



Homages from ISKCON Centers

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Accra

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Once again the season has come for devotees worldwide to offer their homages to Your Divine Grace in appreciation of the rare opportunity given to us to participate in the *yuga-dharma*, *harināma-saṅkīrtana*. As I reflect on the unparalleled compassion and mercy showed toward the conditioned souls, one saying from the Vedic literature comes to mind:

Just as rivers do not drink their own water but flow for the benefit of others, just as fruit-bearing trees do not eat their own fruits but bear them for the benefit others, and just as clouds do not drink their own rain water but shower it down for the benefit of others, so saintly persons live simply for the benefit of others.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you shed gallons of blood to create ISKCON and thus provide spiritual shelter for all. You spent sleepless nights writing your Bhaktivedanta purports just to give enlightenment to others. You collected and spent huge sums of money constructing big temples around the world just for the benefit of your followers and others. And you traveled around the world many times, even in your old age, just to save many conditioned souls. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you lived simply for the benefit of others. Therefore you are the greatest saint of our time.

Your servants in Accra, Ghana.

(written by Śrīvāsa Dāsa)

Agartala

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I thank you for saving me from the prison of material life. In your *Bhagavad-gītā* there is a picture of Lord Viṣṇu riding on Garuḍa and reaching down to save a man drowning in the waves of the stormy material ocean. I was like that man, but in truth you are in between me and Lord Viṣṇu. A genuine guru, you are a transparent medium through whom Kṛṣṇa is taking the fallen souls back to Godhead after they become purified by practicing unalloyed devotional service.

I regularly watch a series of DVDs called “Following Śrīla Prabhupāda,” produced by your dear devotee Yadubara Prabhu. It is a chronological series beginning in 1965 and ending in 1977. As I watch these DVDs, I observe the great transformation of the devotees, both men and women. In the beginning, when they first contact you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, many are dirty, with long hair, ignorant and full of false ego. But after some time spent in your association and practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness, they become radiant, humble, very neat and clean, happy, and grateful for the knowledge you have given them. It is a transformation of iron into gold—proof of your spiritual power and the truth of your message.

All the devotees I see in the DVDs love you and serve you with great surrender, enthusiasm, and bliss. Under your guidance, some of them go to open new ISKCON centers in various parts of the world, full of faith in you and full of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. After understanding that the relationship with God is not based on asking Him for any benefit for oneself but on trying to give Him pleasure by serving Him with love and devotion, one devotee became ready to work twenty-four hours a day with full dedication: the word *impossible* was no longer in his dictionary.

As a result of the efforts of these early devotees, inspired and empowered by you, everywhere in the world we see wonderful temples established for the pleasure of the spiritual master and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, and for the benefit of all human beings. As a temple president, I realize that beyond me there is always Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the real doer and the real maker of everything. I am only an imperfect puppet in the hands of the Supreme Puppeteer. To the degree that the puppet is ready to be soft and compliant in the hands of the Puppeteer, to that degree the puppet is perfect. You, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the best example of this absolute surrender to Śrī Kṛṣṇa. This is the secret of your power of attraction, the reason why all your followers have such great love for you. It is why your presence has the power to rectify my mistakes, and why I am inspired to develop love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Everything is perfectly connected. As much as I read your books, that much my love for you and for Śrī Kṛṣṇa increases, that much I can see all my defects, all my mental dirtiness, and how much work I have to do to become acceptable before you and Kṛṣṇa.

I can see very clearly how you and Śrī Kṛṣṇa are so merciful to me, for both of you continue to engage me in your transcendental devotional service despite all my imperfections. When I meditate deeply on your amazing qualities, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and on Kṛṣṇa’s amazing *līlās*, I feel impelled to glorify you both more and more, but I feel unable to do so properly. So I can only cry from the core of my heart: “Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are fantastic, wonderful, the best! Śrī Kṛṣṇa, You are super super super super super! I am proud to be your devotee. Please, please, both of you, help me become your sincere, surrendered devotee! Help me become the servant of the servants of the servants of the *gopīs*.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you very much for giving me the gift of my Guru Mahārāja, your dear disciple His Holiness Bhakti Svarūpa Dāmodara Swami.

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your servants in Agartala, Tripura, India.

(written by Premadaṭṭa Dāsa)

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Ahmedabad

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your glorious lotus feet as we beg our humble seat at those feet, which are nondifferent from Viṣṇupāda, the abode of Viṣṇu, Vaikuṅṭha. On this earth you are the most dear to Kṛṣṇa because you gave every single breath to spread His glories.

I witnessed how you were the humblest of humble persons. The only pride you ever took was that you were Sarasvata, the humble follower of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

By the mercy of your spiritual master you were able to give to the devotional line the greatest contribution in history, establishing the scripture's authenticity by proving through factual demonstration that the knowledge given in the scriptures is absolute and correct.

For example, the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* recounts how Lord Caitanya taught Sanātana Gosvāmī the process of *bhakti* (*abhidheya*), the process by which love for Kṛṣṇa (*prajohana*) is attained. The Lord explained that there are two kinds of *jīvas*—the *nitya-muktas* (sometimes called *nitya-siddhas*) and *nitya-baddhas*. The *nitya-muktas* live with Kṛṣṇa in His abode, enjoying the transcendental happiness of hearing and chanting about Him and serving Him in His pastimes. The *nitya-baddhas*, the conditioned souls, suffer the pangs of misery due to forgetting Kṛṣṇa. Lord Caitanya said,

*kāma-krodhera dāsa hañā tāra lāthi khāya
bhramite bhramite yadi sādhu-vaidyā pāya*

*tānra upadeśa-mantre piśācī palāya
kṛṣṇa-bhakti pāya, tabe kṛṣṇa-nikaṭa yāya*

“In this way the conditioned soul becomes the servant of lusty desires, and when these are not fulfilled, he becomes the servant of anger and continues to be kicked by the external energy, *māyā*. Wandering and wandering throughout the universe, he may by chance get the association of a devotee physician, whose instructions and hymns make the witch of the external energy flee. The conditioned soul thus gets into touch with devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa, and in this way he can approach nearer and nearer to the Lord.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 22.14–15)

How true! I was totally lost in the abyss of ignorance when I met the greatest *sādhu-vaidyā* (devotee doctor), Your Divine Grace. You gave me the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā* mantras and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* mantras, and by the strength of these mantras the *māyā-piśācī* (the witch of the external energy) started fleeing.

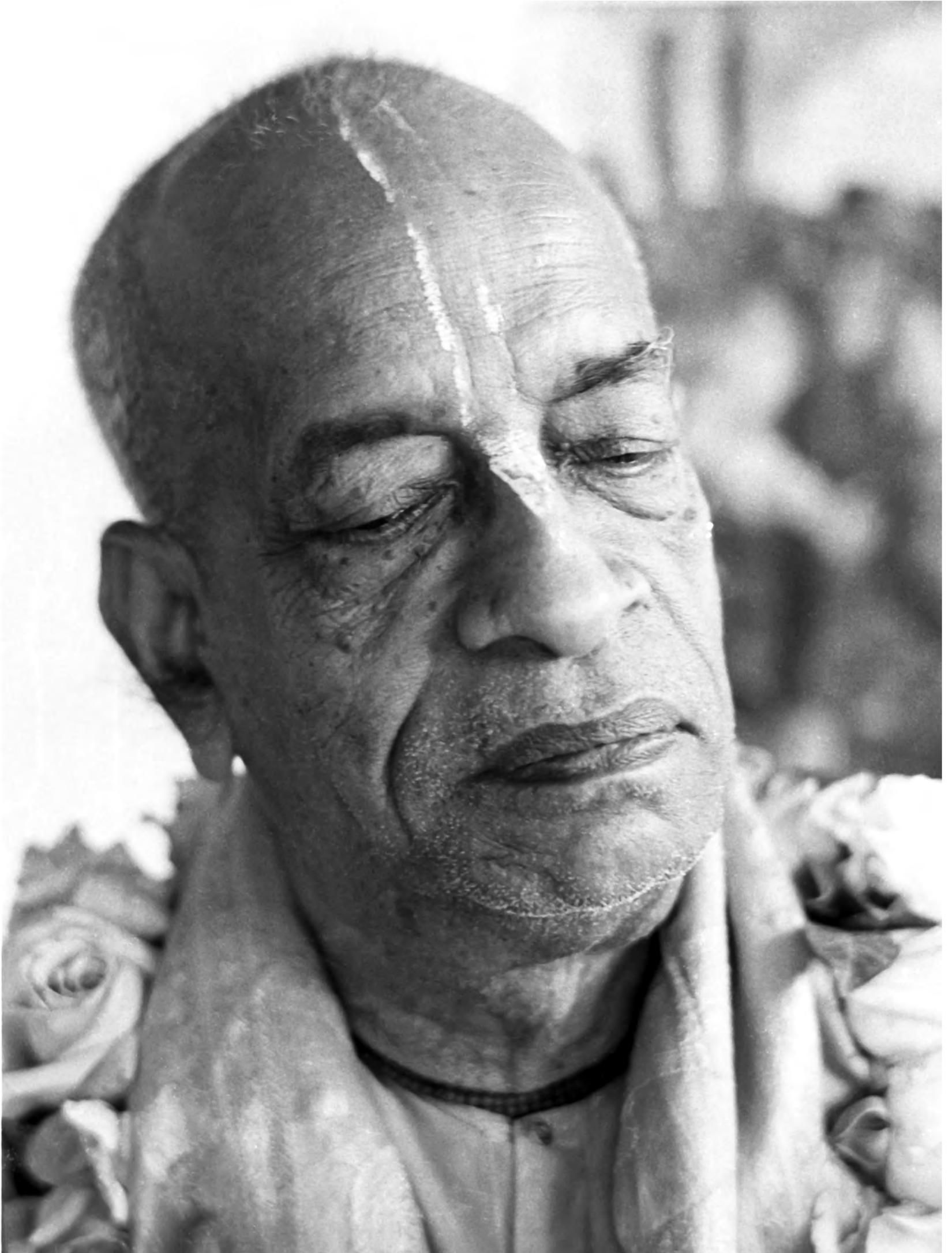
Before meeting you, most of us were absorbed in the illusory net of *vikarma* (prohibited activity). We didn't even know what *jñāna* and *yoga* were. But by kindly giving us your transcendental books, you patiently explained not only *jñāna* and *yoga* but also *bhakti*. On the basis of the scriptures you showed how *bhakti* is superior and much easier, more practical, and more blissful to perform. Again, Lord Caitanya tells Sanātana (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 18):

*ei saba sādhanera ati tuccha bala
kṛṣṇa-bhakti vinā tāhā dite nāre phala*

“Without devotional service, all other methods for spiritual self-realization are weak and insignificant. Unless one comes to the devotional service of Lord Kṛṣṇa, *jñāna* and *yoga* cannot give the desired results.

Lord Caitanya continues (*Madhya* 19–20):

*naiṣkarmyam apy acyuta-bhāva-varjitaṁ
na śobhate jñānam alarṇ nirañjanam*



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*kutaḥ punaḥ śaśvad abhadram īśvare
nā cārpitaṁ karma yad apy akāraṇam*

“When pure knowledge is beyond all material affinity but is not dedicated to the Supreme Personality of Godhead [Kṛṣṇa], it does not appear very beautiful, although it is knowledge without a material tinge. What, then, is the use of fruitive activities—which are naturally painful from the beginning and transient by nature—if they are not utilized for the devotional service of the Lord? How can they be very attractive?”

[PURPORT] This is a quotation from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.5.12). Even after writing many Vedic literatures, Vyāsadeva felt very morose. Therefore his spiritual master, Nārādadeva, told him that he could be happy by writing about the activities of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Up to that time, Śrīla Vyāsadeva had written the *karma-kāṇḍa* and *jñāna-kāṇḍa* sections of the *Vedas*, but he had not written about *upāsanā-kāṇḍa*, or *bhakti*. Thus his spiritual master, Nārada, chastised him and advised him to write about the activities of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Therefore Vyāsadeva began writing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

*tapasvino dāna-parā yaśasvino
manasvino mantra-vidaḥ su-maṅgalāḥ
kṣemaṁ na vindanti vinā yad-arpaṇam
tasmai subhadra-śravase namo namaḥ*

“Those who perform severe austerities and penances, those who give away all their possessions out of charity, those who are very famous for their auspicious activity, those who are engaged in meditation and mental speculation, and even those who are very expert in reciting the Vedic mantras are not able to obtain any auspicious results, although they are engaged in auspicious activities, if they do not dedicate their activities to the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. I therefore repeatedly offer my respectful obeisances unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead, whose glories are always auspicious.” [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.4.17]

Because I was born in India, which is full of seemingly spiritual activities, I didn’t understand the complexities of genuine spiritual life. But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, being empowered by Lord Caitanya, were able to explain such complex things to my dull brain so expertly that I was easily able to understand. Indeed, you were so expert that in twelve short years hundreds of thousands of people in countries throughout the world started practicing the highest process of *bhakti-yoga* and became preachers of the same.

Of course, it is not surprising that genuine spiritual life was a mystery before I met you. As you explain in your purport above, even Lord Vyāsadeva, the incarnation of Kṛṣṇa and a clairvoyant sage, couldn’t quite understand it until his *mahā-bhāgavata* guru Nārada Muni explained it to him. Nārada addresses Vyāsadeva as *mahā-bhāga*, “greatly fortunate one,” and *amogha-dṛk*, “one whose vision is infallible (i.e., one who can see past, present, and future).” Nāradaḥ told him, “Even though you are the most learned person in the entire universe, you are feeling unfulfilled and anxious because you have not described pure *bhakti-yoga*, free from *karma*, *jñāna*, and *yoga*. That is why you feel something missing in your heart.” After this inspiring meeting with Nārada, Vyāsa compiled the pure devotional scripture *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which is the highest literature in the world.

That in such a short time you were able to expertly transmit such confidential, exalted knowledge to Kali-yuga’s most fallen creatures surely proves that Lord Kṛṣṇa personally empowered you, Otherwise, it simply would not have been possible.

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

“The fundamental religious system in the Age of Kali is the chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Unless

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empowered by Kṛṣṇa, one cannot propagate the *saṅkīrtana* movement.) (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya* 7.11)

Because of your selfless activity of so kindly awakening sleeping souls like me, all the scriptures declare that you are as good as God:

*sāksād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair
uktas tathā bhāvyata eva sadbhiḥ
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and followed by all authorities. Therefore I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is a bona fide representative of Śrī Hari [Kṛṣṇa].”

You are such a powerful personality, Śrīla Prabhupāda! You kindly left your spiritual, transcendental home, Vṛndāvana, and went to America because if you hadn’t no *sādhu* would have ever gone there, and the Westerners would have continued to sleep in a hellish condition for who knows how long.

All the following statements from *śāstra* sing your glories, for you provided practical demonstration of them:

*bhavāpavargo bhramato yadā bhavej
janasya tarhy acyuta sat-samāgamaḥ
sat-saṅgamo yarhi tadaiva sad-gatau
parāvareśe tvayi jāyate ratiḥ*

“O my Lord! O infallible Supreme Person! When a person wandering throughout the universes becomes eligible for liberation from material existence, he gets an opportunity to associate with devotees. When he associates with devotees, his attraction for You is awakened. You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead—the highest goal of the topmost devotees and the Lord of the universe.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.51.53)

*kṛṣṇa yadi kṛpā kare kona bhāgyavāne
guru-antaryāmi-rūpe śikhāya āpane*

“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]

*sādhu-saṅge kṛṣṇa-bhaktye śraddhā yadi haya
bhakti-phala ‘prema’ haya, saṁsāra yāya kṣaya*

“By associating with a devotee, one awakens his faith in devotional service to Kṛṣṇa. Because of devotional service, one’s dormant love for Kṛṣṇa awakens, and thus one’s material, conditioned existence comes to an end.” [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 22.49]

*mahat-kṛpā vinā kona karme ‘bhakti’ naya
kṛṣṇa-bhakti dūre rahu, saṁsāra nahe kṣaya*

“Unless one is favored by a pure devotee, one cannot attain the platform of devotional service. To say nothing of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*, one cannot even be relieved from the bondage of material existence.”

PURPORT Pious activities bring about material opulence, but one cannot acquire devotional service

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by any amount of material pious activity—not by giving charity, opening big hospitals and schools, or working philanthropically. Devotional service can be attained only by the mercy of a pure devotee. Without a pure devotee’s mercy, one cannot even escape the bondage of material existence. The word *mahat* in this verse means “a pure devotee,” as Lord Kṛṣṇa confirms in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (9.13):

*mahātmānas tu mām pārtha daivīm prakṛtim āśritāḥ
bhajanty ananya-manaso jñātvā bhūtādim avyayam*

“O son of Pṛthā, those who are not deluded, the great souls, are under the protection of the divine nature. They are fully engaged in devotional service because they know Me as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, original and inexhaustible.”

One has to associate with such a *mahātmā*, who has accepted Kṛṣṇa as the supreme source of the entire creation. Without being a *mahātmā*, one cannot understand Kṛṣṇa’s absolute position. A *mahātmā* is rare and transcendental, and he is a pure devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Foolish people consider Kṛṣṇa a human being, and they consider Lord Kṛṣṇa’s pure devotee an ordinary human being also. Whatever one may be, one must take shelter at the lotus feet of a devotee *mahātmā* and treat him as the most exalted well-wisher of all human society. We should take shelter of such a *mahātmā* and ask for his causeless mercy. Only by his benediction can one be relieved from attachment to the materialistic way of life. When one is thus relieved, he can engage in the Lord’s transcendental loving service through the mercy of the *mahātmā*. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 22.51*]

*rahūgaṇaitat tapasā na yāti
na cejyayā nirvapaṇād grhād vā
na cchandasā naiva jalāgni-sūryair
vinā mahat-pāda-rajo-’bhiṣekam*

“O King Rahūgaṇa, without taking upon one’s head the dust from the lotus feet of a pure devotee [a *mahājana* or *mahātmā*], one cannot attain devotional service. Devotional service is not possible to attain simply by undergoing severe austerities and penances, by gorgeously worshiping the Deity, or by strictly following the rules and regulations of the *sannyāsa* or *grhastha* order; nor is it attained by studying the *Vedas*, submerging oneself in water, or exposing oneself to fire or scorching sunlight.” [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 22.52*]

*naiṣāṁ matis tāvad urukramāṅghriṁ
sprśaty anarthāpagamo yad-arthaḥ
mahīyasāṁ pāda-rajo-’bhiṣekam
niṣkiñcanānām na vṛñita yāvat*

“Unless human society accepts the dust of the lotus feet of great *mahātmās*—devotees who have nothing to do with material possessions—mankind cannot turn its attention to the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa. Those lotus feet vanquish all the unwanted, miserable conditions of material life.” [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 22.53*]

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

“The verdict of all revealed scriptures is that by even a moment’s association with a pure devotee one can attain all success.”

PURPORT According to astronomical calculations, a *lava* is one eleventh of a second. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 22.54*]

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*tulayāma lavenāpi na svargaṁ nāpunar-bhavam
bhagavat-saṅgi-saṅgasya martyānām kim utāśiṣaḥ*

“The value of a moment’s association with a devotee of the Lord cannot be compared even to the attainment of the heavenly planets or liberation from matter, and what to speak of worldly benedictions in the form of material prosperity, which is for those who are meant for death.”
[*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 22.55*]

All the above statements prove that the reason this great movement started is not because you accidentally reached the right place at the right time. No, this is not why you were successful. Your success was due to scientific spiritual principles. Today or any day you could go to any planet anywhere and the result would be the same: the deliverance of millions of souls.

I am so fortunate to have taken shelter of your fearless lotus feet. Although I am a very neophyte, fallen, degraded creature, I have hope that if I keep your lotus feet in my heart I will join you again in your *saṅkīrtana* movement. Please keep me in your shade.

Forgotten Kṛṣṇa,
We fallen souls,
Paying most heavy
The illusion’s toll.
Darkness around,
All untrace.
The only hope,
His Divine Grace.

Thank you very much.

Your servants in ISKCON Ahmedabad

(written by Jashomatinandan Dāsa)

Allahabad

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humblest obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.29.6) Śrī Uddhava speaks this verse to Kṛṣṇa,

*naivopayanty apacitīm kavayas taveśa
brahmāyusāpi kṛtam ṛddha-mudaḥ smarantaḥ*

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*yo 'ntar bahis tanu-bhṛtām aśubharṅ vidhunvann
ācārya-caitya-vapuṣā sva-gatiṅ vyanakti*

“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.”

Therefore, you are Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as the *ācārya* for delivering us from worldly existence by engaging us in serving Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s mission of spreading His message of divine love. And although it is not possible to adequately express our gratitude in words, as a matter of duty we have composed the following poem as a humble offering at your lotus feet.

The auspicious day of your appearance
Marks the end of material life.
We celebrate for adherence
To the vow of spiritual strife.

Kindly look upon us, fallen and destitute,
With mercy and compassion,
For only you do ever constitute
Our shelter and salvation.

Your dedication to *sādhu*, *śāstra* and to *guru*,
An emblem for society
Always to revere and to never rue,
Is full of love with no duplicity.

You have received, like the cloud,
The nectar from the *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* ocean,
Which you pour down, thundering brave and loud,
Dissipating all the chaos and commotion.

We, your servants at ISKCON Allahabad, pray to be always engaged in devotional service under the cooling shade of your divine lotus feet.

Your lowly and fallen servants at ISKCON Allahabad, India.

Almviks Gård

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

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

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

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

Another year has passed. What did we offer you this year, Śrīla Prabhupāda? Today we offer you a report on a project started some thirty years ago by your disciples and granddisciples. It is situated in the woods not far from the capital of Sweden, Stockholm, the city you visited and preached in some thirty-nine years ago. There is a lake, a forest, houses, and fields. Now this project has some forty adults and thirty children. There are six cows, two calves, and three oxen.

We are running the place in a somewhat democratic fashion. We annually elect a board that administer the common aspects of our little village. There is the temple housing our beloved Pañcatattva Deities. There is also a bakery, a sawmill, and a barn. The parents are working to reopen the school. We grow all our own vegetables and offer them to you and the Lord. Last year we cut wood from our land and built you an *āsana*. We use wood from the forest to build our houses. Most of the inhabitants are *grhasthas* who work outside to maintain their families. They hope that one day they will have more time for your direct service.

Last year we held our regular summer festival, with seminars, and this year we will hold the same festival, with more *kīrtanas*. Over the last year grains were grown, a calf was born, cows were milked, and enough hay was harvested for the year. Meetings were held and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes were given and listened to.

The project was started thirty years ago, has been developed to this point, and is continuing. We pray that one day it will be just the way you wanted it: an example of simple living and noble thinking in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. But we have some way to go—or maybe some way to backtrack. The simple thing is sometimes the most difficult. Therefore please bless us with the intelligence to understand how to proceed in a way that will satisfy you fully.

We, your disciples and granddisciples, the devotees at Almviks Gard, beg to remain your humble servants forever.

Your servants at Almviks Gård, Sweden.

Amravati

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All Glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to your divine appearance day!

Your glories should always be remembered by every devotee (*dhyāyan stuvamś tasya yaśas tri-sandhyaṁ vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*), but Vyāsa-pūjā is a special occasion for us all to express our gratitude to you for the oceanic causeless mercy you have bestowed on us. The more the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement expands, the more we realize your greatness.

Nowadays ISKCON devotees worldwide are emphasizing more and more the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* through *japa* and *kīrtana* retreats, *japa* workshops, *kīrtana melas*, World Holy Name Day celebrations, etc. In this way they are experiencing deeper realizations of the holy name. The deeper their realizations of the holy name, the deeper their gratitude for your divine compassion.

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

Homages from ISKCON Centers

“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.”

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, propagator of the holy name worldwide, please empower and enthuse us to chant *śuddha-nāma* and distribute *śuddha-nāma*!

This year the ISKCON Leadership Saṅga in Māyāpur offered another revelation of your compassion by facilitating, for the first time in ISKCON history, intimate *sādhu-saṅga* between GBCs and many leaders from around the world. Devotees often say that you built a house in which the whole world can live. In Māyāpur this year, devotees experienced that global family mood in a very wonderful way. We feel blessed to be part of your divinely empowered family. His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami said that “after seeing all the up-and-coming leaders interacting with the present GBCs, I am now sure that Śrīla Prabhupāda’s movement is in safe hands.”

O divine father, Śrīla Prabhupāda, please always keep us united in your ISKCON family!

Here at Amravati, the birthplace of Śrīmatī Rukmiṇī Devī, your ISKCON is developing nicely by your blessings. Last year we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the installation of our Deities, Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārkaḍhīṣa. After that, by your grace and the devotees’ sincerity, all our projects started moving in a positive direction and have continued doing so over the last year.

Soon after the celebration, someone sponsored the generator, the air conditioner, and the glass door for the altar, and another person sponsored a new *saṅkīrtana* vehicle.

The standards in the *brahmacārī āśrama* also improved—strict morning program attendance and *sādhana*, regular reading of your books, regular *brahmacārī* classes, etc.

The construction of the *prasādam* hall and improvement of the *brahmacārī āśrama* are progressing nicely, and both projects are expected to be completed by your appearance day.

Congregational preaching is also increasing: Our regular educational workshops, retreats, and festival *kathās* are enthusing our congregation more and more in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Congregational devotees are becoming stricter and more focused in their *sādhana*. They are very eager to hear *kṛṣṇa-kathā*. In addition, our congregation is becoming more actively involved in many temple services. O Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bestow your blessings on all the devotees of Amravati so we may advance rapidly in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and serve your mission efficiently and unitedly.

We just completed our first year of youth preaching, and there has been a very favorable response. We rented a flat, and about ten boys will be moving there. There is very high potential here in Amravati for youth preaching. O Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bestow your causeless blessings so that your teachings can transform the lives of all the youths of Amravati.

Many people recount divine experiences they have had when blessed with the *darśana* of your *mūrti*. On this auspicious appearance day we humbly offer you your new *mūrti* and a new *vyāsāsana*. Please incessantly shower your mercy on all the souls who come for your *darśana*. At the same time, please empower us so we can serve you in this divine form without committing any offense; in this way we may develop strong love for you and unflinching dedication to your mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, these are just a few of your recent wonderful accomplishments, executed by your servants, under your orders. They are your gifts. They give us hope. They are proof of your continued presence in the world, and of the potency of your mission and your instructions.

Eternally aspiring to remain your humble servants, we are

The devotees at the ISKCON temple in Amravati, India.

(written by Ananta Śeṣa Dāsa)

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Aravade

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Your preaching was successful because you were submissive to your spiritual master. Your preaching created a big wonder in the world, something that had never been seen before. No one in India ever thought they would see the bright faces of Western Vaiṣṇavas, with all the godly symptoms.

Your endeavor was so powerful that even Kali could not stop you. Despite all difficulties, you just went on preaching with great enthusiasm. Your preaching pastimes have made a great impact on us; in fact, when we hear of them we became stunned with wonder. For the next ten thousand years you will be glorified all over the world through your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. We feel so fortunate that we have taken birth so soon after your powerful preaching period.

By seeing your powerful disciples, we can understand the great endeavor you took to train them. They are like illuminating diamonds. By circumnavigating the world at an advanced age, you connected all these valuable gems. They are following in your footsteps, and Kṛṣṇa consciousness is blooming throughout the world.

We are just insignificant devotees trying to follow in your footsteps. Great souls like you are very, very merciful toward fallen souls like us. So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg at your lotus feet that you will kindly make us recipients of your mercy.

Our temple is a village temple. Many visitors, especially students on school tours, come here every day from various places in the vicinity of our village. The visitors are especially attracted by the Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla, who are so enchanting that whoever comes here to see Them can hardly leave Them.

We are trying to implement various programs you emphasized: book distribution, Food for Life, youth preaching, village preaching, etc. Many people appreciate our endeavors. All this is happening due to your causeless mercy. We all hanker for that mercy all the time. Only by your merciful glance we will remain alive in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla Mandir, the ISKCON temple in Aravade, India.

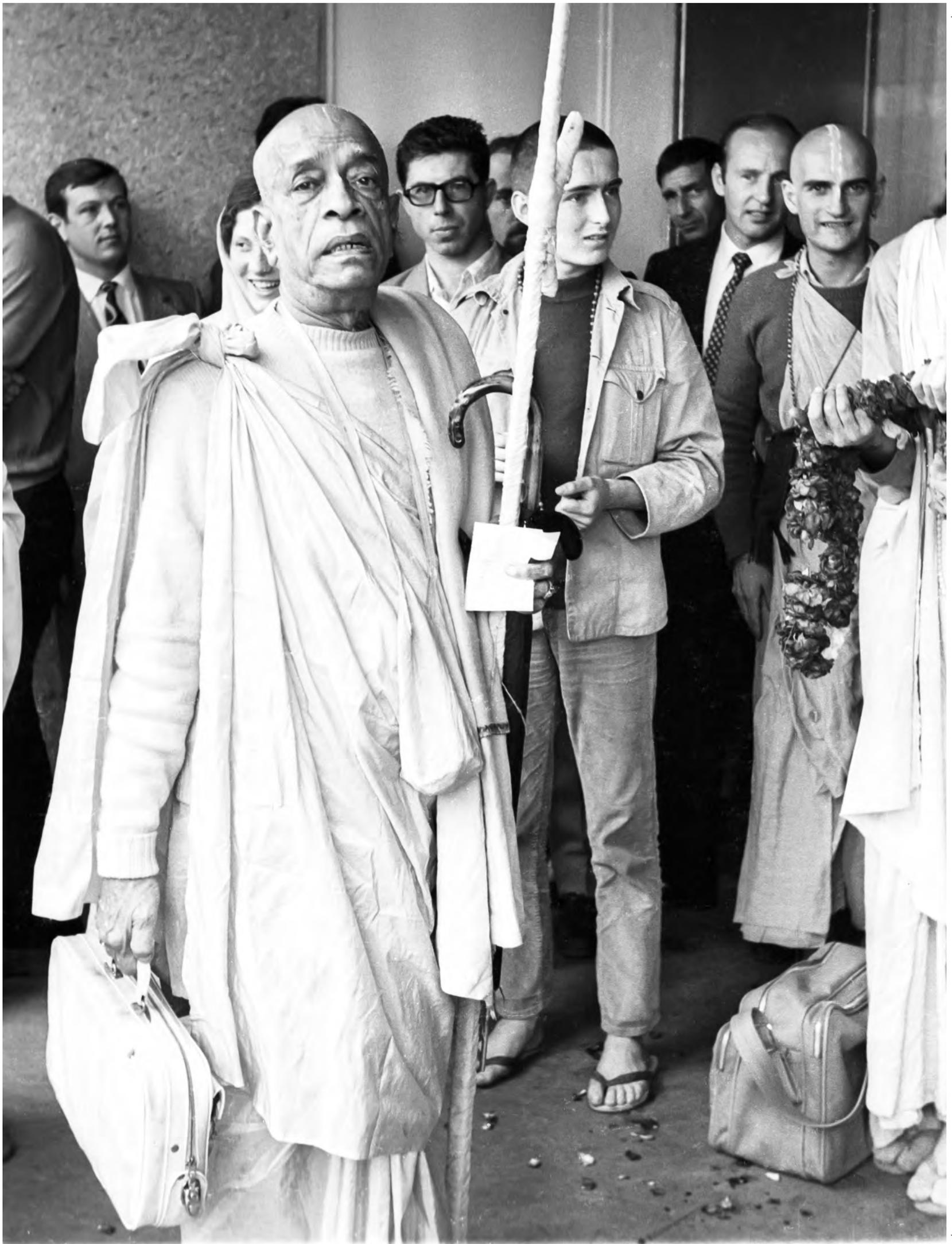
Atlanta

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

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

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

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



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

*tvaṁ naḥ sandarśito dhātrā dustaraṁ nistitīrṣatām
kaliṁ sattva-haraṁ puṁsām karṇa-dhāra ivārṇavam*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I am writing this offering on behalf of your servants in Atlanta, New Pānihāṭi-dhāma. Pānihāṭi is the place of Lord Nityānanda’s chipped-rice festival. You named this temple during your historic visit in 1975. Even though you visited this temple only once, your Atlanta pastimes were so special that the GBC has designated New Pānihāṭi-dhāma one of the official *tīrthas* of your *līlā*.

Lord Nityānanda is very merciful to those who cannot take advantage of Lord Caitanya’s mercy. In your arrival lecture in Atlanta 1975 you stated, “Lord Kṛṣṇa said, ‘First you surrender unto Me, and then I will give you love of Godhead.’ But these two Lords, Nityānanda and Caitanya, don’t demand anything. They say, ‘Just take this love of Godhead.’”

Lord Caitanya gave the holy name away freely. Still, some unfortunate souls refused to take it. Lord Nityānanda falls at the feet of these fallen souls and begs them to chant the holy name. He even chases after them, begging them to take shelter of the *mahā-mantra*.

This was your mood of service to the fallen souls in the Western countries. You sacrificed your peaceful life in Vṛndāvana, endured great hardships crossing the ocean, tolerated living in poverty among the hippies—all in order to fall at our feet and beg us to take the invaluable jewel of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Not only did you beg us, but you petitioned Lord Kṛṣṇa to accept our service and forgive our offenses.

Without such mercy from a pure devotee, we would be left tossing in the waves of the ocean of *māyā*.

What can we offer in return for the sacrifice you made for us? We can only pray to remain your eternal servants, birth after birth.

We pray that we can use the remainder of our lifetime expanding your mission to fulfill the order of Lord Caitanya. We see by your example that we must become compassionate toward those who are less fortunate than we are. We have to stop thinking about how we can be happy and focus more on bringing others into this blissful life of service to your lotus feet. Then we’ll automatically be happy,

We, your servants at New Pānihāṭi-dhāma, thank you for chasing after us and engaging us in this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

Your servants at New Pānihāṭi-dhāma, the ISKCON temple in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

(written by Śikhi Māhiti Dāsa)

Auckland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer you our most humble obeisances unto you again and again.

Through your hard work and selfless austerities you achieved what no other *ācārya* achieved before you. This is a great honor for you.

You are one of the most empowered and successful *ācāryas* of all times.

You have been given the title Bhaktivedanta.

Your teachings, delivered according to time, place, and circumstance, enter the hearts of the fallen, conditioned souls and change them.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Through book distribution, *harināma*, *prasādam*, temple programs, Ratha-yātrās, and other outreach programs, your ISKCON movement is coming in contact with hundreds of thousands of people daily.

You brought the teachings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the land of the Jagāis and Mādhāis, to a population full of meat-eaters, drunkards, rogues, and thieves, to a place where impersonalism is rampant—not only the West but also India, the birthplace of the Supreme Lord, where people in general think the goal of life is to copy the West.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu desired that people in every town and village around the world would have the opportunity participate in *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and re-establish their lost loving relationship with the Supreme Lord, as exemplified by the inhabitants of Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma. In is due to your untiring efforts that this greatest gift is being offered to the conditioned souls.

If you had not taken up the desire of your Gurudeva, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, where would we all be today? Lost in the entanglement of Kṛṣṇa's external energy, *māyā*, traveling on the path of repeated birth and death, wandering from planet to planet through the millions of species of life. So much pain.

There is no stopping your movement now. Too many books have been distributed. The seeds of devotion have been planted and in time will grow.

Your movement is still young, still going through growing pains. This is to be expected with any new society in its pioneering years. And the society will continue to change, generation after generation. We cannot expect perfection in one generation or even several. But perfection will come in time. We need to be patient.

The future of ISKCON is only going to get brighter, bringing joy to the hearts of the fallen, conditioned souls and making you even more famous throughout this world.

Praying to always be of some service in your society, we remain

Your servants in Auckland, New Zealand.

(written by Kalasāvara Dāsa)

Austin

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Searching our souls, trying to find the appropriate words to glorify you on your 2012 Vyāsa-pūjā day, verse 92 Bilvamaṅgala Ṭhākura's *Kṛṣṇa-karṇāmṛta* came to mind:

*madhuram madhuram vapur asya vibhor
madhuram madhuram vadanam madhuram
madhu-gandhi mṛdu-smitam etad aho
madhuram madhuram madhuram madhuram*

“The transcendental body of Kṛṣṇa is very sweet, and His face is even sweeter than His body. But His soft smile, which has the fragrance of honey, is sweeter still.”

We tried to think of what it is about you that is sweet, sweeter, and sweetest, but we were completely unable to make such distinctions. Śrīla Prabhupāda, everything about you is the finest quintessence of sweetness, the absolutely sweetest nectar. We could not think of any aspect of yours that could be downgraded to sweeter or sweet. Absolutely everything about you is of the sweetest caliber. Therefore

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

we are completely defeated by your sweetness, and we beg for the mercy of being totally drowned in your unlimited sweetness for all eternity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have engaged us here in Austin with the order “Make our Austin center a grand success.” Serving you here in Austin in the sweetest nectar. We still remember how your dear servant His Holiness Viṣṇujana Swami came to Austin in the spring of 1971 to inaugurate Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* movement in this strategic city. And we pray, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we may be successful in carrying out your order.

The ISKCON devotees in Austin, Texas, USA.

(written by Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa Adhikārī and Viṣṇupriyā-devī Dāsī)

Bangkok

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you never visited Bangkok, although you had plans to come here. But you did give some instruction regarding the preaching here, and you certainly knew something of the situation here. You said we should not be eager to install Deities, as there are already so many deities here. You requested us to teach the Thai people the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In this regard, we are continuing to distribute your books, especially *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Kṛṣṇa* book, which have both been translated into Thai. We also have daily *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes at our two centers here in Bangkok, and regularly have other classes for all the devotees and the public.

Please bless us that we can continue this humble attempt to bring the Thai people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We remain

Your insignificant servants at the ISKCON centers in Bangkok, Thailand.

Baroda

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Śrī gurubhyo namaḥ! Śrī guru-gaurāṅga jayataḥ!

On this, your Vyāsa-pūjā day, I offer you *sāṣṭāṅga daṇḍavat vandanāni*.

Your contribution to the propagation and revival of Vedic culture remains unparalleled, even thirty-four years after your disappearance.

The proof of the potency that you displayed is that the inspiration you gave your disciples lives on in so many ways.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Despite so many obstacles.
You transplanted Vedic religion and culture from the holy land of Bhārata to each and every region—
and now almost every country—in the world.
You fulfilled the order of Mahāprabhu found in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 9.41):

*bhārata-bhūmite haila manuṣya janma yāra
janma sārthaka kari' kara para-upakāra*

“One who has taken his birth as a human being in the land of India [Bhārata-varṣa] should make his life successful and work for the benefit of all other people.”

In the purport of this verse you wrote:

The practical effect of our spreading the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement all over the world is that now the most degraded debauchees are becoming the most elevated saints. This is only one Indian's humble service to the world. If all Indians had taken to this path, as advised by Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, India would have given a unique gift to the world, and thus India would have been glorified. Now, however, India is known as a poverty-stricken country, and whenever anyone from America or another opulent country goes to India, he sees many people lying by the footpaths for whom there are not even provisions for two meals a day. There are also institutions collecting money from all parts of the world in the name of welfare activities for poverty-stricken people, but they are spending it for their own sense gratification. Now, on the order of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has been started, and people are benefiting from this movement. Therefore it is now the duty of the leading men of India to consider the importance of this movement and train many Indians to go outside of India to preach this cult.

We see that your exhortation to the Indians is beginning to be heard. Your ISKCON in India now has hundreds of young *brahmacārīs*. I'm confident that in the future they will continue to take your words to heart, just as your many Western disciples took to heart your instruction to spread your mission by distributing the transcendental literatures you wrote and published and by establishing centers of your ISKCON institution throughout the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I pray to you on this holy occasion that I may maintain some iota of humility throughout this lifetime. Sometimes there is the tendency to consider that I know so much, but I've come to realize the truth of the statement that “the more you know, the more you come to know how little you know.”

I pray to remain your humble servant, birth after birth, as Mahāprabhu prayed in his *Śikṣāṣṭakam*:

*ayi nanda-tanūja kiṅkaram
patitaṁ mām viṣame bhavāmbudhau
kṛpayā tava pāda-paṅkaja-
sthita-dhūli-saḍṣaṁ vicintaya*

“My dear Lord, I am Your eternal servant, but somehow or other I have fallen into the ocean of this material world. Kindly pick me up and fix me as a speck of dust at Your lotus feet.”

Your humble servants in Baroda, India.

(written by Bāsu Ghosh Dāsa)

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Beed

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

On the behalf of the devotees in ISKCON Beed, I would like to offer you our deep gratitude for all the transcendental gifts you have bestowed upon us. Especially your books, without which there surely wouldn't be any temple here now. Your books constitute your most important gift to us, and we pray that we will utilize it properly. So many times you said book distribution is the foremost preaching activity, and so far, by your mercy, this temple has been blessed by having many nice devotees eager to perform this service, and we pray this will continue and increase.

You very much wanted that we learn your books nicely. Not just parrotlike repetition, but deep understanding within the heart. Let us not be allured into reading all the volumes and volumes of new books and in this way put your books on the back shelf. Please give us inspiration to study your books, lectures, conversations, and letters every day, since such study is the only way we will be able to keep our priorities right. I'm sure that all sincere devotees really want to follow you truly. Unfortunately, we find ourselves again and again using you to justify our own ideas. Please let us, by your mercy, throw away our independent ideas and exchange them for your ideas. Then we can use our intelligence in a bona fide way, in a way that you wanted us to use it—to serve Kṛṣṇa. You didn't write your books to have them decorate some bookshelf.

So now it is our duty to make your words heard as widely as possible. We can do this by truly representing you and your teachings as you have received them from your beloved Guru Mahārāja, the rest of the *paramparā*, and ultimately from Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the original guru. You are here as much as you always were for those who want to see you. *Vāṇī* is more important than *vapu*, and since you stated that “everything is in my books,” we should take this statement seriously and not bother you with our shortcomings regarding mismanagement and with problems arising from our failure to understand your books. You obviously have more important things to do elsewhere. Still, you are totally available to us whenever we care to associate with you through your books.

Our Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, are very beautiful. Their bodies look like pure milk. Thousands and thousands of visitors are attracted by Their beauty. When we are in front of Them we do not want to move—we just want to gaze at Their beautiful forms forever. During the feast programs thousands of people come to get their *darśana*.

In December we organized a *Bhagavad-gītā* contest for the high school and college students. More than 1,500 students took part. At the end of January we held our ninth annual Ratha-yātrā festival and simultaneously celebrated the ninth anniversary of the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda. We distributed more than 5,000 plates of *prasādam* at this festival. Devotees from all over Maharashtra attended. By your mercy we are celebrating all the major festivals, including Janmāṣṭamī, Rāma-navamī, Gaura-pūrṇimā, and Nṛsimha-caturdaśī. Our congregation provides increasing support for all these festivals, and our Sunday Feast attendance is gradually increasing, to the point where we are now distributing more than 300 plates of *prasādam* every Sunday.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, help us unfold your vision of a spiritual society, a house where everybody can find his or her place. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for this magnificent house. Your glories cannot be fully understood. You have done what no one else could. Now please help us all understand you by ever-increasingly unfolding your teachings for us. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept my humble entreaty for more mercy in the form of spiritual strength, so we can continue with enthusiasm and determination. I am begging you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to please let me remain at your lotus feet in devotional service, for your satisfaction. Please help my mind be completely focused on your desires, my intelligence completely absorbed in your instructions, my senses completely engaged in Kṛṣṇa conscious activities, and my behavior completely in line with Kṛṣṇa conscious culture.

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Beed, Maharashtra, India.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Belfast

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You never visited Ireland during your manifested pastimes, yet you always remain here with your faithful followers and disciples. And you will remain here as long as they remain and worship Rādhā and Mādhava under the wise direction of your *vāṇī*.

You are the life that sustains us. You sustain our intelligence by your instructions, and you sustain our emotions by your Kṛṣṇa conscious ways. And on your order we are offering everything we love in service to the Deities. You sustain us by being the center of our lives, and when we keep you in the center of everything we do we feel your direct presence. We take your instructions literally: we do not speculate on ways to justify them, nor do we selfishly pick and choose which instructions to follow. We do not change them to our liking. We just accept them, because we love you. We do not rely on the opinions of others if they are contrary to your opinions, because you are the embodiment of the compassion of the whole *paramparā*, presenting Kṛṣṇa's opinion, the opinion that ultimately matters.

Since you said we should shave our heads, we do it unquestioningly. Since you told us “don't give up pushing on this movement,” we are trying to do so, expressing our love for you in this way. Since you asked us to cooperate, we cooperate even with the most uncooperative, because your words were “Try to continue the [Belfast] branch by co-operation.” You told us to love Kṛṣṇa, and you said that in Deity worship no one but the Deity should be seen as the beneficiary of the worship. And you also said that when we “forget this fact” we “develop an intense desire to enjoy this phenomenal world.” And we “cannot be fully satisfied by such endeavors, and thus anger develops. Anger causes frustration, as in the story of the unsuccessful fox and the sour grapes.”

So please let us live in the guiding light of your *saṅga* instead of the “sour grapes” *saṅga* of anyone or anything else. Let us do as you did, and let us speak as you spoke, undeviatingly. You never compromised, yet you personally gave us such a simple and sublime standard of worshiping Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa that even a couple of devotees can maintain an outpost of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, all for your pleasure, as we are doing here. And you went on to open so many of your outposts around the world!

Things certainly have changed in the last thirty-five years, since the time when you walked among us. Indeed, many things we thought would never change have changed, and we know that many things will continue to change. Yet our faithfulness to your mission and our fidelity to your version of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, to your words, especially your direct and explicit instructions, must never wither. So many things about you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have remained an enigma to us. But we do not doubt that your instructions are our guiding principles. Thus we reject suggestions from those who reject your words and speculate on what you “ought to have said.” We focus on what you *did* say: “Once Kṛṣṇa is there, we cannot tell Him to now leave.” (Letter to all GBCs, 14 September 1974) So please save us from becoming “a farce” and acting “against the bhakti cult” (Letter, 1 October 1974), and keep our Rādhā-Mādhava happy for your pleasure. Let us finally embrace *bhakti* as it should be, without the stains of karma or the ice of *jñāna*. Remaining humble and free from vice, and maintaining fidelity to your strict standards, Śrīla Prabhupāda, let us serve out of selfless love and inspire others to do the same. We may become attracted to you by doing the things that are easy, but we will stick with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by doing those things that seem impossible. This undiluted devotion is the only guarantee that we will remain dear to you and that we will eventually be blessed to become your true followers, not just on paper.

Every day we put you to bed along with your beloved Gaura-Nitāi, who stand nearby your beloved Rādhā-Mādhava. We then offer you milk sweets with love and say good night in Sanskrit. We pray to

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

be able to continue doing this service for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, life after life, for all eternity. Nothing could be more sublime for us, regardless of which world or which *līlā* will bring us together with you, by your mercy.

Thank you for appearing in our lives as Gurudeva, for whom we do everything, and as your disciples, who explain to us what you want. With the help of the many gurus representing you to us, we keep serving you. Could there possibly be any other way to rid ourselves of envy and greed and from the dirt that prevents us from seeing the Lord? Please continue to remain the center of our lives.

Your humble servants in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

(written by Caitanya-candrodaya Dāsa)

Berkeley

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

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

“To honor the spiritual master means to carry out his instructions word for word.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.24.12, purport)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet, which are our saving grace and our path back to Godhead.

You have stressed over and over again in your writings, lectures, conversations, and morning walks that to please the Lord one must please His bona fide representative. There are unlimited quotes from *śāstra*, *sādhu*, and *guru* that uncompromisingly declare this same eternal truth. Nothing can change or alter this fact one iota, because the principle is eternal truth, as much as the *jīva* is the eternal servant of God. As a matter of fact, everyone in Vaikuṅṭha, whether in the Vaikuṅṭha planets or Goloka, serves other Vaiṣṇavas. There is never a time when we are not the servant of the servant. We only practice now what we will do there eternally.

With this in mind, on the anniversary of your most auspicious appearance within this material world, we, the residents of New Jagannātha Purī Dhāma, beg to remain your eternal servitors, members of your eternal and transcendental ISKCON. Today we dedicate every thought, word, and deed to your service, to your every instruction, to your mission to save the conditioned souls and bring them back to Godhead. We may have family responsibilities and other such commitments, but our real commitment is to your service and mission. It is our life and soul, our bread and butter, the basis of our existence. We are nothing without your service.

So please kindly bless us this day with renewed and everlasting enthusiasm in your service. Let not one moment pass without it. Please help us all become examples of perfect disciples so we can become servant leaders and lead others along the same eternal path. This is all we ask and all we desire. And if

Homages from ISKCON Centers

it pleases you, kindly allow us to gain entrance into the eternal *lilā* of the Lord, where we can continue to serve you to our heart's content in the never-ending pastimes of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

We beg to remain always at your lotus feet,

The devotees at New Jagannātha Purī Dhāma, Berkeley, California, USA.

Bhaktivedanta Manor

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

We pray that you overlook our offenses, individual and collective, as we attempt to glorify you on this sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. You are the personification of Lord Nityānanda's mercy. You alone came to the Western world to preach the message of Lord Caitanya and your own beloved Guru Mahārāja. You alone saved us. For the transcendental pleasure of the entire *guru-paramparā*, in the closing years of your life and against all odds, you single-handedly carried out the order of your Śrīla Prabhupāda—Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja—thus fulfilling the prophetic words Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu had uttered some five hundred years earlier: *prthivīte āche yata nagarādi-grāma, sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*: “My holy name will be sung in every town and village of the world.” (*Caitanya-bhāgavata, Antya-khaṇḍa* 4.126)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, somehow or other it is our inestimable good fortune to have met your mercy. Having been asked to compose this offering for your Vyāsa-pūjā book this year on behalf of the immediate and extended community at Bhaktivedanta Manor, I beg that you please overlook my faults and shortcomings. If you see fit, kindly forgive my offenses and accept these words of appreciation as I attempt to glorify you on your divine appearance day.

Sitting in the tranquility of your *darśana* room one Sunday evening recently, I again felt the peace and certainty that comes from being in your presence. Needless to say, I am far from alone in this experience, for this has been and forever will be a daily occurrence for innumerable devotees near and far. However, over the years it has always been inspiring to learn of individuals who, though not counting themselves as your initiated disciples, your followers, or even seekers on a spiritual path, have been moved in some deep way by your presence while having *darśana* of you in your *mūrti* form. Innumerable times what may have been only a few moments with you have left them with a lasting impression, and for many that brief *darśana* is a life-changing experience. This seems to be especially common in your quarters, and most common at the site of your divine *samādhis* in Māyāpur and Vṛndāvana. Because such experiences are not the result of what could be termed a “cerebral process”—an informed appreciation of you after reading your books or hearing your spoken word—it would appear that some other process is at work here. This phenomenon is especially striking in the case of first-time contact, whether the person is from a Western background or otherwise. This unseen exchange—this unmanifest pastime that takes place

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

beyond the materially conditioned eye and mind—our Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas* describe as *aprakāṭa*. As you yourself have explained:

So Kṛṣṇa has got two kinds of existence: *prakāṭa* and *aprakāṭa*. *Prakāṭa* means when you see Kṛṣṇa personally. When Kṛṣṇa is present on this planet, everyone can see Kṛṣṇa. And actually, everyone saw. But only the devotees could understand that “Here is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.” So that is called *prakāṭa*, “physically present.” And there is another phase, which is called *aprakāṭa*, “not physically present.” But that does not mean Kṛṣṇa is dead or God is dead. That does not mean. *Prakāṭa* or *aprakāṭa*, physically present or not present, it doesn’t matter. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.15.33, Los Angeles, 11 December 1973]

So there are two phases, *prakāṭa* and *aprakāṭa*, appearance and disappearance. So we have nothing to lament on account of disappearance because Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa’s devotee. . . Not only devotees, even the nondevotees, nobody disappears. [Lecture, Los Angeles, 13 December 1973]

The truth concerning the manifest and unmanifest existence holds true, whether in relation to the Supreme Lord or His pure devotees. Thus, speaking about the disappearance of your own beloved spiritual master, you said:

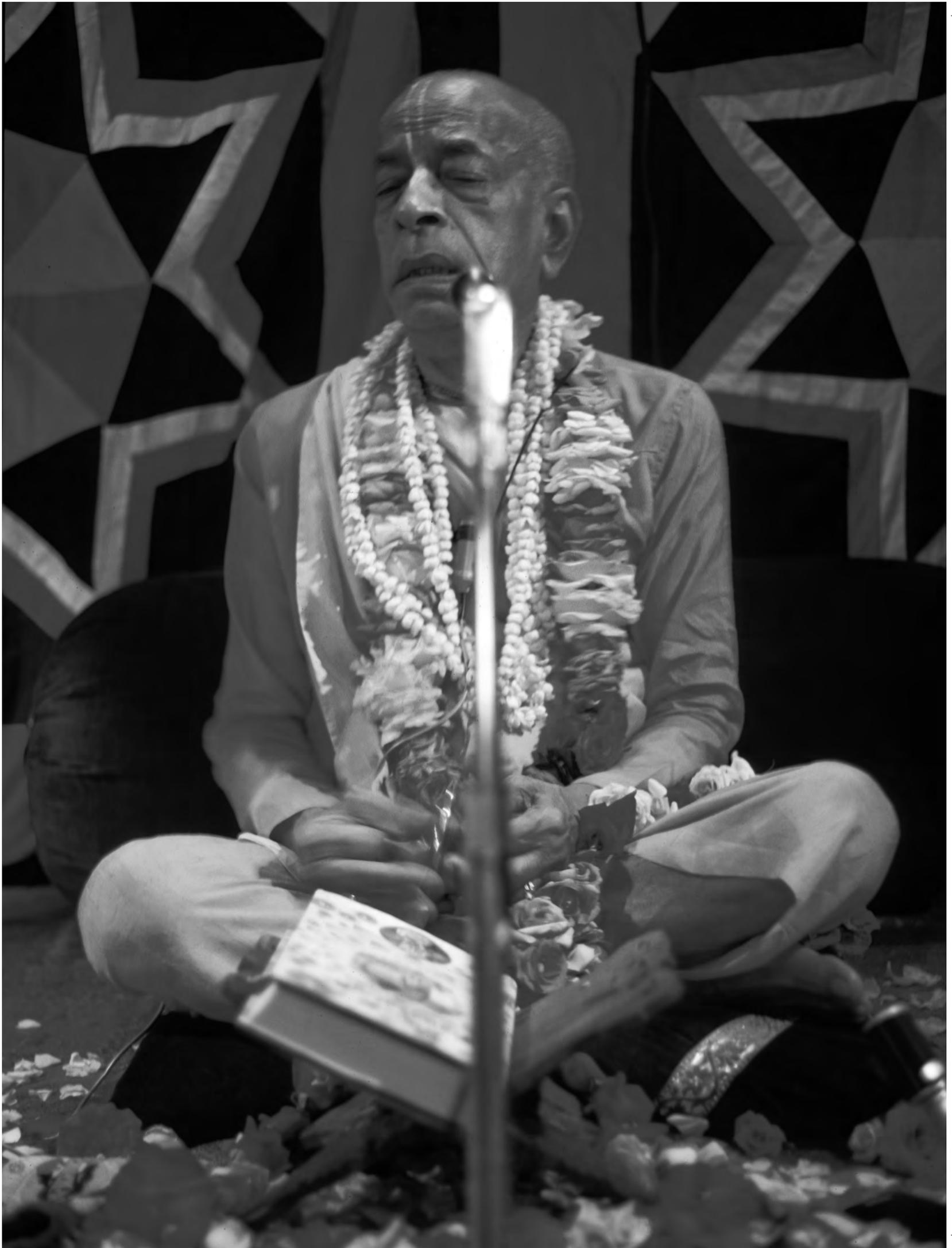
Janma karma ca me divyam. As Lord Kṛṣṇa’s appearance and disappearance are all spiritual, transcendental, they are not ordinary things, similarly, Lord Kṛṣṇa’s devotee, His representative, who is sent to this material world for preaching the glories of Lord Kṛṣṇa, [his] appearance and disappearance is also like Kṛṣṇa’s. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 17 December, 1970]

In the same way, those pastimes that lay beyond our own dull material vision—those pastimes of yours, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that by your divine grace are going on today—are not limited by any consideration of time and space. The uninformed and faithless may dismiss this truth as sentimentalism or imagination. That is their grave misfortune. But your *aprakāṭa* pastimes are just as real as the pastimes we were blessed to witness when you were physically present with us in your manifest *līlā*—those pastimes described as *prakāṭa*. Moreover, your unmanifest preaching pastimes, not being in any way limited by time and space, are accessible to all, regardless of time, place, or circumstance. We have heard of many occasions when people with no previous contact with you, your movement, or your books have reported seeing you in a dream, yet not having the slightest clue as to who you are until they come across your picture. This has happened to young and old alike on many occasions, all across the globe. We have witnessed others being deeply impressed simply by seeing your picture—again without any knowledge of your standing or the spiritual lineage whose mercy you embody. Nevertheless, they are instinctively attracted to you by some unquantifiable spiritual potency. This is the same inconceivable potency accessible via the audio and video recordings of your classes, conversations, and morning walks, the same potency at work in *mūrtis* of you, and, of course, the same potency by which you affect millions through your books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, how is it possible that you wrote so many books in so short a time? Books of such philosophical integrity that they drew accolades from the international academic community? Books of such transparency, honesty, and purity of purpose that they can change the hearts and lives of whoever reads them? Books of such spiritual depth and potency that you also delighted in reading them. In Bombay you once said:

Every morning when I sit down to write these books, Kṛṣṇa personally comes and dictates every word; therefore every time I read these books, even I learn something. And if you read them every day, then you will also learn something every time you read them. [1996 Vyāsa-pūjā book, remembrance by Bhāgavata Dāsa, Bhuvaneshwar offering]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your books emanate from your heart, and because Kṛṣṇa is in your heart, your books have the potency and life-giving properties of Kṛṣṇa Himself. Each of your books, with a life of its



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own, is destined to touch someone, somewhere, in due course of time. Each of your books is a channel for your compassion and an expansion of your devotion to Kṛṣṇa in the form of your pristine words. This flood of transcendental literature is due to the empowering effect of your unlimited concern for the plight of us conditioned souls caught in the web of *saṁsāra*. Yet this flood of transcendental literature is merely a glimpse of the ocean of compassion accessible through your books. And this flood of transcendental literature continues to be delivered by the earnest enthusiasm of your servants, who wish to please you by sharing the mercy they have felt in their own lives with others—others whose hearts you have already touched, touch today, and will touch in the future. Since your physical departure, those devotees who have been moved to distribute your precious books, along with those fortunate enough to receive and read them, are all participants in your unmanifest pastimes. As are all who participate in or help facilitate your mission of bringing the conditioned souls to the shelter of the *guru-paramparā*. And since you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the pure representative and unalloyed servant of the *guru-paramparā*, taking shelter of the *guru-paramparā* means accepting the unassailable shelter of your lotus feet.

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

PURPORT: . . . A pure devotee always engages in the service of the Lord, taking shelter of His lotus feet, and therefore he has a direct connection with the saffron mercy-particles that are strewn over the lotus feet of the Lord. Although when a pure devotee speaks the articulation of his voice may resemble the sound of this material sky, the voice is spiritually very powerful because it touches the particles of saffron dust on the lotus feet of the Lord. As soon as a sleeping living entity hears the powerful voice emanating from the mouth of a pure devotee, he immediately remembers his eternal relationship with the Lord, although up until that moment he had forgotten everything.

For a conditioned soul, therefore, it is very important to hear from the mouth of a pure devotee, who is fully surrendered to the lotus feet of the Lord without any material desire, speculative knowledge, or contamination of the modes of material nature. . . . One may stay in his position of life—it does not matter what it is—but if one hears from the mouth of a pure devotee, he gradually comes to the understanding of his relationship with the Lord and thus engages in His loving service, and his life becomes completely perfect. Therefore, this process of hearing from the mouth of a pure devotee is very important for making progress in the line of spiritual understanding. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.25]

When asked by a journalist what would happen to your movement after your disappearance, you said, “I will never die, I will live forever in my books. And you will utilize.” While your immediate response raised a tumultuous “*Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*” from the jubilant devotees present, this was no poetic metaphor or clever turn of phrase intended to make light of a challenging question. No. You answered in complete seriousness. You spoke with the gravity and humble matter-of-factness that characterizes your empowered capacity as *sad-guru*. For, as your unmanifest pastimes continue to unfold, you reveal yourself as *sad-guru*—the bona fide spiritual master—eternally present as guide and teacher for your sincere followers, those who take shelter of you and your instructions, whoever they may be.

In the book called *Tattva-sāgara*, it is stated, . . . “If by chance one gets a *sad-guru*, it doesn’t matter whether one is in the temple or the forest. If the *sad-guru*, the bona fide spiritual master, agrees, one can be initiated immediately, without waiting for a suitable time or place.” [*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 24.331, purport]

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Śrīla Prabhupāda, in light of the above, as *sad-guru* you showed your special mercy on many occasions when you accepted a person as your disciple after only the briefest acquaintance. In your later pastimes you also created a system that facilitated the initiation of people you had never even met, placing your trust in those you authorized to be your representatives, who would assess the suitability of the candidate and accept them on your behalf. This is another example of your potency as *sad-guru*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as *sad-guru* you are not only eternally present but also eternally accessible. As *sad-guru*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are not a limited, temporary, historical figure from the past but an eternally liberated soul and—exactly as you signed all your letters to us—our “ever well-wisher.” As *sad-guru*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our founder-*ācārya*, the root of this unique branch of the Caitanya tree. As *sad-guru*, you are “Śrīla Prabhupāda,” the master at whose feet all other masters humbly sit. You are the bona fide spiritual master whom we all can—and must—relate to. It is you whose mercy is forever accessible for all. Śrīla Prabhupāda, let us never forget that throughout our yesterdays, today, and tomorrows your ever-flowing mercy is all that we are made of.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as I walk around the grounds here at Bhaktivedanta Manor, each and every place reminds me of your pastimes in this corner of English soil. It is a sobering thought that Bhaktivedanta Manor is one of the very few remaining temples you actually stayed in. Here you displayed your manifest pastimes and personally requested your dearest Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda to come and accept the service of your disciples. Your personal quarters here are revered as a unique sanctuary of your grace. As I sit in your rooms I reflect that it is here, at your desk by the window, that you relaxed and talked with us, that you daily wrote a dozen letters or more to your disciples around the world as you managed your international society of devotees. Here you took your lunch *prasādam*, usually in solitude. Over here in the window bay you sat and took your daily massage before taking your *loṭa* bath in the bathroom next door. After your lunch *prasādam* you would lie back on your bed and take a nap. Here is the very harmonium you played as you performed your personal *bhajan*. And it was here that you received and talked to guests from all walks of life and distributed *prasādam* to the eager assembly of devotees. Here you chuckled as you shared a joke about the irony of material existence or shared your deep spiritual insights—and oftentimes chastised us too. It is here, as in every place you visited, that you displayed the divine qualities that captivated our hearts and minds and convinced us that the perfection of our life was to try to please you in any way possible. It is to your rooms, here, that you returned after your morning walk along the lane and across the fields or by the local reservoir. It is here, while sitting at your desk, that you beamed from ear to ear as you read the book distribution reports from around the world and received your latest printed book or *Back to Godhead* magazine, posted to you hot off the press. It is here, on your final journey to the West, that you recuperated after your visit to Watford General Hospital, where the doctor said an ordinary man would be crying out in agony. It is here, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you shared yourself with us. It is here that you shared your love for Kṛṣṇa with the world. Seeing your dictaphone, I am reminded again that here, taking dictation directly from Kṛṣṇa Himself, you recorded your personal ecstasies in the early morning hours as you wrote your Bhaktivedanta purports in the loving service of your Guru Mahārāja.

I pray that whatever role I find myself in within the shade of your lotus feet, whether my service be big or small, whether I consider myself an occasional visitor, a congregation member, or a volunteer, a *bhakta*, *bhaktin*, *brahmacārī*, or *brahmacārinī*, a *grhastha*, *vānaprastha*, *sannyāsī*, or spiritual master, and whether I count myself among the *sūdras*, *vaiśyas*, *kṣatriyas*, *brāhmaṇas*, or servants of the Vaiṣṇavas, let me always celebrate you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the center of my existence. Please allow me to remain your humble servant and be a transparent medium for your limitless mercy and remember that I have a sacred responsibility to honor and maintain your sacred memory as an ongoing reality in your ISKCON society.

Here, particularly, we have a duty to protect this sacred place as *Bhaktivedanta* Manor—in name, in spirit, and in purpose—as the place of your manifest pastimes and a *tīrtha* for continuous implementation your divine instructions. For by being aware of and striving to follow all aspects of your divine instructions, we will honor the legacy you have left us and not get in the way. Then we can be confident that by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Bhaktivedanta Manor will continue to be a sacred place of pilgrimage where your manifest pastimes will be remembered and your unmanifest pastimes can continue to touch all those who come before you with an honest and open heart.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Before concluding this offering, I must offer my sincere thanks to my godbrothers Rūpa-vilāsa Prabhu and Yaśodā-dulāla Prabhu for their encouragement and their help in finding the relevant quotes.

Your servants at Bhaktivedanta Manor, England.

(written by Sākṣī-gopāla Dāsa)

Bologna

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have produced not just one successor but many, and through your books you will produce more and more. I am seeing you more and more in your sincere followers. You have a number of disciples who have been strictly following your instructions for over forty years now, and we are seeing them becoming mature, empowered devotees. They are touching the hearts of thousands of people all over the world. This is another proof that you are the empowered *ācārya* for this age.

You took any persons who were willing to follow your instructions and transformed them into great devotees. I see your greatness in these wonderful devotees, who each exhibit a small fraction of your transcendental qualities. Your qualities are innumerable, like a fathomless ocean. Each of your sincere followers can exhibit only a fraction of these. Your unlimited qualities are expanding and will continue in the line of ISKCON. Your mercy is all that we are made of.

I see devotees like Vaiśeṣika Prabhu, who is inspiring devotees all over the world in book distribution, and Kālakaṅṭha Prabhu, who is setting an example for university preaching in America. Badrinārāyaṇ Prabhu and Svavāsa Prabhu have steadily run your temples, bringing them to success. Rādhānātha Swami and Nirañjana Swami are taking care of and inspiring thousands of devotees all over the world.

The more I think about it, the list gets longer and longer. Your transcendental touchstone power has touched so many, who are in turn touching so many, and on it will go for the next ten thousand years. I pray to you that I might stay in the shade of your lotus feet and serve you and all these great souls forever.

Your servants in Bologna, Italy.

(written by Trai Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Brahmapur

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

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

Jaya Srila Prabhupada!

While trying to build a nice temple at Brahmapur, we are now realizing the pains and troubles you underwent when you established 108 temples in only eleven years. This year we are planning to complete the *brahmacārī āśrama* and some guest rooms. Our main focus is to strengthen the morning program and our *sādhana*. By following your footsteps now, we are realizing that if we take shelter of the holy name seriously, Kṛṣṇa's mercy awaits us.

Your insignificant servants at the ISKCON center in Brahmapur, Orissa.

Brampton

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

*namas te sārāsvate 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!

There are no words in our vocabulary to express our gratitude for what we have received from Your Divine Grace.

In your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Ādi-līlā* 8.31, you write:

[If] one takes shelter of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Nityānanda, follows Their instructions to become more tolerant than the tree and humbler than the grass, and in this way chants the holy name of the Lord, very soon he achieves the platform of transcendental loving service to the Lord, and tears appear in his eyes. There are offenses to be considered in chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, but there are no such considerations in chanting the names of Gaura-Nityānanda.

By engaging us most unworthy conditioned souls in the service of Lord Gaurāṅga and Lord Nityānanda, you have redefined compassion and given a purpose to the living entities of this material world. Indeed, you are making this material world *Vaikuṅṭha*. Our perspective on life itself has changed. We're enjoying being part of the Kṛṣṇa conscious family, and we are eternally indebted to Your Divine Grace for that.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for leaving behind a legacy for us all to benefit from. Your leadership and character have inspired the families of ISKCON Brampton, who have worked hard to keep your house in order, to always remember you when taking your movement to the next level.

Everything you left us reminds us of you—from your books to your temples to your direct disciples' association and guidance. Most importantly, we really gain an appreciation of everything you've inspired us to do when we look at how each and every family that is a part of ISKCON Brampton gives 100% to make you proud. They are living examples of what you have been trying to teach us, and we are so grateful for that.

Thank you, and please accept our offering.

Your servants at ISKCON Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

Brisbane

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Loving Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the savior of the whole world! We are eternally grateful and indebted to you. Without you, we wonder what would have become of us.

Exactly what are we grateful and indebted for? Maybe the whole world knows the answer, but have we really realized it? Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura writes in his *Sāragrāhī* Vaiṣṇava poem,

Forget the past that sleeps
And ne'er the future dream at all,
But act in times that are with thee,
And progress thee shall call.

We, however, cannot forget your past. Your past is eternally present. It is your exemplary existence on this planet that gives us guidelines to become a better *yātrā*. Our Brisbane *yātrā* has endured hard times, so remembering you gives us solace, courage, and enthusiasm to move on and rekindle our real purpose.

While Kṛṣṇa was glorifying the wonderful, auspicious trees of the Vṛndāvana forest, He compared them to “a noble person who has sacrificed everything possible—his body, mind, activities, intelligence, and words—for the welfare of all living entities.” (*Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead*, Chapter 22)

Looking deep into your sacrifice, we see that you were prepared to leave your beloved Vṛndāvana at such an advanced age, suffering several heart attacks at sea, to be the instrument of Caitanya Mahaprabhu in fulfilling His famous prediction—*pr̥thivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma/ sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*: “All over the earth, in every town and village, My name will be preached.”

And your destination—New York. Surely for the “welfare of all living entities” New York was the best source of preaching action, despite its notoriety. But Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, showing Her all-encompassing compassion, sent you there exactly when the hippie movement was at its height, which provided you with a scene conducive enough as a starting point. Despite the pitiful and degraded scene, you intelligently designed a plan to engage the fallen souls there, and that too without compromise. Who could have imagined that at a time when people had had enough of war you would teach them the *Bhagavad-gītā*, where Lord Kṛṣṇa instructs Arjuna to take up arms? Or that at a time when long hair was a most prized possession among males, you would instruct your male followers to give up their precious hair? Who

Homages from ISKCON Centers

could have performed such simply incredible deeds other than you, a pure devotee, whom Lord Kṛṣṇa describes as noble and selfless?

Besides setting the scene, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī sent waves of compassion through you that touched everyone’s heart. Before leaving for New York, you had cried out from your heart because of the seemingly impossible task before you. What else could make this task possible other than the extreme compassion within your heart of gold that impelled you to work for “the welfare of all living entities.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you never failed any of us. Your mercy knows no bounds. The devotee youth of today are eternally grateful to you for having had the courage and compassion to start and develop your ISKCON. Because you did so, today they are able to enjoy *kīrtana*, and will do so forever in the association of swanlike spirit souls. Wherever there is *kīrtana*, the youth are to be seen. Those with an inquisitive and critical mind see truth in your words and books. Those who aren’t ready for a program of full *sādhana-bhakti* just love you for providing them with love feasts and a happy lifestyle of dancing and music. The children of devotees build up lifelong bonds that will some day be their saving grace. Those who are serious about spiritual life chug along and engage in your service despite all difficulties. Those whose lives dictate that they spend most of their time away from the temple are certainly there when it’s time to glorify you on the most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. Some don’t understand why they’re attracted to you. You just happen to offer them a type of shelter and solace that they never knew existed.

In the past, some became devotees and life members just by reading *Planting the Seed*, volume 2 in the six-volume edition of the *Śrīla Prabhupāda Lilāmṛta*. This is the volume that depicts the struggles you endured in 1965–66 to establish a house where the whole world can chant and dance their way back to Godhead. Just imagine someone who knows nothing about Kṛṣṇa but who decides to become a devotee or friend of Lord Kṛṣṇa just by understanding the struggles you went through to establish this movement.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please instill within our heart a minute fraction of your compassion, nobility, dedication, and spirit of sacrifice so that we aspiring devotees in the Brisbane *yātrā* can work together to please you, the rest of the *paramparā*, and Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. Despite all the troubles our *yātrā* is going through, we humbly pray at your lotus feet to be able to build a temple for Their Lordships.

So today, on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we beg for your mercy so that members of the Brisbane *yātrā* can all work together intelligently and collaboratively to achieve your goal.

O Sāragrāhī Vaiṣṇava soul,
Thou art an angel fair;
Lead, lead me on to Vṛndāvan
And spirit’s power declare.

We beg to remain

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Brisbane, Australia.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Budapest

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Thank you for establishing ISKCON. Thank you for letting us be members of your followers' association.

Of the seven purposes of ISKCON you once wrote down, the first is "To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all people in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world."

The most effective means of propagating spiritual knowledge is the distribution of your books and the systematic education of devotees on the basis of those books. These two processes ensure that the *bhakti-latā*, the creeper of devotion, nicely and dynamically develops in your followers' hearts.

Our task as your followers is to thoroughly tend this plant in our heart and help others tend it too. Here in Hungary, by your mercy and that of your disciples—especially His Holiness Śivarāma Mahārāja—we have wonderful opportunities for that.

Book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, *harināmas*, public festivals, restaurants, and courses, as well as a constant stream of visitors at both Kṛṣṇa Valley and the Budapest center, all help plant the seed of the creeper of devotion in people's hearts.

Those whose interest in Kṛṣṇa consciousness has been awakened can then come to the Sunday program or attend lectures at the Govinda Club or the Hidden Glory of India program, or they can attend *bhakti-yoga* weekends or enroll in Bhaktivedanta College. In all these ways they can regularly associate with devotees and learn more about Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

And those who decide to systematically practice devotional service can join the *bhakta* program and directly immerse themselves in temple life and *sādhana-bhakti* or take part in the counseling system, whereby one may get assistance in practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout a lifetime, ultimately achieving the goal of life, love of God.

Here is an exemplary story: Recently a *mātājī* conducted a cooking class, and among the attendees were an elderly lady and her son. They really liked the class, and afterward they stayed to talk some more with the *mātājī*. The elderly lady revealed that fifteen years earlier she had received a few of your books from book distributor. She read them and was so impressed that she ordered full sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* by mail, along with all your other books. For a long time her spiritual practice consisted simply of reading your books. About five years ago she started chanting the *mahā-mantra*, as you advise in your books. She has now read all your books from beginning to end at least five times. At the end of last year she first associated with devotees. She is extremely inspired to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. She regularly attends the Hidden Glory of India program and *Bhagavad-gītā* seminar with her son. Now they would like to become part of the counseling system. For fifteen years your books meant spiritual life for her; all she did was associate with you through your books. She is a wonderful example of how one can develop deep faith in the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness by regularly associating with you through your books.

Thank you very much for continuing to preach through your books. We beg you to please give us your blessings so we can look after all those fortunate souls you send to us!

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Budapest, Hungary.

(written by Līlā-śuka Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Canberra

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

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in 1966 you walked through the New York City streets to Washington Square Park, followed by your first disciples. You were heading for the first public chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa in America.

That simple event was the prelude to your great battle. This was the commencement of your campaign as the emissary of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to reclaim all those *jīvas* who had become captivated by the glare of Lord Kṛṣṇa's external potency.

This was the beginning of a major war against *māyā*.

This was to be a war of sound vibration, transcendental versus mundane.

This was a war to be fought in every town and village of the world.

This was truly “the war of the worlds”—spiritual vs. material.

As the *senapati-bhakta*, you surveyed the battlefield and chanted Hare Kṛṣṇa loud and clear. You chanted with great love for Lord Kṛṣṇa and immense compassion for all the conditioned living entities.

As a humble servant of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, you stood firm and fearless. All you came to fight with was a fledgling flock of followers, a small pair of hand cymbals, your voice, and deep conviction in the power of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.

In this war, you saw no one as an enemy. You saw only lost souls, who had foolishly abandoned the company and shelter of their eternal father, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

There were to be many victories in this epic battle. Many great devotees would come forward to pledge allegiance to you and assist in preaching your message. Despite so much opposition, the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* would be chanted and heard all over the world. Millions of books would be distributed, many temples built, beautiful Deities installed, diverse preaching programs established and maintained, and countless plates of *prasādam* enthusiastically consumed by people from all walks of life.

You knew there were going to be casualties. After all, this was a declaration of war against *māyā*. Did anyone think she was not going to fight back? Many heroes who took such incredible risks and fought ferociously would succumb to the power of *māyā*. Soldiers of all ranks would experience confusion, disillusionment, and fear, being bewildered by *māyā*'s tricks. Others would leave the battlefield, convinced that defeat was inevitable and thus there was no use fighting anymore.

However, you taught us how to defend ourselves against all attacks of the illusory energy: abide by your instructions to chant at least sixteen rounds every day, and follow the regulative principles.

You rallied your troops time and time again, encouraging them to keep on fighting despite seemingly insurmountable odds. You knew of the great reward awaiting them for taking part in the battle. They could make steady progress on the path back home, back to Godhead. Some would even make it in this lifetime.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

To date, this war is still going on and will continue for many thousands of years. There will be more victories, more setbacks, and more casualties.

When the fighting becomes intense and all appears lost, let us remember you and how valiantly you fought. That remembrance will give us the strength and courage to continue to wage war knowing that you are our field commander, eternal guide, and well-wisher.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have built a fortress in which everyone can take shelter. The foundation for that fortress is solid, but the fortress itself is still under construction. We are like little spiders that can only kick a few grains of sand to help build your spiritual sanctuary, but we have a desire to help you, and we have faith that you appreciate our humble efforts.

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Canberra, Australia.

(written by Ayodhyadeva Rāma Dāsa)

Cape Town

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We take special pleasure on this day in glorifying you, who created our good fortune—the inconceivable good fortune to access the highest platform of loving devotional service to Kṛṣṇa, despite our wretched state.

We glorify you for your painstakingly translating the spiritual treasures that constitute our literary heritage, and for writing your purports, which are like mines full of precious gems.

We glorify you for the many temples, preaching centers, farm communities, *gurukulas*, and institutes you established as part of your vision to flood the planet with *kṛṣṇa-prema*. Even as the head of such a major global institution, you always made time for everyone.

We glorify you for your fourteen world tours in twelve years, during which nourished the devotion of your many followers and thus furthered your mission of delivering the whole world. Your commitment to the actual welfare of the conditioned souls is beyond material calculation.

We glorify you for your extraordinary transcendental activities, such as setting the example of one who is full of love for Kṛṣṇa, faithfully repeating whatever you heard from the previous *ācāryas*, and being the emblem of reliability.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all of this and more.

On this auspicious day we want to especially focus on celebrating your founding and developing ISKCON, “a house in which the whole world can live.”

The city of Cape Town is a mosaic of cultures and people. Such diversity naturally results in conflict. Our community of devotees is also diverse and often has varying visions of how best to serve you. The positive result is that we are able to take on various projects to reach people with differing interests and bring them into your association. We hope that this is pleasing to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Our love for you is the basis for the co-operation needed to overcome conflict. As our love for you deepens, we will be able to cooperate more effectively and hence become better servants. This will be the meaningful realization of “unity in diversity.” We pray that you kindly shower us with your mercy and allow us to come closer to your lotus feet.

Ye prasāde pūre sarva āśā.

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Cape Town, South Africa.

(written by Gokuleśa Dāsa)

Chandigarh

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

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

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful and most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories unto you, the foremost servitor of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura!

As we advance spiritually and see through the light of your teachings, we can easily see how you have saved suffering humanity. In this regard we would humbly like to describe just one facet of your personality—your commitment to your disciples.

In the 1960s America was in turmoil: the younger generation was losing faith in the advancement of civilization, and in their own way the youth were trying to repose their love and faith in sense gratification, i.e., sex and drugs. One of their guiding principles was “Don’t trust anyone over thirty.” Into that scene you entered and dared to stay among them—at the advanced age of seventy! Not only did you stay among the youth, but you guided them and enlisted them in a major revolution no one could have imagined: the worldwide preaching of pure devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead around.

Since you were guided by the instructions of your spiritual master, you had no selfish motives. Selflessly, in the spirit of serving your spiritual master, you served these confused youngsters by guiding them in the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your selfless service, seeking nothing in return, rather giving the highest gift of God consciousness, touched their hearts. They found a place to repose their love and faith—in you.

When you lived at the servant quarters in John Lennon’s estate in the UK, he was amazed to see the your disciples’ enthusiasm when they renovated a room for you to stay. “How did you make your disciples so committed unto you?” he asked. The answer is that your commitment to delivering your followers and your love for them attracted them all to commit themselves to your service wholeheartedly.

His Holiness Bīr Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja related how when His Holiness Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja had a hernia operation in Bombay, you waited for many hours in the hospital waiting room until the operation was over, and you were the first person Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja saw when he awoke after the operation.

In an article in BTG magazine, Her Grace Mālatī Mātājī told the story of how once, when she cooked lunch for you and your godbrothers, you told them, “Yes, she cooks for me . . . and I criticize her. But she would slit her throat for me, and I would do the same for her.”



Homages from ISKCON Centers

Everywhere you went you touched the hearts of your disciples. You commanded their respect; you didn't demand it. They reposed their faith in you, and you reciprocated perfectly by giving them the ticket to go back home, back to Godhead.

At 26 Second Avenue, when you started your Sunday Love Feasts, you did practically everything yourself—purchasing the *bhoga*, cutting the vegetables, cooking, serving, and even cleaning up after the guests had left. And you did all this without any grudge. In this regard Chuck (later Acyutānanda Dāsa) remembered a touching incident:

I had come by in the afternoon. And Swamiji had given me a plate of *prasādam*. So I was eating, and a chili burned my mouth. Swamiji asked, “Is it too hot?”

“Yes,” I said.

So he brought me a tiny teacup with some milk, and then he took some rice off my plate and took a piece of banana and crushed it all up together with his fingers and said, “Here, eat this. It will kill the action of the chilies.”

For a *sannyāsī* to do such thing—touching the rice from someone else's plate—is quite shocking. It goes against the Vedic culture—touching the unclean remnants of an American youngster. But your mood of service overcame such formalities; you were just committed to serving your followers.

And your love and commitment did not remain restricted just to personal dealings. Rather, you were propounding the pure Kṛṣṇa conscious philosophy and making sure your followers understood it through lectures, conversations, debates, etc. When required, you would chastise your beloved disciples and teach them lessons they would fondly cherish forever. Your guidance, correction, and chastisement were just another part of your commitment to them.

And all this commitment to your disciples, or rather to all living entities, stemmed from your commitment to your spiritual master. You are the embodiment of the verse

*yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau
tasyaite kathitā hy arthāḥ prakāśante mahātmanaḥ*

“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.” And you proved by your life that this dual faith is the secret of success in devotional service.

On this holy day of your appearance, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly fall at your divine lotus feet and beg you to grant us a drop of this dual faith in the *śāstra* and the spiritual master. This faith will make us more committed to following your teachings, and thus we can perfect our lives and assist others in doing so as well. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us the priceless gift of the teachings of Kṛṣṇa consciousness through your committed example.

Your center in Chandigarh is doing fine, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You may be pleased to know that we distributed 28,000 of your *Bhagavad-gītās* in the 2011 December marathon. This is a record for Chandigarh. In addition, thirty-eight devotees—temple *brahmacārīs* and congregational members—completed the Bhakti-śāstrī course in October 2011. All these devotees are blissfully engaged in preaching activities. Over one hundred devotees are ready for *harināma* initiation, and sixteen for second initiation.

We have built a new *brahmacārī āśrama* that is very open and airy. The *brahmacārīs* are feeling very happy in the new *āśrama* and are performing their services very enthusiastically.

All this has been possible by your blessings, the guidance of senior Vaiṣṇavas, and the mercy of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava, our beloved presiding Deities. Kindly continue showering your mercy on us so that we may be able to serve your mission eternally.

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Chandigarh, India.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Columbus

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you and your dedicated servants who are unitedly serving your mission.

I am submitting to you a report from your small and humble center in Columbus, Ohio.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said that this ISKCON movement will give this world many moons. I have a report of some of the moons I witness every day.

We have a devotee named Arjuna Sakha Dāsa in our community. Arjuna Sakha is your granddisciple. After every Sunday feast or any festival in the temple, Arjuna Sakha goes into the kitchen and washes all the pots, puts them away, sweeps and mops the kitchen, cleans the stove and skillets, and then puts away all loose items. In short, he organizes and cleans the entire kitchen. He leaves Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī's kitchen shining brightly and spotlessly clean. He has been doing this for many years now. He has won the hearts of all the devotees here by his humble demeanor and dedicated service. He does not let anyone enter the kitchen to wash pots and do his service, thinking himself the most unqualified and lowest of devotees and not fit for any recognition. If anyone offers to help, he simply offers a grateful smile and continues with his service. Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is your grace that has created moons like Arjuna Sakha Dāsa. The Bible had it half right: "Blessed are those who are meek and humble, for they shall inherit the earth." Actually, they will inherit a place in the kingdom of God.

There are lot of Kali-cela pseudodevotees in this age who have schizophrenic, grandiose delusions of their own advancement and standing. From mighty high platforms they utilize every opportunity to engage in mental speculation and, worse yet, criticize your devotees and the movement wholesale. But I have news for these benighted souls encumbered with a faultfinding fetish and pessimistic dysthymia. The news is that the opportunity for service is still open in all your ISKCON temples. Everyone can engage in the humble, menial service of cleaning your kitchens, washing your pots, cleaning the bathrooms, sweeping and mopping your temple rooms, organizing and cleaning your basements, weeding, landscaping, collectively cooking large feasts, participating in *mahā* cleanups, distributing your books, sharing Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others, chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* with abandon, cleaning every inch of the temple property as if one's life depended upon it, or simply giving up the fruits of one's work for propagating Kṛṣṇa consciousness. No matter how we feel or how the modes of material nature make us dance, devotees experience ecstasy, enthusiasm, complete absorption in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and the presence of Your Divine Grace in these services. If only we could all give up our stubborn complacency, come out of our mental labyrinths, and utilize all our energy in humbly serving you, considering ourselves the lowest of the lowest, we would be able to spread your fame in all the three worlds (*ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tri-bhuvana*).

Your disciple Candraśekhara Prabhu, who has been conducting the ISKCON Prison Ministry for the last twenty-five years, has taken shelter at your lotus feet here in Columbus. He recently received an award from the Congregational Development Ministry for his preaching work in prisons all across North America, and now he is also developing prison ministry programs internationally. He corresponds with more than four hundred devotees in prisons. Sometimes, when I read the letters from these prisoners, I cry. I wish I had one iota of the faith in your words that these prisoners have.

Mother Kāmagiri is serving you dedicatedly, without wavering an inch in her service, and her whole family is serving you so nicely as well. Her presence in our lives is simply your grace. Despite painful arthritis in her knees and difficulty standing and walking, she single-handedly does her service of cooking every Sunday and every festival for more than a hundred devotees. Her feasts are the biggest attraction in our temple for all the newcomers and for all the veterans in our programs too.

A granddisciple of yours named Premasindhu Dāsa is strongly preaching the message of Lord Caitanya in Columbus. Using Skype, he organizes *japa* conference calls every morning and conducts *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes every morning and evening, seven days a week, 365 days a year. He is

Homages from ISKCON Centers

a humble yet very enthusiastic soul. He has been inspired to start a program in which members commit themselves to progressively increase their chanting and deepen their Kṛṣṇa conscious practices. This year many of our members have taken vows to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* on their *japa* beads every day. We pray that they receive your shelter and mercy to make ongoing advancement.

Navīna Kṛṣṇa Dāsa and Vraja-bhakti Devī Dāsī, along with their children Narahari and Parīkṣit, are always looking out for the welfare of the conditioned souls who come to our center. They are as inspired as ever to organize weekly Bhakti-vriksha programs in their house, and more than thirty members congregate weekly to taste the nectar of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Many of these members are now chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* daily on their beads. Navīna Kṛṣṇa and Dāmodara-priya Dāsa are serving more than fifty students weekly in their vegetarian cooking workshop at the Ohio State University campus. Many of those students then visit the temple and become more involved in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Our children's Sunday school is doing well, with Mother Rādhā-vijaya and Mother Ātma teaching the kids Kṛṣṇa conscious values in a fun-filled environment. The children look forward to Sunday school and winning "Kṛṣṇa points."

Jagannātha Dāsa is serving you very nicely, worshiping the Deities steadily. For the last four years he has risen every morning very early to wake the Deities and offer *maṅgala-ārati*, whether or not there are other devotees in attendance. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please give us the eagerness and seriousness to greet the Deities every morning for *maṅgala-ārati* so that we can imbibe Kṛṣṇa consciousness in our hearts the way you desired.

Rāmatīrtha Dāsa and Sītāsundarī Devī Dāsī, along with their daughter Kruthi, have taken so much responsibility for serving the Deities and devotees here. All members of the family are exemplary in their humble attitude, *sādhana*, and dedicated service.

Tapasvinī Devī Dāsī has been serving the Deities here for many years. She immaculately dresses Them, sews new outfits for Them, prepares gorgeous floral arrangements for Their pleasure, organizes Their *abhiṣekas* on festival days, and constantly trains new devotees to serve Them.

Our Thursday *kīrtana* program is going well, with Harināmānanda Dāsa, Śyāma Gopāla Dāsa, Dhīralalita Dāsa, and Narottama Dāsa sharing the bliss of the holy name with everyone. It's an eclectic evening of *kīrtana*, *kathā*, and *prasādam*. Denise, Courtney, Robert, Falene, Kadie, and Alex are coming regularly. We pray that you bestow your mercy on these sincere souls.

This year, as an offering to you we plan to renovate the temple basement and get a new altar for the Deities. We pray to you that along with our external offerings of fixing up the temple we may be able to improve in our integrity and in our commitment to you and please you by joyfully performing devotional service.

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

(written by Premavilāsa Dāsa)

Dallas

*om 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 Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my spiritual master, the deliverer of the fallen souls. His mercy turns the dumb into eloquent speakers and enables the lame to cross mountains.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate 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 sārasvate 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.

*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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The year 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kālachandjī. They were personally installed by you on the best of all days, Śrī Rādhāṣṭamī, the appearance day of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. As a result, the Dallas temple became one of the premier temples in ISKCON, with the proud distinction of the presence and mercy of the oldest Deity of Kṛṣṇa in ISKCON.

As a result of your supremely merciful and diligent care, continued subsequently with the vision and the personal nurturing of His Holiness Tamāl Krishna Goswami and thereafter Their Holinesses Giridhārī Mahārāja, Girirāj Mahārāja, Ṛtadhvaja Mahārāja, and Keśava Bhāratī Dāsa Mahārāja, along with other stalwart devotees, our devotional community has progressed and thrived wonderfully.

Among the major categories of service now being faithfully and sincerely carried out by your disciples and granddisciples are Deity worship, devotee care, book distribution, *prasādam* distribution (including restaurant/gift shop and Food for Life), *harināma*, festivals (including the Sunday Feast), education (including seminars and *gurukula*), outreach (including home and college programs), communications, membership, and property care (including maintaining the treasury).

The year 2016 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of your International Society for Krishna Consciousness. You asked that we show our love for you by cooperating within ISKCON to push on this *saṅkīrtana* movement with proper organization and intelligence. You asked that we not change what you had given us and at least maintain the institution that you had so carefully nurtured and developed during your physical presence on this planet.

We want to always remember you and Kṛṣṇa and all of your merciful instructions. You instructed us that if we would only come together, clap our hands, chant the holy names, and distribute *prasādam*, that would be enough in Kali-yuga. You really wanted us to chant attentively and incessantly (“Why sixteen rounds? Why not sixteen thousand rounds?”) and do practical service, particularly preaching through *harināma*, book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, Deity worship, education, setting up rural communities, and caring for one another.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

You particularly encouraged us to be very faithful to the predecessor *ācāryas*, including yourself. In *The Nectar of Instruction* you boldly declare,

The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is conducted under the supervision of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī. The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas, or Bengali Vaiṣṇavas, are mostly followers of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, of whom the Six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana are direct disciples. Therefore Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura has sung:

*rūpa-raghunātha-pade ha-ibe ākuti
kabe hāma bujhaba se yugala-pīriti*

“When I am eager to understand the literature given by the Gosvāmīs, then I shall be able to understand the transcendental loving affairs of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.” Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu appeared in order to bestow upon human society the benediction of the science of Kṛṣṇa. The most exalted of all the activities of Lord Kṛṣṇa are His pastimes of conjugal love with the *gopīs*. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu appeared in the mood of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, the best of the *gopīs*. Therefore, to understand the mission of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and follow in His footsteps, one must very seriously follow in the footsteps of the Six Gosvāmīs—Śrī Rūpa, Sanātana, Bhaṭṭa Raghunātha, Śrī Jīva, Gopāla Bhaṭṭa, and Dāsa Raghunātha.

In this regard, your beloved Guru Mahārāja, Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya 108 Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, through Your Divine Grace’s life and teachings, strongly instructed us to avoid attachments that are adverse to the expression of Lord Caitanya’s mission explained above by Śrīla Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura.

Attachments to be avoided include taking shelter of any guru who has not properly learned spiritual science from a bona fide spiritual master and then applied and preached the same. Such a pseudoguru promotes material attachments in the name of spirituality, his real interest being wealth, followers, sensual enjoyment, and so on. Instead, we should take shelter of a guru who has properly understood spiritual knowledge from *sāstra* and his own bona fide guru, and who has also applied the same in his own life, thereby achieving genuine spiritual realization. Such a guru can and will teach us the proper standards for the worship of Guru and Gaurāṅga. Such a guru knows the science of *bhakti* and instructs his disciples according to the nature of the spirit soul. A guru who does not know and practice the science of *bhakti* and/or instructs his disciples without considering their spiritual nature is a pseudoguru, and he should be given up.

You instructed us to give up false arguments based on material scholarship, such as those of mundane philosophers, Buddhists, and logicians. Those who do not understand the purpose of the regulative principles but simply observe these principles out of formality cannot develop attachment for devotional service. Those who worship according to *sahajiyā* principles do not develop deep attachment for the path of *bhakti*. However, such persons may still be delivered if they receive proper instructions from sincere devotees and take advantage of their association.

Living entities are meant to be sober by nature. Old and new bad habits, lethargy, and vanity make them disturbed due to bodily and mental demands, which hinder their devotional practices. One must avoid any cheating religion and all offenses against the holy name of the Lord. Not having understood one’s spiritual nature, but having accepted the instruction of a pseudoguru, one will engage in a process of worship meant for exalted devotees, thereby cheating oneself. Such a person will be inclined to accumulate wealth and prestige. Until this cheating in the name of religion is destroyed, one’s spiritual attachment will not awaken. Such teachings by mischievous persons deceive the innocent by making a show of spirituality. Importantly, those hapless followers who are attracted to a show of pseudospirituality cannot attain love for Kṛṣṇa. They become like thorns in the side of the world.

One must, however, never disrespect a swanlike devotee whose external activities may superficially appear detestable. It is the duty of a Vaiṣṇava to develop symptoms of love by associating with and serving devotees and avoiding the association of cheaters, while simultaneously remaining indifferent to external formalities.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

One must practice tolerance and compassion and avoid cruelty and intolerance. Without compassion for others, one's spiritual attachments will gradually diminish. Compassion and spiritual attachment are inseparable. The basis of compassion for others and for devotion to Kṛṣṇa is the same.

Illusion based on the flowery words of the *Vedas* (which support mundane activities and speculative scholarship) creates intense absorption in various material arguments and opinions, ruining one's realizations attained through devotional service. As a result of such illusion, even the mighty Brahmā doubted the supremacy of Kṛṣṇa.

Spiritual, or subtle, discrimination is extremely important. Those who invent bodily and social distinctions and preach principles of *bhakti*, while breaking spiritual principles to suit their needs, possess material or gross discrimination. Those with subtle discrimination will avoid the association of those with gross discrimination. Our *ācāryas* have written many spiritual literatures, which people with gross discrimination cannot understand and sometimes even deride. Vaiṣṇava principles are so unlimitedly exalted that those who simply remain entangled in the regulative process without trying to understand the science of *bhakti* are compared to ordinary fruitive workers.

Many weak-hearted persons give up the path of regulated principles in devotional service, but when they are unable to understand the soul's spiritual attachments, they cultivate perverted material attachments. Such persons are show-bottle devotees.

Then there are those who create trouble among sincere devotees by infecting their nature with their own material dispositions, sometimes initially meeting with a certain degree of success in their nefarious endeavors. Such brutal and treacherous persons become emboldened to make a direct attack on ISKCON.

We must avoid sectarianism. Sectarianism creates the forest fire of misery in the world: *samsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka*. Due to sectarianism, one cannot accept anyone outside of one's group as a devotee. This causes many obstacles in finding a guru and associating with devotees. Intercommunal discord among Vaiṣṇavas is disgraceful. Extinguishing this forest fire is most important for spiritual advancement.

Impersonalists desire to merge the soul with Kṛṣṇa. This is like stealing the self, and there is no happiness in this state: no one gains. Whenever impersonal philosophy enters among devotees, it can steal their devotion. One must beware of impersonalist association and propaganda. Then one can rescue the truth of Kṛṣṇa consciousness from being swallowed by the impersonalists. Likewise, one must avoid the association of persons who are inclined toward lusty behavior and are after personal gain and honor.

You asked that we neither worship demigods nor develop false pride and the tendency to think "I am supreme," since these activities and attitudes hinder the process of devotional service. We should always avoid associating with thieves and rascals, such as people who present themselves as *avatāras*. Our transcendental happiness is sidetracked when we consume intoxicants and thereby forget our true identity.

The desire for name and fame and for sensuous enjoyment through the practice of *bhakti* is a great obstacle to our spiritual progress. When our actions become motivated by such desires, we become proud. Devotees must always be careful of persons who possess false pride.

As our happiness due to devotional service increases, we might lose proper vision, or perspective. At that time, the feeling of a desire to merge into the existence of Kṛṣṇa can overcome us. If we can remain free from this tendency, we might be allowed to become qualified Vaiṣṇavas.

When we think that we are more expert than others in devotional service, or that "I am a great devotee or spiritual master," we create a great disturbance. As we gradually begin proclaiming our superiority, the mentality of disrespect for the Lord and other devotees arises and we fall down. Therefore, it is most important to prevent this evil mentality from entering our heart. Even if we become expert in devotional service, we must never give up the quality of humility. Otherwise, we risk the drying up of our *bhakti-latā*.

We must give up arrogant pride caused by false prestige rooted in the madness for wealth. Similarly, we must totally abandon indifference toward Kṛṣṇa and his devotees, an indifference due to pride resulting from one's status in *varṇāśrama*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to you with all of the humility our hearts can muster to please bless us that we may always do what pleases you the most, and that we may avoid ever displeasing you.

Thank you for giving us the most valuable treasure of your association and the service of the most merciful Deities and devotees who comprise the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Your servants' humble servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā Kālachandjī Dhāma, Dallas, Texas, USA.

(written by Nityānanda Dāsa)

Denpasar

*nama ori viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Except for some very remote place, there is nowhere on this globe where your books are not available. After reading Your Divine Grace's books, we devotees here in Denpasar were convinced of your statement that devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa are not Hindus, and therefore we didn't want a Hindu temple. We wanted a *saṅgātana-dharma* temple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, no matter what your devotees' backgrounds are, we are all on our way back home, back to Godhead. Whether we're ABC devotees or GBC devotees, if we're sincere and serious we can attain the goal Your Divine Grace promised us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, over time we have all come to understand that the way back to Godhead is to follow in the footsteps of Your Divine Grace (*mahājano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ*). The holy names Your Divine Grace gave us to chant—Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare—are not of this world but are imported from Goloka Vṛndāvana (*golokera prema-dhana, hari-nāma-saṅkīrtana*). And the religion Your Divine Grace gave us is the religion of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura: *jīve doyā, kṛṣṇa-nām—sarva-dharma-sār*. "The showing of compassion to all fallen souls by loudly chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa is the essence of all forms of religion."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we understand that ultimately Kṛṣṇa will reveal our individual *rasa* with Him in proportion to the depth of our surrender, but right now we have full faith that if we dedicate ourselves fully to pushing on Your Divine Grace's mission, we will achieve all perfection.

Your devotees at the Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Gaurāṅga Temple in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.

(written by Agastya Muni Dāsa)



Homages from ISKCON Centers

Detroit

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

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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this most auspicious 116th anniversary of your divine appearance.

Thank you very much for establishing the spiritual umbrella of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and continuing to shower your mercy on many souls, especially in Detroit. At present, due to unfavorable economic conditions, people need your mercy more than ever. Devotees at Devasadan Mandir are sincerely working to introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone. After being attracted by your books, Deities, *kīrtana*, and *prasādam*, some have eagerly started participating in pure, loving devotional service to Kṛṣṇa.

Last year brought many extraordinary achievements for the Devasadan *yātrā*, only because of your special *kṛpā*. The 2011 Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā celebration attracted many new souls who appreciated the festivities immensely. Every year the annual Ratha-yātrā festival is growing because of the dedication and hard work of the Ratha-yātrā team.

For the first time in the history of Devasadan Mandir, His Holiness Rādhānātha Swami addressed some of the most affluent and influential residents of the city, including the mayor and other city officials. Two preaching programs were organized in the most impressive way. The first was at the Magnificent War Memorial, the second at the Historical Royal Oak Music Theatre. All the fortunate souls who attended these remarkable events started visiting the temple regularly and have continued visiting to this day. They are all eagerly waiting to have a similar experience again. Moreover, the Ford Motor Company invited His Holiness Rādhānātha Swami to address the employees and awarded him a specially designed memento in appreciation of his most enlivening presentation. You said that the reason you purchased the opulent Fisher Mansion was to attract and preach to the most educated, affluent, and influential people in society. Now we are experiencing the power of your desire and instructions.

By your mercy more than fifty devotees were initiated over the past year under the guidance and supervision of His Grace Yūgala Kīśora Prabhu and His Grace Gokulacandra Prabhu. They are all regularly serving Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārī with utmost love and enthusiasm. Under the instruction of their spiritual masters, they have sincerely begun to distribute your books. Because of the added financial support, we have been able to renovate the Tulasi Room and several parts of the temple under the dedicated supervision of His Grace Nitāi Jīvana Dāsa and His Grace Nitya Kṛṣṇa Dāsa. Please bless them so that they can continue renovating the entire temple.

I would like to report a miracle that occurred by the strong desire of His Grace Śrī Nandanandana Prabhu and the dedicated efforts of Novi Bhakti Vriksha devotees, under the leadership of Venu Gopāla Deva Prabhu. We were able to open a new extension of Devasadan Mandir in the affluent suburb of Novi, where we celebrate our annual Ratha-yātrā festival. At this new center we conduct regular preaching programs, along with educational programs for children.

Most importantly, all your followers at Devasadan Mandir are cooperating nicely in a humble mood, rendering their various services to Kṛṣṇa in order to please you. Finally, we have all received tremendous encouragement to work harder by hearing His Grace Ambarīṣa Prabhu recount how it was here in Detroit that you instructed him to build The Temple of the Vedic Planetarium in Māyāpur, which is progressing with astronomical speed.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our ever well-wisher, please hold our hands tightly, since we have a tendency

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to drift away from you. We pray at your lotus feet that we can have the privilege of serving you as long as we are in these bodies, and that (possibly) we may go back to Godhead in this lifetime.

Always seeking the blessings and forgiveness of all Vaiṣṇavas, we remain

Your insignificant servants at Devasadan Mandir, Detroit, Michigan, USA.

(written by Jagadguru Dāsa)

Gainesville

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

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

The Music That Prabhupāda Plays

Once you’ve chanted and danced, had *prasād* and a class,
when the day brings its choices to you,
as you ponder your tasks, does your heart often ask,
“What would Prabhupāda want me to do?”

He’s the guru of choice; he’s the pure inner voice;
he’s intelligent, blissful, and kind—
and this list could go on like the full *Rāmāyaṇ*
and the whole *Mahābhārat* combined.

Prabhupāda, what to do? How can I best serve you?
Is my *sevā* to pay for a clan?
Let things rest or protest? Join the crew? Be aloof?
Independent or corporate man?

Now for me, this is sure: life is never secure.
Death is busily looking for me.
Will I slowly pass on, like my dear Ghanaśyām,
or as fast as my dear TKG?

In the time that is left, just before Yama’s theft,
I submit for your pleasure and thought
a few simple themes, be we peasants or kings,
Prabhupāda would expect, would he not?

Number one: keep the house where I’ve taken my vows,
the one Prabhupāda built with his hand.
Though in places it leaks, it’s where Prabhupāda speaks,
and he built it on stone, not on sand.

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Number two is to act, in idea and fact,
as Prabhupāda acted himself:
treating others with heart, as the Lord's cherished parts,
with concern for their spiritual health.

Number three: I've designed the motif of my life,
be it infamous, famous, or plain.
When the pattern gets worse, do I grumble or curse,
or responsibly shoulder the blame?

Number four, and the last: shall I dwell on the past,
or join others to build better days?
Every dawn brings the chance to drink nectar and dance
to the music that Prabhupāda plays.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's servants at ISKCON Gainesville, Florida, USA.

(written by Kālakaṅṭha Dāsa)

Gerih

Our dearest, wonderful Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our millions of respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet, which are like an immense umbrella of unlimited compassion that can give peace to the whole world.

We are extremely thankful to you for allowing us most fallen souls to engage in whatever service we can offer to your great mission. Devotional service can solve all personal, social, national, and international problems and enable suffering humanity to understand the goal of human life—*kṛṣṇa-prema*.

The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement you founded is a tsunami rising from the unlimited ocean of love of Godhead and inundating this world. It is transforming *yavanas* and *mlecchas* unto Vaiṣṇavas. Let us drown in this ocean of divine love, which will put an end to the vicious cycle of *saṁsāra* and allow us to fully relish the nectar of the holy name.

And if we don't drown in the ocean of divine love, we'll continue drowning in the ocean of nescience. In a purport in the Seventh Canto (7.15.45) you explain the following verse from the *Uddhava-gītā* (11.20.17):

*ṇṛ-deham ādyaṁ su-labhaṁ su-durlabhaṁ
plavaṁ su-kalpaṁ guru-karṇadhāraṁ
mayānukūlena nabhasvateritaṁ
pumān bhavābdhiṁ na taret sa ātma-hā*

“This human form of body is a most valuable boat, and the spiritual master is the captain, *guru-karṇadhāra*, to guide the boat in plying across the ocean of nescience. The instruction of Kṛṣṇa is a favorable breeze. One must use all these facilities to cross over the ocean of nescience. Since the spiritual master is the captain, one must serve the spiritual master very sincerely so that by his mercy one will be able to get the mercy of the Supreme Lord.” Otherwise, as Kṛṣṇa says here, we will commit spiritual suicide.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are begging for your causeless mercy. You give us hope that we may experience Lord Caitanya's and Lord Nityānanda's wonderful, unlimited bliss, which is flowing through the pure

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chanting of the holy name—Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

*saj-jana, durjana, paṅgu, 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.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 7.26)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are so grateful for all the compassion that prevails in your heart. Perfect knowledge is transmitted without adding any personally motivated interpretation, as it has come from the divine lips of the Lord Himself through the *paramparā* system and through your books. These books are another manifestation of your immense mercy, a manifestation that will bring about a transformation of countless hearts in future generations of devotees, for the next ten thousand years. The success of this movement rests on the foundation of our ardent desire to please you. This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is gradually changing the lives of all souls in the creation by dint of the purity of your representatives.

By the divine knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness we can understand God and reach His eternal abode, where fear, lamentation, and death are conspicuous by their absence (*aśoka abhaya amṛta ādhāra*—Śrīla Bhaktivinod Ṭhākura).

Here at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāseśvara Ashrama, one of the spiritual hospitals of your ISKCON society, you have given us everything to perfect our lives and achieve the ultimate gain—pure love for God, Kṛṣṇa. Our *yātrā* consists of a self-sufficient organic farm, a *gōsālā* with two beautiful pregnant cows, and a congregation of more than five hundred, mostly initiated devotees. We are now focusing on engaging householders, both husbands and wives, in rendering regular service to the Deities at the temple. In this way they will be trained up as *brāhmaṇas* and Vaiṣṇavas and thus allow the few full-time devotees here to go out and distribute Kṛṣṇa consciousness on a regular basis.

I am more insignificant than a blade of grass in the street, the lowest of the low, and very foolish. Today, on this most auspicious day of your appearance, I am begging you to excuse us for whatever big and small mistakes we have committed in the course of discharging service to your great mission. Please do not let any of us become disappointed and pessimistic to the point of leaving your wonderful society. We are begging for your mercy and guidance that might come through your GBC representatives or other serious devotees from any part of the world. There is no difference between hearing directly from the Supreme Lord and hearing from a personality like you or your true representatives. Please protect us from Māyā’s workings, by which she tries to bewilder us through deviant philosophies and dangerous gossip.

In the spirit of brotherhood that prevails among all the disciples of different gurus in all the ISKCON temples on this small island of Bali, we want to cooperate in harmony to develop and spread the unlimited flow of your mercy in the form of a taste for the holy name of the Lord.

Sākṣād dharitvena—Bhagavān and *bhakta-bhāgavata* are nondifferent. With a straw in my mouth I offer this prayer/song of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura at your divine lotus feet, O Śrīla Prabhupāda, savior of the most fallen:

*kabe śrī-caitanya more koribena doyā
kabe āmi paibo vaiṣṇava-pada-chāyā*

When will Śrī Caitanya Mahaprabhu show His causeless mercy to me by allowing me to attain the shade of the lotus feet of all the Vaiṣṇavas?

*kabe āmi chāḍibo e viṣayābhimān
kabe viṣṇu-jane āmi koribo sammān*

When will I be able to give up this false ego, which is so deeply engrossed in sense gratification? And when will I be able to properly honor the associates of the Lord?

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*gala-bastra kṛtāñjali vaiṣṇava-nikaṭe
dante tṛṇa kori' dāñḍāibo niṣkapate*

I will stand before the Vaiṣṇavas with folded hands, a cloth binding my neck and a straw between my teeth, sincerely awaiting their order.

*kāñḍiyā kāñḍiyā jāñāibo duḥkha-grām
saṁsāra-anala hoite māgibo biśrāma*

Weeping and weeping, I will inform them of the host of my material miseries, and I will beg for relief from the blazing fire of this material world.

*śuniyā āmār duḥkha vaiṣṇava thākur
āmā lāgi' kṛṣṇe āvedibena pracur*

Hearing about all of my miserable sufferings, the Vaiṣṇavas will submit an appeal to Lord Kṛṣṇa on my behalf.

*vaiṣṇaver āvedane kṛṣṇa doyāmoy
e heno pāmara prati ha'bena sadoy*

By the prayer of the Vaiṣṇavas, all-merciful Lord Kṛṣṇa will then become compassionate toward such a sinner as me.

*vinoder nivedana vaiṣṇava-caraṇe
kṛpā kori' saṅge loho ei akiñcane*

Bhaktivinoda prays unto the lotus feet of the Vaiṣṇavas: "Please be merciful and take this worthless person into your association."

Your eternal servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāseśvara Ashram, Gerih, Bali, Indonesia.

(written by Jayanti Śrī Devī Dāsī)

Gianyar

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

*namas te sāravate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the holy dust of your lotus feet. All glories unto Your Divine Grace!

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I am so fortunate to have gotten the chance to be a menial servant of your servant. By the association of your sincere disciple His Holiness Bhakti Rāghava Swami, my eyes have slowly been opened so that I can see how truly dangerous this Age of Kali is. In the midst of the modern age, where most people engage in grievous sinful activities knowingly or unknowingly, your beloved disciple Bhakti Rāghava Swami has taught us on the basis of your books how to develop devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead Śrī Kṛṣṇa while living simply in a *varṇāśrama* community where all the members are devotees of the Lord. Inspired by your teachings, since 1998 we have been developing this small community, starting with two full-time *brahmacārīs* in a small hut, where we worshiped the Lord in picture form. Though our facility was meager, with no proper place to sleep even, we performed our services with enthusiasm and love. Slowly our efforts moved the project forward, and gradually, one by one, devotees started joining our community. Eventually, by your divine mercy, one of your beloved disciples came forward with a significant donation to help us construct a proper *mandira* to serve the Lord.

Today, by your divine mercy, we are fourteen families gathered to render our humble service to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava with Lalitā-sakhī and Viśākhā-sakhī, Śrī Śrī Prahlāda-Nṛsimha, and the Daśa Avatāras. Under the guidance and protection of many ISKCON *sannyāsīs* and other senior devotees who visit regularly, we have great hopes for the future, trusting that your kind mercy flowing through them will enable us to continue our humble service to all the Vaiṣṇavas.

On this holy occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, again and again I bow down to offer my most humble respects at the holy dust of your lotus feet, begging for your mercy. May this year see the fulfillment of our plan to start another small farm community project on the island of Sumbawa, where we have secured a 44-acre plot of forest land.

Please accept our insignificant efforts as our humble offering to you in your holy mission to spread the message of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu worldwide.

Your menial servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Mandir, Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia.

(written by Kiśora Kṛṣṇa Dasa)

Gītā-nāgarī

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are ever-increasingly coming to realize that just as Ananta Śeṣa holds the worlds upon His transcendental hoods, your mercy and unlimited love profoundly sustain all that we do, all that we have, and all that we are. From your desire to carry forth the order of your beloved guru, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, the beautiful message of Lord Caitanyadeva is spreading throughout all the lands of the earth.

We were misguided, adrift in the sea of a materialistic and impersonal civilization. The substance of an eternal purpose had all but evaporated from our lives. Preyed upon by the threefold miseries, we

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experienced the bewilderment of birth, death, old age and disease. Then . . . Traveling at an advanced age on an old Indian cargo ship across the vast expanses of the Atlantic Ocean, you came, with only a few rupees and a few hundred sets of the ever-fresh *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* volumes you had diligently translated into English. After much prayer and preparation, you compassionately came West to expound the ancient, eternal philosophy of Vedic knowledge, desiring the highest welfare for all.

This knowledge is the king of education, the most secret of all secrets. It is the purest knowledge, and because it gives direct perception of the self by realization, it is the perfection of religion. It is everlasting, and it is joyfully performed. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 9.2]

Representing the culmination of the transcendental forces of the glorious Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava *sampradāya*, you came to the West and gave us the greatest gift. Your heroic sacrifices to ignite a spiritual revolution in a degraded civilization brought you to the place of greatest need. “Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and your life will be sublime,” you patiently taught. This chanting, you explained, was the easy and joyful method to awaken our dormant love of God. This process would raise us to the spiritual platform, beyond material happiness and distress. You gave us a tangible process to experience the eternal bliss of the soul. Your conviction and sincerity awoke the seedling of understanding within our hearts. Your transcendental charm, your fatherly nurturing, and your astounding wisdom, Śrīla Prabhupāda, captivated our hearts. The exemplary path you set—the path of pure, unalloyed, and tireless devotional service—drew us into the eternal realm of love. The timeless teachings of the spiritual world came to life in your presence. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for saving us from the darkness of ignorance. Thank you for teaching us that using everything in Kṛṣṇa’s service “turns on the one switch that brightens everything everywhere.”

Here at Gītā-nāgarī we have always felt protected by your love and nurtured by your encouraging words. From within our hearts we feel you assisting us to fulfill your desire for a thriving self-sufficient community based on the glorious teachings of Śrī Kṛṣṇa—a farm community where the cows are revered, the women and children are cherished, and your instructions guide our lives. On your behalf, your servant Bhaktitīrtha Swami tirelessly promoted a revival of your vision for Gītā-nāgarī, with special emphasis on loving relationships between devotees. We continue to strive for a place where all elements are drawn together in a Kṛṣṇa conscious center, with all activities revolving around Their beautiful Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara.

Recently we have become increasingly bereft due to the physical departure of so many of your enthusiastic and saltwort soldiers in this compassionate mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Consequently, more than ever we feel an urgency to beg for your intervention. We are in absolute need of more internal guidance.

Please empower our chanting of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa so we may become fully motivated in your loving service. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, strengthen our resolve to follow your instructions, your mood, your kindness, your honesty.

Farming projects like Gītā-nāgarī are at the heart of the future. We wish to carry out your vision to create a peaceful, loving, spiritual environment with the highest ideals. Please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so we may develop the necessary qualities of humility, hard work, tolerance, and perseverance. Then we may be able to work and worship in a simple village atmosphere, living in harmony with Mother Earth and each other. By His personal example in the village of Vṛndāvana, Śrī Kṛṣṇa taught us the beautiful and bountiful gifts of simple village life centered on loving Kṛṣṇa.

As you aptly predicted, this artificial industrial society is running out of steam. Sustainable agriculture, working with the animals, learning to spin our own cotton and weave our own cloth, and growing our own food are the essentials. Our dream, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is to provide fulfilling engagement for all devotees and establish a legacy for future generations to live simple sattvic lives. People in general will naturally be attracted to this purity.

These people, they are attracting villagers to work in the factory, and they are exploiting them. Instead of producing food, they are attracted by so-called high salaries, to the factory, and they are producing bolts and nuts, motor parts. . . . Our philosophy is that you produce your food

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anywhere. You stay, and keep cows, take milk, produce vegetables, food grains, and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. That's all. This is our philosophy. Make your life successful. By becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious, you become free from all these troubles of material condition. This is our education. [Morning Walk Conversation, 25 May 1974, Rome]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came from Kṛṣṇa's own land of Vṛndāvana to the very heart of Kali-yuga, New York City, just to save us. Simply by thinking of your beauty and love, simply by looking at you, we are blessed. You are the direct representative of Lord Nityānanda. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, carry every bit of Lord Nityānanda's mercy. You blissfully invigorated the universe by directing your troops to merge into the transcendental loving service of Śrī Caitanyadeva's *saṅkīrtana* movement. We are forever grateful to you. You created our good fortune, and you enjoined us to go out and preach to create good fortune for others.

What will be the legacy we leave for future generations? How will we respond to challenges facing us in the brief time we have left on this precious planet? These are the hard questions we face, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please empower us. We are eternally your children. Please, beloved father, keep us forever by your soft, merciful lotus feet in loving service. You are our fearless shelter.

For those who have accepted the boat of the Lotus feet of the Lord, who is the shelter of the cosmic manifestation and is famous as Murāri, the enemy of the Mura demon, the ocean of the material world is like the water contained in a calf's footprint. Their goal is *param padarī*, Vaikuṅṭha, the place where there are no material miseries, not the place where there is danger at every step. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 10.14.58]

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration!

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

(written by Taruṇī Devī Dāsī and Rasāmṛta Devī Dāsī)

Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble and respectful obeisances on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. We bow to your lotus feet and beg for your unlimited mercy to allow us to continue to serve within your ISKCON movement.

Your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration is an appropriate time for us to focus on those things that are most important to you. These are the things you endorsed most emphatically and in relation to which you left us overwhelming directives around which to shape our lives. There are certainly many things that we know you were clear about and that we can place our complete faith in. The first of these are chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, distribution of your books, and Deity worship, which is so essential for steadily developing the proper feelings for the Lord. And of course, you also emphasized proper Vaiṣṇava association and creating a blissful, pure Kṛṣṇa conscious environment within your ISKCON projects. There is no confusion about how to carry on the work of this movement when everything is so clear and simple.



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We are all very eager to fulfill our obligation to make the Guyana *yātrā* a place you will be proud of. We beg for your mercy and your blessings as we strive to increase and improve our *sādhana*, purify our hearts, live by the standards you gave us, completely surrender to Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Gokula-Chandra and Śrī Śrī Nitāi–Caitanya-Chandra, and become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we want to please you by following your instructions. Please bless us with the determination to continue until ISKCON Guyana unfolds in the way you desire. We must be in harmony with your wishes, with the things you prioritize, and with your vision so that we can appreciate the gifts you have so kindly left us as our inheritance—starting with the storehouse of spiritual wisdom in your books. If we comply thus, one day, by your mercy, we may become competent to be your true followers.

You stressed so much the need for cooperation over spiritual competition, as legitimate as that might be. By cooperating, each devotee will give the best of himself to your mission and share his skills and realizations with all. If this is neglected, the society you so meticulously nurtured with your undaunted faith in Kṛṣṇa will become fraught with petty politics, division, and criticism, and relationships among us will be centered on a lack of respect for one another and a general lack of genuine Vaiṣṇava dealings.

Over the years we have tried to implement systematic training of our devotees, with the aim of making our movement here in Guyana stable and peaceful—a condition that will not be achieved automatically. Failing to do so, we may become a party to so many less Kṛṣṇa conscious traits, forgetting that our real party is the chanting party glorifying the holy name, form, qualities, and pastimes of Kṛṣṇa. Failure in this regard will cause us to lose precious opportunities for expanding Kṛṣṇa consciousness in our *yātrā*. Systematic education and training are essential for preaching and a peaceful and happy ISKCON. As you taught us, we must be engaged according to our psychophysical nature and at the same time preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

It is not necessary to be a big expert on the *sāstras*—it is enough to follow the process with honesty and trust sincerely in you. In your books you have given us everything to guide our lives and attain perfection. You gave everything in terms of the knowledge and practice of *bhakti*, and also for the conduct of day-to-day life. You will always remain our eternal well-wisher. If only we imbibe the precious lessons you painstakingly taught and apply them with great determination and patience, all so-called difficulties will be removed.

But if we allow ourselves to become at all confused about the process, then it will be practically impossible to achieve the type of focused activity required to push forward this wonderful and important movement. Therefore we pray to you on this blessed Vyāsa-pūjā day that you kindly watch over us as grandsons and granddaughters so that we do not stray from the clear and precise process you have given us. And we also pray to Lord Kṛṣṇa that we may be empowered to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by all our individual and collective efforts in the matter of spreading the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement here in Guyana.

We pray for your special mercy today so we may be sincere in word and deed in our efforts to serve you with love. It is then only that love, peace, and happiness will abound in our hearts and in our *yātrā*, and lust, anger, covetousness, greed, and *aparādha* will automatically disappear.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your infinite and most powerful compassion. Your wonderful glories are unlimited. Please give us all the ability to please you. Only then will our lives become successful.

Always eager to remain servants at your lotus feet, we remain

Your devotees at ISKCON Guyana.

(written by Paramātmā Dāsa)

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Ladysmith

Jaya Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya His Divine Grace Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Mahārāja Śrīla Prabhupāda-kī jaya!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. Dear lord and master, from an objective view it would seem to be impossible to preserve and propagate the ancient Vedic *bhakti* culture in quickly changing and hectic modern world. But Your Divine Grace showed that it was possible, if we properly receive and follow Lord Kṛṣṇa's teachings, preserved through the revealed scripture, the writings of the *ācāryas*, and the spoken words of His pure devotee. In this way any sincere seeker of truth can have the opportunity to revive his dormant love for the Lord, even in the advanced stages of Kali-yuga. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your love, mercy, and compassion have, as in other parts of the world, become manifest in Ladysmith.

In the year 1994 a small group of very enthusiastic devotees started a small center here. They had full faith in your teaching that obeying Kṛṣṇa's instructions is the perfection of all religions, and that your ISCKON, where Kṛṣṇa's instructions are obeyed, is the institution embodying the perfection of all religions.

As we continued maintaining the ISCKON center in Ladysmith, it became quite apparent that the privilege of worshiping Your Divine Grace comes with the grave responsibility of caring for and extending ourselves to those who have not had the privilege of knowing Your Divine Grace. In 2007 this strong preaching spirit gave rise, by the mercy of mother Patita Pāvanī and her sons, to the establishment of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara cultural center. In 2008, under the guidance of His Grace Svarūpa Dāmodara Prabhu, and with the invaluable encouragement and inspiration of His Holiness Krishna Dāsa Swami and His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami, we were privileged to have Your Divine Grace manifest yourself in your *mūrti* form. Now that we had firmly linked ourselves with the *paramparā*, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mercy and compassion began to flow so powerfully that in 2011, once again under the guidance of His Grace Svarūpa Dāmodara Prabhu and with the invaluable encouragement and inspiration of His Holiness Krishna Dāsa Swami and His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami, their Lordships Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā took their place on the altar and joined our other worshipable Deities.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, since the inception of ISCKON in Ladysmith we have encountered many challenges, and we know that there are many, many more challenges ahead of us. On this blessed day of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, we devotees of Ladysmith pray that you will direct us from within and without so we can successfully meet these challenges accomplish your purpose. Please deepen our love for our worshipable Deities and protect us from the pitfalls of material existence.

Jagat-guru Śrīla Prabhupāda-kī jaya!

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Ladysmith, South Africa.

Las Vegas

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, divine savior of the world!

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

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, please allow me to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation of your divine mercy, which you are bestowing upon all conditioned souls, including my worthless self.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, if it were not for you there would be no Hare Kṛṣṇa movement spreading to every town and village all over the world. The Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra would not be known on every continent. There would be no Vedic scriptures transmitting spiritual wisdom in the languages of nearly every country of the world. There would be no possibility for conditioned souls in all corners of the world to render devotional service to the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, service that purifies the heart of any contamination and qualifies us to go back to Godhead in this lifetime.

Because of your divine mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, not only this insignificant soul but all humanity is getting a chance for the ultimate reformation of their lives, a chance to achieve spiritual perfection culminating in pure love of God, love of Kṛṣṇa. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* (18.57) Lord Kṛṣṇa gives clear directions on how one can achieve this spiritual perfection: “In all activities just depend upon Me and work always under My protection. In such devotional service, be fully conscious of Me.” In your purport you encourage those who may doubt that such perfection is possible even in today’s world:

Now, one may argue that Arjuna was acting under the personal direction of Kṛṣṇa but when Kṛṣṇa is not present how should one act? If one acts according to the direction of Kṛṣṇa in this book, as well as under the guidance of the representative of Kṛṣṇa, then the result will be the same.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, those who experience how full of spiritual potency your message is are naturally eager to follow your guidance and will undoubtedly achieve ultimate success. You elaborate on this intimate subject in your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya-līlā* 25.9:

In this Age of Kali, real religious propaganda should induce people to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. This is possible for someone who is especially empowered by Kṛṣṇa. No one can do this without being especially favored by Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura comments in this regard in his *Anubhāṣya*, wherein he quotes a verse from the *Nārāyaṇa-saṁhitā*:

*dvāparīyair janair viṣṇuḥ pañcarātrais tu kevalaiḥ
kalau tu nāma-mātreṇa pūjyate bhagavān hariḥ*

“In Dvāpara-yuga, devotees of Lord Viṣṇu and Kṛṣṇa rendered devotional service according to the principles of *Pāñcarātra*. In this Age of Kali, the Supreme Personality of Godhead is worshiped simply by the chanting of His holy names.” Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura then comments, “Without being empowered by the direct potency of Lord Kṛṣṇa to fulfill His desire and without being specifically favored by the Lord, no human being can become the spiritual master of the whole world. He certainly cannot succeed by mental concoction, which is not meant for devotees or religious people. Only an empowered personality can distribute the holy name of the Lord and enjoin all fallen souls to worship Kṛṣṇa. By distributing the holy name of the Lord, he cleanses the hearts of the most fallen people; therefore he extinguishes the blazing fire of the material world. Not only that, he broadcasts the shining brightness of Kṛṣṇa’s effulgence throughout the world. Such an *ācārya*, or spiritual master, should be considered nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa—that is, he should be considered the incarnation of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s potency. Such a personality is *kṛṣṇāliṅgita-vidgraha*—that is, he is always embraced by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa. Such

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a person is above the considerations of the *varṇāśrama* institution. He is the guru, or spiritual master, for the entire world, a devotee on the topmost platform, the *mahā-bhāgavata* stage, and a *paramahansa-ṭhākura*, a spiritual form fit to be addressed only as *paramahansa* or *ṭhākura*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Lord Kṛṣṇa has empowered you with His direct potency to fulfill His desire by becoming the spiritual master of the whole world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, Lord Kṛṣṇa has empowered you with His direct potency to cleanse the hearts of the most fallen people and thus extinguish the blazing fire of the material world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the *ācārya* who should be considered nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa—that is, you should be considered the incarnation of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s potency. You are *kṛṣṇālingita-vigraha*, you are *jagad-guru*, you are *mahā-bhāgavata* and *paramahansa-ṭhākura*.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are a spiritual genius, empowered by the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa to expertly set up the perfect process for purification of the conditioned souls in all your ISKCON temples all over the world. All those who follow your program for spiritual purification in Kṛṣṇa consciousness are surely making rapid spiritual progress and are becoming qualified to go back to Godhead, back to Kṛṣṇa.

To illustrate your excellent, very practical explanations in your teachings, and how they comprise perfect guidance, I would like to mention a few significant incidents in my life illustrating what a huge positive impact your preaching has, how it radically transforms people’s lives for the better.

As Kali-yuga progresses, we see more and more the disharmony between nations, groups of people, and individuals, even close relatives.

If not for your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, there would be no possibility for me to behave properly with the understanding that every living being is part and parcel of the Lord and an eternal spirit soul. Therefore, as eternal servants of the Lord we should engage once again in devotional service to the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa to awaken our dormant love of Him, pure love of God.

At the very beginning of my life I belonged to the category of the most fallen people. For twenty years I lived with my family, knowing nothing about you, your books, or your Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. Without your mercy, I was not able to get along even with my own father.

However, the problem was definitively solved by Lord Kṛṣṇa’s causeless mercy, allowing me to join your educational ISKCON spiritual movement. Because of the genuine wisdom you imparted in your informative books and your sincere and dedicated followers, I experienced a radical qualitative transformation in my life. Your books and followers helped me become eligible to receive your divine mercy.

Only by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, was I able to communicate well with my father without animosity. Indeed, we were able to treat each other as good friends. I was also able to discuss Kṛṣṇa conscious philosophy with him, inspire him to pay obeisances to the Jagannātha Deities, help him develop friendships with other devotees, and engage him in some devotional service in one of your temples before he died.

The Kṛṣṇa conscious process for spiritual reformation of the hearts of the conditioned souls is the perfect divine remedy, one that you brought to the West and then spread all over the world. Without it there would have been no way for me to experience this miracle with my father, or other, similar miracles in countless other situations.

The perfect spiritual lifestyle in Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you set up for the conditioned souls can mitigate all the pangs of material existence. Nonetheless, the miseries of material existence, including those of our own material body, will go their own way. However, you gave genuine spiritual knowledge on how to properly react to all miseries and be perfectly peaceful.

If not for your divine mercy, the life of every living entity would be extremely miserable! By your mercy only, even a fallen soul like me was able to experience the purifying effect of your genuine spiritual education and excellent guidance. It came through your sincere follower Devāmṛta Swami, who on your behalf coached me in my spiritual life from the very beginning of my Kṛṣṇa conscious career. Although the incident I am going to relate was small, it was still sufficient for me to have the sublime experience of a higher taste that came because of your divine grace and that of my Guru Maharaja.

Last February I felt a pain in the lower part of my stomach and was sent to the emergency room in the hospital. The doctors said it was likely I had colon cancer. Even right before the colonoscopy, the

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doctor told my wife and me that “if this is a cancer we will cut it out from your colon like a useless part of a pipe and connect the two healthy parts, and that’s it!” I immediately thought of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s statement at *Bhagavad-gītā* 18.61, where the Lord says the conditioned soul’s body is like a machine: “The Supreme Lord is situated in everyone’s heart, O Arjuna, and is directing the wanderings of all living entities, who are seated as on a machine made of the material energy.”

I also recalled some information I knew from modern medical science that nowadays cancer is quite common. After diagnosis, even with good treatment many cancer patients die within six months or at the utmost two years. I couldn’t help thinking, “Is it time for me to die now?” This deliberation reminded me of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s statement at *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.18: “The material body of the indestructible, immeasurable, and eternal living entity is sure to come to an end.” By your mercy I also remembered what you wrote in your purport to this verse: “The material body is perishable by nature. It may perish immediately, or it may do so after a hundred years. It is a question of time only. There is no chance of maintaining it indefinitely.” And from the *Kṛṣṇa* book: “Any material arrangement for protecting oneself from death is always unsure, but if one is in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then immortality is confidently assured.”

Despite five days of very uncomfortable and painful treatments in the hospital, somehow, by your inconceivable mercy, I felt completely peaceful. I was convinced that I was in your hands and Lord Kṛṣṇa’s. I was relishing the words of your purport to Lord Kṛṣṇa’s statement at *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.40: “In this endeavor there is no loss or diminution, and a little advancement on this path can protect one from the most dangerous type of fear.”

Even a small beginning of such activity [in Kṛṣṇa consciousness] finds no impediment, nor can that small beginning be lost at any stage. Any work begun on the material plane has to be completed; otherwise the whole attempt becomes a failure. But any work begun in Kṛṣṇa consciousness has a permanent effect, even though not finished. The performer of such work is therefore not at a loss even if his work in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is incomplete. One percent done in Kṛṣṇa consciousness bears permanent results, so that the next beginning is from the point of two percent, whereas in material activity without a hundred percent success there is no profit. . . .

Material activities and their results end with the body. But work in Kṛṣṇa consciousness carries a person again to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, even after the loss of the body. At least one is sure to have a chance in the next life of being born again as a human being, either in the family of a great cultured *brāhmaṇa* or in a rich aristocratic family that will give one a further chance for elevation.

By your mercy I understood that I deserved much more severe punishment for my misdeeds. You beautifully explain this truth in your *Bhagavad-gītā* *As It Is*:

[2.56, translation and purport:] “One who is not disturbed in mind even amidst the threefold miseries or elated when there is happiness, and who is free from attachment, fear, and anger, is called a sage of steady mind.” . . . Such a fully Kṛṣṇa conscious person is not at all disturbed by the onslaughts of the threefold miseries, for he accepts all miseries as the mercy of the Lord, thinking himself only worthy of more trouble due to his past misdeeds; and he sees that his miseries, by the grace of the Lord, are minimized to the lowest.

[12.14, purport]: Whenever a devotee is in distress or has fallen into difficulty, he thinks that it is the Lord’s mercy upon him. He thinks, “Thanks to my past misdeeds I should suffer far, far greater than I am suffering now. So it is by the mercy of the Supreme Lord that I am not getting all the punishment I am due. I am just getting a little, by the mercy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.” Therefore he is always calm, quiet, and patient, despite many distressful conditions.

As it turned out, I didn’t have colon cancer; by Lord Kṛṣṇa’s grace I only had ischemic colitis. But I beg you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that when the time comes for me to leave my body, please help me remember Lord Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet and take full shelter of His holy names.

You write in your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 8.2:

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Whatever we do in life will be tested at the time of death. Arjuna is very anxious to know of those who are constantly engaged in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. What should be their position at that final moment? At the time of death all the bodily functions are disrupted, and the mind is not in a proper condition. Thus disturbed by the bodily situation, one may not be able to remember the Supreme Lord.

However, by your divine mercy and Lord Kṛṣṇa's grace, everything is possible, as Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja states at *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Ādi-līlā* 14.1: "Things that are very difficult to do become easy to execute if one somehow or other simply remembers Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. But if one does not remember Him, even easy things become very difficult. To this Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu I offer my respectful obeisances."

Therefore I pray to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda: Please allow me to become a worthy recipient of your divine mercy and realize what you state in your purport *Bhagavad-gītā* 18.57:

If one acts according to the direction of Kṛṣṇa in this book, as well as under the guidance of the representative of Kṛṣṇa, then the result will be the same [as by hearing from Kṛṣṇa directly, as Arjuna did]. The Sanskrit word *mat-parah* is very important in this verse. It indicates that one has no goal in life save and except acting in Kṛṣṇa consciousness just to satisfy Kṛṣṇa. And while working in that way, one should think of Kṛṣṇa only: "I have been appointed to discharge this particular duty by Kṛṣṇa." While acting in such a way, one naturally has to think of Kṛṣṇa. This is perfect Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In accordance with your above explanation and by your divine mercy, I have become convinced that you and Lord Kṛṣṇa have appointed me and my good wife to come to Las Vegas. Under your and my beloved Guru Mahārāja's guidance, we were to establish a preaching center and spread Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's glories as much as possible.

At the same time, I understood that it was Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's plan to bring some devotee to Las Vegas. If not I, someone else would have come and done the needful according to Lord Kṛṣṇa's desires.

I am very grateful, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you blessed my good wife and me with this greatly fortunate privilege of playing a part in Lord Kṛṣṇa's plan to distribute His mercy in one of the most challenging places in the world. It is a place known everywhere as the capital of the Māyā's kingdom. Indeed, Las Vegas is popularly known as Sin City.

Lord Kṛṣṇa's wonderful arrangement of bringing us here ten years ago has brought me many blessings. My recent experience in the hospital also allowed me to experience real spiritual care—friendship from other devotees who were worried about my health and were praying to the Supreme Lord for my well-being and protection. This incident helped me appreciate more the extraordinary qualities of Vaiṣṇava association, qualities I realized are completely different from materialistic qualities in society today.

After I was released from the hospital, devotees were extremely caring, supportive, and helpful in all temple services. This incident simultaneously showed me how your devotees are able to cooperate as one ISKCON family in devotional service for your satisfaction and Lord Kṛṣṇa's glory.

Since then everything in the temple is more vibrant and moving forward even more dynamically than before. By your inconceivable mercy, your May/June issue of *Back to Godhead* magazine published two wonderful articles about our missionary activities here. The first appeared under the title "Las Vegas: Kṛṣṇa's New Playground." The second article was about a Las Vegas lady devotee whose lifelong search for God ended in the most unexpected of places. It was entitled "I Found Kṛṣṇa in Las Vegas."

Only by your divine mercy did we have the excellent opportunity of holding the first-ever Ratha-yātrā festival in Las Vegas last April. During this very auspicious festival we also celebrated the tenth anniversary of your ISKCON Las Vegas center, on April 21st. These two days of festivities were inaugurated by a *mahā-harināma* on the famous Las Vegas Strip, where the holy names of the Lord were chanted for several hours.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us all with your divine mercy so that we can continue spreading Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's glories in Las Vegas with great enthusiasm and determination. May we do this in the way you

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desire. I beg you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, please let all the Las Vegas devotees serve Lord Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet under your divine guidance, completely depending on Kṛṣṇa's mercy and looking only to Lord Kṛṣṇa for shelter. Please bless us all to cooperate, respect one another, and appreciate one another's efforts so that you and Lord Kṛṣṇa may enjoy our humble attempts to serve you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless all the Las Vegas devotees with your mercy so that we may quickly advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, attain spiritual maturity, and ultimately receive the privilege of performing pure devotional service at your lotus feet while always remembering Kṛṣṇa and never forgetting Him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless all of us that we may become less and less selfish and thus spiritually richer in Vaiṣṇava behavior to properly represent you. May we become wealthier by receiving more and more opportunities to perform pure loving devotional service for your satisfaction and Lord Kṛṣṇa's.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless all the Las Vegas devotees that all of us may cultivate and develop in our hearts only one desire and only one goal: to do everything to satisfy you by spreading Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's glories to the maximum extent and as nicely as possible, solely for your satisfaction and Lord Kṛṣṇa's.

Your very grateful and humble servants at ISKCON Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

(written by Surapāla Dāsa)

Lenasia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It seemed that life had consumed us. We scurried rapidly for personal gain while achieving nothing. We worked hard, only to break ourselves. We tried to enjoy, only to find the poison chalice. We just kept going, hell-bent for disaster.

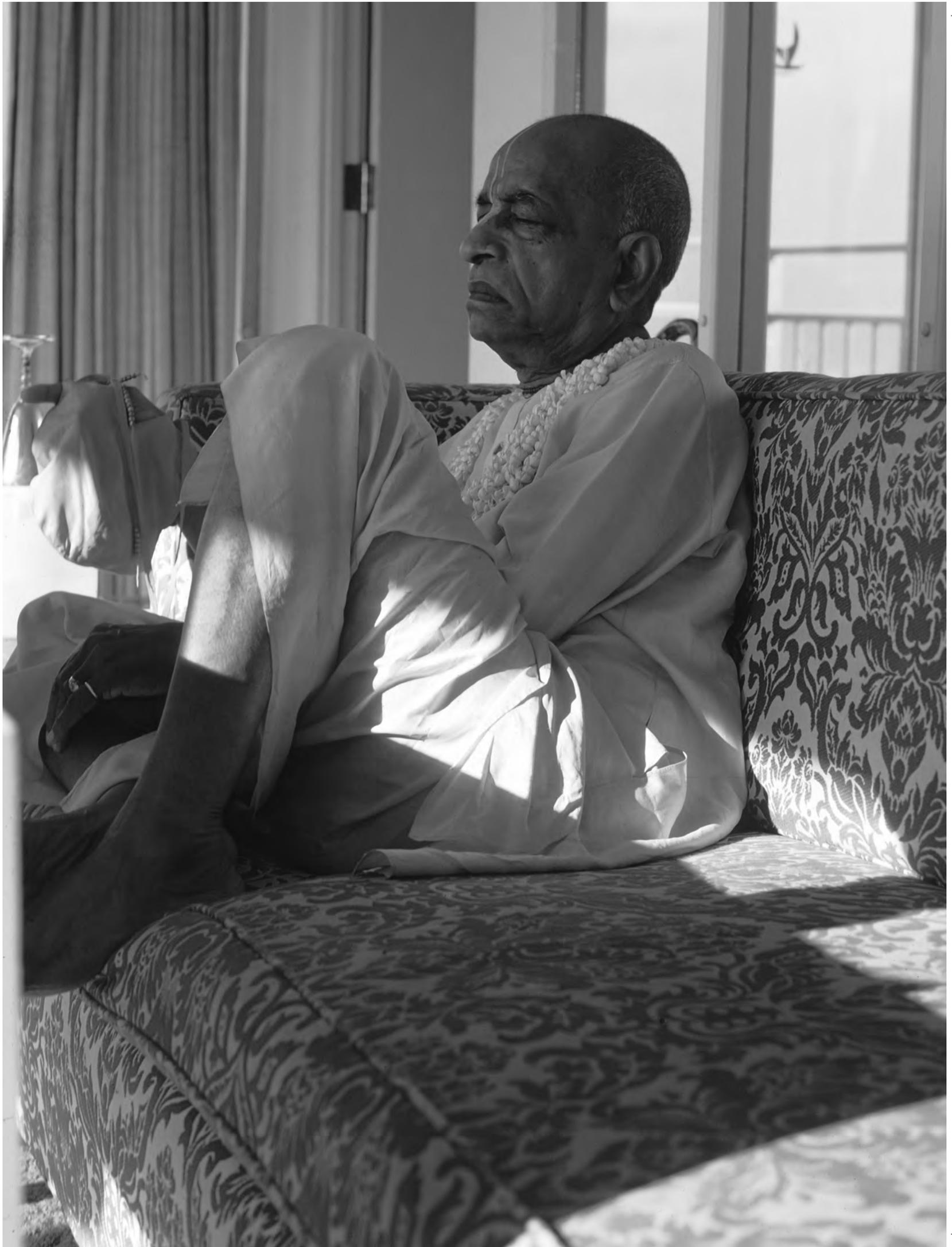
But then through all the din your instructions rang through, and we acknowledged them with an exclamation of "Yes, Prabhupāda is right! There is no hope in this material world."

It's with this backdrop that we wonder how it is that we have wandered into this oasis called ISKCON, the paradise island in the swarming ocean seas? We wonder how in this paradise, in a small location in the far corner of South Africa, there is a place called Lenasia, where there are two effulgent personalities called Gaura and Nitāi, with long upraised arms, smiling blissfully at Their long-lost dependents?

How is it that the most beautiful Lords embrace a part of the world that has no significance compared to Cape Town, Johannesburg, or New York City? How is it that in this remote land They draw the attention of so many lost souls from far and wide? Who is the magician that has brought such wonder to our lives?

Like an expert artist, you waved your hand without a wand, and so many things have happened. Even in little Lenasia, a budding group of servants makes every effort to please you and our Lordships. We put our heads together, embracing headaches, differences of opinions, contrasting ideas, and opposing personalities to finally come to a decision on how to give the maximum pleasure to you, and then we resoundingly exclaim, "For you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are willing to do everything."

It is in this spirit of embracing anything, even if displeasing to us, for your pleasure that we wish to push the success of ISKCON Lenasia forward. Their Lordships came here, and we want to make this the best place for Them. We want to make it a place that devotees in every corner of the world will take note of, exclaiming, "Just see Śrīla Prabhupāda's magic! Lenasia is a spiritual haven for the devotees! They have worked hard to make him proud through co-operation, communion, and love."



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Yes, it sounds like a pipe dream, but it is you who have given us the inspiration to dream. Yes, it's farfetched, but what is farfetched for you? Yes it requires hard work, but what work is hard when it's for you? Anything for you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We only have one request. You are the magician, but we are simply feeble fools. Please, if it pleases you, transform our feeble attempts at pleasing you into a grand success. No, we don't want any glory; we just want to show the world that your mercy is so great that it can make even feeble fools like us victorious. A miracle here will give others like us the inspiration to ultimately exceed our attempts. In this way, please enable us to become the fuel of never-ending attempts to please you. May the effulgence of your lotus feet blind our eyes to the false glitter of this material world and draw us ever closer to serving your ISKCON with every breath.

We take inspiration from our heroes, extolled in such books as *Miracle on Second Avenue*. This book shows us how so many have already achieved what we ask for. It tells stories of faith and dedication, love and trust, success and satisfaction. Now it's our turn.

Thank you for everything, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Pleasing you is our only focus. May this Vyāsa-pūjā celebration broadcast all your glories as a true servant of your Guru Mahārāja.

Your servants at ISKCON Lenasia, South Africa.

London (Soho)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your service to the Divine Couple and the Guru *paramparā*!

At the ripe old age of sixty-nine you came and planted the seed of *bhakti* in the West, without discrimination. We have no words to express our gratitude for this supreme gift, and we remain indebted to you in this life and for many lifetimes ahead. By your instructions we can know the true purpose of life and the very essence of how to live it.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are lost and seeking guidance at every step of our lives. As bewildered, naive souls, we stand at the shore of the ocean of devotional service, hesitant to take up spiritual life. We seek inspiration from you to enable us to dive deep and retrieve the nectar from the pearls of wisdom that you have invested in your books. We are like infants struggling to swim on our own, but we have full faith that by your oceanic, divine grace we will be able to attain the shelter of the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

You are the personification of unconditional love and unalloyed service to Kṛṣṇa. It is due to your tireless efforts that many thousands and millions of people around the world have come to know about Kṛṣṇa and are seriously practicing spiritual life. We are eternally grateful to you for giving us Kṛṣṇa in the form of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara, your favorite Deities and the first to come to ISKCON. By your causeless mercy you "stole" Them and placed Them in the center of London. Even the most sinful cannot escape being captivated by Their beauty.

This temple is the heartbeat of ISKCON, a spiritual oasis in the blazing fire of material existence that is London; it is our lifeline, taking us back home to Kṛṣṇa. You once described London as hell on earth, and sometimes when we say to our colleagues "I'm going to Soho," they laugh. However, one just has to visit here to understand how you have created a spiritual heaven in this hellish place. Out of your unlimited compassion the short-lived, quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, and disturbed souls of Kali-yuga have a soothing shelter in the very capital of Kali, London.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you made a house in which we can all live peacefully and happily together, where we have access to intimate service, good association, gorgeous Deity worship, daily *harināmas*, and opulent *prasādam*. Through your books, lectures, personal example, and sincere disciples you continue to inspire and engage us all in the sweet service of the Lord. We have such good opportunities here to distribute your books and spread the mercy all over the world from our doorstep. So much mercy is available in this temple—it is unlimited.

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we may serve you life after life, and that someday, in some lifetime, we may experience an ounce of the love and devotion you have for Kṛṣṇa. We have no qualification, yet by your grace you have created our good fortune so that we can get to know Kṛṣṇa. We humbly beg to become puppets in your hands. Please make us dance, make us dance, make us dance as you like. In this way please continue to shower your blessings upon us and inspire us to go back to Godhead in this lifetime.

Your loving servants at the ISKCON temple in the Soho section of London, UK.

London (South)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most glorious day of your appearance.

Each and every day we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for coming to the West and giving us Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We do not know where we would be without this amazing gift.

As we write this insignificant offering to Your Divine Grace, we are contemplating how fortunate we are to have you as our spiritual grandfather. You left the glorious land of Vraja at the ripe old age of sixty-nine just to save fallen souls like ourselves.

We had no idea of the meaning and purpose of life, what to speak of our destination after death. We had no idea that this life is meant not for sense gratification but for self-realization. We had no idea of the vast ocean of spiritually charged activities you gifted to us, such as chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, dancing before the Deities, honoring incredible *prasādam*, reading and studying transcendental literature, associating with wonderful devotees of the Lord, worshiping Tulasī, and observing Ekādaśī.

How great you are to have opened our eyes with the torchlight of knowledge through your transcendental books! We can see you face to face through your wonderful Bhaktivedanta purports.

*sādhūnām sama-cittānām sutarām mat-kṛtātmanām
darśanām no bhaved bandhaḥ puṁso 'kṣṇoḥ savitur yathā*

“When one is face to face with the sun, there is no longer darkness for one’s eyes. Similarly, when one is face to face with a sādhu, a devotee, who is fully determined and surrendered to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, one will no longer be subject to material bondage.” (*Śrīmad-Bhagavatam* 10.10.41)

How great you are to have given us the opportunity to fully understand within this very lifetime all these amazing things! Simply we have to make some endeavor with a little positive service attitude.

Soon we will have the opportunity to visit the great holy lands of Vṛndāvana and Māyāpur, which you left in 1965 to preach the glories of the Lord. It is so inspiring to know that during this *yātrā* we will be having *darśana* of the beautiful Deities you installed in Vṛndāvana, and that we will be able to reside

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in the glorious Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple and associate with devotees who have dedicated their lives to serving your mission. We will try to learn more and more from these advanced souls.

Concerning the holy land of Māyāpur, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura made so many predictions, which you are fulfilling. One of these was the development of a huge temple in the birthplace of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. This vision is now being realized by the great efforts of your devotees as they build the great Temple of the Vedic Planetarium according to your divine instructions.

Although our center in South London is insignificant in comparison to the glorious temples in Vṛndāvana and Māyāpur, in our small way we are trying to please you by developing a mood of service and gratitude toward Their Lordships, Your Divine Grace, and the devotees by holding various *sat-saṅgas* and other *saṅgas*.

Our Sunday Feast *sat-saṅga* is becoming more and more popular. The children's Saṅga is attracting the young and their parents. The *Bhagavad-gītā* home *sat-saṅgas* are gathering pace. The food for life program is reaching out to the community. The temple is open every day, all day, due to our wonderful resident *pūjārīs*. There are *harināmas*, distribution of *Bhagavad-gītās*, music classes, yoga classes, festivals in the local community, twenty-four-hour *kīrtanas*, and so much more.

All this is possible only due to Your Divine Grace's blessings. Without your benedictions, where would we be? Perhaps in some pub, or on a beach, or more likely in a hospital, not knowing what the future beholds. You have opened our eyes and given us the opportunity to associate with devotees of the Lord and read *sāstra* in order to re-establish our relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Although unworthy, we are very grateful for this opportunity and hope to prove our gratitude not only by our words but also by our deeds and our desire to serve you more and more.

Your fallen servants in the ISKCON temple in South London, UK

Lutotin

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

In our lives of trying to become devotees of the Lord, every day, from morning to night, we are accompanied by you in many forms. Regardless of what kind of service we perform, you are in our lives everywhere, all the time. You are the one who has created the ISKCON movement and thus given us shelter. You are its founder-*ācārya* and preeminent *śikṣā-guru*. And under your supervision we are all able to harvest the fruits of practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness when we properly follow your instructions under the shelter of your bona fide representatives.

It is not enough just to "believe and thus be redeemed." No. The process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is based on practical engagement of the body, mind, and words in the loving devotional service of the Lord, through His representative. To be under your shelter therefore means to be actively following your instructions and fulfilling your desires. Then we can be sure we're on the right path and attain a bona fide understanding of your teachings.

So please give us Kṛṣṇa conscious intelligence to properly understand your legacy as a whole, and to practically apply and preach your teachings accordingly. We have your teachings in your books, conversations, letters, lectures, etc. That is our treasure. ISKCON is yours, and we are all your servants here, privileged to be instruments for manifesting your vision of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Thank you very much for creating this opportunity for us fallen souls of Kali-yuga. We have no good qualifications, but we are confident that sincerely endeavoring to act according to your instructions in the system of *guru-paramparā* will bring us to the *uttama gati*, the highest perfection.

Your servants at the ISKCON preaching center in Lutotin, Czech Republic.

Madrid

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

For some years now I have not written a Vyāsa-pūjā offering, because I did not feel qualified to glorify you in an appropriate way. You have thousands of followers who are much more proficient at extolling your divine character. Nevertheless, having a position of responsibility in your ISKCON society, I feel writing an homage to you is an obligation I don't want to shun.

Your powerful presence has filled me with admiration and gratitude, and has inspired me to become involved in ISKCON. You have changed my life, and although I do not yet have a sincere desire to go back to Kṛṣṇa, I do have a strong desire to be a Prabhupādānuga, life after life.

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Madrid, Spain.

(written by Jayanta Dāsa)

Mafikeng

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

From you we learned that we are not these African bodies but are spirit souls—eternal, blissful, and

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

full of knowledge. No one else in this world had ever told us that, so you're special to us. You wrote so many books to keep us away from *māyā*. You gave us so many straightforward instructions concerning what to do with our senses, mind, and intelligence to achieve *kṛṣṇa-prema*.

You came into our lives when we were going through rough struggles while trying to attain happiness through materialism and sense gratification under the influence of Western civilization. By your mercy you saved us from this blazing inferno. You taught us when to rest, when to wake up, and what to eat. And of course you taught us to chant the *mahā-mantra*, the easiest way back to Godhead.

We never met you personally, Śrīla Prabhupāda, but we have met you in our dreams, and the vivid memories of you from those dreams are as real to us as if we had met you personally. There is no difference. Your appearing in our dreams confirms to us that you are still with us. As a result, we remain convinced that you're our eternal *śikṣā-guru*, and we will serve you by surrendering our lives to you to help you accomplish the mission of your guru.

We are following your instructions, and we will keep on following them. Consequently we have registered some victories and success in our material and spiritual lives. Because of your compassion, we are fully engaged in the service of the holy name. We are busy distributing your books to our fellow Africans, as per your instruction. Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your compassion. We are forever grateful to you.

Your servants in the ISKCON temple in Mafikeng, North West Province, South Africa.

(written by Jaya Gopāla Dāsa)

Malaga

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humblest and most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu said that by our own efforts it is not possible to comprehend the essence of the holy scriptures, even after many lifetimes of careful study. However, one can grasp the core of all spiritual knowledge by attentively serving those distinguished souls who have dedicated their lives in the service of God. We have been fortunate enough to have come into contact with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You will always be our Guru Mahārāja, and our only hope is to gain but a glimmer of your immense wisdom.

You effortlessly demonstrated humble behavior, just like a blade of grass, but you were tolerant like a tree, you respected everyone, no matter how lost, and you steered us all toward the path of *bhakti*. Your demeanor was soft when required and stern when an instruction had to be underlined. Some witnessed your shining example directly, while many of us have the legacy of your radiant teachings via your prolific writings. There have been many versions of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, but only the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* was written by a truly surrendered devotee of the Lord, an *ācārya*. An *ācārya* is one who selflessly yields to

Homages from ISKCON Centers

the previous teachers; therefore his knowledge is true to its source. In his diary Tamāl Krishna Goswami recalls this incident from June 1977:

In the evening, when I expressed my appreciation for his books, Śrīla Prabhupāda began to cry and said, “I am only child. But I have tried to please my Guru Mahārāja. I have not written. It is Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa and my Guru Mahārāja.”

You have taught us by example, Śrīla Prabhupāda, O supreme master. You have shown us by your actions that your excellence stemmed from being the perfect disciple. At Kosi, in Vraja-dhāma, when many of your godbrothers went on *parikramā* to see the Deity of Śeṣaśāyī Viṣṇu, you stayed by the feet of your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and listened intently to his discourse for several hours. He was very pleased, and later, when your name was suggested for initiation, he said, “Yes, he likes to hear. He does not go away. I have marked him. I will accept him as my disciple.”

We can never fully understand the profound gift you have given us—the gift of divine love. As His Holiness Rādhānātha Swami once described it, it is the gift of utter sacrifice of your body, your mind, your words, your very life for the welfare of each and every one of us. You have planted the seed of *bhakti* in our hearts, and we must nurture it and ensure that it grows into a healthy creeper and continues to blossom. Rooting out the pride in our hearts, we must be completely open and faithful to your teachings. We must aspire to be sincere disciples, to humble ourselves meekly before you and say, “I know nothing, you know everything, please instruct me.”

Your servants at Villa Varṣāṇā Mandir, Málaga, Spain.

(written by Bhaktin Sara)

Melbourne

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-salākayā
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-bhīṣṭaṁ 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 laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

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

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I am sitting in my office, the room utilized as your massage room on your first visit to these premises in 1975. In the May mornings the weather was cool, the beginning of winter. The early winter midday sun streams through the north-facing window, where you sat to receive your prelunch massage. The view from the window encompasses the urban skyline of the central business district. A reminder we are here to do your bidding, to give Kṛṣṇa to everyone.

Directly opposite the office door is your *darśana* room. The chocolate-brown parquet floor covered by a maroon Belgian-style rug lends a regal air to the room, with walls painted powder blue and soft velvet curtains of a similar hue. What was once the Christian Brothers chapel is now Prabhupāda House, the place where you translated your books, notably *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, where you counseled your disciples and entertained guests, government ministers, religious leaders, and the rank and file. Next door is your bedroom. (The small wire-sprung bed topped by a small innerspring mattress is now kept in the *darśana* room.) In your bedroom are your desk, topped with reading lamp and pictures, along with your shoes, *japa* bag, books, and clothes. All these are reminders of your magnanimous presence here.

Downstairs is the courtyard across which you strode to enter the stately temple room, regally decorated, marble polished floor shining with the light of the reflected chandeliers. Each of the Deities here has a connection to you. You installed Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi in 1975, at the inauguration of our current temple at 197 Danks St. At that time you referred to the temple as the Melbourne Mahāprabhu Mandir. During your visit in 1976 you observed that the worship in Melbourne was as good as that in New York or Los Angeles, a reminder that we must maintain that standard of worship forever as our guiding light.

Next to Gaura-Nitāi are Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vallabha, installed and first worshiped by you in 1973. You personally carried Them to Melbourne with Śrūta-kīrti Prabhu and Bali Mārdana Prabhu and installed Them in the 14 Burnett St., St. Kilda, temple. On the same altar are Choṭa Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, installed by you in 1972, and alongside Them are Jagannātha, Balarāma and Subhadrā, standing resplendent on Their marble altar. You attended Their Ratha-yātrā in 1974, a parade that almost didn't take place because the devotees owed a mountain of unpaid fines. If Madhudviṣa Swami hadn't begged for a "fair go," the parade might not have gone on at all. A reminder we must push on the *sankīrtana* movement despite whatever odds are stacked against us.

You walked the whole four-kilometer parade, accompanying the devotees, who were ecstatic in the company of their *sankīrtana* party leader, the commander in chief of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. You grinned at the inclusion of the Scottish Pipes Band, which was your suggestion to Madhudviṣa Swami. You showed by example how everything can be engaged in the Lord's service.

Opposite the Deities in the temple room, you sit on your wood-and-marble *vyāsāsana*. It is from here that you preached boldly to your fledgling movement. You once commented that you traveled so that your disciples would not fall down. Your *mūrti* form confirms whose temple this is and whom we should serve. It confirms that our service is to push on the movement you started over four decades ago.

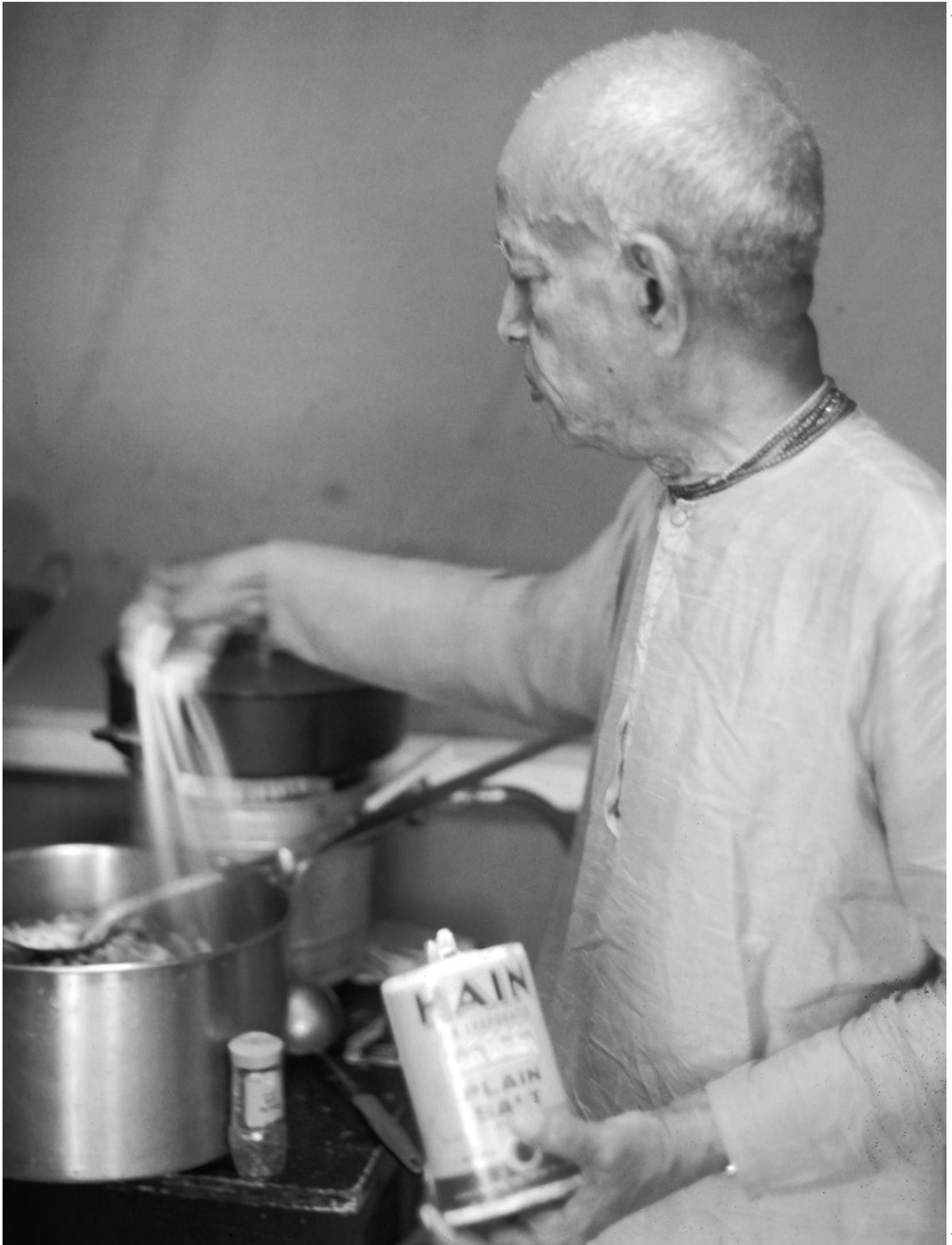
Your presence is uniquely felt in this temple, Śrīla Prabhupāda. It is the taste of Vaikuṅṭha. A visiting Christian priest once told me after eating his first vegetarian meal here how much he was struck by the spiritual atmosphere. He recognized the same consciousness he had experienced in his visits to temples in Southeast Asia. (He additionally commented on how much he relished his first meal of *prasādam*.)

We recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the installation of Choṭa Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Next year will be the 40th anniversary of the installation of Rādhā-Vallabha, and in 2015 we will host the grand celebration of the installation of Gaura-Nitāi and the opening of the Melbourne Mahāprabhu Mandir.

We pray that you will bless us so we can honor the service of those devotees who were inspired to assist you in your great mission. We also pray to be given the strength to continue the work so that it may come out successful. There are always challenges. Following in your footsteps, we are sure they can be overcome.

You write in your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Ādi-līlā* 17.213:

Generally no one complains against us to have us removed from a city. Although such an attempt was indeed made in Melbourne, Australia, the attempt failed. Thus we are now introducing this



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Hare Kṛṣṇa movement in great cities of the world like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, Sydney, Melbourne, and Auckland, and by the grace of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu everything is going on nicely. People are happy to accept the principle of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, and the result is most satisfactory.

We beg to remain

Your servants at the Mahāprabhu Mandir, Melbourne, Australia.

(written by Aniruddha Dāsa)

Miami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, we are inspired to meditate on your wonderful Vaiṣṇava qualities and transcendental activities. We contemplate how wonderful it is that in only twelve years you single-handedly wrote so many Kṛṣṇa conscious books, touched the hearts of millions of fortunate souls, established 108 temples, guided your young disciples, established an international spiritual movement, and so much more. Clearly you were especially empowered by the Lord to deliver the sacred mission of Lord Caitanya to the Western countries and the world.

It seems impossible to imagine ourselves executing pure devotional service on a par with your good self. Still, we need to take care not to go to the other extreme. Through your books, lectures, letters, and personal instructions, as well as by your perfect example, you gave us the means to become perfect human beings through the practice of devotional service. Furthermore, you expected us to perfect our lives by following those teachings. It's often difficult to resist the temptation to try to justify our lack of determination and desire to surrender to your orders. How often have we thought or said to the temple authorities, "Why are you asking me to follow such-and-such rule or standard? I never said I was perfect." Or "I know others who are also not perfect, so you have no right to criticize me." If we think like that, we show that we are ready to wait until the whole world becomes Kṛṣṇa conscious before we will take spiritual life seriously.

For us, your disciples and granddisciples, the important thing to understand about your life is how you became empowered to execute such devotional service. Then we can be inspired to also become empowered. Certainly, you became empowered because you are a pure devotee of the Lord. But practically, what does it mean to be a pure devotee? It means that your thinking, feeling, and willing were all cent-per-cent directed toward the service to the Lord. It means that every moment of the day you were thinking how to please your spiritual master and Lord Caitanya. In other words, you used every ounce of your energy in the service of the Lord.

As spiritual beings, we all inherently have the same spiritual potency. But due to the influence of the material modes of nature, instead of struggling to see how we can increase our devotional service we often struggle to avoid it. Too often we try to justify our failure to come to a higher level of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the excuse that "Śrīla Prabhupāda could do something wonderful for his spiritual master, but it will never be possible for me." In 1972 you wrote to one of your disciples,

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Actually, Krishna does not care for how much we give to Him, but He sees how much we are keeping back for ourselves. There is the story of Kholaveca Sridhara, a devotee of Lord Caitanya, who although he was a very poor man, gave half of his meager income for worshipping Mother Ganges, and by so doing, he greatly pleased the Lord.

This instruction is so wonderful because it means that we all have the same opportunity to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. None of us are materially equal. However, no matter what abilities we have or do not have, Lord Kṛṣṇa is only concerned that we engage everything that we have in His devotional service.

Not only is Lord Kṛṣṇa asking us to give the best that we can, but He is offering to help us all along the way. Lord Kṛṣṇa says in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (9.22), “But those who worship Me with devotion, meditating on My transcendental form—to them I carry what they lack and preserve what they have.” The significance of this statement is that if we give everything we can to the Lord, He will empower us to do wonderful things if we so desire. In reality, your empowerment to render extraordinary devotional service and spread this movement is the direct result of your love of and surrender to the Lord. Superficially, when you came to America, you appeared to be an old man in poor health, without money, without friends and supporters—in short, without any material means. In spite of these apparent shortcomings, you engaged all your energy in the Lord’s service, and Lord Kṛṣṇa personally carried what you lacked. The result was that He empowered you to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. The Lord’s promise is also there for all of us, too.

We pray that we may become sincerely dedicated to serving your mission, leaving aside all personal desires and envy of others. We have spent millions of lifetimes serving Māyā. Please help us dedicate this one lifetime to serving Lord Kṛṣṇa. You gave us all the key to the spiritual world. All we have to do is put it in the lock and turn it. Please empower us to do something wonderful for you. The debt to the spiritual master can never be repaid, but still we must dedicate our life and our existence to attempting to repay that debt. Lord Caitanya predicted that the holy names would be spread to every town and village in the world. We aspire to make Miami a Kṛṣṇa conscious city and to show our appreciation to you by offering such a transcendental place back to you as a most wonderful gift. Please bless us that we can show our love for you by working together cooperatively to spread this movement in a significant way.

Your humble servants at the ISKCON temple in Miami, Florida, USA.

Montreal

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

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

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

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

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for the compassion and kindness you showed by departing Vṛndāvana to fulfill Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's order to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the English-speaking world.

Your destination, New York City, the hub of the modern world, presented a fertile preaching ground, but you would have to struggle without support from India. Despite your efforts at canvassing friends, politicians, and godbrothers, no assistance arrived. Nonetheless, you struggled alone to please your spiritual master by establishing Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West.

Soon after your arrival, leading members of New York society offered advice. Dr. Mishra suggested, "Swamiji, better you adopt some of the Western habits to ease yourself into the American crowd." Allen Ginsberg, who had experienced chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa in public, felt that the people were not ready for Kṛṣṇa just yet and proposed that the society be called the International Society for God Consciousness. However, you refused to water down your message. The *saiṅkīrtana* movement was too important to allow tinkering.

Despite hardships and setbacks, you had faith that Lord Kṛṣṇa had a plan. Otherwise, why would He bring you to this terrible place? Missing Vṛndāvana, not caring for your personal comfort, you prayed for the deliverance of the people. You prayed that they would be able to receive the message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

As a young man you were disgusted by many so-called sādhus who were actually cheaters. And now they were beginning their emigration to America. More than ever you felt the urgency of preaching the pure teachings of Lord Caitanya, as inculcated by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

Not intimidated by Western values, nor judging our level of consciousness, you presented the full spectrum of *bhakti-yoga*. With the rays of the Gauḍīya *siddhānta* you dissipated the fog and darkness of addiction, doubt, misgivings, and pride. With the sword of knowledge you cut to pieces our misunderstandings.

It was only through your teachings and example that we came to know

- We are not ocean surfers but sufferers in the waves of *māyā*.
- We are not this body.
- The scientists are all nonsense rascals.
- The moon landing was a hoax.
- Modern society is simply giving us a postdated check.
- Drugs cannot provide spiritual enlightenment.
- Kṛṣṇa is not responsible for our suffering; we are the architect of our destiny.
- Kṛṣṇa's creation is perfect; it is our desire to be the supreme enjoyer that is defective.
- We are never independent and always under the control of material nature. Surrendering to Kṛṣṇa is the only alternative.
- We cannot become God, but we can become godly.
- Vegetarianism is not enough; even pigeons are vegetarian.
- Despite the widespread protest against the Vietnam War, war is sometimes necessary, as shown by Kṛṣṇa convincing Arjuna that it was his duty to fight in the Battle of Kurukṣetra, .
- There are not many gods to worship, but there are many forms of God that are worshipable.
- Aspiring for heaven is foolish, since it is only a temporary stage of existence.
- To become one with Brahman is artificial and impermanent.
- Worship of the demigods like Lord Śiva or Durgā can only give material benefits.
- Simply by taking *prasādam* one develops love of God.
- Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa worship is above Lakṣmī-Nārāyaṇa or Sītā-Rāma worship.
- *Mādhurya-rasa* is the most intimate of the five relationships with Kṛṣṇa.
- *Vipralambha-sevā* absorbed in *parakīya-rasa* is the supreme form of worship.
- Spiritual experience is achieved in Kali-yuga by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*śreyah śrāyo rasavad amalāṁ sac-cid-ānanda-rūpaṁ
cittāhlādaṁ madhura-madhuraṁ sat-phalaṁ bhakti-vallyāḥ*

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*viṣṇor nāma-caritam amṛtaṁ ye pibanti pramodā
jīvan muktāsta iha na punar mṛtyu-sindhau viśanti*

“The nectar of Śrī Hari’s holy names and qualities is pure, eternal, blissful, most sweet, most auspicious, full of knowledge, and full of transcendental mellows, and it is the ripened fruit of the creeper of devotional service. Those who drink this nectar attain liberation even while living in this world. They will never again enter into the ocean of repeated birth and death.” (*Śrī Hari-bhakti-kalpa-latikā* 4.22; author unknown)

What you have given is not armchair philosophy but a practical way to approach God. To complete your act of mercy, you gave us an opportunity to come to the highest level of worship by installing Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Deities in every major city of the world.

Now the floodgates of love of God have opened. The simple formula given by Śrī Caitanya Mahaprabhu and followed by the Six Gosvāmīs—associating with devotees, chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, hearing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, living in a holy place, and worshiping the Deity (including honoring Their *prasādam*)—gives any sincere seeker an opportunity to go back home, back to Godhead.

In trying to carry all the pearls and diamonds gifted by you, we feel pained to see that some are slipping from our hands. Realizing the value of this treasure, we try to pick them up and place them close to our hearts.

So we beg that on this most auspicious occasion celebrating your appearance, you continue showering your mercy upon us. It is all that we are made of.

Your servants at ISKCON’s Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Manohara temple in Montreal, Canada.

(written by Lakṣmīnātha 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!

By your mercy the new building for the Bhaktivedanta Swami Mission School is almost finished. Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā, who will be worshiped in the new building, have already arrived at Hare Krishna Land, and Their worship is going on at a temporary facility. Their Lordships also took a ride on Their carts during a Ratha-yātrā festival in January. We pray for your blessings so that Their Lordships may move to Their permanent residence in the new building as soon as possible, enabling the present school in Hare Krishna Land to also be moved.

This year the Integrated Preaching Program has started offering a Bhakti-śāstrī course in Hindi, in addition to its existing English course. We have also started a new program, “Janma Mṛtyu Jarā Vyādhi,” to expand the distribution of your transcendental literatures. Under this program we have distributed *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* at several crematoriums in Mumbai. We pray for your mercy to distribute your books in hospitals and old age homes in the future.

Your vision to demonstrate “simple living and high thinking” is taking good shape in Nilachal Dham, the farm project of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī in Talasari. The Deities of Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā were installed at this farm in January of this year. In the *gośālā* about twenty cows are cared for, and we are manufacturing milk products on an experimental basis. We have also acquired

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about twenty acres of farmland in neighboring Umbergaon. Please bestow your mercy for the success of these farm projects.

The Deities of Śrī Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān have agreed to be installed here at Juhu to bless all the Rāma *bhaktas* of Mumbai. This year we had a grand celebration of Śrī Rāma-navamī. During the festival, His Holiness Bhakti Rasāmṛta Mahārāja recited *rāma-kathā* for five days before a large and enthusiastic congregation. Please bless us to expand this celebration in the future.

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

Your insignificant servants at the ISKCON temple in Juhu, Mumbai, India.

Mumbai (Mira Road)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The disciple gets a chance to attain pure devotional service by associating with a bona fide spiritual master. One gets the association of such a pure devotee by the grace of Kṛṣṇa. By such good fortune the seed of the pure devotional service is planted. By regular hearing and chanting, that seed begins to sprout, and eventually the creeper of devotion thus nourished pierces through the covering of this material world and comes to rest at the lotus feet of the Lord.

No experience in this world can compare with the association of a pure devotee of the Lord. The pure devotee is fixed in Kṛṣṇa's service. Therefore he sees all living entities as Kṛṣṇa's parts and tries to bring them to Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa, who resides within everyone's heart, reciprocates with His pure devotee by inspiring the conditioned souls to engage in pure devotional service. Because the pure devotee does not desire anything for sense gratification, he is peaceful. The conditioned souls become peaceful by the association of such a pure devotee. Without the association of a pure devotee, the conditioned souls suffer due to hunting after material enjoyment. Such unfortunate persons work hard day and night trying to satisfy their senses. Others, frustrated with such a futile attempt to become happy, seek impersonal liberation. Still others try to attain yogic powers, or *siddhis*, such as being able to control others' minds. But only the pure devotee can ever be truly peaceful.

As mentioned above, the creeper growing from the seed of pure devotional service, when properly watered, expands beyond this material world. The creeper can be destroyed at the root if one offends a pure devotee. Other seeds may be sown within the heart. One who is unfortunate may get the *karma-bīja*, *jñāna-bīja*, political *bīja*, or social or philanthropic *bīja*. But the creepers that grow from these seeds do not produce pure devotional service. Pure devotional service sprouts only from the *bhakti-latā-bīja*, which comes to the disciple who satisfies the spiritual master. Otherwise, the results of *karma*, *jñāna*, or *yoga* take root within the heart.

The *bhakti-latā* grows by the watering process of hearing and chanting, which pleases the spiritual master. One can satisfy the spiritual master by repeating his instructions, and by this watering process the creeper of pure devotional service grows and grows. There is no better way to repeat the instructions of Śrīla Prabhupāda than by distributing his books. As Śrīla Prabhupāda once said, "If you really want to please me, then distribute my books." This is the perfect way to water the *bhakti-latā-bīja*.

On this wonderful day of your appearance, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray at your lotus feet that you may be pleased upon us. For without your satisfaction our efforts will not bring the desired result of pure devotional service. We again and again fall at your lotus feet and beg for that thing which is not

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obtainable by traveling to all the universes. We pray for that which is the only thing worth struggling for, pure devotional service.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura writes in a song from *Śaraṇāgati*:

*sarvasva tomār, caraṇe saṁpiyā,
poḍechi tomāra ghare
tumi to' ṭhākur, tomāra kukur,
boliyā jānaho more*

Now that I have surrendered all I possess, I fall prostrate before Your house. You are the Supreme Lord. Kindly consider me Your household dog.

*bāṅdhiyā nikaṭe, āmāre pālibe,
rohībo tomāra dwāre
pratīpa-janere, āsite nā dibo,
rākhībo gaḍera pāre*

Chain me nearby and maintain me as You will. I shall remain at Your doorstep and allow no enemies to enter. I will keep them beyond the moat surrounding Your home.

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to surrender unto your house, i.e., ISKCON. And by your causeless mercy please consider us your household dogs. Please keep us chained nearby. Maintain us so that we will always remain in ISKCON.

With great pleasure we present before you the latest construction updates and preaching updates for the Mira Road temple.

Temple Construction Update: The overall structure of the temple is complete. We were able to celebrate the Gaura Pūrṇimā *abhiṣeka* on the ground floor for the last two years. The marble cladding of the temple is pending. We aim to complete the exterior work of the temple by October 2012. We need your blessings to make this attempt successful

Preaching Report: The Sunday Love Feast program is very successful. About five hundred Hindi-speaking congregational devotees attend. Last September we started an English program on Saturdays, and about fifty devotees regularly attend.

The Upāsana Festival is conducted for adolescent boys every month; about one hundred attend. In addition, the boys can attend various Bhakti Vriksha classes every week. Occasionally they go for *yātrās*, where they can the associate with our local leading devotees. This association makes the boys very strong in devotion.

Sandesh Festivals for adolescent girls are gradually becoming regular due to the collective effort of ten sincere girls. At present about thirty girls attend the program.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the children's programs are going on very well. Now about fifteen teachers conduct summer camps at their homes. Last year we conducted a Spiritual Science Exhibition, in which sixty children participated. They made fifty models based on the pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa and Lord Rāma. The children very enthusiastically participated in the whole exhibition, which lasted from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

The counseling system is expanding: now there are around twenty counselors.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy we had a very successful Ratha-yātrā in Kandivali on New Years Day, attended by thousands of devotees. On January 26th we had a very successful Ratha-yātrā in Thane, also attended by thousands of devotees. Many Ratha-yātrās and Bhāgavata Kathās are happening through the agency of ISKCON Mira Road.

Wonderful preaching is also going on in the satellite centers of ISKCON Mira Road, at Vapi, Thane, Kalayan, Borivili, and Bhavnagar. They all have the potential of becoming full-fledged ISKCON centers in the near future.

Your mercy is unlimited, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and even though our efforts are full of shortcomings, our

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hope is that you will continue to accept them, as you have done in the past.

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 passage of time, not decrease. Please bless us so that we can serve your lotus feet steadily. We pray that we may always be an object of your compassion, that you empower us to deliver your compassion to others, and that we develop deeper compassion for others.

Your insignificant servants at the ISKCON temple on Mira Road, Mumbai, India.

Nagpur

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

On your auspicious appearance day we would like to tell you how we are progressing with your mission in Nagpur.

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha have moved from the outskirts of the city right into the center of town, where

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there is a much better chance to spread the divine message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

More visitors are coming, and we are planning to intensify our preaching activities and *sādhana*. Our BBT team is steadily increasing book distribution, and we are exploring new avenues for distribution, such as the “Janma, Mrityu, Jara Vyadi” program.

We have also inaugurated the Midday Meal Program, in which we serve up to fifty thousand plates of delicious *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* every school day to the schoolchildren of Nagpur.

We have also begun the Bhakti Vriksa Program among the congregational devotees to insure that they are spiritually well nourished and cared for. Now we have three branches, and several more are pending. We take inspiration from Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura’s Nāma-haṭṭa program and try to model ours after his.

Our college preaching team is doing very well and have plans to enroll another thirty male students in the VOICES program in the near future, bringing to sixty the number of practicing college boys.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we need your mercy to overcome our inner weaknesses, and we need your blessings to resolve our personal differences so that we can focus on your mission and not get caught up in Kali’s trap. We all want to please you by cooperating, and we sincerely pray that you will help us become unified and strong so that we can maximize our offering unto your lotus feet.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we take shelter at your lotus feet. You are the savior of the most fallen.

Śrīla Prabhupāda-kī jaya!

Guru-paramparā-kī jaya!

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Nagpur, India.

New Biharvan

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you! All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Baṅkebihārī!

Exactly fifty years ago you published the first volume of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, with your English translations and Bhaktivedānta purports. It was a significant victory in the long struggle to fulfill the instruction of your beloved spiritual master—to publish books and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in English. Indeed, it was a dream come true and a labor of love. You personally wrote, edited, published, and sold the first volume, working from your small room in the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple in Vṛndāvana.

Approximately ten years later your books arrived here in Boise, Idaho. A Macmillan *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, an ISKCON Press *Kṛṣṇa* book, and a 1968 *Teachings of Lord Chaitanya* found their way to the library of Boise State University, brought by one of your traveling *saṅkīrtana* devotees. From Vṛndāvana to a tiny Idaho town in just ten years! Most Americans still don’t know where Boise is, and at that time it must have been even more off the beaten path, with a population of less than 75,000 and no major cities for 350 miles in any direction. And yet your books had arrived in Boise, and a full set of *Śrīmad-*

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Bhāgavatams followed some fifteen years later, in 1986.

Today a community of devotees has grown and flourished around these first books. The study of your books, through Bhakti-śāstrī, Bhakti-vaibhava, and Bhakti-ṛkṣa classes, is more vibrant than ever, and the distribution of your books is seeing a promising resurgence. As one devotee child after another has enrolled in college here, Boise State University has become one of the most Kṛṣṇa-friendly campuses in America.

We no doubt relish your books and benefit from them, but it is far more difficult to imbibe your spirit of sacrifice, which brought the books here in the first place. You took risks that went beyond the call of duty or even the standard of sacrifice expected of a sādhu. After publishing the first volume of the *Bhāgavatam*, if you had decided to stay in Vṛndāvana and spend the rest of your life in *bhājana*, would anyone have criticized you? Far from it: most would have considered it the most reasonable decision for an elderly gentleman. If after suffering two heart attacks on the journey to America you had decided to turn around and take the next ship home, would anyone have criticized you? Of course not. No matter how great the cause, health always comes first. If after struggling a year in New York all alone and penniless you had decided to call it quits, would anyone have criticized you? To the contrary: people would have applauded you for having tried so heroically. And yet you forged ahead, because avoiding criticism was never your motivation. That may be the motivation of *jñānīs* and *yogīs*, who want to protect their reputations or their prospects for liberation, but your motivation was different—it was to please your spiritual master, to realize the vision of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, to fulfill the prediction of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. That, indeed, is the determination of a pure devotee.

Thanks to that determination, when the first devotees settled in Boise, a personal gift from you was already waiting for them in the form of your books. You clearly had a plan for Boise, and even now, as the community enters its third generation, we are watching that plan unfold. On this Vyāsa-pūjā day we pray that we can show our gratitude for this gift by giving to others what you have given us. We pray that we can develop the courage to follow your instructions and take some risks in Kṛṣṇa’s service. And we pray that we can somehow please you, even a little bit, in this little town in Idaho.

Your servants in New Biharvan, Boise, Idaho, USA.

(written by Rādhikā Ramaṇa Dāsa)

New Dvārakā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

No one in the history of the world has ever done what you did. No one has ever left home “at the fag end of life,” “with only a few books to sell for barely getting eatables,” and then succeeded in introducing a God-consciousness movement for saving humanity. When you were alone in New York, you wondered who would listen to you in that horrible, sinful place, but you were hoping that at least you could distribute a few of your books. Due to your pure devotion and unparalleled dedication to your spiritual master, all your dreams came true. Kṛṣṇa sent you some sincere boys and girls to be trained up for doing the work of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

To get a better idea of the magnitude of your accomplishment, I researched what other people had accomplished in the latter part of their life. On the Internet I found an article about “late bloomers.” It defined a “late bloomer” as an older person who was able to use his or her accumulated experience to

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an advantage in a particular field. I immediately thought of Your Divine Grace and the ingenious way you introduced the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness into the Western world, along with the simple method for realizing it—chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. You are a perfect example of “a late bloomer”! The article went on to give little biographies of late bloomers in the fields of acting, art, business, dance, sports, mathematics, music, film-making, and politics. And when I came to religion I was delighted to see your picture next to these words: “The great proponent of Gaudiya Vaishnavism A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, or the Hare Krishna movement, in 1966 at the age of 70. Within the final twenty years of his life Prabhupāda translated over sixty volumes of classic Vedic scriptures (such as the Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavata Purana) into the English language.” Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda-*kī jaya!* I was overjoyed to see this acknowledgment of your work, though it was of course extremely incomplete and inadequate.

Actually, what you did was nothing short of a miracle. Of course, you saw it as Kṛṣṇa’s miracle, and certainly it was. But in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.29.46 you give further insight into why Kṛṣṇa might perform such a miracle:

A pure devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is always thinking of how the fallen, conditioned souls can be delivered. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, influenced by the merciful devotee’s attempt to deliver the fallen souls, enlightens the people in general from within by His causeless mercy.

In light of this statement, you deserve credit for the success of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. It’s only due to your incredible sincerity and inconceivable determination that this movement even exists. You have created our good fortune in the manner described above. And you are continuing to create good fortune for countless others through the media of your books, temples, and genuine followers, all of which are expansions of your mercy.

Hopefully the day is not far off when the entire world will appreciate what a true benefactor you are, that what you’ve given this world—Kṛṣṇa consciousness—is its only hope. You once said that “in the future historians will study this period of world history and see how this movement has changed the world.” We feel confident that this is true, and we pray that you use us as your instruments to bring about the fulfillment of this prediction. Please help us become your qualified servants. Thank you for giving us this rare, incredible opportunity.

Your exceedingly grateful sons, daughters, and grandchildren in New Dvārakā, the ISKCON temple in Los Angeles, California, USA.

New Gokula

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our humble obeisances.

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

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

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

On this, your Vyāsa-pūjā day, we, the devotees of New Gokula Dhāma (ISKCON Vancouver, Canada), wish to acknowledge our great fortune to be servants at your lotus feet. The following offering, “In Gratitude,” expresses our feelings.

In Gratitude

In gratitude, we come before you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to acknowledge all that you have given and all that we have received by your kindness and mercy. We, as conditioned souls, were drifting, searching for life’s meaning but never finding it. Your coming into our lives gave us purpose and knowledge of how to live with goals and with a spiritual awareness of our real identity.

We did not know we were searching for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, a pure devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa sent by Lord Caitanya’s causeless mercy to save us. We find ourselves in your care at your lotus feet, as the recipients of your love and mercy.

Our good fortune cannot be measured. Through your books, your instructions, and the path of *bhakti-yoga*, you gave us the compass by which to live and to love. You have given us our life’s purpose. How can we thank you enough?

All was dark and meaningless before you came and flooded our world with your brilliant presentation of the Divine Couple, Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, and the knowledge of Their abode in the spiritual sky and the means by which we can attain it.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, because you accepted us as your followers, we have the blessing of knowing who is Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and that we have an eternal relationship with Him as His parts and parcels.

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

Your servants at New Gokula Dhāma, the ISKCON temple in Vancouver, Canada.

(written by Padyāvalī Devī Dāsī)

New Govardhana (San Diego)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I am writing this offering on behalf of all the devotees in the New Govardhana community—the temple staff and all the members of our growing congregation.

New Govardhana is one of your offerings to your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Everything that goes on here, from the daily worship of Their Lordships to all the preaching activities, as well as our individual development as devotees—all are aspects of your service to your guru. And you are kindly allowing us to assist you. New Govardhana is your gift to us in this sense: that you are engaging us in helping you in your devotional service.

By your mercy our service to you is expanding.

We have a vibrant, growing *brahmacārī āśrama*. New *bhaktas* are joining and becoming dedicated *brahmacārīs*.

Book distribution is expanding. We have one traveling party, and devotees go out locally too. Each

Homages from ISKCON Centers

month an average of six thousand copies of the *16 Rounds* magazine are distributed on racks throughout San Diego. Our book distributors and temple consistently rank high in the monthly North America Saṅkīrtana Newsletter.

The congregational preaching is in full swing. Every week there are three or four gatherings in homes around the city. Special membership seminars have been organized, as well as cooking classes. Congregational picnics and gatherings are highlights for our members, and a study program of your books just for members is being developed. Our priests take care of our congregation's request for weddings, funerals, *saṁskāras*, and *pūjās*.

Every Thursday night our Kṛṣṇa Lounge is packed with college students and other young guests. On Friday night there is a blissful *mahā-harināma* through the busy streets of downtown San Diego. On Saturdays we have "Bhajans in the Park"—a few hours of chanting and book and *prasādam* distribution in the middle of Balboa Park, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country. On Saturday night we have our Satsang Program in the temple for the Indian community, and on Sunday night is our famous Kṛṣṇa Fest. Our festivals of Janmāṣṭamī, Gaura Pūrṇimā, Rāma-navamī, etc., are attended by capacity crowds. And every week between four hundred and five hundred plates of lunch *prasādam* are distributed to students and faculty at the local universities.

The plans for the project in Escondido are moving ahead. The property is now hosting a few devotees who have started organic farming, and there is talk of adding a small *gosaḷā*. As the dedication and Kṛṣṇa consciousness of our congregation increases, the project will grow until there is a beautiful temple on the property and hundreds of guests visiting daily.

The temple here in Pacific Beach is being renovated in stages to better serve Their Lordships, the residents, and the guests.

If you were to visit, I know you would thank the devotees for all their hard work and would praise them for their accomplishments. Then you would ask us to double it—to keep increasing the quality and quantity of our service to Kṛṣṇa. You have full realization of the unlimited nature of devotional service. That is why you can be fully satisfied with our service and the next moment ask us to do more, to make our service to the devotees, to Kṛṣṇa, and the more than three million conditioned souls in San Diego more perfect.

Just as small children will ask their parents for money to buy the parents a gift, so we, on this most blessed day, beg you for your blessings and mercy so we can always be excited and sincere about increasing our service to you both externally and within our hearts. Please allow us to continue assisting you in your service to your spiritual master and Kṛṣṇa.

You taught us by your example that this is the most sublime meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā.

Your servants in New Govardhan, the ISKCON temple in San Diego, California, USA.

(written by Dharmasetu Dāsa)

New Māyāpur

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

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

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Trying to follow in the footsteps of your direct disciples who are preaching actively all around the world and managing your society, over the last two years or so we have been reorganizing your New Māyāpur temple in France.

You were proud of your farm community in Europe and affectionate to us who lived and served here, sentiments you expressed in a lecture on Christmas Day, 1976, in Bombay, a few months after your visit here.

We are now a little team of about fifteen devotees engaged in the various services needed by the community:

- Deity worship by serious and steady *pūjārīs* who have served for decades
- maintenance of the property
- reception of guests
- training new *bhaktas*
- agriculture with and without bulls, and cow *sevā*
- holding festivals throughout the year
- growing vegetables, fruits, and flowers in our garden for the Deities and the devotees.

There is not much preaching because of our isolation. We are hoping to set up a preaching center in a nearby city frequented by many tourists; there we could hold regular classes and *kīrtanas*.

Since you left us thirty-five years ago, many things have happened that disrupted the devotees' faith here in France. As a result, many of your French disciples left the society. Some gurus and *sannyāsīs* affiliated with the Gauḍīya Maṭha come regularly to preach close to New Māyāpur and in other parts of France, trying to implement a new system of initiation. Their teachings often contradict your instructions, and consequently it has become difficult to train new people in Kṛṣṇa consciousness according to your standards.

In a letter written in 1972 you said:

The standards I have already given you, now try to maintain them at all times under standard procedure. Do not try to innovate or create anything or manufacture anything, that will ruin everything.

We are happy that, according to your order, through these difficult years the GBC body has maintained your standards and is acting as a real support to our isolated temple. We are determined that despite all outside influences we will continue to maintain your ISKCON standards here in New Māyāpur.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue to shower your mercy on us so that we can just maintain what you have given us. Thank you for giving us such a wonderful *tīrtha* in the middle of France, where we can practice genuine devotional service under your guidance and receive many more souls who are searching for Kṛṣṇa. Although we do not have your physical association (*vapu*), we deeply appreciate your association through your instructions (*vāñī*). We are glad to be part of your ISKCON institution, which is so successful today around the world!

On this special day we would like to acknowledge and congratulate the few French disciples of yours who have provided essential support for us in all the decisions we are taking to maintain ISKCON properly here, and who are also a manifestation of your exceptional Vaiṣṇava qualities.

Your servants at New Māyāpur, ISKCON's farm community in France.

(written by Gauḍamaṇḍala Dāsa)



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

New Navadvīpa

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, who brought Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi Deities to Hawaii exactly forty years ago.

Like sage Nārada, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were continually flying everywhere to rescue fallen souls. That's why, for most of us *dīkṣā* disciples, many of our encounters with Your Divine Grace were at airports. You gave me my first *darśana* at Detroit's Metro Airport, then my second at Dallas's Love Field.

It was September 1972 when you flew into Dallas. After your American Airlines jet touched down on the tarmac, we ushered you into the airport's VIP room for a press conference. Quickly you mounted the makeshift *vyāsāsana* and, without any preliminaries, announced, "So, there are three ways to fly . . ."

A well-dressed reporter from the *Dallas Morning News* stood next to me holding a notepad, her pen poised to catch your next words: "Mantra, pigeon, and machine."

To your serious disciples this kind of pronouncement, however exotic, sounded simply wonderful. And absolutely true. But to a snappy reporter like the lady standing next to me, it was grist for the evening paper. Sensing a story, she carefully spelled your words onto her pad: m-a-n-t-r-a, p-i-g-e-o-n, m-a-c-h-i-n-e.

"Formerly," you continued, "certain kinds of pigeons were trained to carry people from one place to another. And mantra, simply by vibrating a certain mantra, yogīs could dip into the Ganges and travel thousands of miles in a moment."

Suddenly the reporter interrupted you with a question: "Were these ways of flying more efficient than today's jumbo jets?"

"Oh yes," you replied, "for one thing, there were no . . ." You leaned off-mike and asked, "How you say—jackhighs?"

"Highjacks, Prabhupāda, highjacks."

As you were aware from the news, a Palestinian terrorist group had just murdered all of Israel's Olympic athletes at the Games in Munich and highjacked a passenger plane to get away, the first "skyjacking" ever.

You leaned back into the microphone and declared, "Yes, there were no highjacks."

Not to be dismissed, the reporter took her best shot: "Well, Swami, if you know all these ways to fly, then why did you fly American Airlines today to Dallas?"

Without missing a beat, you smiled at her with charming eyes: "To be one with you."

Disarmed, the lady turned to me and loudly whispered, "I like that man!"

Pointed questions, perfect answers.

Fly us home, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the wings of your blessed mission to bring everyone back to wonderful Kṛṣṇa. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Your aspiring servants at New Navadvīpa, ISKCON's temple in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

(written by Sureśvara Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

New Orleans

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisance at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories unto you!

You named ISKCON of New Orleans New Saṅkīrtana Purī. By your mercy this temple lived up to its name for many years, i.e., the devotees enthusiastically engaged in book distribution, *harināma*, etc. We made many devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa here. But somehow, by Māyā's influence we are at present unable to do so. Please shower your mercy on us again so that we can overcome all stumbling blocks and once again become a fired-up *saṅkīrtana* temple. Some of us are your direct disciples, and some are your granddisciples, i.e., disciples of His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Cāru Swami, and His Holiness Subhāga Swami. We are trying to re-establish the forgotten glories of New Saṅkīrtana Purī. We have revived the Ratha-yātrā festival in the French Quarter, providing *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* to more than three thousand visitors. Also, the attendance at our Sunday Feast has doubled.

We are facing some legal problems, which we are confident we can overcome by your mercy and Kṛṣṇa's. Most of our neighbors are happy with us. Only a few dare raise their voices against Kṛṣṇa, just as there were some *asuras* who tried to hinder Kṛṣṇa's pleasure pastimes in Gokula and Vṛndāvana. We know that these hindrances are there to make us stronger in devotional service. We hope to remain at the dust of your lotus feet so that in this lifetime all of us can go back home, back to Godhead, together.

Your humble servants at New Saṅkīrtana Purī Dhāma, ISKCON's temple in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

New Ramaṇa Reti

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

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

Moment by moment is what we are striving for,
To remember your instructions and to take them to heart.

Moment by moment it's stuck in my mind—
You said, "Don't think this won't happen to you"
As you lay in Vṛndāvan and we begged for more time.

Moment by moment—it's frozen in time:
The moment you left us.
We broke down and cried.

Moment by moment we crawl on in pain.
The separation only grows as we realize what's been taken from us,
Day after day.

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Moment by moment we see our godbrothers and godsisters
Pass from this life.
I've seen friends' bodies turn to ashes,
But felt ecstatic knowing the spirit soul was alive.

Moment by moment time passes us by.
As the end draws near, we contemplate,
“How hard have I tried?”

Moment by moment, no matter what *māyā* we try,
We hear you preaching strongly,
“Don't fall for these lies.”

Moment by moment we remember the pain
Of material life and material gain.

Moment by moment devotees strive
To fulfill your desires for us,
The perfection of our lives.

Moment by moment we remember the magical time
When you revealed your desire for us to distribute your books,
Your words so moving that everyone tried.

Moment by moment your words are our life.
We have nothing else,
No other reason to try.

Moment by moment you are still alive.
As you said about Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī:
“I always felt he was there by my side.”
And this realization is sustaining our life.

Moment by moment we pay repeated obeisances in our mind
To thank you for your constant association, Kṛṣṇa, and devotional life.

From your servants in New Ramaṇa Reti Dhāma, ISKCON's farm community in Alachua, Florida, USA.

(written by Dhṛtarāṣṭra Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

New Remuṇā

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

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, our most merciful, kind, and loving spiritual master and father.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, 2012 marks a truly wonderful milestone at ISKCON Toronto, New Remuṇā Dhāma. Forty years ago, on Rādhāṣṭamī day, Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Kṣīracorā–Gopīnātha were installed here in Toronto. Lord Gopīnātha, so famous for stealing the *kṣīra* for his great devotee Śrīla Mādhavendra Purī, has certainly blessed us, heaping His mercy and affection on all the devotees. This is due entirely to your causeless mercy. Kṛṣṇa can certainly do anything. But without your humble request we are certain that Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Kṣīracorā–Gopīnātha would not now be present with us in Toronto. This is inconceivable in so many ways. *Thank you for your special mercy.*

Over the years, so many devotees joined your transcendental movement here in Toronto. They grew in Kṛṣṇa consciousness as part of our community. Some stayed here in the Toronto area, and others moved on to serve in locations around the world. We thank you for their dedication and association. All of them left their mark here in Toronto by helping to build the infrastructure we now take for granted. They are our pillars and our inspiration. Thank you for sending them to us. *Thank you for your special mercy.*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, due to your encouragement and direction, we were able to purchase our beautiful stone temple building in downtown Toronto. You ordered us to get the building. You said that “there must be anxiety” and that we must sacrifice and do everything possible. By so many extraordinary and transcendental circumstances the temple came to us, and of course it became the new majestic home of our Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Kṣīracorā–Gopīnātha. Looking back now, even though purchasing such a large building seemed like a huge undertaking with so many risks, the temple building has become the whorl of the lotus of so many Kṛṣṇa conscious activities in Ontario.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, due to your ongoing encouragement and direction, our community in Toronto has grown and matured in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We now have two additional temples in the Toronto area: ISKCON Brampton and ISKCON Scarborough. At these centers devotees attend noontime Sunday programs and also hold many events during the week for the devotees who live nearby. Devotees have also made their private homes into temples by conducting Bhakta-Vriksha classes, *bhajanas*, and other programs there. We also have an off-site loft program called Bhakti Lounge, where our dynamic youthful devotees touch the hearts of so many people looking for spirituality, vegetarianism, friendship, and meaning in life. Our Ratha-yātrā Festival has grown to be one of the largest in North America and attracts people from all walks of life. Our temple festivals are so well attended that even our huge temple hall is not big enough! Our book scores are sky-rocketing as a result of our Monthly Sāṅkīrtana Festivals. Devotees of all ages have embraced the *sāṅkīrtana* movement, going out on the streets to celebrate *harināma*, to pass out *prasādam*, and to distribute your transcendental books. This program is growing more and more and is enthusing the devotees with compassion for the fallen souls and the desire to serve one another. Our book scores doubled last year! *Thank you for your special mercy.*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us how to reach out and bring everyone to Kṛṣṇa’s service. We are trying

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to understand your example of compassionate and inspired outreach. We are attempting to please you and attain the mercy of Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Kṣīracorā–Gopīnātha. Your mood of constant determination to find ways and means to attract people to devotional service is what we strive for in the dust of your lotus feet.

Forty years have brought many changes to ISKCON Toronto. The *yātrā* started with the small house on Beverley Street in 1969, moved to the Gerrard St. temple in the colorful but sometimes unsavory Cabbagetown neighborhood in 1971, and then settled in our beautiful Avenue Rd. temple. Along the way we have matured into an energetic and committed community of devotees. We are now three generations deep and ever expanding. Of course, there is still unlimited service ahead of us. But we pray to simply take shelter of your lotus feet, to understand your example of love and compassion, and to do our best to distribute your books and the holy names and *prasādam* to everyone in Toronto and Ontario. We pray that by sincerely attempting to serve you in these ways, we may become deserving of the honor and privilege of being your disciples and granddisciples. Perhaps someday we will have some comprehension of your mercy and kindness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us so much: an amazing temple building as a base for our Kṛṣṇa conscious activities, our most beautiful and compassionate Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Kṣīracorā–Gopīnātha, your books of wisdom and strength, the association of so many amazing devotees throughout the years, a life of purpose and meaning, etc. *Thank you for your special mercy.*

Please continue to guide us into the next forty years. It is only by your mercy that we have been able to accomplish anything. Please continue to inspire us and guide us as we strive to build a legacy here in Toronto worthy of your name, “His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, Founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.”

Your servants in New Remuṇā Dhāma, ISKCON's temple in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

New Tālavana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your dynamic devotional service, which continues to inspire the whole world now and will do so for many centuries to come.

You are the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. These institutions serve the purposes you gave them and your missionary spirit. Their management structures serve as instruments to fulfill those purposes and the goals they set; but you continue to lead the way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, speaking through the Paramātmā within the hearts of all creatures and the immense written instructions you left behind. I pray that we will continue to follow your lead back home, back to Godhead, and that while we are here we will continue to fulfill the purposes and goals of your ISKCON and BBT.

Of course, people look at your society and its leaders and devotees and judge them. When you physically walked among us, their judgments were basically made considering your gifts, which most people held in high esteem. Today those judgments, although perhaps more reserved, continue to reflect an appreciation of your mission and goals and the society's efforts to achieve them. Our faults are apparent, like acne on a teenager; but like most teens, we are concerned and continue to clean up those blemishes. Unbiased people can appreciate that. Our critics serve to remind us of our faults and keep us informed and vigilant.

We pray that you continue to remain in the heart of ISKCON, leading and inspiring its devotees and followers. Please bless all of us who are sincerely working to accomplish your dreams and please Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga. Please influence our judgment and push us to act with integrity and Vaiṣṇava

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character. As the *ācārya*, you are the ideal example, and we will never be interested in replacing you with another model, no matter how great someone else may seem to be. You are our Guru Mahārāja and your society's *ācārya*. May we be an *ācāryavān*, one who knows the purpose of the *ācāryas*. We only beg to continue to be given the chance to represent you as a pure messenger, bringing relief to all suffering conditioned souls and motivation to your devotees.

Please pray to your Lords, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, to continue to purify us and help us on the path of pure devotional service at your lotus feet.

Your servants at New Tālavana, ISKCON's farming community in Mississippi, USA.

(written by Yogīndra Vandana Dāsa)

New Vraja-dhāma

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

First let me thank you for giving me the opportunity to write an offering for your Vyāsa-pūjā book. I feel deep purification and bliss when I'm thinking about your divine qualities.

Let us express our greatest gratitude for what you have given us! If I tried to list everything, I would never reach the end. You personally trained your disciples how to cook for Kṛṣṇa, how to distribute *prasādam*, how to put on *tilaka*, how to dress and worship the Deities, how to play *mṛdaṅga*, how to give class on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, how to open a temple and a *gurukula*, how to start a farm community, how to establish *varṇāśrama*, and how to write books and then distribute them. Yes, you showed us how to distribute books. In India you personally went out and sold *Back to Godhead* magazines, and in New York when you first came to the West you personally sold your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* volumes to bookstores.

But your greatest focus was on teaching us how to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa without offense. You often quoted this verse from the *Padma Purāṇa*:

*smartavyaḥ satataṁ viṣṇur viśmartavyo na jātucit
sarve vidhi-niṣedhāḥ syur etayor eva kinkarāḥ*

“Kṛṣṇa is the origin of Lord Viṣṇu. He should always be remembered and never forgotten at any time. All the rules and prohibitions mentioned in the *sāstras* should be the servants of these two principles.” In your purport to this verse, at *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya* 22.113, you strongly recommend that your disciples follow this principle. “Of all the regulative principles,” you write, “the spiritual master's order to chant at least sixteen rounds is most essential.” We can clearly understand that to remember Kṛṣṇa we have to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. You clearly explain it in your purports to those four verses in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (8.5–8) where Kṛṣṇa speaks about remembrance of Him. In every purport you mention the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, and you reach the conclusion that in this age especially chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa is the best and easiest way to remember Kṛṣṇa.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, let us express our deepest gratitude to you for giving us the holy name. We pray we can continue to accept this matchless gift with all humility, and that our appreciation for this gift will steadily grow. We are convinced that this will please you.

Your servants at New Vraja-dhāma, ISKCON's rural community in Hungary.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

New Vrajaṁḍala

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

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, the devotees at New Vrajaṁḍala, want to thank you for allowing us to live in this farm community, situated in central Spain. Here we have a secluded place in the countryside, with abundant water to irrigate the fields and orchards. Although the winter can be quite severe, it is tolerable, especially thanks to the daily presence of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindacandra, who are so beautiful.

Here we have the opportunity to live in harmony with nature and the laws of God, and for this we are prepared to pay the price. The Supreme Lord Govindacandra is the sole owner of all, the enjoyer of all, and the well-wisher of all, giving us the opportunity to serve Him happily.

Your servants at New Vrajaṁḍala, ISKCON's farm community in Spain.

(written by Lokanātha Dāsa)

New Vrindaban

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept the humble obeisances of your disciples and followers in New Vrindaban. All glories to you and your service in Lord Caitanya's mission.

Your New Vrindaban Community is experiencing regeneration and healthy growth. Your disciples and followers here pray for your blessings so that this process continues to unfold according to your desire and instructions. Truly, unless this process occurs according to your desire and instructions, our endeavors will produce only further entanglement in this material nightmare. Our only hope for spiritual advancement is to accept your continued guidance.

You are the *senapati-bhakta*, the commander in chief of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's army of servants, and your desire and instructions are nondifferent from His. As Mahāprabhu desired that in Vṛndāvana the holy sites of Kṛṣṇa's pastimes be made manifest even to those bereft of spiritual qualification, you desire that the holy sites of Kṛṣṇa's pastimes become manifest in New Vrindaban. This makes New Vrindaban Dhāma unique in the Western world. Although one whose eyes are anointed with the salve

Homages from ISKCON Centers



of love can perceive the pastimes of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in any of your temples, even one with ordinary vision will be able to perceive the *līlā-sthānas* of Lord Kṛṣṇa once those sites are excavated and replicated in New Vrindaban Dhāma. Furthermore, you instructed that the seven major temples of Vrindaban be replicated in New Vrindaban Dhāma.

Specifically, in a letter you wrote, “I am hopeful that our New Vrindaban will be an exact replica of Vrindaban in India.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are making progress in manifesting an exact replica of Vṛndāvana. For example, the development of Govardhana is progressing daily. The Six Gosvāmīs are now visible to humanity at large in the form of dioramas, and their *bhajana-kuṭīr* at Govardhana is complete. Furthermore, some of the early pioneers of New Vrindaban Dhāma have re-assembled, and as of this writing they have begun construction on the first of the seven major temples.

Just as you desire that in New Vrindaban the pastime places of Lord Kṛṣṇa be manifest to humanity at large, you also desire that here the loving relationships of the *vraja-vāsīs* be manifest to humanity at large. Again, this makes New Vrindaban Dhāma unique in the Western world. One whose heart is free of all material desires as well as *all* traces of awe and reverence can walk the streets of the Bowery or enter any of your temples and experience *prema-bhakti* at every step. You desire that in New Vrindaban Dhāma even one with ordinary vision will be able to perceive the loving relationships of the *vraja-vāsīs*. As liquidity is the essential quality of water, the loving relationships between devotees is the essence of the *vraja-vāsī* spirit.

Specifically, you wrote in a letter to one of the founders of New Vrindaban, “Agriculture and protecting cows, this is the main business of the residents of Vrindavan, and above all simply loving Kṛṣṇa.” This statement indicates that an initial step in manifesting the *vraja-vāsī* spirit is the development of a successful farm community. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are making progress in the areas of agriculture and cow protection, largely because those departments are receiving proper attention and support from the current management. As a result, those departments are working more effectively and are becoming more integrated. This is evidenced by the fact that we have increased our milk herd by four cows and two calves, and two more calves are due to be born within a few weeks of this writing. Furthermore, in spring 2012 we planted approximately two hundred nut trees and berry bushes. Moreover, the farm workers are integrated with the community and actively participating in temple programs.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you also desire to manifest an ideal village life to humanity at large. Again, this makes New Vrindaban Dhāma unique in the Western world. A perfect yogī chants the holy name continuously and minimizes eating, sleeping, mating, and defending without effort. You desire that even those who have not yet attained perfection will perceive plain living and high thinking in New Vrindaban.

Specifically, you wrote in a letter, “[W]e should simply accept the bare necessities of our material part of life, and try to save time for spiritual advancement. This should be the motto of New Vrindaban.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are actively reviving the simple village life upon which this community was founded. Madhuvan, the first village you saw manifested in New Vrindaban, is being rehabilitated. As of this writing, the housing planned for Madhuvan is in accordance with the express specifications you gave when you personally visited that site.

Another essential part of the regeneration and healthy growth of New Vrindaban is a comprehensive restoration of your Palace of Gold. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you stated that New Vrindaban is nondifferent from Vṛndāvana in India. Therefore, just as Vṛndāvana is your home, New Vrindaban is also your home and the Palace of Gold is your residence. During your manifest pastimes on this planet you visited New Vrindaban four times and spent many weeks here. The rolling hills and lush forests of New Vrindaban are reminiscent of the natural beauty of Vraja, and the cows reminded you of the activities of the *vraja-vāsīs* in Goloka. Please be forever present here.

For your pleasure we are trying to manifest to humanity at large the pastime places of Kṛṣṇa, the *vraja-vāsī* spirit, an ideal village, and your Palace of Gold. In other words, we are creating a place of pilgrimage in the West. This requires that New Vrindaban construct facilities and an infrastructure that will accommodate the four classes of pious men who approach the Lord: the distressed, those who desire wealth, the inquisitive, and those who are searching for knowledge of the Absolute. The facilities and infrastructure include devotee housing, devotee-owned businesses, accessible health care, and proper facilities for pilgrims and guests.

Specifically, you wrote in a letter to a New Vrindaban resident, “[D]evelop it nicely so that we can show the world how the ideal God-conscious community is working.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are actively developing New Vrindaban as a pilgrimage site. The ashrams have been completely renovated with hand-made oak furniture, eco-friendly tiles and windows, and a new outside staircase. As of this writing, we have put up five plots of land for sale for devotee housing, another fifteen plots are being surveyed, and the water infrastructure is being upgraded. We have a new store whose principal business is to sell devotee-produced arts and craft items. As of this writing, we are actively reviving the medical clinic that served the devotees between 1978 and 1981. Finally, we have renovated all the guest cabins and put a new roof on the Palace Lodge and the registration cabin.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your desire and instruction to manifest a place of pilgrimage in the West is inspiring the participation of the Community Design Team from West Virginia University. These professors and students are bringing a wealth of experience in areas such as tourism, conservation, and landscape design. Moreover, the Community Design Team is providing New Vrindaban with professional services such as laser-scanning your Palace and map-making.

In order to facilitate the regeneration and healthy growth of New Vrindaban in accordance with your desire and instructions, we are creating a master plan for the community. Many devotees are participating in the master planning process through seven committees: Facilities; Devotee Care & Relations; Revealing The Dhāma; Economic Development; Education, Arts & Culture; Outreach; and Agriculture, Cows & Self-reliance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, participating in the unfolding of New Vrindaban offers the greatest reward—eternal service in Lord Caitanya’s mission. It is a process that is fraught with danger at every step, however, due to the evils and perils of the Iron Age. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, *sevā-adhikāra diye*: give us the qualification to render some service to you in the regeneration and growth of New Vrindaban Dhāma according to your desire and instructions.

With humility,

Your disciples and followers in New Vrindaban Dhāma, West Virginia, USA.

(written by Varṣāṇā Swami)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

New York (Brooklyn)

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

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

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

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

*yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau
tasyaite kathitā hy arthāḥ prakāśante mahātmanaḥ*

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.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

With gratitude we thank the Supreme Lord Śrī Nityānanda Rāma, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and the Gauḍīya *sampradāya* disciplic succession *ācāryas* for directing Your Divine Grace to the Western world of sin and misery to reclaim us, your insignificant, unqualified, and unfortunate menial servants.

All glories to your divine appearance and Vyāsa-pūjā! Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for guiding us on the path leading to Rādhā-Govindadeva's eternal realm, Goloka Vṛndāvana Dhāma. I heard an arrival address Your Divine Grace delivered in 1972 in the Los Angeles temple, in which you said to the devotees, "My Guru Mahārāja is tenth from Caitanya Mahāprabhu, I am eleventh, you are the twelfth." That order carries with it a great burden of responsibility to be qualified recipients of your empowering mercy. Such a potent order is directed toward all who serve Your Divine Grace successfully, with sincere loving dedication. And the dynamics of such an empowering order also require all such qualified and empowered recipients to have broad vision as they attempt to expand your mission by empowering others, leading devotees to the ultimate spiritual purpose of Kṛṣṇa consciousness propagation, Śrīla Prabhupāda: to become more and more Kṛṣṇa conscious as we distribute Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others. Such transcendental spiritually motivated Kṛṣṇa conscious souls, whose life's mission is fulfilling your transcendental mission, Śrīla Prabhupāda—such great souls are rendering pure devotional *sevā* at your lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda, such sincere and favorable devotional *sevā* enables all such sincere servants to clearly recognize the need, the hope, and the urgency to fulfill the ultimate mandate of your vision statement, namely, that "all of you are the twelfth." Caitanya Mahāprabhu ordered everyone, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa
āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa*

"Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Kṛṣṇa as they are given in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land."

We owe you an eternal debt, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The only way we can even begin to liquidate that debt is when we offer sincere devotional service aimed at reclaiming and guiding the unfortunate souls

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

to a life free from sin and misery by absorption in pure Kṛṣṇa conscious *sevā*, when we serve wonderful Vaiṣṇavas whose association uplifts our spirit to Kṛṣṇa consciousness by their empowering purity, and when we serve Guru and Gaurāṅga, our master and Lord, who are ever caring for and protecting us by directing us perfectly to the ultimate shelter, i.e., to pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the highest achievement of the soul's natural awakening, to our eternal Kṛṣṇa consciousness in relationship with Kṛṣṇa face to face, in ecstatic *kṛṣṇa-prema*.

We may have different levels of faith in your order, Śrīla Prabhupāda. In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya* 22.62) Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu says:

*‘śraddhā’-śabde—viśvāsa kahe sudṛḍha niścaya
kṛṣṇe bhakti kaile sarva-karma kṛta haya*

“*Śraddhā* is confident, firm faith that by rendering transcendental loving service to Kṛṣṇa one automatically performs all subsidiary activities. Such faith is favorable to the discharge of devotional service.”

In your own wise words you guide us to the topmost path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness understanding:

“That faith means unflinching faith without any deviation, with full understanding.” What is that understanding? *Kṛṣṇe bhakti kaile sarva-karma kṛta haya*: “One who engages himself in the devotional service of the Supreme Lord, Kṛṣṇa, it is to be understood that he has seen all activities of auspiciousness.” That means he has already finished or passed the examination of pious activities. *Kṛṣṇe bhakti kaile sarva-karma kṛta haya*. This is the beginning. Unless one takes it firmly that “Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead . . .” And if anyone is engaged in the transcendental loving service of Kṛṣṇa, then it is to be understood that he has done all pious activities. This is this faith, this kind of faith, unflinching faith. When we have got this unflinching faith, that is the beginning of *Bhāgavata* life. *Bhāgavata* life means devotional life, direct connection with the Supreme God. That is *Bhāgavata* life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a great *ācārya* and true *gosvāmī*, and therefore your senses are controlled by the master of the senses, Lord Śrī Hṛṣikeśa—in this fact we have unflinching faith. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always think of Kṛṣṇa and never forget Kṛṣṇa—in this fact we have unflinching faith. Your Divine Grace is pure and free from all sin—we have unflinching faith in this fact, Śrīla Prabhupāda. As a true Bhaktivedanta, you are the greatest scholar of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, and the broad range of other *bhāgavata-śāstra*—in this we have unflinching faith.

Because Your Divine grace properly grasped the transcendental knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness from the right source, i.e., your own glorious Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and because Your Divine Grace is always being directed from within by the master of *śāstra*, Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself, we therefore have unflinching faith that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the most qualified person from whom to hear Kṛṣṇa consciousness philosophy, even to this day.

Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we honestly and humbly submit that for us to speak with appropriate knowledge and truth, and to have unflinching faith in the words we offer in your homage in our humble and insignificant attempt to shine a light of hope, leading others properly to the best resource for Kṛṣṇa consciousness, although only highlighting a tiny segment of your greatness and vast glories as we offer Your Divine Grace homage, our best option is turning to the infallible, perfect, and supreme truth of *śāstra* to enhance with true literary justice the glorification of a person so wonderful, great, and magnanimous as Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda. Therefore we quote *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.9 and 10:

*tatra tatrāñjasāyusman bhavatā yad viniścitam
pumsām ekāntataḥ śreyas tan naḥ śarṁsitum arhasi*

[TRANSLATION] Please, therefore, being blessed with many years, explain to us, in an easily understandable way, what you have ascertained to be the absolute and ultimate good for the people in general.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

[PURPORT] In *Bhagavad-gītā*, worship of the *ācārya* is recommended. The *ācāryas* and *gosvāmīs* are always absorbed in thought of the well-being of the general public, especially their spiritual well-being. Spiritual well-being is automatically followed by material well-being. The *ācāryas* therefore give directions in spiritual well-being for people in general. Foreseeing the incompetencies of the people in this Age of Kali, or the iron age of quarrel, the sages requested that Sūta Gosvāmī give a summary of all revealed scriptures because the people of this age are condemned in every respect. The sages, therefore, inquired of the absolute good, which is the ultimate good for the people. The condemned state of affairs of the people of this age is described as follows. . . .

[PURPORT to 1.9.10, excerpt] In this age, men are victims not only of different political creeds and parties but also of many different types of sense-gratificatory diversions, such as cinemas, sports, gambling, clubs, mundane libraries, bad association, smoking, drinking, cheating, pilfering, bickerings, and so on. Their minds are always disturbed and full of anxieties due to so many different engagements. In this age, many unscrupulous men manufacture their own religious faiths which are not based on any revealed scriptures, and very often people who are addicted to sense gratification are attracted by such institutions. Consequently, in the name of religion so many sinful acts are being carried on that the people in general have neither peace of mind nor health of body. The student (*brahmacārī*) communities are no longer being maintained, and householders do not observe the rules and regulations of the *grhastha-āśrama*. Consequently, the so-called *vānaprasthas* and *sannyāsīs* who come out of such *grhastha-āśramas* are easily deviated from the rigid path.

In the Kali-yuga the whole atmosphere is surcharged with faithlessness. Men are no longer interested in spiritual values. Material sense gratification is now the standard of civilization. For the maintenance of such material civilizations, man has formed complex nations and communities, and there is a constant strain of hot and cold wars between these different groups. It has become very difficult, therefore, to raise the spiritual standard due to the present distorted values of human society. The sages of Naimiṣāraṇya are anxious to disentangle all fallen souls, and here they are seeking the remedy from Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray and beg at your lotus feet for your special mercy so we will not become victims of Kali-yuga but rather become victorious in Kali-yuga. We pray for your special mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we can distribute your mercy freely to the less fortunate. In this way they also will no longer be victims of Kali-yuga but rather, by your loving mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, very fortunate Kṛṣṇa conscious victors. Let us always strive for pure Kṛṣṇa conscious hearts and fixed Kṛṣṇa conscious minds so that we will be qualified for your divine mercy to enter and spiritually surcharge our hearts. In this way we will be transformed into potent capable messengers able to give the great victory of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the fallen, unfortunate victims of Māyā's Kali-yuga prison house. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your divine mercy make us all winners of the race to become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious before the timekeeper's clock expires on our current Kṛṣṇa consciousness run. Please bless all the devotees with the high taste of Kṛṣṇa consciousness victory in pure ecstatic love of Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all the devotees want to surrender their hearts and souls in pure devotion at your transcendental lotus feet. Please help us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for we are drowning in an ocean of misery and sorrow. Be kind to your insignificant, unqualified, unfortunate menial servants.

Your eternal servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva Mandira, ISKCON's temple in Brooklyn, New York, New York, USA.

(written by Rāmabhadra Dāsa)

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Newcastle

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisance unto your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

It is with great trepidation that I write this offering in an attempt to honor you on the most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. Your appearance in this material world and your service to the Supreme Lord, Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, have touched the hearts of many and turned them toward Kṛṣṇa consciousness. How is it that this great fortune of Kṛṣṇa consciousness has found its way to this most insignificant town of Newcastle, South Africa, at the foot of the Drakensberg Mountain, in the land of the Zulus?

Surely such good fortune manifests itself only by the mercy of the Lord and his empowered representative, Your Divine Grace. The community of devotees here in Newcastle will never be able to repay the debt of gratitude we owed you for your establishing ISKCON, the many books you have written, and the many spiritual instructions you have imparted. In an attempt to repay just a minute part of this debt to you, our beloved founder-*ācārya*, we have embarked on an ambitious project to construct a temple complex that will allow your mercy to further permeate the hearts and souls of the citizens of Newcastle.

We pray for your blessings so that we may be successful in this endeavor and can add this project to your already existing temples, which are so many military outposts in the war against *māyā*. With you as the commander-in-chief of this battalion of devotees in Newcastle, we are certain that we will overcome this ocean of material suffering and find refuge at your lotus feet.

Your blessings and instructions flow, like the purifying waters of the Gaṅgā, through your senior disciples who reciprocate so generously with the Newcastle devotee community. They should not go unmentioned here. We pay our humble respects to His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami, His Holiness Pārtha Sārathi Dāsa Goswami, His Holiness Kadamba Kānana Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Viśrambha Mādhava Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Narasiṁha Swami, and His Holiness Bhakti Bṛhat Bhāgavata Swami.

ISKCON is your great creation that is giving us this blissful process of devotional service to our supreme parents, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. It is inexplicable how it has come to be that such fallen and undeserving souls as us have been entrusted to serve you and your ISKCON in Newcastle. However, we remain resolute in our endeavors to serve you to the best of our ability, even though we are full of ineptitude and limitations.

There are no words in this entire universe that can describe our love for you and our gratitude to you, our beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Your servants at ISKCON's temple in Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

(written by Kṛṣṇa Kṛpā Dāsa)

Pandharpur

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

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

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration.

It is only due to your causeless mercy that conditioned souls like us are able to practice devotional service in your wonderful temple in Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma. Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharinātha and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi are showering their causeless mercy upon all the conditioned living entities here by regularly giving Their all-attractive and enlivening *darśana*. Your *saṅkīrtana* party of ISKCON Pandharpur devotees has distributed thousands and thousands of transcendental Kṛṣṇa conscious literatures, coming in first in the world in 2011 in the category of small centers. This year we have big plans for increasing book distribution at the Āṣādhī Ekādaśī Festival, when millions of devotee pilgrims gather in Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma.

We have also increased congregational preaching in a place near Pandharpur named Osmanabad, where we conduct *harināma* and weekly programs. We plan to introduce the Bhakti Vriksha Program to attract more souls to the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. Every year we also conduct many *yātrās*, *japa* seminars, and Bhakti Saṅgam retreats to enliven and encourage the devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have around fifteen acres of land in your ISKCON Pandharpur center, where we grow crops like wheat, *makka*, and vegetables, aiming toward self-sufficiency. We take care of about thirty cows and calves in your *gośālā* here. In the near future we will institute open cow-herding to provide good health and hygiene for the cows and calves. On your land we also grow enough flowers for the worship of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharinātha.

We are utilizing the Chandrabhaga Guesthouse to serve the retreats and various devotee training camps conducted in your Pandharpur temple. We would like more facilities for visiting guests.

This year in February we celebrated the third annual Pandharpur Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā Festival on the auspicious event of Makara-saṅkrānti. The festival was a grand success because for the first time we formed a Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā Mahotsava Committee composed of Pandharpur's influential leaders and businessmen. More than six thousand devotees, pilgrims, and local people participated, including many local and state dignitaries. This is a wonderful way to distribute *harināma* to the masses. And for the first time the evening Ratha-yātrā program was conducted in Pandharpur town, so that thousands of local residents could take part. Nearly six thousand plates of full feast *prasādam* were served, and everyone enjoyed an evening filled with enlivening lectures, dramas, and other cultural programs. Thus the Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā Festival became more famous in the eyes of local residents of Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma.

The development of the Śrīla Prabhupāda Ghāṭa in glorious memory of Your Divine Grace is an ongoing ISKCON project on the bank of Śrī Chandrabhaga River. This project is expected to cost more than two million dollars. It will facilitate the millions of devotee pilgrims who visit Pandharpur annually on the occasion of Āṣādhī Ekādaśī and other times. This *ghāṭa* will have *dīpa-mālā*, nicely carved gates, Śrī Chandrabhaga Mandir, Bhajan Baithak, gardens, fountains, bathrooms, etc.

Food for Life is a main activity of your ISKCON Pandharpur. Every year we serve hundreds of thousands of devotee pilgrims wonderful *khicari prasādam* during the Āṣādhī Festival and during other festivities also.

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless all of the devotees of ISKCON Pandharpur so that we will properly utilize the opportunity to serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa by following in your footsteps to please Him.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1.2.13 states:

[TRANSLATION] O best among the twice-born, it is therefore concluded that the highest perfection one can achieve by discharging the duties prescribed for one's own occupation according to caste divisions and orders of life is to please the Personality of Godhead.

[PURPORT] Human society all over the world is divided into four castes and four orders of life. The four castes are the intelligent caste, the martial caste, the productive caste, and the laborer caste. These castes are classified in terms of one's work and qualification and not by birth. Then again there are four orders of life, namely the student life, the householder's life, the retired life, and the devotional life. In the best interest of human society there must be such divisions

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of life, otherwise no social institution can grow in a healthy state. And in each and every one of the abovementioned divisions of life, *the aim must be to please the supreme authority of the Personality of Godhead*. This institutional function of human society is known as the system of *varṇāśrama-dharma*, which is quite natural for the civilized life. The *varṇāśrama* institution is constructed to enable one to realize the Absolute Truth. It is not for artificial domination of one division over another. When the aim of life, i.e., realization of the Absolute Truth, is missed by too much attachment for *indriya-prīti*, or sense gratification, as already discussed hereinbefore, the institution of the *varṇāśrama* is utilized by selfish men to pose an artificial predominance over the weaker section. In the Kali-yuga, or in the age of quarrel, this artificial predominance is already current, but the saner section of the people know it well that the divisions of castes and orders of life are meant for smooth social intercourse and high-thinking self-realization and not for any other purpose.

Herein the *Bhāgavatam* states that the highest aim of life, or the highest perfection of the institution of the *varṇāśrama-dharma*, is to cooperate jointly for the satisfaction of the Supreme Lord. You confirm this in your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.13.

As you emphatically point out in your above-quoted transcendental purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.13, pleasing the Supreme Personality of Godhead should be the only aim of human life. Please bless us so that we will fully utilize this opportunity of performing devotional service here in Bhu-Vaikuṅṭha Pandharpur Dhāma and thus realize the aim of human life within this very lifetime.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your servants at ISKCON's temple Pandharpur, India.

Paris

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, our sacred master!

You visited Paris five times, planting many seeds of *bhakti* in the soil of France. More than thirty-six years have now passed since your last trip here, and many of us now serving your mission in Paris were not here at that time. The few devotees who witnessed your pastimes in France and still visit us are real jewels; we always like to associate with them, since they shine with the sweet remembrances of your divine association.

The temples you established in this country are still alive, though for many reasons they have gone through difficult times. Such is your power, however, that not only did you inspire numerous people to serve your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness while you were present on the planet, but you are now inspiring even more people to come and help your mission spread to all corners of the world.

Let us pray that the seeds you planted here may now fructify and blossom so luxuriantly that we can conclude that the struggling years are over and part of history. Let us pray for a new start of Lord Caitanya's mission in Paris. Millions of people live here, baffled every day and every moment by the modes of nature. They desperately need your powerful message so they can be cured of the devastating disease of material attachment. When you installed Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisīśvara, you said that Paris was world famous for beautiful girls but that Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī was the most beautiful of all and that Kṛṣṇa had especially come to Paris for this most beautiful Parisian lady. Yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, many beautiful Parisian souls are waiting to be attracted to the Supreme lover and His eternal service.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Let us pray that your transcendental desires for Paris and for France be fulfilled and that many people here get Kṛṣṇa's mercy in the form of His holy names, His sanctified food, and your most powerful books. By ourselves we are so conditioned that we can do nothing, but with your transcendental magic touch we can be empowered to do what seems impossible: enter into Māyā's Kali-yuga fortress of Paris and rescue many sincere souls by engaging them in the service of our Lord.

Your servants in Paris, France.

(written by Nitāi-Gaurasundara Dāsa)

Perth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful and humble obeisances at your divine Vṛndāvana lotus feet. All glories to you, who left India to compassionately and lovingly spread Lord Caitanya's mercy and share Vṛndāvana with every village, town, and city of the world!

Here in Perth we are trying to assist you in your mission. We pray that you bless each and every one of us so that we may serve you with more and more enthusiasm. We pray that we will attain ever deeper conviction that the words in your books, especially in your purports, your "personal ecstasies," can solve all our personal and collective problems and direct us, step by step, back home, back to Godhead.

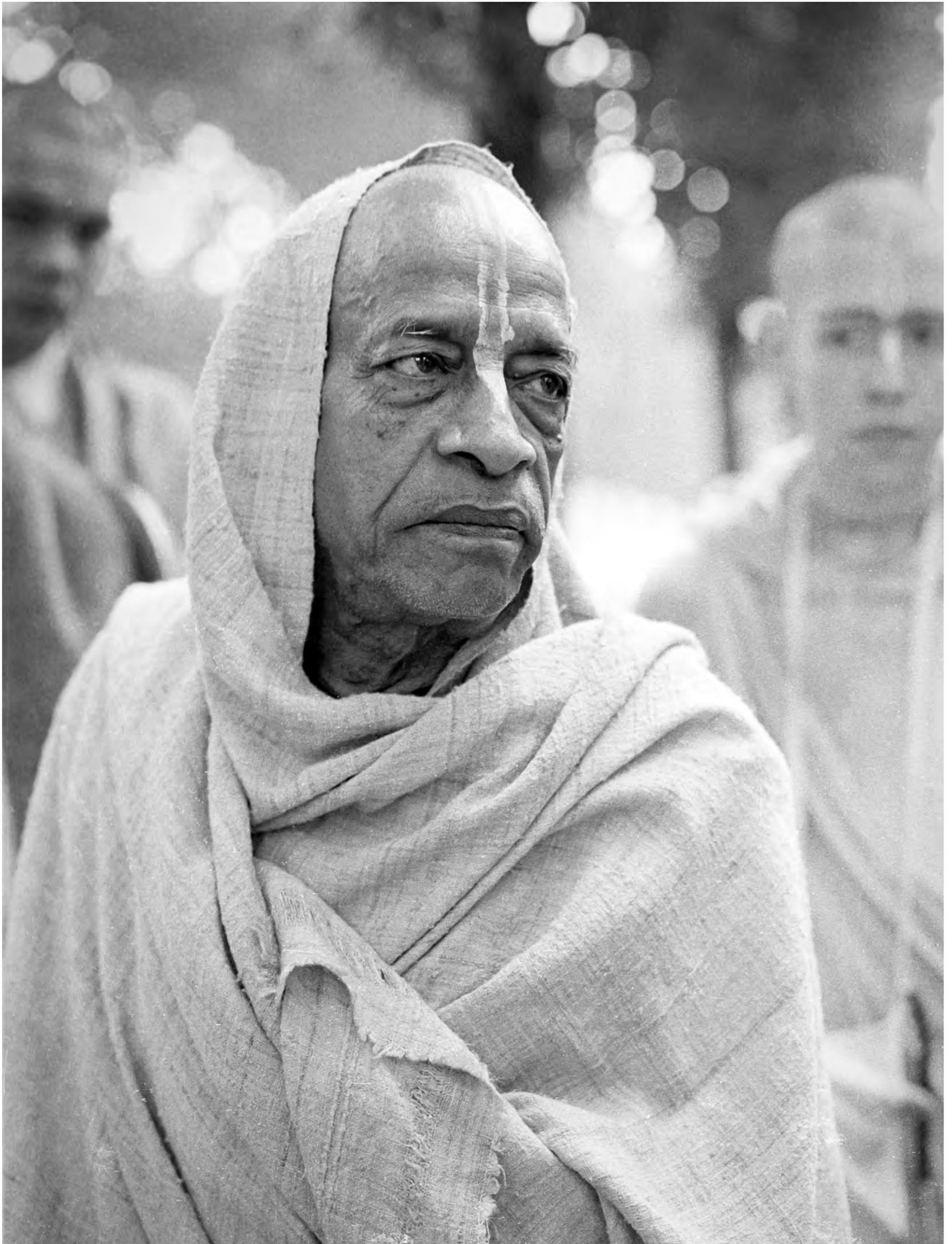
While writing this offering (in early April), the local authorities have still not definitely concluded whether we can renovate your temple according to the proposed plan. However, this delay hasn't hampered the devotees' enthusiasm in their service here. The devotees are sacrificing so much, working so hard to try to please you.

The new restaurant is going well. Week after week, month after month, the devotees prepare and serve unlimited plates of *prasādam* to the people of Perth. Also, *prasādam* catering at summer festivals has been in full swing as usual this year (beginning in December), with thousands of plates of *prasādam* going out to the masses.

Devotees continue to enthusiastically maintain the weekly *harināma* in the city, and occasionally they take the party out to the beach or a park. Recently some devotees worked very hard to organize a twelve-hour *kīrtana-melā*. It was a wonderful success, culminating with the temple being filled with devotees and guests chanting together ecstatically. The devotees who came from Brisbane to head up the chanting said that the acoustics in the Perth temple are the best of any temple they've visited. The Perth temple was built by Christians who invested a lot of money and energy into it to allow the sound to carry nicely for their Bible studies. So even without the renovations, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi have provided this facility for Their *kīrtana*. Hopefully by your blessings and mercy many more of these *kīrtana-melas* will go on in the future. *Kīrtana* is the greatest gift you have given us. You always stressed that for a healthy *yātrā* the community had to come together often for *kīrtana*, and that the best way to help the planet in these times of great need is to organize continuous *kīrtanas* in your centers.

Our educational programs are increasing. Courses for training new devotees have resumed at the temple. Home programs and study programs at devotees' houses have increased. Also, some devotees have revived the university preaching program, and a Vaiṣṇavī *saṅga* group has been meeting at the temple.

At your Gopīnātha Dhāma, devotees have been performing a huge marathon, working around the clock, and recently they opened the gallery. It is a devotional masterpiece, with very elaborate offerings



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and magnificent artwork from many devotees worldwide. It contains amazingly authentic and captivating little embassies of Vṛndāvana, Māyāpur, and Purī. Whoever walks through it becomes attracted to Kṛṣṇa, His holy *dhāmas*, and the priceless cultural treasures you have given us.

Your books have been going out, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Though book distribution is not as big as *prasādam* distribution here, we have gradually increased your book sales here in Perth in recent years.

We pray that we may continue to create a large and captivating network of Kṛṣṇa consciousness here that will allow people from all walks of life to be receptive to your teachings and apply them in their lives. There is still so much to be done in your service here. Śrīla Prabhupāda, it will be possible for us to create this network only if you kindly allow us to come even more securely under the shelter of your divine lotus feet. On this day we beg this benediction from you.

Your aspiring servants in Perth, Australia.

Philadelphia

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

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

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It is by your great mercy that we have New Nilācala Dhāma, where with love and devotion we may serve Their Lordships Śrī Jagannātha, Śrī Baladeva, and Śrimate Subhadra Devī, along with Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śaradbihārī and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. You have also blessed us with sincere devotees who provide leadership and inspiration to us all. As a result, our congregation has become one big family that continues to grow day by day.

We are pleased to report that our temple programs and preaching activities are progressing very well. Sunday School enrollment is increasing, we are involving more devotees in book distribution, and many students from nearby universities are attending our Sunday Feast program. Our festivals for Janmāṣṭamī, Gaura Pūrṇimā, and other holy days are being celebrated with great enthusiasm, and the Philadelphia Ratha-yātrā is becoming more successful and popular every year. We have also developed classes such as “The Holy Name Series,” to help the congregation cultivate attraction for the holy name, and monthly programs such as “Super Saturday,” at which we glorify and discuss your teachings. In addition, in the homes of various congregation members we often have weekend devotional programs that are always enlivening and well attended.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have performed a miracle by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. For this we will remain indebted to you forever. Please bless us so that we may continue to advance on the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and develop deep loving service to you and your devotees.

With all of our love at your lotus feet, we remain

Your servants in ISKCON's community of devotees in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Phoenix

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet!

On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and unconditional love.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this Age of Kali is so difficult to overcome. The material world is truly a place of misery, of doubts, of unbelievable illusions. How could aspiring devotees navigate this ocean of nescience without your guidance and mercy?

We have your teachings in your books, but we miss your association. How much we wish we could have had the opportunity to personally interact with you! You always had time to listen to even the most insignificant questions; you were the father to many, the guiding light for all. You were always available to everyone, and your charismatic personality—the radiance of your aura—would illuminate even the darkest room.

Please guide us as we try to follow in your footsteps and become Kṛṣṇa conscious. The road is not easy. At times we forget that we have to be humble, that we have to be tolerant, that we have to be sincere in our approach, that we have to see everyone with an equal eye, and that every living entity is worthy of respect.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you wanted to have a big family of devotees cooperating in the mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide. You wanted all your sons and daughters around the world to be united, and today that wish has been fulfilled. Who could have imagined that a person could accomplish so much in such a short time, and at such an advanced age? While others decided to retire, you chose to travel around the world and liberate as many conditioned souls as possible. That was an act of love for your spiritual master, an act of love for Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, and an act of love for the common man.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please forgive our mistakes and accept our prayers and respects.

You live forever in your books; you live forever in our hearts.

With love and highest respect,

Your aspiring devotees in the ISKCON community in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

Phuket

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are gradually developing our center here in this tropical land. It is not an easy task because this place is a haven for all the materialistic sense-gratifiers of the world. They flock here to enjoy the sunshine and idyllic beaches. They are fully absorbed in the pleasures of the skin and have no thought of self-realization.

But we know that you have some plan to convince them of your message; therefore we are determined and patient. Gradually we have built a congregation of loyal devotees. We have nice festivals, and last year we had our first Ratha-yātrā.

Please be kind to us and cast your glance on our meager efforts.

Please keep us engaged in your service. We have no other shelter than your lotus feet.

Your servants at ISKCON Phuket, Thailand.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Pietermaritzburg

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of your appearance celebration.

When Lord Caitanya broke open the storehouse of love of Godhead, He freely distributed that love to all conditioned living entities, regardless of their caste or material designation. Following His example, you so generously brought that very same love to the Western world and freely distributed it to all of us, who would have otherwise been swimming in this world of *saṁsāra*, oblivious to this great heritage. In so doing, you mercifully chose to personally visit Pietermaritzburg, out of so many towns in South Africa, to give your personal mercy and guidance. We would have chosen nescience if we had not surrendered fully to the mercy you gave us in Pietermaritzburg when you placed your lotus feet on this city's soil on 12 October 1975. It is said in the scriptures that wherever a great *sādhu* walks becomes a *tīrtha*, a holy *dhāma*.

Through your selfless endeavor to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village, you created your most aristocratic family of devotees, ISKCON, and it is now our most important responsibility to serve and maintain your ISKCON with determination and sincerity.

Two devotees, His Grace Lokabandhu Dāsa and Her Grace Sunīti Devī Dāsī, have made a tremendous contribution to our Pietermaritzburg *yātrā*. Just by a fleeting moment of association with Your Divine Grace, and through their commitment to you, they have inspired so many devotees. On many occasions they have been named pioneering devotees of Pietermaritzburg.

We devotees here in the Pietermaritzburg *yātrā* need to reflect on all the jewels you have so generously given us in the form of the holy name, your books, the Deities, *prasādam*, your disciples and granddisciples, and ISKCON in general. You have personally given us the back-door key to the kingdom of God, and only fools would not take maximum advantage of something so rare and precious. In our devotional practice humility and tolerance are always the key ingredients for success, so please bless us all with these qualities in abundance. If by your mercy we can become soldiers in the missionary army of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu by following in your footsteps, then all the people of Pietermaritzburg will chant the *mahā-mantra* and awaken to their true identity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we reveal our hearts to you now that we have been afforded this opportunity? The devotees in Pietermaritzburg have been trying to build a temple for the last fifteen years. By the mercy of some of your sincere sons, we have made good progress in this undertaking over the last few years. But there is still a lot to be done. We know that your mercy and blessings are forever with us, so under your merciful guidance we hope to overcome the challenges we face and move into our temple later this year, 2012. We are happy to inform you that many of the members of our *yātrā* are committed to performing daily *āratis* (*maṅgala-ārati* and *sandhyā-ārati*) in preparation for our temple opening. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us the vision of how to please the Lord through festivals, preaching programs, and *prasādam* distribution, and following your instructions we have celebrated many successful festivals on the Vaiṣṇava calendar.

We would like to take this opportunity to express how grateful we are for the wonderful good fortune you have so compassionately created for us. We thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for keeping us safe under the shelter of your most aristocratic family—ISKCON. We would also like to request your blessings so that Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Pietermaritzburg may grow from strength to strength and prosper as part of your timeless legacy.

Praying to be firmly fixed in the service of Your Divine Grace eternally, we remain

Your eternal servants in the ISKCON temple in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Port Elizabeth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, the devotees in Port Elizabeth, are very grateful for the mercy you have showered upon us. Since the temple opened our community has grown, book distribution has increased, and our Food for Life program is growing by the day. All of this has been possible only by your mercy. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for sending your dedicated servants to help us here in Port Elizabeth. Many thanks to His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami and His Grace Govardhana Prabhu for spending time helping our community.

Our vision for this year is to increase book distribution and establish other preaching programs, as well as to implement education and training programs for the many sincere devotees here.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura once said, “Only one who has life can preach,” and by your mercy ISKCON Port Elizabeth is showing signs of life. We pray that you continue to shower your mercy on us as we continue to spread Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s mercy to every village, township, and suburb here in Port Elizabeth. As Lord Caitanya Himself said:

*pṛthivīte 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.” (Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata, Antya-khaṇḍa 4.126)

Your servants at ISKCON’s temple in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

(written by Śvetadvīpa Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Prague-Luzce

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This day is a source of joy and gratitude not only for us, the members of your transcendental ISKCON movement, but also for millions of other people around the world who, only by your mercy, have had the opportunity to come in contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness through *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana*, which is the only hope for saving the conditioned souls in this Age of Kali.

No renewal in modern world history, whether spiritual or social, was as successful as your spreading the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu through ISKCON. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said that historians would note the appearance of the *saṅkīrtana* movement in the West as a breakthrough in the history of modern civilization.

Before your arrival in the West there was only a spiritual wasteland. Frustration and hopelessness reigned in the lives of millions of souls.

But since your arrival and your development of ISKCON, your books have become the source of essential knowledge in the lives of millions of people. Your books have gradually been affecting the curriculum of many teachers at schools of all levels, and ultimately they will become the law books for all mankind for the next ten thousand years.

In your commentary on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.25 you explain:

Although when a pure devotee speaks the articulation of his voice may resemble the sound of this material sky, the voice is spiritually very powerful because it touches the particles of saffron dust on the lotus feet of the Lord. As soon as a sleeping living entity hears the powerful voice emanating from the mouth of a pure devotee, he immediately remembers his eternal relationship with the Lord, although up until that moment he had forgotten everything.

Therefore demons fear your books immensely, as confirmed by legal efforts attempting to ban them.

The benediction moon of Kali-yuga, *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, purifies our hearts and changes the shape of society, or at least polarizes it. People are joining the joyful singing and dancing of *nāgara-kīrtana*. *Kīrtana* in the association of devotees guarantees the bliss that each of us desires.

The temples where you taught us to worship and serve the merciful form of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, His *arcā-mūrti*, are the real shelter for all souls yearning for a perfect reciprocal loving relationship.

Kṛṣṇa-prasādam has become a very “dangerous drug.” After experiencing it for the first time, people often ask us to open a Hare Kṛṣṇa restaurant in their city.

The idea of a Kṛṣṇa conscious self-sufficient farm project is a great attraction and inspiration for people who perceive the growing calamity of godless modern society and understand the futility of trying to achieve happiness by animalistic sense gratification.

The Nāma Haṭṭa community allows the greatest number of people to engage in devotional service. Hundreds and thousands are getting a new taste for life in the nectar of *bhakti-yoga*.

To sum it up, people are become happy because of the spread of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Czech Republic.

Our eager desire is to see a smile of satisfaction on your lotus face due to our efforts at properly following the process of devotional service and assisting you in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Prague-Luzce, Czech Republic.

(written by Nīla Mādhava Dāsa and Rādhikā Sundarī Devī Dāsī)

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Pretoria

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Here in Pretoria we are so fortunate that we are able to see your mercy coming in so many ways. We pray that we can preach, preach, preach the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Our desire is to spread the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement by doing lots of festivals in Pretoria and surrounding areas. We are so fortunate that last year we hosted a Ratha-yātrā festival in our union building, where we attracted a few of the government dignitaries.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we dedicate our life and soul to Your Divine Grace and the service of your mission, life after life. Thank you for giving us the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, which is the prime benediction for the entire human race.

Happy Vyāsa-pūjā!

Your servants at ISKCON Pretoria, South Africa.

Radhadesh

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Kindly accept our prostrated obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Another glorious celebration of your divine appearance has arrived. Those of us who are aging here in the Radhadesh community often comment on the swiftness with which the years, marked by your Vyāsa-pūjā, are passing. In fact, within the last half year or so a number of the elder ladies here have decided to meet regularly to give and receive support as we endeavor to develop the attitude appropriate for those who are feeling the warning that time in the body is winding down. We have researched your purports and discussed what it means to be a *vānaprastha*, and we have become increasingly enthusiastic to explore devotional topics and how these apply practically in our daily lives.

At a recent meeting we decided to share with one another our thoughts concerning the services we find most relishable. This became yet another of the unlimited opportunities we have to be grateful to Your Divine Grace, without whose divinely inspired tireless endeavors we would never have been able to even conceive of approaching the “threshold of the house of *bhakti*.” One Vaiṣṇavī described how her service in the *gośālā* is blissfully transforming her life; not only is she receiving insights into the elevated *sattva-guṇa*, but she feels increasingly encouraged in the development of her attraction for the *ādi-puruṣa*—the transcendental cowherd boy Govinda—and His transcendental realm. Another devoted lady spoke of her attachment to introducing people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness via her service of giving guided tours of the Radhadesh castle. Another *sādhvī* spoke of how she cherished her service in the kitchen; from there she can serve all the Radhadesh-*vāsīs* by putting her heart into planning and preparing *prasādam* meals. Some of the ladies were a little shy to speak about themselves, but we all knew that one of them is glorified by her very steady and determined service to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha and Their maidservants, Śrī Lalitā and Śrī Viśākhā. Yet another is enthusiastic to develop the Bhakti Vṛkṣa program in Belgium,

Homages from ISKCON Centers

and another, in a very skillful and friendly manner, is interacting with Belgium’s most difficult audience, the French-speaking community. She regularly gives yoga classes and takes advantage of mainstream community events to introduce people to the principles and practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In sharing our delight at being allowed to participate in so many devotional activities, we naturally gravitated toward Your Divine Grace, being repeatedly amazed at your ongoing and ever-increasing blessings in our lives: the holy name; your transcendental books; and our worshipable Deities, who bless us with Their divine *darśana* daily. These Deities are Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi; the Deities personally installed by Your Divine Grace, namely, Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā; and the Deities you named—Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha, Śrī Lalitā, and Viśākhā. Further blessings of yours include the divine *paramparā*, one another, and the Radhadesh community, with its endless preaching opportunities. We were reminded of what Lord Kṛṣṇa told Arjuna: “O mighty conqueror of enemies, there is no end to My divine manifestations. What I have spoken to you is but a mere indication of My infinite opulences” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 10.40).

We pray that you do not view such glorification as Māyāvāda misconception on our part. It is just that when we reflect on your contributions to Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* movement, we become aware that a devotee of your stature is “of the same category as Śrī Kṛṣṇa.” Some may consider such glorification an exaggeration, but *phalena paricīyate*—the effects of your devotional contributions are expanding continuously because you are divinely connected with Lord Kṛṣṇa, having no desire apart from His.

We pray that this offering, which indicates the gratitude of some of the elders in the Radhadesh community, is pleasing to you and that you will regard it like the proverbial grain of rice indicating the condition of all the other grains of rice in the Radhadesh pot. It is our fervent aspiration to serve your mission until our final breath, and we are hoping against hope that the traces of our existence will be favorable to those we will leave behind. May we and they become fully sheltered and empowered at your lotus feet; thus there may be some chance that those of us who will require further purification in a future birth may have the opportunity to serve in their association and perhaps assist them in furthering the cause of Your Divine Grace.

The servants of your servants at Radhadesh, Belgium.

Richmond Hill

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious day it is you we wish to honor.
Though there are not enough words, please accept this small endeavor.

Your qualities and glories are immeasurable,
Your characteristics and purity infallible.

You are Lord Kṛṣṇa’s representative;
Taking us back home, back to Godhead, is your objective.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

In 1896 Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura foretold of your arrival,
And lo and behold, Śrīla Prabhupāda, what you accomplished no one can rival.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you took your Guru Mahārāja's instruction
And pursued it with focus and conviction.

With the fierceness of a lion
You spread the message of Lord Caitanya with abandon.

You put all your faith in Lord Kṛṣṇa,
Carrying volumes of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* on the *Jaladuta*.

Despite so many obstacles and so much hardship,
Nothing could deter you from helping people escape Māyā's grip.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your glories are limitless.
All that you have done for the world—matchless.

Around the world you went, fourteen times in twelve years,
Spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness and *harināma* far and near,

Opening 108 temples and centers across the globe,
Amazing one and all who watched ISKCON's wings unfold,

Writing and translating so many books in dozens of languages,
Giving everyone the formula to flee material bondage,

Sleeping less than four hours a day,
Your Vaiṣṇava mission and goals never far away,

Giving instructions and affection in over seven thousand letters,
Always signing each with "Your ever well-wisher,"

Creating the *Back to Godhead* magazine,
Answering where are we going, where have we been,

Lecturing and preaching everywhere so that we can learn,
Giving kind mercy and personal association at every turn.

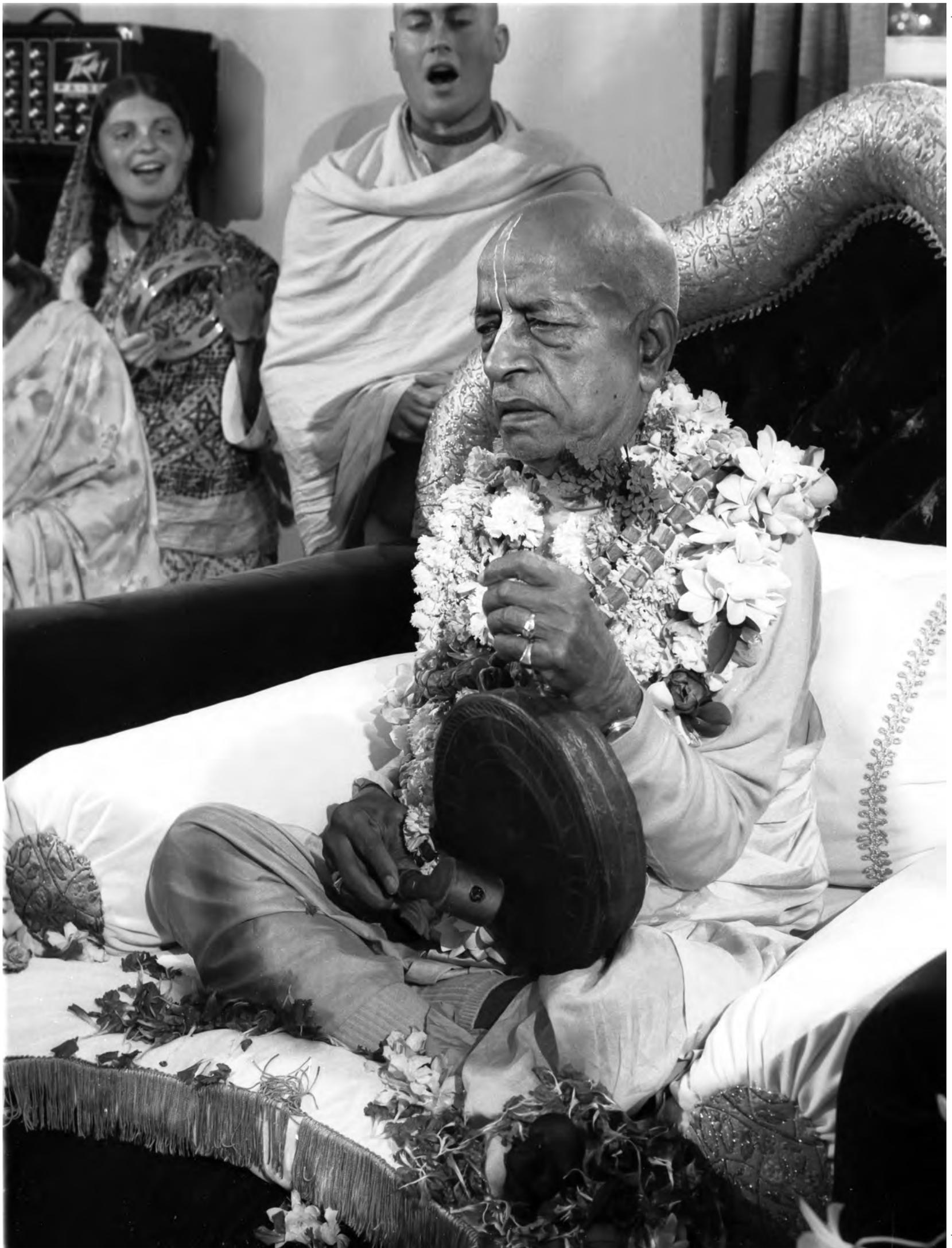
By your purity ISKCON continues to grow strong,
The commitment of so many being lifelong.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī said, "Beat the printing-press *mṛdāṅga*,"
And you resoundingly beat it across the world with love of Kṛṣṇa and pure *bhakti-yoga*.

You planted the seed of devotion in every town and village,
Fulfilling Lord Caitanya's mission with strength and courage.

You made serving Lord Kṛṣṇa so very simple,
You yourself setting the perfect example.

"Center your lives around Kṛṣṇa"—that was your command—
"Forget about all the sense gratification you have planned."



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

The treasures you have given us are countless,
Your words, instructions, and Vedic knowledge timeless.

Your glories are spoken by devotees and scholars alike—
Such a chord only you could strike.

Even today, the power of your books attracts so many—
Such is the wonderful potency of your *vāṇī*.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda,
For you brought us the Supreme Personality, Kṛṣṇa—God.

Without you, in Māyā we all would certainly be lost.
You showed us that this condition should be avoided at any cost.

From Deity worship to book distribution,
Our only aim is to serve your mission.

You are the most realized soul;
To follow your instructions is our humble goal.

You are the most perfect in every way;
Please never let us from your service stray.

You are the utmost pure devotee;
Please allow us to continuously serve you—that is our plea.

You are our *ācārya*;
Of your glories we are forever in awe.

You are the master at whose feet other masters sit;
May we to your lotus feet forever submit.

Please allow us to serve you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa always;
Please continue to shower us with your merciful gaze.

“Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!” we will repeat;
Only in this way can our insignificant lives be complete.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! Jaya Gurudeva!

Your humble servants in Richmond Hill, Canada.

(written by Mīnākṣī Devī Dāsī)

Homages from ISKCON Centers

San Antonio

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

You have showered us with many wonderful opportunities since the last time we made an official offering to you. Thank you for looking after us.

As you once acknowledged, the San Antonio *yātrā* is full of creative and talented youth.

We hope you are pleased with the report of our activities we sent to your dear disciple and first-class representative Guru Prasāda Swami. It's full of descriptions of *kīrtana* and *prasādam* distribution, and of the local people taking up the practice of *japa* and setting up altars in their homes.

Your center here is becoming too small to facilitate all the wonderful souls attracted to Your Divine Grace. So we hope for an upgrade. We want to create a significant spiritual landmark of the progressive generation bringing upliftment and higher consciousness.

To continue all these activities and maintain the dynamics in a more organized fashion, we are at the point where our Ashram5 resource center and center for learning needs to evolve into a bigger contemporary ashram. We want to call it The Bhaktivedanta Center for Youth Development and Vedic Temple, with sustainable systems and land. It may take some time, but with your blessings we are confident. To the extent our efforts are pleasing to you, to that extent our efforts are not in vain.

The best description of your rare glories is found in a purport you wrote in the section of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* recounting the talks between Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Rāmānanda Rāya (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 8.246, purport):

Similarly, in the *Bṛhan-nārādīya Purāṇa* it is further stated, *adyāpi ca muni-śreṣṭhā brahmādyā api devatāḥ*: “Until now, even the great demigods like Brahmā and Lord Śiva did not know the influence of a devotee.” The *Garuḍa Purāṇa* similarly states:

*brāhmaṇānām sahasrebhyaḥ satra-yājī viśiṣyate
satra-yājī-sahasrebhyaḥ sarva-vedānta-pāragāḥ*

*sarva-vedānta-vit-koṭyā viṣṇu-bhakto viśiṣyate
vaiṣṇavānām sahasrebhya ekānty eko viśiṣyate*

“It is said that out of thousands of *brāhmaṇas*, one is qualified to perform sacrifices, and out of many thousands of such qualified *brāhmaṇas* expert in sacrificial offerings, one learned *brāhmaṇa* may have passed beyond all Vedic knowledge. He is considered the best among all these *brāhmaṇas*. And yet, out of thousands of such *brāhmaṇas* who have surpassed Vedic knowledge, one person may be a *viṣṇu-bhakta*, and he is most famous. Out of many thousands of such Vaiṣṇavas, one who is completely fixed in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa is most famous. Indeed, a person who is completely devoted to the service of the Lord certainly returns home, back to Godhead.”

Such are rare thing—for someone to actually go back to Godhead! And yet you remarkably created this opportunity for all of us. Since you desired this, Kṛṣṇa is bound to facilitate our return to Him, even in this lifetime! We beg to keep treading behind you, following in your footsteps.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

You offered the world the best: an infinite-capacity elevator to the top floor of human existence—eager devotional service, beyond illusion and doubt.

Your aspiring servants in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

Scarborough

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

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

Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances, All Glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā!

On this, your appearance day, we reflect on all the sacrifices you have made in order to save us from the hellish condition of this material world. You are truly our savior and ever well-wisher.

We, the devotees at ISKCON Scarborough, are very grateful to you for providing us with all the guidance we need to carry out our daily activities—guidance found in your books, letters, lectures, conversations and recordings, all of which we hold very dear.

You have fulfilled your spiritual master’s order by spreading the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement throughout the Western world and beyond. Please bless us so we can follow your orders and help you spread the chanting of the holy name to every town and village, as predicted by Lord Caitanya.

It is said that “you built a house where the whole world can live.” The truth of this statement is borne out by our growing weekly congregation. As more and more people become aware of our Scarborough center, they are coming in larger numbers and are becoming attracted to your movement.

Chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa is the most sublime gift anyone can receive, and you have given us that gift. We thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Of course, we wish that you were still here in your physical form, but we know that you’re watching over us. By your grace and special mercy we will endeavor to co-operate to push on this mission.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your most grateful servants at ISKCON Scarborough, Canada.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Seattle

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The past year has seen amazing progress in the Seattle temple under the able guidance of our inspirational leader and your exemplary disciple His Grace Harivilās Dāsa, our temple president.

We made many improvements to your temple at Seattle during this year. On the infrastructure side, we added an impressive Performing Arts Center adjacent to the temple. This modern facility, containing professional-grade audiovisual systems, has been a magnet for artists of local and global repute, as well as young congregation members, to showcase their myriad artistic talents. Moreover, we have acquired a farm in nearby Redmond and plan to use it for sustainable agriculture and cow protection, and also as a venue for related activities, including retreats to promote health and spirituality.

We also had some important Deity installations, specifically of Śrī Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān made of Makrāna marble by traditional sculptors in Jaipur. We also installed a beautiful brass Deity of Lord Śrī Narasiṁhadeva, which arrived from Māyāpur. Moreover, we upgraded to a new altar with exquisite carvings and had a master gilder gold-leaf the altar with 24-carat gold. We installed a state-of-the-art LED-light matrix, which took three months to install and adjust, to illuminate the Deities and the altar. The result of all this upgrading is that altar is very visually appealing and makes an aesthetically sublime impact on people taking *darśana*. In addition, our temple exterior was painted and we are taking care of your property diligently.

With great aplomb our temple also organized the biggest events of the year, namely, Janmāṣṭamī, Gaura Pūrṇimā, Rādhāṣṭamī, and Ratha-yātrā (on Alki Beach). Literally thousands of people throng the temple on those days to take *darśana* of our Deities Śrī Rādhā-Nīlamādhava and partake of very opulent *prasādam*. In addition to these main festivals, we also organized family events like Ānanda Mela and Balmela to build bonds of friendship and service with the local community, and also to give them access to the Vedic culture of India, including spiritual exhibits and internationally reputed artists—all with free admission. Please guide us with your mercy and blessings so that we may continue to make these festivals even bigger and better in the coming year.

Finally, we offer our humble obeisances to the many ISKCON spiritual leaders who come here to Seattle. They not only give talks here in the temple but also conduct *japa* retreats and speak at local venues to the broader American community.

All we do is best described by an attempt to conform to the last line of your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 10.10: “If a devotee is not intelligent enough to make progress on the path of self-realization but is sincere and devoted to the activities of devotional service, the Lord gives him a chance to make progress and ultimately attain to Him.”

Your humble and insignificant servants at ISKCON Seattle, Washington, USA.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Silicon Valley

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The following is Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s order:

Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 7.128]

As you have perfectly taken up Mahāprabhu’s order—imparted to you by your spiritual master—you have taught the same order to your disciples, who are now passing it down to your granddisciples, who are passing it down to your great-granddisciples.

Those who accept this order through the authorized channel of devotees attain unexpected mastery as they apply the order through the various phases of their lives. An old Spanish proverb wisely sums it up: “More grows in the garden than the gardener sows.”

In fact, impressing upon us the potency of following the Lord’s order, you write in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (2.9.34, purport): “The direct order of the Lord is a manifestation of His internal energy, and this particular energy is the means of seeing the Lord face to face.”

Taking this statement to heart, the devotees at ISKCON of Silicon Valley (ISV) have shaped their lives around Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s sacred order. In the beginning, the devotees of ISV planted Mahāprabhu’s *saṅkīrtana* flag in a small house on New Jersey Ave. When the neighbors complained about the noise of the *kīrtana* and Sunday crowds, ISV moved to a storefront. When the local merchants nearby also complained, ISV moved to a rented commercial building and established their temple base there. And when the ISV congregation overflowed the walls of that commercial building, together we purchased a new temple from which to push on the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, following Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s order under your guidance as our founder-*ācārya*, the ISV devotees are growing up as learned and faithful men and women and are wending their way back to Godhead. Hearing and chanting together, we are marking off the days, weeks, months, and years (and now even decades), following your instructions for realizing the highest goal in life.

For your satisfaction, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we continue to perform the *saṅkīrtana-yajña*, to meticulously study *śāstra*, to cooperate, to organize, to set and smash goals, and to care for one another.

It seems that Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s order is so straightforward that it should be simple to execute. However, history has shown that Māyā unleashes an unexpected barrage of obstacles before those who sincerely try to fulfill it.

Recognizing this, you have fortified your followers by creating ISKCON, an international society complete with advanced Vaiṣṇava association, an authority structure, and an abundance of *śāstra* to answer our questions, vanquish our doubts, and guide us in a life of pure devotion to Kṛṣṇa. By following Mahāprabhu’s order under your direction, we are coming to see the Lord face to face.

Because living beings are constitutionally servants, they have a natural eagerness to do good for others. However, people who lack spiritual vision—even though they have the best of intentions—can do little to benefit others. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī compared the performance of humanitarian work to one’s blowing on a boil to relieve the pain. There’s some momentary relief, but the ailment persists. Similarly, the myriad good causes people take up—tending to the sick, feeding the hungry, speaking up for justice, and so on—fall short of amending the ills of the world. According to Prahlāda Mahārāja, those who are ill-informed but who still try to do good for others may even increase the pain and suffering of their recipients. Prahlāda notes that the the cure for a disease is often more injurious than the disease itself. Moreover, because work done without proper spiritual guidance does not purify the heart or bring one to complete knowledge, its performance detains one in the material world, obligating the performer

Homages from ISKCON Centers

to transmigrate from one physical body to another—perpetually.

Nevertheless, men and women tediously try to block the onslaught of the anomalies and bad luck that are inherent in material life. But to no avail, for at best they gain only a false sense that they are helping others, even though their efforts invariably end in defeat.

Lord R̥ṣabhadeva instructed His sons:

As long as one does not inquire about the spiritual values of life, one is defeated and subjected to miseries arising from ignorance. Be it sinful or pious, karma has its resultant actions. If a person is engaged in any kind of karma, his mind is called *karmātmaka*, colored with fruitive activity. As long as the mind is impure, consciousness is unclear, and as long as one is absorbed in fruitive activity, he has to accept a material body. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.5.5]

However, among the innumerable good causes, there is one great cause: taking up the order of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Following Mahāprabhu’s command liberates those who embrace it and brings them to the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa in the spiritual world, where they live with Him in eternal happiness. This great cause may be embraced and realized by anyone who is fortunate enough to accept and obey the authority of Mahāprabhu that comes through the succession of His followers.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.17.1 you write, “If people would only approach the authority, then every adverse condition in this universe could be rectified.”

On this day of your divine appearance, we rededicate ourselves—body, mind, heart, and soul—to your authority.

We also pray to imbibe your specific mood and method for perfectly satisfying Lord Caitanya, which you have also expressed in another *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* purport:

The *sakāma* devotees are self-interested because they do not think of others, and therefore they are not able to satisfy the Lord perfectly, whereas the pure devotees take the missionary responsibility of turning nondevotees into devotees, and they are therefore able to satisfy the Lord more than the demigods. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.9.12, purport]

Saṅkīrtana-yajña-kī jaya! Śrīla Prabhupāda-kī jaya!

Your servants at ISKCON Silicon Valley, California, USA.

(written by Vaiṣeṣika Dāsa)

Soweto

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I can only pay prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet again and again.

Who am I to attempt to glorify you? Can an insignificant glowworm glorify the sun? I can only attempt to do so, while feeling encouraged that you will be properly glorified on this auspicious day by your many worthy disciples and granddisciples who can glorify you so much better than I can.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Your ISKCON movement is growing bigger by the day. It was growing when you were physically with us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, it's growing stronger now, and it will continue to grow for the next ten thousand years by your mercy. We can see how the lives of so many people are sublimely transformed when they come in touch with ISKCON's main preaching programs of book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, and *harināma saṅkīrtana*. Practically anyone who is a devotee today owes his devotional life to one or more of these programs.

Here in South Africa we can see how the Ratha-yātrā Festival of the Chariots is having a huge impact on society. This festival, which you so expertly introduced to the West, is a perfect way to introduce the Kṛṣṇa consciousness culture to society. Indeed, ISKCON is at its heart a cultural presentation for the respiritualization of the entire human society!

May the movement you so expertly started grow stronger by the day, and may your fame spread throughout the universe!

I am simply praying at your lotus feet out of desperation and helplessness, even though I am painfully aware that I lack the *adhikāra* to approach you. But where else can I go for shelter? I want to shout out loud, "Śrīla Prabhupāda! Please pluck out the firmly rooted weeds of lust, anger, greed, illusion, envy, and pride embedded in my heart! Please make me a proper instrument to be used in the *saṅkīrtana* movement in a way that your servants deem fit, within the short time I have left in this ever-deteriorating material body."

All glories unto your divine lotus feet, at which all other masters sit!

Your fallen granddisciples at ISKCON Soweto, South Africa.

(written by Mahāprabhu Dāsa)

Taiwan

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

O dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! Thank you so much for mercifully distributing Lord Kṛṣṇa's names in this world despite so many obstacles. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to discover Kṛṣṇa's existence through your many wonderful books. Through your established ISKCON society we have received the opportunity to contact your followers and become attracted to this wonderful family. By watching your devotees' love and devotion for Lord Kṛṣṇa we also felt your love and Kṛṣṇa's. Thus our appreciation for you has grown deeper and deeper in our hearts. Although in this Age of Kali the world is full of all sorts of materialism, with so many allurements and quarrels, your example and the example of your dear followers are the inspiration for us to follow. By following in your footsteps and adhering strictly to your instructions, we are able to practice the discipline of *bhakti* and thus take this path very seriously, very steadily.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are eternally grateful for everything you gave us. We are convinced that to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness we must depend on your mercy. Please, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, always shower your mercy upon us and bless us. Although we desire to advance in devotional life, we still have many material desires. We pray that you will allow us to be immersed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness always. Please allow us to always have the opportunity to serve the devotees, because only by serving them and hearing from them about Kṛṣṇa can we learn how to love you and Lord Kṛṣṇa.

We are proud, fallen, and less intelligent. Please empower us. Please help us always remember that

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our eternal identity is to be Kṛṣṇa's humble servants. Only by maintaining such a correct understanding can we sincerely practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please help us appreciate every devotee's good qualities. We want to serve them because they are so concerned for us and protect us from illusion. Please, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, empower us to become more advanced and thus better instruments in your preaching mission here in Taiwan.

Your humble servants in Taiwan.

(written by Śyāmapriyā Devī Dāsī)

Tokyo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It is only through your mercy that here in Japan we can experience the mercy of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Lord Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu freely distributed the holy names of the Lord without any discrimination. You, following in His footsteps, took this mercy beyond the Indian shores and spread it throughout the planet, giving you the distinction of being a true *jagad-guru*.

Your books provide us with profound insight. You have built a society in which everyone can be engaged in the service of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Even people who have no desire for anything spiritual or religious become attracted by your movement. This is why your movement is so beneficial to all souls in the full grip of material energy, especially in a country like Japan.

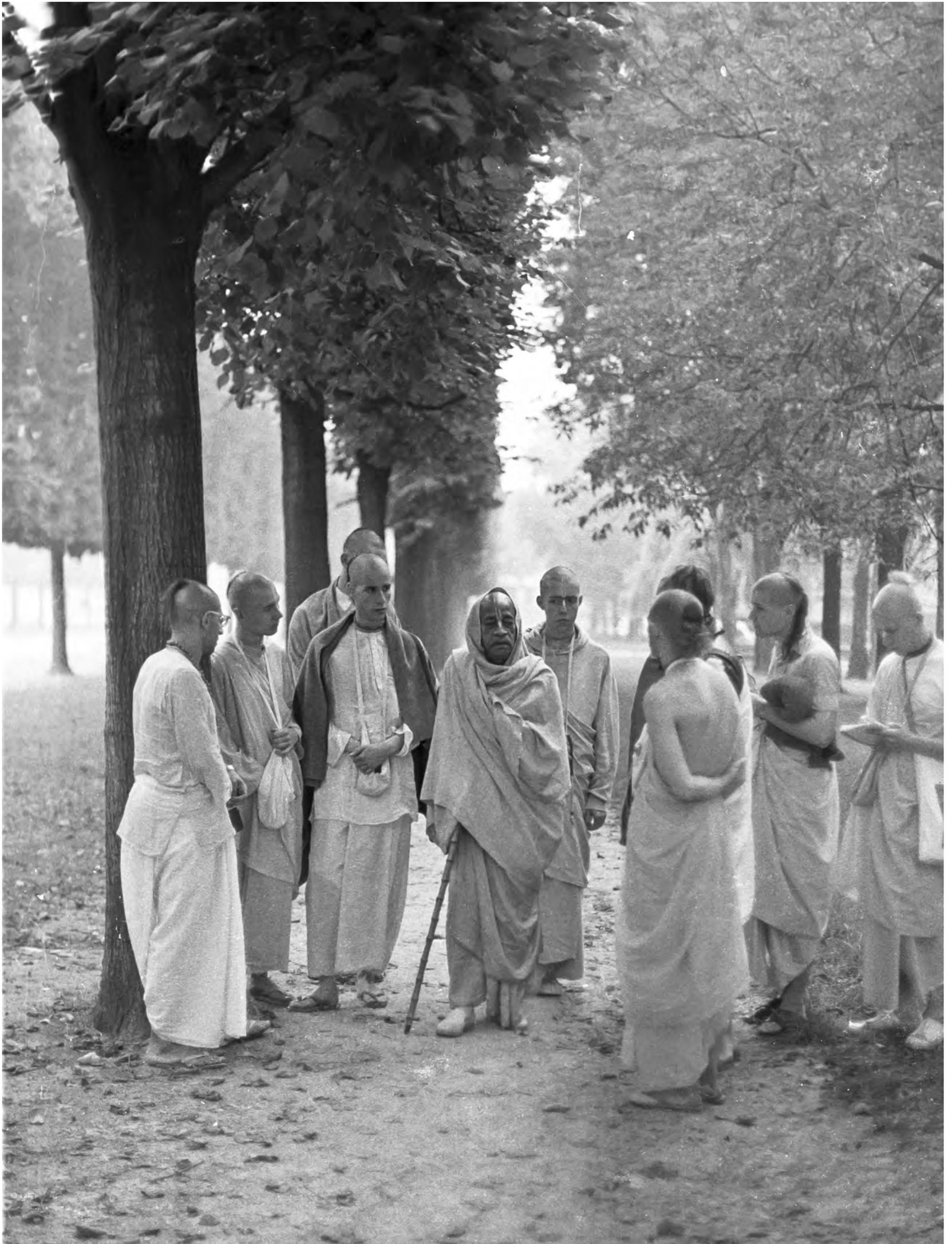
You kindly named the Tokyo center New Gaya, providing this place with a spiritual connection. By your mercy, in the past two years ISKCON New Gaya has achieved more than it deserved. We now need your empowerment to continue to spread the holy names of the Lord with determination and motivation, in the service of your lotus feet. We humbly beg that we may continue to be a part of your divine mission, which is simply dedicated to fulfilling the desire of the Supreme Lord.

On July 3, 2011, with your blessings we witnessed the grand opening of ISKCON New Gaya's new temple, including the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindajī Deities. Devotees shed tears of ecstasy. Since then we have been doing our best to serve Their Lordships according to the instructions you have given us. You have kindly given us the method of Deity worship, through which we can establish our relationship with the Lord. Such a privilege was not possible even to exalted personalities in Satya-yuga. But by your grace we experience bliss in the service of the Deities and in *kīrtana*.

After Japan experienced a terrible earthquake and tsunami in March of 2011, your Food for Life project took firm root in Japan. With the tremendous efforts of many selfless devotees, and only through your mercy, *prasādam* was served continuously to thousands of victims. These efforts were recognized and facilitated by key figures in society; people from all walks of life and affiliations supported your project.

Govinda's Restaurant was successfully established with a vision to serve *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* to all. It has been ranked the number-one Indian restaurant in Tokyo in a Sekai *bantsuke* TV survey, which was broadcast on Japan TV. Afterward many Japanese visited the restaurant and got your mercy. The Vedic Culture School is continuing to train devotees from an early age. A regular weekly *saṅkīrtana* party goes out to distribute the holy names. The Vedic Culture Center has been established so that people with various faiths can hear your sublime message.

For your pleasure, the BBT has published two new books in Japanese: *The Perfection of Yoga* and *On the Way to Kṛṣṇa*.



Homages from ISKCON Centers

All of this has been a humble effort from the team of devotees in Japan to please Your Divine Grace and Kṛṣṇa. One great benefit of all our efforts is that several of your direct, senior disciples are working closely with us and sharing your pastimes, mood, and mission.

We are but ignorant souls seeking your unconditional and abundant mercy to progress in devotional service.

You made several visits to Japan, blessing this land of the rising sun. Please continue to guide us and empower us to serve you so we may rise to higher levels of consciousness.

Your humble servants at ISKCON New Gaya, Tokyo, Japan.

Tucson

Back to the Future

Gone are the days of traveling in a van,
Of street corners, Santa suits, and donation cans.
I had three different ID's and a wig or two;
Lord Caitanya's army—the brave and the few.

I went to jail, out on bail,
Our determination seemed never to fail,
Long time ago, when I was young—
My best years to serve were yet to come.

I loved it all and I don't look back,
Except for humility that I did lack.
With whom I served, a lasting bond,
Enduring friendship, forever fond.

All your devotees sacrificed so much
For your loving glance and gentle touch.
Throughout the years, memories past,
Complete submission—so much you asked.

I gladly did it for your pleasure;
Through the austerity I found a treasure—
The satisfaction of pleasing you.
My appreciation only deepened and grew.

Now I'm looking ahead—the next twenty years,
Fixed in your service, I approach without fears.
You taught by example what's expected of us:
To tolerate growing older without much fuss

The preaching is evolving, and I am quite glad,
'cause now we have Skype, iPhone, and iPad

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

To reach out to more, your message so sweet,
Encounter thousands simply using a “tweet.”

But we can’t get distracted from the ultimate goal:
Chanting Kṛṣṇa’s holy name, direct connection with our soul.
Diving deep into the books, dancing in *kīrtana* so sublime,
Becoming a pure devotee before we all run out of time.

Your servants in ISKCON’s temple in Tucson, Arizona, USA.

(written by Sandāmanī Devī Dāsī)

Ujjain

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Lord Kṛṣṇa appeared on this planet five thousand years ago to reveal His most intimate pastimes in Goloka Vṛndāvana. Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu appeared a little more than five hundred years ago to distribute the supreme gift of divine love to the most fallen souls of Kali-yuga. But it took His very intimate *senapati-bhakta*, Your Divine Grace, to actually reach out to the fallen souls of Kali-yuga all over the world.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 3.5.3 states why great devotees of the Lord preach throughout the world:

*janasya kṛṣṇād vimukhasya daivād
adharmā-śīlasya suduḥkhitasya
anugrahāyeha caranti nūnam
bhūtāni bhavyāni janārdanasya*

“O my lord, great philanthropic souls travel on the earth on behalf of the Supreme Personality of Godhead to show compassion to the fallen souls who are averse to the sense of subordination to the Lord.”

Bhāgavatam 11.2.29 elaborates on the rarity of meeting great souls:

*durlabho mānuṣo deho dehinām kṣaṇa-bhaṅguraḥ
tatrāpi durlabham manye vaikuṅṭha-priya-darśanam*

“For the conditioned souls, the human body is most difficult to achieve, and it can be lost at any moment. But I think that even those who have achieved human life rarely gain the association of pure devotees, who are dear to the Lord of Vaikuṅṭha.”

Having achieved the association of a pure devotee, one should be intelligent enough to take advantage of it by surrendering to him, inquiring from him about the Absolute Truth, and serving him. In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.22.5 you elaborate on this relationship, so clearly expressing the mood of your heart, the mood of service to your spiritual master, which you regard as a priceless jewel:

Manu described herewith the result of seeing a great saintly person. Lord Caitanya says that one should always try to associate with saintly persons because if one establishes a proper

Homages from ISKCON Centers

association with a saintly person, even for a moment, one attains all perfection. *Somehow or other, if one meets a saintly person and achieves his favor, then the entire mission of one's human life is fulfilled.* [italics added]

Every day we read *Śrīla Prabhupāda Līlāmṛta* during *prasādam* time. At that time we become aware of the struggles you went through in serving the instructions of your Guru Mahārāja. In India at one point you were traveling back and forth from Vṛndāvana to Delhi every day, since you had no place to stay in Delhi. You used to walk three miles to save a few *annas*. At times you had to even sacrifice breakfast *prasādam* to make sure that your *Back to Godhead* magazine was printed. When we were new devotees we couldn't understand all these austerities you underwent, but as we take more responsibility in your mission we can get some realization of your hard struggles in establishing the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. One of your very intimate disciples once told of a person who said to the devotees that they couldn't really understand the immensity of the sacrifice you had performed to spread this movement. The devotees (who were at that time in their 30's or 40's) became a little confused, and even a little offended, at the idea that someone might claim to understand the depth of your sacrifice better than your own disciples, who had themselves sacrificed everything to serve and please you. But the point the person was making was that your young disciples could not actually know what you had gone through in your seventies to spread this movement.

On hearing such narrations, we naturally feel that if only we were there with you at that time we could have made all kinds of arrangements to serve you. As a second-generation devotee, I simply lament my misfortune of having missed the association of such a great personality as you. Definitely, that is a great loss. But upon further consideration, I cannot fathom my great good fortune of getting the association of your intimate associates who assist you in your divine mission of fulfilling the desires of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. These intimate disciples of yours are carrying the mission forward and revealing your true glories to us. While we may be neophytes, these great souls, your loyal servants, can still feel your presence and guidance. We feel very fortunate to have their divine association, and through them we are able to serve you and the divine mission of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

In the same purport of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (3.22.5) you elaborate on the proper mood of service to the spiritual master with a practical example from your own life:

In our personal experience we have actual proof of this statement of Manu. Once we had the opportunity to meet Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, and on first sight he requested this humble self to preach his message in the Western countries. There was no preparation for this, but somehow or other he desired it, and by his grace we are now engaged in executing his order, which has given us a transcendental occupation and has saved and liberated us from the occupation of material activities. Thus it is actually a fact that if one meets a saintly person completely engaged in transcendental duties and achieves his favor, then one's life mission becomes complete. *What is not possible to achieve in thousands of lives can be achieved in one moment if there is an opportunity to meet a saintly person.* [Italics added]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us a mission in which anyone, from any background, can use his skills in the service of the Lord and can make tangible spiritual advancement. What was extremely difficult in previous ages has been made extremely simple by your divine mercy. You have truly built a house in which the whole world can live. We, the sinful souls of Kali-yuga, with practically no previous *sukṛti* for advancement in spiritual life, have an opportunity to engage in the divine mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Though we are full of faults, you are engaging us in this manner, and for this we thank you.

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.20.17 Lord Kṛṣṇa says:

*nṛ-deham ādyaṁ su-labhaṁ su-durlabhaṁ
plavaṁ su-kalpaṁ guru-karṇadhāraṁ
mayānukūlena nabhasvateritaṁ
pumān bhavābhirṅ na taret sa ātma-hā*

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

“The human body, which can award all benefit in life, is automatically obtained by the laws of nature, although it is a very rare achievement. This human body can be compared to a perfectly constructed boat having the spiritual master as the captain and the instructions of the Personality of Godhead as favorable winds impelling it on its course. Considering all these advantages, a human being who does not utilize his human life to cross the ocean of material existence must be considered the killer of his own soul.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so that we do not miss the golden opportunity we have received by our inconceivable good fortune. Let us not deviate due to materialistic allurements. While *māyā* may present so many allurements of *dhanam*, *janam*, and *sundarīm*, let us be firmly situated at your lotus feet. Let us offer this life fully for your pleasure by serving your divine mission and your loyal followers.

By your mercy coming through your trusted disciples, our temple, though relatively new, has been growing with each passing year. We have many projects, as per your direction, to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this part of the world. The Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-mohana, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma are the prime focus of all our activities. Their exquisite, unparalleled beauty charms the hearts of anyone who takes Their divine *darśana*. All our activities are ultimately aimed at serving and pleasing Them. Our Food for Life program, feeding over 25,000 children a day, is especially liked by the locals. Though they may take this to be mere social service, thousands of children are indeed receiving the mercy of the Lord in the form of *prasādam*. We are in the process of setting up a Kṛṣṇa conscious school, which will impart international quality education to the local people, along with a very solid Kṛṣṇa conscious foundation. Our college preaching program is attracting the most intelligent students to the movement. Indeed, many young, educated men are coming forward to serve your movement and fully dedicate their lives for your service. While this is truly very encouraging, at the same time it is the responsibility of the leadership to make sure that they are taken care of physically, emotionally, and spiritually, so that these wonderful devotees will blissfully serve your divine mission throughout their lives. We beg for your mercy so we can be proper representatives of your divine mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, we beg for your mercy so that we can serve you and please you, for by doing so we will achieve the ultimate perfection of life, pleasing the Supreme Lord.

Your servants at ISKCON Ujjain, India.

(written by Nitāi Chandra Dāsa)

Villaggio Hare Kṛṣṇa

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

My dearest spiritual father, Śrīla Prabhupāda,
I repeatedly offer my most respectful obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet.

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, I have titled this year’s offering to you “United We Stand, Divided We

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Fall” (following a famous statement you made in March of 1976 in Māyāpur) because this is what so many devotees in our ISKCON movement feel is one of the main necessities nowadays.

O divine master, you are the very root of our life, and therefore, as always, I feel very deep appreciation and gratitude for what you have done for us— undergoing so many difficulties and austerities to bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to faraway countries such as Italy.

Today, March 8th, we are celebrating Gaura Pūrṇimā here in our temple in Bergamo, known as Villaggio Hare Kṛṣṇa. On this very auspicious anniversary of the appearance of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, my mind goes to you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda. I meditate on your first Gaura Pūrṇimā in the West, in New York, on the March 6, 1966. Alone, elderly, not in the best of health, you stood on the battlefield of America trying to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Janārdana, the father of all living entities, and all the previous *ācāryas* of our *sampradāya* had great concern for the precarious situation of the conditioned souls of Kali-yuga, and you were there in New York representing all of them. Therefore . . .

Your mission was the most important one!

Your conditions were the most difficult ones!

Your determination was the strongest of anyone!

Our good fortune to meet you? I can only say: a matchless gift!

You wandered here and there in Manhattan, trying to distribute your books. The winter was a most difficult one, with lots of snow, blasting wind, and temperatures reaching an icy -18 degrees C!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were alone in your poor and humble rented room, No. 307 at Dr. Mishra’s yoga ashram in Manhattan (paying \$72 a month), when you wrote in your diary:

According to Mayapur Panjika [calendar] today is Adhivas day of Gour Purnima. Devotees at Vrindaban and Nabadwipa are enjoying the celebration. 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 Chaitanya Mahaprabhu wanted that His mission should be propagated all over the world and that is my objective. I do not mind the inconvenience personally felt.

This was the cause of our salvation—your deep and strong determination in propagating the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahaprabhu under the order of your spiritual master.

You were never alone, as you said on several occasions. You always felt the presence of your spiritual master. Similarly, we learned from you to always feel your presence in our efforts to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We remember the picture of you walking down a street in New York City wearing a big black coat in the freezing winter of 1965–66. Your face looks somber, not lighthearted, because at that time you seemed not to be making any progress in your preaching and your condition was very poor. But nothing, nothing, nothing could stop you.

So today we can boldly say that you are still here with us: you are here with your instructions; you are here with your strong and unbreakable desire to save us; you are here with your movement, ISKCON; you are here with your servants; you are here in your *mūrti*; you are here in the hearts of those who serve you, continuing your mission of saving the fallen souls. You told us that preaching means undergoing austerity with tolerance and compassion to help others become Kṛṣṇa conscious. As said in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (8.7.44), in the verse beginning *tapyante loka-tāpena*, real saints voluntarily undergo sufferings to relieve the sufferings others. This is the best form of worship (*paramārāadhanam*) by the best devotees (*sādhavaḥ*)—devotees like you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we miss you so much, but we also feel that you are here next to us, enthusiastic as always, full of youthful energy as always, never wanting to rest and stop your preaching. Once in New York in 1976, when you were entering the elevator of the 55th Street building, you turned to Rameśvara Prabhu, who had suggested you rest and recuperate at Gītā-nāgarī for some time, and exclaimed: “I want to die on the battlefield of preaching, just like Arjuna!”

But simultaneously you were always asking help from us. As you said, “Alone, what can I do?” When in March 1966 a thief stole your tape recorder and typewriter, you asked your visitors and friends for advice on what to do.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

You, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, the close friend of Kṛṣṇa, coming directly from the spiritual kingdom of Vrajadhāma, Vrajabhūmi Vṛndāvana *dhāma*—you associated with the worst beggars and lowlifes of New York. We were all rejected souls, fallen from the spiritual world to become street dogs, homeless souls. You came to us with a deep feeling of compassion and unlimited tolerance, and you made us into flowers, as you used to say: “You are my American flowers.” Yes, we are your flowers, and we will forever remain your flowers, with your fragrant and unique scent, only yours and nobody else’s!

You loved us, you were concerned about us, you engaged us in devotional service, you asked our help. Sometimes you even asked our blessings, as you did from Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja in Vṛndāvana in 1977. Such unbelievable humility has never been seen on this planet!

This is the meaning of cooperation in the preaching mission of Lord Caitanya’s movement. You showed us the meaning of “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.”

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, today, the first of April, is Rāma-navamī, the appearance day of Śrī Rāmacandra, and here in Villaggio Hare Kṛṣṇa many devotees are working together to serve the Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Ramaṇa and Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurāṅga and welcome the numerous guests arriving today.

This is the fortunate position of living in a community of devotees. We can always remember and serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the company of other, similar persons. I see nice devotees happily working together. As you told us, “I created this ISKCON society to give engagement in devotional service and good association to everyone.”

Association with the devotees is the root of spiritual life. This association is our protection, our security: *tāndera caraṇa sevi bhakta-sane vāsa/ janame janame haya ei abhilāṣa*. We know very well that we will make spiritual progress only if we learn the art of associating with each other. Otherwise we will remain very small and neophyte, even if we like to think that we are advanced.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, one of the things that impressed me the most is what happened on the 8th of February, 1977, in Māyāpur, just a little before the annual festival. You were quite ill. One day, while walking up the stairs, you fell back. Fortunately, Hari Śauri Prabhu was right behind you, ready to catch you so you did not fall to the ground. This was the second time this had happened in a few days. That day was the appearance day of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and in your class you said, roaring like a lion:

And Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, our master, spiritual master, he also came in this world to execute some mission of life, or mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. So he executed it, and when it was required, he left this place and went to another place to do the same business. . . . [I]n the material world everyone is busy for three things—material profit, material reputation, and material adoration. This is not Vaiṣṇava’s business. Vaiṣṇava never cares for all these things. Vaiṣṇava is always thinking how to do good to the suffering humanity. . . . That is [Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura’s] special gift. He wanted every one of his disciples to go and preach the cult of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Caitanya Mahāprabhu [also wanted this]:

*yāre dekha, tāre kaha ‘kṛṣṇa’-upadeśa
āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra’ ei deśa*

Wherever you are, . . . anywhere, so you become a guru. Don’t remain a rascal. You become a guru. “Now, how can I become a guru? I am not very educated.” No! You don’t require to be very highly educated rascal. Simply repeat Kṛṣṇa consciousness as Kṛṣṇa said. You become guru.

At this point your voice went up to the sky like the strongest thunderbolt, and to this day your words are still roaring in our ears, in our consciousness, and in our hearts: “Simply repeat Kṛṣṇa consciousness as Kṛṣṇa said!” Śrī Kṛṣṇa, please help me, please grant me the capacity to make this echo of the roaring orders of Śrīla Prabhupāda available to his sincere servants so that the family business of Śrīla Prabhupāda may continue to produce genuinely merciful preachers, the saviors of the fallen souls. In this way this planet may be saved. Otherwise, who else can help the conditioned souls?

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu felt unable to distribute all the fruits of the tree of devotional service. He said (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 9.34):

*ekalā mālākāra āmi kāhān kāhān yāba
ekalā vā kata phala pāḍiyā vilāba*

“I am the only gardener. How many places can I go? How many fruits can I pick and distribute?”
You write in your purport:

Here Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu indicates that the distribution of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* should be performed by combined forces. . . . [A]ll classes of devotees should combine to distribute the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* without consideration of the time, place, or situation.

Again, in your above-quoted lecture in Māyāpur on February 8, 1977, you explain this principle of cooperation:

Andha-paṅgu-nyāya [the logic of the blind man and the lame man]. *Andha* means blind, and *paṅgu* means lame. Both of them are useless. *Andha* cannot see . . . and the lame man cannot walk. *Andha* can walk but cannot see. And the lame man can see but cannot walk. Now let them both combine together. So the whole world is suffering for want of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, or spiritual life. If American money and Indian culture mix together, the whole world will be benefited. That is my ambition.

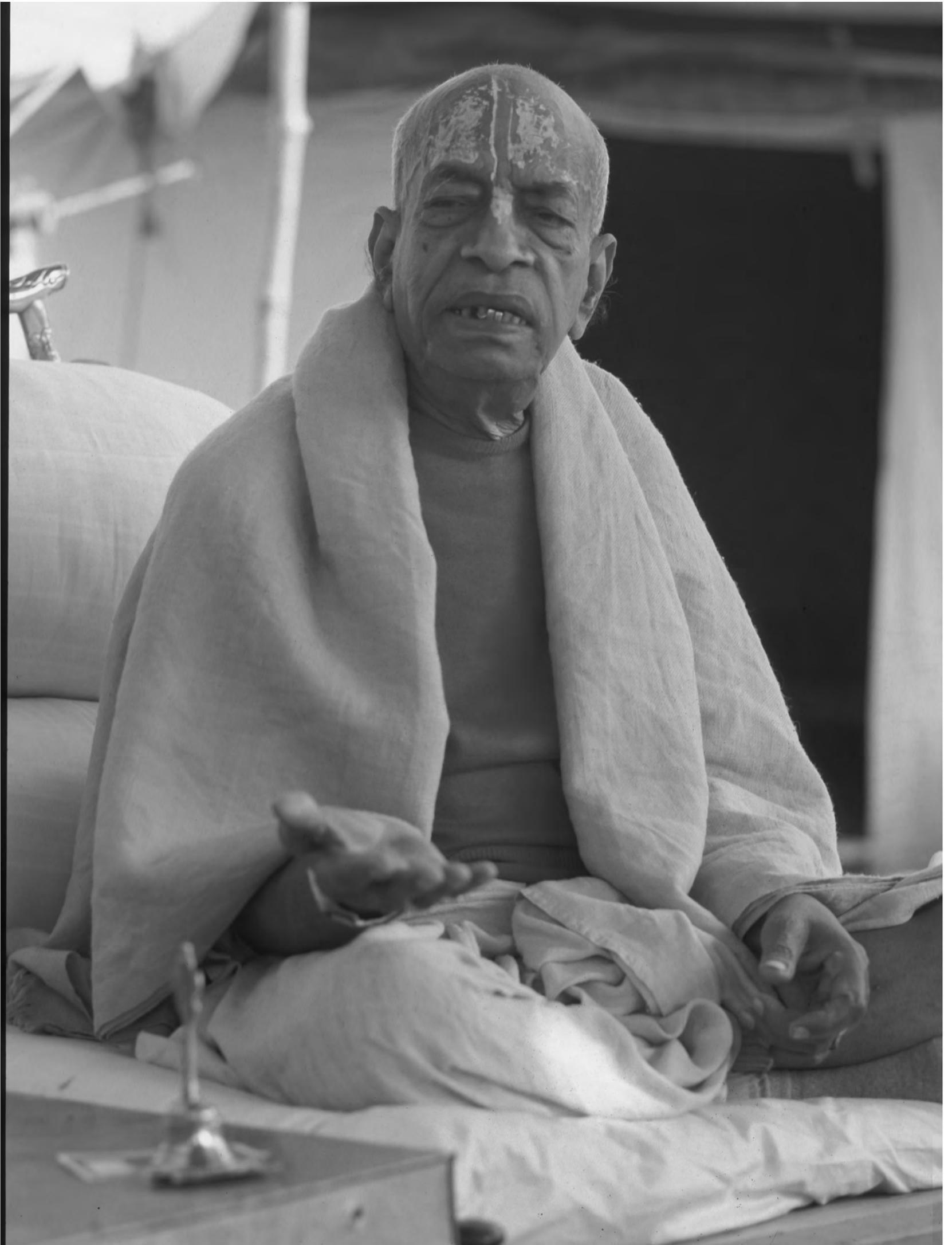
So what is preventing us from becoming united? Prahāda Mahārāja said that it’s only ignorance that forces us to identify with the body and thus regard someone as our friend and someone else as our enemy. Egoism and personal ambition make us see our godbrothers as our enemies, when they are actually our real friends. The real enemy is inside us, not outside. Our pride and egoism are our real enemies, but we regard them as our favorite friends and instead make enemies of the humble and meek devotees of the Lord!

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, we want to offer our Vyāsa-pūjā homage in pursuance of your instructions when you wrote that Vyāsa-pūjā means not just an offering of flowers, words, and *daṇḍavats* but of a commitment to serving the guru’s mission. Not only worlds, but real facts! So we bow down before you with commitments and promises to surrender our personal ambitions and follow your final commandment: If you love me, with love and trust among yourselves work together for spreading this ISKCON movement all over the world.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall!

The devotees at Villaggio Hare Kṛṣṇa, Bergamo, Milan, Italy.

(written by Dayānidhi Dāsa)



Homages from ISKCON Centers

Vṛndāvana

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

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

We pray to Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, all of whom lie at the transcendental center of our Vṛndāvana Vaiṣṇava community, that our attempts to glorify His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda on the occasion of his Vyasa-puja be successful. Undoubtedly, no attempt to describe our gratitude and debt to Śrīla Prabhupāda will ever be sufficient.

Our debt, which begins with our having been given the chance to be released from the *saṁsāra-dāvānala* of material existence, knows no bounds. Even when we have gained some inquisitiveness into life beyond the material mire, without His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda we are simply searching for a needle in a haystack, without any tangible chance for success. In Vṛndāvana, as in other places of pilgrimage in India, we gain firsthand awareness of all varieties of so-called spiritual practices and followings. Every day our ears are bombarded with *kathā* from proponents of various kinds of religiosity or so-called spirituality, without the foundation of teachings authorized by Śrī Kṛṣṇa or disseminated by a bona fide disciplic succession. Even if we chance upon a member of an authorized disciplic succession, we are reminded that anyone who does not recognize the vast wealth of teachings given by Śrīla Prabhupāda, which he passed down from the Six Gosvāmīs and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, is a most unfortunate seeker of transcendental happiness.

In our ISKCON Vṛndāvana Vaiṣṇava community we have devotees originating from all backgrounds and settings, and we all remain perpetually indebted to Śrīla Prabhupāda for his patience, perseverance, and dedication in his efforts to give us the chance to become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious, even in this lifetime, if we simply follow his instructions to chant sixteen rounds and follow the four regulative principles. We have the greatest opportunity to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness by taking advantage of the association of devotees and getting beyond our *bhautika* mentality of thinking we are the body. In interactions with devotees who originate from different cultures, such relationships can only be sustained and nourished if we give up designations based on mundane culture and race. Our path to the transcendental platform is described by Śrīla Rupa Gosvāmī in verse 4 of his *Upadeśāmṛta*, and verified by Śrīla Prabhupāda in his purport to that verse. There Śrīla Prabhupāda enjoins us to interact with other devotees in loving exchanges based on Vaiṣṇava etiquette instead of mundane etiquette, which sometimes causes misunderstanding and bad feelings between devotees.

In our service to the Deities, the wealth of bringing together devotees from different cultures advances and purifies our Deity worship. The dedicated temple devotees have a natural love and devotion in their service that is difficult to comprehend for those from atheistic or pseudoreligious backgrounds. The devotees maintain a high standard of purity and cleanliness in Deity worship, in line with the high standards set by Śrīla Prabhupāda. Over the years, ISKCON Vṛndāvana has become famous for its high standard of worship and cleanliness. In fact, the standard of Deity worship throughout Vṛndāvana has improved since Śrīla Prabhupāda inaugurated the Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple. Also, the 24-hour *kīrtana* started by Śrīla Prabhupāda when the temple first opened and later carried on by his devoted followers has become an inspiration for all of ISKCON and the world.

Whether we are Śrīla Prabhupāda's direct disciples or a little further down the disciplic succession, we know that if we want to please him we have to accept the principle of "Books are the basis, preaching is the essence, purity is the force, and utility is the principle." Yet despite often quoting this formula, we find that getting it to stick in our hearts and become one with our personal aspirations is, for some of us at least, difficult. All glories to the dedicated devotees here in Vṛndāvana who have dedicated their lives

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

to pleasing Śrīla Prabhupāda by finding the ways and means to distribute his books and preach purely here on the temple premises, on *saṅkīrtana*, and in village preaching parties.

We offer a prayer on behalf of our Vṛndāvana community to surrender our will fully to the instructions and desires of our spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who always said the moving force behind his service to all living entities was simply his desire to please his spiritual master. May we all dedicate ourselves to reading, studying, and distributing his books, surrender our lives to his service, and show our willingness to surrender to his desire by following his instruction to co-operate with all the devotees, with the aim that we all go back home, back to Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's servants at the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir in Vṛndāvana, India.

(written by Lavaṅgalatā Devī Dāsī)