

Homages from Other Sources

Bhaktivedanta Archives

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Thank you very much for saving our lives, our souls, and giving us a reason to exist: to help you serve in your mission. Without your divine teachings and continued guidance through the books you so carefully translated and purported, through your recorded lectures and teachings, and through your dedicated followers, we would be lost souls among the other lost souls floundering in the material whirlpool of *saṁsāra*.

Our only purpose in this life is to do whatever we can to serve you—to do what we can to help preserve your legacy of audio recordings, documents, and images for present and future generations of devotees. Thus they may glimpse your transcendental and merciful personality, see a pure devotee, and have faith that you are real and have in fact a valuable gift for us all: true life and true love. This gift is eternal, ever-existent, beyond the constraints of time and space. You have given us the Supreme Godhead—Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, Lord Nityānanda and Lord Caitanya.

We are currently fully absorbed in the compelling task of identifying and unraveling a conundrum consisting of multiple bits and pieces of audio recordings on file in the Archives. Steady progress is being made. New audio transcripts are diligently being generated by enthusiastic volunteers and will eventually be added to the VedaBase. Mother Kṣamā is doing an extraordinary service proofreading these, and re-proofreading all the existing transcripts in the current collection. Your many hundreds of lectures and conversations are being carefully secured, and transcripts of these are being arranged in chronological order in the VedaBase. Our ambition is to release an accurate account of the original audio and transcripts in installments; we hope to release the first lot, covering 1977, by the end of this year.

In addition to tasting all the nectar of your recordings and transcripts, we are also immersed in an ocean of visual nectar due to the need to keep up with technology by re-scanning the earliest images of Your Divine Grace, the ever-sweet black-and-white photo collection. The goal is to enter all these images into a comprehensive database so we can tag the images with the information we have documented here at the Bhaktivedanta Archives. By working with your photographer servants, such as Bhārgava Dāsa, Yadubar Dāsa, Viśākhā Devī Dāsī, and Muralivadana Dāsa, we hope to add as much pertinent information as possible.

Please bestow upon us your benevolent blessings, for without them we feel utterly useless.

Thanking you eternally,

Your fallen servants at the Bhaktivedanta Archives.

Bhaktivedanta College (Budapest)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to your lotus feet!

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, I would like to tell you about your college here, Bhaktivedanta College. First, the most important event lately was that we could finally move into a permanent building, just beside the Budapest temple. By our merging of the two institutions, the Hare Kṛṣṇa Educational and Cultural Center was founded, as you may have been informed by Gauramaṇi Prabhu.

Rather than elaborate on the organizational changes, I would like to write about the everyday uplifting experience of seeing you perform a genuine miracle with the students of the College.

As you know, to further the cause of high-level Vaiṣṇava education, we started our second faculty, the training of Vaiṣṇava Yoga Masters. This move has been greatly successful. Public interest in yoga studies is overwhelming, and the people who came to us to study were much more intelligent and pious than the average person, even though most of them were not (yet) *bhaktas* of Kṛṣṇa, and becoming one was not even on their agenda. The certificate they got was in itself worth the study and effort, as yours is the only college in Hungary where they could get it. However, when they joined, they did not yet know you.

The first sign of change was that as they progressed in their studies they somehow developed some strange attachment to your college. They tried not to be absent from the classes. Even those who one might think would never have anything to do with Kṛṣṇa consciousness were strict in their attendance. Their participation in classes and in other functions of the College were a minimiracle we experienced daily. The next sign was that they volunteered to help with various chores: packing when the college moved to its new premises, cleaning, arranging the library, etc. Then they started to appear at temple programs and began to wear Vaiṣṇava attire. Without their noticing it, they were starting to identify themselves as devotees, a fact shown by the questions they asked at classes and by the nature of their problems and the way they shared those with their professors. The transformation could be clearly detected.

But the most moving change was when they began to show the utmost respect toward you and your followers. Even though they sometimes expressed this respect clumsily, their sincerity was so genuine that I was continually wondering whether I was worthy to accept it.

The highest point, however, was the Swan Ball, the introduction of last year's freshmen, where the program was made up of the students' productions. I was constantly trying to hold back my tears and could not but think how magnanimous and, at the same time, clever you are, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! For most of the performers were completely unaware that they were expressing their devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa in various ways, and you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the root and the fosterer of this devotion.

In all sincerity, I can hardly believe my great fortune that I can be an active participant in this miracle. Please never allow me to leave this service of yours, which is sweeter than the sweetest!

Your eternal servants at Bhaktivedanta College in Budapest, Hungary.

(written by Mahārāṇī Devī Dāsī)

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Bhaktivedanta College (Radhadesh)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.
In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.6.1 you wrote:

In all the schools, colleges and universities, and at home, all children and youths should be taught to hear about the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In other words, they should be taught to hear the instructions of *Bhagavad-gītā*, to put them into practice in their lives, and thus to become strong in devotional service, free from fear of being degraded to animal life.

Our service at Bhaktivedanta College is a humble attempt to fulfill this instruction, which you gave on various occasions. Charity starts at home. To inspire people in general to teach in their schools, colleges, and universities the principles of pure devotional service explained in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, it is essential that we ourselves set a proper example by establishing our own successful educational institutions.

We pray for the intelligence and ability to properly execute our service and to overcome whatever challenges we face in fulfilling your desire for systematic Kṛṣṇa conscious education.

Your grateful servants at Bhaktivedanta College, Radhadesh.



The Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Loving Grace. All glories to your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā.

You books have a touchstone effect;
Studying them allows us with you to connect;
They erase doubts and transform hearts;
Sublime enlightenment they do impart.

Never limited is your compassion;
It extends even to those that are yet unborn.
Your teachings are therefore for all times.
Surrendering to them liberates us from our past crimes.

Your lecture recordings are an unmatched gift to us;
Repeatedly hearing you nurtures our Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
You remain our greatest role model;
Hearing about you helps us remain devotional.

To follow in your footsteps remains our aim;
The glory of any success we can never claim,
For by your mercy only can we accomplish anything.
Our endeavors remain like pearls on your string.

On this auspicious day we bow at your feet and pray
To dedicate our lives to you in every way.
May we be able to introduce more souls to your mission
And preach your message with complete dedication.

Preaching Report: By your causeless mercy, last year 1990 students participated in structured courses based on your sublime books. These courses were conducted in Durban, Guyana, Halifax, Houston, Johannesburg, Mauritius, Māyāpur, Nairobi, Pietermaritzburg, Pretoria, San Diego, Toronto, Trinidad, and Vancouver. In addition to courses on Vaiṣṇava Etiquette, *The Science of Self Realization*, *The Spiritual Master and the Disciple*, *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, *The Nectar of Instruction*, *The Nectar of Devotion*, *Śrī Īśopaniṣad*, and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the Namāmṛta Program, Level One, was introduced and was well received in several countries. We humbly pray to be of continued service to Your Divine Loving Grace eternally.

Your servants at The Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture, Johannesburg, South Africa.

(written by Mādrī Devī Dāsī)

Bhaktivedanta Research Center

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept our humble obeisances.

We learn from the Vedic literatures that the Lord creates simply by His breathing and that He impregnates simply by His glance.

It seems to be the same with your words.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we look to your words for guidance on how to continue your mission to deliver mankind from the hopeless struggle for happiness in this material world.

August 15, 1976—Bombay

There was no *darśana* this afternoon, although Śrīla Prabhupāda did go up onto the roof to sit for a while with a few devotees. Then it began to rain, so he returned to his sitting room. There he met with Girirāja and Nitāi prabhūs to discuss requirements for a library for the new building. Nitāi has been given Rs. 4,000 by the temple to purchase books for it. Śrīla Prabhupāda said the library should contain all his own books, those of all the *ācāryas*, as well as the *Upaṇiṣads* and other bona fide Vedic texts. [Hari Śauri Prabhu's *Transcendental Diary*]

Thus in 1976 you instructed that a library be formed to house all the works of the *ācāryas*. You had already described the importance of such a project in a letter to Acyutānanda Swami in 1972:

Treat this matter very seriously and thoroughly, and take all precautions to protect this wonderful boon of literatures forever. Yadubara may photograph every page, never mind Bengali or English or any other language, and later we shall see where to send the copies to different places. You also write to Yadubara at Bombay in this connection and request him to join you in Birnagar immediately. I have also written him. These items are very, very priceless and are a great treasure house of Vaisnava lore, so be very careful in the matter and take all precautions to guard them.

Now at last we have taken up this project. We started in 2009 and now have a library to house the works of our *ācāryas* in the original languages. We have begun the search for original manuscripts, which is bearing fruit. We are even discovering works that we had no idea existed.

The library is situated in the place where you took your birth in this world: Kolkata. Here we are storing this “great treasure house of Vaisnava lore” so that present and future generations can peruse the original writings, often in the original handwriting, which comprise the reference works of our priceless heritage. If we cannot secure the original works, we are taking digital photographs of the works and will soon offer them online to scholars and devotees.

In another letter to Acyutānanda Swami in 1972, you made reference to such a project:

Regarding the manuscripts, you may photograph all of the pages, then we shall type them later. If there is shortage of film, I have instructed Karandhara to send you a large supply of the appropriate films for photographing the pages. Or you may purchase there and we shall pay from Book Fund. These are important works and they must be preserved forever, so what is that expense?

From your words Śrīla Prabhupāda, we can see that such a library was certainly a project you wanted. We can also see that you considered it of great importance to your developing movement, ISKCON.

We humbly offer this library to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are working to fulfill your desires, and as always your desires are for the benefit of mankind, not only in India but throughout the world.

We offer our most humble obeisances to your words and your desires, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and consider ourselves most fortunate to have the opportunity to serve them.

Your humble servants at the Bhaktivedanta Research Center, Kolkata, India.

The Festival of India

*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*

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (3.25.8) Devahūti says to Lord Kapila, “Your Lordship is my only means of getting out of this darkest region of ignorance because You are my transcendental eye, which, by Your mercy only, I have attained after many, many births.” In your purport to this verse you write, “. . . if one is fortunate enough to get the association of a spiritual master like Kapila Muni or His representative, then by his grace one can be delivered from the mire of ignorance.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You have given yourself to everyone on this planet. Simply by reading your books, anyone can have your association. As long as your transcendental books are available, conditioned souls are going to be delivered from the mire of ignorance.

With this purpose in mind, the Festival of India travels from city to city to facilitate Kṛṣṇa conscious events. One of the Festival’s youthful crewmen, Prashant Silver, writes, “Your life and teachings have definitely affected and touched my heart in so many ways. I feel your presence. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are most compassionate, truly the epitome of ‘Guru.’”

By your mercy, wherever we go we associate with Vaiṣṇavas. What would be the fate of any of us had you not delivered the messages of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu?

By the grace of Lord Jagannātha, transcendental books are vigorously distributed to the general public, who find themselves relishing Kṛṣṇa’s holy names, philosophy, *kīrtanas*, and lectures. Plus, each Festival offers thousands of plates of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*.

We sincerely pray that the Festival of India’s stage programs and exhibits always make your teachings available to festival-goers.

Please bless us that we can conduct our services with pure enthusiasm.

His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!* We aspire to serve you.

Your servants on The Festival of India.

(written by Prashant Silver and Phaṇi Bhūṣaṇa Dāsa)



Food for Life Global

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On behalf of all the Food for Life devotees, I offer you my most humble obeisances. All glories to your service to Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa!

I am writing this as I tour China and Taiwan, helping to establish new Food for Life projects here. From what I can see, the potential here is as good as or greater than any other place on earth. After all, the Chinese love to eat, and *prasādam* is the best food.

Right from the beginning, however, we plan to establish Food for Life here not as a charitable organization but as a “food yoga” organization, which will teach by precept and example how to become a food yogī. In this regard, I have been working on a book called *The Yoga of Eating*, which aims to convince the reader to be more conscious about his or her food choices and the act of eating, but more importantly to make offering food to God an integral part of one’s daily spiritual practice. The idea behind the book came to me after years of meditating on your wish that “everyone should be given a chance to take *prasādam*.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya* 1.32) The only way this could be possible, I realized, is if we take the knowledge of *prasādam* and share it with the public. Thus was born the “food yogī” concept.

It appears to me that this is a perfect strategy for the Asian countries, where yoga is so respected. Food for Life will therefore be positioned as an educational service that also does charitable work. The direction is in line with Food for Life Global’s core mission of uniting the world through pure food (*prasādam*) and creating peace and prosperity in the world through the liberal distribution of *prasādam*. Since the meaning of yoga is “to unite,” we feel we are capturing the true essence of Food for Life.

On this most auspicious day, I humbly beg for your approval and blessings for this new strategy. The world is most sorely in need of spiritual education, beginning with how to eat, because as you have so often told us, “Spiritual life begins with the tongue.”

O dearest well-wisher of ours, you are the personification of spiritual hospitality, compassion, and liberality, and you are our primary inspiration for expanding *prasādam* distribution all over the world. All credit goes to you, for if it were not for your loving hands that served *prasādam* to those few fortunate souls who came to your storefront in 1966, Food for Life and its various expansions would never have happened.

Thank you.

Your servants at Food for Life Global.

(written by Priyavrata Dāsa)

Govinda Valley

*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.

Our words can barely touch the full reality of your manifest existence, but at least by trying to glorify you we can hope for but a drop of your mercy and inspiration in reciprocation.

Your shining example (contrasted with our faults) is one of the greatest gifts you brought. Through it we are humbled, and because of it we can glimpse the standard of consciousness that every soul should aspire for.

Kali-yuga is not a favorable time for anyone to take birth. Yet due to your presence, even demigods line up to incarnate now, aspiring to serve the general of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* army.

Those who favorably receive your message experience an awakening of consciousness, a sublime clarity. Relieved to hear of the Absolute Truth in no uncertain terms, they let go of useless things and turn their minds and hearts toward Śrī Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet, the reservoir of all pleasure and the dwelling place of Your Divine Grace.

Although we never physically met Your Divine Grace, we have had tangible spiritual experiences brought about by following your instructions and example, experiences flavored with your personal presence, your special mercy. And even though our quality of devotion and faith are hardly pure, we know that by clinging to your lotus feet, present in the form of your instructions, we will surely make spiritual progress.

Countless fortunate souls are eternally indebted to you. Bowing down at your lotus feet, we pray that you kindly accept us among such souls.

The aspiring servants of your servants at Govinda Valley, Sydney, Australia.

(written by Acyutānanda Dāsa)

The Hare Krishna Educational and Cultural Center

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances! All glories to you!

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

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

By your causeless mercy, this year our preaching was renewed and our community took an important step forward in Budapest.

One of the major changes was that Bhaktivedanta College moved to a beautiful new building beside the temple. The proximity of the two premises offers great opportunities for preaching. We were now able to merge the two institutions, calling the new institution the Hare Krishna Educational and Cultural Center. Our purpose with this change was to facilitate teaching the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to a wider circle of people.

The other main area where we made progress was in strengthening the counseling system we started last year. Through this system of devotee care we are trying to build a community whose members are closely tied to one another through love and trust. We would like to build a community in which the devotees are protected and whose members can stay Kṛṣṇa conscious throughout their whole lives by continuous education and by preserving and augmenting their faith.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are simply trying to apply the formulas you gave us. Your brilliant example has inspired people at all social levels to learn the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your godly person radiates the greatest love and trust toward all fallen living entities.

Dear master, thank you for allowing us to be part of your mission, for the opportunity to practice and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Thank you for giving us strength, enthusiasm, and guidance through your wonderful example and teachings.

We are in a blessed position. In our endeavors, we have the help of your loving disciples and the daily association of countless enthusiastic devotees.

Your situation was different. You started your preaching mission on your own, at an advanced age and in a foreign country. When you asked your godbrothers for help, they gave no support, no association, no money. In *Śrīla Prabhupāda Līlāmṛta*, Satsvarūpa Mahārāja writes of your situation after barely escaping an encounter with your LSD-crazed roommate in a Bowery loft:

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Mahārāja—whom everyone knew and respected in Vṛndāvana as a distinguished scholar and devotee, who had an open invitation to see the Vice President of India and many other notables—now had to face starkly that he had not one friend of stature in the United States. Suddenly he was as homeless as any derelict on the street. In fact many of them, with their long-time berths in flophouses, were more secure than he.

It is a proof of your exceptional patience and faith that you persevered in such difficult circumstances. By material calculation, everything seemed hopeless, but with full faith in the instruction of your Guru Mahārāja, you found some souls with sincere hearts. The success of your preaching was guaranteed by your most humble character.

In your poem “Mārkine Bhāgavata Dharma” you write:

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O spiritual master of all the worlds! I can simply repeat Your message, so if You like You can make my power of speaking suitable for their understanding.

Only by Your causeless mercy will my words become pure. I am sure that when this transcendental message penetrates their hearts they will certainly feel englanded and thus become liberated from all unhappy conditions of life.

O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like.

I have no devotion, nor do I have any knowledge, but I have strong faith in the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. I have been designated as Bhaktivedānta, and now, if You like, You can fulfill the real purport of Bhaktivedānta.

Our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda! Please bless us so that, inspired by your unique example, we can get the strength to humbly cooperate as we carry on with our service of offering our lives to your divine lotus feet!

Your servants at The Hare Krishna Educational and Cultural Center, Budapest, Hungary.

(written by Gauramaṇi Dāsa)

International Society for Cow Protection

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*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*

Please don't leave us. We know you would never do that. It would be our hearts broken with pain that would leave you due to bitterness from the many tests of our love for you and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Please stay by our side and never let this happen. Please give us the mercy to see you and the Cowherd Boy in every misfortune.

How does the heart not grow cold after seeing the deaths of so many beloved cows? How does the heart not become bitter after seeing disease ruin the peace of an unpretentious cow? How does the heart not leave the supreme originator of such suffering? Not just once, or twice, but after many years of caring having to face again and again the same deterioration and not being able to change the course of disease because it is beyond changing.

The mind and heart have to change. The miracle is not in the cure; it is in understanding the suffering and how we must embrace it and see Lord Kṛṣṇa in its midst. The suffering will continue as long as there is life. And even though the cow is your most beloved animal, she does not escape old age, disease, and death.

But Māyā calls and says that there is no need for this suffering. "You must have done something wrong, you haven't done enough, and there must be no God because if there was He would not be so cruel as to allow such suffering. Look at the young beautiful calf; look at the strong bull who leads the herd. They should never grow old; they should never die."

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2011

Radhe Shyam died last week. No one really knew how old she was. The vet said she was probably in her mid-twenties. She was a very old cow, in human years one hundred years old or more. She was full of life the day before she died. She led all the old ladies out of the geriatric barn in the first breakout of the season. It was the new, short, fresh grass on Lakshmi's lawn that attracted her. She was feisty that day. The previous year she had to be fed and watered separately in the pasture, as she had to lie down because she could not keep up with the herd. This happened several times. Then we put her in the geriatric barn in the fall, as she could not keep up at all with the herd. When all the other old ladies came into the barn for the winter, she got quite lively. She surprised us by staying strong during the winter. Then the morning after the breakout, she was lying in the middle barn with Madhava (the ox) standing over her. We went to check on her and she had already left her body. It happened in the night. She was fortunate it happened quickly. It is a far greater test when dying is slow. Hers was a good, long life as a protected cow.

All those great souls who have nursed a dying cow—we pray that you give them the strength to keep their hearts open to your presence while they try to give their beloved cow comfort. In a most difficult time, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are there. In every misfortune you and the Cowherd Boy are there. It is only your mercy that allows us to see you there. Without you, how could anyone's heart not become cold when the most innocent of creatures suffer?

The deepest of loves develops when the most difficult of times emerge. This is the most sacred joy of a cowherd. In the mud, in the cold watching the pain, wiping the face and chanting in the ear of the suffering cow bring Lord Kṛṣṇa to the place when the soul passes. Even though Radhe Shyam did not have our presence at the time of death, she had many years of our association with embraces and chanting of the holy name in her floppy ears.

Please bless the cowherds worldwide, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Protect them from fatigue and weariness in the face of disease and death. Give them deep love and understanding in such times. Give them joy in times of birthing and youthful calf frolicking. Give them a deep sense of accomplishment and a plentiful harvest from plowing with their oxen. Gift them with rising in the early morning to see their cows basking in the morning sun as the mist leaves the hillsides. Bless them with the peace of the simple life of the humble cowherd unaffected by any desire for adoration, name, or fame. In such a life there is great peace and closeness to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and your most dear cowherd boy, Lord Kṛṣṇa.

International Society for Cow Protection and ISKCON Ministry for Cow Protection and Agriculture.

(written by Chayā Devī Dāsī)



ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā.

Another year has passed by so rapidly. I have survived my first year as director of ISKCON's Central office of Child Protection! So, much has happened in this year—and from it all I have learned that, unlike other services, this service does not provide one with a sense of bliss. Rather, it is a service that needs to be done: it is a duty.

The children are the heirs to your legacy, and the impressions created in their minds in their formative years linger on during this lifetime and even into the next. So, naturally they should be provided with the most richly stimulating and sublimely pleasant experiences in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Unfortunately, however, this being Kali-yuga, the age of quarrel and hypocrisy, it is not uncommon for child abusers to don the garb of devotees and prey upon innocent children. Hence this office serves the critical function of protecting ISKCON's children from any form of abuse. Ideally, a child's passage to adulthood should bear the hallmarks of love, care, kindness, respect, and a value system that ensures the child's holistic growth.

Reflecting on my own childhood, the pleasant memories in Kṛṣṇa consciousness are embedded in the recesses of my mind. We owe this growth experience to every one of the children we interact with.

It is pleasing to note, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that many of your disciples and granddisciples are devoted to ensuring that such is the case with children attending our schools and temples. I am amazed by the level of intellect of former *gurukulis*. These young adults can hold their own even amidst the challenges that the material world casts their way.

Some of them have not had the kind of pleasant childhoods they ought to have had, and as a Society we must accept responsibility for having failed them. Taking responsibility is much more than offering apologies. Our actions must reflect our determination to rectify the wrongs of the past and ensure that they are not repeated ever again.

To this end the Child Protection Office is vigilant in conducting seminars to educate and train various audiences so as to prevent abuse from occurring.

However, Śrīla Prabhupāda, considering the rapid growth and vastness of ISKCON, such protection can be afforded to our children only if we have functional child protection teams in every locale. This remains the greatest challenge for this office, and we promise to continue our endeavors to establish child protection teams at each and every ISKCON center.

As much as we embark on awareness campaigns, so too do the number of reported cases of abuse increase. Dealing with these cases on a daily basis is disturbing to one's consciousness. Śrīla Prabhupāda, I sincerely pray that you give all of us who are engaged in child protection the strength, wisdom, and guidance to properly deal with the challenging situations we encounter. Kindly bless us with wonderful experiences in Kṛṣṇa consciousness that will far outweigh the sordid details of the acts of abuse we are exposed to, and please help us and the children of your Society retain faith in the process you gave us.

In 1802 William Wordsworth stated that “the child is the father of man.” Our children are the future leaders of ISKCON. May we protect them so that they can proudly and confidently continue your lineage.

Your servants at the ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection.

(written by Campakalatā Devī Dāsī)

ISKCON Resolve

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

This year, by your grace, we've been able take new strides toward making ISKCON Resolve a more robust and helpful service. We've trained a new class of ombudsmen, established a regular training-and-update conference call, substantially improved a number of our internal processes, and attempted to increase awareness among the devotees of the types of services we offer. We have plans to improve even further in the coming year.

We live in the age of quarrel and hypocrisy. You have told us that the society of devotees is a place for curing ourselves of the very disease that brought us to this world. In explaining conflicts with your godbrothers, you taught that we should see Kṛṣṇa's hand in such disputes and deal with them in a practical way.

It's no surprise that differences emerge among devotees. That's natural. It's our job, as those trained in managing and healing conflict, to try to help.

Conflict among devotees arises over any number of circumstances. But there is also unity, Śrīla Prabhupāda. And that unity is built around faith in and devotion to you. Devotees are consistently in accord about your magnificent qualities and nature.

You have bequeathed to us enormous wealth in the form of transcendental knowledge and the opportunity to practice pure *bhakti*. You've given us your books and teachings, the process of Deity worship, the holy name, and the ability to enter into the sacred pastime places of the Lord. And, if we're receptive, you continue to give us the mercy we need to take full advantage of this wealth.

Please continue to grant us your mercy and protect us from the pitfalls of entering into the frays we voluntarily insert ourselves in. Allow us to help and to heal and to serve. The devotees in your movement are so precious, and they have so much to offer the world when they're happily engaged in serving your mission.

Your servants at ISKCON Resolve.

Homages from Other Sources

ISKCON Television (ITV)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

No matter what happens, I can always rely on you.

Distributing your DVD video library is my reward, my ecstasy.

You are present there in those images and words; people are happy to take you into their homes.

You are not only a virtual reality; you are the broadcaster of it.

You said, “Put me on television once a week and my mission will be successful.”

We are moving in that direction. Your “Complete Śrīla Prabhupāda DVD Library” has sold thousands, but it is only the beginning.

Already your face is gracing numerous Internet sites (copying is the highest form of flattery), where millions have accessed your divine smile and profound message.

The influence of your words and example is expanding exponentially; no one really knows how much, but it’s growing hour by hour.

People are taking the library sets home, and if they don’t watch you while you are on their flat screens, certainly you are watching them.

Now we are working on bringing your shining countenance onto “the big screen.” You wrote to me in 1971, “Make films about Kṛṣṇa.” Sorry that it has taken so long. This is our break-out year.

Please bless our efforts to bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness into the mainstream movie media and realize your instruction to “make these Kṛṣṇa conscious films the most popular.”

Your most fallen servants at ISKCON Television.

(written by Nṛsiṁhānanda Dāsa)

Māyāpur Animal Protection

*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 my humble obeisance at your divine lotus feet as they walk among the *surabhi* cows on the pasturing grounds of Vraja, which are moistened with their milk.

I bow down to your lotus eyes, which are anointed with love for the supreme cowherd boy, Govinda.

Your lotus ears are like a calf drinking the milk of the *Vedas*. Let my ears taste the constant flow of nectar coming from your lotus lips, words glorifying the transcendental pastimes of the two cowherd brothers Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma.

I seek shelter of your lotus hands, which milk the cow of the *Upaniṣads*. Let me taste and relish that delicious nectarean milk, the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.

Your pure mind is always engaged in thinking of the little cowherd boy Govinda.

All your senses are engaged in the loving service to the Lord of the cows.

You are one of the divine residents in the supreme abode of Lord Kṛṣṇa, known as Goloka, the land of the cows.

You possess all four legs of the bull of religion, Dharma, which are compassion, austerity, cleanliness, and truthfulness.

With the plow of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* you cultivated our hearts and sowed spiritual seeds. Now it is up to us to water the creeper of devotional service that has sprouted from these seeds, so that it will produce the most valuable fruit, pure love for Kṛṣṇa.

The essence of your teachings is to live simply and be Kṛṣṇa conscious.

Stick to your own place and grow your food. There is no question of transport. Little transport is required, that bullock cart. Kṛṣṇa was being carried on bullock cart. There is no use of petrol.

Use simply the bulls. They are already there. Utilize them. [Morning walk conversation, Rome, 25 May 1974]

I pray to you, my spiritual father, that I may be able to follow this instruction and live a simple life among the cows, so that I may one day be reunited with you in the abode of the Lord of the cows.

Please bless me that I may never forget you.

Your humble servants at Māyāpur Animal Protection.

(written by Hrīmatī Devī Dāsī)

Homages from Other Sources

Māyāpur Institute

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

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

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

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

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for coming into this world and illuminating it.

The whole world is realizing more and more about you: your life, your deeds, and your teachings. All glories unto you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Every day you dedicated your life to serving Kṛṣṇa with generosity, compassion, and simplicity. We at the Māyāpur Institute aspire to make you proud by following in your footsteps.

Your teachings provide the only credible solutions to the problems of life in this deluding and deluded world—a world beset by conflict, confusion, and cruelty. We are fortunate to be guided by these teachings, which give sense to our lives.

Our duty is to help others know more about the depth of your teachings—by facilitating systematic study of your priceless books.

May we humbly inform you that things are improving regularly due to your grace upon us. Here is a brief report for your pleasure.

Every year the number of devotees who come to the Māyāpur Institute increases. More and more of them are finding inspiration from studying your books. Your *sannyāsīs* and senior devotees are encouraging us and guiding us and actively teaching various courses.

Bhakti Śāstrī and Bhakti Vaibhava are the important courses that you wanted taught within ISKCON, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We have by your grace achieved a good reputation in offering these courses. Besides these, we have Bhakti Sadācāra and Teacher Training Courses, which are very successful.

We are also conducting various courses that will help devotees increase their capacity to lead your mission, courses such as Communications, Yoga, Devotee Care, Varṇāśrama, and Film-making. *Mṛdaṅga* classes are given to strengthen the *harināma kīrtanas*, which are so dear to you.

Your beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, predicted that the time would come when the people of the world would learn Bengali to read *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. We are offering a new course in Bengali, doing our bit to make this prediction a reality.

Numerous special seminars and courses are offered each year during the Gaura Pūrṇimā festival. We hope to start teaching the *śāstras* in Portuguese very soon. It may please you to know that our śāstric courses are being taught in Bengali already, and these courses are highly appreciated by the local *brahmacārīs*, as well as the Bengali congregation. Inspired by the Bengali śāstric courses, some devotees have exponentially increased their preaching, and this has given us renewed inspiration to serve you.

Your faithful followers at the Māyāpur Institute are working hard for your pleasure and need your mercy to serve you better.

His Grace Padmanayana Prabhu has been actively guiding the administration and is now all set to fulfill the ambitious plan of establishing a beautiful Vedic campus. This will attract even more devotees to come and study *śāstra* here. He is assisted by so many nice devotees in the management.

His Grace Atul Kṛṣṇa Prabhu and His Grace Janmāṣṭamī Prabhu are carrying the flag of the Māyāpur

Institute far and wide. They are conducting various courses throughout India and abroad, taking this invaluable education to a wide audience. There is a mood of cooperation and goodwill emerging, and teachers are very happy to assist in this renewed interest in education in ISKCON.

By your grace more and more students are actively studying your books and are aspiring to be faithful teachers of your message. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to serve in this way.

May Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the glorious Lord of the worlds, continue to inspire us and guide us in our future choices, enabling us to completely dedicate ourselves to your mission in the company of good Vaiṣṇavas.

Please help us to fully offer our hearts, our minds, our words, and our actions unto you.

All glories unto you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories unto you. All glories unto you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's servants at the Māyāpur Institute, Śrīdhāma Māyāpur.

(written by Mahāprabhu Caitanya Dāsa)

Māyāpur Media

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust at your lotus feet.

On this day commemorating your divine appearance in the material world, please let me take the opportunity to offer you a few heartfelt words of thanks and appreciation. Even in a million lives I would not be able to repay you for what you have given me and the rest of the world.

In your old age, when ordinary men would have slowed down and taken it easy, you undertook so much personal hardship to come to the West and preach the message of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Lord Caitanya comes only once in a day of Brahmā, i.e., once every four billion years or so. How lucky we are to have been able to receive His teachings! Specifically, how rare it is to meet an intimate associate of Lord Kṛṣṇa! I can't even begin to fathom my good luck.

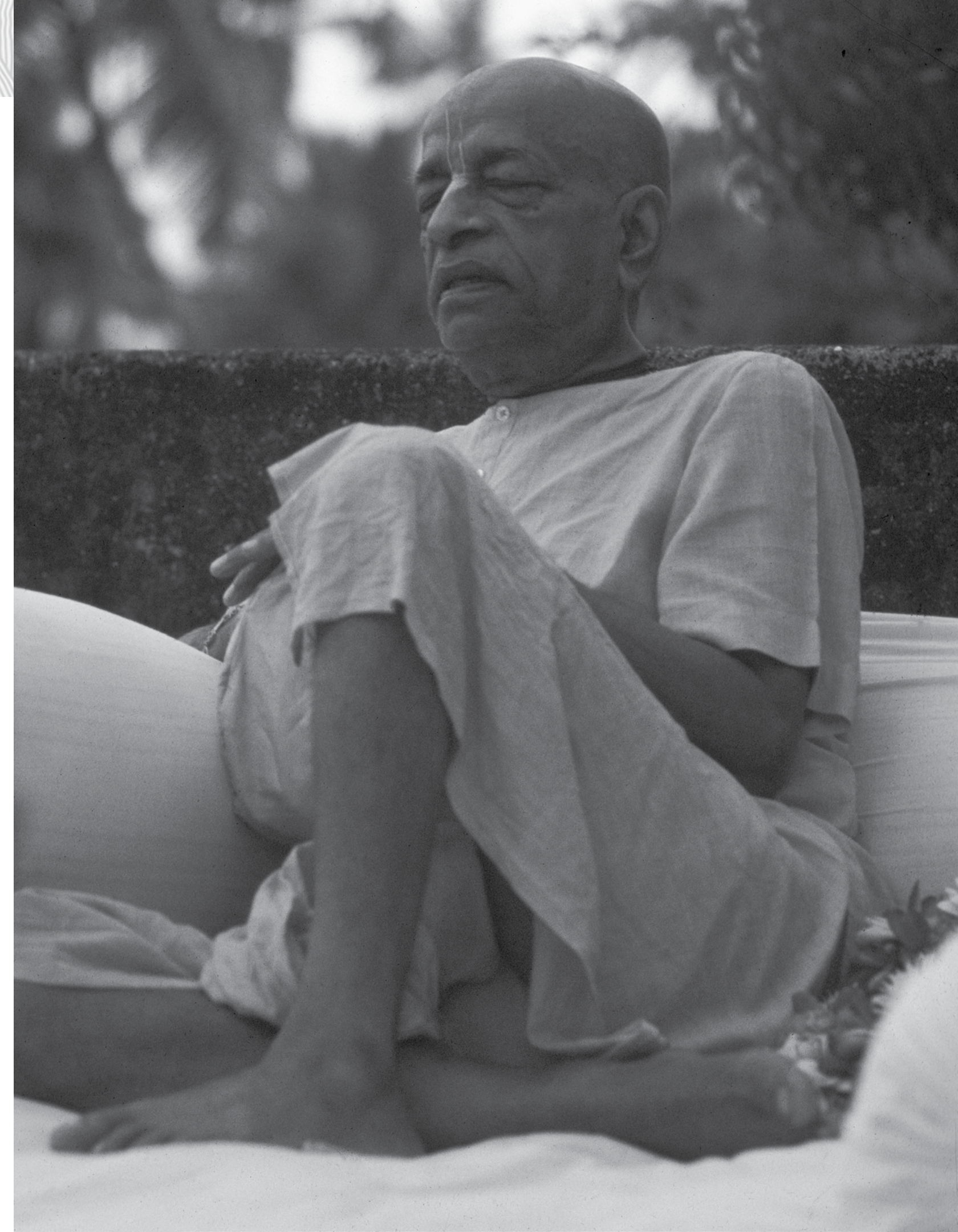
I never met Your Divine Grace personally, but through your wonderful books and disciples you picked me up from the gutter of material existence.

I don't know Lord Kṛṣṇa or Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, but I know one of Their friends—you! And through your teachings I have been given a tiny glimpse into the spiritual reality. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless me that I may follow you wherever you are and assist you and your sincere followers in giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the world. If there is one thing I have realized, it is that there is nothing else worth pursuing.

With a straw between my teeth I thank you again and again and beg for a place at your lotus feet.

Your servants at Māyāpur Media.

(written by Jahnudvīpa Dāsa)



New Varshan Hare Krishna School

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances on this auspicious day of your appearance celebration.

In 1972, within the Dallas temple community you established the first *gurukula* in ISKCON. Shortly thereafter you inaugurated *gurukulas* in West Virginia, Vṛndāvana, and Māyāpur, and then in other major devotee communities around the world. Devotees eager to please you opened schools for the Kṛṣṇa conscious education of our children.

You emphasized the need for such an education, and you immortalized this directive in penetrating purports, letters, conversations, and lectures. The *gurukula* became a common denominator for community development, highlighting a significant point of difference between our communal lifestyle and other alternatives. ISKCON leaders promoted *gurukula* as an essential institution for the future growth and development of our society.

Along with book distribution, Deity worship, cow protection, and Ratha-yātrā, *gurukula* was an essential piece of the majestic transcendental tapestry woven by your potent vision. Unfortunately, we have been slow to help you realize this part of your mission.

For many reasons your *gurukula* system has taken a long time to develop. As the international devotee community becomes more strategic in its outlook and hopefully more effective in its execution of policy and plans, we will naturally see education restored to its proper position of importance and urgency.

There is no doubt that you wanted to establish a school system that would firmly impress upon our children the glory of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. There seems little doubt that you envisioned devotee communities flourishing, with vibrant schools teaching the philosophy of your books and the way of life shown by your example. There is little doubt that you wanted the teachers to imbibe the values, knowledge, and skills of devotional service.

You provided the inspiration, the direction, the purity, and the ideal. In its simplicity, *gurukula* was to be a haven for children to develop intellectually, spiritually, socially, physically, and emotionally. *Gurukula* is meant to encourage children to voluntarily accept spiritual practices as fun, as part of their natural psychophysical development. As in your temples, there was to be no force, but the operative underlying principle was meant to be one of encouragement, love, and trust.

In fact, your temples and *gurukulas* were interchangeable learning communities in many ways. The temple was a haven for your adult disciples to develop their Kṛṣṇa conscious proclivities in the association of likeminded devotees. In other words, the temple is meant to be a sacred place where one can develop spontaneous attraction and love for the Lord, a place free from the influence of the lower modes and therefore free from envy, lust, hate, and greed. The temple: a place where devotees are free to express their individual talents and develop their devotional sentiments toward Kṛṣṇa.

The underlying consistent thread between the temple and the *gurukula* is acceptance or acknowledgement of our individuality. Both are meant to be learning communities where the members become convinced of their spiritual identity as loving servants of Kṛṣṇa and simultaneously develop their individual propensities for expressing that love.

You had the amazing ability to fan the spiritual spark of each individual devotee. You provided the culture to nourish and nurture the spirit. You provided the philosophy to support and clarify our activities in devotional life. You provided a process that is accessible. Please give us the patience and presence of mind to become worthy recipients of your mercy, to become transparent media for sharing these gifts with others and to one day, in the not-too-distant future, carve out a model for the future growth and development of your *gurukula* system of education.

Your servants at the New Varshan Hare Krishna School, Auckland, New Zealand.

(written by Prāṇa Dāsa)

Padayātrā Worldwide

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our wonderfully compassionate Senāpati Bhakta,

Please accept my prostrated *daṇḍavats* at your traveling lotus feet.

I know that you are still walking on the roads of this wretched and dismal planet, even though somewhat differently from the way you did when you were physically with us. Since Rādhāṣṭamī of 1984, when devotees began walking from Dvārakā in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's appearance, you have been traveling continuously on *padayātrā* carts, or sometimes on a palanquin, in more than 108 countries around the world. In Bhāratavarṣa alone you have been traveling for more than twenty-seven years!

My suggestion that you are still traveling is not just wishful thinking: you are most certainly touching and inspiring those who see you seated in your *mūrti* form on your travels. There are so many vivid accounts of how on *padayātrā* people think your *mūrti* is a living, breathing person. They speculate for hours, inquiring, “*Adami hai? Adami nahi hai?*” (“Is he a statue or a real person?”) Some wonder why you do not speak. Others linger around waiting for you to move or eat something. On several amusing occasions, policemen have even asked the devotees for your passport and official documents! If you were not personally with the *padayātrīs* on the road, how could they stay inspired to fulfill your desire that millions of *padayātrā* bullock carts travel all over the world? It is evident that they feel your divine protection at every step, without which their enduring endeavors would not be possible. As you sit on these *padayātrā* carts, with the same vigor as before you are still unswervingly leading the *saṅkīrtana* army of Lord Caitanya against the forces of darkness engulfing the planet.

The pious are helplessly drawn to your stoic form, with offerings of fruits, flowers, and even prayers. You reciprocate by inspiring them to take one of your books or a *japa-mālā*, thus changing their lives forever!

I remain unyielding in trying to follow your instruction to me to organize *padayātrās*. This instruction continues to be the driving force of my life. I recall vividly your beaming smiles at the 1977 Allahabad Kumbha Mela when I shared with you my experiences during our first ISKCON Bullock Cart Saṅkīrtana procession from Vṛndāvana to Māyāpur. The look on your glowing face continues to give me the strength and determination to surge ahead with the *padayātrā* program.

Over the last few years I have been working on a book that will relate some of the experiences devotees have had on this great *padayātrā* program. We hope that the narratives in this book will inspire ISKCON devotees to organize and participate in this exciting transcendental adventure. The book will also inform future generations of Vaiṣṇavas about Padayātrā Worldwide. Prospective *padayātrīs* will learn that *padayātrā* is a very simple but potent means of spreading the holy names of the Lord to many inaccessible towns and villages and other isolated locations. This was clear in the Governing Body Commission's mandate to the Padayātrā Ministry.

Bhakti Rāghava Swami, head of the Varṇāśrama Ministry, is very aware that *padayātrā* is one of the important components of *varṇāśrama* because *varṇāśrama* emphasizes a simple agrarian lifestyle. His Holiness has expressed a concern in the following question: “What will happen to all our ISKCON bulls and oxen if they are not properly engaged on our farms or in pulling a *padayātrā* cart?” The answer is that they will be neglected and morose, and they will dwindle in numbers. Devotees will start to feel burdened by these animals.

It is apparent that the modern industrial civilization is bound to completely collapse one day due to its reliance on machines and petrol. When the petrol pumps run dry, transportation will face major challenges and disruptions. This is just one more reason for us *kṛṣṇa-bhaktas* to get ready to depend on a natural God-given mode of transportation, viz., our two feet, which will never fail us, and God's bullocks, who do not run on petrol or computer chips. Thus, with or without machines and petrol, we will be able to stay in the business of bringing the holy names of the Lord to every town and village. *Padayātrā* has proven to be a very effective and economical means of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness across the world. Furthermore, it has helped strengthen and expand ISKCON by winning the goodwill of the population with books, festivals, and *prasādam*.

By the mercy of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the “*padayātrā sādhana*” we organized during the Centennial years resulted in some spontaneous attraction for that program, even after 1996. Many countries who organized *padayātrā* programs during the Centennial years have kept up the programs. The countries that have made this an annual event are the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Mauritius, Russia, and Italy. Many other *yātrās*, such as Guyana, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Fiji, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Malaysia, Poland, Switzerland, Trinidad, and Ukraine, have scheduled *padayātrā* again, albeit occasionally. Since 1996 *padayātrās* have taken place in new countries, such as Argentina, Switzerland, Madagascar, Slovakia, and Taiwan. There are several other efforts from individual devotees who have been organizing walks on their own initiative, without any prompting from anyone.

The most daring and enduring endeavor was undertaken by a young couple, Avadhūta Śiromaṇi Dāsa and his wife Candrabhāgā Dāsī, who from May 2003 to May 2006 walked with their horsedrawn cart from Gītā-nāgarī to Ecuador. Avadhūta Śiromaṇi is at present writing a book about that great adventure, filled with exciting encounters, pathos, and pain.

Since 1992 the Bhubaneswar temple has been organizing a yearly bullock-cart *padayātrā* in Orissa. Devotees faithfully persevered after 1996, the year Gaura Govinda Swami departed from this mortal world. *Padayātrā* India has inspired other initiatives in India. The first was the Maharashtra *padayātrā* in 1999, then a walk in Gujarat in 1997, and finally one near Tirupati in 2004. ISKCON Tirupati is now getting ready to develop their own *padayātrā* party. They already have procured the bulls, and they plan to go around their region to cultivate the congregation and *nāma-haṭṭas*.

It is *Padayātrā* India who organized the first ISKCON Vraja-maṇḍala Parikramā in 1987 and the first Navadvīpa-maṇḍala Parikrama in 1990. This Kārtika we will be celebrating the 25th annual ISKCON Vraja Maṇḍala Parikramā, which continues to be organized by many *padayātrīs*. Since 1994, Paraśurāma Dāsa, with the assistance of a few other devotees, has been organizing an annual bullock-cart *padayātrā* through the twelve forests of Vṛndāvana during the month of Kārtika. Four ISKCON centers from Maharashtra—Pune, Aravade, Solapur, and Beed—have been taking the responsibility of organizing a *dindi* walk. They were recently followed by other ISKCON preaching centers in Chinchli and Nanded.

Padayātrā has great potential for becoming part of the integral plan for ISKCON devotee care and health education. It represents holistic health care at its best, taking care of body, mind, and soul. Doctors and health practitioners always recommend walking as a healthy, natural, and extremely effective form of exercise. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that in the new millennium the greatest disease will be mental malady. Stress, anxiety, phobias, and other mental disorders are already plaguing our society, and unfortunately devotees are not exempted from these disorders. *Padayātrā* epitomizes a tension-free life. If one walks carefree down the road and chants throughout the day, the mind remains fresh, relaxed, purified, and not in pursuit of alternative situations. Constantly on the move, with all your possessions in a single trunk, one feels relieved from the weight of material attachments. Whenever our great “walking monk,” Bhaktimārga Swami, initiates a conversation with onlookers on the side of the road, they all agree that the world needs to slow down and “take time to smell the roses.” Bhaktimārga Swami will concur that there is no better place to reduce speed than on *padayātrā*, in the company of our fellow *bhaktas*. Since 1996 Mahārāja has completed two cross-country walks in Canada and has done other short *padayātrās* in Ireland, Fiji, Guyana, Trinidad, and Israel. Mahārāja has just completed a 120-kilometer walk in Mauritius, and he is hoping that the devotees there are inspired enough to continue with more *padayātrās*.

What further confirmation is required to prove that the *padayātrā* spirit is very much alive on this planet? What other verification is needed to suggest that you are the life force leading the *saṅkīrtana* army of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu?

Aspiring to serve your mission,

Your eternal servants at Padayātrā Worldwide.

(written by Lokanāth Swami)

Prabhupāda Village

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

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

Something wonderful occurred in Boston, Massachusetts, in August of 1965. This was the most auspicious day human society has known for hundreds of years, because it was on this day that Śrīla Prabhupāda stepped off the *Jaladuta* and placed his lotus feet on the soil of America, thus changing the destiny of the world forever.

Someone may say that such a statement is the exaggerated sentiment of a disciple, a subjective opinion. It is not. There is an objective truth to be pondered here that will give us a tiny glimpse of the glory of the person we know, love, and worship, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

If Śrīla Prabhupāda had not come, hundreds of temples would never have been built. Kṛṣṇa conscious farm communities would never have been established. Tens of thousands of devotees would never have accepted initiation and a life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Literally millions and millions of people would never have even heard the name Kṛṣṇa, and Google searches would turn up only a handful of obscure encyclopedic references. There would be no Hare Kṛṣṇa cinema, no devotional music, dance, or art. There would be no Deity worship in tens of thousands of homes and temples around the globe. Millions of people would never have tasted *prasādam*. There would be no Hare Kṛṣṇa restaurants. There would be no *Bhagavad-gītā*, no *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, no *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* and no *Nectar of Devotion* in English, Spanish, Japanese, Russian, and dozens of other major languages. There would be no BBT. Tens of millions of people would never have received one of these priceless books, which illuminate the highest objective of human life. The multitude of prolific Vaiṣṇava authors that followed in Śrīla Prabhupāda's footsteps would be busy writing about some other topic. There would be no festivals, no *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, and thousands of pious souls who took birth in devotee families would be looking for some other planet to be born where Lord Caitanya's *līlā* is occurring. There would be no initiations, no devotee *saṅga*. All would be void, *sūnyata*, if Śrīla Prabhupāda had never stepped off the *Jaladuta*.

This point of view is not the annual rambling of a fawning disciple. It is not fanatic eulogy. These are hard, irrefutable facts. Whatever we know about Kṛṣṇa and, frankly, whatever most anyone knows about Kṛṣṇa outside of India had its beginning in those first sacred steps at Boston Harbor. Someone may say, "Well, what about all the other devotee preachers who came after Śrīla Prabhupāda?" We would respond that while their service to Mahāprabhu's movement is indeed glorious, each and every one of them eats the blessed remnants off the plate of Śrīla Prabhupāda's powerful *kīrtana*, which showered grace on every continent of the world. He was the pioneer, he showed the way, and he slashed through Kali's dark jungle, clearing the field for generations to come. It is only by his dedication and sacrifice that there is any kind of preaching field at all outside the borders of India. If he had not come and laid the foundation there would be no waiting devotees, no *dakṣiṇā*, no initiations, no rides from the airport, no pre-paid air travel, no accommodation, no temples, and no devotee homes for preaching and expansion of missions. The only reason that any of these facilities exist is because Śrīla Prabhupāda stepped off the *Jaladuta*.

Ask any *walla* in Vṛndāvana or Māyāpur who's old enough to remember what the town was like before Śrīla Prabhupāda left the divine shelter of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara Mandir for the Lower East Side of New York City. They all know that it was Śrīla Prabhupāda who put the Lord's hometown on the map and brought crores of rupees, temples, new construction, and prosperity to otherwise materially impoverished villages. All of Vṛndāvana's and Māyāpur's worldwide renown exists today because Śrīla Prabhupāda stepped off the *Jaladuta*.

Today *kīrtana* is the rage and public venues fill with eager participants. But Śrīla Prabhupāda was the original *kīrtanīyā*, the first, who sat in Tompkins Square Park with his little tom-tom, drumming out

the rhythm of Lord Kṛṣṇa's holy names before any of these people were even born. Sadly, he is not given credit, but today *harināma-saṅkīrtana* reverberates in yoga studios, in devotee homes, in temples, on downtown sidewalks, and at music festivals in nearly every country of the world, only because Śrīla Prabhupāda stepped off the *Jaladuta*.

And finally, we are all sitting here in the blessed association of devotees remembering and appreciating his qualities and his influence in our lives, in one of hundreds of such gatherings around the globe, only because Śrīla Prabhupāda stepped off the *Jaladuta*.

Let us ponder these truths and, as we meditate thrice daily, chanting *aiṁ gurudevāya vidmahe kṛṣṇānandāya dhīmahi tan no guroḥ pracodayāt*, try to grasp the meaning of this sacred mantra, try to know Śrīla Prabhupāda and the degree to which he pleased Caitanya Mahāprabhu, how much he was absorbed in doing so, and let us attempt to fathom the breadth and depth of Śrīla Prabhupāda's accomplishments. Doing so will cause the creeper of devotion that he planted in our hearts to blossom and bear the fruit of love of God and allow us to be fixed at his lotus feet forever. There is nothing else worth having.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's servants at Prabhupāda Village, North Carolina, USA.

(written by Sarva-dṛk Dāsa)

Radio Krishna Centrale

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

The whole process of human civilization should be to acquire love of God. Our love is now distributed in so many things. And that is misdistributed. The whole thing was to be targeted to the Supreme Lord. I was to love God, but instead of loving God, my love is distributed in so many things. And that is a misdirected civilization. [Lecture on *Bhagavad-gītā*, 25 May 1966]

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the very life of your great spiritual movement, the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

Extraordinarily empowered by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu (the Supreme Personality of Godhead) and His intimate associates, you have spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness so far and so wide that you have literally lit up the deep night of Kali-yuga and actually dispelled the dark shadows of ignorance.

How could anyone not see it?

Your teachings, alive and vibrant in your books and in the lives of your faithful followers, are resounding in every nook and corner of the world, affecting the consciousness of zillions of conditioned souls and thus paving their way back home, back to Godhead.

In this era who but Your Divine Grace could have ignited such a great consciousness revolution,

Homages from Other Sources

which, like a wildfire, is quickly consuming the dark, dangerous, and impenetrable forest of this material existence?

You are incomparable. Anyone sincere person has to acknowledge this obvious truth.

It is evident that Your Divine Grace has so much pure love for Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His intimate associates that you have attracted the Supreme Attractive.

The word “love” is so much abused today that its real significance has been lost. Everyone wants to love and be loved, but no one really knows how.

Our whole loving propensity is misdirected. As you explained in the above-quoted *Bhagavad-gītā* lecture on 25 May 1966:

How it is misdirected? Suppose if I do not love God, if I love my wife, my children, my countrymen, what is the wrong there? Oh, there is great wrong. That you do not know. That is most unscientific. Without loving God, if I want to love my wife, that love is not perfect. Therefore so-called love is disrupted by divorce and so many things because that is not perfect love. We do not know what is perfect love and how to conduct it. That is the defect of our civilization. Which we are accepting as love, that is simply a desire for sense gratification. That is not love. Love is different thing. So because . . . Why the love is defective in the material world? Because it is not properly discharged. We have to understand that thing.

How it is not properly discharged? Just like you love your body. Nobody can deny. Everyone loves his body. All right, what do you want to do? I want to maintain my body nicely. Then what is the means of maintaining your body very nicely? Now, I have to take nice vitaminous foodstuff and supply to the stomach, and then there is assimilation, secretion of different blood or different, I mean to say, humor and so on. The physiological condition is going on. The main position is that you have to give proper foodstuff to this body.

Now, how to supply the foodstuff to the body? The main source of supplying is this mouth. Now we have got several holes in this body, especially nine holes, big holes. Just like these two eyes, they are holes. The ears, they are holes. The mouth is one hole. And the evacuating process is another hole. This navel is another hole. There are nine holes in this body. Now, if somebody says that “I have to put foodstuff within the body . . .” Just like in medical treatment, sometimes, when one cannot take foodstuff from the mouth, foodstuff is injected from the rectum or somewhere else artificially. But that is not the system of supplying the foodstuff. The real process of supplying the food-stuff is through the mouth. If somebody says, “Oh, there are nine holes. You can put the foodstuff in any hole,” no, that will not do. You have to supply the foodstuff through the mouth.

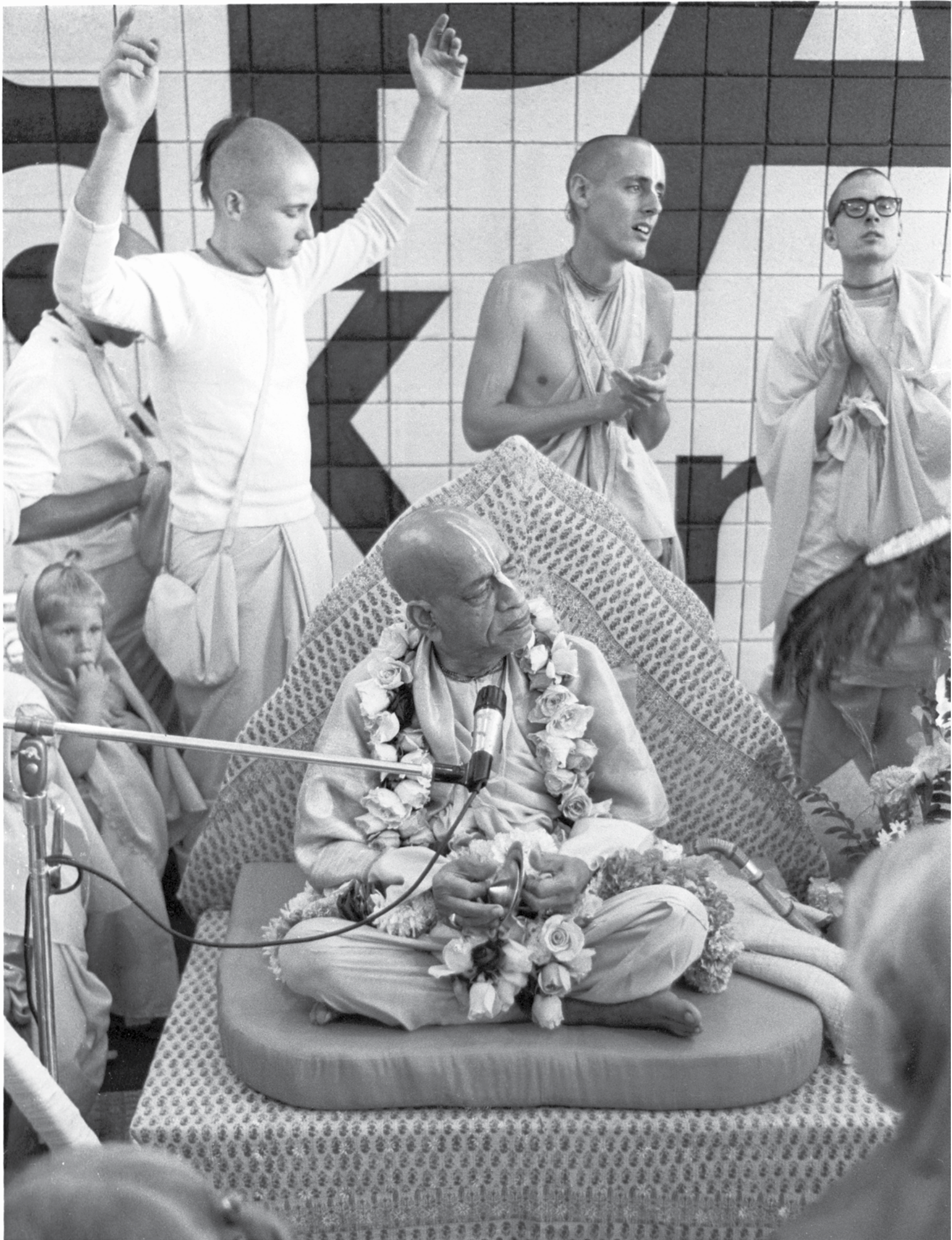
Similarly, if you have to love, you have to love through God. Otherwise, love is not possible. That is all artificial love. Just like supplying foodstuff through the rectum is most artificial and troublesome thing, similarly, without loving God, if I want to love anybody, that is a false manifestation.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as Your Divine Grace has several times mentioned, your ISKCON movement, populated by many sincere souls, is the greatest boon to humanity at large. You have said that it’s based on love and trust. These words “love and trust,” previously misunderstood by most of us, have now acquired a whole new meaning. For ISKCON, love and trust are as necessary as food is necessary to maintain the body.

But who can deny that real love and trust can exist among us only if we properly direct our love and trust toward you, Śrīla Prabhupāda?

Most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, if by some undeserved mercy we have been able to awaken our real love for you, we should please you by inspiring whomever we meet to direct his or her loving propensity toward Your Divine Grace and thus become part of your great plan meant to deliver pure love of Kṛṣṇa to the whole world.

Just as if we want to feed the body we have to do it by putting food into the mouth, so if we (all of us) want to love ISKCON or anybody in ISKCON or anyone in general, we have to love them through you,



Homages from Other Sources

Śrīla Prabhupāda. Otherwise our so-called love would only be artificial love.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, this ISKCON movement rests on you like pearls on a string. Please let all your pearllike devotees never forget that with your presence holding all of them together, this ISKCON will be like a wonderful pearl necklace pleasantly adorning Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's form, but also that without your constant company everything and everyone of us will be scattered and lost, thus losing significance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, daily we humbly pray to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, the Supreme Lords, who control everyone's power of remembrance, that we never forget you, Oṃ Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda. We pray to remember your instructions and pastimes, life after life.

Your eternal servants at Radio Krishna Centrale, Italy.

(written by Tridaṇḍi Dāsa)

The Ultimate Self-Realization Course

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

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

What If . . .

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

What if Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa had never sent you to this material world to save us?

What if Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura had never ordered you to propagate the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement to the English-speaking world?

What if you had never come to the West in pursuance of your Guru Mahārāja's order?

What if you had never so kindly accepted me as your disciple?

Where would I be? What kind of hellish, nightmarish existence would I be trapped in right now?

I shudder to think of it.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your lowly servants at The Ultimate Self Realization Course.

(written by Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa)

Vṛnda Kuṇḍa

*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*

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You made Vṛndāvana and Tulasī famous all over the whole world. For this reason I think the *sevā* of Vṛndā-kuṇḍa came to ISKCON. I think you would also be sad to see the state of Vṛndāvana today. You were always very much against bringing unnecessary development and industry into Vṛndāvana. But now devotees are more and more appreciating our simple project in Vṛndā-kuṇḍa, where they can feel the beautiful natural environment of Vraja. Everyone tells me how happy they feel there, with trees and flowers and a beautiful and simple temple. This project we dedicated at your lotus feet in order to serve your followers. By your causeless mercy we are able to render some tiny service to your followers, and thus we pray that, by our pleasing them, you are pleased.

On this most holy day we join with those around the world in glorifying the mercy that you have given us. Every morning when I awake in Vṛndāvana I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this wonderful life you have given us, a life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the holy *dhāma*. Whenever we take the devotees around on *parikramā*, in my heart I see you taking the devotees on *parikramā*. Whether you are sitting on the palanquin in Varṣāṇā or taking bath at Brahmāṇḍa Ghāṭa in Gokula, I see all these scenes in my heart. We only hope and pray that since we are not qualified to render any service to you, by our serving your followers who come to the *dhāma* at your request, somehow we may please Your Divine Grace.

Your devotees who serve Śrīmatī Vṛndā Devī at Vṛnda Kuṇḍa, Vṛndāvana.

(written by Deena Bandhu Dāsa)

Vṛndāvana Institute of Higher Education

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to your continued presence among us.

Recently one of your disciples asked me how long I've been living in India. I told him I came for the first time as a devotee in 1987. The following year I decided to shift my life to India. I have been here since then, only very occasionally going to the West to renew my visa. He reminded me that you wanted five hundred foreign devotees to serve permanently in the Indian *yātrā*. "You are one of them," he said. Yes, it is true. I feel that way, and this is one of the things that connect me to you. I am happy to serve this part of your vision. I feel deeply connected to you, even though I am your granddisciple. You wanted that sufficient facilities be created for the foreign devotees, so they could stay without too many bodily disturbances. India was a tough place in the seventies and is still a challenge for many. You especially wanted places for them to learn the philosophy and culture of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, particularly in Vṛndāvana and Māyāpur.

Somehow, even though very unqualified, in 2002 I became the director of the Vṛndāvana Institute for Higher Education, a place dedicated to learning and teaching others. I love my service and share that love with the other devotees serving on the VIHE team. We strive to fulfill your desire for an educational shelter in the holy *dhāma*. The results are amazing. Many a time, former students approach us and burst out with expressions of gratitude. Again and again we hear the same sentence: "The time I spent studying in Vṛndāvana was the best experience of my life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness." They mean it. The combination of the spiritually surcharged atmosphere of Vraja-dhāma, the *darśana* of the supremely beautiful Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, your direct association through prolonged contact with your *vāñī*, the increase of goodness generated from brahminical study, the mood of open inquiry, the unmotivated relationships that build up, and the simplicity of the *gośālā* setting, where the VIHE is situated, produce in the devotees the higher taste you came to give. It is all happening under your care. You are in effect the director.

Nowadays, it is not only foreigners who come to charge their spiritual batteries, but Indians too, owing to the explosion of the ISKCON congregations in India. This mixing of the foreign and Indian devotees is enriching for both parties. Serving them all is serving you. We experience your presence constantly, as we go about studying your books, trying to see things from many angles, as you desired. Between the śāstric study programs and the retreats, we serve over three hundred devotees per year, including the correspondence students and those who take courses held outside Vṛndāvana, in India and abroad. It is still a small operation, but we hope to grow and serve more and more devotees. By your mercy, the staff has increased and is dedicated to the service of helping to nurture devotion.

This year was marked by several important events. We celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Govardhana Retreat, a program launched and sustained by His Holiness Śacīnandana Swami and His Grace Bhūrijana Prabhu. It serves to engage serious devotees visiting the *dhāma* in an intense hearing of *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, and aims at increasing attachment for the process and goal of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We completed the study of the twelve cantos of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the first-ever Bhaktivedānta study program. It took nine years to go through the entire book, with devotees studying 2 to 3½ months per year in Vṛndāvana, attentively hearing from His Grace Bhūrijana Prabhu and Her Grace Nārāyaṇī Mātāji. We also started a retreat program for women, mostly those directly involved with serving your mission. This was held in the context of caring for devotees and offering nourishment to all different sections of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness society. It was amazing to experience your presence among this all-ladies group. Kṛṣṇa conscious relationships are truly between soul and soul. *Sarvopādhi-vinirmuktaṁ tat-paratvena nirmalam/ hr̥ṣīkeṣa hr̥ṣīkeśa-sevanam bhaktir ucyate*. Thank you for your unconditional support.

In the coming winter, finally, after some delay, we will again begin the study of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, from the First Canto onwards. The teachers will mostly be graduates of the Bhaktivaibhava and Bhaktivedānta courses. *Evam paramparā prāptam*. We repeatedly beg your blessings so our qualification to learn and

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2011

teach may increase. Please help us overcome our shortcomings and protect us. Please keep us under your loving care. We pray that you may extend your guidance to us so that we can develop our service in harmony with your vision.

*darśana-dhyāna-saṁsparsair matsya-kūrma-vihaṅgamāḥ
svāny apatyāni puṣṇanti tathāham api padma-ja*

“By vision, by meditation, and by touch only do the fish, the tortoise, and the birds maintain their offspring. So also do I, O Padmaja!” (*Padma Purāṇa*)

With deep gratitude,

Your dependent servants at the Vṛndāvana Institute of Higher Education.

(written by Praśāntā Devī Dāsī)