider ourselves to be special to you. On March 1, 1976, when we established the temple in its current location in Potomac, Maryland, you were so pleased that despite your ill health and other commitments, you quickly came to visit us in July 1976. In the course of your week’s stay with us, you shared your vision and gave us many valuable instructions. While you were giving a class,

Homages from ISKCON Centers

a devotee asked you about how to deal with skepticism. You answered emphatically, “Skepticism is rascalism and we do not deal with rascals!” Just as you were *vyavasāyātmikā* (single-minded) in following the instructions of your *gurudeva*, you wanted us to be the same.

When the Rādhā-Dāmodara Deities meant for our temple decided instead to travel with the *saṅkīrtana* party, you very mercifully gave us your personal deity, Śrī Madana-Mohana. He is the oldest Deity in ISKCON, personally worshiped by you since 1967. We are situated in one of the most passionate cities of one of the most materialistic countries in the world. It is very easy for us to forget who we are and how we are related to the Supreme Personality. The special mercy of Madana-Mohana is *sambandha-jñāna*, knowledge that reminds us of our relationship with Kṛṣṇa. By giving us the service of Madana-Mohana, you wanted us to carefully develop and be situated in this understanding of our relationship with Him and with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

When you visited us, you went to see the Fourth of July Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. Today this parade serves as a prelude to our Ratha-yātrā. A colossal chariot bearing Lord Jagannātha, Lord Balarāma, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā rolls down the Washington Mall amid a sea of dancing devotees chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. From the Capitol building the parade goes about a mile to the spectacular festival grounds at the Washington Monument. Thousands of people get direct *darśana*, and millions watch the Deities on television. We also organize the Festival of India on this day. More than ten thousand plates of *prasādam* are distributed, devotees perform ecstatic *kīrtanas* and plays, and hundreds of your books are distributed. The nectar of the holy name gushes from the grounds of the US Capitol and engulfs the thousands of people who come for the festivities.

Our festivals at the temple are becoming larger and grander. For Kṛṣṇa-jaṇmāṣṭamī more than five thousand people come to take *darśana* of the Deities, honor *prasādam*, and chant the holy name. Understanding your desire that capital cities be ruled by the perfect ruler, Lord Rāma, in 1982 we became the first temple in the United States to install Lord Rāmacandra, His consort Sītā, His brother Lakṣmaṇa, and His devotee Hanumān. Our annual Dussehra festivities, which end with the burning of a twenty-five-foot-tall effigy of Rāvaṇa, is the talk of the town and attracts more than four thousand visitors. In addition to our weekly Sunday Love Feasts, we organize fourteen major festivals every year. The temple has become an integral part of the lives of many families who accept initiation, take marriage vows, do the grain ceremony for their children, and perform many other *saṁskāras* under the auspicious glance of our Deities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were always eager to look for new ways to expand Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In the same mood, we have been increasingly using the new Internet technologies to connect people with our temple and Kṛṣṇa. As part of our outreach program, we organize several Bhakti-vṛksas to allow devotees to associate with peers and develop long-term loving relationships. We have also increased our college preaching and book distribution. Through regular interfaith dialogs we are gaining the respect and appreciation of leading members of other religions and educating them about ours. We are also developing close relationships with other Hindu temples in the area. Recognizing that children need to be guided from an early age, we have an active Sunday school program that teaches them the basic tenets of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As we write this, we are in the process of expanding the classroom facilities to accommodate the increased participation. In our hearts we nourish your desire that one day this temple will become so attractive that it will be visited by US Senators and their wives. We have begun planning for a new temple building. It is a large project requiring much endeavor, and we pray for your guidance, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

While our material vision is contaminated and limited, your transcendental vision is not. Once while sitting on a park bench in New York, you described to Mr. Ruben, a friendly subway-toll collector, your actual wealth—temples, books, and devotees. This was 1966, just a few months after you had arrived to the U.S., and you were factually all alone. Yet you looked down the passage of time and revealed to this fortunate person what you saw. While waiting on the *Jaladuta* in Boston you compiled the famous *Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma* prayers. Once again employing your transcendental vision, you prayed to Kṛṣṇa for us: “I wish that You may deliver them. Therefore if You so desire their deliverance, then only will they be able to understand Your message.” By your prayers, Śrīla Prabhupāda, unqualified souls like us have become eligible to obtain the personal association of Kṛṣṇa. You are so kind that you not only

showed us the destination and the path, but you demonstrated by personally walking the path with us and removing all the obstacles. All we need to do is to follow you.

While conversing with your disciples here in Potomac, you spoke with gratitude toward your disciples: “I take America as my fatherland. India is motherland, and here is fatherland.” You spoke with fondness: “So many fathers. My father was very affectionate to me. He would do everything for me. I lost one father, but now I have so many fathers.” Such humility can be manifest only in the heart of a pure devotee. It is you who are our father, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Without you we would have no life to speak of, and yet you are gratified by even the smallest service. Please bless us that we may be able to imbibe that mood of gratitude and appreciation toward you, Kṛṣṇa, the devotees, and indeed everyone.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is customary to give a person gifts on his appearance day. But instead, on this day we shamelessly ask something from you: Please help us. You would say we should plan to make this our last birth in the material world. Please ignite in us the sense of urgency to go back home, back to Godhead. You frequently said that Kṛṣṇa is for everyone. Please empower us to spread His glories to people of every race, creed, and nationality. The basis of preaching is practice—*ācār* before *prācār*. By your mercy may the conviction of a strong and steady *sādhana* become deeply rooted in our hearts and manifest in our actions. You repeatedly told us that everything we need to know is there in your books. Please protect us from deviant philosophies and give us the intellectual conviction to systematically read your books with faith. Just as you were uncompromising in your message of *śuddha-bhakti*, may we also be able to guide the souls we come in contact with from the path of fruitive devotion to that of unalloyed devotion. Our hearts long to once again hear the roar of both the *mṛdaṅgas*—*harināma* and the printing press—reverberate loudly across America. May that happen sooner rather than later. Remembering that ISKCON is nondifferent from your body, may we never inflict any wounds on you, and may our love for you be eternally manifested and amplified in our dealings with one another. We ask of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, all this and more. On this most auspicious day of your appearance, please accept this insignificant gift from us—our lives as an offering unto Your Divine Grace.

Your aspiring servants at New Hastināpura Dhāma, Washington, D.C., USA.

(written by Bhayahari Dāsa)

Yaśodāpura Ashrama

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn 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-śūnyavādi-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.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said:

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We have to spend or waste gallons of blood before we can convert a person to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is a difficult task. . . . By talking with them, with the rascal and foolish, we tax our brain and spoil our energy, blood.

In this way you sacrificed your life to lead people back to Godhead. And on this most auspicious anniversary of your appearance, the glories of your movement have conquered those difficulties.

People don't think that a person could live without illicit sex, meat-eating, drinking, and gambling. Therefore they wonder how you inspired thousands of people around the world to come to this standard. The answer is by your purity and spiritual attraction. As you said, "Unless someone is pure, people will not be attracted." By the sacred power of Vedic education, you attracted thousands of people.

As *jagad-guru* you gave enlightenment. Because you were authorized and without mistake, illusion, cheating, or imperfect senses, your powerful teachings touched the hearts of the people, and thus thousands of fallen souls became attracted. They surrendered to your lotus feet as your disciples. "Live like this. You will be happy," you said to them. And as soon as they followed your instruction, they got the sweetness from the nectar of devotion and became happy.

You brought back the standard of Vedic culture by introducing *saṁskaras* to correct people and bring them to the brahmanical stage. Your strong words were that one should come "from pig stage to brahmanical stage." Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu also said, *kara para-upakāra*: "Work for the benefit of others." Your ISKCON movement has been realizing that order of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

And to help people advance you made part of your mission the reestablishment of the *daivī-varṇāśrama-dharma* system. You said:

At the present moment the whole world is full of rascals. Now if they take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, select amongst them, just like I am training you are *brāhmaṇa* by training. So one who is prepared to be trained as *brāhmaṇa*, and classify him in the *brāhmaṇa*. One who is trained up as *kṣatriya*, classify him, in this way you take the whole mass of people as *śūdra* and rest, who is neither *brāhmaṇa* nor *kṣatriya* nor *vaiśya*, then he is *śūdra*. That is all, very easy thing. . . . This will be the happiness. When people will be peaceful, happy in their living condition, that will bring happiness. [Morning Walk, Johannesburg, 16 October 1975]

Your purpose in establishing centers in every town and village was to give all living entities a chance to purify themselves, revive their relationship with Kṛṣṇa, and go back home, back to Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, to serve your movement we have been running a center about a mile from Angkor Wat, the largest Viṣṇu temple in the world. We call this center Yaśodāpura Ashrama. In our Base Camp we offer daily courses on social education that are open to anyone. Khmer and foreigners visitors come, and some of them participate in singing songs, playing music, and learning courses related to traditional art and Vedic culture. Sometimes we conduct *harināma saṅkīrtana* or distribute books or *prasādam*. Other activities include teaching English, preaching at nearby Buddhist temples, *pagodas*, or friends' houses, and publishing your books, along with pamphlets and our "Angkor Bulletin." To learn to produce our own food, we maintain a small garden. We are praying that Your Divine Grace and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu will kindly accept the offerings from our garden.

About thirty miles from our base camp we have been slowly developing a farm community on about thirty acres of land. We pray that in the future it can be one of your *varṇāśrama* community projects. *Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

Your devotees in Yaśodāpura Ashrama, Cambodia.

