

Homages from Other Sources

Back to Godhead/Krishna.com

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, and to your divine preaching mission.

I write this offering on behalf of your servants at *Back to Godhead* magazine and Krishna.com, the former being a project that has always been dear to your heart, the latter a transformation of the contents of your magazine and an extension of your book trust that has gone online and is now reaching people in faraway corners of the world, wherever there is an Internet connection. If you were physically present with us today, I am sure you would be excited about your BBT/BTG joint special project, Krishna.com.

As a child growing up in ISKCON, I remember reading in your biography how you struggled to print the early issues of *Back to Godhead* while the world was still at war. You obtained rationed printing paper with difficulty, printed a few issues, and distributed them yourself on the streets of Delhi to anyone who showed an interest. Years later, you established the BBT to distribute Śrī Kṛṣṇa's message through books distributed by your disciples on street corners around the world. You emphasized that anyone who reads even one paragraph, even one word, will be benefited.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, beloved grandfather, how excited you would be to see this extension of your publishing projects, the Kṛṣṇa.com website and its related channels on Internet social media sites like Facebook and YouTube. As I write this, your message of Godhead, broadcast by Kṛṣṇa.com, is being viewed, read, watched, and listened to in the homes of more than 7 million people in 194 countries. With the recent advent of “smart” devices connected to the Internet, that message is now readily accessible on mobile phones in people's pockets, on the dashboards of their cars, and on their smart TVs in their living rooms.

We have five book clubs going at the moment, with subscribers in remote corners of the world reading a page a day sent to them via email by Kṛṣṇa.com. A banker from Australia wrote us recently, expressing his gratitude for the inspiration he gets from reading a page from your books before he starts his stressful job each morning. People are appreciating the live webcasts of *darśanas*, *kīrtanas*, and lectures from your ISKCON temples around the world. They're listening to Kṛṣṇa conscious audio materials, such as your *Bhagavad-gītā* purports, our most popular audio download. Slowly the world is being transformed one soul—nay seven million souls—at a time, as they are touched repeatedly by the power of your words.

What started with your deep desire to benefit the world by writing *Back to Godhead* articles in 1944, and then took the shape of extensive translations and purports in your BBT books, has now taken on a new life and gone viral on the Internet. Your message of Godhead is spreading like wildfire in all parts of the world, in the digital domain. The Internet has created a new economic model that baffles capitalists, called “zero marginal cost.” It now costs next to nothing to make copies and distribute information, knowledge, videos, audio—the transcendental touchstones of your digital books and magazines—to millions of people on this planet in a relatively short time.

The challenge now is to educate the members of our movement about the massive potential of a “zero marginal cost” strategy for transcendental-knowledge distribution, and to harness the response, preparing ourselves to cultivate streams of people coming at us from all sides, seeking shelter. We need your help, Śrīla Prabhupāda! Please guide us and inspire your disciples to cooperate with and volunteer for this important preaching project. In a very short time we will need to engage many more Live Helpers, email responders, and devotee counselors. How pleased you would be to see your Live Help volunteers serving around the clock, replying to the daily emails and live chats of people from all corners of the globe asking questions about Kṛṣṇa and how to lead a Kṛṣṇa conscious life.

Some of your devoted BBT trustees came up with the term “Temple on the Web” to describe Kṛṣṇa.com. It's that and so much more. To me it seems like we're about to be hit by a flood wave of reawakened spirit souls wanting to know more about Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Because the Kṛṣṇa.com web address is listed in your books, the more they are distributed, then the more digital books are distributed virally on the Internet, and the more people sign up for the Kṛṣṇa.com e-book club to read a page a day, and the more people have questions and seek answers.

This next year will be a challenging one for both *Back to Godhead* magazine and Kṛṣṇa.com. I pray to you for guidance and strength as we embark on transitioning from a grant-supported to a membership-supported organization, soon to be funded entirely by donations from our online congregation. *Back to Godhead* is going digital, which in this new free-sharing economy means it may be more difficult to maintain the magazine by traditional sales of subscriptions. Kṛṣṇa.com is losing important grant funding. A patron membership campaign will need to be held soon to ensure its financial survival in these economically turbulent times. Surely Kṛṣṇa will protect us.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your kind, compassionate heart that longs to heal and uplift every lost soul on this planet. The seeds of your compassion are taking strong root in the hearts of your “future hope” grandchildren, who are now apprenticing and training to take on the operation of your important publishing departments.

I hope that it pleases you to see more and more of your grandchildren working at BTG and Kṛṣṇa.com, developing a sense of belonging and purpose to carry on your important publishing mission. I see them slowly growing in confidence to, I hope, become future BBT Trustees, to take publishing the message contained within your books to a whole new level of relevance and relatability via a multitude of suitable channels to reach a global audience. Your books may take the shape of dozens of specialized websites to serve the myriad needs of audiences. They may take the shape of apps, e-books, audio books, and print-on-demand books to reach people on every level, delivered straight onto their smart devices, Internet radios, and smart TVs in their living rooms, out of the reach of traditional book distributors. Book distribution is being redefined. What does it mean to “distribute a book” in this digital day and age? The lines are blurring between the message of Godhead being distributed in printed books, digital books, digital magazines, condensed nuggets of wisdom on web pages, in sound bytes, on YouTube videos . . . the distribution is happening in ways that can no longer be measured simply by book scores and *lakṣmī* points in a *saṅkīrtana* newsletter.

Your many servants at Back to Godhead magazine and Kṛṣṇa.com.

(written by Manorāma Dāsa)

Bhakti Yoga Centre (South Africa)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We attempt to reflect today on just how merciful you are. You so kindly allow us and so many others to approach you directly as the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON. You have created a legacy, through the presence of your faithful followers, that maintains the living tradition of the *paramparā* system. Thank you for taking the responsibility of establishing this transcendental connection to the Lord’s supreme abode.

Knowing that you are an unlimited ocean of mercy, we humbly submit our prayer to you today. Please bless the leaders of your worldwide ISKCON with the requisite qualities to guide and enthuse the devotees. Without the organized preaching mission, what hope would there be for humankind?

You have revealed how the highest welfare work for mankind is to serve the *saṅkīrtana* mission. In our humble effort to serve this ideal, we find shelter and purpose. Thank you so much for giving direction to our otherwise misguided and senseless wanderings.

Recently at a university preaching program we had nearly forty students attend a Mantra Meditation workshop. After listening to your chanting of the *mahā-mantra* for five minutes, they all took beads and chanted one round together. We felt overwhelmed with happiness to think how pleased you must have been.



We beg you to bless us with a taste for the holy names so that we may serve them.

Our supplication today is that Your Divine Grace will use us as an instrument in any way you see fit. Despite so many obstacles and apparent lack of support, we feel assured of your shelter and endorsement. Please bless our modest attempts at creating an oasis in this barren Free State. Just one tiny droplet of your immense compassion will flood the entire region.

We beg to remain

Eternal servants of your servants at the Bhakti Yoga Centre, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Bhaktivedanta Archives

*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*

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Every day we are immersed in the sound of your voice, images of Your Divine Grace, letters that you touched, your words and instructions. We are so very grateful for the services you have given us and for letting us feel your presence in these ways. And although we so much appreciate all these things, still the pain of separation from you only increases with each passing year.

Our prayer to you today, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is this:

- Please never let our enthusiasm wane, but daily let it be rekindled anew.
- Please never let our determination falter, but daily let us stay focused and committed.
- Please never let the flame of our devotion flicker, but daily please help it keep growing into a blazing fire that will burn to “practically nil” all our illusions, material attachments, and *anarthas*.
- Please help keep us from falling into Vaiṣṇava *aparādha*.

Day by day we will strive to be the change we wish to see in the world. We want to continue to protect, preserve, and broadcast your legacy so that the world will know you and give you the gratitude and glory you so much deserve.

We want you to be proud of us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We want to fulfill your vision of us as the pure servants of the Lord you saw when you looked at us and into our hearts. And we want to help you fulfill your vision of a desperately suffering world transformed into **Vaikuṅṭha**.

We are your sons and daughters, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We love you and we miss you! We have no other shelter than you. Please always keep us at your lotus feet.

Your servants and staff at the Bhaktivedanta Archives.

Bhaktivedanta College (Budapest)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories unto the dust of your lotus feet.

This year, after your Bhaktivedanta College had been operating here for eight years, we had to renew its state accreditation. First we had to write a self-evaluation of the college according to a given outline, and for each major as well. On the basis of this evaluation, the government's panel of experts scrutinized the overall operation of the College and judged whether it meets the legal and qualitative requirements, and then we had to remedy any shortfalls. Finally the "visiting committee" paid us a visit and thoroughly examined the actual functioning of the College, talking to the administrators, the teaching staff, and some of the students, too, as well as having a look at the entire teaching infrastructure.

The visiting committee of five summarized their impressions of the College at a meeting at the end of the day and asked further questions. It was very surprising, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, that aside from only a few objections and proposals regarding the college's development, they glorified your College: the cleanliness, our unvarnished honesty about our shortcomings, our operational procedure following a deliberate strategy, our commitment to on-going improvement of qualitative standards, and our open-mindedness—all the things you and your disciple His Holiness Śivarāma Swami taught us—were what impressed the committee the most.

One official asked a question about the College's Mission Statement, in connection with what we borrowed from your famous "Seven Purposes of ISKCON." The Statement reads:

The mission of the College is to fulfill the mission of the founder-*ācārya* of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), established in 1966, and that is "to systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to the society at large and to educate all peoples in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and achieve real unity and peace in the world."

The expert felt that this is an entirely universal purpose, which characterizes all theological colleges. But then, he asked, what is the special purpose that justifies our existence? In a situation like this you cannot argue with the provocative and derogatory mentality that underlies such a question, but rather you must control the anger within and answer the question coolly.

The second part of your *praṇāma-mantra* came to my mind immediately, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda:

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-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.

Considering both the faith of the committee president, who was a Catholic priest and the dean of the theological faculty of a Catholic university, and the scientific mind of the committee member who was an Indologist, I responded in this way:

Our speciality is that we have an exceptionally clear and unambiguous picture of God. We believe that in His ultimate and original form as the Absolute Truth, the source of all existence, God is not an impersonal energy but rather a person with definite form and attributes. Since only a person can be loved, awakening loving devotional service to God is the purpose and the main teaching of our religion. Awakening the dormant love for God in our hearts becomes possible only when one gets to know His attractive form, attributes, pastimes, etc. We can be sympathetic with our fellow human



beings and with other living creatures and act selflessly to benefit them only if we can see the divine spark in each of them, knowing that all of us have the same origin and purpose, namely, rendering devotional service to God. And what makes Him most satisfied is when we help each other fulfill this mission. Teaching all this is the unique purpose of our College.

In the end, this was how a provocative question turned out to be a good one because it gave us the opportunity to glorify you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Without you, we would have never known so unambiguously, what to speak of had a chance to achieve, the ultimate purpose of life: to revive our loving relationship with our beloved Lord Kṛṣṇa and return to His eternal home, where, as Indradyumna Swami so nicely put it in an installment of his *Diary of a Traveling Preacher*, “every word is a song, every step is a dance, and every day is a festival.”

Your eternal servants at Bhaktivedanta College, Budapest, Hungary.

(written by Mahārāṇī Devī Dāsī)

Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You said the best of you is in your purports.
Indeed, we find them in difficult times to be the best support.
With us many come to study them regularly;
Hence we see them advance spiritually.

To study and teach your books is like being on a dual track.
Ever fresh are the lessons therein, shielding one against Māyā's attack.
To see the effect your teachings have on various individuals
Affords us bliss that is incomparable.

Your words illuminate hearts and transform lives.
To spread your teachings far and wide we shall strive.
Every lesson you teach is precious and jewellike;
Through layers of conditioning like lightning they do strike.

To remain your servants eternally is for what we strive.
Despite being unqualified, we endeavor our original position thus to revive.
To study and teach and enrich the lives of others we offer our existence.
This is our fervent prayer with repeated obeisances.

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

(written by Mādri Devī Dāsī)



Bhaktivedanta Cultural and Educational Library

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your divine instructions and your sense of practicality, by which you taught us how to apply those instructions in our everyday lives.

You gave your life to satisfy your Guru Mahārāja's desire to spread the sublime message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in the English language, thereby reaching all of humanity.

You came here to Rome in 1974, forty years ago, and though most of us became devotees sometime later, we nevertheless received your mercy through your instructions, which we are trying to follow. As you always said, "Simply follow."

I recently read the book *Śrīla Prabhupāda: the Founder-Ācārya of ISKCON*, published by the GBC. I was moved by a quote from a lecture you gave in Los Angeles on December 9, 1968, humbly recalling the words of your Guru Mahārāja in his last letter to you: "[P]ush our movement in English, and that will do good to you and to the people who will help you."

So, we want to help you—simply, without pretensions—and this will nurture us as small leaves on the transcendental tree of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

In a letter to a devotee you wrote:

Along with the restaurants there can be "Bhaktivedanta Reading Room" where all my books can be kept and people can come and sit comfortably and read. The people will like these restaurants and reading rooms. They will take them as non-sectarian. [Letter to Śubhaviḷāsa, 16 March 1977]

After serving your glorious movement in various ways through the 80s and 90s, doing the best we could and benefiting from the special association of your pure disciples, we were somehow or other inspired to create a restaurant annexed to a reading room. We were unaware of your statement in the above-quoted letter until, one day, Bhīma Prabhu from the Mumbai BBT visited us and told us about it.

So, as we mentioned in our 2001 Vyāsa-pūjā homage to you, we got this place in the center of ancient Rome on top of the ruins of a Roman temple by the blessings of your dear disciple and our merciful *gurudeva* His Holiness Bhaktisvarūpa Dāmodara Mahārāja. Over the last thirteen years we have developed this project, now known as the Bhāgavat Atheneum: The Bhaktivedanta Cultural and Educational Library. We house a collection of over seven thousand publications, most prominently all your books, which are available for borrowing, and we also house a successful Ayurvedic restaurant and adjacent herbal-tea room.

In the context of a Eurocentric, Roman-Catholic-based culture, we have explored and developed other projects that have proved attractive to a wide variety of people. Some of them include a ten-year exhibit of contemporary art by internationally renowned artists of spiritual inclination, a project we did in collaboration with the National Oriental Art Museum, and which we entitled "The Artist as a Rishi"; twelve years of Sanskrit courses; eight years of a *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* study group; and years of Jyotiṣa and Āyurveda classes. In all of this we have found a very ecstatic, dynamic, and challenging field of action, with many more aspects to develop.

As they say, Rome was not built in a day. In a city with almost three thousand years of political and religious history, it sometimes feels as though any effort to establish anything really big and attractive is sucked into a vortex and lost. That is why, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray for your blessings so that somehow, under the supervision of the GBC and with cooperation among local devotees, we may help to develop a temple project that will be successful in such a city as Rome.

During the Renaissance in Italy, the most beautiful and sumptuous churches were adorned with masterpieces by the most renowned artists of all times. I often think how wonderful it would be to have an

ISKCON temple in Rome where the best international devotee artists could come to express their devotion by contributing masterpieces in honor of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, thereby attracting the conditioned souls through art and beauty in the special spiritual atmosphere of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the radiance of your transcendental smile.

You humble servants at the Bhaktivedanta Cultural and Educational Library, Rome, Italy.

(written by Ekādaśī-nātha Dāsa)

College TSKP

*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*

Our dear spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious anniversary of your appearance in this otherwise dark world.

We offer obeisances to you by saying:

nama om—indicating a conscious, trusting submission to you, who are the benevolent agent of the Lord, freely giving His mercy to whoever qualifies himself with humility by leaving aside false ego and approaching you “like a blank slate,” with sincere inquiries about devotional life and a readiness to execute any order as unconditional service to the Lord. You said, “Everything depends on submission”;

viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale—indicating you have fully taken shelter of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu as His very dear and empowered servant;

namas te sārasvate deve—indicating you are not a self-made guru but rather an ideal disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura. You would say, “I came on the order of my spiritual master,” and “No one invited me to your country to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness”;

nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe—indicating you have defeated that subtle foundational disease that grossly manifests as the enjoying and exploiting spirit and fuels the causeless unwillingness to surrender to Kṛṣṇa. “Impersonal calamity thou hast removed.”

We understand that as an empowered servant of Caitanya Mahāprabhu you sincerely followed the lead and instruction of your spiritual master to deliver the Western world from the clutches of impersonalism and voidism by practicing and teaching the blissful life of pure devotional service.

The Lord Himself said, “I shall accept the role of a devotee, and I shall teach devotional service by practicing it Myself.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 3.20) Thus Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī noted that the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is “strikingly wonderful.” Similarly, although you are (in your own words) “a resident of Vṛndāvana,” an eternal associate of the Lord, you accepted the role of a *madhyama-bhakta* and

carried Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s wonderful mercy worldwide, freely distributing it to others. Therefore you became the exemplary teacher (*ācārya*) for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

And your preaching was wonderful, as you gave Śrīla Vyāsadeva’s topmost work, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, along with your own purports, which contained the essence of the past *ācāryas*’ commentaries. This presentation revealed to us that Kṛṣṇa’s appearance in this world is the answer to all imaginative iconography of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. You taught us how to chant *śuddha-kṛṣṇa-nāma* by your own enthusiastic and determined example of regular *kīrtana* and *japa*, and you explained with examples how the qualities and nature of the holy name are nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa. In all of your preaching you inspired us to take full shelter of the holy name, convincing us that our relationship with the holy name is “not an artificial imposition on the mind.”

Now we must similarly practice pure devotional service properly if we are to in turn teach it to others. How we can repeat your teachings not merely as parrots but as dynamic living representatives of Your Divine Grace and our *paramparā* is the challenge, a challenge that is much like a razor’s edge—too much adjustment to make Kṛṣṇa consciousness available to people in the current time, place, and circumstances could result in a change or dismissal of principles, yet mere parroting of the details of application without considering the situation of the ever-changing world could result in people not perceiving the relevance of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

Our prayer on this day, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that you give us full faith in the holy name of Kṛṣṇa and the intelligence to discern how to best transmit the current of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the “strikingly wonderful” mercy of Lord Caitanya, to others.

Hoping to always have the privilege of being your servants, we remain

The members of College TSKP.

(written by Pṛthuśrava Dāsa)

Eger Nāma-haṭṭa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

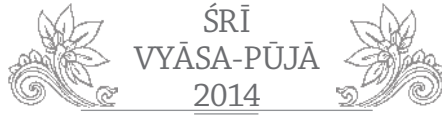
Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to you!

Every time elevated devotees visit our Nāma-haṭṭa, they mention that our town, Eger, is a very special place. They like the mood of our community and the *bhajanas* and *kīrtanas* performed in our center. We know that before Kṛṣṇa consciousness came here Eger was always a common, small provincial town, a typical boring place where nothing happened. Anything but special.

Your mercy made our hometown special, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and so *that* is the root cause of our great fortune. Your sincere followers carried your books and teachings here and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness very enthusiastically. They organized big festivals to attract us, the local residents. Lord Caitanya’s preaching movement arrived via your disciples and touched many common people.

We would like to express our gratitude and dedication to you by following your instructions and continuing the preaching activities, including *prasādam* distribution, Vaiṣṇava festivals, Sunday programs, and counselor meetings. We have gotten your mercy and would like to share it with others as well. That will continue to make our town special.

Your insignificant servants in Eger, Hungary



Festival of India

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn 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 Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

*vande gurūn īśa-bhaktān īśam īśavatārakān
tat-prakāśāṁś ca tac-chaktiḥ kṛṣṇa-caitanya-saṁjñakam*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the spiritual masters, the devotees of the Lord, the Lord's incarnations, His plenary portions, His energies, and the primeval Lord Himself, Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya.

It is an honor to glorify His Divine Grace Śrī Śrīmad Abhaya Caraṇāravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda on behalf of the Festival of India. Vyāsa-pūjā is a day to glorify the spiritual master, our *guru-paramparā*, and the mission for which they stand: to propagate the mission of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu all over the world. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has instructed:

*yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-uṇḍeśa
āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa*

“Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 7.128) The Festival of India strives to follow this teaching of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Traveling all over North America for five months out of the year, the participating devotees set up festivals in major cities like New York, Washington, D.C., Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. In all, they put on twenty festivals in twenty cities every year. All this is to help facilitate the preaching of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement by bringing the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the lost, conditioned souls of this world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are undoubtedly Śrī Nityānanda's *śakty-āveśa avatāra*. Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu is extremely compassionate to the fallen conditioned souls. This compassion is exhibited by the pastime of the deliverance of Jagāi and Mādhāi. In the same way you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, delivered so many Jagāis and Mādhāis and still continue to do so through your books. Practically every modern-day Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava, regardless of what institution or branch of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's tree one is sitting on, will affirm that it is through your books that they were first introduced to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This is just one of the many glories of your contribution.

The Festival of India is centered around Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā. For most of the festivals, the Ratha-yātrā takes place first, finishing at the Festival of India site. During the Festival of India, thousands of plates of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* and pieces of Kṛṣṇa conscious literature are distributed. Outreach to the public is done by lectures, dramas, dances, and congregational chanting of the holy names. In this way the message



of the *Bhāgavatam* is shared with the masses of North America.

This is one aspect, but another aspect is the internal meaning of Ratha-yātrā. What is Ratha-yātrā really? Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā is Kṛṣṇa in Dvārakā feeling immense separation from the *vraja-vāsīs*, in particular the *vraja-gopīs*, and especially Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. Deciding that the only way to alleviate Kṛṣṇa's mood of separation is to take him to Vṛndāvana, Śrī Baladeva and Subhadrā Devī first mount their chariots. This is the procedure for Ratha-yātrā: Baladeva Prabhu's cart is first, then Subhadrā Devī's cart in the middle, and in the back Śrī Jagannātha-deva, completely maddened in separation from the *vraja-vāsīs*. In this mood of bringing Śrī Jagannātha back to Vṛndāvana, we pray to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to please also grant us entrance into the realm of Śrī Vraja Dhāma.

The Festival of India crew.

(written by Praśānta Dasa)

International Society for Cow Protection (ISCOWP)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, our most beloved spiritual master.

There is no glorification we can express that is worthy of you and what you have done for us, your disciples. We can offer our humble service to you for your pleasure, but it seems so small in comparison to your unending mercy upon us, by which we are able to serve the cows and thus serve you.

We would like to report to you some experiences we had while protecting cows that occurred since your last appearance celebration. These events helped us realize the terrifying progression of Kali-yuga in our lifetime and the unique and wondrous position we are in, by your mercy, which allows us to care for cows until their natural death. We are eternally grateful to you and your disciples for inspiring us and helping us care for cows for twenty-three years as the International Society for Cow Protection. Please bless us to continue this service and encourage and help others protect cows until our dying breath.

Kalki Went to Greener Pastures
September 1, 2013

Kalki passed away on Sunday, September 1, 2013. For the past two years Kalki had been suffering from eye cancer. The vet told us that white-faced cows are susceptible to this disease. We have had other cows

with this ailment, and it is eventually terminal, with the cancer spreading throughout the body. Although we tried homeopathy, reiki, operations, etc., on the cows who had this disease, the result was always the same. In Kalki's case her eye cancer did not progress very much during the first year and half, and it was only in the final few months that her condition affected her to the point that it was becoming difficult for her to keep up with the herd. She would often stay back in the barn and listen to a CD of you chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra and *bhajans*.

Balabhadra checks the cows twice a day. When he checked in the evening she was with the herd, but the following morning she was not. He started a search for her, which took him a few hours. He finally found her. She had fallen on an incline with her head facing downward. This is never a good position for a cow, as all the large organs put pressure on the lungs. We figured it did not take long after she fell for her to pass away.

She might have had a stroke from the cancer that made her fall. We had another cow diagnosed with cancer. The vet predicted that she would most likely die of a heart attack before dying of cancer since the cancer had spread throughout her body. Or, Kalki just could have fallen and was too weak to get up. However, she was still strong enough to go out in the pastures with the herd.

Kalki was 19 years old, 95 in human years. We protected her since she was 6 months old, when she came from the New Vrindaban herd. They had many cows at that time and needed help caring for them. Kalki came with Gourangi and Vishaka, and all were about the same age. Kalki was a quiet cow and not one you would notice quickly. She will be most remembered for her final years, when she showed such extreme patience, tolerance, and courage during her disease. Other cows in our herd who have had this ailment became nasty due to the pain and irritation. But not Kalki. She remained pleasant and patient and wouldn't let her health problem get in the way of associating with the rest of the herd. Before and during her disease she was like a big sister to the younger females in the herd.

It should also be mentioned that the other members of the herd did not ostracize her due to the unattractive appearance of her face and the bad odor that sometimes emanated from her cancerous eye. They continued to interact with her just as before, and you could see Kalki and different members of the herd licking each other.

We are thankful that she got to spend a lot of time listening to you chanting the sacred *mahā-mantra* and other *bhajans*. She was lucky not to have to spend her last days lying somewhere waiting for death. Instead she fell while pasturing with the herd, and her demise was therefore swift.

She was one of the cows we were building the Old Cow Shelter for. The shelter was finished the day before she passed away, and she never got to use it. We are thinking of putting up a sign in the barn reading "Kalki's Barn" as a tribute to her.

Broke Our Hearts October 14, 2013

We went to the auction barn Monday, October 14, 2013, and were greatly overwhelmed with sadness and grief at the dark, cramped, impersonal conditions we found the cows in. There was so much noise from the cows mooing in distress and banging up against the stalls they were put into. At times it was deafening.

We spotted a calf that looked very young and was just lying there. We were afraid the calf would be trampled, since there was so much pushing and shoving among the cows. At that point we thought we must save more than one. We then spotted a black heifer that looked fairly peaceful among all the chaos. We wrote down their numbers and went into the auction.

One after another the calves came out—they were all so young, with their umbilical cords still hanging from their bellies. It was so heartbreaking, as they were being slapped around to keep them moving so the buyers could get a good look at them. The bidding went very quickly after the animal's weight was announced. How many such calves are born every day into the meat/dairy industry? How many calves, beautiful and lovely, are valued only for their meat?

We were able to outbid another buyer for the black heifer and the little Holstein calf we'd spotted. After we bought the Holstein calf, a beautiful fawn-colored calf came out, and our four-year-old grandson jumped



out of his seat and said, “I want that one!” We hesitated, but then we bid for him and got him.

We had not planned on bringing home more than one calf. When we got home we had to secure an area for them while they stayed in the trailer. They all looked weak and exhausted, so we began to bottle-feed them. The little Holstein bull calf didn’t know how to suck from the bottle. We then understood that he had been taken straight from his mother at birth and had never sucked her milk. He was that young!

The fawn-colored bull calf sucked the bottle right away and emptied it quickly. The Angus heifer would not take it. She was eating the hay and grain in the trailer. She seemed about four months old and more frightened than the two bull calves. She was older than the other two and seemed to have experienced a lot of abuse, which made her a bit skittish. But she allowed us to pet her, so we feel that her fear can be overcome.

Homage to Ganda
March 15, 2014

Our oldest ox, Ganda, is down after nineteen years of wonderful association and friendship here at ISCOWP Farm. For several years his back legs have been riddled with arthritis, which has made it hard for him to rise from a sitting position. Last summer on pasture he did really well and made it through this last winter without much difficulty. Two weeks ago he went down and couldn’t get up. We were able to get him up with a “come-along” and a tool called “Hip Huggers.” He did all right until three days ago when he could not get up again. This time he was very weak and we couldn’t get him up. He has been taking food and water until this afternoon, when he was too weak to even sit up. He has had Govardhana dust sprinkled on his head. He is wearing a *pavitram* garland from Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva in Māyāpur. Today he had Rādhā-kuṇḍa water sprinkled on him. He has been listening to you chanting *japa* and *bhajans* 24/7.

My feeling is that he will depart tomorrow, which is Gaura Pūrṇimā. I was lying down with him for over an hour this afternoon, and I would be very surprised if he makes it through tomorrow due to his weakened condition. Very auspicious time for departure from this material world.

Ganda was born nineteen years ago in New Vrindavan *dhāma*. We have had him at ISCOWP Farm since his birth. He is a gentleman and such sweet association. Although he was not the “Head Ox” in the herd, he was well respected by all his herdmates as being a gentle soul, and they all treated him as a *sādhu*. When he approached, the herd would part to make way for him. The competing young oxen who challenge each other never challenged Ganda, even though they could defeat him due to his old age. They recognized his position. He is a great soul and has spent his life helping to spread the importance of cow protection in this horrible age known as Kali-yuga.

All glories to Ganda the Ox, a dear friend and humble soul. *Sādhu! Sādhu!*

March 16, 2014

We looked to the barn and saw Mādhava the ox looking over the fence toward our house. He has been standing guard over Ganda for days. He also has been occasionally licking him. We had a sense that Ganda may no longer be alive. Balabhadra went to the barn and found that Ganda had passed away on the auspicious day of Gaura Pūrṇimā.

Like all great *sādhus*, he left a lasting impression of enlightened goodness on those who met him, and especially those who knew him well. It may be difficult to understand how a soul in a bovine body could have such an affect, but he did, and because of who he was we are now empty-hearted. Please pray for Ganda’s spiritual journey to greener pastures.

With gratitude and love,

Your servants at ISCOWP.

(written by Chāyā Devī Dāsī)

ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As predicted by Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the chanting of the holy names is spreading all over the globe. This is a result of the seeds you mercifully sowed during your international travels. You taught by example in so many ways, from cooking to Deity worship, preaching to managing a global religious organization, construction of temples to understanding the heart of the devotees. In this way you expertly set standards and expectations in every sphere of practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Soon we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ISKCON, and it is not uncommon to find three generations of devotees in many founding devotee families. This is indeed very glorious. The propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness has been firmly entrenched worldwide and is changing the face of the world, as we observe devotees passing on this lifestyle to their children, generation to generation, and many newcomers from all walks of life embracing this wonderful process.

You agreed with the saying that “The child is the father of the man.” This saying has so many meanings on so many different levels. First, we understand that the education and training a person gets when a child will determine his or her life as an adult. Second, we realize that children will lead the society when they become adults. Third, they will in due course of time themselves become parents. And fourth, the child will eventually become the “father” of his parents by protecting and serving them in their old age, when the parents become childlike in their dependency and their children take on the role of caregivers.

Hence, the most important persons in society are our children. As such we need to invest in our children, the future leaders of ISKCON and the world.

*gurur na sa syāt sva-jano na sa syāt
pitā na sa syāj jananī na sā syāt
daivaṁ na tat syān na patiś ca sa syān
na mocayed yaḥ samuṣeta-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.” (Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 5.5.18)

For parents to execute this duty successfully, they need to ensure that their children decide to remain in ISKCON when they grow up. To this end, ISKCON’s Central Office of Child Protection recognizes the need to assist devotee parents in insuring that their children experience happy childhood memories, full of love and laughter, opportunities to explore their talents and grow in a healthy, carefree, and safe environment. We pray for your blessings in our endeavors to provide support for all those who interact with children.

We are working closely with the Ministry of Education to assist educators in making our schools safe and in educating children on how to protect themselves from harm. Our network of child protection teams is rapidly growing to meet the needs of the growing child population within ISKCON. Our international headquarters, Māyāpur, is home to more than 900 devotee families and a school population in excess of 1,000—all of whom we pray will remain devotees and be delivered from the cycle of birth and death.

You gave us clear instructions on how to treat children so that they will remain in ISKCON:

If a child is trained properly in Krishna Consciousness, he will never go away. That means he must have two things, love and education. So if there is beating of child, that will be difficult for him

to accept in loving spirit, and when he is old enough he may want to go away—that is the danger.
[Letter to Bhānutanayā, November 1972]

You emphasized the need to show love to children. This is evidenced once again in another letter:

Encourage them to chant as much japa as possible, but there is no question of force or punishment. If there is need you may shake your finger at them but never physical punishment is allowed. Try as far as possible to discipline them with love and affection, so that they develop a taste for austerity of life and think it great fun to serve Krishna in many ways. Rising early and mangal arati, this is enough austerity. Besides that, let them learn something, chant, dance, eat as much prasadam as they like, and do not mind if they have playful nature—let them also play and run, that is natural.
[Letter to Aniruddha, January 1972]

You were perfect in everything you did, and your teachings are perfect. You perfectly understood the nature of children and taught us likewise.

We are simply trying to follow your example and instructions. Our service is to the children of ISKCON, their parents and teachers, and ultimately our ISKCON community. Kindly guide us in all our endeavors.

We also pray that you may bestow on us the intelligence, faith, and strength of mind to deal with the very challenging situations we are sometimes confronted with.

Begging for your mercy,

Your servants at the ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection

(written by Campakalatā Devī Dāsī)

ISKCON Food Relief Foundation

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, who have revealed the sublime vision for spreading the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu in every town and village all over the world!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you were in Māyāpur, you witnessed a group of young children fighting a pack of street dogs for rotting scraps of food. That gruesome and heart-wrenching scene brought tears of compassion to your eyes, and you instructed, “No one within a ten-mile radius of any ISKCON center should go hungry.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in 2004, when we got an offer to feed 900 children every day in the schools of Mumbai, we took it as an opportunity to fulfill your instruction and set up the ISKCON Food Relief Foundation, which is now known as Annamrita. Starting with those 900 children in 2004, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we developed the program until today, by your mercy and empowerment, every day we are serving around 1.2 million meals to underprivileged children across India. Śrīla Prabhupāda, today your compassion is reaching out to millions of needy children, nourishing them mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, last year, in Asia’s second largest slum—known as Malvani, in Mumbai—we participated in an event called Global Impact Day in association with a corporation. We were touched by the tears of gratitude shed by many children, along with the words of appreciation from teachers, principals,

and parents belonging to different castes, colors, and communities. Every one of them glorified ISKCON for its services. We are definitely sure, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that by glorifying your mission all of them must have attracted the mercy of Lord Caitanya and the whole disciple succession.

As the Age of Kali degrades rapidly, we often hear of many calamities. After the recent Bihar midday meal incident, the media visited many of our kitchens and reported on our good work. There were many headlines like “Extend ISKCON’s Services to Rural Areas,” “ISKCON’s Khichdi Is Annamrita,” “Annamrita, a Manna from ISKCON for Hungry Children,” and “Enlist ISKCON for Quality.”

It is so enlivening, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that this project is bringing so much good will to ISKCON. We are reminded of these words of yours:

I am hopeful that if we can widely distribute free foodstuffs to the people of India, by giving it out at our centers as well as by traveling parties to villages, we will win over the whole country and the whole world by this activity on Krishna’s behalf. [Letter to Satyajit, March 1974]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as we stepped into our 10th year and reached the milestone of having served over 1.25 billion meals, we organized a wonderful event called Aabhar to express our gratitude to all the stakeholders. It was really inspiring to hear many government officials appreciating the works of Annamrita.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are amazed to see day by day the confirmation of your words in the purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.12.10:

[A]s far as possible, distribute *prasāda*. This process can be accelerated with the cooperation of state administrators and those who are producing the country’s wealth. Simply by liberal distribution of *prasāda* and *saṅkīrtana*, the whole world can become peaceful and prosperous.

Because of the Annamrita project, many individuals and organizations who would otherwise never interact with us have come forward, supported our activities, and appreciated the results. We are definitely sure that Lord Caitanya must be pleased with them and will surely bless them profusely.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the Annamrita project has opened various other avenues to reach out to many souls through various initiatives mentioned below—souls who otherwise would not have been accessible to Lord Chaitanya’s mercy.

We have been asked by the Bombay Municipal Corporation to take up feeding another 400,000 children in Municipal Schools in Mumbai every day. The Bombay Municipal Corporation has also requested us to set up a kitchen and serve meals to about 450 patients in Cooper Hospital in Mumbai. In association with the Arham Yuva Group from the Jain community, we are serving over 1,750 plates of sanctified food every week. With the support of many corporations and trusts, in many areas across Maharashtra we are providing meals to thousands of children who are mentally and physically handicapped.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, today Annamrita has 20 kitchens in 8 states of India. Six kitchens out of 20 are ISO 22000:2005 certified. The Annamrita project has supported many dedicated *grhastha* devotees by giving them an opportunity to serve your mission.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we hope that you are satisfied with this summary of the Annamrita Project. We seek the shower of your mercy to continue this project. We are sure that nothing else can bring us success.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg for one drop of your enthusiasm and devotional mood. When we feel we’ve done enough, your following statement humbles us and inspires us to work harder for your pleasure:

The temple is managed by Srimati Radharani, Laksmiji; so why should there be want? Our philosophy is, if anyone comes, let him take prasada, chant Hare Krsna and be happy. Everything is being supplied by Krsna, Krsna is not poor, so why we should deny them? This should be done at any cost. There is no difficulty, it simply requires nice management. At the end of the day you may sell or give away. If we believe that Krsna is providing and maintaining everyone, then why should we be misers? This means losing faith in Krsna, and thinking that we are the doers and suppliers. We are



confident Kṛṣṇa will supply! Let the whole world come, we can feed them. [Letter to All ISKCON Temple Presidents, January 1977]

The aspiring servants of your servants at the ISKCON Food Relief Foundation.

(written by Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

ISKCON Television

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

I never understood the idea of how affection can grow in separation. Yet, every year you attract me more. I hear about you, read your books, and associate with your disciples (*dikṣā* and *śikṣā*). I increasingly appreciate your qualities and yearn more for your presence. In the material world, death is final; in spiritual life, death is nonexistent. You are teaching us spiritual life through your seemingly limitless deeds and words. I keep discovering new qualities about you through hearing from devotees and studying your books. You are the gift that keeps on giving. For example, I understood very little about *vipralambha* during your physical presence. After all, you were here! Yet, your corporeal absence has opened the door to further understanding.

I've learned from studying your books, our *ācāryas*, and your *sādhakas* that *vipralambha*, love in separation, expresses itself in four varieties: *pūrva-rāga*, *māna*, *prema-vaicittya*, and *pravāsa*. *Pūrva-rāga* is the separation lovers feel before they actually meet and formally acknowledge their love for one another. *Māna* is the separation that occurs when lovers quarrel with each other. *Pravāsa* is the separation that occurs when lovers are separated by distance and time. And *prema-vaicittya* is an abundance of love that brings about grief from fear of separation, although the lover is present.

Pūrva-rāga can be experienced by hearing about Kṛṣṇa, seeing His picture, or visualizing Him in meditation, while the other three types of separation are fully manifested only after having met Kṛṣṇa personally and having experienced the intensification of one's *sthāyi-bhāva* that takes place in Kṛṣṇa's *prakāṣa-līlā*. Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura further comments: It is essential for the *sādhaka jīvas* to cultivate only the mood of *vipralambha*, and because they have never experienced meeting Kṛṣṇa, their *vipralambha* will come only in the category of *pūrva-rāga*. But without having ever met Kṛṣṇa, how can they experience separation from Him in *pūrva-rāga*? By their hearing the *līlā-kathā* of Śrī Kṛṣṇa from others, *pūrva-rāga* is awakened. This was the case with the *dvija-patnīs*, as well as the ladies of Mathurā before Kṛṣṇa arrived there. Rukmiṇī also had never seen Kṛṣṇa, but by her hearing about Him from Śrī Nārada, *pūrva-rāga* arose within her heart. Thus she became exceedingly anxious to meet Kṛṣṇa. Similarly, by hearing from the guru and Vaiṣṇavas or by reading the *śāstras*, the *jīvas* may have *pūrva-rāga vipralambha* awakened within their hearts.

Yet, in relationship to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our potential for experiencing the waves of bliss go beyond *pūrva-rāga* because you kindly gave us your personal association (sometimes in the form of recorded talks, lectures, and videos). Thus you qualified us for *pravāsa* in relationship to you. You are the merciful pure

devotee who allows us a taste of that highest emotion for which we are woefully unqualified. That is your mercy upon us. And we do miss you terribly—so much so that many of your direct and indirect disciples shed tears of emotional separation when speaking about you. These are droplets of transcendental joy, and each of them is worshipable. I wish to drink that nectar so I can also taste the sweetness of such *vipralambha*, for I am still too fallen to generate it myself.

In pursuing the goal of making Kṛṣṇa conscious commercial feature films, my partner Janādradhi Prabhu and I have made significant progress this year. Scripts are being written, new ideas are being generated, financial contacts are standing by, and our Uplifting Cinema Pvt. Ltd. is finally established. By your inspiration, we have continued to chip away at the obstacles to our productions. We are certain of success by simply relying on your mercy.

On this auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day, I am offering my prostrated obeisances to your lotus feet. May I have the honor of keeping them always on my head.

Your fallen servants at Iskcon Television.

(written by Nṛsiṃhānanda Dāsa)

ISKCONResolve

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

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

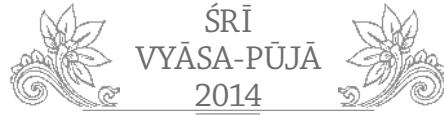
My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

As we sit at the precipice of our lives, we have much to consider. The sum total of all we have done in this life—all we have given, all we disturbed, all we have strengthened, all we have saddened, and more importantly, the consciousness we have developed while doing it, will soon become manifest in our life's conclusion and our moving on from this world. Whether it is in a few days or twenty years, it matters little, since we know better now that this life is very short in any case, and that the pages of our remaining days will turn very quickly.

I have looked back on my life, and I am very grateful, for you have given all of us everything, and we have led such full and exceptional lives in so many respects as a result. I think of the most incredible moments of my life: beautiful preaching moments, the empowerment I have experienced, the incredible alignment of timing, people, and places, and the experiences that have unmistakably shown Kṛṣṇa's hand at work in my tiny, short life. Would we / I have had any of these experiences without you? No.

I think of the taste of Kṛṣṇa consciousness we have experienced—that nectarean taste that is overwhelming, perceptible—and of the conviction and spiritual strength that thus then arise in our hearts. Would we have been enveloped in any way in this mercy without you? No.

I think of the sound of your *japa*, of my *japa*, of the devotees' *japa*—when I am of sound Kṛṣṇa conscious mind, these sound like bees buzzing for honey. I feel the beat and hear the sound of *karatālas* and drums . . .



*tāthāi tāthāi bājalo khol,
ghana ghana tāhe jhājera rol,
preme dhala dhala soṅāra aṅga,
caraṇe nūpura bāje*

And then I remember all of the days performing service to the sound of your *bhajan* as it permeated and floated through the air and ether. Thank goodness, thank Kṛṣṇa, for tape recorders, and even more thank you for your voice on those tape recordings.

I think of the faces of your Lordships as they have appeared across the globe: Śrī Śrī Rādhē-Śyām, Lord Jagannātha, Rādhā-Śaradbihārī, Rādhā-Vrindāvan-Chandra, Rādhā-Kālachandjī, Rādhā-Vrajasundara, Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, Pañca-tattva, Nṛsimhadeva, and Rādhā-Mādhava, just to name a few. I think of the beautiful temples, the devotees who fill them and the devotees who *have* filled them, and the faces of all who visit for our many festivals, which are so uplifting and fun to organize. None of this would have been there without you.

I think of the eternal, multidimensional aspects of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the direct words of the Supreme Lord in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka*, the teachings of Lord Caitanya and His devotees, especially the Six Gosvāmīs and Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja. Would we have heard of these books, read these books, or understood anything of these books without you? Would we have stepped through the pages of these books into the pastimes of the Lord and His devotees without you? No.

Around us there are so many living beings struggling to find purpose and reason in this life. These are Kṛṣṇa's devotees, just as we are, but they are forgetful of their best friend, the Lord of the heart, and so they are confounded by the modes of material nature, unable to reason past the polarities and dualities of life. Yet for us, the lay of the land is clear: we know what is *māyā* and what is Kṛṣṇa, we can see past the dualities and the bodily identification, because you have given us that vision.

In earnest, my wish would be that I could speak with every one of these souls and help awaken and remind them of their love and the true nature of the soul. There is no happiness in this world greater than this, because when I am making that heartfelt connection with others, my heart is engaddened, and it is the one time that I feel certain that I know who I am and why I am here and what my relationship is with Kṛṣṇa. As I hear myself speaking now, I can see that even this I approach from selfish motivation. My apologies, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Why do I choose *māyā* more often than not? I know not why, for my heart is given. Conditioned as I am, my struggle to shake off the bonds of material life has been unforgivably slow, due to my obstinacy. Still, I am here. You have given me a softer, stronger heart and the intelligence to engage in Kṛṣṇa's service, and I do want to be a good devotee, to please you again. May I never be forgetful of all you have given.

That I have anything to give is all due to you—your mercy, your kindness, your patience, your tolerance, your love and affection, your dedication. On this day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I have the opportunity to express that. To share my feelings of gratitude. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

In truth, I *am* eternally indebted to you, as I am to the love of your life, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, and up the disciplic chain. And what a privilege to be so. I think of this often, especially when I get to sit in places like Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī's *samādhi*, Bhaktivinoda Thākura's home in Māyāpur, and the *kuṭīras* of these and other Vaiṣṇavas at various holy locations, especially Rādhā-kuṇḍa. You have given us all this as well.

Thus as I step through the ruins of my existence toward the last days of my life, my broken soul and spirit in your hands, I think of all you have given each of us—especially each other. There are devotees here in this world, some whom I know, others whom I may not be as aware of, who have strengthened and saved my Kṛṣṇa consciousness. They are here because of you, and I am grateful to them as well. Now I must face the consequences of my decisions and actions, and I do not know how many more lifetimes I must be prepared to serve before I will finally cleanse my heart enough to truly begin the process of loving devotional service. Please do not let me go, please allow me to always remain in the service of Guru and Kṛṣṇa, even though I am undeserving.

And this brings me to the final prayer of this text. As I write this offering to you on behalf of ISKCON-Resolve, let me close by saying that in my heart of hearts it is my fervent prayer that we may truly, as a society, come to realize and pave the way for valuing each other, each individual. I do not say this out of dismay, criticism, or sadness, but, genuinely, out of love. May I / we never think it's okay to see another soul leave the company of devotees when a few kind words, a more broadminded approach, some small sacrifice, or some sharing of responsibility could have made a difference. May I / we learn that trust and integrity do not come easily but rather must be worked for one day and one relationship at a time. And may I / we remember that it is our own envy for which we individually suffer. With these understandings in hand, with a genuine understanding and appreciation for all you have given, may your ISKCON society continue to grow beyond our lifetimes and frailties and be the beacon of light, devotion, and integrity for all souls in this world.

With my most humble obeisances, heartfelt love, and prayers for acceptance, I remain the servant of

Your servants at ISKCONResolve.

(written by Sudharmā Devī Dāsī)

Matchless Gifts/Food for All Centre

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I just finished standing in the middle of a massive *harināma* party in Amsterdam, a gathering that transformed into a massive street party for the celebration of King's Day. I was surrounded by about 150 devotees, many of whom were young boys and girls whose presence gave me hope that the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement is moving. Many were fired-up dancing *brahmacārīs* in saffron robes, and their energy was contagious, robbing the general public of their self-control so that they too were caught up in the dancing frenzy.

I and my crew traveled seven hundred miles in an old van to be here, and nobody complained about anything—not the lack of sleep, the lack of facilities, etc. It would have been worth traveling seven *thousand* miles for the holy-name chanting and *sādhu-saṅga* we experienced on the streets of Amsterdam. For eight hours sin city felt like a holy *dhāma*.

On our spiritual paths we are sure to meet many hurdles, many obstacles, many difficulties, but our saving grace is your special gift to us, this wonderful *mahā-mantra*: Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servants at Matchless Gifts / Food for All Centre, London, UK.

(written by Paraśurāma Dāsa)

Māyāpur Development Service

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories onto you on the auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

I never met Your Divine Grace personally, but I met you through one of your books, *The Science of Self-Realization*. I was in an existential crisis of my life, so I prayed to Jesus, who was the only one whom I knew to pray to at the time: “Please, O lord, show me the truth of life.”

And the very next day I met one of your devotees selling your books on the streets of Copenhagen. He convinced me to buy a book, which turned out to be *The Science of Self-Realization*, translated into Danish.

I started reading the book and couldn’t put it down. By your grace I immediately understood that I had found the truth. Half a year later I moved into the temple.

This incident proves your oft-repeated words that your *vāṇī* are more important than your *vapuḥ*. You will live on in your books. Only a spiritually empowered, pure representative of Kṛṣṇa can have that effect.

I am eternally grateful to your disciples and granddisciples in ISKCON and the BBT who, despite all odds, are carrying on your mission to respiritualize mankind. Even though you had already left the planet, you still came and saved me through your instructions. That wouldn’t have happened if not for your dedicated followers, who delivered me to you.

Since your departure, the movement you established has faced many problems, but that is only to be expected. They are merely the birth pangs of ISKCON, as I see it. You are the only disciple of Śrīla Bhakti-siddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura who was able to fulfill the prophecy of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the *ācāryas* that Kṛṣṇa’s name would be heard in every town and village.

On this glorious day, please bless me that I may remain your follower life after life and stay in the association of your loyal disciples. All glories to Your Divine Grace, to ISKCON, and to the BBT.

Your ever-grateful servants at the Māyāpur Development Service.

(written by Jahnuvīpa Dāsa)

Museum of Sacred Art

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

I feel honored to be able to write to you on your most auspicious appearance day. I have been serving your mission for over thirty years and have had the opportunity to perform many different services in your ISKCON movement. By your mercy I am still able to serve you despite my many shortcomings. One of the latest services I have started is MOSA (Museum of Sacred Art), a visual art initiative to enhance ISKCON art and artists and connect your movement with the larger Vaiṣṇava and spiritual art community. We have set very ambitious goals for ourselves, one of which is promoting ISKCON artists and Indian artists who produce works on the theme of devotion and spirituality by organizing exhibits at ISKCON temples or at major museums throughout the world. We also want to publish catalogues and books that showcase all these artists. You introduced Vaiṣṇava art in the West and made sure that all your books were lavishly illustrated by engaging many of your disciples in creating artworks. MOSA is an attempt to keep this desire of yours alive.

Many talented devotees are producing wonderful paintings depicting the Lord's pastimes, or sometimes your pastimes while you were present on this planet. Some of these artists include Dhṛti Dāsī, Rāma Dāsa, Puṣkara Dāsa, Bhaktisiddhānta Dāsa, Janāñjana dasa, Saccidānanda Dāsa, Vṛndāvana Dāsa, Dṛdhavrata Dāsa, and Parama Dāsa, and there are many others. Many others take care of the museum facilities, storage, inventory, publications, and websites, such as Pāṇḍu Putra dasa, Rāya Rāmānanda Dāsa, Bhakta Phelalni, Bhaktin Anushka, Mandira Dāsī, Gītā Dāsī, Draupadī Dāsī, and Dinadayal, among others.

Although MOSA is based in Radhadesh, Belgium, one of your most wonderful temples in the Western world, we are also working at establishing MOSA facilities in other important temples like Villa Vṛndāvana and Māyāpur.

We pray that this new initiative will please you and receive your blessings, and that we remain inspired by your example of tireless, unconditional devotional service to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Lord Caitanya. May all the previous *ācāryas* you so expertly served be satisfied with our humble attempt at spreading Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism through the visual arts.

Your humble servants at the Museum of Sacred Art, Radhadesh, Belgium.

(written by Mahāprabhu Dāsa)

Padayātrā Worldwide

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.

All glories to you, Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurasundara's *senāpati-bhakta*, who continue to travel to different parts of the world and touch people's hearts as you gaze out from the *padayātrā* carts in your *mūrti* form. Quite a few onlookers wonder why you don't reply to them or make any gesture. What better confirmation can there be that your presence is felt?

The *padayātrā* spirit you implanted in my heart and the hearts of other ISKCON devotees is alive and growing, sometimes without our even realizing it. We experienced this at the recent ISKCON Leadership Saṅga in Māyāpur, during which we hosted a couple of seminars on *padayātrā* and had a booth. There we heard for the first time that *padayātrās* had been organized in Lithuania and South Africa for the past few years. Really very pleasant surprises! Since the beginning of 2014 we have been on a campaign to offer you fifty *padayātrās* by the end of 2016, the year in which we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of your founding ISKCON. We constantly talk about and promote *padayātrā*, mainly through our annual newsletter and website.

We are doing everything possible to launch our two books, *Vraja Maṇḍala Darśana* and *The Padayātrā Story*, by the end of this year. *The Padayātrā Story* contains the narrations of devotees of many nationalities who have gathered first-hand experience by walking hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of kilometers on the roads and highways of more than one hundred countries. These walks take them through diverse cultures and religious traditions. The first part of the book presents the tradition of *padayātrā*, Lord Caitanya's peripatetic travels in India, and your instructions on *padayātrā*. The central section takes the reader to all the main walks: the first Bhaktivedanta bullock-cart traveling *saṅkīrtana* party from Vṛndāvana to Māyāpur (1976–77), Lord Caitanya's phenomenal 500th anniversary *padayātrā* from Dvārakā to Māyāpur (1984–1986), the worldwide *padayātrā* explosion during the Centennial years (1992–1996), and the new, occasional, and regular *padayātrās* taking place from 1996 till today. Besides serving as history for future



generations of devotees on all continents, this voluminous book will keep readers enthralled with accounts of hundreds of adventures and even miracles. The last section contains all the best *padayātrā* stories. I am certain these narrations will inspire devotees for many decades, and perhaps centuries.

As the saying goes, “You’ve got to walk your talk.” Talking about *padayātrā* has its place, of course, but tangible results are also important. As far as the fifty-walk offering goes, we already have serious commitments for thirty-five *padayātrās* on all continents, and we’ve heard from devotees interested in organizing one in ten other places. Two *padayātrās* have already been on the road for a long time: Padayātrā India since 1984 and Padayātrā Andhra Pradesh since the end of 2012. Right at this very moment there is a *padayātrā* on the road in Maharashtra to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Lord Caitanya’s tour of that state. They are following the concluding part of the route of Lord Caitanya’s travels through South India. This *padayātrā* is on its last stretch of that route. Not only have they created an awareness of Lord Caitanya’s travels through these places, but an opportunity has been created to perform *kīrtana* as the Lord Himself did. Lord Caitanya and Nityānanda Prabhu are *saṅkīrtanaika-pitarau*, the founding fathers of the *saṅkīrtana* movement and *padayātrā*. Since Their mode of transport was walking, they created the “walking festival,” in which They walked, chanted, and danced. Our *padayātrās* worldwide are just a continuation of this walking festival Lord Caitanya inaugurated.

Many walks are annual happenings, and these include *padayātrās* in the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Mauritius, Guyana, and Orissa, and also the four Dindi walks to the holy city of Pandharpur in Maharashtra. Kārttika 2014 will mark ISKCON’s 28th Vraja-maṇḍala *parīkramā*, and also Paraśurāma Dāsa’s 20th Kārttika bullock-cart *padayātrā* through the twelve forests of Vṛndāvana. Bhaktimārga Swami, “the walking monk,” is on his fourth solo walk across Canada, befriending numerous souls on the way. He is planning a few walks in the US, from Boston to New York and from New York to Butler, in 2015, and one from New York to San Francisco in 2016.

Padayātrā India is often affectionately referred to as “the mother of all *padayātrās*” because it has provided inspiration for ISKCON devotees and leaders around the world since its inception in 1976, and especially since the phenomenal 1984-1986 walk from Dvārakā to Māyāpur. I hope you will be pleased to hear that Padayātrā India continues to engender more and more offspring on the subcontinent. Devotees in Goa and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) are preparing for another walk, and others are planning *padayātrās* in Kerala, Tripura, Chennai (Tamil Nadu), and Bangalore (Karnataka). We pray that one day there will be a *padayātrā* in every state in India.

Another sign of hope for the future is that we are seeing that many young devotees who have imbibed the *padayātrā* spirit want to keep it alive. We met two of them in Māyāpur, Nṛsimha Caitanya Dāsa and Jāhnavī Dāsī, respectively the son and daughter of *padayātrā* leaders. Nṛsimha Caitanya Dāsa, son of Muni Priya Dāsa, has been assisting his father in organizing annual walks in the Czech Republic. Jāhnavī Dāsī, daughter of Jagad Vicitra Dāsa from Brazil, has very fond childhood memories of *padayātrā* and is willing to assist the effort in whatever way she can. I’m sure there are many other second-generation devotees whom we haven’t heard from yet and who are set to push on this *padayātrā* program in the decades to come.

If modern society completely collapses, we know that there is one thing in Kali-yuga that will be successful, viz., the spreading of the holy names of the Lord. And if one day there is no more petrol, there will always be some oxen to pull the *padayātrā* carts.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said, “Keep the *padayātrā* spirit alive.” We beg for your mercy so we can inspire leaders and devotees all around the world to do just that.

Śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana kī jaya! Long live Padayātrā Worldwide!

Your servants at Padayātrā Worldwide.

(written by Lokanāth Swami and Gaurāṅgī Devī Dāsī)

Phuket

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are trying to be your servants, but we are residing in a place that is not fit for any gentleman. Certainly it is due to our past sinful activities that we were destined to live in this wicked place to earn our livelihood. It is only by your causeless mercy that we have had the good fortune to contact the devotees of your mission, and we are very happy to have their association.

Our working schedule is not very suitable for our practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We have to be in our shops until midnight, as that is the way of life here. Despite this we still hold regular classes and *kīrtanas*, but the programs begin at 11:00 pm and go until 1:00 am. Obviously, this is not the best time of the day for hearing and chanting, but it is the most suitable time for our devotees to come. We have been able to attract more and more young people, and we hope that they will go on to become good devotees.

Please bestow one drop of your infinite mercy on all of us here and bless us that we may do some useful service for Your Divine Grace.

Your servants at ISKCON Phuket, Thailand.

Prabhupāda Village

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

In a *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class you gave in Los Angeles in 1972, you said that Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa comes into this material world and asks, “My dear boys, why you are going to hell in this way? Please surrender and come home.”

But only a few very fortunate individuals can directly hear the words emanating from the lotus mouth of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, or personally witness His extraordinary activities in this material world. Being extremely merciful, the Lord makes further arrangements to attract the fallen souls through the revealed scriptures and, more personally, by the grace of His pure, unalloyed devotees. Being saddened by the superficial happiness of humanity, what to speak of their suffering (*kṛpāmbudhir yaḥ para-duḥkha-duḥkhi*), such merciful and empowered Vaiṣṇavas work to free us from the clutches of *māyā*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is clear that you are such a rare empowered pure devotee because you have transformed and continue to transform the lives of people all over the planet by giving them Kṛṣṇa. In the words of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāra, tomāra śakati āche*: “Kṛṣṇa is yours. You are able to give Him to me, for such is your power.” From the very beginning of your mission you were able to induce others to take up the chanting of the holy name with all seriousness. Not only have you given us the

opportunity to immediately transcend this material world, which is full of misery, but you have kindly taken the trouble to guide us in every aspect of devotional life.

Although we had practically no information about God and no philosophy of life, and though we were full of so many misconceptions, you were able to convince us that Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the highest form of the Absolute Truth. All of your explanations, analogies, and *paramparā* arguments make perfect sense. In previous ages the philosophical treatises found in the Vedic literature were unavailable to common men. You have given us the cream of the Vedic *śāstra*—the *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, and other important texts—in a format that any reasonably intelligent person can understand.

Today communication technology has enabled your books, lectures, conversations, and images to become more widely available than ever before. Your books are, of course, the basis of your international society, and as long as your society remains, you will be at the helm as our loving founder-*ācārya*. It is indeed quite foreseeable that with the help of your sincere followers you will lead the masses through the brightest of all eras within the darkest of all ages. *Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

We have named our community after Your Divine Grace, and now we humbly prostrate ourselves before you, praying for the strength and intelligence to make this village worthy of the name it bears.

We beg to remain

Your servants at Prabhupāda Village, North Carolina, USA.

(written by Jaya Gaurasundara Dāsa)

Radio Krishna Centrale

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

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

Most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances. We bow down again and again in the dust of your lotus feet. Please allow us to spread some of that dust of mercy upon our heads and thus become eternally blessed.

Over and above anyone else, you've been so much empowered by Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi that even a blind person can't avoid seeing it.

Yet at the same time you are so kind, merciful, and humble that with kind words you have often revealed your thoughts about all of those who follow Your Divine Grace:

I went to your country with a mission and you all good souls were sent by Kṛṣṇa to me. So let us cooperatively work together to vigorously spread Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, to the suffering humanity at large. [Letter to Umāpati, October 1967]

In the Western world, Kṛṣṇa has sent me some good souls like you, and I hope, even in my absence, that the spirit of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness will be spread. [Letter to Satsvarūpa, August 1967]

What he desired, I am trying little bit, and you are all helping me. So I have to thank you more. You are actually representative of my Guru Mahārāja [Śrīla Prabhupāda's voice is choked with emotion] because you are helping me in executing the order of my Guru Mahārāja. [Lecture on the disappearance day of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura, Los Angeles, 13 December 1973]

He is so kind upon me that when I came to your country, where I was completely unknown, He sent to me some good souls like you unsolicited. So I accept you all as assistants or representatives of my Guru Maharaja Who is still helping me because I am so feeble and unworthy. [Letter to Hayagriva, January 1970]

You are doing so much for fulfilling the desire of my Spiritual Master so you are indirectly the representative of my Guru Maharaja. He has been helping me in this matter by sending so many young boys and girls, otherwise who would help me in this mission while I came here empty handed and without any friend. I can only pray to Kṛṣṇa to take care of you, otherwise I cannot repay your sincere service in my mission. [Letter to Bali-mārdana, February 1970]

My Spiritual Master knew it that alone I could not do this great work. Therefore He has very kindly sent you all to help me in this task. I accept you therefore as representatives of my Guru Maharaja playing as my affectionate disciples. [Letter to "My dear beloved Children," August 1972]

Whatever I have been able to do all over the world it has been due to the help all of you, my disciples, have given me. [Letter to Karandhara, October 1973]

By distributing my books profusely you are giving me great encouragement to translate. And you are all helping me to fulfill the order which Guru Maharaja gave me. So I am so much grateful to you, and I am sure Kṛṣṇa will bless you a million times over, for doing this work. [Letter to Keśava, January 1972]

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, in truth we know—and surely each one of us has individually realized—that none of us is really “helping” Your Divine Grace. Actually it is just the opposite. You are the one who are helping everybody.

It is an evident fact that you have the Supreme Lord on your side, just as the unalloyed devotee Arjuna had Śrī Kṛṣṇa on his chariot. Therefore you have the power to perform any superhuman task and certainly do not need our so-called help. In fact, often our “help” has turned out to be a hindrance and headache for Your Divine Grace.

Actually it is you who are helping each of us by giving us instructions and allowing us to be engaged as Your Divine Grace's humble servants.

Within your ISKCON movement the devotees call each other Prabhu (“master”). Why? Because each one sees himself as your loving servant and sees every other devotee working to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every nook and corner of the world, following your example, as extensions or expansions of Your Divine Grace.

We should get spiritual enthusiasm, pleasure, and excitement from attentively studying all about Your Divine Grace's specific vision, instructions, and practical application regarding every single aspect of how to spread pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness. And then we should try our best to replicate what you did by acting in exactly the same way you have instructed us to and demonstrated, according to time, place, and circumstance.

We will not succeed by exercising our individual or group inventive mood and thus feeling ourselves materially fulfilled and gratified. No matter what superficial results we believe we have achieved according to our own point of view or the popular view, ultimately we will fail. Or, the worst will be that we become “over-intelligent” and ruinously fall down into the conviction that our way is better than yours and fool ourselves into thinking that “If Śrīla Prabhupāda were here today, he would change his mind and agree with us.”

Please, O lord and master, save us from such terribly detrimental ideas!

Real intelligence consists of coming to the deliberate conclusion that since you are an unalloyed devotee of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, whatever Your Divine Grace decides to do for the Lord's transcendental pleasure is totally accepted by Him and therefore reflects Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī's sentiment. In other words, since you are perfect and infallible, so is whatever you do for Kṛṣṇa's pleasure.

Without any doubt every one of us should hanker to become a better and better servant and desire to do something greatly satisfying for Your Divine Grace. But, talking for myself, at the present stage, if I do not experience transcendental pleasure—or at least satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment—by slavishly serving Your Divine Grace according to your vision and clearly detailed guidelines, but at the same time I am enthused by being innovative, somehow self-confident that my own so-called progressive ideas are best, then I should definitely realize that my spiritual position is immature and I still have a long way to go.

I have also come here under the order of my Spiritual Master who is non-different from Lord Nityānanda. You are all helping me in the execution of my mission so please do not try to do anything beyond the jurisdiction of my instructions. [Letter to Makhanlāl, June 1970]

Your Divine Grace is the founder-*ācārya* of this great Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, endowed with divine intelligence completely free from any tinge of mundane consciousness.

An *ācārya* who comes for the service of the Lord cannot be expected to conform to a stereotype, for he must find the ways and means by which Kṛṣṇa consciousness may be spread. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 7.31–32, purport)

You have already brought about all the necessary “progressive ways” to perfectly spread pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness at every level in the present world's societies. We shouldn't think that we can do it better or differently. You once graciously said that you gave us the framework and we have to fill it in, but this must be unequivocally done according to your ideas, not ours. You have already given us all the parts to assemble. Nothing is missing.

[T]here is great need of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the human society. Those who are actually welfare workers, they should come forward and join this movement to spread it. . . . This is the best, supermost welfare activity in the world, spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. [*Nectar of Devotion* lectures, Vṛndāvana, November 1972]

[I]f you read these literatures carefully you will realize the topmost science of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and be more inspired to spread the same to all persons as their real welfare benefit. [Letter to Baṅsīdhārī, November 1970]

I am gradually realizing that my attempt in this country to spread Krishna Consciousness has now taken some root, and I am sure this will grow more and more 'til it reaches the Lotus Feet of Krishna in Goloka Vrindaban. Actually, our most Beloved Object is Krishna. Our love reposed on anything within our experience is due to our ultimate love for Krishna. People are trying to love the branches and leaves without taking care of the root. But when water is poured down on the root, the branches and leaves automatically become luxurious. This philosophy of taking care of the Supreme is missing in the modern civilization. They do philanthropic work, humanitarian work, national work, social work and many similar other works; now ultimately they have invented the United Nations and world health organizations. But all these attempts are exactly the same process as to water the leaves and the twigs. They don't know the missing point: Krishna. So we have got very great responsibility to spread Krishna Consciousness throughout the world. [Letter to Madhudviṣa, August 1969]

Our plan is not to sponsor the Hindus or any other individual group. Our real purpose is to spread



Krishna Consciousness. This means that there is one God: Krishna, there is one scripture: Bhagavad-gita As It Is, there is one mantra: Hare Krishna, and there is one work: service of Lord Krishna. [Letter to Yamunā, May 1969]

I am very glad that you understand the importance of these books. Let us try to distribute them far and wide, as many as possible, and that is solid spiritual information or real preaching work. We stand on our Krishna philosophy, and because it has the full potency of Krishna Himself, there is no limit to the effect it will have upon the world if we remain sincere and convinced for spreading this philosophy purely. [Letter to Bahulāśva, November 1971]

You wanted us to become dear to Śrī Kṛṣṇa:

It is an open secret, anyone who helps spread Krishna consciousness becomes very dear to Krishna. Others are simply wasting time in the valuable human form of life. [Letter to Mr. Karsan, December 1976]

[J]ust do the needful and think always in your mind how much what you are doing will be pleasing to Kṛṣṇa. That standard for pleasing Kṛṣṇa is simply to spread this Kṛṣṇa Consciousness message far and wide all over the globe. [Letter to Prahlādānanda, January 1973]

Therefore one has to accept the shelter of a bona fide spiritual master and agree to be directed by him. The first business of a pure devotee is to satisfy his spiritual master, whose only business is to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. And if one can satisfy the spiritual master, Kṛṣṇa is automatically satisfied—*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādah*. [Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 19.167, purport]

By the will of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Śrī Kṛṣṇa and by your own desire and mercy, you have descended into this material world to bring us lost and fallen souls back home, back to Godhead, and restore us in our original constitutional position as loving servants of the Lord, and you are doing it by allowing us to serve Your Divine Grace despite our complete lack of qualifications. Still, you genuinely feel that *we* are the ones helping *you*!

You are an amazing personality. You are a resident of Kṛṣṇaloka who have come to overflow the whole world with love of Godhead. You are *jagad-guru*.

After giving up this body, we do not accept anymore material body, provided we become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious. At the time of death, if we simply remember Kṛṣṇa, *yaṁ yaṁ vāpi smaran bhāvaṁ tyajaty ante kalevaram*. That is the highest perfection of life, simply to remember Kṛṣṇa.

... If we can consciously remember Kṛṣṇa: “Whatever was possible for me, I have tried to execute. Now this is the last stage. You do whatever You like. That’s all.” But Kṛṣṇa is very kind. He will at once take you back to home, back to Godhead. *Ante nārāyaṇa smṛti*. This is the highest perfection of life. Therefore we have to practice:

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

By practicing *sadā tad-bhāva-bhāvitaḥ*, this is required. Always think, *man-manā bhava mad-bhaktaḥ*. Kṛṣṇa advises, “Always think of Me.” Where is the difficulty? We have to think of something. We cannot keep our mind vacant. That is not possible. So make it a point to think of Kṛṣṇa, that’s all. Think of Kṛṣṇa, and if you chant, if you engage your tongue, “Hare Kṛṣṇa,” and if you hear, then everything is compact in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. [Lecture on *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 1.14, Māyāpur, 7 April 1975]

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we wholly belong to Your Divine Grace. For all of us you are and will remain forever our lord and supreme authority—eternally, life after life.

We want to keep our consciousness always purified by hearing only the words emanating from your lotus mouth.

You are our life and soul, and we exist only because of your mercy.

We again and again pray with all intensity to Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and the whole *guru-paramparā* to please never let us forget His Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Please let us always remember his instructions and wonderful pastimes.

Please assure us the strength to always remain engaged in the loving service of His Divine Grace's lotus feet so that we can forever keep His Divine Grace's sublime association.

Please make this our only desire, in this life and in all the lives to come.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

Your menial servants at Radio Krishna Centrale, Terni, Italy.

(written by Tridaṇḍi Dāsa)

Sahyādri Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Kṣetra

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your Divine Grace has given us the jewel of knowledge in all your writings, and one need only understand it and practice it in one's life to make his life perfect and also bring others' lives to perfection.

Your Divine Grace has taught the importance of the *daiva-varṇāśrama* mission to help establish peace, prosperity, harmony, and perfection in society. Trying to make your *daiva-varṇāśrama* mission a reality, we devotees serving here are begging for your complete guidance, mercy, and blessings.

We consider ourselves most fortunate to work under the direction of Your Divine Grace's dear servant His Holiness Bhakti Rāghava Swami, who is serving as the minister for ISKCON's Daiva Varṇāśrama Ministry in India.

We are pleased to offer the following report at Your Divine Grace's lotus feet as a small step toward the establishment of the *daiva-varṇāśrama* mission in our small community here.

Village Technology

1. We commissioned the construction of a pump to pump water from the well. It's run with the help of bulls and irrigates our agricultural fields.

2. We installed a jaggery-making unit, which is able to extract juice from sugarcane, and which is also run with the help of bulls. By boiling the juice, we make jaggery (*gur*).

3. We installed an oil-making unit to squeeze out oil in a cold-pressing process, again run by the bulls.

4. We installed two gobar-gas plants that supply the required gas for cooking and making *pañca-gavya* medicines.

5. We constructed a unit that makes soap from wood ashes to wash clothes.

6. We installed a *chunna ghani* (a lime-mortar unit) run by bulls, which makes lime mortar for binding bricks.



Agriculture

1. We were able to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of organic rice and *gur*.
2. We had a good harvest of mangoes, guavas, coconuts, cashews, and jackfruit.
3. We made a garden by composting waste from the kitchen, bath washing, etc.

Cow Protection

1. We have adopted the method of kraaling, i.e., letting the cows and bulls wander freely in a corral without tying to rope them; they can graze or take rest when they want. This has improved their maintenance and fertility of the soil.
2. We now have a total of forty cows and bulls.
3. We renovated the cow shed for the rainy season.

Varṇāśrama College

1. About fifteen devotees attended the general Varṇāśrama College courses in various subjects such as *dharma*, cow protection, agriculture, construction, *pañca-gavya* medicines, and education.
2. Our seasonal Varṇāśrama Course in paddy cultivation runs for a month, starting on May 15th.
3. The next seasonal course in *varṇāśrama* will be on harvesting, given in the month of October.

Future Plans

1. We plan to become totally self-sufficient in rice, sugar, and vegetables.
2. We plan to construct the Śrī Śrī Kānāi-Dauji Temple, a *brahmacārī āśrama*, and a *grhastha āśrama* using only locally available materials, without using cement, concrete, steel, or any other modern industrial products.

On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the devotees serving here at the Hebri farm pray at your lotus feet to guide us toward achieving the goals set by you for establishing *varṇāśrama* and guiding human society away from the grips of Kali-yuga.

Your servants at Sahyādri Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Kṣetra, ISKCON's varṇāśrama farm project at Hebri, Udupi District, Karnataka, India.

Siem Reap Preaching Centre

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by the mercy of our senior devotees here, we are fortunate to have been given the chance to write this offering to Your Divine Grace, despite our incapability and insignificant service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you set the perfect example of how the disciple must act to please the spiritual master. With great determination you spread devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa throughout this world. By your determination you planted the seeds of *bhakti* in the hearts of thousands of people. You are the *jagad-guru* of the present Age of Quarrel.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Your Divine Grace introduced young people to the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Previously they knew nothing about Kṛṣṇa. By your mercy, these energetic young people worked hard to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others under your direction, and as a result Lord Kṛṣṇa is now being glorified everywhere.

Here in Cambodia we are also trying to share this knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with young people, following in your footsteps. Please be merciful to us and bless us with the ability to do so and remain submissive in your service. The residents of Cambodia are now mostly young people. Please kindly be merciful to them so that they can come in contact with the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are very expert in dealing with young people; please help us inspire them to take up this *bhakti* movement. In that way, in a very short time they will become purified, relish the higher taste of *bhakti*, and leave behind all their bad habits.

This nation of Cambodia has a close relationship with India's Vedic culture. Cambodians are very fortunate because of the presence of Angkor Wat, which was previously known as Parama Vishnuloka. As a temple built for the worship of Lord Viṣṇu as the Supreme, Angkor Wat attracts huge numbers of people from around the world. Your Divine Grace has explained that because Lord Kṛṣṇa is all-attractive, things related to Him are also all-attractive. Please be merciful to us so that we can continue serving here in the land of Parama Vishnuloka. Hopefully Lord Kṛṣṇa will give us clear direction and infuse us with a greater desire to engage in His service and your service to spread the message of Godhead embodied in this verse by Lord Brahmā:

*īśvaraḥ paramaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ sac-cid-ānanda-vigrahaḥ
 anādir ādir govindaḥ sarva-kāraṇa-kāraṇam*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you showed by your example how to act properly in different situations to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Now, in the Siem Reap preaching center, we have to deal with different persons with different natures. Please bless us so that we can learn how to engage them properly in Kṛṣṇa's service. In this way we may become worthy representatives of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement in Cambodia.

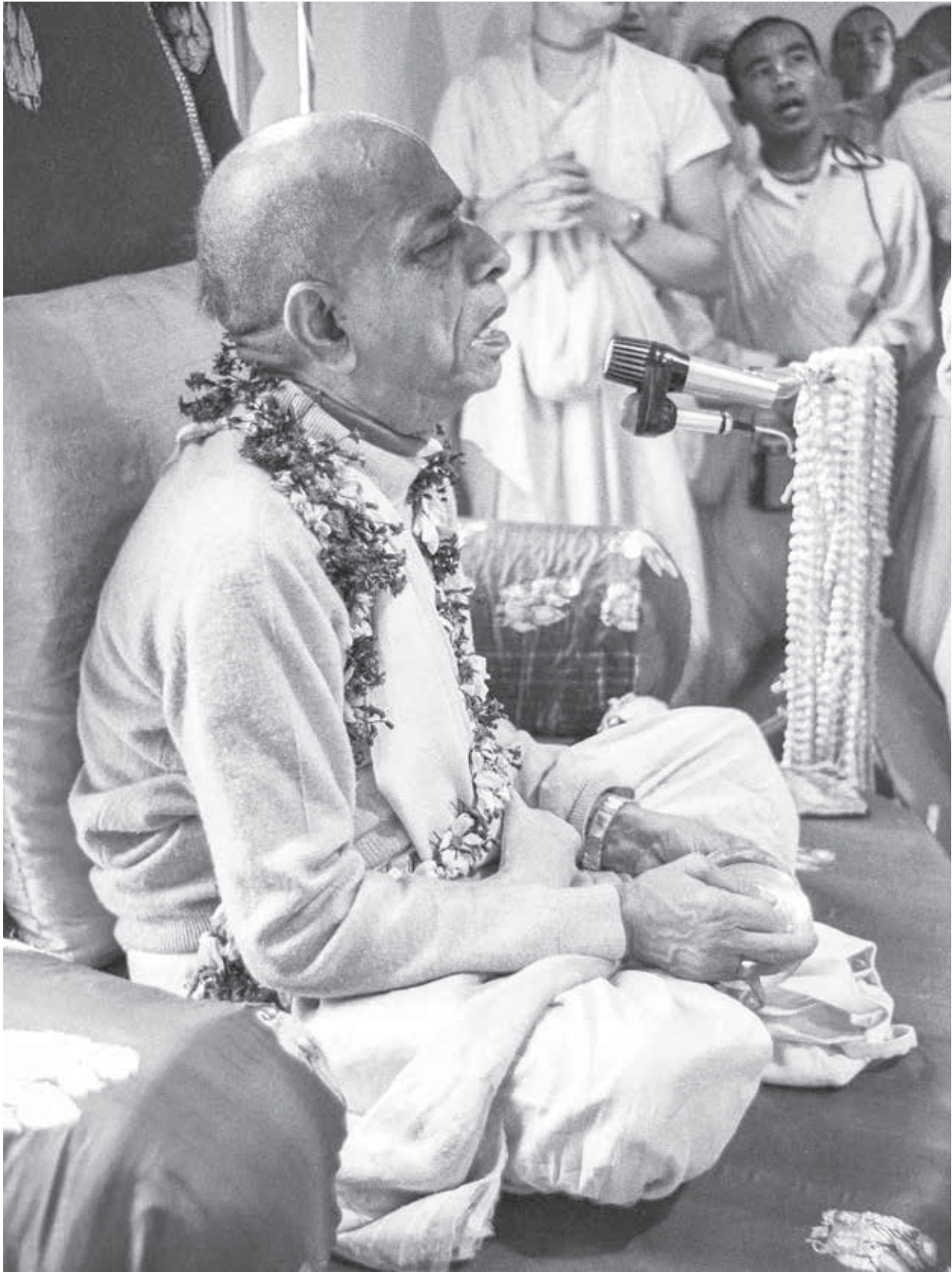
Śrīla Prabhupāda, this is the first year in which we were given permission to legally set up a book table on the occasion of the Khmer New Year. Hopefully over time more and more people will become aware of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. We are praying to you for the protection of Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva as we preach.

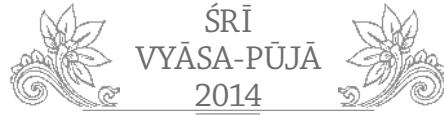
Śrīla Prabhupāda, you encouraged us to distribute *prasādam*, the "secret weapon" to attract people in general to devotional service.

*catur-vidha-śrī-bhagavat-prasāda-
 svādv-anna-tṛptān hari-bhakta-saṅghān
 kṛtvaiva tṛptim bhajataḥ sadaiva
 vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāvinda*

We have been distributing *prasādam* in a small way to people here in Siem Reap, along with our *saṅkīrtana* and book distribution efforts. Also, we distribute *prasādam* to different gatherings of people.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to you that for the next Khmer New Year's celebration (around mid April) we will get a booth so that we can distribute books, have *kīrtana*, and distribute *prasādam*. This festival in Siem





Reap presents us with a huge gathering of people coming from different provinces. Please be merciful to us so that Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi will bless us with the intelligence to conduct this event. If we can get a booth at this festival, many devotees from various parts of the world can come to participate in this event. In this way, many Cambodians will be attracted to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and experience its nectarean taste.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*
Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurāṅga *kī jaya!*
Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants at the Siem Reap Preaching Centre, Kingdom of Cambodia.

Solapur Nāma-haṭṭa

Prabhupāda and We

Prabhupāda! Our dear lord, all glories unto you,
for you are very dear to the Lord, who belongs to you.
Ruling over the ever-expanding kingdom of ISKCON,
you impart your loving, selfless, merciful instruction.
Almighty's power-incarnation, on this earth you appeared;
by your mighty actions devotees' pains disappeared.
Bold and innovative are your preaching practices;
your followers succeed by following those brilliant tactics.
Harmony you brought among devotees of every race;
thus invincible, powerful Māyā hid her face.
United nations in the true sense, here you made it possible;
the faults of all the barking leaders you made clearly visible.
Personality of Godhead is accessible by your divine grace—
by your simple and practical way of devotional service.
Attacking Māyāvādīs, you ensured the safety of devotees
and showed them to strictly stick to only pure Kṛṣṇa-service.
Distribution of your books, you said, was the topmost service,
without which there would be no preaching, devotees, or temples.
Arriving in New York as a pauper, in truth you were the richest
by your divine knowledge and qualities, which are the best.

And we, O Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the shameless and the thoughtless,
Plundering your riches for our sense gratification, though senseless.
Neither are we remembering your mission of pure devotional service;
We're eating up your movement by our fights among ourselves.
Demanding more power, territory, and dominion over devotees,
We're after petty material things, forgetting your liberating divine teachings.

We are venomous, ever envious snakes committing offenses unto the divine;
Though growing on your milk, we're busy collecting more and more poison.
End this all, O Śrīla Prabhupāda, for you are the only savior of all,
by reappearing in our hearts to redirect and re-inspire one and all.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our countless obeisances unto you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please excuse us for our misbehavior. We are mindlessly doing things you did not intend us to do. You gave us a safe place to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness so that we can be saved from the onslaught of Kali-yuga. But we deviated for our selfish reasons, rushing into the jurisdiction of Kali.

Who is the culprit? We ourselves. Who is to blame? Only we. Who is responsible for this mess? We ourselves. And who can give us the remedy? Only you! Only you can save us and give us back our life, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, please excuse us one more time and guide us with your timeless divine teachings. Please empower us so that we will never again deviate from your teachings.

We promise that from now on we shall not commit any offenses and will be always with you. Please give us one last chance to stay with you in your ISKCON kingdom as obedient citizens, submissive to you, the previous ācāryas, and the Supreme Lord. Or else we must understand the consequences, which Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself speaks of in *Bhagavad-gītā* 16.19:

*tān ahaṁ dviṣataḥ krūrān saṁsāreṣu narādhamān
kṣipāmy ajasram aśubhān āsurīṣu eva yoniṣu*

“Those who are envious and mischievous, who are the lowest among men, I perpetually cast into the ocean of material existence, into various demoniac species of life.”

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, you made us devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa from the category of *dviṣatas*, *narādhamas*, and *asuras*, but we—the most wretched and unfortunate ones—have been willing to take U-turn.

We pray at your lotus feet to please save us from this U-turn and put us on “you-turn,” that is, on your sublime path.

We are ever indebted to you for everything you did for us. Thank you very much.

Your hopeful servants in the Solapur Nāma-haṭṭa, Maharashtra, India.

(written by Śūrasena Dāsa)

Ultimate Self-Realization Course

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet and our thanks to you from the depths of our hearts for the unlimited causeless mercy you are bestowing upon us at every minute.

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu came here and started something that we cannot fully grasp. He is pouring out oceans of *kṛṣṇa-prema* water, and this water is making the world’s biggest tsunami. Although this tsunami is unseen by the untrained eye, it is slowly inundating the entire universe, and no one will be able to escape it. All the power of this tsunami is hidden in the holy name of the Lord. It is not cheap but so sweet that there is no doubt that eventually everybody will be drowned in this universal inundation.

The soul by nature is meant to experience an exciting, first-class, cutting-edge life. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came and taught us how to do this. You are the most expert surf trainer. From your heart you taught us where to find this tsunami wave and how to ride it on the preaching surfboard. There is no better



blessing for the soul than to surf on the world's ultimate wave. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please allow us to always ride on this tidal wave of love of God.

Your servants at the Ultimate Self-Realization Course.

(written by Saṅkīrtana Dāsa)

Yaśodāpura Eco Village

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

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

“The living entity wanders throughout different planets in different forms and bodies, but if by chance he comes in contact with a bona fide spiritual master, by the grace of the spiritual master he receives Lord Kṛṣṇa’s shelter, and his devotional life begins.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya, 19.151*)

As we know, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, distributed Lord Kṛṣṇa’s shelter to many different parts of the world. His worldwide vision was to execute the order of his spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, to establish the teachings of Lord Caitanya in the West. Within twelve years Śrīla Prabhupāda very successfully spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, and His disciples and granddisciples are continuing His mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda was so expert in all aspects of devotional service, including management, planning, and organizing ISKCON. His Divine Grace was able to train many of His disciples to become *ācāryas* themselves and leaders of his society.

On this auspicious day we, the devotees at Yaśodāpura Eco Village, Cambodia, would like to offer a small Vyāsa-pūjā homage.

Yaśodāpura Eco Village is a farm community project dedicated to the mission of Śrīla Prabhupāda. Many of us know that in the essay entitled “Conception of Gītā-nāgarī,” Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote about four movements, or waves, of his mission; (1) the *harināma saṅkīrtana* movement, (2) the temple worship movement, (3) the spiritual initiation movement, and (4) the natural caste movement. According to our understanding from reading Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books, to establish those four waves in their complete form we need to establish communities based on agriculture and cow protection. The first objective will be to fulfill the basic needs of our devotees in such a way that we will be able to practice simple living and save time for our spiritual advancement. Secondly, farm communities are meant to serve as a model whereby we can show people that devotees are safe under Kṛṣṇa’s shelter by the mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda, and this will attract many people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Usually, when we start the next wave, the previous wave will also increase. For example, when we start the temple, the *harināma saṅkīrtana* will also increase. In the same way, by starting the fourth wave we will see that all the three previous waves will increase. Starting farm communities will increase the *harināma saṅkīrtana* in different villages. As nicely worded by some devotees “Chant, chant, chant and plant, plant, plant.” We are chanting and are happy because our economic problem is solved by land and cows. Śrīla

Prabhupāda once said about our farm project in Hyderabad:

Our project is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Come here, live peacefully, keep your body fit, and work for yourself. You produce your own food, you produce your own cloth, don't be very much anxious for artificial necessities, and save time, and be advanced in spiritual life. [Interview in Hyderabad, August 1976]

The Yaśodāpura Eco Village master plan is to establish communities, a temple, a *gośālā*, agriculture, a *gurukula*, etc. But first we must encourage local people to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and take *prasādam*. We came here, established a relationship with the local people, built basic facilities on the land—cottages, wells, temple, kitchen—then gradually we started working with local families and helping each other.

Now we have two local families staying on the land, along with two *brahmacārīs* from Indonesia, who spend four days a week at the project. This year many mango, jackfruit, and pineapple trees are bearing fruit. During the rainy season we produce beans, vegetables, and rice. The surplus we bring to the center in the town of Siem Reap, where the devotees do preaching activities. The idea is that the city center can become the preaching base and the Eco Village can become the living base. They should go hand in hand, seeking Śrīla Prabhupāda mercy.

We pray to Śrīla Prabhupāda that he will kindly give us the opportunity to continue this project. If there is some mistake in our service, we pray that he will kindly forgive us and protect us from illusion, from pride and ego, so we can execute our dharma in service to our spiritual master and the *paramparā*. We pray to Śrīla Prabhupāda that he will please empower us to always remember the teachings of Lord Caitanya, glorify Lord Kṛṣṇa everywhere in our project and at every moment of our activities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is the dearest servant of Lord Caitanya, and we pray fervently for his mercy so the Cambodian people will soon take up fulltime devotional service to Kṛṣṇa. Now we have some people chanting *jaṇa* regularly, and we pray that they will remain in the association of the devotees, that Śrīla Prabhupāda will shower down his mercy so they can continue their devotional service.

The devotees in Yaśodāpura Eco Village, Cambodia.

(written by Guṇa Avatāra Dāsa)

Śrīla Prabhupāda Ki Jai!



