



**Homages from ISKCON Centers**





## Adelaide

*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.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, the principal Deities in Adelaide, Australia!

Generally it is a tradition for all centers of the world to send homages on this most auspicious occasion of your divine appearance. However we have been badly delinquent in this regard for many years. ISKCON Adelaide has had a long, tumultuous history, and we humbly pray to you to give us your blessings so that we may not default again. We are also hoping to get guidance from Your Divine Grace to help us forge ahead in our mission to spread Lord Caitanya’s message to the people in this part of world.

Lots of changes have taken place here in the last year—all because of your causeless mercy and the gifts left behind by you. The patronage at the restaurant is increasing, our congregation is expanding, *bhakti-ṛkṣas* are sprouting, book distribution is flourishing, Food for Life programs are well received, festivals are well attended, and eminent Vaiṣṇavas have begun streaming into the temple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this blessed day of your appearance, the devotees here in Adelaide would like to make this solemn pledge in spite of the countless challenges facing us. We would like to surrender at your lotus feet and declare our allegiance to you and your mission. You have emphasized time and again that only by surrender will there be cooperation and by cooperation the movement will expand. By promising to work together in the mood of cooperation, we hope that our preaching efforts in and around Adelaide will reach greater heights.

Thank you for all your gifts, for which we are eternally indebted to you.

We beg to remain

*Your servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara’s temple in Adelaide, Australia.*

(written by Ādi Puruṣa Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

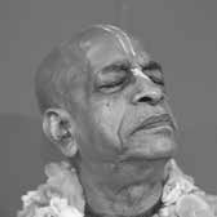
## Ahmedabad

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace, who, following strictly in the footsteps of the Pañca-tattva, inundated the whole world with Kṛṣṇa consciousness in eleven short years, without compromising the path of *sādhū*, *śāstra*, and *guru*.

At the age of seventy you undertook a very difficult, almost impossible task: to bring the transcendental knowledge of the *Bhagavad-gītā* to the people of twentieth-century USA, the headquarters of Kali-yuga. Very few Americans had even heard of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, what to speak of having read it, and among the





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very few who had read it, none knew that its sole conclusion was *bhakti-yoga*, pure devotional service to Kṛṣṇa. The mighty American generals and celebrated presidents, what to speak of ordinary men, didn't have an iota of an idea that the eternal soul transmigrates from one temporary body to another as per his association with the modes of nature. You desired to give them love of God, the highest goal of life. A very difficult mission.

Even one of your very senior godbrothers said, "It was the order of our Guru Mahārāja to preach to the Westerners, but we thought, 'It is the order of our guru and the prophecy of Mahāprabhu that the holy name will spread to every town and village, but how is that possible? How can we mix with *mlecchas* and *yavanas*?'"

You didn't have doubts. You humbly prayed on the *Jaladuta*:

*āche kichu kārja taba ei anumāne  
nahe keno āniben ei ugra-sthāne*

But I guess You have some business here; otherwise why would You bring me to this terrible place?

*rajas tamo guṇe erā sabāi ācchanna  
bāsudeb-kathā ruci nahe se prasanna*

Most of the population here is covered by the material modes of ignorance and passion. Absorbed in material life, they think themselves very happy and satisfied, and therefore they have no taste for the transcendental message of Vāsudeva. I do not know how they will be able to understand it.

*tabe jadi taba kṛpā hoy ahaitukī  
sakal-i sambhava hoy tumi se kautukī*

But I know Your causeless mercy can make everything possible because You are the most expert mystic.

*ki bhāve bujhāle tārā bujhe sei rasa  
eta kṛpā koro prabhu kori nija-baśa*

How will they understand the mellows of devotional service? O Lord, I am simply praying for Your mercy so that I will be able to convince them about Your message.

*tomāra icchāya saba hoy māyā-baśa  
tomāra icchāya nāśa māyār paraśa*

All living entities have come under the control of the illusory energy by Your will, and therefore, if You like, by Your will they can also be released from the clutches of illusion.

*taba icchā hoy jadi tādera uddhār  
bujhibe niścai tabe kathā se tomār*

I wish that You may deliver them. Therefore if You so desire their deliverance, then only will they be able to understand Your message.

*bhāgavater kathā se taba avatār  
dhīra haiyā śune jadi kāne bār bār*

The words of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam are Your incarnation, and if a sober person repeatedly receives it with submissive aural reception, then he will be able to understand Your message.



The exact same message is explained in the third chapter of the Eleventh Canto, in the conversation between King Nimi and the Nine Yogendras.

“King Nimi said: O great sage, please explain how even a foolish materialist can easily cross over the illusory energy of the Supreme Lord, which is always insurmountable for those who are not self-controlled.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.3.17)

In the purport you write, “According to Śrīla Śrīdhara Svāmī, *sthūla-dhiyaḥ* indicates those who ignorantly identify themselves with the gross material body and who are therefore unable to analyze the subtle laws of nature by which the soul transmigrates in illusion.”

In reply to King Nimi’s question, the great sage Śrī Prabuddha said:

Accepting the roles of male and female in human society, the conditioned souls unite in sexual relationships. Thus they constantly make material endeavors to eliminate their unhappiness and unlimitedly increase their pleasure. But one should see that they inevitably achieve exactly the opposite result. In other words, their happiness inevitably vanishes, and as they grow older their material discomfort increases.

Wealth is a perpetual source of distress, it is most difficult to acquire, and it is virtual death for the soul. What satisfaction does one actually gain from his wealth? Similarly, how can one gain ultimate or permanent happiness from one’s so-called home, children, relatives, and domestic animals, which are all maintained by one’s hard-earned money?

One cannot find permanent happiness even on the heavenly planets, which one can attain in the next life by ritualistic ceremonies and sacrifices. Even in material heaven the living entity is disturbed by rivalry with his equals and envy of those superior to him. And since one’s residence in heaven is finished with the exhaustion of pious fruitive activities, the denizens of heaven are afflicted by fear, anticipating the destruction of their heavenly life. Thus they resemble kings who, though enviously admired by ordinary citizens, are constantly harassed by enemy kings and who therefore never attain actual happiness. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.3.18–20)

Having proved that there is no happiness anywhere in the material world, the sage now gives the formula for achieving real and lasting happiness (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.3.21–22):

*tasmād gururṇ prapadyeta jijñāsuḥ śreya uttamam  
śābde pare ca niṣṇātaṁ brahmaṇy upaśamāśrayam*

*tatra bhāgavatān dharmān śikṣed gurv-ātma-daivataḥ  
amāyayānuvṛtṭyā yais tuṣyed ātmātma-do hariḥ*

Therefore any person who seriously desires real happiness must seek a bona fide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation. The qualification of the bona fide guru is that he has realized the conclusions of the scriptures by deliberation and is able to convince others of these conclusions. Such great personalities, who have taken shelter of the Supreme Godhead, leaving aside all material considerations, should be understood to be bona fide spiritual masters.

Accepting the bona fide spiritual master as one’s life and soul and worshipable deity, the disciple should learn from him the process of pure devotional service. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Hari, the soul of all souls, is inclined to give Himself to His pure devotees. Therefore, the disciple should learn from the spiritual master to serve the Lord without duplicity and in such a faithful and favorable way that the Supreme Lord, being satisfied, will offer Himself to the faithful disciple.

Because the people of the world are all absorbed in ignorance, they think their suffering is actually happiness. When Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī left home and took shelter of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu in Purī, abandoning all material opulences, the Lord congratulated him (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya-līlā* 6.197–200):





*tomāra bāpa-jyēṭhā—viṣaya-viṣṭhā-gartera kīḍā  
sukha kari' māne viṣaya-viṣera mahā-pīḍā*

“My dear Raghunātha Dāsa, your father and his elder brother are just like worms in stool in the ditch of material enjoyment, for the great disease of the poison of material enjoyment is what they consider happiness.”

[Purport:] When a man is attached to material enjoyment, he is attached to many miserable conditions, but nevertheless he accepts his condemned position as one of happiness. Sense enjoyment is so strong for such a person that he cannot give it up, exactly as a worm in stool cannot give up the stool. From the spiritual point of view, when a person is too absorbed in material enjoyment he is exactly like a worm in stool. Although such a position is utterly miserable to the eyes of liberated souls, the materialistic enjoyer is greatly attached to it.

*yadyadi brahmaṇya kare brāhmaṇera sahāya  
śuddha-vaiṣṇava' nahe, haye 'vaiṣṇavera prāya'*

“Although your father and uncle are charitable to *brāhmaṇas* and greatly help them, they are nevertheless not pure Vaiṣṇavas. However, they are almost like Vaiṣṇavas.

*tathāpi viṣayera svabhāva—kare mahā-andha  
sei karma karāya, yāte haya bhava-bandha*

“Those who are attached to materialistic life and are blind to spiritual life must act in such a way that they are bound to repeated birth and death by the actions and reactions of their activities.

*hena 'viṣaya' haite kṛṣṇa uddhārīlā tomā'  
kahana nā yāya kṛṣṇa-kṛpāra mahimā*

“By His own free will, Lord Kṛṣṇa has delivered you from such a condemned materialistic life. Therefore the glories of Lord Kṛṣṇa's causeless mercy cannot be expressed.”

Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī's parents helped many Vaiṣṇavas, and great devotees like Haridāsa Ṭhākura used to visit them and stay with them. Yet Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu compared them to worms in stool because they were entangled in materialistic life. Then what to speak of the rest of humanity?

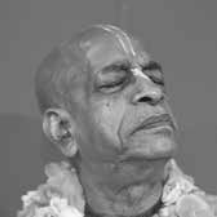
Had you not gone to America, the people there would have never known the goal of life. None of them would have ever tried to search out a bona fide spiritual master. But you were so kind, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you went to them with nothing but unbounded compassion and begged Kṛṣṇa to please bestow His mercy on them. You sought out the most fallen of all and bestowed your causeless mercy.

When Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu saw the blood on Lord Nityānanda's forehead due to Mādhāi's attack, He called out “*Cakra! Cakra! Cakra!*” and was ready to kill Jagāi and Mādhāi with His invincible weapon. But Nityānanda fell at the Lord's feet and begged, “Please give these two souls to me in charity.” You, Prabhupāda, fell at the feet of Lord Caitanya and begged on behalf of all the Jagāis and Mādhāis of the world. By the mercy of Lord Nityānanda, you are empowered to deliver the most fallen souls for the next ten thousand years. Whoever simply hears about your pastimes and takes shelter of you becomes fearless and is easily delivered.

More from King Nimi's encounter with the nine great sages (11.2.30–31):

*ata ātyantikaṁ kṣemaṁ prcchāmo bhavato 'naghāḥ  
saṁsāre 'smin kṣaṇārdho 'pi 'sat-saṅgaḥ śevadhir nṛṇām*

“Therefore, O completely sinless ones, I ask you to kindly tell me what the supreme good is. After all, even half a moment's association with pure devotees within this world of birth and death is a priceless treasure for any man.



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*dharmān bhāgavatān brūta yadi naḥ śrutaye kṣamam  
yaiḥ prasannaḥ prapannāya dāsyaty ātmānam apy ajaḥ*

“Please speak about how one engages in the devotional service of the Supreme Lord, if you consider me capable of properly hearing these topics. When a living entity offers loving service to the Supreme Lord, the Lord is immediately satisfied, and in return He will give even His own self to the surrendered soul.”

Part of the great sage Kavi’s reply (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.2.33–34):

*ye vai bhagavatā proktā upāyā hy ātma-labdhave  
aṅgaḥ puṁsām aviduṣāṁ viddhi bhāgavatān hi tām*

“Even ignorant living entities can very easily come to know the Supreme Lord if they adopt those means prescribed by the Supreme Lord Himself. Such easy process recommended by the Lord for simplistic, not very intelligent persons is to be known as bhāgavata-dharma, or devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

*āsthāya naro rājan na pramādyeta karhicit  
dhāvan nimīlya vā netre na skhalen na pated iha*

“O King, one who accepts this process of devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead will never blunder on his path in this world. Even while running with eyes closed, he will never trip or fall.”

You brought the easy, simple process given by Lord Caitanya, which is a reservoir of bliss (*kevala ānanda-kāṇḍa*): “Simply chant the holy names of the Lord, dance in ecstasy, and feast on *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*.”

When we look at the great big Vedic tree, the *nigama-kalpa-taru*, with its four *Vedas*, 108 *Upaniṣads*, *Vedānta-sūtras*, eighteen *Purāṇas*, and histories (*Rāmāyaṇa* and *Mahābhārata*), it comes to more than half a million verses. How can we even begin to study all this literature? Yet Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has made it easy for us. He explained to Prakāśānanda Sarasvatī why He didn’t study *Vedānta* (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā* 7.71–77):

“My dear sir, kindly hear the reason. My spiritual master considered Me a fool, and therefore he chastised Me. ‘You are a fool,’ he said. ‘You are not qualified to study Vedānta philosophy, and therefore You must always chant the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. This is the essence of all mantras, or Vedic hymns. Simply by chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa one can obtain freedom from material existence. Indeed, simply by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra one will be able to see the lotus feet of the Lord. In this Age of Kali there is no religious principle other than the chanting of the holy name, which is the essence of all Vedic hymns. This is the purport of all scriptures.’

“After describing the potency of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, My spiritual master taught Me another verse, advising Me to always keep it within My throat.

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

“For spiritual progress in this Age of Kali, there is no alternative, there is no alternative, there is no alternative to the holy name, the holy name, the holy name of the Lord.”

The Lord dug out the one mantra out of half a million mantras as the medicine for the Age of Quarrel, and you gave us the same formula. How kind of Lord Caitanya! How kind of you! How fortunate of us! Tha is why we can never repay our debt to you, even if we give hundreds of lives for your service.





But because of our impure hearts, we cannot even give this one life. Please pardon us.

*yogyatā-vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi,  
tomāra karuṇā-sāra  
karuṇā nā hoile, kāṇḍiyā kāṇḍiyā,  
prāṇa nā rākhibo āra*

If you look for our qualifications, you will find we have no good ones. We are simply made of your mercy. If you don't bestow your mercy, we will simply give up our lives crying and crying.

Begging to be the servants of your servants, we remain

*Your devotees at the ISKCON temple in Ahmedabad, India.*

(written by Jashomatinandan Dāsa)

## Allahabad

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As stated at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.18.13:

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

“The value of a moment's association with the devotee of the Lord cannot be compared even to the attainment of heavenly planets or liberation from matter, and what to speak of worldly benedictions in the form of material prosperity, which are for those who are meant for death.”

And in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya-līlā* 22.54) Lord Caitanya states, *lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya*: “One can attain all perfection by a moment's association with a genuine saintly person.”

So what can be said about Prayāga's residents, whom Your Divine Grace blessed with thirteen years of association? The already holy town of Prayāga, which is where Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu instructed Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, has become even more sanctified (*tīrthī-kurvanti tīrthāni*).

When I went to Māyāpur during Gaura Pūrṇimā this year, I met His Grace Bhavānanda Prabhu and told him I was serving in Allahabad. He immediately said, “Oh, that's Prabhupāda's place!” Similarly, during the Kumbha-melā His Grace Śatadhanya Prabhu came and visited the building that had been your “Prayag Pharmacy.” He paid obeisances to that building, remembering Your Divine Grace with great respect. In this way many of your genuine followers recognize Allahabad as a place blessed by you.

We, your humble servants at Prayag, are trying to establish a glorious temple for your transcendental pleasure. At present we have a small temple that is the only ISKCON temple on the banks of the Yamunā. Along with the temple is a guesthouse, *goṣālā*, vegetable field, and flower garden. Recently, with the help of the government, we have constructed a *ghāṭa* on the bank of the Yamunā.

Also, this year we conducted an ISKCON camp at the *mahā* Kumbha-melā in Allahabad, with the



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cooperation of devotees from many other ISKCON centers all over the world. It was very successful, with lakhs of your transcendental books being distributed and profuse *prasādam* distribution to the pilgrims, as well as continuous chanting of the *mahā-mantra*: Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. It was a wonderful celebration in memory of your stay and preaching at the Allahabad Kumbha-melās in 1971 and 1977. The *padayātrā* party started by Your Divine Grace performed *harināma-saṅkīrtana* all over the *melā* area. Every day Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi were carried in procession in a cart drawn by Their sturdy bullocks, performing Their *saṅkīrtana* pastimes along with a crowd of dancing and chanting devotees. Many *sannyāsīs*, including Gopāla Krishna Goswami, Lokanāth Swami, Navayogendra Swami, and Rādhānātha Swami, attended our camp and enlightened and inspired everyone with their discourses and *kīrtana*. Many other prominent ISKCON devotees also attended this auspicious occasion.

We know that the Kumbha-melā is a very favorite event of yours. You may be happy to know that this year about 120 million pilgrims took a holy dip at the confluence of the Yamunā, Ganges, and Sarasvatī rivers. On the whole the *melā* was very austere, but by your mercy everything went smoothly.

We had the realization that we need to greatly increase the accommodations here at our temple for the thousands of your devotees from all over the world who wish to take part in the Kumbha-melā. At present these facilities are quite meager, and we hope that by your mercy they will increase in the future.

Unfortunately, most of your glories are not yet known to the people here. Therefore we need to increase their awareness of your pre-eminent position in the religious and spiritual history of the world and that of this holy town. The more your glories are spread, the more Kṛṣṇa will be satisfied, because Kṛṣṇa likes to see His pure devotees' glories spread everywhere: *ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana*.

Allahabad, apart from being the holy place where you received *dīkṣā* from Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, also has your heritage properties. We want to acquire these places for ISKCON—properties such as your pharmacy building, your initiation place, and your house. We also would like to establish a Rūpānuga University for spreading the teachings of Śrīla Rupa Goswami as you have given them to us. All these endeavors can meet success only with your mercy. Therefore, though we feel we are worthless souls, on this most auspicious day of your appearance we pray for your blessings upon us so that we may become worthy of your service.

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Aspiring to be dust particles at your lotus feet, we remain

*Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Allahabad, India.*

(written by Advaita Ācārya Dāsa)

## Almaty

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

To save this fallen soul you came to Kazakhstan in the form of your books in 1989. In 1991 the Almaty temple president requested me to translate your books into Kazakh. We had the personal association of Śrīmān Gopīparāṇadhana Prabhu at the offices of the North European BBT. He was a scholar and at the same time a most humble Vaiṣṇava. Translation Questions are expertly guided by His Holiness



Jayādvaita Swami, Śrīmān Draviḍa Prabhu, and other Vaiṣṇavas. By the blessings of my GBCs, the BBT, and many other devotees, the Kazakh *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* was printed in 2008. I am eternally indebted to you and request your blessings to chant sixteen rounds a day, translate, and preach from your books for your pleasure!

*Your granddisciples at the ISKCON temple in Almaty, Kazakhstan.*

(written by Rādheshyāma Dāsa)

## Amravati

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our lord and savior,

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

You have most kindly instructed us fallen souls to preach the message of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu as widely as possible. We like this assignment very much, but it is very difficult for us because we are like helpless and faithless bugs floating on our backs in a dark ocean. We beg for your causeless mercy upon us so that we can overcome our terrible inability to render service to you.

According to Śukadeva Gosvāmī, simply by hearing the transcendental glories of the Lord one achieves unflinching faith. So we cannot hear enough of the nectar of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's holy name and pastimes. We aspire to the association of devotees who, like the Six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana, constantly discuss and chant the glories of the Lord together. We pray that you are pleased by our insignificant attempts to serve you.

Under your shelter, Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement has been spread all over the world. Very soon everyone on this planet will be blessed by the chanting of the holy name. Because the spreading of the holy names is the desire of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, your efforts to spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement are a great success. Your Divine Grace has been empowered by the Supreme Lord to do so. And now we feel alive and happy just trying to follow your instructions to distribute the Lord's holy name and your transcendental books, which can deliver all fallen souls from the clutches of birth and death. Every sane man or woman who reads your books will surrender to your lotus feet.

With the blessings of Your Divine Grace, here at ISKCON Amravati our youth preaching is going well. Over the past year we were able to offer ten more students to your lotus feet as youth center residents. We hope that they will become spiritual leaders in your Society and thus bring more fallen souls to the Supreme Lord's lotus feet. Please kindly shower your choicest blessings upon them.

We are also very happy to inform you that the members of our congregation are cooperating to move your mission forward. Several of them have started regularly offering *vapu-sevā* unto your divine *mūrti* in the temple by dressing you and offering you *ārati*. O most merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda, please forgive them for any offenses they might commit unknowingly. *Śrī-guru-caraṇe rati, ei se uttama-gati*.

The congregation has also enthusiastically taken up the responsibilities of different departmental services, including running the Sunday Love Feast, the BBT stall, book distribution, and many others. O Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless them to serve ISKCON more efficiently.

Most importantly, we have started a preacher training forum consisting of temple and congregational



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devotees. We hold regular *Bhagavad-gītā* courses and Bhakti Vriksha programs at different locales. O greatest preacher of *gaura-vāṇī*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, please kindly empower us so that we can become humble instruments in your hands and those of the previous *ācāryas*, and thus convince people of your message.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, please give us the shade of your lotus feet so that we can follow in the footsteps of Your Divine Grace and previous *ācāryas* and thus please Guru and Gaurāṅga. Our aspiration is to mold our lives according to the four basic principles you enunciated:

- 1) Books are Basis
- 2) Utility is the Principle
- 3) Purity is the Force
- 4) Preaching is the Essence

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we may be attracted to bathe in your mercy, even if only for a short time. We beg to remain wholeheartedly your menial servants, and the servants of your servants, eternally.

Your insignificant children,

*The devotees at ISKCON's temple in Amravati, India.*

(written by Anantaśeṣa Dāsa)

## Aravade

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

The past year has seen great developments at your temple here. By your special mercy on us, we were able to achieve success in several areas.

On the temple premises we have constructed a big multipurpose hall to enhance our preaching activities. Above the hall we are constructing a guesthouse to accommodate many visiting devotees and life members. In Sangli, a nearby town where we have been preaching for ten years, we held a big Ratha-yātrā festival. Even though this was our first Ratha-yātrā there, by your grace it went extremely smoothly.

In March, after seeing the enthusiasm of the devotees in Sangli, we arranged a seven-day Bhāgavata-kathā *mahotsava* there. More than five thousand people came in contact with ISKCON and attended our *Bhagavad-gītā* course. We have also started a new weekly program for them.

This is the twelfth year of our small *padayātrā*, which we take every year from Aravade to Pandharpur, where Lord Viṭṭhala resides.

Every month we invite a senior preacher to meet with members of our congregation from twelve Nāmahaṭṭa centers and teach them preaching skills.

This year we plan to expand our preaching activities in various small villages near Aravade. There was a severe drought here last year, but the devotees continued co-operating by following in your footsteps. You showed us by your example that in any situation we have to depend on Kṛṣṇa and serve Him for His pleasure.





We fall at your lotus feet and pray that you will bestow your causeless mercy upon us so that we all can continue following in your footsteps.

*Your servants in the ISKCON temple in Aravade, India.*

## Athens

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The *Pañca-tantra* tells the story of a thirsty herd of elephants that trampled a rabbit warren near a lake. The harassed rabbits sent their representative to the elephant leader. The clever rabbit pointed out to the head elephant that the moon has a rabbit in it and also appears in the lake every night. According to the rabbit, all this definitively proved that the moon was the leader of the rabbits. Since the elephants had angered the moon by trampling the rabbits, the elephants should leave the lake and never return. The elephants were convinced and left for good.

The moral of the story is that someone with a powerful leader has nothing to fear.

Like the rabbits by the lake, we are small and insignificant. But you are our powerful leader, and so we remain faithful to you and keep going in our efforts to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We have to face so many adversities in our preaching efforts. In this nondevotional environment, sometimes we have to struggle even to maintain our principal devotional practices. But somehow we manage to survive and persevere, not because we are strong or special but because your unconditional mercy somehow makes everything happen. We perceive your presence in your books and in our efforts to follow your instructions, to love, respect, and cooperate with your representatives and our godbrothers and -sisters in ISKCON, and to remain friendly and compassionate toward all living entities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our powerful leader. Please lead us back home, back to Godhead. We are following behind you, trying to take with us as many people as we can.

May the moon of your merciful personality shine in the hearts of all.

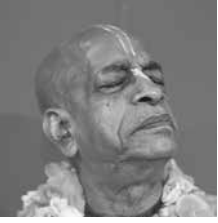
*Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Athens, Greece.*

(written by Nāma-saṅkīrtana Dāsa)

## Austin

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

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



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

### A Plea for Your Association

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving the order to make ISKCON's Austin center a grand success. This order is your kindness upon us, giving us a way to be connected with you constantly—with all of our thoughts, words, and deeds. This center began in a very dynamic way in the spring of 1971, when His Holiness Viṣṇujana Swami came here alone. He had no material facilities—no money, no vehicle, no helpers, not even a pair of *karatālas*. Yet simply by standing on the sidewalk and singing the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* in ecstasy while clapping his hands, he quickly attracted a following. And within a few weeks he was able to rent a temple house at 2906 Dancy Street, near the University of Texas campus, and soon the temple was filled up with ecstatic new devotees. This was all due to your amazing potency, Śrīla Prabhupāda, manifested through your dear servant.

The ISKCON center in Austin was the first one to be visited by a mayor, when Mayor Roy Butler attended the first Vedic fire sacrifice ceremony ever held in the city. On that occasion Pulastya Dāsa, Parāśara Dāsa, and Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa were initiated as your disciples. In the presence of Viṣṇujana Mahārāja, who was constantly meditating on and glorifying Your Divine Grace, the devotees received expert guidance in the science of *bhakti*.

Since Viṣṇujana Mahārāja left Austin more than forty years ago to open more temples on your graceful instructions, ISKCON Austin has opened and closed many times under varying circumstances. But since 1992 Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa Prabhu and I, along with a few sincere devotees Your Divine Grace has sent to assist us, have maintained regular preaching programs here. Today ISKCON Austin holds regular Sunday feasts, *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, and book distribution and celebrates auspicious days like Janmāṣṭamī, Vyāsa-pūjā, and Gaura Pūrṇimā.

In 1972 you wrote to Saṅkarṣaṇa Prabhu and told him that if he liked you would come to Austin. Although as things worked out Your Divine Grace wasn't able to come then, we would very much like for you to come now and permanently remain with us, blessing us with your divine presence. There is nothing more wonderful, Śrīla Prabhupāda, than your divine association. Therefore we are begging you to shower us with it at every moment.

You taught us about the importance of divine association on 20 February 1969, during a *Bhagavad-gītā* lecture in Los Angeles:

If you want divine life, if you want spiritual elevation back to Godhead, back to home—that means eternal life, blissful life full of knowledge—then you have to train yourselves in divine consciousness, or Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That you can very easily do by association. *Saṅgāt saṅjāyate kāmāḥ*. If you keep divine association, then your consciousness is made divine.

So please come and bless us with your divine association. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mercy is all that we are made of.

*Your followers at the ISKCON temple in Austin, Texas, USA.*

(written by Viṣṇupriyā Devī Dāśī)

## Baltimore

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet! All glories to your most soothing smile! All glories to your mesmerizing, enchanting eyes! All glories to your thunderbolt lectures!





## Srī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

All glories to your ISKCON! All glories to your Ratha-yātrā festivals! All glories to your transcendental books! All glories to your disciples! All glories to Your Divine Grace!

We were sleeping on the lap of Māyā, hoping against hope to enjoy this material energy. It was by your causeless mercy and the mercy of your disciples and granddisciples that we opened our eyes and saw our real position of suffering. The more we follow your instructions, the more your glories are visible. It is not possible for our small brain to even conceptualize how you achieved all that you did in this world.

We pray to you that you somehow engage us in your *saṅkīrtana* movement so that we may not deviate from this path of purification that keeps us aloof from the influence of Māyā and Kali-yuga.

In *The Nectar of Devotion* you write, “*The Nectar of Devotion* will teach us how to turn the one switch that will immediately brighten everything, everywhere. One who does not know this method is missing the point of life.” You have demonstrated by your own example how to turn on that one switch of loving Kṛṣṇa to brighten everything. Having missed this point of life for millions of lifetimes, we find that our life has suddenly become fortunate due to your divine appearance on this planet. All glories to you and your ISKCON movement!

Surrender to Kṛṣṇa is what you taught and demonstrated throughout your life. You want us to hear Kṛṣṇa’s name with attention. You are eternally present in your *vāṇī*. Thus you are still with us, and you will always remain our foremost *śikṣā-guru*, our pure guide, and our shelter. We can always approach you and receive divine inspiration and encouragement from your teachings. We pray that the devotees realize the treasure in your books, and that you give me the intelligence to increase the devotees’ enthusiasm for taking shelter of your words.

Your temples are spiritual embassies, and you are the ambassador. If anyone wants to go to the spiritual world, you are the one who can grant the visa. Also, one has to buy the currency of the spiritual world by converting mundane currency into spiritual currency by rendering devotional service, chanting sixteen rounds daily, and following the rules and regulations of the embassy. Kṛṣṇa belongs to you. You have Kṛṣṇa, and only you can give Kṛṣṇa to us. You are uniquely empowered, a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra*. You have been empowered by Kṛṣṇa to manifest *bhakti* in the hearts of the whole world: *kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana*. The only prerequisite for becoming a recipient of that *bhakti* is the willingness to accept and act upon your descending mercy. That’s equivalent to attaining the greed that is the only price for real *bhakti*: *tatra laulyam api mūlyam ekalam*.

The fruit of your mercy-creeper has manifested as multitudes of happy devotees worldwide, and the numbers continue to increase. Thank you for giving us the association of many wonderful devotees, and for engaging us in serving in them.

We are still children in spiritual life and are trying to glorify Your Divine Grace. Without your mercy and compassion upon us, we could not even imagine the great fortune we have received. After such a long journey of millions of births in this material world, committing sinful activities and suffering, bewildered by Māyā all the time, we feel a great relief in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which is the matchless gift from Your Divine Grace.

Your compassion upon us conditioned living entities is hard to imagine. You dedicated your whole life to giving the transcendental knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in order to uplift us from these sufferings and place us in our natural position at Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet. When we read the *Prabhu-pāda-līlāmṛta* we realized what it means that a Vaiṣṇava is *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī*. Seeing the population the world over suffering so much, you went through many tribulations to emancipate them.

Your determination and intense love for Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa are revealed in your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* purports, which are pure transcendental nectar. Your books and lectures enable us to transcend the three modes of nature and bring us closer to the lotus feet of Govinda.

On this holy day of your appearance, we pray that you bless us with the purity and intelligence to perpetuate your grand movement according to our capacity and serve you as your worthy descendants.

*Your humble servants at the ISKCON temple in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.*





## Bangkok

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace! And all glories to the *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana* movement, which you kindly took to everyone in the whole world.

We are all trying our best to spread the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the local Thai people. Thailand is a Buddhist country, and so the local people do not easily come to Kṛṣṇa. They have no faith in a personal God. They are accustomed to silent meditation and are not fond of a vegetarian diet. So there are many obstacles to their becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious, but still we know it is possible, by your mercy.

At this time our devotees are all of Nepali and Indian origin, but we know that Kṛṣṇa is in the hearts of all living entities. We pray that we can attract the local people to the shelter of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and His devotional service. We go on book distribution every Sunday and sometimes on other days. We distribute Thai books and invite the Thais to our center. Gradually they are coming and taking part in our *kīrtana* and tasting *prasādam*. We hope that they can seriously take up the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa and get Lord Caitanya's mercy, which you made available to everyone in the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue to engage us in your service.

*Your unworthy followers in Bangkok, Thailand.*

## Bhaktivedanta Manor

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

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

### **Bhaktivedanta Manor Forty Years On**

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I would like to report some of the achievements of the devotees at Bhaktivedanta Manor since you personally installed Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda on Janmāṣṭamī, 1973.

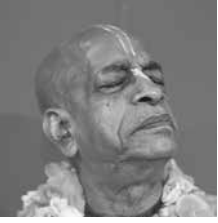
Actually, it is difficult to know where to begin, as so many things have happened in the last forty years.

But let me begin with education. First of all, I need to mention the Manor Preschool begun by Jagad-dhātrī Devī Dāsī more than twenty years ago and still going strong today. Here devotee children age two and a half to five get their first taste of Kṛṣṇa conscious learning.

Then there is the Bhaktivedanta Manor Primary School, which provides a wonderful opportunity for our children age five to eleven to experience Kṛṣṇa-centered teaching, something very dear to your heart.

Many children who go through the Manor preschool and primary school go on to become full-time devotees and responsible Kṛṣṇa conscious adults who want their children to experience the same Kṛṣṇa-centered education.

Since the 80s, when Indriyeśa Dāsa began his program of hosting public school children on visits to the Manor, more than a quarter of a million students age six and up have passed through the doors of Bhaktivedanta Manor, visiting your *darśana* room and the temple room, going for an ox ride, and taking lunch *prasādam*. And it's not just the students who have loved every moment of their time spent here; their teachers have written letters to us effusively praising the Manor and telling how they became spiritually enlivened by the Kṛṣṇa conscious experience.



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

Let me not fail to mention the long, drawn-out Save-the-Manor Campaign, which began in 1982 and ended in 1996 with a complete victory. Not only were we able to keep Bhaktivedanta Manor open for public worship, but we expanded Bhaktivedanta Manor's land from seventeen to seventy-seven acres and were able to construct a new approach road to the temple complex that met with the approval of all concerned parties. In those days the local council members were generally not very favorable to any requests from Bhaktivedanta Manor, but by the mercy of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda and you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, they have just recently approved our plan to build a community hall and associated buildings, expanding our facilities for the visiting public by two thousand square meters—a genuine miracle!

Now I must mention the cows. I remember you telling me in 1973 that real human society requires *go-rakṣa*, cow protection. You said that we ought to have 150 cows. I replied that it would be very difficult to properly care for that number of cows on our limited land. You asked how much land was required, and I replied that we would need at least one acre per cow. You responded that we should therefore purchase 150 acres. "What is the difficulty?" you said.

Today we are looking after 68 cows at the New Gokula *gośālā*, a wonderful complex of buildings where all the cows are looked after in an exemplary fashion, from the moment they're born up to the moment they pass away. It has been rated Britain's top *ahimsā* facility, i.e., place where cow protection is practiced.

I need to mention Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda, the bliss of New Gokula, who have been lovingly looked after by a team of dedicated *pūjārīs* for forty years. Their Lordships' fame, beauty, and mercy increase year after year.

During the Janmāṣṭamī celebrations, more than 65,000 pilgrims and devotees line up for hours to have *darśana* of the Their Lordships and receive Their *mahā-prasādam*. More than a thousand volunteers help make this festival a huge success. On other festival days, such as Gaura Pūrṇimā, Rāma Navamī, Diwālī, and your Vyāsa-pūjā day, thousands of enthusiastic devotees, congregational members, and well-wishers pour into Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Now I wish to mention the full-time devotees living in the *āśrama* at Bhaktivedanta Manor. There is a first-class *brahmacārī āśrama* here. The senior *brahmacārīs* look after the juniors. *Harināma* and book distribution are emphasized, and the number of your books distributed constantly increases. There is also an active ladies' *āśrama*, the most famous resident of which is Mother Kulāṅganā, whose dedication to preparing Their Lordships' *maṅgala-ārati* sweets is legendary.

Another important area is grounds maintenance. Śrīla Prabhupāda, the grounds here at Bhaktivedanta Manor are being maintained to the highest standard, including your personal garden, the *Bhagavad-gītā* walk, and the pond area.

On another part of the estate, we have set aside three acres to growing organic vegetables for their Lordships' offerings.

Which leads to the kitchen. Bhaktivedanta Manor is world famous for its *prasādam*. And it seems that no matter how many guests show up, there is always enough *prasādam* to feed everyone.

All these accomplishments are possible only due to the expert management and cooperation among all the departments. You will be pleased to know that the temple council and the patron council work tirelessly to ensure that Bhaktivedanta Manor is an exemplary temple.

Our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations will continue throughout 2013. The official celebrations began on 24 March 2013 with an auspicious fire *yajña*, which was televised on ITV, a London-based channel with more than six million viewers.

All these achievements are possible only by your causeless compassion, your love, your personal instructions, and your divine grace in requesting Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda to take up permanent residence at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Praying for your mercy and guidance so that we can continue to serve you and ISKCON for the rest of our lives, we remain

*Your insignificant servants at Bhaktivedanta Manor, Watford, UK.*

(written by Dhanañjaya Dāsa)



## Brahmapur

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

While departing from this mortal world, you requested all your disciples not to leave ISKCON for any reason. We have taken this instruction on our heads.

When we undergo pain and hardship to maintain your temples, this activity is nondifferent from serving your transcendental body.

We are about to finish constructing our *brahmacārī āśrama*. The slab-casting of the first floor and metalling of the ground floor of the main temple is complete. By your mercy this has been made possible, although we are but a very few sincere *brahmacārīs* and congregational members. On this auspicious occasion, we all pray at your lotus feet to bless us so that we can serve you by spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement tirelessly.

*Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Brahmapur, India.*

## Brisbane

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

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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your beautiful lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Loving Grace!

All glories to your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā!

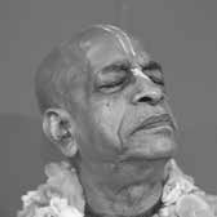
All glories to your transcendental ISKCON!

All glories to your servants who are sincerely devoted to your Hare Kṛṣṇa movement in Brisbane!

At this auspicious time of the year, on the glorious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, it is most appropriate for all of us to take stock of our spiritual lives and see what Your Divine Grace has given us over the years, how your ISKCON movement has positively impacted all our lives, and how you have encouraged us through very difficult and challenging times in the past.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as in many other places, here in Brisbane we also see and feel the escalating bad effects of Kali-yuga:

O learned one, in this iron age of Kali men almost always have but short lives. They are quarrelsome,



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

lazy, misguided, unlucky, and, above all, always disturbed. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1.1.10]

Wealth alone will be considered the sign of a man's good birth, proper behavior, and fine qualities. And law and justice will be applied only on the basis of one's power. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 12.2.2]

A sacred place will be taken to consist of no more than a reservoir of water located at a distance, and beauty will be thought to depend on one's hairstyle. Filling the belly will become the goal of life, and one who is audacious will be accepted as truthful. He who can maintain a family will be regarded as an expert man, and the principles of religion will be observed only for the sake of reputation. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 12.2.5]

Yet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your causeless mercy we are taking advantage of the one good quality of this age: "My dear King, although Kali-yuga is an ocean of faults, there is still one good quality about this age: simply by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, one can become free from material bondage and be promoted to the transcendental kingdom." (Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 12.3.51)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, spreading the holy name worldwide is your greatness. Thank you for saving us all.

You have given us such a nice new location for the Brisbane temple, where our community has the opportunity and freedom to take shelter from these bad effects of Kali-yuga by engaging in devotional service to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

More ills of Kali-yuga you have saved us from: "Harassed by famine and excessive taxes, people will resort to eating leaves, roots, flesh, wild honey, fruits, and seeds. Struck by drought, they will become completely ruined." (Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 12.2.8)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given the world a perfect formula for a peaceful life, even during times of crisis such as drought and famine. You taught us to live a simple life spiritualized by high thinking, taking sumptuous *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, chanting the holy names of The Lord, associating with devotees, and rendering devotional services to the Deity. We should have no urge to seek shelter in other activities, which will implicate us in material bondage.

Future historians will recognize Your Divine Grace as the most brilliant spiritual personality of this age, but unfortunately most people are not able to see your brilliance right now. It is therefore our sacred duty to Your Divine Grace to broadcast your glories to the Brisbane community. The more we do that, the more the darkness of Kali-yuga will be dispelled.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, without your mercy, what use is another's, and with your mercy, what use is another's?

Your Divine Grace is giving us so many service opportunities in this Kali-yuga so that we can approach the lotus feet of Śrī Guru and Lord Kṛṣṇa and go back home to Godhead at the end of this life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this glorious day we would like to offer you all the results of all the services at the new Brisbane temple.

More than ever before, today the Brisbane temple is nothing short of a very happy family serving together for your pleasure.

A milestone is that, with great success, the youth have taken the initiative to arrange major festivals by themselves for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. This has been very uplifting for the entire Brisbane *yātrā*.

A very committed group of devotees performs steady *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, chanting the holy names of the Lord regularly each Friday in downtown Brisbane.

Attendance at the weekly Saturday Feast at the temple has grown and is still increasing, giving spiritual inspiration to our greater Brisbane community. This feast is complemented by the regular Sunday Soul Feast in the city at Govinda's Restaurant. In addition, we have three *prasādam* distribution outlets in the city that continue to attract people from all walks of life and give them the chance to relish delicious, sacred *prasādam*.

The presiding Deities, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, are nicely taken care of, and the worship programs have attracted many sincere devotees to regularly offer their services in support of the worship. We also have a number of new initiates.

Knowledgeable senior members of the *yātrā* regularly conduct congregational activities and study groups in various suburbs of Brisbane.





Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this wonderful day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we beg that you kindly bless us with the intelligence, knowledge, strength, and courage to continue serving your movement here in Brisbane. We also solicit your blessings to build a new temple for Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi on Their own land, right next-door to the present temple.

With appreciation, affection, and respect for Your Divine Loving Grace, we remain

*Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Brisbane, Australia.*

(written by Raṇacora Dāsa)

## Cape Town

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you on this very special occasion of your divine appearance on this planet! All glories to your worldwide ISKCON society!

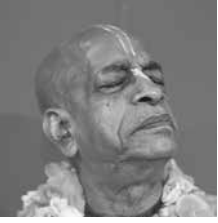
All over the world, more and more people are coming in contact with you in various ways. People who have not been in touch with devotees before are meeting them distributing books in various places, or at festivals, or elsewhere. In Cape Town we are trying hard to follow in the footsteps of the other devotees, as we know this is what will please you. As such, we can report on many positive developments here in Cape Town. For the sake of brevity we will report on just three achievements on this occasion, the 117<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your appearance on this planet: (1) the anniversary of the Cape Town temple, (2) our most recent Ratha-yātrā, and (3) the association of visiting Vaiṣṇavas.

This year we are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of an ISKCON center in Cape Town. Over the past twenty-five years we've had many trials and tribulations, from the inception of the center through its evolution over the years. Somehow or other we have passed through them, and we are still here today, with our doors open and offering shelter to the conditioned souls and the devotees alike. Because of the center's being open, *prasādam*, the Lord's holy names, and your transcendental books are being distributed regularly. Of course, we can always do better. We pray that as we increasingly understand and surrender to your instructions it will become easier to overcome the hurdles that face us. Thus we hope we can still be here in another twenty-five years to report back to you that the center has grown even further! Of course, we lack your purity, devotion, and understanding, but we are confident that simply by perfectly following the perfect master we can achieve the perfect result.

Another achievement we offer to you: Last December we celebrated Ratha-yātrā again after not having hosted the festival for a few years. While it was not quite the festival we hoped for or planned, it was still an achievement just to re-establish the festival here after a few years' absence. The festival was very favorably received by the devotees, the community, and visitors alike. For your pleasure and the pleasure of Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā Devī, we hope to improve on this great preaching festival in future years.

Another important achievement last year was that we had the good fortune of getting the much-needed association of some of your very advanced, sincere, and pure children, and in some instances even their children. When we listen to these sincere disciples of yours, we get more and more insight into your perfect character and nature. As the nature of a tree becomes known by tasting its fruit, so the nature and purity of the teacher or master is known by listening to and seeing the behavior of his sincere students or disciples. Our only wish is to continue living in the association of your followers, not only because you often said we should, and not only because the *sāstras* say so, but also because it is so nice, fulfilling, and sweet to be in the presence of advanced Vaiṣṇavas.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have full confidence that if we continue co-operating to keep our center open and active and alive with festivals like Ratha-yātrā, if we seek the association of advanced devotees,



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

and if we always remember and respect you as the head of our devotee family, we will prosper and grow spiritually. Kindly bless us that we may continue to try to please you in every way.

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

(written by Viśvambhara Dāsa)

# Chandigarh

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

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

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories unto you, who are the foremost bold and uncompromising preacher of pure devotion to Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Your glories are unlimited, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and as we look more and more deeply into the your teachings, we become more and more convinced about that. As a humble attempt to glorify you, we will try to describe just one facet of your glories, your propagation of pure devotional service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you planted the seed of pure devotion to Śrī Kṛṣṇa all around the world. Although there have been various preachers in history, you are the most exalted, for you are the rare *ācārya* who preached unalloyed devotion to the Supreme Lord.

While you were present on the planet, many saintly persons went to the West to preach about God, but they preached something other than unalloyed devotion to Him. Some declared themselves to be God, some proclaimed everyone to be God, some declared God to be impersonal—everything but declaring Kṛṣṇa to be the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Only you declared this.

Most preachers don't even approach God, for they are lost in the network of the Lord's illusory energy. And even those who do approach the Lord usually become confused about the impersonal or localized aspect of the Lord. But you proved definitively: *kṛṣṇas tu bhagavān svayam*.

It is not surprising that you chose to present the essence of all the scriptures, *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Though the *Mahābhārata* and *Rāmāyaṇa* are quite popular in India, you did not comment on them but chose to give comment on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā* because these scriptures establish Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead very exclusively and explicitly.

The structure you defined for your ISKCON society—early-morning *Gurv-aṣṭakam* prayers, *darśana āratī* prayers, *guru-pūjā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class, and then in the evening the *gaura-āratī* and *Bhagavad-gītā* class—single-pointedly aims at the exclusive, explicit, and abundant glorification of the Supreme Lord and His pure devotee, the spiritual master.

It is not that you manufactured something new. Everything you gave us had already been given by the previous *ācāryas*, but you presented it to modern people in a way they could understand. As you said regarding your books, “These books will be the law books for human society for next ten thousand years.”

In your teachings, Kṛṣṇa and His pure devotees are not mere personalities but are the *key* personalities, just as in cricket we say the star player is the “man of the match.” Or as in Hindi we sometimes say, “Kṛṣṇa *hi*,” not “Kṛṣṇa *bhi*,” meaning *only* Kṛṣṇa, not *also* Kṛṣṇa. You brought out the unique attributes of Kṛṣṇa and His pure devotees in your writings, speeches, and behavior.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you knew that without this exclusive, explicit, and abundant glorification of Kṛṣṇa



and His pure devotees, people in general would remain dissatisfied. You elaborate on this understanding in your purports to several verses in the fifth chapter of the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, wherein Śrīla Nārada Muni reveals to his disciple Śrīla Vyāsadeva the root cause of the latter's despondency. Here is text 14 and part of your purport:

[Nārada says to Vyāsadeva:] Whatever you desire to describe that is separate in vision from the Lord simply reacts with different forms and names to agitate the mind, as the wind agitates a boat which has no resting place.

[Purport:] Śrī Vyāsadeva is the editor of all descriptions of the Vedic literatures, and thus he has described transcendental realization in different ways, namely by fruitive activities, speculative knowledge, mystic power, and devotional service. Besides that, in his various *Purāṇas* he has recommended the worship of so many demigods in different forms and names. The result is that people in general are puzzled how to fix their minds in the service of the Lord; they are always disturbed about finding the real path of self-realization. Śrīla Nārada Muni is stressing this particular defect in the Vedic literatures compiled by Vyāsadeva, and thus he is trying to emphasize describing everything in relation with the Supreme Lord, and no one else. . . . Pouring water on the root is the right process to water the tree, as much as feeding the stomach supplies energy to all parts of the body. Therefore, Śrīla Vyāsadeva should not have compiled any *Purāṇas* other than the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* because a slight deviation from that may create havoc for self-realization.

Now, some may say that one will not find many takers of this philosophy of exclusively and explicitly serving Kṛṣṇa and no one else, and so one should soften the message. "Too fanatical," others might say. You gave your bold and unambiguous reply to such arguments in the Preface to your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*: "The Lord wants this, and He demands it."

In presenting the superexcellent philosophy of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, you desired that everyone in the world take advantage of it, be purified, and become pure devotees. But showing your virtue of detachment, you said you would be satisfied if even one soul took to the process with all sincerity: "We hope, therefore, that people will derive the greatest benefit by studying *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* as we have presented it here, and if even one man becomes a pure devotee of the Lord, we shall consider our attempt a success." (Preface to *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*)

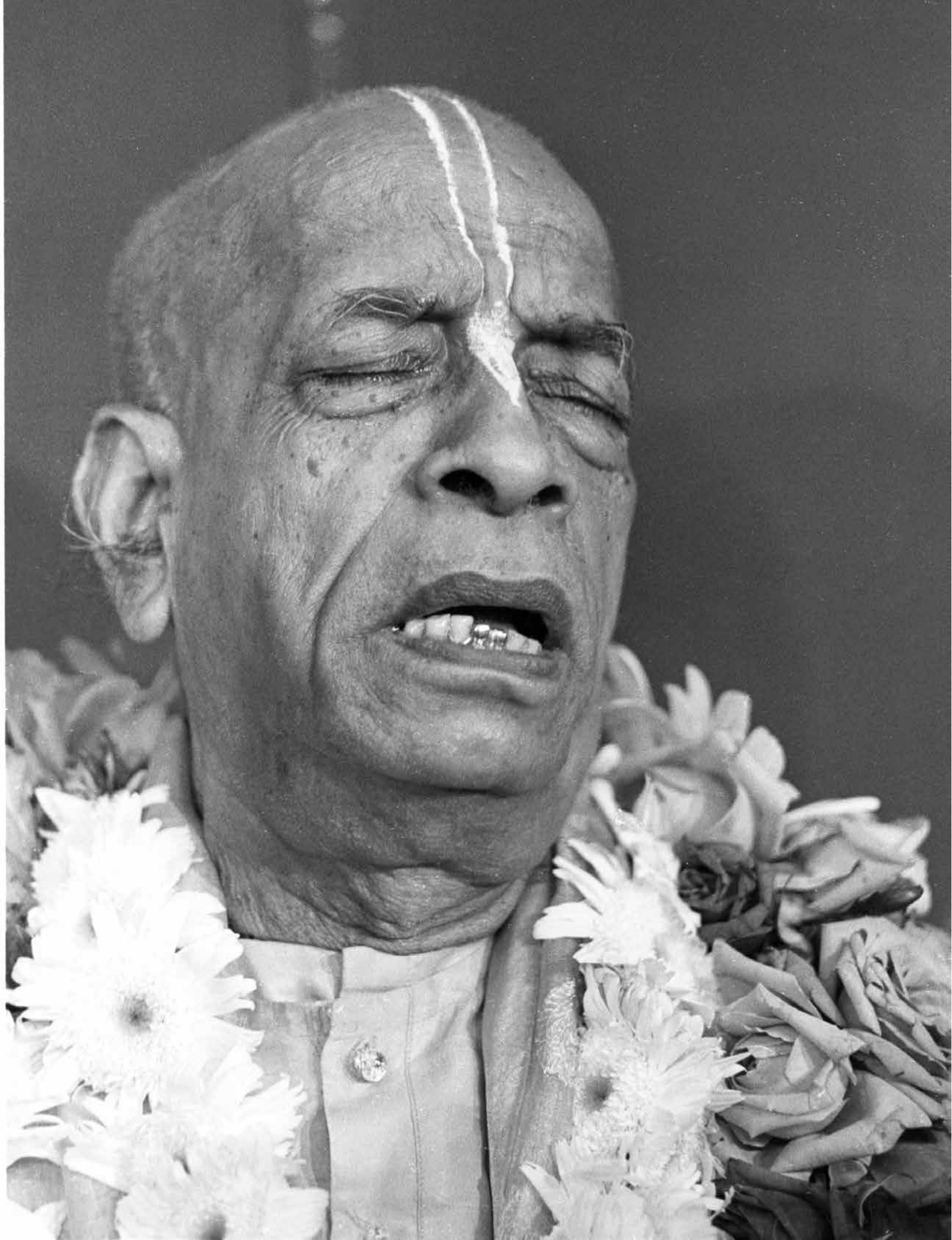
To ensure that we had full access to this heritage of pure devotion, you gave us everything we needed: your personal example, your teachings recorded in books and other media, your ISKCON institution, and most importantly your beloved followers. Through the association of devotees who are living examples of these teachings, by your grace we have complete access to these teachings.

Although you laid out the teachings of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in your books, people in general need to see the teachings being practiced to feel inspired to follow them. As Kṛṣṇa states in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (3.21):

*yad yad ācarati śreṣṭhas    tat tad evetaro janaḥ  
sa yat pramāṇam kurute    lokas tad anuvartate*

"Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues." From your purport: "People in general always require a leader who can teach the public by practical behavior."

You have given us the association of your wonderful followers, who demonstrate to us your teachings by practical behavior. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us access to the *paramparā* and keeping the *paramparā* system alive. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us access to unalloyed, unmotivated, and uninterrupted devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. On this day of your holy appearance, we seek your blessings to be able to relish your message of exclusive, explicit, and abundant glorification of the Supreme Lord and His wonderful servitors.







You may be pleased to know, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that your center here in Chandigarh is doing fine. We are a small center but are moving forward steadily. We added a Nāma-haṭṭa center last year and distributed 36,000 copies of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, 8,000 more than the previous year. We also conducted five Ratha-yātrā festivals last year, two more than in previous years. In 2012 108 new devotees surrendered themselves to your mission after taking *harināma dīkṣā*. We hosted two seminars by senior Vaiṣṇavas, one on devotional behavior (*bhakti sadācāra*) and the other on home schooling. More than seventy devotees took advantage of these seminars. As per your instructions, we are taking good care of training the *brahmacārīs* and congregational devotees in the areas of *siddhānta*, *sādhana*, *sadācāra*, and *sevā*. To meet the spiritual needs of children of all ages, we run a Gopal Fun School, a Bhakta Prahlaḍ School, and ISKCON Youth Forum programs every week. Many children and their parents are taking a keen interest in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We have been able to do all this only by your blessings, the guidance of senior Vaiṣṇavas, and the mercy of our presiding Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava. On this most auspicious day we beg for your mercy so that we may become eternal instruments in the service of your mission.

*Your servants at ISKCON Chandigarh, India.*

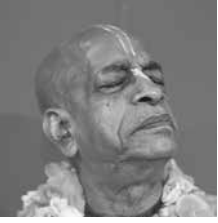
## Chennai

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

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

Dear worshipable Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
All glories to you! All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga!  
Feeling blessed by you, we offer you this appreciation of just a few of your wonderful attributes.

Your preaching is wonderful.  
Your mission is wonderful.  
Your disciples are wonderful.  
Your methods of convincing others are wonderful.  
Your intentions are wonderful.  
Your selfless services to the world are wonderful.  
Your books are wonderful.  
Your teachings are wonderful.  
Your words are wonderful.  
Your “thunderbolts” are wonderful.  
Your *kīrtanas* are wonderful.  
Your *bhajans* are wonderful.  
Your lectures are wonderful.  
Your morning walks are wonderful.  
Your letters to your disciples are wonderful.  
Your initiations of your disciples are wonderful.  
Your counseling is wonderful.  
Your heart is wonderful.  
Your mercy is wonderful.



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Your chanting is wonderful.  
 Your taking care of your disciples is wonderful.  
 Your “simply wonderfuls” are wonderful.  
 Your cooking is wonderful.  
 Your distribution of *prasādam* is wonderful.  
 Your humility is wonderful.  
 Your tolerance is wonderful.  
 Your mastership is wonderful.  
 Your vision is wonderful.  
 Your smile is wonderful.  
 Your guidance is wonderful.  
 Your compassion is wonderful.  
 Your behavior is wonderful.

In short, everything about you and everything and everyone connected to you is wonderful, and anyone disconnected from you is extremely unfortunate.

On this supremely auspicious day of your appearance, we pray at your lotus feet that we may never become disconnected from you, that we may never miss even a day of *sādhana*, and that we may never displease you at any time during the rest of our lives.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!  
 All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga!  
 All glories to all the Vaiṣṇavas!

*Your devotees at the ISKCON temple in Chennai, India.*

(written by Parameśvara Dāsa)

## Chicago

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. Please accept us as eternal servants of your servants.

You came into our lives like an unexpected rainstorm. We were a flock of hollow *cakora* birds crying to an empty sky, our feet scorched by the desert of the material world. We were suffering the reactions due us, having been born in this iron age of Kali—short lives, endless argument, lethargy, misdirection, misfortune, and harassment on all sides by the senses and the mind. We were degraded souls seeking refuge in delusory shelters. In your *Nectar of Instruction* (7, purport) you sum up our plight:

In the material world everyone is trying to become happy, and although their material attempts are baffled in every way, due to their nescience they cannot understand their mistakes. People try to rectify one mistake by making another mistake. This is the way of the struggle for existence in the material world.

Our lives were exactly as you describe. Trapped in the desert of this material world, we were chasing drops of happiness in the form of family life, friends, and society. None of us had heard the song of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Who knew how futile were our attempts to make a permanent, happy home in this anityam asukhaṁ lokam? Or that our attempt to live happily ever after in martyaloka was like trying to build a castle in the sky? Only you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We did not know any better. And that is why you came to save us.

Many of us sought shelter from the scorching heat of material life through prayer to a God we did not fully understand. We had never heard of the āśraya-vigraha, the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead, the manifestation of the Lord of whom one must take shelter. Suddenly you appeared in our lives as an emissary descended directly from the spiritual world, carrying with you the ocean that is the Lord's mercy. By your divine instructions you connected us to the Lord's pleasure-giving potency, and it was like tasting water for the very first time. To this day we are still quenching our thirst in the ocean of your transcendental guidance, and we are inviting others to come and take shelter in the shade of your lotus feet. Your lessons untied the complex knots in our hearts that bound us to our gross bodies and filthy minds. You taught us the simple principle that by practicing humility, submission, and loving service we can avoid the unnecessary struggle for existence in the wasteland of this material world. In one sentence you encapsulate the essence of our faults: "When one gives up his unwanted attitude of superiority, he becomes situated in his original position." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.28.64, purport). Through your personal example you showed us how surrender and obedience to Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master destroy all unwanted things in the heart of the sincere *sādhaka* and bestow the bliss of spiritual life.

At a time when we were stumbling through darkness, blindly following the dictates of modern scientists, absurdist philosophers, and our own juvenile minds, you arrived like the rising sun and taught us that enlighten and everything we could ever long for exist within one prayer—Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, bless us that we may shed our offensive nature and see Kṛṣṇa in the holy name in this lifetime, or in some future birth. We pray that, on the strength of your mercy, we may one day abandon the subtle sex desire of hankering after recognition, distinction, and worship, that we may give up malice, envy, miserliness in distributing the holy names, and all other forms of violence to other living entities, that we may transcend the intoxication of ahaṅkāra and the foolish notion that we can accomplish anything without the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, the founder-*ācārya*, our spiritual masters, and the community of *Vaiṣṇavas*, and finally that we may firmly resolve to stop gambling with this human form of life by maintaining affection for mundane activities and the treacherous opinions of worldly-minded persons. In this way, may we deeply take to heart the regulative principles of freedom, which you laid before us and which bestow upon the earnest fractioned the complete mercy of the Lord, as Kṛṣṇa promises Arjuna: *vidheyātmā prasādam adhigacchati*. (*Bhagavad-gītā* 2.64).

Somehow or other the ISKCON Chicago community is now experiencing an unprecedented torrential downpour of your mercy. Together, you and Kṛṣṇa have blessed us with unlimited opportunities to expand our services. Within the past year devotees have taken inspiration from other ISKCON communities



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in North America and started several exciting projects meant to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness in wider circles and more deeply transform the lives of those we contact. In the spring of 2012 we started hosting a Monthly Saṅkīrtana Festival and *Nāma-yajña* to increase our commitment to distributing your books and performing *harināma saṅkīrtana* for our own purification and for the spiritual upliftment of the entire Chicago community. Last autumn we also inaugurated Kṛṣṇa Lunch, an ambitious university *prasādam* distribution project. It has now spread to three universities in Chicago, and we are distributing more than four hundred boxed lunches per week. In the fall we also opened the *Vaiṣṇava* Academy to provide Kṛṣṇa conscious education for the youth in our community so that they would not have to endure the nightmare of the modern educational system. And just this spring we held our first weekly Bhakti Śāstrī classes for congregational members, with nearly a hundred devotees signed up to participate. For the upcoming fall semester at the Illinois Institute of Technology, we will be officially opening Chicago's first Kṛṣṇa House, a place where spiritually inclined students can come to take shelter from the hell of exams, term papers, and wild intoxication. Finally, we are seeing more and more young men and women show an interest in real spiritual life, and as a result our *brahmacārī āśrama* and greater temple community are steadily growing, both quantitatively and qualitatively, as the need to practically demonstrate the lifestyle of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others increases. We can only conclude that the frequent presence of your beloved spiritual sons and daughters—Romapāda Swami; Candramauli Swami; Rādhānātha Swami; Dānavīr Swami; Bīr Kṛṣṇa Swami; Mother Dānakelī and Pṛthu Śrava Prabhu; Vaiśeṣika Prabhu; Baḍa Hari Prabhu; Draviḍa Prabhu; and so many others—has sufficiently purified our community so as to attract the attention of Your Divine Grace, as well as Kṛṣṇa Himself, and that by the Lord's glance our devotional service is flourishing. Otherwise, in every respect we are most unqualified, and our collective attempt to push on your Hare Kṛṣṇa movement leaves much to be desired.

Have mercy on us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we may continue to work together to expand your International Society for Krishna Consciousness and ourselves take full shelter of the oases you established, like miniature Vaikuṇṭha-lokas, in the desert of this material world.

*hā hā! prabhu prabhupāda rākha pāda-dvandve  
kṛpā-dṛṣṭe cāha jadi haiyā ānande*

*mano-vāñchā siddhi tabe haṇa pūrṇa-tṛṣṇa  
hethāya caitanya mile sethā rādhā-kṛṣṇa*

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, O master, please place us at your lotus feet. If you are pleased with us, please cast your merciful glance upon us. Only if you are satisfied with us will all our heartfelt desires be fulfilled and our thirst for happiness satiated. Only if you are satisfied with us will we attain the association of Lord Caitanya here and that of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in Goloka. (*Prārthanā*, modified).

*Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Chicago, Illinois, USA.*

## Columbus

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

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

*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, 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 Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

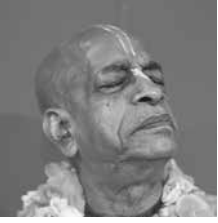
*mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṇḍurāṁ laṅghayate girim  
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-gurūṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

I am very elated to have the opportunity to write our simple offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the glorious *ācārya* who are the emblem of oceanic compassion. In the mood of Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu, you spread the message of *patita-pāvana* Śrī Gauracandra throughout the world. Who can possibly understand the mood of our beloved Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Naṭabara and their pure devotees unless they are blessed and empowered by them? Many wonderful devotees—gurus, *sannyāsīs*, GBCs, temple presidents, and other leaders—have written offerings to you for this occasion, and I feel like a crow in the assembly of swans as I attempt to write an offering on behalf of our temple. In all honesty, I can only pray sincerely for the proper mood, intelligence, and consciousness to express some of my feelings of gratitude as an offering to you, our illustrious Founder-*ācārya*, Oṁ Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrajakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad Abhaya Caraṇarāvinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda. Please forgive my shortcomings in writing this offering. Totally unqualified, I have gotten this opportunity only by the causeless mercy of the Vaiṣṇavas.

When you visited Ohio State University in May 1969, with your ecstatic *kīrtana* you inspired more than two thousand students at Hitchcock Hall to chant and dance. At that time you said we should have an ISKCON center in Columbus. A pure devotee's words never go in vain. Soon, desiring to please you, your disciples and well-wishers started a center near the OSU campus to distribute the mercy of Śrī Gaura-Nitāi by the simple yet powerful means of chanting the holy name, feasting on *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, and dancing. The *saṅkīrtana* movement then took off in Columbus.

During the decades that followed, many devotees have taken the responsibility of overseeing the Columbus temple, doing their best to serve you and your mission by reaching out to as many people as possible with the gift of *bhakti*. They left their legacy to us, the current temple management comprised of your grandchildren, to do our best to continue this *saṅkīrtana* movement here. We are humbly trying to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors, to please them and please you. We have a long way to go, but on this auspicious occasion we beg you for the strength, direction, inspiration, determination, and eagerness to spread this movement as a pleasing service to you.

Please use us as your instruments to fearlessly spread the glories of the holy name and convince people of the importance of *bhakti-yoga*. Chanting the holy name offenselessly, studying and distributing your books, associating with devotees, nicely worshiping the Deities, serving the devotees—only by these and similar services will we please you as well as Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga, thus enabling us to get out of this material world and go back home, back to Godhead. It has been proven time and time again that your vision, your strategy, and the principles you taught through your books and other media are priceless and universal. Indeed, they can be applied anytime and anywhere. We don't have to add or subtract anything. As long as we stick to your principles, we will be successful; otherwise, as we have witnessed, there will be deviations, misunderstandings, disunity, etc. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please save us by guiding us in such a way that we will never leave the path of *bhakti* as you have taught it. One of your last instructions to us was "You will show your love for me by how you cooperate with each other after I'm gone." It is very difficult to always cooperate with other devotees, but such cooperation is the



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very sustenance of our spiritual life. Cooperation is an austerity only because we are always prone to egoistic and petty, self-centered dealings. Please forgive us. We hope that one day, by your mercy, we will be able to overcome selfishness and please you by fully cooperating in pushing on this movement, as you wanted.

Despite all our personal and collective challenges, we are having good success in the Columbus center. This success is possible only by your causeless mercy and the reciprocation from their all-merciful Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Naṭabara. The temple is managed by a council comprised of Prema Sindhu Dāsa, Prema Vilāsa Dāsa, Rāma Tīrtha Dāsa, and myself, Naveen Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, under the able guidance of your beloved daughter Her Grace Mālātī Devī Dāsī. Responsibilities are further divided into various departments headed by inspired devotees who continue your legacy and try to maintain the standards you gave us. To highlight some of them: The book distribution and motel *Gītā* program headed by Prema Vilāsa and Prema Sindhu Prabhus are exceptional. Despite having full-time jobs and families, they distribute books door to door and set up book tables in different places on various occasions to reach out to sincere seekers of the Absolute Truth. They are supported by many inspired congregational members. Preaching programs at the temple include the Sunday Feast, headed by Rāma Tīrtha Prabhu, and the Thursday Program, headed by Harināmānanda Prabhu. We also conduct Bhakti Vriksha programs and OSU campus cooking classes, overseen by Dāmodara Priya Prabhu and me. In addition, when other organizations request our presence on various occasions, Dāmodara and I represent ISKCON. The daily *japa* conferences and *Gītā* classes conducted by Prema Sindhu Prabhu enliven many devotees to grow spiritually strong.

Another beloved daughter of yours, Her Grace Kāmagiri Devī Dāsī, tirelessly yet lovingly serves the Deities and devotees by cooking every Thursday and Sunday, and for all festivals. She has been doing this service for many years despite declining health.

Our Deity department is headed up by Rāma Tīrtha Prabhu, with the assistance of Tapasvinī Devī Dāsī, Lalitā Devī Dāsī, and other congregational members, including Yādavācārya Prabhu, Sunītā Devī Dāsī, Prema Sindhu Prabhu, Kālindī Sundarī Devī Dāsī, Jagannātha Prabhu, Sītā Sundarī Devī Dāsī, Vrajabhakti Devī Dāsī, Candra Bhānu Prabhu, Līlā Mādhurī Devī Dāsī, Kṛṣṇāṅgī Sakhī Devī Dāsī, Arjuna Sakha Prabhu, Suri Prabhu, Senthil Prabhu, and many other devotees, who serve the Deities by dressing them weekly or during festivals. It is glorious to see these wonderful devotees serving your mission by following your divine instructions to the best of their capacity. Please shower your mercy on them and their family members so that they can continue serving for the rest of their lives.

Other devotees, such as Govinda Prabhu, Harināmānanda Prabhu, Deet Prabhu, and Hari Prabhu, lead heart-melting *kīrtanas* and *bhajans* to inspire the devotees. We also have other departments and services taken care of by devotees who always stay behind to run the temple, do purchasing or cleaning, or handle the finances. The Sunday school is headed up by Rāsa Vilāsinī Devī Dāsī and Vrajabhakti Devī Dāsī, with the help of other devotees.

Recently Prema Vilāsa prabhu and Lalitā Devī Dāsī made a tremendous sacrifice by donating a substantial sum of money to renovate the temple basement, which now looks like *Vaikuṇṭha*. Now the Deities and devotees have comfortable facilities, such as a new walk-in cooler to store *bhoga* and flowers, two full bathrooms, a storage room, a children's room, new heating and cooling facilities, a well-organized Deity room with cabinets and shelves to store the Deity paraphernalia very nicely, and a renovated kitchen to make it more effective and efficient. They also took care of the backyard and garden, turning it into a Vṛndāvana garden with their love for you. Please shower your mercy on them.

Rāma Tīrtha Prabhu, with able guidance from Prema Vilāsa Prabhu, led the finance department to a very stable position and also paid off the mortgage, which is a huge milestone for us. New devotees such as Sanjiv, Mamata, Sanjay, Pinky, Rajesh, Silan, Richa, Pavitra, Kirti, Senthil, Prema, Parth, Sreeram, Jyothsna, and Jayendran are doing wonderful services for your mission. It is very amazing to see how you inspire these devotees. On a daily and weekly basis the flower garlands are offered to you, and all the Deities' necessities are purchased and prepared, by ever-dependable devotees such as Tapasvinī, Harināmānanda, Parth, Sītā, Sundarī, Vrajabhakti, Kruti, and Bhavani. Also, we have a few devotees who graduated from Columbus and moved on to their next destination to continue their devotional life, such as Pitambar, Gokul Vilasini, Madan Sundar, and Sundar Prabhu.



The list can go on, but none of this would be possible without your mercy and the seed of devotion you have planted in all of us, either directly or indirectly. Caitanya Mahāprabhu said He was a gardener distributing the love-of-Godhead fruit freely to whoever wanted it. You, as His personal associate, are in the mood of the previous *ācāryas*, fulfilling His desire selflessly. We only hope that one day we can live up to your expectations by developing wonderful and sweet relationships among us, by setting an example for future generations of devotees, so they will appreciate and take inspiration from you and your mission and accept responsibility for carrying on your mission in the future. We also have a plan to move to a larger facility to serve your mission better by accommodating more people and making happier devotees, but we need your blessings to make it happen. If we have the blessing of the Vaiṣṇavas, everything is possible.

On this auspicious day commemorating your appearance, please accept our offering of gratitude. Thank you very much for everything you have done and are doing for us.

*Your devotees at the ISKCON Krishna House in Columbus, Ohio.*

(written by Naveen Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

## Coventry

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Years go by, but tirelessly you keep giving your mercy to all those who are dedicated to your movement. This most beautiful religion of love is holistic, progressive, and all-inclusive. Only those who read your books and preach realize your endless mercy despite facing all the challenges of life. The world may fault others, but no one should find even a minute fault in your selfless character and actions, which are ideal and exemplary.

You are the best thing that has happened to our lives. By your grace we enjoy *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, Deity worship, chanting, *kīrtanas*, visits to the holy *dhāmas*, and association with other Vaiṣṇavas. ISKCON temples are opening, especially in Bhārata-varṣa, and it brings joy to our hearts. More and more sincere people are taking to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and they will further influence others in promoting Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In Coventry we have faced many serious challenges, perhaps much as other *yātrās* have, but we have had some success in overcoming these seemingly insurmountable hurdles. Two things have given us immense confidence: your life-size form in our temple, and your divine books. Many a time the battles are not with outsiders but with those within the institution, and those difficulties are the most challenging. As some of the older members have walked away, many new people have arrived, desiring to learn about the real purpose of life. This is both a great surprise and a great joy for us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when we read that all the great saints had to face incredible challenges and criticisms, which you also faced, we gain faith that everything good or bad is arranged by the all-merciful Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

One of the greatest gifts you gave the world is Lord Caitanya. If you had not come to the West, we in the West would have simply wasted our lives. Hearing Lord Caitanya's pastimes makes your movement a historical spiritual revolution. Lord Nityānanda's mercy is limitless and available to all. The inhabitants of this world will have a chance to go back home, back to Godhead, only because you disseminated the mercy of Lord Nityānanda and Lord Caitanya. As we hear more and more accounts of Lord Caitanya's and Lord Nityānanda's glorious lives, we are inspired to chant the *mahā-mantra* in a loving manner and also to engage others in chanting it.

As time passes we are increasingly impressed and amazed by your mercy, even though we never met



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you. Our never having met you does not mean we receive less of your mercy. Your methods of organizing ISKCON, your spiritual guidance, and your wisdom are so up-to-date and relevant for modern times that all succeeding generations will be inspired by you for thousands of years. We are proud to know you and your special movement. You are a true *ācārya*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we in Coventry love you dearly:

An *ācārya* is one who fully understands the conclusions of the revealed scriptures and whose behavior reflects his deep realization. He is a living example, for he teaches the meaning of the scriptures by both word and deed. [*Vāyu Purāṇa*]

*Your humble servants and aspiring servants at ISKCON Coventry, UK.*

(written by Hari Dāsa)

## Czech Republic

An offering to His Divine Grace Oṃ Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājākācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, Founder-*Ācārya* of ISKCON, from the servants and the servants of the servants of His Divine Grace and Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Navadvīpacandra in the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the celebration of the 117<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His Divine Grace's appearance day.

\* \* \*

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We became devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa  
by your divine grace,  
and we continue to be devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa  
only by your divine grace.

The divine grace  
with which Lord Kṛṣṇa, the divine Supreme Personality of Godhead,  
has empowered you  
is fathomless, transcendental,  
inconceivable for materialists.  
It cannot be bought, it cannot be sold,  
it cannot be imitated,  
it has no material cause whatsoever,  
it is causeless.

Before you came from India to America in 1965,  
together with Lord Kṛṣṇa  
in the form of His holy name and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*,





you wrote to a politician in India  
that you were going back to Godhead in this life,  
and that you were very eager to take as many people as possible  
back to Godhead with you.  
That is the essence of your divine grace,  
your mercy, your compassion.

Why were you convinced that you were returning back to Godhead?  
Because Lord Kṛṣṇa told you personally,  
by His divine grace.  
You knew Lord Kṛṣṇa personally, intimately,  
by His divine grace.  
He spoke with you, personally, because you are His dearest friend;  
you spoke with Him, personally, because you are His most confidential servant.

In fact, you are the most powerful person in the world  
because you are a confidential servant of the all-powerful person,  
the Lord of the universe, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Kṛṣṇa.

We bow our heads at your lotus feet—humbly, sincerely—  
Because we are insignificant fallen souls.  
We have no power or capacity to go back to Godhead.  
We therefore pray that you and your confidential servants  
kindly take us back to Godhead,  
by your divine grace.

\* \* \*

All glories to His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Śrīla Prabhupāda's servants in the Czech Republic.*

(written by Jaygurudeva Dāsa)

## Detroit

*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*

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Every year on this most auspicious day, all around the world, your beloved disciples, granddisciples, and followers eagerly glorify you and, for your pleasure, offer heartfelt reports of their activities in devotional service. Your divine family is growing every day because your empowered leaders and their dedicated teams of devotees are constantly working to save more and more souls from the clutches of





Māyā. Your Divine Grace established more than 108 temples all around the world. Among them, Devasadan Mandir here in Detroit is among your most beloved projects, one where you showered special mercy. You called Śrī Kuṇjabihārījī Bhakta-vatsala because He leans His head toward His dearmost devotee, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, so much so that it seems as though He might touch Her. You created a Vaikuṇṭha atmosphere here by your special pastimes. You planted the seeds of *bhakti* by meeting many prominent personalities and attracting them toward Kṛṣṇa.

Here at your Devasadan Mandir we are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṇjabihārī throughout the year, with many special events planned to please you.

With the blessings of our beloved GBC, Her Grace Mālatī Devī Dāsī, we started the celebration on Govardhana Pūjā day with ecstatic *kīrtana*. All the devotees prayed together to increase the distribution of your books and participation in *harināmas* and Bhakti-vriksha and other outreach programs. This year, for the pleasure of the Deities and the devotees, we are striving to double the participation at every festival, and we have added two big festivals: a Puṣpābhiśeka festival and a Gopāṣṭamī festival.

The number of guests at our Ratha-yātrā has doubled since we moved it to the city of Novi.

Two new Bhakti-vriksha groups have been added to expand our outreach.

Renovation teams have been continually upgrading our facilities to please the Deities and better accommodate devotees and guests.

A new electronic welcome center has been established to introduce every guest to the temple programs.

A new state-of-the-art donation box has been acquired.

Thus even throughout the economic downturn of the last five years, which has been especially severe in Detroit, your Devasadan Mandir has grown steadily. Depending on the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, a principle you taught us by word and deed, we are finding more and more opportunities to expand our preaching efforts.

O ever well-wisher of every living entity, please continue showering your mercy on us so that we can continue serving you and our most merciful Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṇjabihārījī, until we leave these bodies. Please hold our hand tight, because we have a tendency to run away from you.

Begging for forgiveness for all our offenses, we remain

*Your humble servants at Devasadan Mandir, Detroit, Michigan, USA.*

(written by Jagad-Guru Dāsa)

## Durban

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

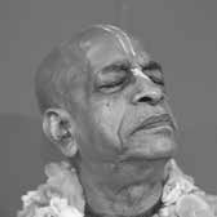
*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We bow down to you. Please accept our gratitude for your mercy, our only sustenance.

Often we read or hear of how you would eagerly listen to preaching reports from all over the world. They would give you life. They would make you smile. Please accept this offering as an attempt to evoke that same all-merciful smile.

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha remain gorgeously dressed and sumptuously fed. This exquisite temple is still a source of wonder for the many tourists and devotees who visit. Nāma-haṭṭas push forward. College preaching programs expand and improve, linking a variety of people to Kṛṣṇa. Thousands of plates of



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*prasādam* are distributed weekly to students and others. *Harināma* and book distribution are gaining in regularity. Over the last year the *āśrama* has expanded; more young devotees are joining, and this is inspiring.

But, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we just can't wait to share with you our report on our 25th annual Festival of the Chariots. Your servant His Holiness Indradyumna Swami took up the phenomenal task of revolutionizing the festival so that this year we could open our arms wide and receive guests of different backgrounds and races. After two decades we returned to the most prestigious venue, the long stretch of the Durban beachfront where hundreds of thousands of tourists and locals stroll by. Many government dignitaries, such as the mayor of Durban, the premier of South Africa, and the Zulu king, have been wondering how South Africa would become a nation that was socially cohesive and how the enmity between races would cease. His Holiness Indradyumna Swami convinced them that we have the answer, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and that unity would prevail only when we saw each other as children of the same father, God.

On this premise an incredible festival, the likes of which we have never seen before, took shape. Lord Jagannātha glided down the promenade in royal style with Zulu-warrior dancers, Zulu maidens, drum majorettes, Bhārata-nāṭyam and Kathakālī dancers, bagpipers, trumpeters, and dancing Chinese dragons accompanying the *kīrtana*. Each night the main stage was packed with people eager to be part of the festival's highlights. His Holiness Bhakti Bhrīga Govinda Mahārāja worked closely with the KwaMashu Gospel Choir and the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra to produce a masterful symphony accompanied by the singing of the *mahā-mantra*. It brought new attendees in the audience to tears. Government dignitaries attended and supported the vision of the festival. They danced to the beat of the holy name in the Kirtanuity tent. Prominent religious leaders also attended, building relationships with devotees, which could open many doors in the future. To appeal to the younger generation, a popular music band was invited. Holi has become famous with the youth worldwide; therefore we hosted a color festival that made the front page of a daily newspaper. It was all part of the effort to attract people who ordinarily would not come to a Hare Kṛṣṇa event and give them an opportunity to chant the holy names, make friends with the devotees, and take *prasādam*—in style.

Africa, the sleeping giant, is finally shaking off its slumber and rising to the call of Lord Caitanya. The holy name, your gift to us all, is reaching people and places we never dreamed of before. It is taking root. And we are grateful to you for allowing us to be part of this chapter of Lord Caitanya's *līlā*. It is our privilege.

We remember how after your morning walks in Los Angeles in the early days you would exit your car and walk between two rows of kneeling devotees before entering the temple to greet the Deities. Each devotee would offer you a flower, and you would offer one back in return. This was the original *guru-pūjā*, spontaneously emanating from their hearts. In the mood of that sweet pastime we offer you these “petals” of our endeavors.

*Your servants at ISKCON Durban, South Africa.*

(written by Rukmiṇī Devī Dāsī)

## East Hartford

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

*viṣayā vinivartante nirāhārasya dehinaḥ  
rasa-varjaṁ raso 'py asya param dṛṣṭvā nivartate*





“Though the embodied soul may be restricted from sense enjoyment, the taste for sense objects remains. But ceasing such engagements by experiencing a higher taste, he is fixed in consciousness.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our higher taste.

We know that the higher taste in this verse is Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and we may have had some glimpses of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. But when we think of how it was to be in your association when you were physically present on this planet, that was the highest taste we had ever experienced. And we can still experience that same higher taste of your association today. It is not any less available than when you were physically present. Any sincere devotee can associate with you at any time by reading your books, following your instructions, or hearing about your pastimes. Because you are the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON and Jagat Guru, your association is available to anyone who desires it. You are always so kind and merciful to us fallen conditioned souls. By your association, one becomes enlivened to serve Kṛṣṇa and automatically loses the taste for this material world.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, all glories to your transcendental association, and all glories to those devotees who bring other souls to your lotus feet!

*Your servants at ISKCON East Hartford, Connecticut, USA*

(written by Pyāri Mohan Dāsa)

## Gainesville

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, please accept my respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

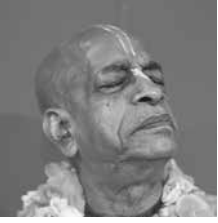
### **Ohe Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura . . . Chaya Vega Dami**

You were my age when I was born across a distant sea.  
You kindly stretched around the world to reach lost souls like me.  
O venerable Vaiṣṇava, so I can be of service,  
Please help me shed and say farewell to these unwelcome urges:

Farewell, O harsh and thoughtless words, propelled by foolish pride.  
You're all I have been hearing on your domineering ride.  
Sweet Kṛṣṇa-talk exposes you as ugly, stale, and tart,  
Since Kṛṣṇa's most beloved servant stole away my heart.

Farewell, O egocentric mind; you now shall be in check.  
Though likely you will stick around, a monkey on my neck,  
No longer shall I labor for the projects that you start—  
Lord Kṛṣṇa's most beloved servant stole away my heart.

Farewell, O foolish anger, with your microscopic fuse.  
Your older brother lust is also straightaway excused.  
You stay where you are useful, like a horse before a cart,  
Since Kṛṣṇa's most beloved servant stole away my heart.



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Farewell, O morbid, rotten food the common man consumes,  
Unending, luckless corpses on his dinner plate of doom.  
What pleases Kṛṣṇa's taste buds is my culinary art  
Since Kṛṣṇa's most beloved servant stole away my heart.

Farewell, O belly's pushings. Your demands exceed the space  
Required to keep the soul and body properly in place.  
Your schemes no longer seem important, valuable, or smart  
Since Kṛṣṇa's most beloved servant stole away my heart.

Farewell, O mighty, lurid pull of fleshly, scented globes,  
Half-hidden by the dazzle of this year's designer clothes.  
You've titillated me too long; it's time for us to part  
Since Kṛṣṇa's most beloved servant stole away my heart.

Farewell, O aspirations for a kingdom in this world,  
A vict'ry flag of happiness that never quite unfurled.  
Vṛndāvan is my target now; I'm ready to depart,  
For Kṛṣṇa's most beloved servant stole away my heart.

Do kindly, saintly persons steal? In this case, it is so,  
For though you are so subtle that one doesn't really know,  
Your words continue, Prabhupāda, to cause so many thefts,  
Soon everyone shall lose the useless urge for birth and death.

*Your servants at Kṛṣṇa House, ISKCON Gainesville, Florida, USA.*

(written by Kālakaṇṭha Dāsa)

## Gītā-nāgarī

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

In Gītā-nāgarī, on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1976, you gave an evening lecture later entitled "Living as Kṛṣṇa Lived." You said:

But if we keep ourselves within the village and properly organize as Kṛṣṇa personally showed us the example, He was personally taking care of cows, calves. When He was a child, He was taking care of the calves. When He was grown up, He was taking care of the cows, although He was a very rich man's son: Nanda Mahārāja was the village king. But still, Kṛṣṇa was working hard the whole day, going in the morning to the pasturing grounds and coming back in the evening. Thus He used to take His bath, change dress, and immediately go to sleep. This was Kṛṣṇa's pastime. So we should follow His footprints. . . . Live village life, simple life, and be satisfied with



the bare necessities. There is no need of luxury. And save time and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. This is ideal life. So, I am very pleased that you are doing that, and do it more nicely so that others may be attracted. . . . So this is an ideal village. Devlop it more and more. . . . Do it very nicely. I am very happy to see things are going nicely. Thank you very much.

You further expressed many desires and clear instructions in your famous Gītā-nāgarī prophecy (contained in some 1956 BTG articles). Our fervent prayer is that you kindly bestow upon us the necessary qualifications to fulfill your desires, your prophecy.

As we reflect on the many ways we need to intensify our commitment to your mission on this earthly plane, and in particular your mission for Gītā-nāgarī, we realize how far we fall short. We realize how much more there is to do to gain your ultimate favor. You still remain merciful, however, and we continue like children who take for granted the protection of their parents, remaining oblivious and familiar yet always receiving care and love.

So our humble prayer to you this year, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is to please help us become more aware of your mercy and favor on us so that we may start to feel heartfelt gratitude, which will propel us into active, focused, steady, loving service. We especially pray for increased determination to read your books and chant Kṛṣṇa's holy name with sincerity and love. The hidden jewels in your books sever the many deep-seated, complex shackles of conditioning. Your books rain down refreshing showers on our parched hearts, allowing some seeds of *bhakti* to germinate. Kṛṣṇa's holy name, truly nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa, is ours for the taking. Please help us associate with and worship Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara by chanting and hearing Their holy names with hearts filled with love, humility, and devotion.

You have patiently and lovingly provided so much for us here in Gītā-nāgarī. First and foremost are Their most merciful and beautiful Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara, so divinely interactive. In addition, there are the gentle, selfless cows and the fertile, bio-diverse land—so much opulence. And of course there is the community of *bhakti* practitioners, all of them sincere and determined in their efforts to please you. From our youngest to our eldest family members, everyone is so sweet, unique, talented, and special. In addition, you have given us an ocean of well-wishers: devotees who actively support and encourage your goals for Gītā-nāgarī. Without hesitation and with generosity they offer their time, energy, and resources, embracing in the core of their hearts your instructions and desires. What good fortune, a rare privilege, and actually our real shelter, to serve Your Divine Grace with all of these great souls—our community devotees and well-wishers—and all simply for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara!

We come before you this year with desperate pleas to kindly remove any obstacle that stands in the way of your plans here for Gītā-nāgarī. The biggest and most difficult obstacle is our own false ego. Please, please, please help us overcome this most difficult impediment to *bhakti*. It incarcerates us mercilessly, it bewilders us, and ultimately it closes us off from the free-flowing mercy of the *paramparā*. And in time, whatever successes you allow, please let us truly understand that they are all a result of your blessings, that they are all to your credit, and that they are all due to the sweet will of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara. Please take away this awful tendency we have, to think ourselves the controllers and doers, and please allow us to serve you with sincerity, faith, determination, and surrender.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, ultimately our only delight is to see you pleased. Please help us remember this.

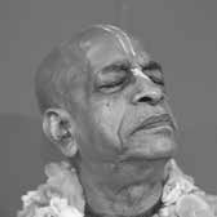
Every day when we turn our attention outside of our Gītā-nāgarī realm, interacting with the global ISKCON village on cyberspace, we read how your glories continue to become manifest. While there are always challenges and obstacles, everything is expanding phenomenally, all due to your supreme purity and devotion and your ardent desire to bestow mercy on the fallen, conditioned souls of this age.

How can we ever repay you, Śrīla Prabhupāda? Please bless us to serve you as a united and harmonious family, and to give everything, ultimately even this life we so foolishly cling to, for the pleasure of you and your beloved Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara.

We offer you our prostrated obeisances repeatedly.

With all our love and gratitude,

*Your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at ISKCON's Gītā-nāgarī farm community in Pennsylvania, USA.*



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

## Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we find it a great challenge to properly describe your glorious attributes, which are as numerous as the waves of the ocean. On this most blissful and blessed day, we servants of yours in the Guyana *yātrā* ponder your transcendental words and activities. By so doing we become purified of material contamination, thus fueling our desire to become more sheltered under your lotus feet, which are the most secure place to be.

Every single aspect of your existence is magnificent and able to arouse the dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the heart of those who are struggling in material existence. You compassionately established your ISKCON society to benefit everyone, especially your followers, and ISKCON will go down in history as the most beneficial society on the face of the earth. Therefore those who are astute shall understand that Your Divine Grace is the world's foremost well-wisher. By your mercy, which purifies the hearts of the lost conditioned souls, you are elevating unfortunate, hopeless, and condemned persons all over the world through your ISKCON society, which is rapidly growing even in remote places like Guyana. Lord Kṛṣṇa sent Your Divine Grace to this planet to execute the mission of Lord Caitanya.

Perfectly pleasing Lord Caitanya depends on our perfectly surrendering to your mission. Through dedication to your movement, one spontaneously and delightfully becomes decorated with renunciation of material sense gratification, which binds us to material existence. To please you, we in the Guyana *yātrā* emphasize preaching the message of Kṛṣṇa and glorifying you. Each day we try as much as we can to rededicate our lives to fulfilling your mission, and in our own little way we thus try to relieve your anxiety by saving those in our *prabhu-datta deśa*. Therefore we beg you to please give us the necessary vigor and eagerness to dedicate our service, our offerings, and our very lives to your mission.

The *śāstra* says that the relationship between the spiritual master and the disciple is not hindered by the limitation of time and space, nor diminished by physical absence, nor subject to forgetfulness or change, but rather it is eternally existent and infinitely increasing. Our relationship with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, need not be limited to fading memories that may induce us to cross the thin line between genuine sentiment and sentimentality, but rather we want to continually deepen our understanding of your instructions so we may better please you. Please bless us that somehow we can maintain enthusiasm and sincerity and strong appreciation for your mission.

As beginners, we could not fully appreciate your greatness and the worldwide extent of your service to the cause of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Kṛṣṇa. And of course we still cannot begin to grasp the degree of the purity of your devotion or how your powerful preaching is changing the course of the world. A unique kind of appreciation, however, does awaken within us when we take shelter of your instructions and remain steadfast in the devotional service you have prescribed. Our real link with you is through those instructions, when we fully dedicate ourselves to attempting to fulfill your desires and orders.

The continuing growth of ISKCON in our country—the increasing book and BTG distribution, devotee-making and -training, festivals, and *prasādam* distribution—is clear evidence of your continued presence. We realize that none of this could go on, what to speak of increase, if it were not for the continuous inspiration and guidance you impart to us. We see all our small achievements as glorification of you and evidence of the truth of your timeless instructions.

We constantly pray that we can remember you always as the eternal source of all our abilities, knowledge, and devotion. Today we pray that we have the power to use our every breath, word, and deed to spread your mission. Our lives already belong to you, since it is you who have given us a life. Therefore what other course do we have but to utterly surrender it all to you? There is nothing else to wish for.

We pray that we will never become illusioned and that you will give us the transcendental vision to remain fixed in your mission. We know you are with us because you are manifest in the hearts and activities of your most sincere followers. Let your personal example inspire us to give up our false pride,





mental concoctions, and selfish desires and simply work to fulfill your mission of bringing everyone to Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

On this most auspicious and blessed day we fervently pray to you for guidance and blessings so that we will be able to give up the desires for all forms of sense gratification and surrender ourselves fully at your lotus feet. May we unflinchingly execute the orders of your duly appointed representatives so that your divine glories may be heard and sung in every town and village in Guyana.

Although we are unqualified, out of your kindness you have accepted us as your granddisciples, and you are guiding us toward the perfection of life, Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your appearance in this world is the most significant event, an inexhaustible source of illumination defeating the dense darkness of Kali-yuga. We make this humble offering to glorify you on this anniversary of your appearance in this world, and we pray that we may always be engaged in your service.

We beg to always remain

*Your insignificant servants in Guyana.*

(written by Paramātmā Dāsa)

## ISKCON of Silicon Valley

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

When we ask ourselves, "How does the representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva walk in this world?" we can only answer, "Exactly as you have walked, Śrīla Prabhupāda."

Śrīla Dvaipāyana Vyāsadeva accepts anxiety and inconvenience simply to benefit and reclaim the souls who have fallen into illusion (*māyā*). He divides and repackages the Vedic message to attract the people of Kali-yuga and save them from suffering.

Today we worship you as the perfect representative of Śrīla Vedavyāsa because we see how you've followed his path by compiling your beautiful books—perfectly in line with his teachings—so that people of Kali-yuga might achieve the ultimate benefit.

While going door-to-door to sell your books, following your instructions to do good for others, we know that we are also perfectly following the path of Vyāsadeva.

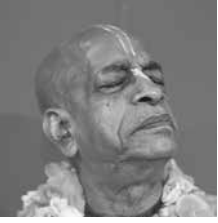
The apartments and homes that we approach are basically containers in which people keep their things: food, pets, plants, clothes, pictures, furniture, electronics, family members, and so on. Inside they cook, eat, read, watch television, work before computer screens, talk on the telephone, sleep, and breed.

Many houses are so full of junk that it is difficult to understand how the occupants can move about inside. Some residences emit disgusting odors; others have porches strewn with cigarette butts or old newspapers that nobody ever bothers to pick up. Others have dogs inside that bark, growl, and jump up on the inside of the front door when we knock. Still other dwellings are neat and tidy (but these are rare). Some homes are like small palaces with swimming pools, tennis courts, sprawling lawns, well-kept gardens, and luxurious entryways.

However, regardless of the state of any of these lodgings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we know that unless they contain at least one of your books, every home is no better than an oversized jail or a gigantic coffin.

Lord Brahmā says, "My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, until people become Your devotees, their material attachments and desires remain thieves, their homes remain prisons, and their affectionate feelings for their family members remain foot-shackles." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.14.36)

As we visit these homes and apartments and knock upon their doors, the residents open up to see what we want; and they quickly learn that we want them to take your books into their homes. And when



a fortunate householder accepts and places your books inside, his or her home becomes sanctified.

In the *Skanda Purāṇa* there is this statement: “A person who is constantly engaged in reading literature enunciating the cultivation of Vaiṣṇava devotional service is always glorious in human society, and certainly Lord Kṛṣṇa becomes pleased with him. A person who very carefully keeps such literature at home and offers respectful obeisances to it becomes freed from all sinful reactions and ultimately becomes worshipable by the demigods.” [*The Nectar of Devotion*, chapter 12]

Despite the many benefits of accepting your books, some people hesitate. When we present your books, people sometimes say, “No time!” “No space!” We take this as a metaphor for the conditioned souls, who are so full of material desires that they have no space in their hearts to accommodate Kṛṣṇa or even a moment to remember Him.

You wrote about this same phenomenon when you personally distributed your *Back to Godhead* magazine in India, before coming to America. In one article entitled “No Time: a Chronic Disease of the Common Man,” you write, “When we approach some gentleman and request him to become a reader of *Back to Godhead*, sometimes we hear the reply, ‘NO TIME.’”

While introducing your books, as we remember how you heard the same mantra, “No time,” we feel close to you. But we are never discouraged by these “no times” because we know that each one brings us closer to that fortunate soul who will accept your books and receive Kṛṣṇa’s special favor.

Regarding this special favor, in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī describes how before the appearance of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu an elevated Vaiṣṇava named Guṇarāja Khān, from Kulīna-grāma, wrote a book in simple Bengali prose entitled *Kṛṣṇa-vijaya*, in which he glorifies Kṛṣṇa. Although the author’s verses did not technically meet high poetical standards, because the book contained expressions of pure devotion to Kṛṣṇa, Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu accepted it as sublime. In fact, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, charmed by the scent of pure devotion emanating from Guṇarāja Khān’s book, said the following:

“Kṛṣṇa, the son of Nanda Mahārāja is my life and soul.” By these words [from the book *Kṛṣṇa-vijaya*] I have been sold into the hands of the descendants of Guṇarāja Khān. [*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 15.99]

What’s more, while addressing the residents of Kulīna-grāma—the descendants of Guṇarāja Khān—Lord Caitanya added, “To say nothing of you, even a dog living in your village is very dear to Me. What, then, to speak of others?” In other words, because Guṇarāja Khān, a native of Kulīna-grāma, had expressed sentiments of pure devotion in his book, Lord Caitanya blessed not only him but also his descendants and anyone else who lived in Kulīna-grāma—even the dogs.

Pure devotion is uniquely fragrant, and that fragrance is so appealing that it attracts even Kṛṣṇa, who is known to be completely self-satisfied. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* confirms this:

As the chariot of air carries an aroma from its source and immediately catches the sense of smell, similarly, one who constantly engages in devotional service, in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, can catch the Supreme Soul, who is equally present everywhere. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.29.20]

What to speak of attracting the Supreme Lord, the sweet scent of devotion coming from the mouth of a pure devotee when he or she speaks compels and transforms ordinary living entities. Prṇthu Mahārāja verifies this as follows:

My dear Lord, You are glorified by the selected verses uttered by great personalities. Such glorification of Your lotus feet is just like saffron particles. When the transcendental vibration from the mouths of great devotees carries the aroma of the saffron dust of Your lotus feet, the forgetful living entity gradually remembers his eternal relationship with You. Devotees thus



gradually come to the right conclusion about the value of life. My dear Lord, I therefore do not need any other benediction but the opportunity to hear from the mouth of Your pure devotee. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 4.20.25]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your books contain the concentrated fragrance of your pure devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa. And that fragrance is spreading throughout the world, attracting the spiritual senses of living entities on every continent.

Cāṇakya Paṇḍita says that the aroma of one extraordinary flower can refresh a whole forest. In the same way, the scent of pure devotion emanating from the heart of a pure devotee can reform the entire world.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam describes how Dhruva Mahārāja, as he practiced *aṣṭāṅga-yoga*, suspended his breathing, thus stopping the breathing of everyone in the universe, including the demigods. In your purport to this verse, you write:

This example of Dhruva Mahārāja's closing the holes of his personal body and thereby closing the breathing holes of the total universe clearly indicates that a devotee, by his personal devotional service, can influence all the people of the whole world to become devotees of the Lord. If there is only one pure devotee in pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness, he can change the total consciousness of the world into Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This is not very difficult to understand if we study the behavior of Dhruva Mahārāja. [Śrīmad-Bhagavatam 4.8.80, purport]

By your influence, Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year not only did ISV move into a beautiful new temple, but the devotees here also deepened their practice of hearing and chanting, improved the standards of Deity worship, and expanded their various preaching programs, and many have taken initiation vows.

We thank you for bringing us the fragrance of pure devotional service and pray that you continue to empower us to help you spread it throughout the world.

*Your eternal servants at ISKCON of Silicon Valley, California, USA.*

(written by Vaiṣeṣika Dāsa)

## Khasadeśa

Our dear spiritual grandfather Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you! All glories to your ISKCON movement and your faithful followers!

It seems that over the years we have had a tendency to overlook your personal presence and develop more attachment to our gurus, who are constantly giving us so much inspiring instruction and encouragement in our service. They are like fathers to us. They give us warmth and nourishment for our spiritual growth. In your case, however, although we have seen video of your pastimes, heard your instructions, and read your books, we never had your personal association and training in life. Thus we have felt a little distant from you. Our vision has been that you are the spiritual pillar of ISKCON, the worshipable founder-*ācārya*, the spiritual guide of countless Vaiṣṇava followers, and the perfect example of our Kṛṣṇa conscious practices. We wish now to more and more feel that you are also our affectionate grandfather who are always present in our lives.

Who would have thought that one day hundreds of Chinese of all ages and walks of life would take up the process of devotional service and assist you in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this godforsaken land, where people are constantly absorbed in material prosperity and sense gratification? The pure







devotee always thinks of the welfare of others, even the most lowly. Therefore you have not forgotten us. Your books, your vision, your attachment to serving the *guru-paramparā*—all manifest in so many Chinese hearts. We beg at your lotus feet to give us the intelligence to bring many more hearts to the chanting of the holy names and the practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This may take many lifetimes, but we are willing to stay here and help you until everyone has received your mercy.

We devotees of the Chinese *yātrā* have come to realize more and more that to present *bhakti-yoga* to the mainstream Chinese society, which suffers so much from a lack of spiritual guidance, we must clearly understand the principles of your mission so that we can advance in devotional service and develop the intelligence Kṛṣṇa has given us. We are so fortunate to have that opportunity, and so grateful to you for coming to save us. Your dear and dedicated disciples also play an important role in keeping you very present in such a moving way. Our hearts swell with appreciation and admiration whenever we hear that when you began your movement at the advanced age of seventy you single-handedly did everything—writing books, giving lectures, leading *kīrtanas*, raising your disciples like your own children, cooking feasts, distributing *prasādam*, and keeping everything clean. At the same time, you were always free of pride, describing yourself as an eternal servant of your spiritual master and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Your example teaches us that we should always remember our own eternal position as menial and humble servants, no matter what service we perform.

Every morning as we sit at your lotus feet to chant *japa* we feel that you are personally present. We always strive to chant with attention and love, as you have shown us. This is the only safe place to be in this world and in the next. We therefore pray to always remain at your lotus feet.

Standing in front of you today, we gaze at your eyes. They express conviction and determination, and also, we feel, your approval and blessings for the healthy growth of ISKCON, which includes us, your little children here in China. Please guide us so that we won't deviate from the right path.

Dear spiritual grandfather Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to understand your transcendence and intelligence more and more. We also pray for new opportunities to serve the Vaiṣṇavas, and for as much dedication to the *saṅkīrtana* mission as our spiritual masters have. Finally, we pray that you will mercifully protect the steady development of your Chinese mission by inspiring all the devotees here to work together with mutual respect, understanding, cooperation, and tolerance.

All glories to Your Divine Grace!

*Your grandchildren in Kasadeśa.*

## Koundinyapur

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

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

Yesterday we observed the holy appearance day of Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and today we are observing the holy appearance day of our ISKCON founder-*ācārya*, Śrī Śrīmad A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda. Kṛṣṇa sent His own man, His very intimate devotee Śrīla Prabhupāda, to this world just after the anniversary of His appearance day.

On the day commemorating Nanda Mahārāja's arranging a great festival in honor of the appearance of his beloved son Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa's very intimate devotee appeared. Why does a pure Vaiṣṇava come here? Kṛṣṇa's own men are always with Him in His *sac-cid-ānanda-maya dhāma*. And when He sends one of them to this realm, such a Vaiṣṇava sees the relationship of everybody and everything to Kṛṣṇa.



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

We all have a perfect loving relationship with Kṛṣṇa, eternally. A completely Kṛṣṇa conscious person sees that dormant relationship within all conditioned souls. It pains him to see all these souls forgetful of his beloved Kṛṣṇa, the Lord of the heart. Such a *prema*-saturated Vaiṣṇava cannot tolerate the *jīvas*’ suffering in separation from his beloved Kṛṣṇa. He knows that if they develop Kṛṣṇa consciousness, they will no longer suffer and will go back home, back to Godhead.

Our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda is such a Vaiṣṇava. Kṛṣṇa sent Him, especially empowering him to inculcate Kṛṣṇa consciousness into the hearts of the conditioned souls. Śrīla Prabhupāda’s spiritual master ordered him to go to the Western world and preach the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in English. The Western world is full of gross materialists, devoid of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. So who could have induced them to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness except one who was extraordinarily empowered by the Lord?

So there is no doubt that Śrīla Prabhupāda was empowered by Lord Kṛṣṇa, Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and all the previous *ācāryas*, especially Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Thus in a very short time, in the last portion of his life, he went to the Western world and fulfilled the prediction of Caitanya Mahāprabhu: *prthivīte āche yata nagarādi-grām sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*: “In every town and village on this earth the glories of My name will be chanted.” In just twelve years he traveled to all corners of the world a dozen times and preached the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As a result we see that thousands of gross materialists have developed Kṛṣṇa consciousness and are now engaged in the loving service of Kṛṣṇa.

The society Śrīla Prabhupāda set up, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, is meant to be a society of true Vaiṣṇavas, devotees who are free of envy. As aforementioned, the true Vaiṣṇava sees the relationship of everyone and everything with Kṛṣṇa, who is the object of his love. In the heart of such a Vaiṣṇava, how can there be envy? In this regard Śrīla Prabhupāda set the example for his followers by his own activities.

We devotees here at ISKCON Koundinyapur are trying to serve Śrīla Prabhupāda under the guidance of His Holiness Lokanāth Swami. We have been granted five acres of land from the government of Maharashtra. This place has a vital spiritual history, Koundinyapur being the birthplace of Rukmiṇī Devī and the place where Lord Kṛṣṇa kidnapped her. The ancient Ambā Devī Temple marks the presence of Rukmiṇī in Koundinyapur. The Rukmiṇī-Viṭhṭhala temple is also situated in this holy place. We are engaging in several devotional programs, including *prasādam* and book distribution, Deity worship, cow protection, and the Sunday Festival.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*Śrīla Prabhupāda’s followers at ISKCON Koundinyapur, India.*

## Las Vegas

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, O greatest savior of the world,

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

Thank you so much for once again giving me the privilege of writing you an offering for your glorious Vyāsa-pūjā. Since your last Vyāsa-pūjā, many wonderful things have happened in Las Vegas by dint of your divine mercy. In my last offering I included a brief report of our preaching activities here, and I also prayed to you for blessings and mercy so that we might render more and better service to your lotus feet. You have kindly listened to our prayers and fulfilled all of them! Thus, by your divine mercy we have received a wonderful facility and a tremendous opportunity to multiply all our services in Las Vegas for the pleasure of you and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you! Thank you so much!

We all are eternally indebted to your lotus feet for everything you have done on this earth planet to save the conditioned souls of this Kali-yuga, the age of degradation. You sacrificed yourself completely



to deliver the world, single-handedly starting your ISKCON society at the advanced age of seventy. You once said that to establish ISKCON you had “walked through fire” just to “give people an opportunity to associate with those who have not forgotten Kṛṣṇa.”

Desiring to facilitate the spiritual lives of generations of your followers, you spoke to them in hundreds of recorded lectures and conversations, wrote dozens of books and hundreds of letters, established over a hundred temples, installed dozens of Deities, founded a social system, instituted systematic Vaiṣṇava education, directed self-sufficiency projects, and formed an institution with a suitable hierarchy to perpetuate the *saṅkīrtana* movement into the 21st century and beyond.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura had an idea of preaching in the West, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura organized his preaching movement to expand the ideas of his illustrious father, and you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, implemented an organized preaching movement in the West and all over the world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the ideal *ācārya* for the Iron Age, and you said that your books will be “the law books for the next ten thousand years.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the embodiment of knowledge! When you were personally present, you exemplified the teachings of the *śāstras* and our predecessors *ācāryas*, and thus your disciples had first-hand experience of the practical application of your self-effulgent teachings.

There is no example to parallel that of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the perfect *goṣṭhy-ānandī*, *jagat-guru*, and *ācārya*. The risks you took are legendary, and were beyond the call of duty, even for great transcendentalists. Under the order of your spiritual master you took, as you said, “the responsibility of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western world.” For this reason you left your family to live alone and prepare yourself for this supreme mission, given to you by your spiritual master. Leaving the transcendental shelter of Vṛndāvana, you crossed the ocean and suffered several heart attacks, the taunts of uncultured Westerners, the toll of world travel in your seventies, the conspiracies of Godbrothers, the immaturity of disciples, and many other trials. Your story is told in various biographies, all proving that no one ever took greater risks for the mission of the Lord than you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, many of your godbrothers were highly exalted souls, but they never took Lord Caitanya’s order to spread the holy name throughout the world as seriously as you did. Some didn’t want to risk associating with Westerners, some didn’t want to risk dying outside Vraja or Māyāpur. But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, took these risks and many others to fulfill the order of your spiritual master and the desire of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. As you wrote:

So far I am concerned, I always take risk for Krishna. I came here in your country risking my life. And still, although I am physically unfit, I am trying to execute the orders of my Guru Maharaja as far as possible. [Letter to Gargamuni, 12 February 1968]

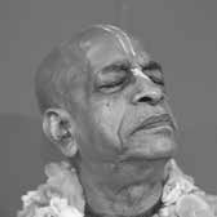
In this regard you acted exactly like Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who displayed the perfect example of an ideal devotee by showing unlimited and unflinching faith in His guru. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the personification of this highest principle of spiritual progress. In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 7.95–96) we find these words of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

I firmly believe in these words of My spiritual master, and therefore I always chant the holy name of the Lord, alone and in the association of devotees. That holy name of Lord Kṛṣṇa sometimes causes Me to chant and dance, and therefore I chant and dance. Please do not think that I intentionally do it. I do it automatically.

And in the purport you explain:

A person who cannot keep his faith in the words of his spiritual master but acts independently never receives the authority to chant the holy name of the Lord. It is said in the *Vedas* (*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* 6.23):

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



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

“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.” This Vedic injunction is very important, and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu supported it by His personal behavior. Believing in the words of His spiritual master, He introduced the *saṅkīrtana* movement, just as the present Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement was started with belief in the words of our spiritual master. He wanted to preach, we believed in his words and tried somehow or other to fulfill them, and now this movement has become successful all over the world. Therefore faith in the words of the spiritual master and in the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the secret of success.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in actuality your entire life is a perfect, self-illuminating example of an ideal disciple, a dedicated servant and pure devotee of guru and Kṛṣṇa. You are an ideal *goṣṭhy-ānandī*, one who is not satisfied simply to become perfect himself but wants to see others also take advantage of the holy name of the Lord and advance in spiritual life.

You are the personification of pure selflessness, compassion, and anxiety over the plight of others. Therefore, you are an ideal *ācārya*. In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 3.98) we find this description of an *ācārya*:

An *ācārya* does not exploit his followers. Since the *ācārya* is a confidential servitor of the Lord, his heart is always full of compassion for humanity in its suffering. He knows that all suffering is due to the absence of devotional service to the Lord, and therefore he always tries to find ways to change people’s activities, making them favorable for the attainment of devotion. That is the qualification of an *ācārya*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, another of the manifold outstanding traits you displayed as founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON is your extraordinary spiritual strength. This is readily evident from your long list of achievements in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. They have no equal in the history of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism or of humanity at large. As you wrote in your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya* 24.277: “Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura said that the position of a Vaiṣṇava can be tested by seeing how good a touchstone he is—that is, by seeing how many Vaiṣṇavas he has made during his life.”

Your preaching has breathed new life into Lord Caitanya’s *sampradāya* because you have clarified the points of *siddhānta*, the essential conclusion of spiritual science, and distinctly elucidated the preaching mission. In your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya* 25.9 you write:

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.

Consequently, nowadays many souls are becoming inspired to adopt the path of Lord Caitanya, to the extent that all over the world *harināma saṅkīrtana* is becoming more and more popular, even among ordinary people, and is being celebrated at various events like Bhakti Fest and Kirtan Fest.

Even in Las Vegas, a place known all over the world as Sin City, by your mercy and that of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa incredible events are taking place, and *kīrtana* is becoming more and more popular. Śrīla Prabhupāda, because of your blessings and the blessings of your representatives, last year’s BTG article about our Las Vegas preaching efforts so much inspired one of your wonderful followers, Rādhā Jivana Prabhu, that he purchased a beautiful property for Lord Kṛṣṇa’s temple in Las Vegas. We are now building a gorgeous new temple here, the first official ISKCON center in Las Vegas and, indeed, in the entire state of Nevada.

To collect funds for this project we have organized a few Kṛṣṇa conscious festivals that have attracted more of the Indian community to your ISKCON institution, and they have demonstrated a willingness to support the new temple. We have also tremendously increased the distribution of your books and the incidence of *harināma* on the fabled Las Vegas Strip. In addition, a new *bhakta* has joined your temple, and we have also increased educational programs for the congregation in general. Soon we will hold the





first Holi Festival of Colors in Las Vegas, a festival that has quickly become one of the biggest and most popular Hare Kṛṣṇa festivals in America.

Our humble desire reflects exactly what you said in a lecture at Ahmedabad on 9 December 1972: “So we, our business is to become a little recognized by Kṛṣṇa. So we shall go on preaching like this at all risk.”

Therefore, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, following your perfect example, we beg you to bless us all with unflinching and unlimited faith in guru and Kṛṣṇa. May we always be enthusiastically take any and all risks to preach in Las Vegas for your pleasure and Lord Kṛṣṇa’s. Please bless us that we will always remember Lord Kṛṣṇa in all of our activities and never, even for a moment, forget Him. Please bless us that in all circumstances we will depend on the mercy of your lotus feet and the lotus feet of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

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

(written by Surapāla Dāsa)

## Lenasia

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

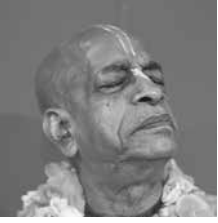
On this most glorious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, we contemplate the numerous blessings you have bestowed upon us. Throughout the years we have always felt your presence and guidance. We have not always been successful in accomplishing what you require from us, but we are making an earnest attempt.

Over the last few years we have tried to live by these words of yours:

Simply by associating with a pure devotee, one becomes wonderfully advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. *Sādhū-saṅga*, or association with a devotee, means always engaging in Kṛṣṇa consciousness by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra and by acting for Kṛṣṇa. Specifically, chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra purifies one, and this chanting is therefore recommended by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. *Ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam*: by chanting the names of Kṛṣṇa, the mirror of the heart is cleansed, and the devotee loses interest in everything external. When one is influenced by the external energy of the Lord, his heart is impure. When one’s heart is not pure, he cannot see how things are related to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. *Idaṁ hi viśvaṁ bhagavān ivetaraḥ* (SB 1.5.20). He whose heart is purified can see that the whole cosmic manifestation is but the Supreme Personality of Godhead, but he whose heart is contaminated sees things differently. Therefore by *sat-saṅga*, or association with devotees, one becomes perfectly pure in heart. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.24.59, purport]

We try to make Your Divine Grace our focal point, and in turn all your devotees a focal point, of our service. We see part of our service as providing pure association to uplift the spirits of the devotees, and we work together to increase the influence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, not only for the immediate circle of devotees but also for society at large.

It hasn’t been easy, but when has a mammoth task come easily? The service is hard but the experience is blissful. We have seen the blissful results increase as we strive to work better together—empowering and supporting one another, challenging and motivating one another. Over the last year and a half we have had more success in this endeavor due to the formation of the ISKCON Lenasia Operations Committee (ILOC). A select group of devotees came together and have endeavored to embody the spirit of *sādhū-saṅga*. We have uplifted the quality of our activities so that we are now closer to being able to provide



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

what you require from us. We are determined to work harder and smarter to enhance your Society, based on the principles of unity and keeping Kṛṣṇa in the center.

In a letter to Tribhuvanātha Dāsa you wrote this on 17 July 1971:

I am also glad to note that a meeting of all the presidents was held just recently in order to unify the temples. That is the process. Unless we work cooperatively, how this movement will go on? So my request to you all is that you maintain that spirit of cooperation always and help me to deliver Lord Caitanya's message all over the globe.

In our relatively small community of devotees in Lenasia, we of the ILOC are uniting to deliver that message. We have a group of devotees who set aside personal goals for a collective goal, who co-operate to achieve the collective goal, who help one another achieve the collective goal, and who work with love for Your Divine Grace as the pillar to accomplish it all. We want to be a single unit for a single purpose. Recent results are as follows:

Consistent action based strategic and operational meetings.

A sense of collective success versus individual glory.

A sense of honoring one another in the role of servants in your movement, recognizing other devotees' accomplishments, and supporting one another through difficulties.

Formation of key departments and working to achieve interdepartmental goals.

The outcomes have been relatively modest, but they are stepping stones to bigger things to come. Highlights include:

1. a greater support structure for achieving departmental goals
2. improved observance of festivals
3. more outreach events
4. a consistent and highly successful BYS program
5. consistent, targeted, and highly professional seminars to educate devotees
6. more books distributed in dynamic, professional, and expansive ways
7. consistent BTG and donor engagement
8. a dedicated Food for Life program, accompanied by book distribution
9. greater exposure in media, online, and direct communication channels
10. a plan for a better temple environment
11. an active, targeted outreach program going beyond traditional preaching channels and crossing both racial and demographic divides
12. Deity worship continuing even with so many unavoidable changes and challenges
13. a plan to take care of our devotees better

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, the devotees in the ILOC have every intention of following your instructions; we just need the fuel of your love and the benediction of your causeless mercy to do so. Then the spirit the ILOC group has developed will spill over into the greater devotee community and finally society at large. This cultural change will be an offering of love to you. After all, you did the same, only the magnitude of the change you effected was massive, far beyond what we can imagine accomplishing, and we see that the whole world has been influenced by your contribution to the Kṛṣṇa consciousness revolution. Please bless us that we can accomplish a tiny fraction of what you did. Give us the strength to be brave and confident in the execution of Lord Caitanya's mission as we face great challenges. Please help us tolerate the obstacles we face and overcome them every day as we strive to serve Your Divine Grace and work co-operatively.

Thank you for all the love you have shown us. Thank you for allowing us to be in your movement.

*Your servants at ISKCON Lenasia, South Africa.*



## London (Soho)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda

We offer our prostrated obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you and your ISKCON movement!

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us this amazing opportunity to perfect our lives in such a wonderful and exciting way.

There is never a dull moment in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You have opened our eyes to the fresh unfolding of the Lord's causeless mercy at every moment. You have given us the gift of understanding the foundation of everything. You have helped us see who we are and understand our eternal relationship with the Supreme Lord. In essence, you have given us completeness.

We here in London are doing our best to care for your most beloved Rādhā-Londonīśvara. We face new challenges every day, and in many ways I am sure we fail you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We truly want to be able to offer you everything that will bring you and Kṛṣṇa the most pleasure.

We are trying to focus on caring for the devotees who so wonderfully dedicate their lives to your mission, and in so doing we are realizing just how difficult it is to be selfless, tolerant, and humble. It is not so easy to be the servant of the servant, yet you, Śrīla Prabhupāda—such an exalted soul—set the perfect example by personally serving all the pioneering devotees so nicely. Never thinking yourself better than them. Always considering yourself one of the devotees. By your actions teaching all of us for generations to come.

Our aims at ISKCON London remain the same, Śrīla Prabhupāda: Books, Prasādam, & Harināma.

While trying to increase and maintain the facility, we are also trying to build a community in central London, an endeavor fraught with obstacles. We are desperate to bring forth the vision and dream you had for London, and we know this will be possible only when you sanction it, Śrīla Prabhupāda. So please continue to bless us. Please help us develop grateful hearts; help us develop simple, sincere hearts that overflow with uninhibited enthusiasm for serving guru and the Vaiṣṇavas. Help us understand what you want in London, and help us to have the full-fledged courage to make it happen, no matter what.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please empower us, your insignificant servants here in London, to bring forth into reality the dream you had for this most important city, the dream that will please your Guru Mahārāja and the entire *guru-paramparā*. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, let us become instruments of your mercy.

We patiently await your mercy while desperately struggling to control our minds and senses, all the while taking shelter of the *darśana* of Their *most* beautiful Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara and chanting the holy name.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for giving us this opportunity.

*Your servants at ISKCON London, UK.*

## London (South)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet, which have traveled across the globe so many times to fulfill the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and your glorious spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day! If not for the sacrifices Your Divine



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

Grace made, there would be no hope for us, the fallen conditioned souls. Now at least there is a golden opportunity for the most unfortunate.

Your family in South London is growing from strength to strength, which shows the power of your preaching. More and more new devotees are being attracted, only due to your blessings. This is going on all over the world, which shows that your blessings are for everyone and not only for the chosen few. You are the personification of the following verse in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (3.7.36)

*anuvratānām śiṣyāṇām putrāṇām ca dvijottama  
anāpṛṣṭam api brūyur guravo dīna-vatsalāḥ*

“O best among the *brāhmaṇas*, those who are spiritual masters are very kind to the needy. They are always kind to their followers, disciples, and sons, and without being asked by them, the spiritual master describes all that is knowledge.”

In the *śāstra* it is also mentioned that the guru should be treated just like Śrī Kṛṣṇa. As Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura wrote in his beautiful *Gurv-aṣṭaka* prayers:

*sākṣād-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].”

Just as Lord Kṛṣṇa shows no impartiality, neither do you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your blessings and mercy are there for all to benefit from.

We have been blessed by many enthusiastic souls in South London, and we have been able to start more regular *sat-saṅgas*. Our children’s *saṅga* is really flourishing, and the devotees are able to pass on your teachings to more and more children, who are the future of ISKCON. Our Friday *Bhagavad-gītā sat-saṅga* is getting more and more popular, attracting more families to invite devotees into their homes. The youth and *mātājīs’ saṅgas* have been started, since these groups are also looking for guidance from your teachings. The parents’ workshops are popular, since they need advice from the *śāstra* regarding their duties in bringing up their dependents in Kṛṣṇa consciousness while dealing with all the worldly pressures.

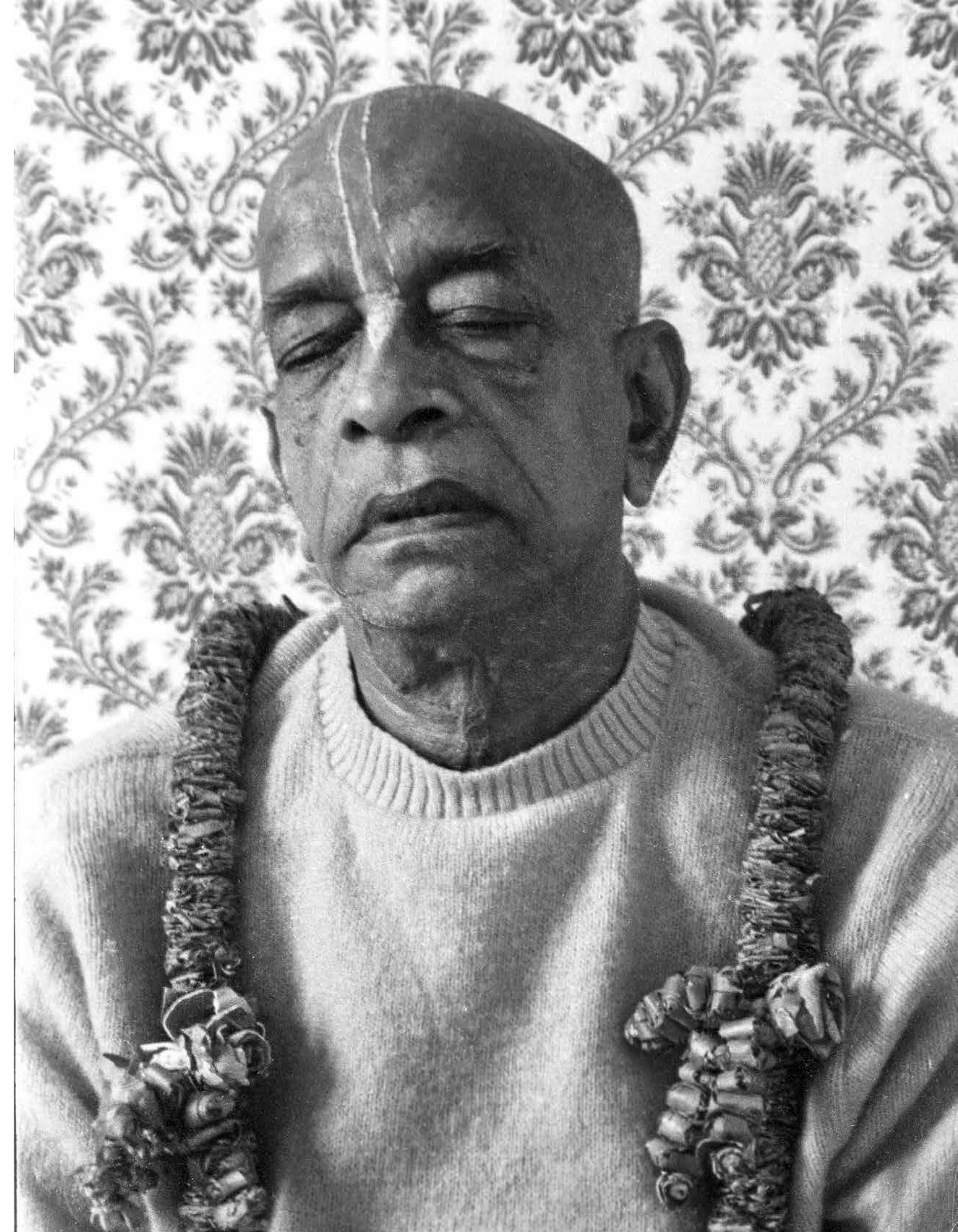
All these *sat-saṅgas* exist only because of the blessings and guidance you are providing through your Bhaktivedanta purports. We are your dependents, and you are perfectly fulfilling the injunction of the following verse from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (5.5.18):

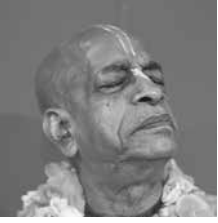
*gurur na sa syāt sva-jano na sa syāt  
pitā na sa syāj jananī na sā syāt  
daivam na tat syān na patiś ca sa syān  
na mocayed yaḥ samupeta-mṛtyum*

“One who cannot deliver his dependents from the path of repeated birth and death should never become a spiritual master, a relative, a father, a husband, a mother, or a worshipable demigod.”

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for spending your precious time translating and writing so many books, especially *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. These books are invaluable for our own guidance as well as our preaching. You shower your blessings on each and every devotee who reads any of your books. Just as chanting the *mahā-mantra* even once can destroy more sins than one can ever commit, so anyone who reads even one of your books will be “hooked” forever on Kṛṣṇa and eventually go back to Godhead.







## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

*praviṣṭaḥ kaṇṇa-randhreṇa svānām bhāva-saroruham  
dhunoti śamalaṁ kṛṣṇaḥ salilasya yathā śarat*

“The sound incarnation of Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Soul [i.e., *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*], enters into the heart of a self-realized devotee, sits on the lotus flower of his loving relationship, and thus cleanses the dust of material association, such as lust, anger, and hankering. Thus it acts like autumnal rains upon pools of muddy water.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.8.5)

Recently the devotees from South London had the great opportunity to visit your wonderful Radhadesh temple in Belgium. Truly you have blessed the world by building a house in which the whole world can live. The devotees at Radhadesh were very loving and friendly. We were particularly impressed by the young devotees who were glorifying the Lord by chanting *kīrtana* so nicely and sweetly. We also had the opportunity to have wonderful association and discussions with His Holiness Prahādānanda Mahārāja and other devotees. The words below from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* are very appropriate:

*saṅgamaḥ khalu sādḥnām ubhayeṣāṁ ca sammataḥ  
yat-sambhāṣaṇa-sampraśnaḥ sarveṣāṁ vitanoti śam*

“When there is a congregation of devotees, their discussions, questions, and answers become conclusive to both the speaker and the audience. Thus such a meeting is beneficial for everyone’s real happiness.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.22.19)

Such experiences are due only to your blessings and mercy, for which we are eternally grateful. Please continue to bless us as we further develop the *yātrā* in South London.

*The servants of your servants at ISKCON South London, UK.*

## Malaga

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

And please bless us with your mercy so that we may be able to write this Vyāsa-pūjā offering properly, because without your mercy we are wholly incapable.

Today we celebrate the all-auspicious day of your appearance, the day that the entire universe benefited from, is benefiting from at present, and will continue to benefit from in the future. This day commemorates the day when the light of the spiritual world entered the darkness of the material atmosphere for the benefit of countless living entities who are looking for some sense in a senseless world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have saved us from stupidity, inconsistency, and all inauspiciousness. It is only by your grace that we may gradually understand the truth and taste true peace and happiness. You are our eternal master, father, friend, and shelter. In fact, you are everything for us, and we would be lost without your guidance. How can a blind man find the right path by himself? Impossible! You are the torchlight in the darkness. Whoever sincerely follows you will find the way out of this dark and frightening maze.

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day we desire to have as many mouths as Śrī Ananta Śeṣa so that we can describe



your glories fully, but unfortunately we are conditioned souls and do not have such capacity. How can an ant describe the grandeur and majesty of the Himalayas? Similarly, how can conditioned souls describe the greatness of a pure devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead?

What you have done and are continuing to do through all those who sincerely strive to follow your footsteps and implement your instructions is not of this world. You are offering us the opportunity to help change the face of the earth, to convert this planet, which is becoming more and more hellish, into a Vaikuṇṭha planet, where the Lord of Vaikuṇṭha, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, is recognized, adored and loved as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the friend and well-wisher of everyone.

You are educating and training us not only to elevate ourselves from a state of miserable, crippled consciousness to a state of enlightenment, but also to become qualified to return some day to that place we should never have left, the spiritual realm. What you have done and are doing for us cannot be repaid. Mercy is priceless: it cannot be purchased. How can we repay you for your kindness, your dedication, your gift of knowledge in the service of humanity, your determination, unyielding even in the face of adversity, in the face of the madness of this Age of Kali? How can we match the love you have shown us?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our debt to you is eternal. Thus we simply ask that your compassion for us may result in our becoming your insignificant, humble servants. Physically you have departed, but you are also here, and anyone who strives to serve you with sincerity can feel your presence within their hearts.

You are an ambassador of the spiritual world. Who else would have voluntarily left Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma* and come to the lower planets? Please give us your mercy so that we can deeply understand your message, and please empower us to assist you in your mission to save all humanity from animal life and the cycle of *samsāra*.

*Your eternally grateful servants at ISKCON Malaga, Spain.*

(written by Siddhānta Dāsa)

## Manchester

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most sincere humble obeisances. All glories unto you, our dearmost lord and master!

By the inconceivable mercy and grace of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, we have somehow found our way to your lotus feet. You have inspired all of us, both individually and collectively, to find ways to serve your ISKCON mission.

The varieties of people who approach you are diverse, intelligent, subservient, and talented in so many colorful shades, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and their unity of purpose displays variegated beauty. At first this overwhelming diversity can be bewildering because of our previous conditioning. With time, Your Divine Grace carefully guides us to see this spectacular variegatedness as an aspect of the inconceivable wonder of the Supreme Lord.

It is a great credit to your teachings that we have the opportunity to gain a glimpse into the real meaning of the statement “God is great.” With so much sweetness you have revealed the true depth of the greatness of God, Lord Kṛṣṇa. He is an unlimited ocean of pastimes, expansions, beauty, creation, etc. One who understands even a bit of this greatness should dive into the ever-increasing eternal nectar-ocean of loving devotional service. Please grant us everlasting shelter at your lotus feet so that we may surrender our lives in the loving pursuit of carrying on your mission with the heartfelt dedication you and your disciples have taught.

With a population of three million, Manchester is the third largest city in the UK. Among so many souls here, we feel honored to be among the few who have taken the opportunity to render loving service at your lotus feet. Currently our *yātrā* consists of a congregation of more than 130 devotees, ranging from



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

the dedicated to the casual visitor. In 2006 we were just a small group of twenty devotees meeting on Fridays and Sundays, trying to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness responsibly. Even though the temple has been established for over thirty years, it has had limited success establishing a progressive and growing devotee congregation.

ISKCON Manchester is working in close cooperation with the Scottish *yātrā* to support and establish regular Kṛṣṇa conscious activities in northern England. Nāma-haṭṭa groups are active in Bolton, Warrington, Liverpool, Chester, North Wales, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent, and Preston. In Manchester we celebrate all the main festivals and have a Ratha-yātrā each year in September. We have inaugurated an annual twelve-hour *kīrtana* festival during Kārtika and have regular monthly *harināmas* in Bolton and Manchester. Currently we are in the process of opening a small storefront preaching center in Stockport, just thirty kilometers from Manchester, led by your dear disciple Jagadātmā Prabhu. We sincerely pray at your lotus feet that you may bless his efforts so that the center can establish roots and further expand your message of Godhead in another town.

In our Manchester *yātrā* we have seventeen initiated disciples, who form the core team of dedicated volunteers. They are *grhastha* devotees with children, working and living outside the temple, regularly organizing Kṛṣṇa conscious programs throughout the year. We have many aspiring devotees awaiting the opportunity for initiation; they are all dedicated to the preaching mission. We are deeply grateful to all the congregational devotees, who, searching for your association and mercy, are taking advantage of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. It is so rare in this world to find sincere devotees, but by dint of your kindness we have this reservoir of sincere devotees regularly associating in ISKCON.

The central desire of all the devotees is that we may become the oasis for all people in northwest England looking to drink from the unlimited ocean of nectar of devotional spiritual enlightenment that ultimately brings the sublime bliss of love of God. Kindly bless us with the intelligence, organizational structure, patience, and tolerance to engage more people in your movement. Kindly send waves of new devotees and empower us to distribute your books and sumptuous *prasādam* and to frequently relish chanting the holy names on *harināma saṅkīrtana*. By your mercy may we build, develop, and maintain an ISKCON center in Manchester that daily nourishes the nine processes of devotional service.

We beg always to remain in the mood of your insignificant humble servants and to relish the great opportunity you have afforded us to serve all those who come to quench their thirst in this oasis of nectarean devotional service.

We pray always to be enthusiastically absorbed in your loving shelter.

*Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Manchester, UK.*

## Mauritius

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Here in Mauritius our *yātrā* is expanding nicely by your mercy. Under the caring and expert direction of our GBC, His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Mahārāja, we are seeing ISKCON Mauritius becoming more united and cooperative. On the farm Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma are being very nicely served by the devotees and congregational members. The festivals are being attended by ever-increasing crowds. In February of this year we had an inspiring BBT Africa conference, and we have now printed *On the Way to Kṛṣṇa* for the first time in Mauritian Creole, and our translators are working on your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.

We feel we are making progress in implementing your divine plan to make Mauritius the first Kṛṣṇa conscious country in the world. Do you remember when Prime Minister Sir Sewoosagur Ramgoolam wrote to you inviting you to “please come and bless our island with your visit”? You landed at the Plaisance Airport and were escorted off the plane and ushered into the VIP lounge, where you were received by





our enthusiastic ISKCON Life Members and supporters Gowtam Teelock and Mr. Ramlallah, who was the editor of the *Mauritius Times*.

The following conversation was recorded by ITV:

**Gowtam Teelock:** We are very pleased to have you among us, and we welcome you on behalf of the people of Mauritius. Have you had any idea of Mauritius before coming here?

**Śrīla Prabhupāda:** My idea is to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness, because for want of this knowledge our mission of human life is failing all over the world. Therefore I am trying to introduce the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement all over the world, without any distinction of caste, creed, or color. God is for everyone. And we have forgotten our relationship with God; therefore we are suffering in so many ways. His instruction is there in the *Bhagavad-gītā*, so if we follow, then we become happy.

When asked about your schedule and programs for the island, you replied,

I want to see the leading men of this place, because if they understand the importance of this movement, then my mission is a success. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* it is said, *yad yad ācarati śreṣṭhas tat tad evetaro janaḥ*: “The leaders, whatever they do, the ordinary, common man follows.” So if the leading men of Mauritius, if they understand the importance of this movement, then I am sure it will be very beneficial for everyone.

In the January 1976 issue of the *Back to Godhead* magazine, the following article was published under the title “Śrīla Prabhupāda Visits Mauritius”:

A recent tour of Africa took His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda through East and South Africa, and to the island state of Mauritius, six hundred miles off the coast of Madagascar. There he spoke with many people, among them Mr. Khemraj Gungah, president of the Narmadesvara Sivalaya temple in Rose Bell, and Mr. Gautum Teelock, ex-Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. Contrasting ancient Vedic culture with modern civilization, His Divine Grace noted:

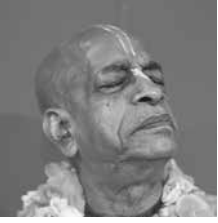
“Vedic society is based on the principle of love—between husband and wife, father and son, the king and the citizens, and so on. Civilization must be founded on love, not law. By law you cannot make a person love you. First he must love you, then he will gladly follow your law.

“Modern civilization lacks this basis of love, so everything is superficial and false. But if devotion to Kṛṣṇa [God] is made the basic principle, then people will be happy.”

Knowing of local plans to reorganize social and political structures, Śrīla Prabhupāda then proposed that an ideal state based on the instructions of *Bhagavad-gītā* be set up in Mauritius. “People will be very inclined to it,” he said. “In a big state—especially a highly industrialized one—it would not be possible, but in a small state like Mauritius you can make it happen. You wouldn’t be making a new experiment. This experiment has already been made and proven successful. In Vedic days, people lived strictly according to the principles summarized by Kṛṣṇa in the *Bhagavad-gītā*. They made the test and proved that the principles are true. So you just have to follow what is already there. You simply have to accept the Vedic authority.”

In your arrival address, Your Divine Grace said,

This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is a very important movement. We are inviting all intelligent persons, the leaders of the society, to understand the basic principle of this movement. If the leaders of the society lead the people in the proper channel on the basic principle of spiritual life, then everything will be solved. Everyone will be happy. These instructions are there in the *Bhagavad-gītā*—very elaborately given. Simply we have to follow those instructions. It is not at all difficult. Then all the questions—social problem, political problem, economical problem, religious problem, everything will be nicely solved. We are presenting, therefore, *Bhagavad-gītā* As



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

*It Is.* And you take any question and the answer is there in the *Bhagavad-gītā*, very nicely given. Just like, say, our first problem is an economic problem. So *Bhagavad-gītā* says, “Yes, economic problem will be solved very easily if you produce food grains.” *Annād bhavanti bhūtāni*. You produce food grains. Just like in your country I see there is enough land. If you people produce your food grains—within three months you can get all the necessities of life for the whole year. And the balance time you can save, nine months. And these nine months you can utilize for advancing in spiritual life.

In a class on the *Bhagavad-gītā* you gave on 1 October 1975, Your Divine Grace said:

This rascal havoc has ruined the whole world. Otherwise, if they would have preached *Bhagavad-gītā* as it is, the world situation would have been different. Everything would have been in order, tranquillity, peace, and everybody would have been prosperous. But the rascals will not do that. That is the defect. Therefore our tiny effort is how to present *Bhagavad-gītā* as it is. This is our mission. ... Even now, in this distorted condition of the world, if we accept *Bhagavad-gītā* as it is, then still, we will be benefited. There is no doubt about it. Therefore our appeal is that throughout the whole world people should come, try to understand *Bhagavad-gītā*, and set up examples and do the needful. Then everything will be peaceful.

This is the peace formula: *bhoktāraṁ yajña-tapasāṁ sarva-loka-maheśvaram, suhṛdaṁ sarva-bhūtānam. Suhṛdaṁ sarva-bhūtānam. Su-hṛt* means “well-wisher.” Well-wisher. Here is the supreme well-wisher. He wants, Kṛṣṇa wants that wherever you live, you live peacefully and happily; and therefore He is called *su-hṛt*. He is desiring everyone’s happiness. Therefore He comes Himself to advise, to instruct how to live, how to follow His instruction, and He leaves these behind Him such books as *Bhagavad-gītā*, and He sends His representative occasionally to revive our consciousness. This business is going on, not only in the human society, even in the animal society. Anywhere, even in demigod society, things are going on like that. Therefore we should know, whatever Bhagavān says, there cannot be any mistake, any illusion, any cheating, or any imperfectness. Then it will be very nice. And that is the fact.

In a press conference held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> you were asked about ISKCON’s possible political involvement elsewhere, to which you replied:

“Oh, yes. When we are many in number, then we shall take politics also. Yes. First of all let there be perfect men. If there are no perfect men, the government will be imperfect. If there are perfect men, the government will be perfect.

**Reporter:** Do you think, Swamiji, that man can become perfect?

**Prabhupāda:** That is the chance of a human being. Therefore in the human society there is school, college, education, culture, not in the animal society, because they can be made into perfect beings, not the animals. So if they are denied proper education, that is the greatest harm. They have got the opportunity for spiritual education, but the authorities are not giving them that opportunity.

**Reporter:** Do you mean the perfectness is to become God or a perfect man? **Prabhupāda:** You never become God.

**Reporter:** What does perfectness mean?

**Prabhupāda:** Perfect means to become godly. ...

**Reporter:** Can you be interested directly in politics?

**Prabhupāda:** Why not? Kṛṣṇa was in politics. So He instructed Arjuna to fight. This is politics—for a good cause. When Arjuna denied that “Kṛṣṇa, I am not willing to kill my, the other side, my brothers and my uncles,” He chastised him that *kutas tvā kaśmalam idaṁ viṣame samupasthitam*: “How you are talking like non-Āryan? What is this nonsense?” ...

*kutas tvā kaśmalam idaṁ viṣame samupasthitam  
anārya-juṣṭam asvargyam akīrti-karam arjuna*



*Anārya. Anārya.* He has said *anārya*. *Ārya* means advanced. *Anārya* means less advanced. ... *Kṣatriya* means one who gives protection from being hurt, *kṣat*. *Kṣat* means hurting. So suppose if I unnecessarily hurt you, then it is the duty of the government to give you protection. So unless I am also punished by violence, ... he cannot give you protection. So this is also necessary. Therefore in the society there must be *kṣatriya*. The *brāhmaṇas* should be learned; they should give instruction, advice. The *kṣatriyas* should give protection; the *vaiśyas* should produce, economic development; and rest, they should assist—*śūdras*, that's all. This is the program of Āryan society.

In a morning walk conversation on October 4, Your Divine Grace instructed your disciples:

Government means, nowadays, all rascals. They are elected by rascals and they are rascals. That is the difficulty. Everywhere you go, you will meet only rascals. *Manda*. The definition is given, *manda*. Even in our camp [ISKCON] there are so many rascals. Just see the report. Even they have come to be reformed, they are rascals. They cannot give up their rascal habits. Therefore it has been generalized, *manda*: “all bad.” But only difference is that in our camp the bads are being reformed; outside there is no reforming. [Here] there is hope of their being good, but outside there is no hope. That is the difference. Otherwise everyone is bad. Without any discrimination you can say. *Mandāḥ sumanda-matayo*. Now, how the government will be good? This is also bad. Mahāprabhu's name is Patita-pāvana; He is delivering all bad men.

We hope to be able to implement these essential instructions in our lifetime, but it will only be possible by your mercy, so please kindly empower us to do the needful. We are fallen and, it being Kali-yuga, prone to infighting over petty personal ambitions and agendas. So we simply beg you to let us become fixed up in following your directives for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga.

*Your servants at the Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple and ISKCON Vedic Farm, Mauritius.*

## Mexico City

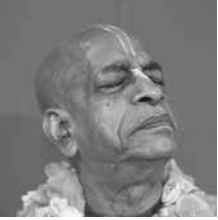
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration is an opportunity to glorify you and let the world know how great you are. We didn't know you personally, but we feel we have come to know you through your books. Your books save lives. Hardly any other book can do that. Furthermore, your books save souls. Every line of every page contains the most complete and refreshing message. No other books are like that. Everything about you inspires us to serve Kṛṣṇa, to meditate on Him. Any picture of you, or any audio or video recording of you, is a kind of refreshing rain shower for the heart. We know that you said we can know you through your books, but one of the reasons we engage in your service is the hope to see you face to face some day.

We would like to tell you many stories about *saṅkīrtana*, preaching, and service and see your big smile and wide-open eyes. We are feeling only one percent of what your disciples broadcast when they talk about you, and our hearts melt with that small glimpse of your glory. Your potency is present in all your temples and all your books. Serving your mission is the greatest feeling we have ever had. Please let us transmit that feeling to all the people in the world. That bliss comes from you.

Let us serve you more and more. This is the only thing we need.



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

We pray to Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-Gopāla to give us the intelligence and skill to let the world know how great you are.

*Your granddisciples at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-Gopāla temple in Mexico City, Mexico.*

# Miami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

One of your most prominent Vaiṣṇava qualities is your deep humility. Although it is an undisputed fact that Lord Caitanya empowered you to spread His *saṅkīrtana* movement all over the world, you always remained completely humble, giving all credit to your Guru Mahārāja. You never became overwhelmed, bewildered, or puffed up with false pride, even when you had thousands of disciples who were ready to do whatever you wanted and when your worldwide ISKCON movement became prominent, with many transcendental books, temples, farms, schools, restaurants, and more. This humility was quite natural for you because, as a pure devotee of the Lord, you fully realized that Lord Kṛṣṇa was the ultimate controller and enjoyer.

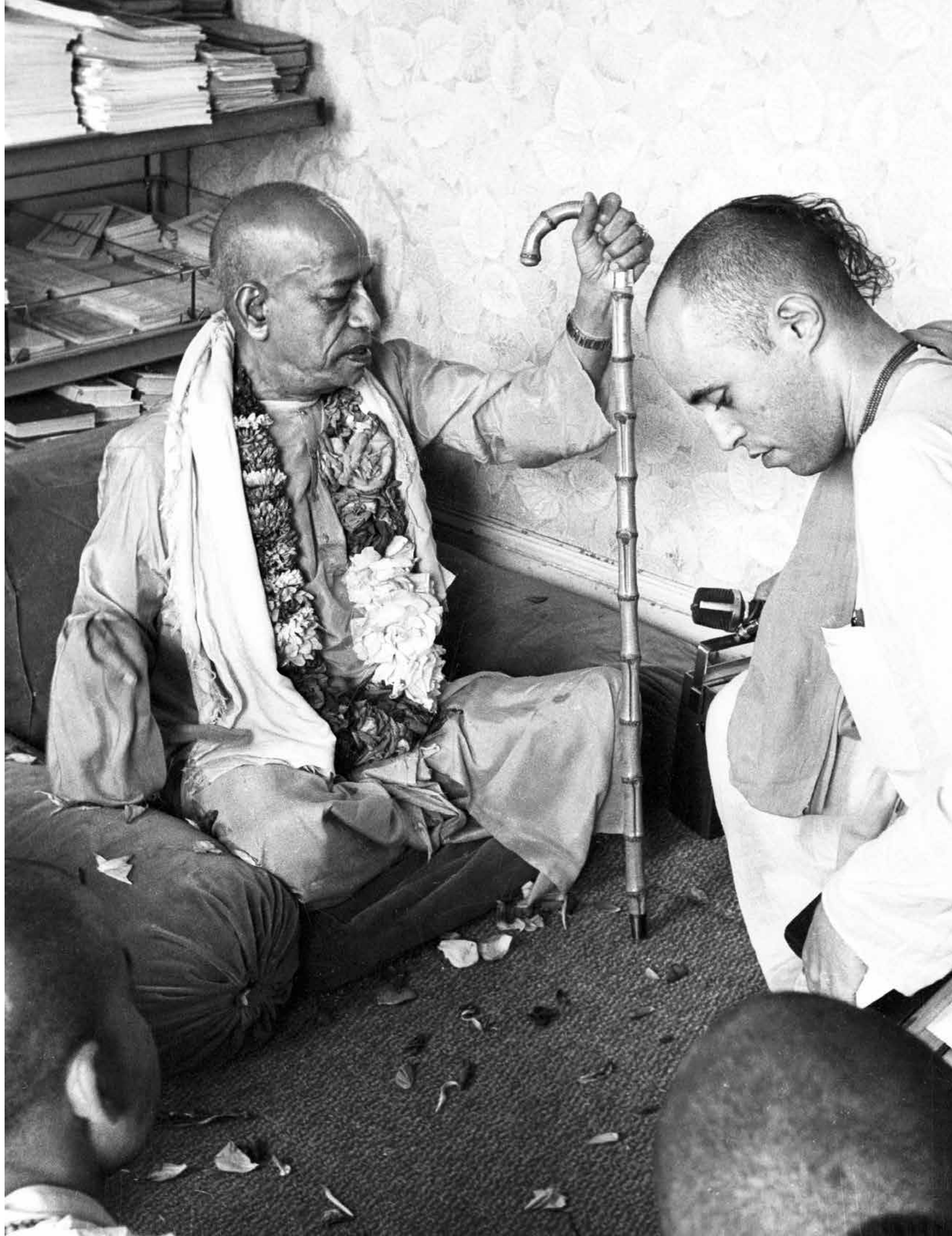
It was only out of profound humility that you fully surrendered to the order of your spiritual master and took the risk of going to America to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Once you were here, it was out of humility that you tolerated all kinds of difficulties and challenges, preaching to the ignorant lost souls of Kali-yuga. You did not come to the West just to return to India and become famous as a preacher who had converted some Westerners to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Accepting as your life and soul your spiritual master's order to give the Lord's mercy to everyone, you simply tried to carry it out.

It was an open secret that your spiritual master wanted his disciples to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western world. Even if you had preached to a only few people in America and then returned to India, you would have followed his instruction. You understood, however, that the deepest desire of your spiritual master was not just to make a superficial presentation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to a handful of people and then leave. His desire was that you firmly establish Lord Caitanya's mission in the Western world. You knew that without the strong association of other devotees practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness, it would be impossible for any of us to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. You knew that if you did not establish a spiritual society (ISKCON) to encourage and facilitate the association of devotees practicing devotional service, none of us could have become Kṛṣṇa conscious, for our restless minds, material attachments, and ignorance would have prevented us. As your followers, we often find it burdensome to maintain even a single temple, with its many challenges and personal conflicts. Yet out of your humility and dedication to the order of your spiritual master, you accepted the difficulties of managing a worldwide spiritual movement that provided us with many ways to engage our bodies, minds, and words in devotional service in the association of devotees.

For us to become completely Kṛṣṇa conscious, we must become fully humble, understanding that we are insignificant servants of our spiritual master. Although you showed us by your perfect example how to remain completely humble in the Lord's service, we disciples and granddisciples of yours have a tendency to forget our tiny position, become puffed-up with false prestige, and forget Lord Kṛṣṇa. You said that the purpose of this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is to make one independently thoughtful. This is significant, because each of us, individually, must ultimately decide if we want to surrender to Lord Kṛṣṇa or not. We must become introspective, consciously analyzing how the Kṛṣṇa conscious philosophy is perfectly applicable to our personal lives. We need to always remember that Lord Kṛṣṇa is the supreme controller and enjoyer and our well-wishing friend and that He personally arranges every experience we have on this path to help us advance.

You said, "Your love for me will be tested by how well you cooperate in spreading this movement."







## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

The way you established ISKCON, *we must work together* to carry out your instructions and spread this movement. Serving cooperatively gives us spiritual strength. If we fail in some endeavor in serving your mission, we all share that responsibility so that the burden is not so heavy that we become discouraged and leave. If we are successful in our spiritual endeavors, the glory is enhanced because we did it in cooperation with one another. And most important, if we always remember that we are dependent on one another to please you and serve your mission, we will never become bewildered by false prestige and try to take full credit for whatever little success we may have.

For example, one devotee may dress the temple Deities very beautifully and the other devotees may express their appreciation for the service. That is all right. But if the *pūjārī* who dresses the Deities starts becoming falsely proud of his service, that pride will hamper his Kṛṣṇa consciousness. To remain humble, the *pūjārī* should consider that his success in dressing the Deities is in fact the result of cooperation among many devotees because he could not have done his service without other devotees having served in the past and present. Did that morning's *pūjārī* also sew the outfit the Deities wore? Did he make the jewelry with which he decorated the Lord? Did he make that day's beautiful flower garlands? Did he single-handedly do everything necessary to keep the temple open over the years until the day he dressed the Deities? Without a temple, how could he have dressed the Deities? Such a simple analysis shows that no devotee is an island and that any success we may have requires the cooperation of many other devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us everything we need to become Kṛṣṇa conscious, even in this lifetime. Please help us follow your example of humility and work together cooperatively to spread this movement.

*Your humble servants at ISKCON Miami, Florida, USA.*

## Montreal

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

What to say if not an endless thank you, again and again?

You have made my life useful. Without your mercy I would be lost in this world, with no good quality whatsoever. Actually, I have often thought that without your mercy I wouldn't have been able to live in this crazy world. Nothing material can make me happy or peaceful. Everything disturbs me, giving no satisfaction whatsoever.

Śrīla Prabhupāda you have given me everything. I feel that I am getting closer and closer to you. The only thing that matters for me now is to please you. Since I don't know how to please Kṛṣṇa, the safest thing to do is to please you. I came to know you from your books, from your recorded lectures, morning walks, and interviews, from your letters, and from all your disciples who took the time to write their memories of the time they spent with you.

It has been over thirty-five years now since you left us, but I feel your presence in my heart more and more. Thus I do my service in the mood that you are always watching me. This gives me so much hope and satisfaction—feeling that you are living with me, that you are still here. I am learning so much in this way. The struggle against *māyā* is easier, knowing you are with me. I am getting spiritually stronger every day because of you. I am hoping to go back to Godhead, and I owe all of this to you. Śrīla Prabhupāda, I will never be able to repay you.



The secret is that every devotee can do the same.  
May I always feel your presence in my heart until I die.  
Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

*Your servants at ISKCON Montreal, Canada.*

(written by Anubhāva Dāsa)

## Mumbai (Chowpatty)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As years pass and we delve deeper and deeper into the meanings of your various lectures, articles, and teachings, we have no option but to be more and more humble, seeing the great magnitude of true devotional service you offered to Lord Kṛṣṇa through the *guru paramparā*. No words can express our gratitude.

Lord Kṛṣṇa states in the *Bhagavad-gītā* that the purest of all devotees, who know Vāsudeva, are never under the control of the material nature but are totally surrendered to Lord Kṛṣṇa and are under the guidance of His spiritual nature. Such *mahātmās* use one hundred percent of their energy and time only in the activities of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, carrying out the orders of their spiritual masters. You elucidate these points in your detailed purports.

Out of millions of living entities, hardly one even comes to the fundamental level of understanding Kṛṣṇa and surrendering to Him, and out of million of such devotees, only one can surrender 100% to Lord Kṛṣṇa so that he Lord fulfills all his desires.

We have seen over and over again that Lord Kṛṣṇa fulfilled all your desires, Śrīla Prabhupāda. To make sure your desires were fulfilled, Kṛṣṇa extended your life twice after you had nearly died (once on your sea voyage on the *Jaladuta*, once after your stroke in May 1967 in New York). Kṛṣṇa gave you just enough time to fulfill your Guru Mahārāja's desire that you spread Lord Caitanya's teachings to every town and village of the world.

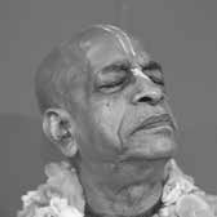
I have been to every continent in the world, and I have been surprised and extremely delighted to find your books, devotees, or some of your messages even in the darkest jungles of Africa, the deserts of Asia and Australia, the remotest islands in the Pacific Ocean, and the snow-clad mountaintops of South America, Canada, etc. There are many instances where devotees have taken a cue from your teachings and example and bravely preached in extremely adverse or dangerous conditions. For example, in the 1990s devotees daily distributed *prasādam* in Bosnia during the war there. Or, even during serious floods, earthquakes, or epidemics devotees have continued to offer their best devotional services by distributing your books. And during the annual December book distribution marathon, they often rest only two or three hours a night. Such devotional feats surely confirm that you and those who carry out your orders are not under the control of Mahāmāyā but under the supervision of Yogamāyā.

Alas, when will the day come when at last ten percent of the world's people are Kṛṣṇa conscious? Then those *śreṣṭhas* can lead the world into the ten-thousand-year golden age when everyone lives under the banner of Lord Caitanya and Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Praying to always stay in the service of the *guru paramparā* and Lord Kṛṣṇa, we remain

*Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Chowpatty, Mumbai. India.*

(written by Śrī Nāthjī Dāsa)



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

## 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 divine mercy we have completed construction on the new building of the Bhaktivedanta Swami Mission School in Sashtri Nagar. We have shifted all functions of the school from Hare Krishna Land to Sashtri Nagar, and the entire academic session of 2012–13 was conducted at the new premises.

We had the official inauguration of the school on 12 January 2013, with *vastu-sānti-pūjā*. The program also included felicitation of all the donors who contributed for the construction of the new building. We also felicitated many other well-wishers who helped the project in various capacities.

On 13 January 2013, Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Subhadrā Devī were installed in a colorful ceremony. We ecstatically performed a *mahā-abhiṣeka* with auspicious ingredients and a *puṣpa-abhiṣeka* with fragrant flowers from our farm. Their Lordships are now being nicely worshiped by a group of dedicated devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you greatly emphasized cow protection. The *gośālā* in your Talasari farm has been adopting cows abandoned on the highway or injured on the way to the slaughterhouse. A dedicated veterinarian is taking care of them. May this please Your Divine Grace. Please guide us to develop the cow protection program, which pleases Lord Govinda.

In distributing your transcendental books, ISKCON Juhu stood in the fourth place in the world for the year 2012. Our book score this year is the highest ever: 232,100 *mahā*-big books, 939 big books, 21,359 medium books, and 106,126 small books, for a grand total of 510,804 book points. We seek your blessings to increase our book distribution for your pleasure.

Year after year, the Śrī Rāma Navamī festival expands, with increasing participation of Mumbai's Śrī Rāma *bhaktas*. This year we sent out an appeal to all patron life members and other donors asking them to contribute for the Śrī Rāma Navamī Anna Dāna Sevā. We are planning a five-day festival of Śrī Rāma Kathā and profuse *prasādam* distribution. We hope this is pleasing to you and beg your mercy for the success of the festival.

Now that the school has shifted to the new building in Sashtri Nagar, we are planning to renovate the old building. We hope to have more *āśrama* facilities for *sannyāsīs*, senior *brahmacārīs*, visiting devotees, and elderly *mātājīs*. We will also plan to have dormitory facilities for the congregation. In addition, we plan to have some offices and a fully equipped modern kitchen. We seek your guidance for proper planning and execution of this renovation work.

Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us an opportunity to serve your dear Lords, 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.

On this auspicious occasion of your divine appearance, we are grateful for the opportunity to speak a few words in praise of your infinite glories and mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your kindness knows no limits because you have given us so many spiritual gems. You have mercifully bestowed upon us jewels of such value that it is hard to calculate their worth. First





and foremost, you have given us the holy name of Kṛṣṇa in the form of the *mahā-mantra*. What the sages strove to achieve in lifetimes you have made easily available to us by giving us the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra.

Although the great liberated souls have taken complete shelter in the holy name, which is glorified by the *Upaniṣads*, we still find excuses not to take shelter of the name. The holy name is so attractive that all the great sages chant it continuously. Chanting the holy name is so powerful that it can relieve all our sufferings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you describe how just a dim glimmer of the holy name can deliver us from material existence. In the dark of night we may fear many things, like tigers, but as soon as there is a little hint of the sun's light we are no longer afraid. In the same way, if even a dim reflection of the pure chanting of the holy name arises in our hearts, we no longer have to fear *māyā*. We never read that meditation on impersonal Brahman can free one from the effects of our past sins. Yet the *sāstra* declares the power of the holy name can rid the chanter of all sins accumulated for lifetimes.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this blessed day of your appearance we seek your mercy so that our attraction for the many names of Kṛṣṇa may increase. Names of Kṛṣṇa that are in relation to His beloved devotees are so dear to Him and His pure devotees. Names like Nanda-nandana and Yaśodā-nandana make the hearts of pure devotees dance with joy. Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is you who help us chant with ecstasy due to attraction for the holy names.

The worship of the Deity in the temple is a wonderful gift of yours to us, a gift of unimaginable splendor. Still, you have advised us to always chant the holy name while worshipping the Deity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this holy name you have given us brings us untold bliss. When we chant with the devotees, a desire to dance arises in our hearts and we forget all our material hankerings. By this chanting you have opened the doors of spiritual existence so that we can enter our real home.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your chanting is as attractive as the music from Nārada's *viñā*. Your chanting has captured our hearts and continues to lead thousands of good-hearted souls into the unique loving network of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement.

That brings us to the next gift you have given us: the service of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the son of Śacī Devī. What an amazing life we have had, all because you have so kindly given us service in the *saṅkīrtana* movement! Caitanya Mahāprabhu summarized the *saṅkīrtana* movement when he explained to Prakāśānanda Sarasvatī what His spiritual master had told him:

*nāca, gāo, bhakta-saṅge kara saṅkīrtana  
kṛṣṇa-nāma upadeśi' tāra' sarva-jana*

[Īśvara Purī said to Lord Caitanya:] "My dear child, continue dancing, chanting, and performing *saṅkīrtana* in association with devotees. Furthermore, go out and preach the value of chanting *kṛṣṇa-nāma*, for by this process You will be able to deliver all fallen souls." From this verse we can understand the essence of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement. Your desire is that we dance and chant in the association of devotees and try to spread the message of the Lord to deliver all the fallen souls.

Your faith in the words of your spiritual master caused amazing things to happen. Of course, you didn't want to take any credit for them. You built the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple because you wanted to give everyone a chance to render devotional service to Kṛṣṇa in Vṛndāvana. You never thought for a moment about glory for yourself. Your motive was to please your spiritual master by spreading the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Lord Caitanya.

You are one of the great examples of devotees who are not satisfied simply becoming perfect themselves but rather want to see others take to the chanting of the holy name of the Lord and perfect their lives. You perfectly embody the mood of Prahlāda Mahārāja when he said:

*naivodvije para duratyaya-vaitaraṇyās  
tvad-vīrya-gāyana-mahāmṛta-magna-cittaḥ  
śoce tato vimukha-cetasa indriyārtha-  
māyā-sukhāya bharam udvahato vimūḍhān*



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

“My dear Lord, I have no problems and want no benediction from You because I am quite satisfied to chant Your holy name. This is sufficient for me because whenever I chant I immediately merge in an ocean of transcendental bliss. I only lament to see others bereft of Your love. They are rotting in material activities for transient material pleasure and spoiling their lives toiling all day and night simply for sense gratification, with no attachment for love of Godhead. I am simply lamenting for them and devising various plans to deliver them from the clutches of *māyā*.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.9.43, as translated at Cc *Ādi* 7.92, purport)

This verse by Prahlada Mahārāja perfectly captures your mood, Śrīla Prabhupāda. How patiently you are waiting for us to catch up that same spirit! You explained to us that Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta used to say, “Even at the expense of all the properties, temples, and *maṭhas* that I have, if I could convert even one person into a pure devotee, my mission would be fulfilled.”

If we get caught up in opening temples and collecting money to maintain them and forget what you really want, then we have missed the point. The spiritual master becomes happy when he sees his disciple following the regulative principles of devotional service, chanting the prescribed number of rounds, and making advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always exhibited your complete detachment from material enjoyment and at the same time accepted everything in connection with the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Thus you perfectly embodied the principle of *yukta-vairāgya*:

*anāsaktasya viṣayān yathārham upayujjataḥ  
nirbandhaḥ kṛṣṇa-sambandhe yuktaṁ vairāgyam ucyate*

“Things should be accepted for the Lord’s service and not for one’s personal sense gratification. If one accepts something without attachment and accepts it because it is related to Kṛṣṇa, one’s renunciation is called *yukta-vairāgya*.”

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.25.12 states:

*mūrdhany arpitam aṇuvat sahasra-mūrdhno  
bhū-golaṁ sagiri-sarīṭ-samudra-sattvam  
ānanyād animīta-vikramasya bhūmnaḥ  
ko vīryāṇy adhi gaṇayet sahasra-jihvaḥ*

“Because the Lord is unlimited, no one can estimate His power. This entire universe, filled with its many great mountains, rivers, oceans, trees, and living entities, is resting just like an atom on one of His many thousands of hoods. Is there anyone, even with thousands of tongues, who can describe His glories?” Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we do not have the power to describe even a small fraction of your glories.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your vision of how to re-direct the present misguided society is very profound and far-reaching. When Lord Caitanya predicted that in the near future the day would come when the holy names of Hari would be chanted in every town and village, few believed this could ever happen. Most thought it was impossible. Although your godbrothers had such doubts, you had a clear and undeterred conviction that, by the grace of guru and Kṛṣṇa, this was indeed possible. As a soul totally surrendered to the words and desires of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda, you never doubted that the holy name could be spread worldwide, and at an advanced age you ventured halfway across the globe to undertake a “mission impossible”—to make true the words of both your Guru Mahārāja and Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī’s mercy we are expecting to complete the construction of a new temple for their Lordships by Kārttika this year.

What follows is the yearly preaching report of the Mumbai (Mira Road) branch of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness:

(1) Preaching to youth: Once a month we conduct a festival for college-age boys called Upasana. More than a hundred boys from various colleges attend.



(2) Preaching to children: By your mercy the devotees in our *yātrā* are planning to conduct value education classes for children in four schools. *Bhagavad-gītā* classes are conducted in two schools. Apart from these efforts, we will be having vacation batches that focus on the *Bhagavad-gītā* for children, conducted at more than twenty places, including Mira Road, Borivali, Kandivali, Jogesvari, Bhayender, Vasai, Vapi, Thane, and Kalyan. Also, we conducted Bhaktivedanta competition for students this year, and about six hundred children participated.

(3) Preaching to adults: *Brahmacārīs* and many *grhastha* devotees of our *yātrā* travel from Mira Road to Borivali, Kandivali, Nalasopora, Jogesvari, Bhayender, Thane, Powai, Kalyan, Vasai, Vapi, and other places to present Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

(4) Book distribution: Over the last year, many children, girls, college-age boys, *mātājīs*, and *prabhujīs* did book distribution with enthusiasm and tried to distribute in as many stations in Mumbai as possible.

(5) Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā: We held Ratha-yātrās at Mira Road, Thane, Kandivali, Borivali, Virar, Chembur, and Kalyan.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may our words and efforts please you. But that's "May what we want to do please you." Rather, may our words and efforts be those you would wish. *Cittete koriyā aikya*: May our mind become one with your words, absorbed in your words, so that our efforts will always be those you would desire. May our mind be purified by taking shelter of you. Taking shelter of you is as good as taking shelter of Kṛṣṇa. And may our power of speech, instead of being engaged in words, words, words, so many useless words, always be engaged in chanting the holy names of Kṛṣṇa. May we "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy"—and make others happy by spreading the chanting of Kṛṣṇa's holy names.

Please be merciful to us so that we may serve your instructions nicely. We beg to remain engaged in your devotional service, although we have no qualifications for such engagement. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your kind mercy upon us. Kindly forgive our shortcomings and offenses. We beg for your mercy so that we may all realize more deeply your desires to spread Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement.

We have absolutely no qualification. We are but made up of your causeless mercy. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your selfless dedication to the cause of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the previous *ācāryas*. You are a constant source of inspiration to so many devotees all over the world, and to us as well.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may you be pleased upon us so that we can do something to satisfy you, for only when you feel some relish from our activities can we progress in devotional service. We pray to be installed as particles of dust at your lotus feet.

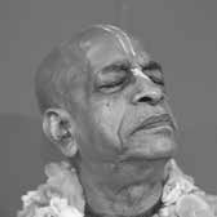
*Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Mira Road, Mumbai, India.*

## Murmansk

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you! All glories to the *guru-paramparā*!

Our temple here in Murmansk—a temple we call New Koladvīpa Mandir—is the northernmost temple in Russia. By your mercy, for more than twenty years people in our harsh climate have been hearing *karatālas*, *mṛdaṅgas*, and the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa, have had the opportunity to respect *prasādam*, and have gotten a chance to read transcendental books about the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. And for eighteen of those years our Deities—Śrī Śrī Doyāl Nitāi-Gaurasundara and Śrī Śrī Prahlāda-Nṛsiṁhadeva—have poured Their mercy on all the citizens of the Kola Peninsula. We hold programs not only in Murmansk but also in other cities and towns of the region.



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

Your disciples—our teachers—visit us regularly and share their transcendental experiences, teaching us how to serve Kṛṣṇa and His devotees. Last year we held the first Ratha-yātrā festival in Murmansk, and Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Subhadrā Devī gave their mercy to the people here. Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve devotees and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Please let us always remain in the shade of your lotus feet.

Trying to become the servants of your servants, we remain

*Your devotees in the ISKCON temple in Murmansk, Russia.*

(written by Paramānanda Dāsa)

## Nagpur

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we devotees at ISKCON Nagpur would like to submit our report of last year's activities.

We had the best December book marathon ever in the twenty-five-year history of ISKCON Nagpur, with a total of five thousand *Bhagavad-gītās* distributed. This distribution was mainly accomplished through the joint efforts of our congregational, Bhakti-vriksha teams, which at the moment number twenty. We are very confident that our results for next December's marathon will exceed this year's, but we know that it is only by your mercy that we will be able to please you with a new record next year.

Our systematic efforts to organize and care for the Nagpur congregation have now been underway for a little more than a year, and we are seeing the power of unity. We have a standardized curriculum for all the groups that extends over a sixty-four-week period. At the conclusion of this course the members are following the four regulative principles and chanting sixteen rounds daily. We have calculated that if we continue this program nicely for five years we will have more than five hundred groups with more than five thousand members. We want to have big *harināmas* in the streets of Nagpur and distribute books to all the residents of this important city. We want to make an undeniable impact on the collective consciousness of central India so that even the politicians here will chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and follow *sanātana-dharma*.

We know that you also want this, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we beg for your mercy and empowerment so that we will be able to serve you in this way. Please bless us to stay united in our attempt, because if we are united we can succeed.

We are still struggling to get land for our new temple, and we hope that by your next Vyāsa-pūjā we can report that the land has been acquired and a temple is coming up. We daily pray to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnāthajī to please help us in this endeavor to serve Them.

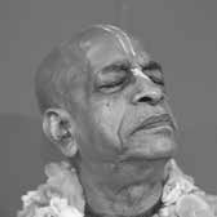
Finally, we are also happy to report that in the near future we will establish a first-class *brahmacārī āśrama*, facilitating proper training and care of the *brahmacārīs*. We are already finalizing the plans, and in a few months the first *brahmacārīs* will start their training there.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have a great hope that in the coming years we will be able to do something









## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

wonderful in Nagpur. We humbly pray to you to guide and protect us in this very difficult and challenging attempt to overcome Kali and Māyā and solidly establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the heart of India.

Please bless us, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*Your grandsons and -daughters at ISKCON Nagpur, India.*

## New Badarikāśrama

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace and your beloved Vyāsa-pūjā day! All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda!

You were so kind, tireless, and compassionate to travel the world in order to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

On June 27, 1975, you arrived in Denver for your only visit to your ISKCON center at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The mountains reminded you of the Himalayas, and thus you named our center New Badarikāśrama, after Śrīla Vyāsadeva's *āśrama*.

During your arrival address you asked if anyone knew the meaning of the song by Śrīla Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura that had just been sung to you in the temple room. As one devotee explained the meaning of the song, everyone present thought of you: "O venerable Vaiṣṇava, O ocean of mercy, please be merciful unto your servant. Please give me one drop of mercy. I pray for the shade of your lotus feet."

We are praying like this for your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You embody the beautiful qualities of the pure Vaiṣṇava, as sung by our great Vaisnava *ācāryas*.

Then you spoke about service to the Vaisnavas, and the devotees thought of you:

So our process is very simple, that we dedicate our life to the service of Vaiṣṇava, and according to his direction, *śravaṇaṁ kīrtanam*, hearing and chanting of Viṣṇu, Kṛṣṇa, and refrain from sinful activities. Then life is successful. It is not very difficult.

Because you are the embodiment of Gaura-Nitāi's love, in gratitude we want to dedicate ourselves purely to your mission.

The next day, on your morning walk at Denver's City Park, you encouraged us. The devotees told you how the Sunday Feast attendance was good and how there was good book distribution in Denver. You were pleased and said:

That is the most successful. Wherever book distribution is going on nicely, that is successful, because people are in gross ignorance. They are taking this temporary life as everything. Very horrible condition. We are trying to explain what is the actual life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are continuing to distribute your books here, but we want to increase our quantity and quality of distribution to please you.

You liked walking in Denver's City Park. On this particular morning you told the devotees:

Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. Very dangerous place. *Padarṇ padarṇ yad vipadam*. This is a place—in every



step there is danger. We are walking in a very nice park. At any moment there may be revolution, whole thing is changed. Whole thing is—becomes fire. Just like, in India now it has become. So we should remember that here in this material world, *padam padam yad vipadam*, every step there is danger. Give up this place. That is the real intelligence.

Your words are always purifying to hear, enlivening to the heart, and fully imbued with compassion and love.

On your morning walk on June 30 a devotee told you about an astrologer in Māyāpur who said that you were the most powerful person in the world. You replied:

If I am representative of Kṛṣṇa, then I must be the most powerful. Kṛṣṇa has got—all omnipotent. [laughs] Most powerful, the most my godbrothers. That is my credit. They are thinking like that, “This man became most powerful than all of us. [still laughing] He was a *grhastha*.”

On your morning walk on July 1 you told us how we can become free of debt. Every materialist in this world wants this freedom. You gave the eternal formula and spoke in ways that no one else ever did:

Anyone who has fully surrendered to Kṛṣṇa, he is no more debtor to anyone. And Kṛṣṇa says that “You surrender to Me, and I shall keep you protected from all kinds of [sin.]” Because if you don’t repay your debts, then you become sinful. But Kṛṣṇa says, “I shall protect from all kinds of sin.” So if anyone has surrendered to Kṛṣṇa, he is no more debtor to anyone. He is immune from all obligation. His only obligation is to Kṛṣṇa.

We are now indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please give us your eternal blessings so we may always serve your lotus feet and those of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda.

During your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes you spoke from the first chapter of the Sixth Canto. On June 28 you spoke on verse 15, about *yoga-siddhis*:

So one may achieve some *yoga-siddhis*; still it is not possible to understand Kṛṣṇa. That is not possible. Kṛṣṇa can be understood only by such persons who have dedicated everything to Kṛṣṇa. Therefore, Kṛṣṇa wants that, demands, *sarva-dharmān parityajya mām ekaṁ śaraṇam*. Kṛṣṇa is only understandable by his pure devotee, not anyone else. . . . Those who are favored by the causeless mercy of Kṛṣṇa, they can understand Kṛṣṇa.

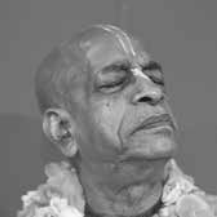
This is our prayer, Śrīla Prabhupāda—to fully surrender to your mission.

In the same class you explained that the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is doing the topmost welfare work because we are trying to deliver Kṛṣṇa and love of Kṛṣṇa to the human society. You said that it has been effective, and today we can appreciate that the spread of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is all to your credit, though you did not take any credit for yourself. You kindly said that the European and American devotees did not previously know about Kṛṣṇa but are now serious about understanding Him. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your grace may we actually become 100% serious and dedicated.

On June 29, while speaking on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.1.16, you said that rather than working hard in the material world to become materially happy we should worship Kṛṣṇa. You stressed that we should not waste the opportunity:

Become devotee, Kṛṣṇa’s devotee. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is there, and we have got so many centers. Just try to learn this Kṛṣṇa consciousness science and make your life perfect. That is our request.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the words you speak glorify Kṛṣṇa, but Kṛṣṇa desires to glorify you, and so we find that every word you speak simultaneously glorifies you, because whoever constantly chants the glories of Kṛṣṇa is all-glorious.



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

On June 30 you spoke on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.1.17:

So *sādhū*, they have to preach. They have to preach. Therefore the first qualification is *titikṣavaḥ*, tolerant. So many people will criticize, so many people attack, so many opposing elements, and he has to fight with them. Therefore *titikṣavaḥ*, toleration.

We can understand that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are our topmost example of such a preaching *sādhū*. May we always serve your mission.

During your class on July 1 you spoke on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.1.18, instructing us with full empowerment, as Kṛṣṇa's supreme ambassador of the holy name:

The simple process to become purified. And that simple process is this chanting. Chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, this name "Kṛṣṇa" is reminding me. I must hear and I must chant with the tongue. Then you keep yourself always in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Our method is very simple. It doesn't require much education or to become rich or become beautiful or become—to take birth in high family. No. In any condition. *Ahaituky apratihātā*. If you want to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, there is no impediment in the world. You can, walking on the street, you can chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. That will keep you purified.

On July 2, during your final *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class in Denver (on 6.1.19), you mercifully said that those who are always thinking of Kṛṣṇa by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa are safe. From this we understand that your instructions are our full shelter and security. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for this spiritual safety, along with which you give us the mercy to serve you properly.

Some of your final words of this class encouraged us to keep ourselves in this safe position of always serving Kṛṣṇa in various ways:

So if we go on with this habit, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then our position is very secure, and keep yourself in that secure position rigidly. Then your life is successful. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Of course, we cannot thank you enough. But we beg for your blessings so that we are always able to try to serve you with gratitude and that ultimately we may learn to serve you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda with pure love. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Your aspiring servants at New Badarikāśrama, the ISKCON temple in Denver, Colorado, USA.*

## Newcastle (South Africa)

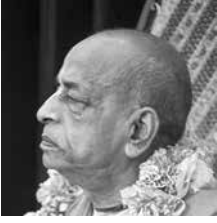
Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most sincere and humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet, which are our only shelter in this Age of Kali.

Struggling to repay a debt that is long overdue, we shall try our best to ensure that our service brings nothing but pleasure to Your Divine Grace.

### Homage

We offer my humble obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who



is very dear to Śrī Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Taking the order of his guru upon his head, he became empowered by Nityānanda Prabhu to act as a *śaktyāveśa avatāra*. He distributed the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra all over the Eastern and Western world, delivering and uplifting all fallen souls.

He is the best of millions of *jagad-gurus* because he is the personification of divine mercy. He has distributed the sweet nectar of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the transcendental knowledge of *Bhagavad-gītā* all over the world.

He is constantly engaged in exclusive devotional service to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, and Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu. We offer our humble obeisances unto Śrīla Prabhupāda, who is like a bumblebee always tasting the nectar of the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Govinda.

\* \* \*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, words alone cannot express our gratitude, so this year we thought it best if we offer our service for your pleasure. Our goal is to promote Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and also to keep the devotees of your ISKCON properly motivated and nurtured. In planning this offering, we thought about your mission, your supermost ideals, and your achievements. Your mission is the mission of all Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas, and how you went about fulfilling that mission provides an example worthy of emulation. With the highest standards and sincere dedication you have made ISKCON.

Many societies are named after their founder or leader, but you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, shifted the focus from yourself to Kṛṣṇa. Your ideal is also the ideal of all Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas, the highest ideal.

We begin in this life with some *sukṛti* from our past life. Those born in India are accredited with great *sukṛti*. You once said that an ant in India has achieved a more fortunate birth than a human being in other countries. And around the same time you said that the rickshaw walla in Vṛndāvana is superior to the president of the United States. This is not hard to accept. We have met a few rickshaw wallas in Vṛndāvana, and if we have a chance to meet the president of the United States, I'm sure we'll confirm your judgment.

So those born in India have some *sukṛti* and begin life with some advantage, while those born in foreign countries, like ourselves, have no *sukṛti* and start at the beginning. But regardless of where we begin, very few of us, if any, are born with high ideals. But Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism embodies an extremely high ideal, exemplified in the lives of great *ācāryas* since the time of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

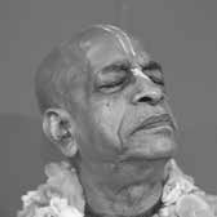
What you achieved in such a short time seems possible only in dreams. So many had tried but failed because they did not have the blessings of the *guru-paramparā*. What is a miracle? A miracle is something beyond our capabilities, something that can be done only by someone with superhuman ability. Once, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said, "I achieved what I did only by divine power. The divine came down to me and worked through me." You said Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu personally danced within you, lived within you. Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu lived within your body and danced a miracle for twelve years all over the world, fulfilling Lord Caitanya's prediction: *prthivīte āche yata nagarādi-grāma/ sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*.

But how it actually happened, we cannot comprehend. In every town and village of the world, the holy name of Kṛṣṇa is being sung—from Bosnia to the battlefields of Afghanistan, from Kazakhstan to Siberia, from Kwa Mashu to the streets of remote towns like Newcastle, Dundee, Glencoe, Dannahauser, and even Soweto. From the remote aborigine villages of Africa to Trafalgar Square in London to Times Square in New York—all around the world the name of Kṛṣṇa is being sung. "Hare Kṛṣṇa" has become a household word. Actually, of course, the name of Kṛṣṇa is not "a household word": it is a divine sound, a sound that only you could have caused to vibrate in the hearts of millions throughout the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day please allow us fallen souls to try to serve your Society with sincerity, honesty, integrity, complete devotion, and strong conviction that the holy name will always be our only shelter.

*Your most fallen servants at the ISKCON temple in Newcastle, South Africa.*





Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

## New Dvārakā

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

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

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

### New Dvārakā—Spiritual Oasis

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this 117<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your merciful appearance in this world, please also accept the following words of appreciation, inadequate and unrefined though they may be.

In a letter to Kṣīrodakaśāyī Dāsa, dated January 29th, 1973, you said: “These temples, they are just like oasis in the desert for the conditioned souls to quench the thirst of their desire for real happiness. So they must be organized as nicely as possible, and I know you have many talents which can be put to good use.” Here in New Dvārakā, the Los Angeles branch of your International Society for Krishna Consciousness, we are trying our level best to maintain the spiritual oasis you created here.

For your pleasure, New Dvārakā remains a perennial leader in book distribution in North America. This accomplishment is fueled by the strong desire of the local leaders and maintained by the staunch commitment of the resident devotees, ably assisted by congregation members. Though local political leaders are preventing devotees from distributing books at the Los Angeles International airport (LAX), the devotees remain undaunted and continue to find ways to increase book distribution.

You again compared your ISKCON centers to spiritual oases in the following statement:

You have written that your temple is like an oasis in the desert. Yes, it is a fact that our temples are providing shelter from the burning forest fires of material existence. It does not matter poor quarter or richer quarter, our temples are nothing to do with any material situation. They are situated in the spiritual sky, and as such they are the only alternative offering relief from the miseries of all kinds of material conditions of life. So encourage people to come and spend time with us in the temple and become purified from all contaminations and anxieties. Everyone is suffering from thirst for spiritual life, or Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and it is the temple which can offer them Kṛṣṇa consciousness to satisfy their thirsting. Regarding your temple schedule of study, it is all right, so continue your classes regularly and try to understand the philosophy as it is. That is required. [Letter to Jagadīśa, 9 July 1970]

Another noteworthy element of the oasis-like atmosphere of your New Dvārakā community is the high standard the devotees maintain in their worship of the Deities—Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārakādhīśa; Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā; and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. The local devotees, regular congregation, and virtual congregation (via Internet *darśana*) greatly appreciate the devotion, dedication, and talent of the fortunate *pūjārīs* who serve Their Lordships on a daily basis. During the many festivals observed throughout the year (e.g., Ratha-yātrā) the *pūjārīs* quite often go above and beyond their normal level of service to please the Deities.



In *Rāja-vidyā* you state:

There are nine different processes of devotional service, of which *śravaṇam kīrtanam*, hearing and chanting, are the most important. *Kīrtanam* actually means “describing.” We can describe with music, words, pictures, etc. *Śravaṇam* goes hand in hand with *kīrtanam*, for unless we hear, we cannot describe. We don’t need any material qualifications in order to attain the Supreme. All we have to do is hear from authoritative sources and repeat accurately what we hear.

In a lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* given in New Vrindavan in June of 1969, you said:

So you haven’t got to make yourself very learned scholar or— Just like a postal peon. He’s not necessarily very learned scholar or even a very literary man. His only business is to take the envelope and put it in the right place. That’s all. Similarly, to spread this Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you haven’t got to become a very learned scholar or literary man. You have simply to understand— *Śravaṇam kīrtanam*. You hear and spread this. People will be happy. *Akhila-bandha-muktaye*. They will be liberated from all problems. It is so nice thing.

Due in part to the fact that many New Dvārakā residents were initiated by you, classes on the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness maintain a high standard of fidelity to your teachings. We try our best to adhere to the principle of accurately repeating what we have heard from you. Many knowledgeable, sincere granddisciple class-givers are also on the speaking roster. New Dvārakā is also blessed with opportunities to hear from the many senior devotees who regularly visit.

You always urged your disciples and followers to make people fortunate by giving them opportunities to taste *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. In a letter written to Girirāja Prabhu in April 1972 you said:

This prasadam distribution item is very, very important, and it is so much pleasing to me that in the beginning so many children are coming for taking prasadam, and that supply of rice had come automatically. Please continue this program rigidly. By prasadam distribution you will do service to the Lord, and the public will be pleased upon you as well. Gradually increase the number of guests, and don’t deny anyone. Continue in this way: whatever is there, distribute equally—it may not be very sumptuous, but no one should be denied equal portion.

By the mercy of the Deities, here in New Dvārakā there is never any shortage of *prasādam*. Temple devotees and regular guests are satisfied honoring the Deities’ *prasādam*, and our Govinda’s Natural Foods restaurant has a steady clientele of customers who appreciate the simple but tasty food and the peaceful spiritual atmosphere.

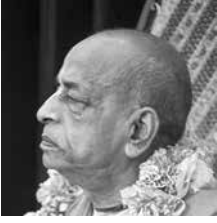
In a letter to Sudāmā Prabhu written in November 1972, you emphasized the importance of *harināma* and book distribution:

Yes, we shall base our preaching work on Lord Caitanya’s formula: sankirtana. After all, He is God, and if He recommends, what is the question of failure? That is not possible. If we simply stick to this program as I have done it since the beginning, namely, kirtana, preaching, kirtana, distribution of prasadam—if you do like this only that will be sufficient. Of course, you may make the kirtana as nice as possible, with dancing, many khols, karatalas, conches, and if you preach sincerely, anyone will listen and become convinced. The potency of Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement does not come from some outward showing, no, it is the transcendental sound vibration of Hare Krishna mantra and the words of Bhagavad-Gita, Śrīmad-Bhagavatam, like that.

We pray that you will continue to shower your blessings on the New Dvārakā community so that we may please you by sticking to the programs that you initiated and that make this community a spiritual oasis.

*Your servants in New Dvārakā, Los Angeles.*





## New Gayā (Tokyo)

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

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

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

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are not qualified to glorify Your Divine Grace. At the same time, we owe an infinite debt of gratitude to you and should open our heart and express it. Since you are always merciful toward the fallen souls, we are taking this opportunity to share some realizations of your presence with us.

Thank you very much for coming to this world and showering your blessings on us. Because of your mercy we have an opportunity to do some insignificant service in the mission of Lord Caitanya. We are trying, by your mercy, to follow your instructions.

Last year saw many changes in ISKCON Japan, both positive and negative. We experienced some tribulation when several devotees left the Japan *yātrā* and went to serve your mission elsewhere. This change inspired other devotees to take up leadership positions here to serve your mission. We've experienced that it is a challenge to keep devotees faithful and focused in this place, where the material energy seems to have her headquarters. We have tried our best in to serve the devotees, but only you can help us succeed.

You have set a very high standard of devotional service. We have to admit that we are struggling to follow the minimum standards. At the same time, you are very accommodative to one and all, without any discrimination of any sort.

You told your leaders to manage ISKCON properly or everything would be finished. We are trying to manage, but we are struggling. We beg your mercy so that we can strike the proper balance between management on the one hand and *harināma*, book distribution, and preaching on the other.

We have read and heard from senior devotees how you single-handedly traveled to the West and established ISKCON. Please give us the strength and courage to be fearless in preaching with constant determination.

Please give us the strength to tolerate the disturbances in preaching and managing the temple without deviating from the basic principles. We may have committed many offenses against devotees and at your lotus feet. Please forgive us. We can see your mercy flowing in many situations when we are helpless.

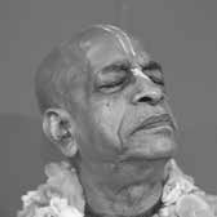
We sometimes wonder what our lives would have been like without your teachings. At the very least we would have continued to look in vain for answers to the plethora of questions that keep coming to our relentless mind. Without your teachings, every moment we would have struggled choose between sense gratification and the soul. We are infinitely indebted to Your Divine Grace for imparting to us your divine teachings through your books, your disciples, and our godbrothers and -sisters. We strongly believe that for a very long time your divine teachings will continue to change the lives of many fallen souls like us by awakening love of Godhead in their hearts.

In this Kali-yuga, where *bhakti* is the only way for spirituality, you underwent all pains to spread *harināma* and taught us about real *bhakti* and genuine spirituality. Your books are pure and reveal the truth of *bhakti* as it is, without any changes. Our humble request is that you keep us engaged in Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission in Japan, though it is one of the most challenging countries in which to perform *harināma*. Your books are our guidelines and real inspiration.

Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all that you have given us. Your glories are unfathomable.

*Your servants at ISKCON New Gayā, Tokyo, Japan.*





Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

## New Gokula (Australia)

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept this very humble homage to Your divine Grace. I just found out that today is the deadline for offerings.

We want to be counted as one of your branches despite our relative insignificance.

### To Our Beloved Guide

Your infallible directions are our only guiding light.

Those who explain your words in a way that tallies with the obvious conclusions established in your teachings are our worthy authorities.

Your pre-eminence is the mooring of our loyalty. And those who reinforce our faith in your divinity are our worshipable mentors.

Your wonderful optimism for the establishment of a strong worldwide network of Kṛṣṇa conscious communities is our great hope. And those who embody your ambitious plans are our field marshals

Your innocent mirth is the solace of world-weary souls,

Those who share spiritual joy are your blessed heirs.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the words of your followers in this Vyāsa-pūjā book will be spiritual sustenance for many souls over the coming year, until fresher and heightened appreciations continue to supersede the previous revelations of inspiration and gratitude for the greatness of Your Divine Grace.

We simply stand in great awe of your virtues—your profound intelligence, your insuperable achievements, and especially your being forever approachable to all of us who resort to your lotus feet as the ultimate shelter for getting free from *māyā*.

Please bless this community so we may prosper under your benevolence

*Your servants at the New Gokula Farm, Millfield, Australia.*

(written by Kāliya Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

## New Gokula (Vancouver)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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



Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. Please accept these words we have written for you on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Every day here at ISKCON Vancouver we take *darśana* of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-mohana and relish the association of wonderful devotees, all chanting and dancing together. We may think that this is just another day in our advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. But this is not “just another day,” and no day is “just another day” since you came to remind us of what we had forgotten: who we really are and what our relationship with Lord Kṛṣṇa is.

None of this would be happening if it were not for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You have shown us, with love, patience and compassion, how we can get out of this miserable material existence and return home to the spiritual world. Without you there would be no temple, no Deities, no devotees, no *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and no *sādhana* of any kind for us.

Our lives have been transformed by your presence, your wisdom, your words, and your example, and by your causeless mercy we have been given the precious gift of transcendental knowledge. There is no way we can even begin to repay you for your kindness to us, but we pray that we—your sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters—may spend every moment of every extraordinary day striving to serve you in a way that pleases you. May we never forget your dedication and service to the instruction of your Guru Mahārāja, nor the devotion that brought you to us here in Canada. With your ever-present encouragement, may we continually progress in our Kṛṣṇa consciousness and spend every extraordinary day here at New Gokula-dhāma taking *darśana* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-mohana and dancing and chanting in the association of devotees.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your commitment to bringing the effulgent light of transcendental knowledge and bliss into our dark and dreary lives. On this, the anniversary of your glorious appearance in this world, we bow down in gratitude to you and offer our most sincere heartfelt love and devotion.

*Your servants at New Gokula-dhāma, Vancouver, Canada.*

(written by Padyāvali Devī Dāsī and Bhavāni Devī Dāsī)

## New Govardhana (San Diego)

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

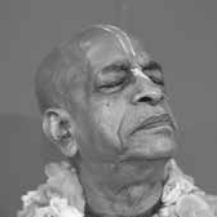
I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

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

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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I am honored to be writing this offering on behalf of the New Govardhana temple community. By your mercy alone, I grew up with San Diego's Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī as my revered Lords, their devotees



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

as my extended family, and the temple as my sanctuary and home away from home.

Words fail me as I attempt to describe the debt we all feel for your gift of pure *bhakti*. You revealed the path to *kṛṣṇa-prema* in the most pleasing, accessible manner, showing by example how the simple process of chanting, dancing, and feasting will bring us to ecstatic perfection. What could be more simple and sublime? And because of that unprecedented, pristine gift, it is impossible to ever achieve a sufficient pinnacle of gratitude and love for you. I beg at your lotus feet that you accept this meager attempt to praise you and thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

My family arrived in San Diego in the fall of 1969 with no idea that, although we came to America in search of material fortune and were far from India, it is here that we would find the most valuable spiritual jewel as a manifestation of your causeless mercy. That year, on our trek toward San Diego, we visited the Los Angeles temple and were told what would prove to be life-changing news, i.e., that a temple was opening in San Diego.

The San Diego temple, New Govardhana, is the fountain of spiritual nectar, where my family and innumerable others found true fortune in the form of the beautiful Deities, your life-changing books, and a family of compassionate devotees. I remember how as a small child I visited the small house that was the first San Diego temple. And as I grew older I was blessed to watch first-hand the manifestation of your powerful mercy in the blossoming lotus of ISKCON San Diego—steadily transforming, despite many impediments, into an increasingly vibrant spiritual community.

By emulating your compassion, love, and tolerance, we are blessed to widely distribute Lord Caitanya's transcendental message in innovative ways: from the Kṛṣṇa Lounge to the Kṛṣṇa Dome to Friday night candlelight *kīrtanas*, from Bhakti Chakra groups to family Vaiṣṇava movie nights to our Christmas *prasādam* festival and picnics in the park. To serve the Deities we have even started a small organic farm with two cows. You have taught us that everything must be dovetailed in Kṛṣṇa's service, and the devotees of New Govardhana have taken your words to heart, making them a reality. All these venues not only bring the *mahā-mantra* and your teachings to new devotees but also continually nourish the devotional creepers of our whole community.

You saved us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and the only way we can attempt to repay such a debt is to pass on this wonderful Kṛṣṇa conscious process to others. Please allow us to continue expanding our San Diego temple *āśrama* and *grhastha* community as our offering to your compassionate and loving lotus feet. Bless us all so we may faithfully fulfill Lord Caitanya's desire that the *mahā-mantra* be loudly chanted in every town and village. And most of all, let us eternally remember you, praise you, serve you, and remain under the loving umbrella of your ISKCON family, sitting at the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda.

Please accept our most humble and grateful obeisances.

*Your grateful, loving followers at New Govardhana, ISKCON's devotee community in San Diego, California, USA.*

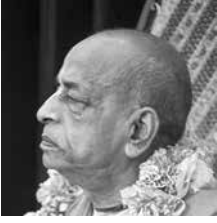
(written by Phaneśvarī Devī Dāsī)

## New Hastināpura

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

Often I envision you in your room on the *Jaladuta*—your body at an advanced age, your health unstable, experiencing the devastating pain of heart attacks while in the bowels of a cargo ship on the open sea, having left behind your beloved Vṛndāvana for the unknown of the very wild West. In the throes of this external crisis you write what many find your most inspiring and illuminating words. Words



in which you sweetly, beautifully, and simply express your profound humility, infinite compassion, and the perfection of loving devotion. You cried, “Make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like!”

Here at our temple we have devotees from all over the world, representing six continents. All ages, colors, and walks of life. On this wonderfully auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā we are gathered together in front of your *mūrti*. Overwhelmed by your sacrifices to save our lowly and undeserving selves, bewildered by our great fortune to have the priceless gift of your divine association, we are all inspired to dance and cry.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, here at our temple you have inspired so many dedicated devotees to dance in lovely ways. There are book distribution campaigns, college preaching programs, interfaith communication and preaching, growing Nāma-haṭṭa programs, *prasādam* distribution, and many other offerings. We pray for your blessings so these efforts enjoy wider participation, support, and expansion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, to the whole world you have distributed the holy name, along with the essence of Vedic knowledge in your books. You have built a house the whole world can live in while tasting the *prasādam* of transcendental knowledge via your ISKCON. All over the world you have inspired the creation of temples and preaching centers. Who can count your unlimited mercy and blessings? But for us, the sweetest fruit from the vast forests of your accomplishments are your nectarean sons and daughters. They are living, moving manifestations of your purports. When we see their complete surrender to you, our faith is inspired. With their pioneering spirit, abandoning all consideration of material prospects, they live and breathe for you. Their words and deeds give us a glimpse of real love. They give us the hope of experiencing real love. They give us the purification and immense happiness of associating with real lovers of Kṛṣṇa. How could we live in this world without them?

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you. We are eternally grateful. We pray to you for the unfathomable blessing to continue dancing in your service and the service of your moonlike sons and daughters. Thus our otherwise pitiable lives will have meaning.

*Your followers in New Hastināpura Dhāma, ISKCON of Washington, D.C., USA.*

(written by Kuntī Devī Dāsī)

## New Navadvīpa (Hawaii)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

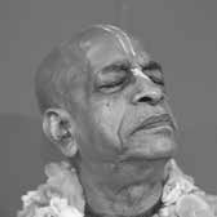
*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā!

It is hard to imagine where we would be now if it weren't for your causeless mercy. Following the instruction of your Guru Mahārāja, you came to the West to save the fallen conditioned souls. How can we sufficiently thank you for this eternal gift of love? We can only pray that we may follow in your footsteps, continuing the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and spreading the chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.

In New Navadvīpa we are especially fortunate to be a *tīrtha*, a place you visited six times. To be able to walk in your footsteps or sit with you in your room and chant our *japa*—what a treasure! So many





## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

wonderful guests come to your temple here and are able to visit with you in your quarters and hear the amazing story of your journey to America at the age of seventy, and of how in only twelve years you circled the globe so many times, opened temples around the world, and translated numerous volumes of the Vedic literature. Each guest leaves with a sense of peace and of newfound respect for your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Devotees who never had the good fortune to personally associate with you can spend time in your presence and even take a morning walk with you on Magic Island.

You have given us such a legacy. You instructed the devotees here how to make the first Pañca-tattva Deities in the movement and personally installed them. In this way you gave us the opportunity to always take shelter of the mercy of their lotus feet. The first Tulasī garden in America flourished here in the Hawaiian Islands. We have fourth-generation devotees growing up under the banyan tree on your property here, chanting and dancing in front of Śrī Pañca-tattva, and this year four of our youth took their vows of initiation.

In service to you we have a wonderful *prasādam* distribution program. At the temple restaurant we get visitors from all walks of life and many different cities, and on the campus of the University of Hawaii we have professors and students eagerly lining up to taste a plate of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. Many students volunteer to help serve out, thus engaging in devotional service.

Our Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā processions, as well as our *mahā-harināma saṅkīrtana* parties, chant and dance their way along the ocean on the world-famous Waikiki Beach. People from all over the world, even from places where they may not of heard of Kṛṣṇa before, can hear the chanting of the *mahā-mantra*. They are all enlivened by the devotees' chanting, and many shoot videos with their smartphones to share with friends and family at home. In this way we are helping fulfill Lord Caitanya's prediction that His name would be heard and chanted in every town and village.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we take shelter of your lotus feet and constantly pray that by your mercy and guidance we may continue to serve you always in spreading this Hare Kṛṣṇa movement.

*Your eternal servants at New Navadvīpa Dhāma, Honolulu, Hawaii.*

(written by Madana Sundarī Devī Dāsī)

## New Navadvīpa (Kiev)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

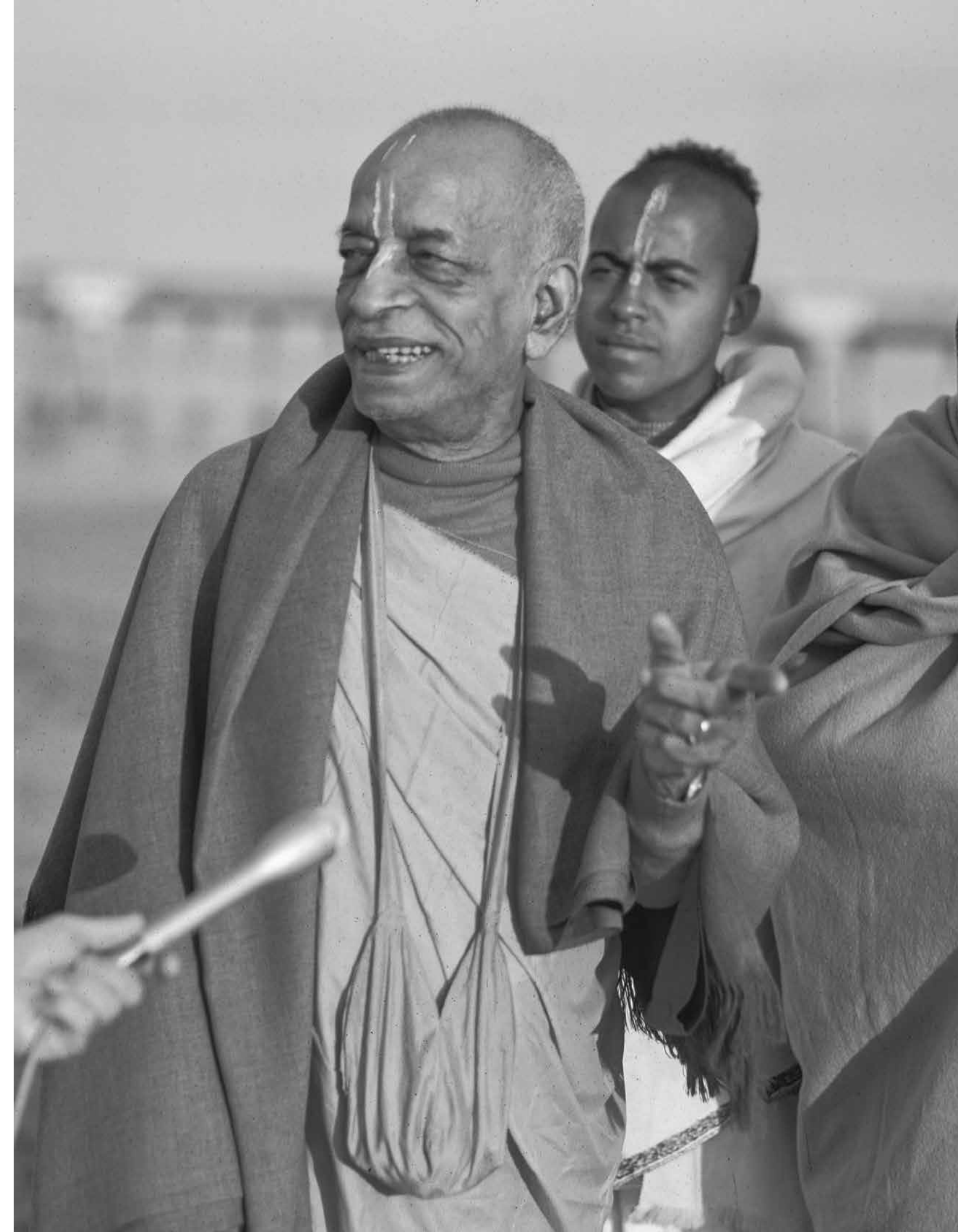
Please accept our most humble obeisances at the holy dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

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

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

When I was asked to write an offering to you on behalf of our Kiev temple—New Navadvīpa Mandir—I felt honored and also grateful to the Vaiṣṇavas for giving me the opportunity to render such a rare service, although I felt completely unqualified. I'm feeling gratitude for the trust they have in me.

Why do I mention that? Because this is exactly why we are all grateful to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. From all the accounts of your *līlā*, accounts which are now available by the inconceivable mercy of those great souls who had direct association with you, I can tell that one of the most prominent qualities of Your Divine Grace, which attracted everyone, was that you always placed your trust in your disciples, even though they were not qualified. And that trust would empower and encourage them to do their best in





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fulfilling your desires. That was real preaching—to give hope to the hopeless. That was actual love. And that was real “brāhmaṇism.” In a lecture you gave on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.9.49 in Māyāpur on 15 June 1973, you described real “brāhmaṇism”: “That is brāhmaṇism. *Brāhmaṇa* means liberal, and just the opposite word of *brāhmaṇa* is *kṛpaṇa*, miser. A *brāhmaṇa* should give chance to everyone, even to the *pāpa-yonī*, how to become *brāhmaṇa*. That is real *brahmana*.”

In this regard, recently I spoke with a devotee friend about his realizations from visiting Śrī Māyāpur *dhāma* and Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma* (especially your rooms at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara temple). He told me that what had struck him the most was how it is possible for us, your granddisciples, to feel so close to you, how you are much more dear to us than any of our material relatives or friends. I wondered why that is so, and concluded that because you trust us despite all our mistakes, because you can always understand us while always remaining in your exalted position, never compromising your principles, we feel you to be our best and closest friend. And we are ready to accept from you even the heaviest words, for we understand that those words are the words of love. You’re like a mother who always sees the best in her child, and because of that vision the child can grow and develop excellent qualities.

Now your society is growing tremendously due to this love of yours. And this growing ISKCON family inspires even more feelings of gratitude toward you. Today people are not united anymore. It is so rare to belong to a family whose members have nice relationships among one another. This is especially rare in the West, where everything is so impersonal. That’s why—especially at big festivals like Māyāpur—to see so many devotees from such varied backgrounds united in one big family, to feel this unity, to chant the holy names while feeling these friendly relationships with such a variety of devotees—this is such a great gift and a treasure you have given us.

And I would like to share my appreciation for one more gift of yours. Yielding to the friendly insistence of a senior godbrother and –sister of mine, I went to take some medical treatment from a devotee *mātāji* who is a highly qualified medical doctor. After the treatment, I said to her, “*Mātāji*, I’m so grateful to you for all the effort and time you put in for my treatment—”. But as I was saying this she just started crying. Then she said, “Actually, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity of service. It is I who am grateful for this.” I was moved so much by such sincerity and purity.

Later on and I thought that this mood of unconditional and unselfish devotional service, which you brought to us directly from Goloka, is the rarest, most precious thing in this world. We are trying to cultivate this mood of service, in which everything we do for Kṛṣṇa and His devotees we consider a great opportunity and therefore in itself the greatest reward we can dream of. But some devotees somehow imbibe this mood from the very beginning of their devotional lives, and therefore they are the most fortunate souls. I’m so grateful to you for showing us this example, and I’m so grateful to you for showing us this mood through your faithful followers.

All of these gifts I have mentioned (and there are many more) give meaning to our lives—they give us goals to live for and to die for. Having received all these most precious gifts from you, I feel that my most urgent duty is to share this treasure with others.

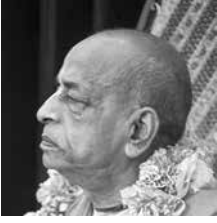
*Your servants at New Navadvīpa Mandir, Kiev, Ukraine.*

(written by Dāmodara Caraṇa Dāsa)

## New Nīlācala (Guadalajara)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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



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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, after one of your lectures in Mexico City in 1975, a devotee asked you, “Śrīla Prabhupāda, why are we so fortunate to have such a nice spiritual master like you, while others have bogus spiritual masters. Is this due to our *karma* or to your pure mercy?”

You answered:

No, that you can think—your spiritual master is nice, others bogus—but they do not think like that. They will think their spiritual master is good, your spiritual master is bogus. But there is standard who is spiritual master. Spiritual master means who is the best servant of God. One who does not agree to the existence of God, he is bogus because he’s not bona fide, *mūḍhā*. One who does not accept the existence of God, he is *mūḍhā*. He’s a rascal. A rascal cannot become spiritual master.

The spiritual master is he, *samit-pāṇiḥ śrotriyaṁ brahma-niṣṭham*, one who is exclusively servant of God, he is spiritual master. Otherwise anyone will come and say, “I am spiritual master.” Anyone will come say, “I am incarnation of God.” So there is standard. That we have to find out.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always told everybody that the spiritual master is an *ācārya*, one who teaches by his example, and you showed by your example how to execute the nine processes of devotional service. Everyone who claims to be a bona fide follower of yours must follow your example.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please never stop giving your causeless mercy to us fallen devotees at New Nilācala Mandira.

*Your devotees at New Nilācala Mandira, Guadalajara, Mexico.*

(written by Premānanda Dāsa)

## New Pānihāṭi

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

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

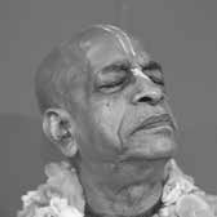
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

This year, before attending the Gaura Pūrṇimā festival in Śrīdhām Māyāpur, I visited Pānihāṭi in West Bengal for the first time. There your granddisciple Naru Gopāl Dāsa took a small group of devotees on *parikramā* of that holy place of Lord Nityānanda’s pastimes. I prayed at the various holy sites for Lord Nityānanda to empower your followers in New Pānihāṭi Dhāma (Atlanta) for success in spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement. It is a difficult task.

Lord Nityānanda’s specialty was saving the Jagāis and Mādhāis of the world. Lord Nityānanda even took in those few devotees who fell from Lord Caitanya’s grace and engaged them in the *saṅkīrtana* movement. You have done the same here in Atlanta, at your New Pānihāṭi Dhāma.

Your servants in Atlanta have trained some new young Western devotees, who are taking up book distribution, various temple services, and other preaching activities. We are making a some progress,





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though it is quite meager compared with that of your *yātrās* in India and Russia. Just how meager was evident when I attended the Gaura Pūrṇimā festival in Māyāpur this year. The American contingent is tiny compared to Russians and Indians. In 1977, practically all attendees were Americans.

We are determined to continue the fight in Kali's *dhāma*, the USA. We shouldn't expect easy victory. We pray that you empower us so that we can glorify you by delivering the lost souls in Atlanta. We pray that Lord Nityānanda also empower us to please you by increasing the members of the *saṅkīrtana* movement in Atlanta.

*Your servants at New Pāṇihāṭī Dhāma, ISKCON's temple in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.*

(written by Śikhi Māhiti Dāsa)

## New Ramaṇa Reti

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

You are carrying the sacred order (*ājñāya*) of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the order that, when embraced, rescues us from a life of sin, protects us from sinful reactions, and gives us the real goal of life (*sādhya*) and the means to attain it (*sādhana*). That order affords us an alternative to existing on the mental platform.

Out of compassion you conveyed to us the Lord's words (*śabda brahma*) at very high personal risk, with colossal endeavor, and with practically no resources, facilities, or help from anyone else. You knew that the Truth was dynamically represented by the words passed down in disciplic succession, and that in those words lay solace and resolution of all problems for all the world. You knew this because you were living it yourself and you had heard *śabda brahma* with total faith.

And as you pass on this life-giving transcendental perspective, you are present in those instructions. That is where we can find you—in your *vāṇī* (speech). We cannot naively imagine that there is another way to approach you, to feel your reciprocation and your mercy, or to please you. To be pulled out of the well, we must grab the rope.

In this dark age, where and what is religion? That question is answered by the Supreme Personality of Godhead Kṛṣṇa, who came as Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, the inconceivably merciful one, and established His *saṅkīrtana* movement. His movement provides us the only way to act that is not impelled by the modes of nature and the universal law of *karma*. We live, act, eat, sing, work, and preach for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for Kṛṣṇa.

Whether we live in the temple or in a *grha*, our life revolves around service to the Deity. As for our contribution to society, you have asked us to do as you did and introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness as widely as possible; ISKCON's function is brahminical.

You ordered us to chant sixteen rounds daily, to study your books, and to refrain from intoxicants, meat-eating, illicit sex, and gambling. You ordered us to co-operate within ISKCON to fulfill the desires of the Lord. You absolutely wanted us to preach. You spoke for the Lord, who is in all our hearts, who is our eternal, intimate, well-wishing friend. And we can associate with you and Him *if we do what you told us to do*. There is no shortcut, no alternative.

We at the New Ramaṇa Reti community are praying that you bless our humble attempt to maintain a transcendental oasis for those who want to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and to expand the influence of ISKCON in northern Florida.

We have:



- a strong morning program 365 days a year
- vigorous book distribution
- six annual Ratha-yātrā festivals
- cow protection
- extensive vegetable production
- two Food for Life programs
- wonderful, ebullient Vaiṣṇava festivals
- an expertly managed Bhaktivedanta Academy *gurukula*
- an active prison preaching team
- *bhajana* and study groups in homes every evening of the week
- an annual Festival of the Holy Name
- weekly *harināma saṅkīrtana* parties

Plans are under way to:

- expand our guest facilities
- hold seminars on Kṛṣṇa consciousness and Vedic culture
- create an Eco Teaching Farm
- increase book distribution
- build a larger temple complex

By our constitution as *jīvas* (souls) we must serve. We choose to serve you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. That is the highest service, the topmost worship, the secret of attaining liberation and love of God. We serve you because it was *you* who crossed ocean to save us from a horrible fate. We choose to serve you because you are the very best, without comparison (*na tat-samaś cābhyadhikaś ca dṛśyate*). This has been categorically, irrefutably proven for all time by the Vaiṣṇava litmus test: seeing how many devotees one has made.

And what is ISKCON? It is you, an expansion of you—of your ideas, your desires, your plans.

What keeps it so? Its members' adherence to your orders.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most holy, auspicious, blessed anniversary of your appearance in the world, we humbly beseech you with folded hands to give us the intelligence, the faith, the courage, the sincerity, and everything else required to be always driven, protected, and purified by your divine orders.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Your servants at New Ramaṇa Reti, ISKCON's rural community in Alachua, Florida, USA.*

## New Remuṇā-dhāma

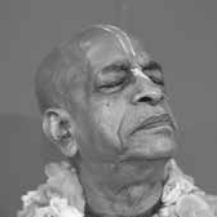
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for delivering the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the entire world!

We hear so often of the pleasure experienced by devotees when they saw you smile at the book distribution reports. On this, your appearance day, we hope we can bring a smile to your face by reporting our book scores.

Here in New Remuṇā Dhāma we are trying to constantly remember your instructions and carry them out. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1974 you wrote to Jagadīśa Dāsa, then GBC for Canada:

Your emphasis on book distribution is quite right. I can understand in the northern centers it is very cold now, and yet you report they are still going out for sankīrtana party. Please convey



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that I extend all blessings to those boys and girls who are trying to distribute our books even under difficult conditions.

By your inspiration, in 2012 we distributed over 40,000 books, and we are on our way to distributing even more in 2013.

This is a very small accomplishment compared to your service to your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda. Every day we hear of people performing some welfare activity for the so-called benefit of mankind, but the results of this type of welfare work are temporary: ultimately they leave everyone still suffering from the fourfold miseries of birth, death, old age, and disease.

When you boarded the *Jaladuta* to leave India to come to the West, at the time it seemed an insignificant event. But we now realize that it was the most effective and compassionate action in the history of mankind. Never before has one action resulted in so many people being freed from the fourfold miseries and, even more importantly, becoming intimately aware of their relationship with Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This transcendental welfare work is your life and soul. Our desire is that it also become our life and soul. Please continue to engage us in your service, life after life, for therein lies our perfection.

On this most auspicious anniversary of your appearance, we devotees of New Remuṇā Dhāma pray that we can always cooperate in helping to spread the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to every town and village.

*Your eternal servants at New Remuṇā Dhāma, ISKCON's temple in Toronto, Canada.*

## New Tālavana

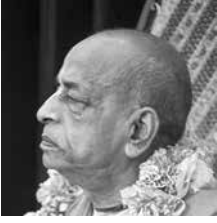
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your transcendental lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Service! May we forever remain fixed in your devotional service.

A person who can lead others out of darkness, back to home, back to Godhead, is actually a *mahātmā*, or great soul. There have been many religious, political, economic, and social leaders in recorded history, but none match your qualifications. Surrendering utterly to the directions given to you by Lord Kṛṣṇa's bona fide representative in an authorized line of disciple succession, you are rescuing humanity from the dangerous pitfalls of Kali-yuga. Your words give everyone a way out of darkness and clearly show the road back home, back to Godhead.

We can never repay you for showing us the way out of darkness and leading us along that road. Yet all you ask from us is to help others along the path. At a time when everyone tries to earn a living or finance a project by exploiting others, you set an example of purity by trying to help others and not charging for your services. As an *ācārya*, or holy teacher, you gave mercy to all and allowed people to give the fruits of their labor to serve guru and Gaurāṅga. Thus you engaged the poor conditioned souls in Lord Gaurāṅga's transcendental *saṅkīrtana* movement, the dharma for the age. Hence in a time of capitalism and wage-earners you avoided personal profit and utilized all contributions to push on the stated missions of your nonprofit organizations, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, to satisfy your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda.

You spent countless hours training your disciples to follow in your footsteps so the mission would continue after you left this world. You created ISKCON, the BBT, and the BI to carry on this most important work, and you took the trouble to put in place the management structure to oversee them. You were not satisfied going back home to Godhead alone or with a few followers. You wanted to make it possible for everyone to do so. Thus you poured out blood, sweat, and tears to translate the most important transcendental scriptures into common English, with elaborate purports to explain the text. You put your



organizational ideas down in black and white to manage your institution, and you cajoled, inspired, and directed your disciples, public leaders, and people in general. You are a modern saint to be followed by anyone aspiring to transcend the cycle of birth and death.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, bless us so that we may rub our noses in the dust of your lotus feet. Please let us always serve you, and do not hesitate to correct us and chastise us. Please ask the Paramātmā to enlighten our humble selves with transcendental directions, and bless us with devotion for you. Please help us find our way out of illusion and become more fixed in the science of devotion so that we may ultimately taste the divine mellows of *bhāva* and *prema*, ecstatic love of Godhead. We are prepared to continue being patient yet enthusiastic disciples. Let us always serve your mission despite our lack of qualification.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything, for without you we would not know the Absolute Truth, Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa, nor our very selves. You are responsible for our good fortune, and therefore we should surrender unto your lotus feet with submission, love, and devotion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all glories to your transcendental loving devotional service!

*Your servants at New Tālavana Dhāma, ISKCON's rural community in Mississippi, and at ISKCON of New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.*

(written by Yogīndra Vandana Dāsa)

## New Varṣāṇā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories unto you!

Sometimes while reading your books, listening to your lectures or sweet singing, or hearing a *kīrtana* in the temple and observing the wonderful service offered by your devotees, I am simply astounded by what you have done for us.

You have given us everything we need to re-establish our Kṛṣṇa consciousness—*kīrtana*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *prasādam*, beautiful Deities, sweet association, and amazing festivals.

Despite the loud protests of our ever-restless minds, what else do we need? We will achieve perfection in our lives simply by following your instructions and remaining steadfastly faithful to your ISKCON.

Your ISKCON is the vehicle for delivering the citizens of Kali-yuga, and you are and always will be its transcendental driver. Over the next ten thousand years ISKCON will grow and grow, and we will see many gurus come and go. But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, will always be our *ācārya*, our loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, our dearest friend and ever well-wisher.

*Your servants at New Varṣāṇā, ISKCON's rural community near Auckland, New Zealand.*







## New Vraja-dhāma

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

Pilgrims arriving in New Vraja-dhāma—devotees and not-yet-devotee tourists—first enter the gate of Krishna Valley and then start their walk in the earthly replica of the spiritual world on the Śrīla Prabhupāda promenade.

We receive twenty thousand guests yearly, and every year they get to admire ever more petals of Vraja-dhāma's constantly opening lotus. This year we are celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Vraja-dhāma's founding, and therefore we are offering them even more surprises. They can leave their cars in a larger parking lot and get information about the sites of interest in more convenient ways. At the start of their excursion they begin to taste the sweetness of spiritual life through the words of your books and some *prasādam*. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as noted above, our pilgrims take their first step on their spiritual journey on the walkway named after you. Please allow us, your servants, to offer this year's newly planted and blossoming flowers to your lotus feet. We would like to fill the hearts of more and more visiting souls with the fragrance of these flowers as we guide them through the holy places of New Vraja-dhāma.

With the help of diligent oxen, *gopas* are just now reaping the fragrant grass by the Prabhupāda promenade running on the bank of the river Yamunā. As we turn toward the *gurukula* we can hear the jolly sound of devotee children rehearsing a drama based on stories from the newly published storybooks. The cows and oxen in the *gośālā* are eager to tell the four new calves to be born this year the nicest memories of their year: the First Pasture Festival, where they could preach about cow protection, and the First-Grain Harvesting Festival, where participants had a chance to think about what the real wealth in their life was.

Leaving Nandagrāma for Varṣāṇā, one sees Govardhana's orchards in the distance, full of trees laden with delicious fruits throughout the summer because of having been intoxicated by the Fruit Festival. The potato and pumpkin plantations next to the orchards, jealous of the fruit trees, are eagerly waiting for autumn so that they can also enjoy our celebration of their harvest with colorful festivals.

From Varṣāṇā we go through Gaurāṅga Square to Tri Bhuvana Sundara, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara's newly renovated temple. During the three-day event called Open Days, the most beautiful Deities in the three worlds enchanted thousands of people daily with their beauty and the power of Their holy names.

Our next stop is Govinda's restaurant, where one can taste a variety of *prasādam* prepared from the produce of our self-sufficient farm. Those who are curious can learn the secrets of self-sufficient farming from monthly cooking courses, courses about organic gardening, and the three-day Eco Valley conference. And those who want to know about the *varṇāśrama* society that is the motor behind the economic success of New Vraja-dhāma can take part in the everyday life of the devotee community through the weekly programs of the Councilor System, which is based on personal relationships and care.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for engaging us in your service by letting us help to fulfill your mission under the leadership of your loyal disciple His Holiness Śivarāma Swami. This service gives meaning and vital force to our lives. As we work to fulfill ISKCON's purposes under your leadership—by



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systematically propagating spiritual knowledge based on the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the chanting of the holy names, by publishing Kṛṣṇa conscious books, by engaging the members of the community in the service of Rādhē-Śyāma, by leading a simple, self-sufficient life, and by revealing the pastime places of the Divine Couple—New Vraja-dhāma’s lotus flower opens ever-newer fragrant petals. We offer these petals to your lotus feet so that more and more fallen souls may take to your service and you can lead them to the heart of Rādhē-Śyāma on the promenade named after you.

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

(written by Aṣṭa Sakhī Devī Dāsī)

# New Vrindaban

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Recently we held a series of meetings here to study your letters concerning New Vrindaban. In those letters you offered many instructions to the devotees for developing a Kṛṣṇa conscious community. From the letters we ascertained five major goals for our community to focus on. Four of them you addressed early on: cow protection, self-sufficiency, replicating Vṛndāvana (making a place of pilgrimage), and spiritual education.

In regards to the cows, you explained:

Krishna, by His practical example, taught us to give all protection to the cows, and that should be the main business of New Vrindaban. [Letter to Hayagrīva, 14 June 68]

You urged us to “live there self independently, simply raising cows, grains, fruits, and flowers” (12 January 69) and “establish a local self-governing village and show all the world a practical example of spiritual life as Krishna Himself exhibited in Vrindaban” (27 July 73) and promote “plain living and high thinking.” (14 June 68)

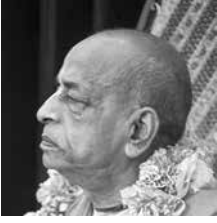
As for a place of pilgrimage, you asked us to “try your best to construct an exact duplicate of Vrindaban,” and you added that “that will give me the highest pleasure.” (18 February 70)

And early on, you also suggested a “school for educating brahmanas and Vaisnavas.” (12 January 69) And again, “Another important thing is our theistic school in New Vrindaban.” (9 March 70)

But a later letter would reveal the fifth goal, and the actual intent of the four above goals, and indeed of all the activities in New Vrindaban. This was perhaps your most sublime instruction for the devotees here:

The cows, the trees, the cowherd men and Gopis, their chief engagement was loving Krishna, and in New Vrindaban we want to create this atmosphere and thereby show the whole world how practical and sublime our movement is. [Letter to Kīrtanānanda, 27 July 1973]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are like Kṛṣṇa’s great commander, strategizing and maneuvering forces into



place. You are like a great director, giving us direction on how Lord Caitanya's drama should unfold. You are like a great professor or lawyer, standing before a class or court of law arguing your case, offering documentation and pronouncements from Kṛṣṇa and the previous *ācāryas*.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are like a magnificent rain cloud, constantly showering down upon us the mercy of your instructions. Our prayer is that we may always experience the shower of your supreme kindness by taking up your instructions wholeheartedly. O Prabhupāda, allow us to always remember why we took shelter of your lotus feet and of your divine movement. Allow us to always remain grateful in our service to guru and Kṛṣṇa. Allow us to always appreciate and serve your devotees. And allow us to always chant Kṛṣṇa's holy name attentively and without offense.

Here in New Vrindavan you have given us a lifetime of service—actually, many lifetimes. And this, O dear Prabhupāda, is our privilege. You have provided us with a life of privilege. For what could be a greater joy, honor, and blessing than serving the mission of Your Divine Grace?

*Your servants at New Vrindaban, ISKCON's rural community in West Virginia, USA.*

(written by Saṅkīrtana Dāsa)

## New York City (Brooklyn)

*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 sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-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 Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

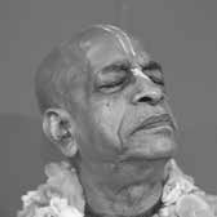
*nāhaṁ vipro na ca nara-patir nāpi vaiśya na śūdra  
nāhaṁ varṇī na ca grha-patir no vanastho yatir vā  
kintu prodyan-nikhila-paramānanda-pūrnāmṛtābdher  
gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsaḥ*

I am not a *brāhmaṇa*, I am not a *kṣatriya*, I am not a *vaiśya* or a *śūdra*. Nor am I a *brahmacārī*, a householder, a *vānaprastha*, or a *sannyāsī*. I identify Myself only as the servant of the servant of the servant of the lotus feet of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the maintainer of the *gopīs*. He is like an ocean of nectar, and He is the cause of universal transcendental bliss. He is always existing with brilliance.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Today your dedicated servants bow down with straw between their teeth, gratitude vibrating from their hearts, and loving emotion emanating from their souls. Once again we have a great opportunity to please you with love and devotion, with simplicity, respect, and humble feelings as we attempt to express our appreciation, gratitude, and love for Your Divine Grace and for the priceless treasure of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you delivered to us here in New York City. New York City is your city, Śrīla Prabhupāda,





the perfect field of unqualified, unfortunate, suffering conditioned souls who, though unqualified, are nonetheless attracted to the mystical activities of *bhakti-yoga*, and who also have respectful appreciation for those seeds of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* you plant freely, thereby delivering the highest and only true important culture of mind, body, and self with the culture of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, propounded by Your Divine Grace on behalf of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Golden Avatāra, Lord Gaurāṅga, the Supreme Dancer, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva combined, Pañca-tattva in five features, an ocean of mercy—Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu, Śrī Advaita Gosañi, Śrī Gadādhara Prabhu, and Śrī Śrīvāsa Prabhu in this infamous Naked Sinful Capital of doom and gloom, New York City, an ocean of conditioned, miserable, lost, and suffering *vibhinnāṁśa jīva-tattvas*.

In the entire history of this metropolitan center of sin and so-called culture, New York City, perhaps billions of persons have visited this mundane crossroads to see, taste, and relish the pain of this proclaimed unique culture capital and its unlimited tempestuous delights, which in reality are dry grains of sand, dust, and discarded straw plaguing the suffering conditioned hearts of all the millions and millions who come here to see that which does not have a permanent basis in truth compared to the ultimate reality of Godhead. People often like to live a lie and at the same time hear a sweet, alluring Manhattan Island serenade of illusion, which is unsatisfactory sustenance for the denizens of the hell-bound worlds. In contrast to all those unfortunate millions of *jīvātmās* who have dared enter the borders of New York City attempting to find happiness and pleasure yet did not know that only misery and pain blossomed on the trees in New York City, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Your Divine Grace, came to this unholy *dhāma* as the servant, friend, and well-wisher of all, to save and deliver us with the most potent medicine, the true cure, the real path leading to ultimate happiness and the highest bliss and eternal love realized by complete Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Therefore you are without doubt the greatest and most magnanimous person who ever entered New York City. Being infallible, Your Divine Grace is always transcendental to the modes of nature binding all the unfortunate suffering *jīvātmās*, yet out of humility and love you act as their servant, their ever well-wisher, and their true friend, and it is by such great qualities that we recognize Your Divine Grace as the great master of all, the master at whose feet all other masters sit: Śrīla Prabhupāda. So rare and beneficent is the appearance and association of such a great and magnanimous Vaiṣṇava *ācārya* as Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda that for a million births a *jīva* can wander this *mahat-tattva* not recognizing even one other entity as a true friend, yet when the pure devotee of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi gets off the boat and walks in the midst of those suffering pilgrims of doom and gloom, they recognize and understand instantly upon meeting such a rare Vaiṣṇava *ācārya*, a true servant of the servant of the servant, that this great and wonderful person, although I have never saw him before, never heard him speak before, yet somehow I deeply sense, understand, and know that he is my best and true friend, my ever well-wisher. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your pure potent Kṛṣṇa conscious *śakti* awakens the sleeping ears and eyes of the deaf and blind, your super potent transmission of the mercy of Śrī Kṛṣṇa enters the mind and heart of those fortunate enough to gain contact with Your Divine Grace, and your *kṛṣṇa-śakti bhāva* delivers revelation, realization, *divya-jñāna*, and real wisdom, and like a powerful dose of smelling salts your Kṛṣṇa consciousness *śakti* vibration brings the miserable out of the deep dark coma of fear, misery, and hell.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you deliver the gift of love for Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, originally emanating from the golden heart of Lord Gaurāṅga and then transmitted through the pure medium of great Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas*, through the blissful loving hearts of Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī and Śrī Sanātana Gosvāmī, Śrī Svarūpa Dāmodara Gosvāmī and Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī, as well as Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī. That tide of love of Kṛṣṇa flows like an unstoppable spiritual tsunami through the hearts of the confidential associates of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Nityānanda Rāma. Those great Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas* who also render pure *prema-bhakti sevā* to the supreme fountainhead of love and bliss, the Parampāda Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, at the apex, the superexcellent station of Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual place of transcendental pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's *nitya-līlā rasas*.

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva, who are none other than the supreme ocean of mercy, Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who sends forth incessant nectar of devotion, *samudra* waves of *bhāva* and love, to give freely in this Age of Kali what no incarnation of Kṛṣṇa ever offered before, the eternal, highest taste, the sweetest *rasa*, Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa *prema-bhakti sevā*. Enabling even the unqualified ultimately, after



revival of complete Kṛṣṇa consciousness, to gain entrance into the topmost abode of truth, that place from which, once one has attained it, one will never return. The highest paradise *dhāma* of Śrī Goloka Vṛndāvana, Kṛṣṇaloka.

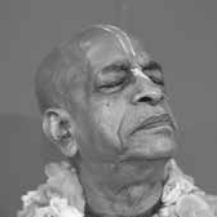
No one can buy a ticket to that Goloka Vṛndāvana *dhāma*, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Such tickets are issued only by Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi when Your Divine Grace is pleased upon us for a lifetime of sincere loving *sevā*, when Your Divine Grace is pleased with the perfection of our loving service sentiment to please and love Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva, and the wonderful Vaiṣṇava devotees, and when Your Divine Grace is pleased upon us for dedicating our life and as many future births as you allow us to serve as your instruments, distributing the salve of *kṛṣṇa-prema*, the salve of love, by giving the holy names of the Pañca-tattva *mahā-mantra* and the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, and by giving billions of doses of the topmost medicine of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, your Bhaktivedanta Book Trust words of wisdom. The highest salvation, the *bṛhat-mṛdaṅga*, the real panacea of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the cure the conditioned heart cries and hankers for, birth after birth.

The Vaikuṇṭha waves of *kṛṣṇa-prema* continue by the unstoppable flow of *kṛṣṇa-prema* through pure-hearted Vaiṣṇava *ācārya* saints such as Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī and Śrīla Narottama Dāsa Thākura, then Śrīla Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa and Śrīla Jagannātha Dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, along with Śrīla Sac-cid-ānanda Bhaktivinoda Thākura and Śrīla Gaurakiśora Dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, who deliver the great wave of *kṛṣṇa-prema* to the pure and magnanimous Kṛṣṇa conscious heart of the great Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura, who transfers the flow of the Kṛṣṇaloka *samudra* wave of *prema* to Your Divine Grace, and your pure, empowered, sacred loving heart sends forth unlimited quantities of spiritual seeds of *kṛṣṇa-prema*, causing simultaneous inundation and tilling of the entire Western world hearts of *jīvātmās* suffering, miserable, and all-too-often living a life of lies. You start the process of reclamation and reformation of these unfortunate children of Kṛṣṇa by the all-powerful mercy of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

Those Kṛṣṇa-ized seeds of devotional action gradually begin the annihilation of the mundane way of activity of a lost civilization rapidly gliding toward hell. The roar of that wave of *kṛṣṇa-prema* is now louder than all mundane sound in the universe combined, yet mystically it delivers divine silence and peace to those who drown in that great Vaikuṇṭha high tide of *kṛṣṇa-prema*, to those fortunate souls whose only last cries when drowning in that tidal wave of bliss are inspired by love for Kṛṣṇa and can be heard in the harmonious sound divine of His Pañca-tattva *mahā-mantra*—*jaya śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*—and in the Great Chant for Deliverance, the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*—Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

Yet that great Pañca-tattva tidal wave of *kṛṣṇa-prema* does not stop after drowning the entire Western world, but recedes with equally powerful force, equal mercy, equal peace and bliss, and equal love of Kṛṣṇa; the great mystic Vaikuṇṭha high tide of divine *kṛṣṇa-prema* recedes with the power of Lord Gaurāṅga's, Lord Nityānanda's, and the Pañca-tattva's oceanic mercy, and with unprecedented loving results. Back to the source, the epicenter of distribution, the land of Bhārata, the great Bhārata Bhūmi, where the original Personality of Godhead, Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa, displays His divine eternal *līlā* of bliss and love. Back to India, back to Vṛndāvana *dhāma*, back to Śrīdhām Māyāpur, yes, back to Godhead, until the inundation of *kṛṣṇa-prema* is complete, having covered all worldly regions with a love strong enough to deliver all living entities, who joyfully drown in the loud roar of that great unstoppable Pañca-tattva wave of eternal peace, knowledge, bliss, and love. Finally all spirit souls blessed by this great International Society for Krishna Consciousness can together, all at once, be heard crying out one last time in total desperation yet with unflinching faith and unbounded joy, "Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare," as the tidal wave of *kṛṣṇa-prema* finally ends forever the temporary days and nights of misery for all the great souls so fortunate and blessed to drown in the ocean of the nectar of bliss, love, and pure devotion in the great *kṛṣṇa-prema* wave sent forth by the causeless mercy of Lord Gaurāṅga and Lord Nityānanda.

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



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

*dhyāyan stuvāṁs tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

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

Please be kind to all of us today, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please bless us with complete Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please bless us with causeless devotion at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, birth after birth. Please bless us with causeless devotion at the lotus feet of the servants of the servants of the servants of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the maintainer of the *gopīs*. And please bless us with causeless devotion at the lotus feet of the servants of the servants of the servants of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Nityānanda Rāma, who plundered the storehouse of love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa and drowned the whole world in a great wave of love of God.

*Your unfortunate, insignificant beggars at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva mandira, Brooklyn, New York City, New York, USA.*

(written by Rāmabhadra Dāsa)

## Noida

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

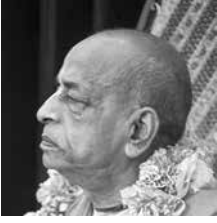
Please accept our humble and respectful obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet! All glories to your Vyāsa-pūjā!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this is the most important day of our lives, for this divine day offers us an opportunity to look back to the time when you mercifully came into our lives. Our lives are divided into two parts: before Śrīla Prabhupāda and after Śrīla Prabhupāda, that is to say, before you imparted transcendental knowledge to us through your magical purports, and after you did so.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, although we took birth in India, the land of dharma, before we met you we did not know who God is, who we are, or what the significance of the human form of life is. Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, imparted His instructions to Brahmā, Vyāsadeva complied them in the form of scriptures, and Gaṇeśa assisted by writing them down, but we were so dumb that we didn’t understand the Lord’s statements or put much value on them—until you showered your mercy on all of us without discrimination by giving us crystal-clear purports to the verses of the scriptures.

Not only had did you present *Bhagavad-gītā* “as it is,” but through your masterful commentaries you also presented the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Īśopaniṣad*, and other works as they are. Śrīla Prabhupāda, only through your books can we understand the real meaning of our lives. You empowered us with the knowledge of the self and the Absolute and prepared us for the war against sense gratification. You equipped us so well that just by reading, relishing, and repeating the instructions in your books we can survive today, when the Māyā is attacking from all directions all the time.

Although, to be honest, we are not following your instructions 100%, amazingly we are still able to



fight the war against materialism, the war against consumerism, the war against our lusty environment, the war against impersonalism, the war against ritvikism, the war against the economic recession, and so on. We can just imagine the status of sincere devotees who take your words as their life and soul 100%. They are surely going back to Godhead, to the planet where you are waiting to continue engaging them in the loving devotional service of Kṛṣṇa. This is the inconceivable potency of your books: merely by reading them one becomes qualified to read more, and eventually one is able to hear and chant the holy name of the Lord purely.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please be merciful to us and teach us how to follow Your Divine Grace's instructions 100%. We are sure our life will be blissful and meaningful by cooperatively working to take ISKCON to the next level, but that will be possible only if we can imbibe your mood without any misinterpretation.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, under your ISKCON umbrella your project at Noida is progressing toward completion by Nityānanda Trayodaśī 2014. But for this to actually happen we need your blessings, inspiration, and guidance more than ever. Śrīla Prabhupāda, depending upon Kṛṣṇa and your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda, you created the greatest miracle in the three worlds by transforming countless sinners into saints. Your Divine Grace traveled tirelessly at an advanced age, when any other devotee would have preferred to sit and do his *bhajana* in one place. But you exemplified compassion by reaching into the heart of millions of conditioned souls and personally awakening their love for Kṛṣṇa. You taught us everything—from cooking *roṭī* to wearing *dhotī*, from dressing to addressing, from courtesy to mercy, and much more. Your Divine Grace established many temples, where people can come and find out the root cause of all their miseries and leave with spiritual solutions.

We devotees at Noida are struggling to finish one temple, and this brief statement shows our incompetence, which is a result of not following your instructions 100%. Śrīla Prabhupāda, since we have a strong desire to place another jewel in your brilliant crown by inaugurating the Noida project in February, 2014, please purify us so that we can cooperatively work hard and complete the project on schedule for the pleasure of you, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva, and all the Vaiṣṇavas.

On this special day we are unable to provide you with a worthy gift, but just like dependent children we beg you for a gift in the form of love for your books. Please bestow this benediction upon us. We are very sure that just by this benediction we will be able to successfully perform our services in ISKCON and carry on the legacy of Lord Caitanya with rekindled vigor and sincerity.

Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

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

*Your insignificant servants at ISKCON's Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva mandir and the Bhaktivedanta Academy for Spiritual Science, in Noida, India.*

## Ouaga

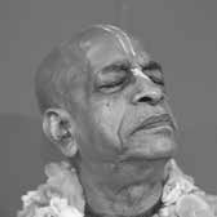
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We offer our 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*





## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

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.

In the Sixth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* the great sage Dadhici offers his body to the demigods so that from his bones they can make a thunderbolt to kill Vṛtrāsura, but before doing so he makes this all-important observation;

*yo 'dhruveṇātmanā nāthā na dharmam na yaśaḥ pumān  
ītheta bhūta-dayayā sa śocyāḥ sthāvarair api*

“O demigods, one who has no compassion for humanity in its suffering and does not sacrifice his impermanent body for the higher causes of religious principles or eternal glory is certainly pitied even by the immovable beings.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.10.8)

In the purport to this verse you write wonderfully about Lord Caitanya and the Six Gosvāmīs:

*tyaktvā sudustyaja-surepsita-rājya-lakṣmīm  
dharmiṣṭha ārya-vacasā yad agād araṇyam  
māyā-mṛgaṁ dayitayepsitam anuvadhāvad  
vande mahā-puruṣa te caraṇāravindam*

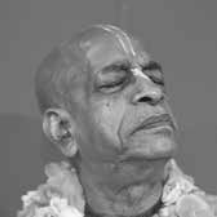
“We offer our respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of the Lord, upon whom one should always meditate. He left His householder life, leaving aside His eternal consort, whom even the denizens of heaven adore. He went into the forest to deliver the fallen souls, who are put into illusion by material energy.” To accept *sannyāsa* means to commit civil suicide, but *sannyāsa* is compulsory, at least for every *brāhmaṇa*, every first-class human being. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu had a very young and beautiful wife and a very affectionate mother. Indeed, the affectionate dealings of His family members were so pleasing that even the demigods could not expect such happiness at home. Nevertheless, for the deliverance of all the fallen souls of the world, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu took *sannyāsa* and left home when He was only twenty-four years old. He lived a very strict life as a *sannyāsī*, refusing all bodily comforts. Similarly, His disciples the Six Gosvāmīs were ministers who held exalted positions in society, but they also left everything to join the movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Śrīnivāsa Ācārya says:

*tyaktvā tūrṇam aśeṣa-maṇḍala-pati-śreṇīm sadā tucchavat  
bhūtvā dīna-gaṇeśakau karuṇayā kaupīna-kanthāśritau*

These Gosvāmīs left their very comfortable lives as ministers, Zamindars, and learned scholars and joined Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s movement just to show mercy to the fallen souls of the world (*dīna-gaṇeśakau karuṇayā*). Accepting very humble lives as mendicants, wearing no more than loincloths and torn quilts (*kaupīna-kantha*), they lived in Vṛndāvana and followed Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s order to excavate Vṛndāvana’s lost glories.

Following in the footsteps of the Gosvāmīs, you also left your family and business and went to Vṛndāvana, where you took up residence at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple and prepared for your great preaching mission. And even when ISKCON became established and had many centers around the world, you sacrificed every bit of your vital energy to translate the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, giving your Bhaktivedanta purports for the benefit of the entire world. What a great sacrifice you made, giving your life for the benefit of humanity! Even on your disappearance bed you were absorbed in giving the world your deep realizations of the message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, speaking till the very end. For several months you stopped catering to the needs of your body; what mattered to you was delivering *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to the world. Who could be more compassionate to the people of this world than you, Śrīla Prabhupāda?





## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

Dadhīci Muni gave his body so one demon, Vṛtrāsura, could be killed, but you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, sacrificed your life to kill the demonic mentalities of millions of conditioned souls, thus turning them into *kṛṣṇa-bhaktas*. The evidence of your success is everywhere: throughout the world there are temples of Kṛṣṇa, the holy names of Kṛṣṇa are being chanted on the streets of the cities around the world, and Govinda's restaurants are opening up everywhere, giving many people the opportunity to accept *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* and give up the cruelty of meat-eating. Who can be more compassionate to the people of this world than you, Śrīla Prabhupāda? All glories to Your Divine Grace!

*Your servants in Ouaga, Burkina Faso, West Africa.*

(written by Śrīvāsa Dāsa)

## Pandharpur

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The more the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement expands, the more we realize your greatness. By your mercy and the inspired direction of His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, ISKCON Pandharpur is flourishing. Our youth preaching and congregational preaching are increasing, the standards of the *brahmacārī āśrama* are being maintained, every resident is regularly attending the morning program, and we are celebrating festivals on a grand scale.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year at Śrīdhāma Pandharpur, the abode of Lord Kṛṣṇa and Rukmiṇī Devī, we started a wonderful project in memory of you. We are constructing a big *ghāṭa* in your name. It will be known as Śrīla Prabhupāda Ghāṭa. This *ghāṭa* will have special features like *dīpamālās*, *toranas*, a space for *bhajana* and *kīrtana*, a stage, pavilions, and utility rooms. There will also be a beautiful garden, with trees from Vṛndāvana and other nice greenery, along with a diorama exhibition depicting the Lord's pastimes.

ISKCON is well known in India for building temples, but this is the first time a *ghāṭa* will spread your glory and fame all over, and that also in Śrīdhāma Pandharpur. We assure you this *ghāṭa* will be very beautiful and become a landmark in Pandharpur. It will be like an open temple that will preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness to whoever comes to take a bath in the holy river Chandrabhaga in order to get her blessings and be freed from all sinful reactions.

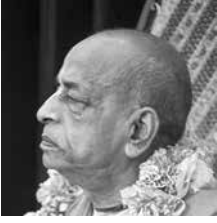
The Śrīla Prabhupāda Ghāṭa is a unanimously approved project of the IRGB and the Indian WIDC committee. We have a board of directors for this project composed of all our stalwart devotees, headed by His Holiness Lokanāth Swami. Under their guidance and with your blessings we'll be able to meet the challenges and see this project through to a successful conclusion. Lord Caitanya visited Pandharpur in 1514 A.D., so we are planning to hold the opening ceremony of this auspicious project next year, commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lord Caitanya's visit.

This project is expected to cost more than two million dollars, and all the devotees of Pandharpur are trying their best to fulfill this dream as early as possible. This *ghāṭa* will facilitate millions of pilgrims who visit Pandharpur for *darśana* of Lord Viṭṭhala and take a bath in the holy river Chandrabhaga.

The Śrīla Prabhupāda Ghāṭa will be a divine offering at your lotus feet, symbolizing our deep gratitude and love for you. Please shower your blessings on us so we can complete this beautiful project successfully.

We pray to be engaged in your service eternally.

*Your servants at ISKCON Pandharpur, India.*



## Paris

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our most humble obeisances to the dust of your divine lotus feet, to your ISKCON, and to all your wonderful disciples. Unlimited glories to Your Divine Grace, who descended from the spiritual abode to deliver the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please kindly accept this little offering for your Vyāsa-pūjā as a token of our gratefulness. We remember you every day with love and gratitude. Your Vyāsa-pūjā gives us a special opportunity to try to describe in words what is inexpressible.

So, today again we are in your sweet, sweet Vṛndāvana. As you said, “Bombay is my office, Mayapur is my place of worship, but Vṛndāvana is my home.” Home sweet home.

As the *senapati* of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and on the instruction of your Guru Mahārāja, you left this paradise in your late sixties and went to the hell of New York City in the middle of hippie time to transform it into a happy time. At great hardship you traveled on the cargo ship *Jaladuta* to bring us your Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa *prema-bhakti*, eventually establishing 108 temples all around the world and giving us the *mahā-mantra*.

You also visited our country, France, and our “city of love,” Paris, to install Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisiśvara on rue Lesueur. “Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī is the most beautiful of the Parisian girls,” you said, “with her Parisiśvara, the master of Paris.” It was on August 10, 1973. Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Now, forty years later, after a long stay outside of Paris (Ermenonville, Noisy-le-Grand), your Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisiśvara are staying in Sarcelles, a suburb north of Paris, where They at least own the property, and where we are holding daily programs, Sunday Feasts, and regular festivals.

Our dear lord and master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are fully dependant on your causeless mercy to continue rendering service to Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisiśvara. When we were asked by our temple president, Nitāi Gaurasundara Dāsa, to write this humble homage for your Vyāsa-pūjā, for inspiration we read some old Vyāsa-pūjā books, and in the book published just twenty years ago, commemorating your appearance anniversary on 12 August 1993, your devotees in Paris wrote, “We humbly beg you to give us the force to be able to re-install Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisiśvara in Paris itself, as you did exactly twenty years ago.” At the installation you instructed your followers to distribute your books and continue to bring in new devotees so that this movement will always continue to expand.

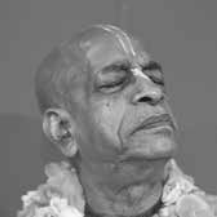
Also, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your pleasure we have recently been able to reprint here in Vṛndāvana five hundred copies of a French booklet called “Vivre **Vigitarien**,” written by your disciples in Switzerland. We hope that by your mercy this booklet will encourage many people to become vegetarian and experience the higher taste of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. We also pray that Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisiśvara may soon be able to return to the city of love, Paris, to again attract hundreds and thousands of people who are still looking for the opportunity to learn the goal of human life: to chant and be happy!

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you have given us. You are truly the well-wisher of all and everyone. Please inspire us to distribute your gifts to others. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for appearing in this world as our eternal well-wisher and savior. We will forever remain most grateful to Your Divine Grace.

Jagat Guru Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

*The devotees of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisiśvara at Their temple near Paris, France.*

(written by Ojasvī Dāsa and Gītāmṛta Devī Dāsī)



## Perth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this auspicious day of your appearance, we, your aspiring servants in Perth, would like to thank you for all that you have done for us, and to the best of our ability we wish to glorify your innumerable wonderful qualities. Most of us here are your granddisciples, and therefore we never had the opportunity to experience your physical association. Despite this, however, we feel so blessed for all the mercy you are constantly bestowing upon us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as Lord Caitanya's most intimate associate, you have given us everything that is truly of value in this world. Not content simply to remain in Vṛndāvana during your old age, you underwent many austerities so that people like us, all around the world, would be able to learn about your beloved Lord Kṛṣṇa and the wonderful process of blissfully serving Him with devotion. You personally brought to the Western world the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, which is nondifferent from the Lord Himself, and the books you translated so painstakingly are the guidebooks by which we can happily live our lives and ultimately return home, back to Godhead.

If it weren't for your compassion, where would we be? As your aspiring followers, we owe you so much. Not only were you the perfect teacher, but you were also the ideal disciple of your own spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Taking his instructions as your life and soul, you always meditated on how to become "a very good English preacher" so you could share this knowledge with lost souls all around the world. In this way you fulfilled the desire of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the previous *ācāryas* that the holy names would be chanted in every town and village. Although at times the obstacles appeared insurmountable, you had not the slightest doubt that this would come to pass. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, although we can never repay you, we pray that we may always meditate on your impeccable example and follow in your footsteps by engaging wholeheartedly in the *saṅkīrtana* movement, taking it far and wide here in western Australia.

Perth is often described as one of the most remote cities in the world. Situated on the shore of the Indian Ocean, on the east it is separated from the nearest large cities by thousands of kilometers of desert and near-desert. But the mercy of Lord Caitanya and you, His dear servant, knows no boundaries, and so despite this city's isolation, over the years ISKCON Perth has evolved from a tiny preaching center into a sizable devotee community that continues to grow vigorously.

We pray that the growth in our Perth *yātrā* in recent years has pleased you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. It's now about five years since our temple moved from its former location in Bayswater to larger premises in Kalamunda, and it's astounding to see how many new, sincere people have been inspired to regularly visit the temple and seriously take up the process of devotional service. Many of these new devotees are taking on responsibilities within the community—organizing your Sunday Feast programs, holding congregational gatherings, participating in *harināma saṅkīrtana* parties, and holding classes where your books are studied. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and it's inspiring for the older devotees to see how your example and instructions continue to transform people's lives.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you so much for giving us this most rare and wonderful gift of devotional service. On this holy day we pray that you will continue to shower your mercy upon every one of us and on our small, isolated *yātrā*. Please bestow upon us the spiritual strength to fully take shelter of the Lord's holy names, the intelligence to understand your books, the sincerity to follow your instructions, and the enthusiasm to wholeheartedly immerse ourselves in Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement.

*Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Perth, Australia.*





## Philadelphia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you on the auspicious occasion of your appearance!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our spiritual community—full of festivals, classes, daily Deity worship, feasts, and friendship—owes its existence to your dedication, vision, and compassion. Because of you, on Sundays we have a place to join our friends, family, and guests in dancing, chanting, and feasting in service to Lord Jagannātha. Because of you, we jubilantly join together on Janmāṣṭamī night, crowding in front of the altar doors while calling out the holy name in eager anticipation of Rādhā-Śaradbihārī's midnight *darśana*. Because of you, we spend days, weeks, and months planning and preparing every last detail of Lord Jagannātha's Ratha-yātrā, when He majestically parades down the streets of Philadelphia, where thousands of people see His face and hear the holy name for the first time. Because of you, we have Saturday night home programs, enlivening gatherings, *prasādam* at Govinda's restaurant, and classes that inspire and deepen our understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Every opportunity we have to engage in devotional service together—to participate in *kīrtana*, to circumambulate a massive hill made of sweets in honor of Govardhana Pūjā, to pack far more people into a kitchen than should humanly be possible out of enthusiasm to cook a masterpiece meal for the Lord—all of these opportunities exist because of you, because of your dedication to fulfill the desires of your dear spiritual master and your compassion to engage each and every one of us in pure devotional service. Your mercy has not only transformed the lives of individuals, but it has formed lasting devotional communities where fellow congregants have not only become our friends but have become our spiritual family.

In Philadelphia, attendance at our weekly Sunday Feast program and festivals continues to increase. Our Sunday School program for children is also growing and is led by highly qualified and dedicated teachers. To help better care for our children, this year we've significantly expanded our playground and have revitalized our Child Protection Team. Our devotional activities extend beyond the temple walls as well—from home programs throughout the region and regular Bhakti Vriksha gatherings in Bensalem and Delaware, to classes and the First Friday *kīrtana* at our downtown Govinda's restaurant, to our ever-expanding and enlivening book distribution activities organized by Team Rādhā-Śaradbihārī, who have so far broken every goal they set for distributing your books. Ratha-yātrā also continues to be one of the foremost events in our community, engaging everyone in the massive task of pulling Lord Jagannātha down the city streets in procession along with Śrī Pañca-tattva. Ratha-yātrā also includes multiple *kīrtana* parties and even Scottish bagpipers piping tunes accompanying the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*.

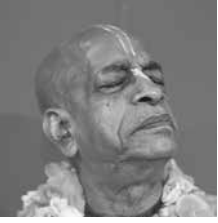
Along with our accomplishments, however, also comes the challenge of working together and building relationships. We don't always see eye to eye, and we don't always steer clear of Vaiṣṇava *aparādha*. We owe it to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to make a genuine effort to work on and through these issues—to honestly communicate with one another, to develop a mood of humble service, and to consciously cultivate relationships where hearing, glorifying, and serving Kṛṣṇa are in the center.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us the priceless gift of Kṛṣṇa's holy names and the opportunity for devotional service. Moreover, you have given us communities in which we can gain inspiration, guidance, friendship, and support in our devotional endeavors.

On this auspicious occasion, therefore, we thank you for the invaluable opportunity you have given us to develop and partake in a spiritual community. And we beg for your guidance as we endeavor to increase our own Kṛṣṇa consciousness as individuals as well as a community, and make a sincere effort to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others in the mood of serving Lord Caitanya's mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg to eternally remain in your humble service.

*Your servants at ISKCON of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.*



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

## Phoenix (Arizona)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

With all love and respect we bow to you myriad times and pray that you please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you and to the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu! *Jaya* Nīmāi! *Jaya* Nītāi!

Please guide us in our quest for sincere and unmotivated devotional service. It is by your mercy that we chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, calling out to

Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, and that we have come to know Lord Caitanya, the incarnation of the Divine Couple. You introduced us to the

Ādi Guru, Lord Balarāma, in the form of Lord Nityānanda. By His mercy the most wonderful and Blissful *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu is delivering all the Jagāis and Mādhāis of this world. Your

Humility, patience, firm conviction, knowledge, compassion for the fallen souls, and Unconditional love for Kṛṣṇa and faith in the holy name and your Guru Mahārāja have induced Śrī Pañca-tattva to shower all blessings upon you and your mission in the service of Kṛṣṇa. You are Always ready to guide everyone back home, back to Godhead. You continue to inspire millions in Devotional service, and your instructions are forever present in your books. May we Always remember Kṛṣṇa and never forget Him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, at times the path of devotional service is obscured by the darkness of our ignorance, false ego, and lack of humility, respect, and tolerance. We beg you to please forgive our mistakes and be the light on our path, our motivation to strengthen our character, and the captain of our ship as we navigate the contaminated waters of the Age of Kali. Please lead us in our quest for Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please bless us to become pure devotees and, like you, preach and lead by example.

*Your servants at ISKCON of Phoenix, Arizona, USA.*

## Phoenix (Mauritius)

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

By keeping you in the center each day, we can feel your causeless mercy flowing unconditionally in our execution of devotional service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us such wonderful services that we can engage in for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Golokānanda. We can never begin to repay you. As a humble attempt to begin to fulfill your prediction that Mauritius would become the first Kṛṣṇa conscious nation, we plan to build a glorious temple for Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Golokānanda at Hare Krishna Land in Mauritius. Visitors will



be able to have *darśana* of Their Lordships and buy your books in the gift shop. Other attractions will include a restaurant, theater, and *gurukula*. We are working with architects and designers now to finalize the plans.

We wish to showcase everything that Kṛṣṇa consciousness has to offer in the most attractive and beneficial way by sharing the precious, fundamental, and universal values of the treasure of divine love and everlasting joy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our fervent desire is to please you. Please kindly guide us in all that we do. We shall never forget the magnitude of the good fortune you bestowed upon us.

Only at moments of deep reflection do we begin to truly appreciate what you have done for us and all humanity. We pray that these moments of awakening will be transformed into constant remembrance of your gifts with deep gratitude.

*Your humble servants in Phoenix, Mauritius.*

## Phuket

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you and your International Society for Krishna Consciousness!

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to serve Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa in this den of *māyā* known as Phuket. People come here from all corners of the earth to try to enjoy endless varieties of gross sense gratification, which proliferate in this place. We also came here for sense gratification, but we found the ultimate sense gratification: gratifying Kṛṣṇa's senses in the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We are very fortunate to have been tricked by Lord Kṛṣṇa. We thought we would enjoy some material pleasures here but have instead been given the greatest spiritual pleasure: chanting Kṛṣṇa's holy names. Please allow us to go on chanting and to experience the true nectar of the name.

With deepest gratitude,

*Your devotees at ISKCON Phuket, Thailand*

## Richmond Hill

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Once again, it is the most auspicious day of your appearance,  
A time to give thanks and honor your perseverance,  
Yet there are not enough words that would suffice or provide coherence.





Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us a new life,  
A reprieve from material entanglement and strife,  
A home in which *bhakti-yoga* was rife.

Fulfilling the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu,  
You imparted His message to those that had no clue;  
You proved again and again that you are the bona fide guru.

You provided answers and solutions in all areas;  
To be devoted and sincere were the only criteria;  
By chanting and dancing we could be in euphoria.

You traveled the globe fourteen times,  
Giving out the message of Godhead so sublime,  
Showing us the path to not come back time after time.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are truly a miracle!  
What you accomplished is inconceivable;  
This was predicted—you are that individual.

With so many books of knowledge,  
Each and every page translated in language after language—  
For this the universe must pay you homage.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, because of your *tapasya*  
You pulled us *karmīs* from the clutches of *māyā*  
And made us understand the laws of *karma*.

Happiness in this material world is elusive,  
No matter how one's pursuits may be aggressive;  
You showed us that only Kṛṣṇa consciousness is effective.

We must read and follow your *vāṇī*;  
Everything we need to know is there, you guarantee.  
We must surrender and nurture the seed of *bhakti*.

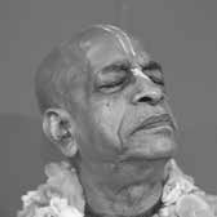
You gave us so much, from the *Brahma-saṁhitā*  
To the vibrations of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*;  
For these you are certainly *ācārya*.

You taught all of us everything so lovingly,  
From cooking to painting to serving the Deity;  
We must continue to follow with sincerity.

You blessed us with the writings of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī,  
Imparted the importance of fasts like Ekādaśī,  
And gave us the joy of festival after festival like Janmāṣṭamī.

You wanted book distribution to be the priority,  
Knowing that your writings could deliver humanity;  
To follow these instructions is our duty.





## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are Lord Kṛṣṇa's representative;  
You effectively dispelled all that was speculative;  
All your instructions are based on *śāstra* and decisive.

By the *saṅkīrtana* movement the world is now saturated:  
Practically every country ISKCON has cultivated,  
And this growth continues and will continue unabated.

Your ISKCON movement continues to flourish  
As *saṅkīrtana* hundreds of thousands of devotees get to relish;  
Being in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa is their only wish.

You gave us Kṛṣṇa's divine message, emphasizing "Books are the basis,"  
Through the likes of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.  
What more could we ask for—it is simply bliss!

You taught us all step by step, by example;  
The way you managed us neophytes was incredible;  
Everything you did was purely impeccable.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we can never adequately thank you for this treasure;  
All that you have given us is beyond measure;  
We wish to serve you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa forever.

Please always keep us at your lotus feet;  
Your glories we wish to repeat and repeat;  
Only then can our lives be complete.

*Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! Jaya Gurudeva!*

*Your humble servants in Richmond Hill, Canada.*

(written by Mīnākṣī Devī Dāsī)

## Rome

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to you, to your beloved spiritual master, and to the previous *ācāryas*, whom you represent and whose mission you've taken up despite the powerful headwinds of Kali-yuga.

When in the course of your preaching work you came to Rome for the first time, the Pope would not receive you, but that didn't bother you at all, and you humbly requested your disciples to establish ISKCON centers in Rome for the sake of the fallen. Since then, there have always been Hare Kṛṣṇa devotees, temples, and restaurants in what is known as The Eternal City. Now it is our turn to serve you in Rome, to take advantage of the opportunity to taste the nectar of your mercy.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, where would we be now if on that day in Saint Peter's Square you had not



given your eternal blessings to our service! We were not even born yet! What could we now say to others if we didn't have your books, in which you are eternally present? How would our lives have ended up without the shelter of your lotus feet? And how many more lifetimes would we have wasted far away from the safe and holy land of Kṛṣṇa consciousness?

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, always stay with us. Always keep us with you. Shower your compassion upon us so that we can serve you. Empower us in our service unto you. We are confident that you will not refuse to show us your mercy, since we are begging for it by the grace of our spiritual masters, who are themselves manifestations of your mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

*Your aspiring servants in Rome, Italy.*

(written by Harikīrtana Dāsa)

## St. Louis

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

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

We don't have any patience, it's true.  
How can we expect to be anything but blue?

A poet said (I forgot his name)  
that we have no one but ourselves to blame.

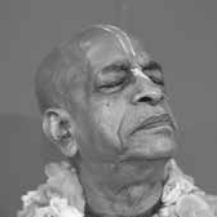
Prabhupāda, we all here are grateful that you we've met;  
Your message, clear and bold, says "There's hope as yet!"

You didn't say it would be easy—  
There'd be strife and toil;  
It's painful to lance a boil.

Only by a standard you kept so pure  
are we able to feel that we can be sure  
that one day or other we'll put things aside  
that bind us up and cause false pride.

While we still can we want to say from our hearts:  
Thank you! Thank you for all, especially the Ratha-yātrā carts!

*Your servants in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.*



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

## Salttillo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to you, O glorious founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON!

In our attempt to serve your mission, we have committed many mistakes. Please forgive us for any offenses we have committed to your holy disciples and followers. Please help us optimize our preaching so that the leaders and educated class of this country, Mexico, can see us as representing something respectable and can appreciate the greatness of your books and the Vedic culture you taught worldwide.

We pray to you to please let us always be sheltered in the shade of your lotus feet. Please help us preach effectively so that every day more souls may come to surrender their lives at the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda in your temple here in Saltillo, Mexico.

*Your servants in Saltillo, Mexico.*

## San Antonio

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Although we are unqualified in many ways, we have been given the privilege and honor of writing our Vyāsa-pūjā offering to Your Divine Grace. Therefore, we will try our best to explain our deepest and most sincere appreciation for you and all you have shared with us.

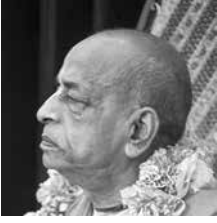
Simply put, you have given the world hope and a spiritual shelter during harsh historical times, when co-existence is becoming more and more difficult. We pray that we can continue to help spread the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to as many people as possible in this city. This will be possible only because we have the loving relationships and structure you have given us. Please continue to guide us, and please forgive us for any shortcomings or offenses. You are truly our father and grandfather and, above all, a flawless gift from God. Please allow us to continue to serve and take direction from your dear representative His Holiness Guru Prasāda Swami.

Our major focus this year has shifted to college programs. We have one college club at the local campus of the University of Texas and another at St. Mary's University. We are starting to gain solid momentum and steadiness in our distribution of *prasādam* and books and in our weekly discourses on the transcendental literature you have provided us. Many of the students and staff are becoming strongly favorable toward our movement. We have also continued our community outreach activities through various festivals, concerts, and catering opportunities, cultivating many wonderful friendships along the way. Most recently, the mayor himself received a *Bhagavad-gītā*. Every day we pray for more of your causeless mercy.

We have been intensely engaged in your loving service and are now on the verge of owning our own property. Led by His Holiness Guru Prasāda Swami and His Grace Advaita Ācārya Prabhu, we pray to innovatively expand our project here by gaining more manpower at the temple. At times it can be very difficult to work with one another, for we come from various backgrounds. Still, we have overcome many obstacles together as a congregation and are maintaining our relationships quite well. It often seems as though the things that separate us materially often draw us closer together spiritually. All that is required is faith and patience. Could you please ask Kṛṣṇa to instill those two requirements into hearts so we may not forget the reason you came here?

*Your servants in San Antonio, Texas.*

(written by Bhagavān Nārada Dāsa)



## Seattle

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. We are forever indebted to you for providing us with ISKCON, where we can take shelter of Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Nīla-Mādhava by following your bona fide teachings.

There are millions of unfortunate souls in this world who have yet to see the *Bhagavad-gītā*. Thousands of people coming to the West from India have not seen or read the *Bhagavad-gītā*. One such example in our community was a south Indian Shaivite priest. Although born in a *brāhmaṇa* family, he lived for twenty-seven years without getting a chance to see the *Bhagavad-gītā*. Then he visited your Seattle temple, and by your mercy flowing through the devotees here, he came in touch with your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. Later he and his family became Kṛṣṇa conscious under your care, shelter, and guidance. Now his family has moved back to India to further spread your movement in remote villages in India. This example proves that the knowledge imparted by you in disciplic succession is transcendental and transforms people naturally.

Your arrival in the USA preceded the arrival of masses of highly educated Indians over the last four or five decades. We see this wave of immigration as a grand plan of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's to connect these searching souls with Kṛṣṇa consciousness through the ISKCON temples in the West and your books. Your disciples are training these granddisciples as you envisioned. We have been led by one such disciple, Śrīman Harivilāsa Prabhu, who is furthering your mission in greater Seattle area with various innovative preaching methodologies and cultural presentations.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.16 you write:

The expert devotees also can discover novel ways and means to convert the nondevotees in terms of particular time and circumstance. Devotional service is dynamic activity, and the expert devotees can find out competent means to inject it into the dull brains of the materialistic population.

By following this instruction, we can spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in any part of the world. This is the motto we are trying to follow in Seattle. We are regularly reviewing and improving many of our outreach programs. Just to attract everyone to come and take *darśana* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Nīla-Mādhava, we have embellished the temple hall with elaborately carved woodwork. Our temple hall is going to attract thousands of people from all over. We are also managing temple resources wisely. To increase our eligibility for grants, we have engaged a reputable accounting firm to audit our finances. The Vedic school has been going strong for more than ten years and is training approximately 150 children. Two Bhakti Shastri courses are being conducted for children age 10-16. The Vedic University provides the same opportunity for adults. About 150 parents are attending these courses based on your teachings. About 60 adults are systematically studying your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.11 you write:

[T]here is a great need for disseminating the message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* all over the world. It is the duty of every responsible Indian to broadcast the transcendental message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* throughout the world to do all the supermost good as well as to bring about the desired peace in the world.

We are trying to follow these sublime instructions. Taking this instruction into the core of our hearts, we are conducting various preaching, educational, and cultural presentations for the masses of people in Seattle.

For the first time in North America, in 2012 the BBT achieved a 20% year-to-year increase in remittances. To achieve this goal, every temple pitched in and distributed as many books as possible. At the Seattle



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

temple, we achieved the same increase, distributing about fifty *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets in the process.

We pray at your lotus feet that you may continue to shower your unlimited mercy in this dark part of the world, where the sun shines fewer than 150 days a year. Your guidance is our shining sun to navigate the ocean of nescience called this material world. Without your loving hand over our heads, providing reassurance, we would not be able to do anything. We pray that you remain in our lives and that we continue to imbibe your teachings. We seek your blessings to continue to work together in furthering Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

*Your servants at ISKCON of Seattle, Washington, USA.*

## Simhachalam

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you, who appeared as Jagad Guru to perfectly fulfill the mission of your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Prabhupāda.

You are the supreme servitor of Kṛṣṇa. By our serving you and Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva, our lives have become meaningful.

You are the captain of the good ship ISKCON, which is crossing over the dangerous, fearful, formidable ocean of the Age of Kali, which deteriorates all the good qualities of human beings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you underwent severe austerities to teach the world the path of devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa and Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva. You raised planet earth from its degradation and traveled at will all over the globe, spreading the glories of the Lord's holy name.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the early 60s you were living alone in Vṛndāvana, at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara temple, but you had a vision of establishing Hare Kṛṣṇa temples throughout the world. That vision came to pass, and one of those temples is in the Bavarian Forest, in Germany. It's the temple of your beloved lords Śrī Śrī Prahlāda-Lakṣmī-Nṛsiṃhadevajī. You reside here in your Simhachalam temple and bestow your mercy upon the Simhachalam-vāsīs. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy we have a community that is very sincerely serving you and Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, permit us to live in the shade of your lotus feet so that we can continue widely distributing your nectarean books, *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, and transcendental sound vibrations in the form of the holy names.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you so much for mercifully giving us Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We beg to eternally remain servants at your lotus feet.

*Your servants at Simhachalam, ISKCON's temple in Bavaria, Germany.*

(written by Narahari Devī Dāsī)

## Stockholm

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances. All glories to you, the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

When Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, after a great endeavor to build the Bhag Bazaar temple in Kolkata, finally went in procession to take the Deities to the temple for installation, he sang a





special song. In one of the verses he expressed a very significant realization and message to all followers of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu: “When Lord Gaurāṅga appeared, the *sādhus* became involved with the sense objects.”

As far as possible, traditional *sādhus* stay aloof from sense objects and material entanglement. They often withdraw from civilization and live like beggars, practicing spiritual disciplines in holy places. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura also lived like that for several years in Māyāpur, completing a vow to chant a billion holy names. But then he prepared to do something that looked completely different, namely, to start the preaching mission by moving to the materialistic city of Calcutta—a move that even seemed to go against the wishes of his spiritual master, Śrīla Gaura Kīśora Dāsa Bābājī, who said that he himself would never go to that “illusory universe, Calcutta.”

But he never actually went to Calcutta, just as you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, never actually left Vṛndāvana to go to the sinful Western world. On the contrary, as a *sādhu* in the line of Lord Caitanya, you instead took the spiritual world to the West and created places like New Vṛndāvana, New Rādhā-kuṇḍa, and New Māyāpur. But to do that you had to “get involved with the sense objects,” an involvement that sometimes forced you to tolerate tremendous trouble and austerities. Although you never complained about anything, once you revealed to some of your disciples: “You have no idea how much pain I went through for your sake.” In the Eighth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* it is said that this willingness to take upon oneself pain and trouble to benefit others is the highest form of worship of the Supreme Lord. This was the example of Lord Nityānanda Prabhu, the original guru, who at great risk saved Jagāi and Mādhāi. And this was the example of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. And this was your example, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

How could you undertake such a task and tolerate all that pain from the adverse conditions you had to encounter in your preaching? You yourself would humbly answer that your only qualification was that you had faith in the holy name and tried to be faithful to the order of your spiritual master—a statement that is true but that concealed a greater secret.

Once a reporter asked you, “Do you believe that Kṛṣṇa exists?”

You answered, “Believe? I *know* He exists.”

Not only did you know that Kṛṣṇa exists, but you also knew how wonderful Kṛṣṇa is, how merciful Lord Caitanya is to the lost people of Kali-yuga, and, last but not the least, how wonderful the nectar of pure devotion is. Deeply realizing the value of the treasure of love of Godhead, you gave your life in old age and endured all kinds of opposition so you could share this treasure with everybody. In this way you showed the way of a *sādhu* in Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* movement. And not only that, but you even empowered us to follow in your footsteps and also become Gaurāṅga *sādhus*. And because of your example and your instructions, here we are staying in the capital of the most secular country in the world, filled with all kinds of attractive and repellant sense objects, assisting you, the supreme Gaurāṅga *sādhu*, in preaching. There could not be a greater fortune than this. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you.

*Your servants at the Hare Krishna Centre in Stockholm, Sweden.*

## Togo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you! And all glories to your glorious mission!

It is a great honor for us to have this opportunity to say something in praise of you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, all other genuine gurus take shelter at your lotus feet. The teachings of other so-called gurus, manufactured by themselves, give us “knowledge” that keeps us in this material world. They try to lure innocent spiritual seekers and capture them in the trap of the flowery language of the



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*Vedas* and then keep them prisoners under the illusory energy, *māyā*.

But you came from the spiritual realm with real transcendental knowledge to save us by opening our spiritual eyes. There is nothing better to know than that we are not the body and that our duty as a spirit soul is to serve the Supreme Soul. The part must serve the whole. It is common sense, and it looks so simple, but unfortunately common sense is not common. Many people cannot see and understand this simple fact.

Now, by your mercy, the root cause of our suffering has been removed by your teachings. Ignorance of who we are is the root cause of our miseries in this world.

You are known as Abhaya Caraṇāravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, *Abhaya* means fearless—so you fearlessly spread the message Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to every part of the world, without compromise. You spoke the truth to all the materialistic so-called big leaders in society. One of the six purposes of ISKCON is to expose the faults of materialism. Others could not do it because they are part of this material world, but you did it because you are a *Vaikuṇṭha* man who came to save us.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, O Grandfather, we pray to learn how to cry at your lotus feet, service to which is the only way out of our illusory adventure.

We are very proud of being your grandsons, passengers on your transcendental boat, in which you are taking us to the other side of the ocean of miseries. We will ever be grateful to you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please cast your merciful glance upon these poor servants of yours, who are misled by our unsteady mind, so that one day we will know how to serve you better.

*The servants of your servants in Togo.*

(written by Cārudeṣṇa das)

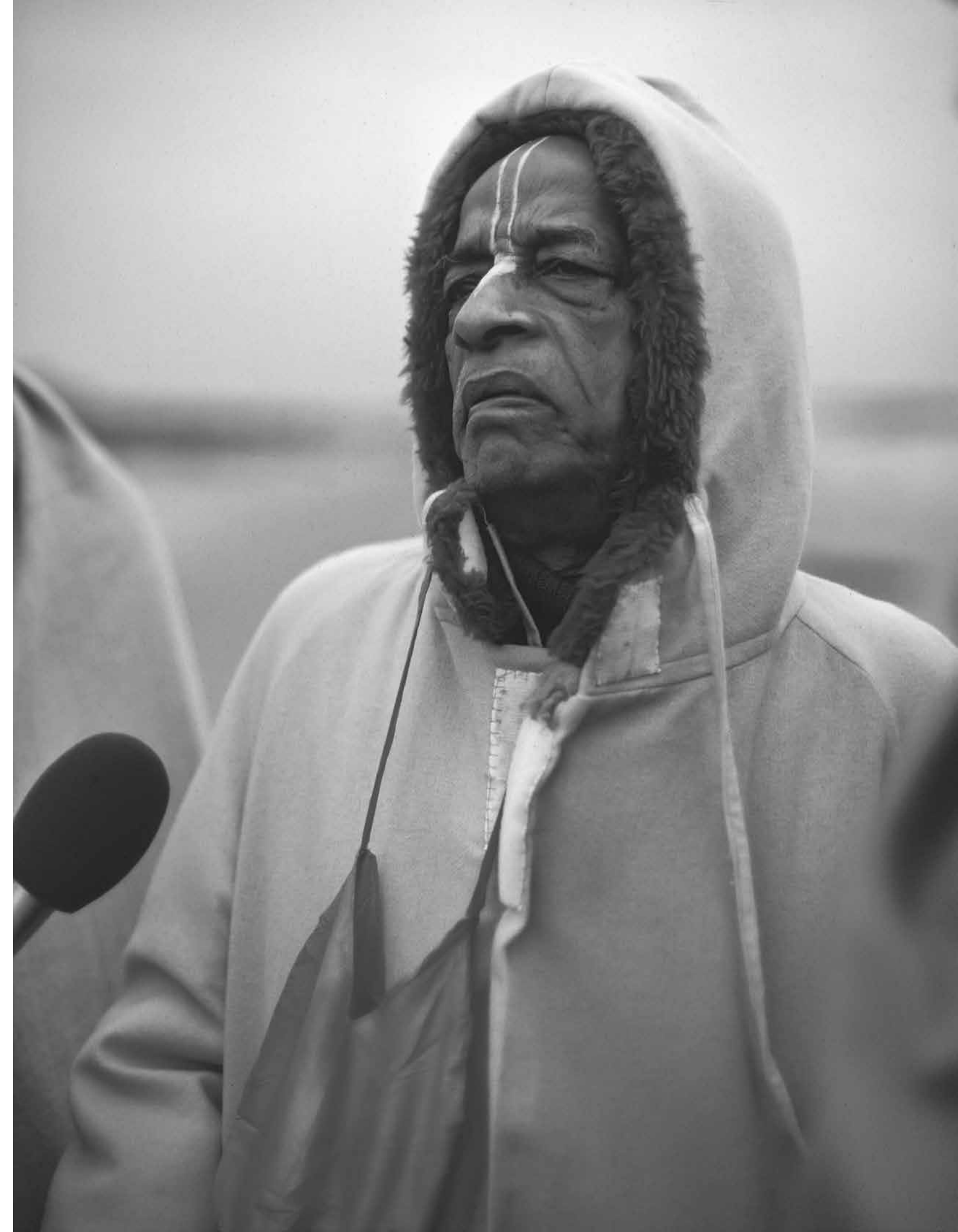
## Trivandrum

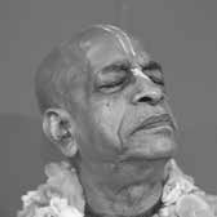
*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

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

### **We are the flowers of the garland of Śrīla Prabhupāda . . .**

. . . Springing in the cracks of the asphalt,  
in the clefts of the walls,  
from a clot of gravel on the eaves,  
over bare rocks,  
in shade, in recesses, between bricks,  
born of the unseen,  
but tenaciously clinging to your light  
because of your faith;  
when stepped on  
painstakingly coming upright again  
because of your love,  
standing out of the gray  
because of your munificent heart;





## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

once strung together  
firmly resting on your words,  
tirelessly, enduringly,  
because of your purity,  
and now forever shining  
like Nitāi's smiles,  
because of you;  
this is your miracle!

*Your servants in Trivandrum, India.*

(written by Mādhava-latā Devī Dāsī)

## Tucson

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

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

Forty years have passed since I first saw your form.  
My understanding was weak, my devotion lukewarm;  
In all of your splendor in the park at Golden Gate,  
Little then did I realize my fortunate fate.

Oh, how time slips by, unnoticed by all!  
We play so many roles, as in a masquerade ball;  
Like a thief in the night, our life slips away;  
We cannot recapture even one single day.

I have to admit, I've wasted some time,  
Not fulfilling your mission, guilty of the crime,  
Flirting with Māyā, taking a chance,  
Straying from service, pursuing romance.

As I age my senses are becoming subdued,  
And I'm losing my taste for chewing the chewed;  
My desire for sense objects is starting to wane,  
And to control the urges is not such a strain.

At nineteen I never thought I'd see the day  
When material hankerings would be kept at bay,  
When illicit activities no longer allure—  
All by chanting the holy name so sweet and pure.

Having followed the instructions laid down by you,  
I'm seeing the promise you made coming true:



“Give Kṛṣṇa this one life, no holding back.  
Surrender completely: there’s nothing you’ll lack.”

Please let me give you 100%,  
Fixed in devotion, not a second misspent.  
With what I have left, without deviation,  
Let my love flow to you without cessation.

*Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Tucson, Arizona.*

(written by Sandāmini Devī Dāsī)

## Ujjain

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

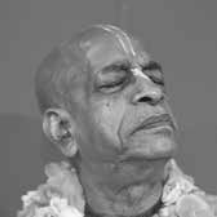
Through the transcendental literatures you tirelessly translated, you guide our services and *sādhana* in our day-to-day lives. In the Third Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* Lord Kapila explains to His mother the respective positions of the living entities, from those with rudimentary sense perception up to the Lord’s pure devotee, “who executes devotional service without expectation of reward.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.29.32). In your purport to this verse you define the *ācārya*:

One must be able to clear all doubts and simultaneously be situated in the brahminical characteristics. Such a person, who knows the purpose of the Vedic injunctions, who can employ the principles laid down in the Vedic literatures, and who teaches his disciples in that way, is called an *ācārya*. The position of an *ācārya* is that he executes devotional service with no desire for elevation to a higher position of life.

It is clear that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, know the real purpose of the Vedic injunctions, employ the principles laid down in the Vedic literatures, and teach all your followers in that way. You can see the Absolute Truth in everything and everything in the Absolute Truth, and thus you are the foremost of Vaiṣṇavas. You bear the potency of the entire *paramparā* within yourself and are a transparent medium for your predecessors. You have greatly simplified entry onto the path of spiritual life, a path that traditionally was not commonly trod. No one is barred from entering that path; indeed, as you pointed out often and emphatically, no material condition can ever stop *bhakti*.

It is by our own desire that we are put into this material world, a perverted reflection of the spiritual world. And as Lord Kṛṣṇa teaches in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (15.3), only with the axe of detachment can we cut down the tree of illusion in which we are entangled. And how to attain that axe? You explain in your purport to this verse that one can get this axe only by hearing from a bona fide source of transcendental knowledge and discussing among similar practitioners spiritual science based on authoritative scriptures.





## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

Despite the powerful Kali-yuga atmosphere, we are somehow or other preaching in and around Madhya Pradesh at various prestigious institutes. Our preachers are tirelessly enlightening the younger generation and cultivating the best prospects, many of whom will become responsible devotees in your wonderful Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said that if we just take care of the devotees nicely, they will do anything for you. Now we understand the real purport of this statement: taking care of the devotees does not mean fulfilling all their material desires but rather training them to satisfy their needs in a bona fide, spiritual way, as guided by scriptures. Since devotees here feel protected and cared for, they are ready to give their body, mind, and hearts to your service. A lot of this care and protection has come from a very dear son of yours, His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami, who has constantly guided the ISKCON Ujjain project from its inception.

This year a team of devotees came up with a unique idea: a multiple-choice questionnaire on the *Bhagavad-gītā*. With this questionnaire they successfully conducted a competition under the auspices of “The Gita Champions League,” or GCL, in which a whopping 64,000 candidates across the state participated! More than 13,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* were distributed. This championship has spread the word of the *Gītā* in educated circles and has built up a favorable environment to preach for many years to come.

By your mercy our Midday Meal program has been able to distribute *prasādam* to more than 15,000 schoolchildren every day for the last six years.

This year the book distributors broke all previous records and distributed a total of about 15,000 books.

Devotees conduct weekly *harināmas* in and around the city, and these public gatherings are very famous.

Keeping ourselves in line with one of the purposes of ISKCON, we have been preaching in the cities to motivating the people there to take up a more traditional way of life by encouraging cow protection and organic farming.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, let our attention always be drawn toward your lotus feet. As the *cātaka* bird drinks only the fresh water falling directly from the monsoon clouds, let us be dependent solely on the raindrops of your compassion, which soothe our hearts burning with material desires. Let us give up all hope of getting benefit from anyone in the material sphere or by our own so-called capabilities, and let the shade of your lotus feet become our only hope. We pray to Your Divine Grace that you may be merciful unto us and allow us to continue serving you with renewed enthusiasm and vigor so we may satisfy you to the best of our limited competence.

*Your aspiring eternal servants at ISKCON Ujjain, India.*

## Villaggio Hare Krishna

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

For your pleasure I would like to share with you an episode that recently came to my ears. I am also happy to share it with all the devotees, to strengthen their faith in the potency of your divine books and increase their conviction that your mercy can really reach everyone and completely change people's lives.

A few months ago one fellow sent us the following e-mail:

Around three years ago, for various reasons, I started an autodidactic study of the main religions of the world, and I went from atheist to believer. In my search for God I perceived the presence of a constant guide over all these years.

A few month ago, when I returned home from work, I noticed an oil stain on the floor of my garage. “Strange,” I thought, “my car never leaks oil.” I looked for a piece of cardboard to put



under the car to see if it was a continuous or sporadic leak. I remembered that the Saturday before I had thoroughly cleaned the house and left one last big box in the garage to bring to the recycling area. But because somehow or other I had forgotten to load it into my car with everything else, it was still there. I opened the box to see if I could find some papers to put under the car, and then I noticed a book. “It must be trash,” I thought, “because I’ve already checked all the boxes and made sure that in this box there is only stuff to be thrown out. Anyway, I’ll use it to check the oil leak.” But when I picked it up I noticed with surprise that it was a copy of the *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*!

I cannot explain how that book came to be in that box. I don’t remember ever buying it or receiving it from someone else. It must have been at least ten or fifteen years old because the price tag on it was in liras, not Euros. This old text did not want to be thrown away, or, in other words, I had discovered and recovered it only at that moment because only then could I appreciate its value. What to say! I found myself crying in the middle of the garage, thinking that this book was waiting more than ten years for the opportunity to guide me. (Another miracle: From that moment my car did not drip oil anymore.)

The story does not end there. A few months later, as I rummaged through my dear grandmother’s stuff, I found another book by Bhaktivedanta Swami. I had already become a vegetarian years earlier, but by reading those two books by him I understood why we have to respect all species of life. Now my alarm is set for 4 am, when I rise for meditation on the *mahā-mantra*.

I would like to thank all of you for your precious books, the most special gift I ever received. They have been and always will be of extreme utility in my spiritual path, in my going back home.

Your books, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are like bombs that sooner or later explode in the lives of the poor conditioned souls and forever change them. Who can say whom they will touch next? Maybe a truck driver in Naples, maybe a fashion designer in Milan, maybe a tomato farmer in Sicily or a gondolier in Venice! Maybe a young student, maybe an old housewife. Who knows? But one thing we know for sure: as Your Divine Grace told us, everyone has a seed in his heart that is waiting to sprout, become a wonderful plant, and grow until it reaches Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet.

If with my service to your books I have been of some utility in your mission on this planet, please allow me to continue somehow or other to assist you as a gardener in your transcendental fields, where your words are the lifeblood that nourishes our very existence.

*The devotees at Villaggio Hare Krishna, Bergamo, Italy.*

(written by Āli-Kṛṣṇa Devī Dāsī)

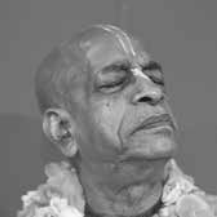
## Vṛnda-kunḍa

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

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

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most wonderful day of your appearance, we bow down with everyone throughout the world to offer our homage to you.



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whenever I read *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.4.12, in which Satī glorifies her husband Lord Śiva, I immediately think that this verse perfectly describes you:

Lord Śiva, however, not only finds no faults with others' qualities, but if someone has a little good quality, he magnifies it greatly.

We were oceans of bad qualities. There wasn't a sin we hadn't committed. Most other so-called spiritual leaders would have rejected us as hopelessly lost. But you didn't reject us. Therefore this verse very aptly describes Your Divine Grace, because deep inside the mountains of sinfulness that were our lives, you saw a tiny spark. Somehow we wanted to know the meaning of life and who we are. Only you were able to see this tiny good quality among the heaps of sins that were our lives. You fanned the tiny spark of that good quality and greatly magnified it. You magnified that quality so much that these terrible sinners, the lowest of the low, became the leaders of your movement to spread the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

This is your greatness, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We hate to think where we would be today if you hadn't cast your glance of mercy upon us fallen souls. So on this auspicious anniversary of your appearance in this world, we fall at you soft lotus feet and beg you to continue to shower that merciful glance upon us. Please magnify whatever tiny, miniscule good qualities we have and engage us in assisting you in recovering more fallen souls from this whirlpool of birth and death.

*Your servants at Vṛnda-kuṇḍa, Vṛndāvana, India.*

(written by Deena Bandhu Dāsa)

## Vṛndāvana

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, our ever well-wisher,

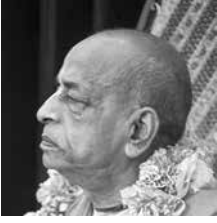
Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your sacred Vyāsa-pūjā. The transcendental mercy of the Supreme Lord is embodied in the topmost devotees, so rarely encountered—devotees such as your glorious self, who wandered the world with a heart overflowing with transcendental love and compassion.

We here at Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira are your dedicated servants. Famously, you stated, "Vṛndāvana is my home." So, we are your "home servants." One who wanders the temple area will find your *samādhi*, your *vyāsāsana*, your *mūrti* on the altar, your house, your rooms, your harmonium, your cooking pots and plates, and even the massage oils you favored.

We especially treasure your Dictaphone. How many hours did you spend with the microphone in hand, composing your translations and purports? The recordings were then whisked away, only to return as beautiful books replete with glorious artwork printed in the best manner possible. We display photos of you smiling broadly as, seated in Vṛndāvana, you inspect the latest printed volumes.

Always at the center of your endeavors was the propagation of Vedic knowledge, lighting the lamp of awareness in the darkness of the material world. Here in Vṛndāvana you spent twelve years at the Śrī Varṇi Gopāla and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara *mandiras*, preparing for your bold journey to New York. How many evenings did you sit at Keśīghāṭa savoring the scent of the *agrabati* you had just offered to Śrī Yamunā Devī? What were your thoughts as you planned to take the nectar river of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to the West?

Before you wandered into New York's Tompkins Square Park, *kīrtana* was practically unknown outside India. Yet you are famous here in Vṛndāvana for chanting in the streets, as with friends you roamed the lanes for evening *darśana*. Did you plan then to do the same in London, Paris, Rome, Los Angeles, Washington, and New York? Did you see yourself dancing in the downtown streets of London, yards from the Queen's



palace, leading an ecstatic, uproarious Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā? Staying here in Vṛndāvana before your epic journey, did you plan what you would say to the attentive thousands at Trafalgar Square?

Vṛndāvana overflows with devotional supplies. It must have occurred to you that you would need all these items across the sea in distant lands. Tulasī plants, Tulasī beads, bead bags, *dhotīs* and *kurtās*, incense, pure *ghee*, *mṛdaṅgas*, *karatālas*—you would have to move them across the ocean. Did you smile, visualizing the people of the world wearing Tulasī neck-beads? There is no greater jewelry than the Tulasī beads you would give to the world. How to get a *mṛdaṅga* from Vṛndāvana onto the streets of New York must have occupied your thoughts. When you cooked in the Vāṁśī-Gopāla *mandira*, were you planning how you would distribute *prasādam* in London and New York? Were you here in Vṛndāvana when you perfected the recipe for the ISKCON bullet, the *gulabjāmun*?

We have heard from the local Rādhā-ramaṇa Gosvāmīs how you used to consult them about the Deity worship protocols contained in the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa*. Did you tell those Gosvāmīs that one day you would be performing Deity worship in New York and installing Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa in the middle of London? If you had, would they have taken you seriously? We heard that you were wandering Vṛndāvana attired in inexpensive cloth, a worn bead bag as your constant companion. Talk of a temple in New York must have sounded to some like a grandiose dream. But those who looked more closely would have seen much to give them pause. They would have seen your complete dedication to the order of His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda. They would have seen your painstaking translation and printing of the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. They would have seen your regular magazine, *Back to Godhead*. They would have marveled at your energy and determination as you systematically boarded the train to Delhi to personally distribute the unadulterated Vedic message on the streets of that city, whatever the season. They would have thought this determined *bhakta* just might fulfill the prediction of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu that His name would be heard in every town and village of the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, did you think of us, your servants, as we waited throughout the world for your arrival? We may have been at home or in a park, at school or at work, but we were only waiting to awaken to your *kīrtana* and dance in ecstasy. Did you see our smiling faces as we thrilled at your exposition of the Vedic truth? Did you see us learning to play *karatālas* and *mṛdaṅga* and dance in *kīrtana*? Did you see us filling our bellies with fried rice, *muttar paneer*, *pakorās*, *samosās*, sweet rice, *lāḍḍus*, *burfi*? Did you see us chanting in London and distributing *Back to Godhead* in Edinburgh in the shade of the ancient castle? We are your spiritual children, Śrīla Prabhupāda; you must have planned how to guide us. Did you see us eagerly reading more and more volumes of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Kṛṣṇa* book, and *The Nectar of Devotion*? Did you plan the recording of your lectures and your Vaiṣṇava *bhajans*?

Yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Vṛndāvana then, now, and eternally is your home. While at home, you planned to take Vṛndāvana to every nook and cranny of the world. You planned to turn us bewildered “whatnots” into smiling Vaiṣṇavas. You gathered us, your servants, off the streets of the world and welcomed us to your home, and patiently accepted our faltering attempts to please you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us a life here in Vṛndāvana realizing Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa at your lotus feet. How wonderful! You have trained us to give the message of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi to the world. How exhilarating!

So now, Śrīla Prabhupāda, just like you, here in Vṛndāvana we make plans so that no one on this planet will miss the chance of getting even just a drop of your mercy so they can transfer to the eternal, transcendental realm of unlimited bliss and live eternally in the presence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

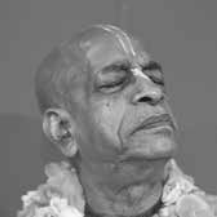
Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are made only of your limitless mercy and the nectar *harināma* you have made so real and so available,

Your humble servants take your shelter and beg for more service in your beautiful home, Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir, Vṛndāvana.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!* Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!* Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

*Your servants at the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira in Vṛndāvana, India.*

(written by Keśīdamana Dāsa)



Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

## Wiesbaden

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance.

Just by remembering you every day, we receive so many spiritual gifts and blessings in the form of knowledge. A “thank you” is certainly not enough.

By your mercy we do not even need a home but rather live in the temple. As you ordered, we distribute books, especially the *Bhagavad-gītā*. This is not a burden. We are motivated by your example—you inspire us to serve.

One of your female disciples, a great authority, teaches us by example. What you say reaches us like light. This is the path, and we hope to be able to achieve the goal without distractions. We aspire to achieve Kṛṣṇa’s abode and association—we hope not to be caught by *māyā*.

Other disciples of yours have become our spiritual masters. They give us blessings and relentlessly preach your lotuslike words everywhere.

The following three instructions of Your Divine Grace always resound within our minds:

1. “No matter what happens, don’t leave ISKCON.”
2. “Your love for me will be shown by how you cooperate with each other [to further the mission of ISKCON].”
3. “Always consider the GBC the ultimate managing authority of ISKCON [and follow that authority.]”

It’s a great miracle you have performed—enabling us to carry out devotional service to you through ISKCON. You worked so hard to deliver this message to us. Please let us convey our thanks by working hard to be a servant of the servant of the servant.

Since last year our feelings of separation and regret at having left the spiritual world and the longing to go back to the Supreme Personality, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, have increased almost unbearably, and there is no end to it.

Our countless offenses and impurities have rendered us unable to control laziness. Please help us overcome this deficiency and help us understand how we can satisfy you by serving ISKCON and the GBC.

*Your insignificant servants at Hari Nāma Desh, ISKCON’s temple in Wiesbaden, Germany.*

(written by Hemāṅga Gopāla Dāsa and Sumitrā Devī Dāsī)





