



Homages from the Publishers

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Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Africa)

Our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most celebrated occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once stated that ISKCON is your body and the BBT your heart. Here at the African branch of your Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, we are diligently working to keep your mercy flowing throughout the vast African continent.

Under the careful guidance, love, and protection of your beloved son His Holiness Jayādvaita Swami, the BBT Africa team has grown over the past year and now consists of seventeen steadfast servitors working on translating, editing, printing, marketing, financing, and distributing Kṛṣṇa conscious literature. Based in Johannesburg, South Africa, we have established a network of ambassadors residing in countries like Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Mauritius, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Malawi. We have also been blessed with the association of traveling ambassadors such as His Holiness Kadamba Kānana Swami and His Holiness Bhakti Vāsudeva Swami.

Over the past year we have successfully hosted the Third Annual BBT Africa Conference, this year in Nairobi, Kenya. By streamlining the process of distributing your *Back to Godhead* magazine, we aim to increase the subscription base and make BTG available in more African countries. BBT Africa has also been successful in securing a building to facilitate devotees who are dedicating their lives to your service by publishing and distributing your books.

Thus far we have produced translations of *Beyond Birth and Death* in Zulu and Xhosa, and *Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers* in Xhosa and Kiswahili. We are currently working on thirty translations of many of your other books into indigenous African languages.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day we offer all our efforts at your lotus feet and humbly beg you to continue showering us with your blessings so we may quickly translate and publish all your books in as many African languages as possible.

Endeavoring to increase the *saṅkīrtana* movement, we remain

Your servants at the offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust in Johannesburg, South Africa.

(written by Śrī-Govinda Dāsa and Jayalalitā Devī Dāsī)



Homages from the Publishers

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (India)

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

*namas te sārsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Śrīla Prabhupāda Lilāmṛta Dvādaśakam

(Twelve Stanzas Narrating Śrīla Prabhupāda's Nectarean Pastimes)

(1)

*nandotsava-dine śubhāvataṛaṇam
śrī-nandanandane bhakti-svarūpam
kaumāre bhakti-pālana caturam
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! He transcendently appeared on the auspicious day of Nandotsava, he is the personification of devotion for the son of Nanda Mahārāja, and he was expert in devotional activities even in childhood.

(2)

*rādhā-govinde nitya-darśanam
śrī-jagadīśa-ratha yātrānandam
rādhā-kṛṣṇa-yugale nitya-sevanam
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! He used to take *darśana* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda every day in his childhood, he happily performed Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā with his playmates, and he regularly served Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, imitating his father's devotional activities.

(3)

*anupama-śrī-guru-darśana-bhāgyam
prathama-vacanam gurvādeśam
priyam-ati-vaiṣṇava-jana-sāṅgatyam
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! His first meeting with his spiritual master was so excellent that even the first words his guru spoke were in themselves the ultimate instruction for him. Śrīla Prabhupāda was very much fond of close association with devotees.

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

(4)

*bhagavad-darśana-śubha-prārambhaṁ
gurvādeśa-pālana-baddham
śrī-vṛndāvane vānaprasthaṁ
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! He started *Back to Godhead* magazine to fulfill the order of his spiritual master, he was always bound by the words of his spiritual master, and he entered the *vānaprastha-āśrama* at Śrī Vṛndāvana.

(5)

*jīva-tāraṇa-hetu-jīvita-yatnaṁ
śrī-bhāgavate anupama-bhāṣyam
paramahaṁsa-parivrājaka-śekharaṁ
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! He undertook a lifetime of preparation to deliver the conditioned souls, he wrote elaborate purports to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and he is the most distinguished *paramahaṁsa-parivrājakācārya*.

(6)

*kṛṣṇa-dūta-rūpe naukāyānaṁ
sāgara-madhye hariṇātrātam
pāścātya-deśe bhakti-praveśam
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! He traveled by cargo ship as an emissary of Lord Kṛṣṇa, he was protected by Lord Hari in the midst of the great sea, and then devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa entered the Western world.

(7)

*kṛṣṇa-bhakti-saṅgha śubha-prārambhaṁ
malayānilam iva bhakti-pracāram
koṭi-janāśraya bhakty-udyamaṁ
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! He incorporated ISKCON in the USA. Then devotional service got spread like a fragrant breeze blowing off the Malaya Hills, and millions of people took shelter of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

(8)

*sakala-deśa-jana-tāraṇa-kāryaṁ
aviśrānta divya-bhū-pradakṣiṇam
bhakti-pradānaṁ mahā-vadānyaṁ
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! Taking up the great task of delivering people in all countries, he traveled tirelessly around the globe to preach, magnanimously distributing devotional service.

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(9)

*bhagavad-gītādi-grantha-vitarāṇaṁ
nagara-grāme hari-saṅkīrtanam
nagare nagare ratha-yātrotsavaṁ
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! He translated and arranged for the distribution of transcendental literature like the *Bhagavad-gītā*, he inaugurated *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in every town and village, and due to his desire Ratha-yātrās are now being held in every major city of the world.

(10)

*śrī-harikīrtane varṣita-meghaṁ
ratha-yātrāyāṁ vikaṣita-harṣam
kṛṣṇa-kathā-śravaṇe dhvaṁsita-kleśam
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! Due to his transcendental chanting of *harināma*, clouds happily showered down their rain. Participating in his Ratha-yātrā ensures transcendental ecstasy, and the *kṛṣṇa-kathā* he gave destroys all troubles.

(11)

*bhavya-mandire bahu-nirmāṇaṁ
śrī-vṛndāvane kṛṣṇa-balāśrayam
bhakta-koṭi-jane nitya-darśanam
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! After constructing many magnificent temples all over the world, he finally took shelter of Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma in Śrī Vṛndāvana, and there he mercifully gave his auspicious *darśana* to millions every day.

(12)

*sukṛti-jane svākāṅkṣita-varadaṁ
divya-rasa-mayaṁ prema-bhaktidam
śrī-rūpānuge prāṇa-samānaṁ
mahādbhutaṁ śrī-prabhupāda-caritam*

Oh, how wonderful is the life story of Śrīla Prabhupāda! It fulfills all the desires of the devotees, it is full of transcendental mellows, it awards loving devotional service, and it is very dear to all the followers of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī.

Your servants at the offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust in India.

(written by Vaiṣṇavāṅghri-sevaka Dāsa)

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2012

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North America)

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
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nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Although it appears that you're gone from our vision,
you live on with us all through your transcendental mission.
Dedicated life to your BBT, straight on the path of eternity.
Śrīla Prabhupāda, it's all about you—we're never without you.

Fire ablaze in this material world,
In the ocean of māyā we'd been tossed and hurled.
Captured by your books and the taste of prasād,
Amazingly our lives became a dedication to God.

Going out to the public, giving people a book,
Just get their attention, try to get them to look.
If they read one śloka or just one word,
Soon they'll be living in the temple, eating subji with curd.

Having your association was so very sweet,
Seeing you in Māyāpur and serving your lotus feet.
Morning walks in Vṛndāvan and happiness all the day—
You convinced us to make the vow to never, ever stray.

Temples, festivals, and devotees all over the world,
A dynamic celebration of cultural concern.
We thought it would last forever and have no end,
Our lifetime with you we would always spend.

But one day you left and we felt all alone.
All that we could do was sit and cry and moan.
But we picked ourselves up to keep spreading your mission.
We would be with you no matter what—that was our decision.

Now years have passed, and preaching is like a brand new dawn,
where devotees act, serve, and feel like you have never gone.
You never really left us: you're always in our hearts,
our thoughts, our prayers—everywhere, we're never apart.

And the time soon will come when we all will have to leave—
karmaṇā daiva-netreṇa, our next life we will weave.
Our journey from birth, old age, and disease.
Śrīla Prabhupāda, take me with you, please.

Your servants at the offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust in North America.

Homages from the Publishers

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Northern Europe)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On July 13, 1975, in Philadelphia, a learned scholar asked you, "Of all the things you have written, what do you consider most important?"

Your Divine Grace replied, "*Prema pumārtho mahān*. The most important thing is to love God."

The professor then asked, "If you had to tell someone to preserve one small section of your work, what would you want them to preserve?"

You replied, "That is stated in a few words. [Aside to one of your disciples:] Find out this verse: *dharmasya hy āpavargasya*."

A disciple reads:

*dharmasya hy āpavargasya nārtho 'rthāyopakalpate
nārthasya dharmāikāntasya kāmo lābhāya hi smṛtaḥ*

"All occupational engagements are certainly meant for ultimate liberation. They should never be performed for material gain. Furthermore, according to sages, one who is engaged in the ultimate occupational service should never use material gain to cultivate sense gratification." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.9)

Professor: "Do you think, then that this message is the most important one you have to convey?"

You: "That is the most important message, because you are not this material body."

Almost a year later, in a conversation on June 5, 1976, as recounted in Hari Śauri Prabhu's *Transcendental Dairy*, some devotees in Los Angeles suggested to you that they wanted to focus on certain sections of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. You replied:

You want to scrutinizingly study Caitanya Mahāprabhu's instructions, but why just the part about the *gopīs*? Why don't you scrutinizingly study where Caitanya Mahāprabhu says, *guru more mūrkhā dekhi' karila śāsana*, that His guru found Him to be a fool and told Him he was not fit for anything but chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa? Why don't you scrutinize that part?

At *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya* 22.113, this verse is quoted from the *Padma Purāṇa*:

*smartavyaḥ satataṁ viṣṇur vismartavyo na jātucit
sarve vidhi-niṣedhāḥ syur etayor eva kiṅkarāḥ*

"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 sastras should be the servants of these two principles." In the purport you comment, "This chanting of sixteen rounds is absolutely necessary if one wants to remember Kṛṣṇa and not forget Him. Of all the regulative principles, the spiritual master's order to chant at least sixteen rounds is most essential."

Since all your instructions are most important, and we hold sacred your emphasis, we therefore simply pray that we may forever hear, produce, and distribute all your books in all the languages of the world to the best of our ability.

Your servants at the offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust in Northern Europe.

(written by Yogīndra Dāsa)

