



**Homages from the Publishers**





## Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Africa)

To our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Every year your Vyāsa-pūjā gives us the opportunity to reflect on the service we have done over the past year and to commit ourselves to improve our service and devotional mood in the coming year. The devotees of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, Africa Division, would like to thank you for your books. These books are the foundation of our spiritual lives. They allow us to associate with you and with Kṛṣṇa, and they touch the lives of millions around the world. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this wonderful process of book production and distribution.

BBT Africa was born under the guidance of His Holiness Jayādvaita Swami, and although we are still in our infancy, we have introduced people in several countries to your publishing house. We have had great success with the Annual BBT Africa conferences in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2012, and in Mauritius in 2013, and we have plans for a conference in West Africa in 2014. Earlier this year we also hosted the Annual Bhaktivedanta Swami Lecture at the University of Witwatersrand, with the aim of informing the intelligentsia of Johannesburg about your books and the nature of real education.

Over the past year we created a BTG board to provide aid to various temples so they can increase the distribution of *Back to Godhead* magazine across Africa. We have a pamphlet program in place, and we have taken an active role in preparing for and encouraging the Summer Book Marathon across the continent. Our Śāstra Dāna teams in Southern and Eastern Africa have worked tirelessly to put more than eleven thousand of your books in libraries and prisons in several African countries.

Over the past year we have been able to produce six new translations of your books—four in IsiZulu, one in Setswana, and one in Creole. Please bless our team of translators, editors, production managers, and sponsors to continue their service and their support of book publication.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day we offer all our efforts at your lotus feet and humbly beg you to continue showering us with your blessings so we may continue your work, serve the Vaiṣṇavas, and help fulfill your desire that everyone on this planet get a chance to learn the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Endeavoring to increase the *saṅkīrtana* movement, we remain

*Your servants at the The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust offices in Africa.*

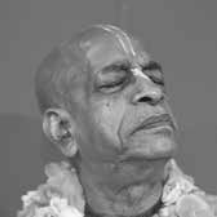
## Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (India)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the magic of your books continues to surprise us. Recently a printer and his staff members mentioned that whenever BBT books are being printed in their machines, “something magical happens to us at our professional and personal levels.” They mentioned that they feel “very peaceful and contented.”

In this world, where external results are all in all, please give us the strength to be focused on this



## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

essential “back-end” process of book production. Please give us the strength to keep ourselves enthused when someone tells us that book production is not important but only distribution is important. Both are important aspects of your mission.

Recently we released the Hindi *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, printing ten thousand sets. We have improved the quality of Tamil books, and sales have been soaring. We also released the Punjabi *Gītā*. Sales of the Telugu *Bhāgavatam*, after its release in July 2011, have reached four thousand sets. We have also released the Telugu *Kṛṣṇa, the Reservoir of Pleasure and Nectar of Instruction*, and good progress has been made in the translation of the Telugu *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. The Marathi *Teachings of Lord Kapila, the Son of Devahūti* and *Path of Perfection* are also soon to be released. The Malayalam *Bhāgavatam* has been printed up to the Fifth Canto, and the much-improved version of the Urdu *Gītā* has just been released.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once wrote in a letter:

Bookkeeping is the most important item. As you are growing in stature, our accounting should become very perfect. We have to publish now a short statement of accounts. As we increase our life membership number, we must submit our audited accounts and that will convince the public of our stability. [Letter to Karandhara, 18 March 1971]

Accounts must be kept, things must be in order and lawfully done. [Letter to Karandhara, 22 December 1972]

At BBT India’s head office in Mumbai, we have implemented very stringent accounting procedures. A monthly audit is done, and systems are in place to regularly fulfill government statutory requirements. A monthly stock check is done at your 40,000-square-foot warehouse in Bhiwandi (a Mumbai suburb) to tally the accounts and physical inventory. You requested that we follow you Guru Mahārāja’s famous instruction: “If you get some money, you print books.” We are simply trying to follow that order and always have huge stocks of books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said that your movement could be destroyed not by outsiders but by insiders. On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we request Your Divine Grace to kindly lift your lotus feet and kick away all the dissensions within ISKCON and your BBT. Kindly bestow your blessings and strength on the devotees who have the best interest of ISKCON and the BBT at heart and who have no personal motives. Śrīla Prabhupāda, let your will prevail.

*Your servants at the offices of BBT India.*

## Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North America)

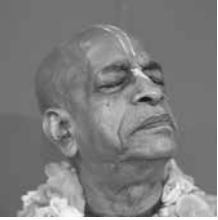
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On September 1, 1975, after you had received the final volumes of the legendary seventeen-books-in-two-months book production marathon, you wrote this in a letter to “Ramesvara & Co.”:

You have taken seriously the publishing and also the distribution of these books, and that is the success of our mission. You have taken seriously this work and I know that my guru maharaj is pleased with you because he wanted this. So by this your endeavor you will all go back home back to Godhead.





## Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā 2013

Śrīla Prabhupāda, there are a couple of us here at the NABBT who were part of that marathon and can remember those blissful days—the excitement of it, the gravity of it, the sheer madness of being part of the great adventure of doing “the impossible” out of devotion to you and only because of being empowered by your order.

But I would say that all of us here at the hoary BBT offices on Watseka Avenue, under the shelter of Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārkaḍhīśa, have taken seriously the publishing and distribution of your books. We regard it as a exceedingly rare privilege to be part of the team of devotees that is keeping your *brhat-mṛdaṅga* beating. We feel your mercy palpably in our endeavors, and we feel profound gratitude that you’ve engaged our meager talents in this glorious effort for so many years.

Please bless us so we can continue to supply the heroic book distributors with a fresh supply of your books so they can continue “to drop thousands and millions of books into the laps of the conditioned souls.” There is nothing else we would rather do.

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

## Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Northern Europe)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories unto you and Lord Vyāsadeva!

Forty years ago, in my stuffy Bavarian hometown, right in front of the bank building at St. Mary’s Square, a young guy I had never seen before, all dressed in home-dyed orange, offered me a vinyl album. It was also orange. He said this was the latest by George Harrison, Carlos Santana, and an array of other luminaries. Whoa! An album by the dream team. Sure—except for that little note at the bottom of the sleeve. The thing was not *by* them; it was dedicated *to* them. Unfortunately, I declined the offer.

A year later I got luckier. I had just acquired a few nice Indian baby plants at an open-air rock festival deep in the Bavarian Forest. On the way back to my place I ran into a group of orange-clad guys with shaven heads who convinced me to park my new Indian friends in the grass and take some soup. The soup was great.

A few winters passed and I decided to leave the world and enter transcendence. I pushed an old car into our commune’s apple orchard, moved in, and found myself studying Buddhism from a 1,200-page book. When the apples were ripe I was done with the book, and with Buddhism. This was not the solution.

So I gave up my fruity solitude and walked right back into civilization, i.e., the commune’s kitchen, where I found two of your books. One was called *Christus*, *Krishto*, *Krishna*, and the other had a brown cover. I think it was the Second Canto. You wrote that simple work was good for the devotee. So I agreed to build one more booth, this time for a fair in Cologne. It was supposed to become a ship, for a large pharmaceutical company (“Sail with us and our painkillers”). But we were so late that the boat was half done when the fair opened. That ship never set sail and we didn’t get a penny. Unlike my shipwrecked colleagues, I welcomed the company’s reluctance to remunerate. Here was my first opportunity to practice equipoise. In happiness and in distress. Kṛṣṇa gives and Kṛṣṇa takes. This was liberation.

Being with your books became the focus of my life. They looked complicated, otherworldly, entirely far-out. And yet they were simple enough for me to understand, they were personal, and they made sense. Here was the writing by someone who really cared—about life and death, the planet and the universe, the plants, the animals, humanity, and me.

When I was five, someone in my family decided it was time for me to watch the slaughter of a pig.

## Homages from the Publishers



My first life-changer. Your books were the second.

I joined and hoped for book-related service. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and all you Prabhupāda disciples and followers of Śrīla Prabhupāda, for keeping me engaged. So many books, in so many languages, that still need to be produced, and spread, and read.

Your books, your purports, Śrīla Prabhupāda: THE ONLY HOPE.

Eternally indebted, grateful, trying to become a Vaiṣṇava, and begging for your guidance, I remain the servant of

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

(written by Brāhma Muhūrta Dāsa)

