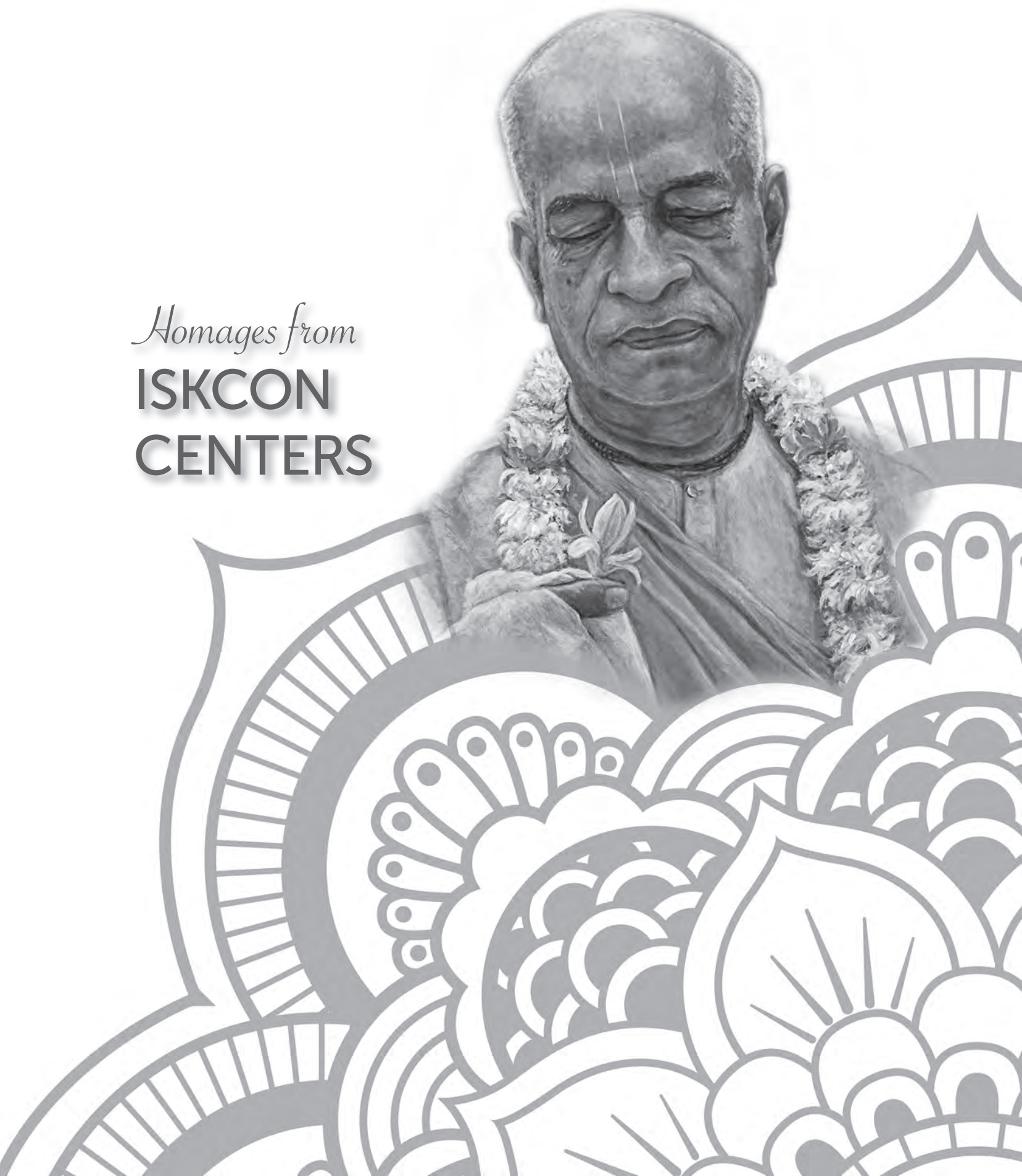


*Homages from*  
**ISKCON  
CENTERS**





# Abentheuer

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you and the glorious contribution of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you have distributed to the whole world.

All of us, a small group of dedicated servants, are so happy and grateful for the opportunity to assist you in your mission. Despite our lack of any qualification, we are very eager to represent you better.

We would like everyone visiting our community to receive the sweet taste of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the inspiration to follow that blissful path. We do not have much experience, but under the guidance of your disciples we aspire to improve our expertise in our service. We would like our service to be a beautiful offering at your lotus feet—an offering that will please you and bring even more public awareness to your glorious mission.

We would like to please and represent you by the depth of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and all virtues developed under your guidance. Please keep on guiding us in our service and allow us to capture the essence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Kindly bless us with the capacity of being loving and collaborative with one another, and with the intelligence required to spread your message widely and efficiently in Germany.

*Your small, humble team of Goloka Dhāmīs in Abentheuer, Germany.*

# Abidjan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are not sure how to find the proper words to glorify you, but at the same we trust that you will show compassion toward us and accept our humble effort to do so. Therefore, we pray that you please accept our small offering describing a drop of your glorious qualities:

Soul dedicated to Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī  
Rare pure devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa  
Inspiring everyone to love God  
Love to preach pure *bhakti*  
Ambassador of Goloka on earth

Peaceful personality  
Risky your life to save others  
Appreciated by all devotees  
Born to spread the holy names  
Hari-kathā is your pastime  
Unconditional lover of Kṛṣṇa  
Preacher above all  
Admirable son of Gour Mohan De  
Disciple dedicated to your guru  
Acārya and founder of ISKCON

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, savior of the whole world, please have mercy on us, for without your mercy we will continue to suffer in our deep sleep on the lap of the witch Māyā. We pray that you help us wake up, and again and again we beg you to bless us so we can remain in the association of your sincere servants.

*Your aspiring servants in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.*

## Adelaide

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most sacred anniversary of your appearance in this world, we fall at your lotus feet and beg for the ability to properly glorify your divine and magnanimous character.

At *Bhagavad-gītā* 9.13 Lord Kṛṣṇa states, “O son of Pṛthā, those who are not deluded, the great souls, are under the protection of the divine nature. They are fully engaged in devotional service because they know Me as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, original and inexhaustible.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are indeed one of the great souls who are always situated in Kṛṣṇa’s divine nature and never by any means affected by this material world. You made such an incredible sacrifice when you traveled by steamship across the Atlantic ocean for three weeks at the advanced age of 69, suffering two heart attacks in the process, and arriving on the shores of America armed with a mere seven dollars worth of rupees, a few books, and an unshakable desire to serve the mission of your spiritual master. You did this for the sake of all the fallen souls, and by your grace so many previously lost souls are now going back home, back to Godhead, the eternal abode of the Supreme Lord.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all the instructions you have given us through your books, lectures, letters, and conversations, and the institution you established. You established so many temples around the world that it is now very easy to travel anywhere and still associate with devotees, have *darśana* of Deities, and honor *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. Your temples in every corner of the world are like oases in the desert of this material world, and we always feel secure and blissful when we are in a temple and among devotees.

Here in Adelaide we are trying to spread the mission of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu through the three main processes you have given us, namely *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, book distribution, and *prasādam* distribution. Our young, committed, and sincere devotees regularly go out more than once a week and chant on the streets of Adelaide, mainly at Rendell Mall, thus attracting more and more newcomers to your lotus feet. Also, this activity allows us to distribute your transcendental literature to the onlookers. Of course, this distribution is very, very tiny, and so we need your mercy to distribute more and more of your books, which are the only saving grace for this age.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Also, twice a week we distribute free *prasādam* to the people of Adelaide. Our dedicated devotees and volunteers need your mercy to continue this service, so we can reach out to more and more lost souls of this age. Many local government ministers and officers have recognized and appreciated our efforts.

Also, we are distributing *prasādam* through our restaurant at the temple, where the numbers are growing steadily. Some of our congregational devotees are taking the responsibility of keeping high standards so as to satisfy the customers.

Our Deity worship is going on steadily, and a recent visit by the Deity-worship minister helped us improve a few things. We are endeavoring to increase the standards to please Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara. Our congregation is growing slowly. We recognize that we have to reach out more and more to new people and organize the congregational preaching systematically through *bhakti-vṛkṣa*, regular study courses, etc. The children of the congregation are getting good training through Gopal's Play School. There they learn *śloka*s and participate in the children's Ratha-yātrā, etc. We were also able to take part in the Australia Day parade with Lord Jagannātha and *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, which was well received.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our eternal well-wisher. From the depths of our hearts we thank you for saving us and giving our lives their real purpose. Please bless us so that we can remain somewhat useful to your mission and perform our devotional services to the best of our abilities. Please bless us so that we can maintain our spiritual vows, cultivate a healthy service attitude, and remain united to serve Their Lordships under your guidance.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for saving us. We are eternally grateful to you.

*Your insignificant servants in Adelaide, Australia.*

## Allahabad

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Once again, by the mercy of the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the *paramparā ācāryas*, we have the opportunity to take a look at our good fortune of having you as the captain of our ship to cross over the material ocean,

By establishing and spearheading this glorious Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, you have given us the unique opportunity of detaching ourselves from the modes of material energy and witnessing this material world from the position of neutral observers. This is your unique gift to this world, and especially to your dedicated followers.

From our position as neutral observers, we are able to see how the unfortunate people of this world are constantly harassed by the Age of Kali. Victimized by the highway robbers of lust, greed, anger, pride, illusion, and envy, they are completely unaware of their real identity as spirit souls. Death is lurking

nearby, but they can hardly see it, busy as they are trying to pursue their futile hopes of lording it over this world. Day by day, year by year, the situation of this world is going from bad to worse, but the people are blissfully unaware of their predicament because they are cheated by their so-called leaders into believing that their lives are getting better with technological advancement and new political ideologies. This makes our task of preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness more and more difficult.

However, there is hope in your movement. Simply by chanting the holy names of the Lord, associating with devotees, and taking shelter of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, the people of this age can be protected from the onslaughts of Kali and can reach the supreme destination of going back home, back to Godhead. Anyone with even a little sincerity can appreciate this positive alternative to a life of ignorance. By your wonderful arrangement, this opportunity is available in every nook and corner of this world, from America to Africa, from the Netherlands to Nigeria, and from India to Italy.

As Lord Kṛṣṇa states at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.20.17:

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

Here is how you explain this verse in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.23.28:

When one wants to cross a large ocean, he requires a strong boat. It is said that this human form of life is a good boat by which one can cross the ocean of nescience. In the human form of life one can obtain the guidance of a good navigator, the spiritual master. One also gets a favorable wind by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, and that wind is the instructions of Kṛṣṇa. The human body is the boat, the instructions of Lord Kṛṣṇa are the favorable winds, and the spiritual master is the navigator. The spiritual master knows well how to adjust the sails to catch the winds favorably and steer the boat to its destination. If, however, one does not take advantage of this opportunity, one wastes the human form of life. Wasting time and life in this way is the same as committing suicide.

You are the captain of the ship that can cross this dangerous ocean of Kali. ISKCON is the oasis in the desert of this Kali-yuga, and you are the commander of Lord Caitanya's army that will defeat the dacoit-army of Kali-yuga. You had the courage to challenge the established scientific community and expose their lie that man evolved from the ape. You aptly described modern educational institutions as spiritual slaughterhouses and predicted the collapse of modern civilization. You have trained us to hear only from the bona fide authority, accept only *śabda-pramāṇa*, and never speculate. You have also established the four regulative principles as the pillars of spiritual life, and devotional service to Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, as the highest path of spiritual life. Thus you have saved us from several possible deviations from the eternal truth.

We at ISKCON's Allahabad *yātrā* are especially fortunate to be able to serve here, a place that was so dear to you, where you spent thirteen years of your glorious life, and where you worked, received initiation, and visited the Kumbha-melā in 1976. Preparations are under way for the *ardha-kumbha-melā*, coming up in January 2019, and Allahabad ISKCON is preparing to participate by distributing your transcendental literature along with *prasādam*.

We are glad to report that we have acquired about four acres of land for a *gośālā* about fifteen kilometers from the temple. The plot has been duly registered. Currently we have forty cows, bulls, and calves altogether, and we are planning to shift the *gośālā* from the temple to this land. We are also in the process of opening a *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* bakery.

Our long-cherished desire to start systematic college preaching in Allahabad is now materializing. A group of devotees moved to the Allahabad temple expressly to begin systematically preaching in the local colleges and universities, including NIT, IIT, and IERT. It was your desire to teach the *Bhagavad-gītā*



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

to children from a very young age. Please bless us so that we can do this through our *Gītā* competition program.

Please bless us so that all together, as a team, we can expand your movement and build a larger guesthouse for the pilgrims, a bigger temple, and better facilities for all the devotees who come here, and so that we can spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness effectively far and wide.

Your causeless mercy is our only hope.

*Your humble servants at ISKCON Allahabad, India.*

## Aravade

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo  
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi  
dhyāyan stuvaṁs tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, because of your mercy we are able to continue on the path of devotional service. You have given us the most merciful Deities: Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla, Śrī Śrī Viṭṭhala-Rukmiṇī, Śrī Śrī Sitā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. Because we spent the last ten years serving Them, the time flew by, although many challenges came. Please continue guiding us so we can make the right decisions to maintain and expand this temple project.

For your pleasure, Śrīla Prabhupāda, here are the highlights for the past year:

- Caitanya Mahāprabhu's Lotus Feet Temple was inaugurated in memory of His historic visit to the Aravade area.
- Our new hall serves as one of the best multipurpose centers in this Sangli district. The whole district is benefited by it.
- A piece of land in Sangli was donated. We are also trying to get a big piece of land in Ichalkaranji.
- We held Bhakti-vriksha programs, *yātrās*, and festivals for all devotees.
- We organized an Aravade-Pandharpur Dindi Padayātrā this year, in which more than two hundred devotees participated.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.18.9, you state the following:

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *bhāgavata-dharma* are meant for persons who are completely free of envy (*parama-nirmatsarāṇām*). Therefore Prahlaḍa Mahārāja prays in this verse, *khalaḥ prasīdatām*: “May all the envious persons be pacified.” The material world is full of envious persons, but if one frees himself of envy, he becomes liberal in his social dealings and can think of others’ welfare.

While living in this material world, we have to face many envious people. Even within our community it has proven to be a great challenge for us to relate with one another in a cooperative spirit, free of envy and concerned with one another’s welfare. As aspiring servants of your mission, we want to embrace the principle you speak of in this purport, so that there will be substance and genuineness in our attempts to reach out to the common people.

Seeking the forgiveness and blessings of you and all your followers,

*Your servants at ISKCON Aravade, India.*

(written by Abhirāma Ṭhākura Dāsa)

## Atlanta

*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  
nirviṣeṣa-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.”

*tvaṁ naḥ sandarśito dhātrā dustaraṁ nistitṛṣatām  
kaliṁ sattva-haraṁ puṁsām karṇa-dhāra ivāṇavam*

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

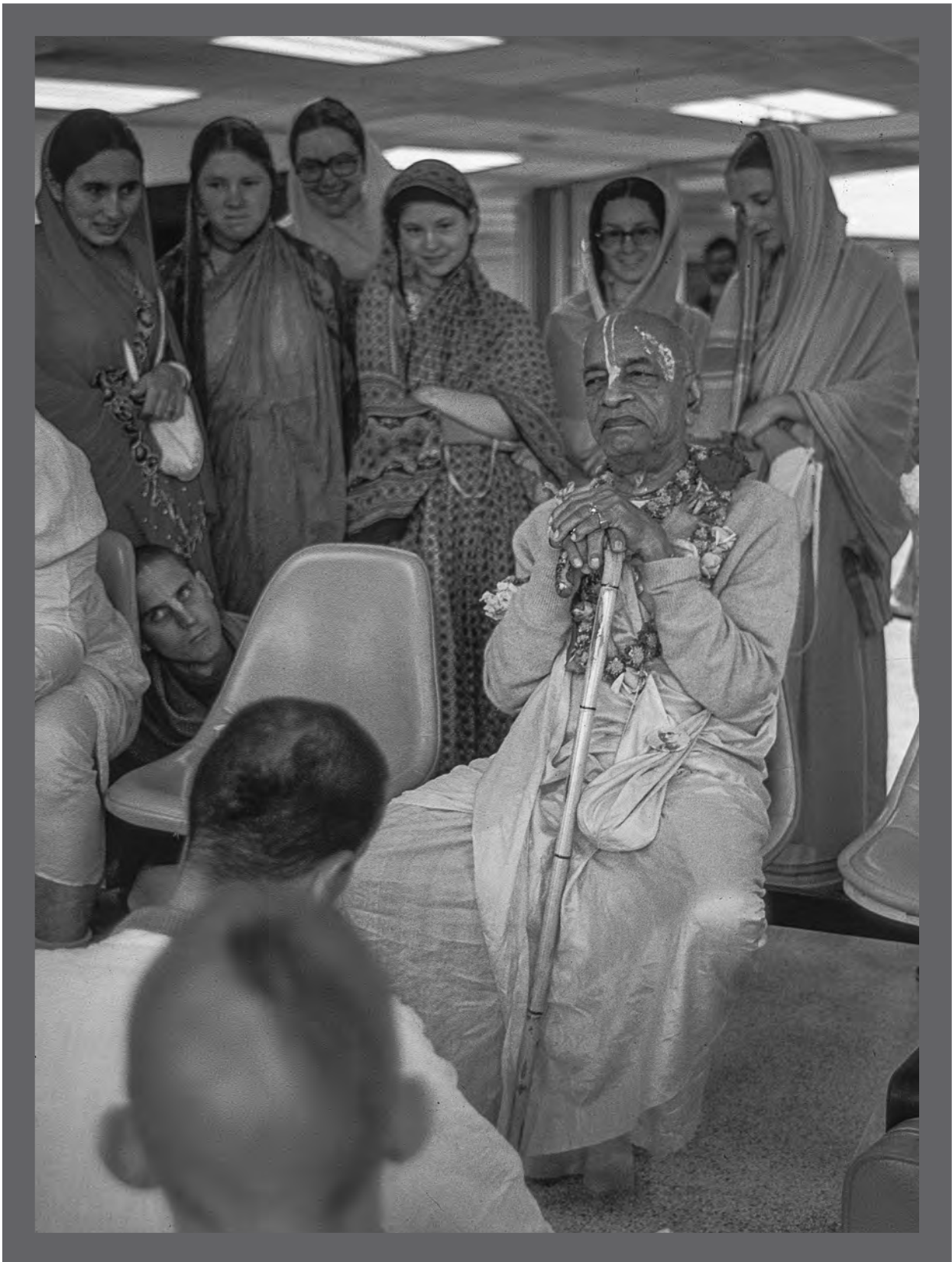
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this 122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of your appearance, we offer this homage to you on behalf of your disciples, granddisciples, and uninitiated followers in ISKCON of Atlanta.

By your grace and sacrifice, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is now embedded in all the corners of the world. The seeds of love of Godhead have been planted and are growing. You have said that nothing external



Homages from ISKCON Centers



## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

can stop this movement, because it is under the protection of Kṛṣṇa's internal energy. As Lord Kṛṣṇa states at *Bhagavad-gītā* 9.13:

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

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

You have stated that our love for you will be shown by how we cooperate with one another to push forward your mission. It is your love for the Supreme Personality Godhead that is the force and attraction. We have to embed this love in our hearts and give it to others. This lesson of cooperation is difficult to fully implement in this age of quarrel and hypocrisy. Since your physical departure, we have learned from experience how to cooperate for your service.

We can learn from your example. In your books you are uncompromising, but in your dealings with your disciples you at times forgave or overlooked obvious faults in those who were making great sacrifices to push forward this movement.

You are not affected by the three modes of material nature. You have complete love for Lord Kṛṣṇa and his creation. We, on the other hand, are affected by our false ego and make many mistakes in the name of serving you. We find that, in regards to maintaining and expanding your movement, your instruction to cooperate for your service is the most difficult but most important of all your instructions to follow consistently.

On this blessed Vyāsa-pūjā day we pray to you for the intelligence, patience, and spiritual realization to be able to cooperate with one another so that we can effectively help you in your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Please continue to keep us in your service while we strive to advance in realizing this lesson of cooperation.

Thank you for engaging us in the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

*Your servants at ISKCON Atlanta, Georgia, USA.*

(written by Śikhī Māhiti Dāsa)

## Auckland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, all glories to you on this most auspicious day, which is always very emotional and enlightening. There is no end to your glorious achievements.

We are seeing the incredible results of your lifelong dedication to the first words given to you by your spiritual master: “Take this Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West.” That dedication empowered you to undertake the unbelievable journey that brought you alone to the shores of America and your travels around the world. We can’t imagine your struggles, or how you remained steadfast through all the adversities you had to go through. No other *ācārya* has come close to your achievement.

Fulfilling the prediction of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu—that the holy name would spread worldwide to every town and village—was no easy task. At every moment of the day, somewhere on this planet the holy names are being chanted, someone is distributing or reading your books, a wonderful Kṛṣṇa conscious festival is going on, *harināma-saṅkīrtana* is being performed, beautiful Deities are being worshiped to the highest standard, and lots of conditioned souls are enjoying *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*,

Throughout the world, beautiful temples are being constructed and opened. Most prominently, the magnificent Temple of the Vedic Planetarium is manifesting before our very eyes. When it opens it will create a transcendental wave of devotion around the world that will vastly increase people’s awareness of your glories and those of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

All this is creating a very favorable impression of your exciting ISKCON movement. Your ISKCON is here to stay, Śrīla Prabhupāda. There is no stopping it now. Though more than fifty years have passed since you founded it, it is still young, and we all have lots more to do.

Here in our Hare Kṛṣṇa School, part of the curriculum is centered on your teachings, creating a unique Kṛṣṇa conscious experience for all the students.

We are so happy for what you have given to the world and to each of us individually: liberation from the cycle of birth and death and the opportunity to re-establish our loving relationship with the supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura and all the previous *ācāryas* are eternally bestowing there blessings upon you. Thank you always.

*Your servants at ISKCON Auckland, New Zealand.*

## Austin

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

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

Most dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your glories are unlimitedly sweet and ever-increasing, like an ocean of nectar. Since even someone with thousands of brains could never glorify you sufficiently, what can an insignificant little mouse like me do to squeak your glories? But I am encouraged by the famous pastime concerning Rāma’s building a miraculous bridge of floating stones to Laṅkā: Hanumān and the other monkeys were throwing big boulders into the Indian Ocean for Lord Rāma, while a spider was brushing in a little dust. Hanumān told the spider to get out of the way, but Lord Rāma appreciated both services equally. Therefore, in spite of my inabilities, I will try somehow or other to glorify you.

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for coming into our lives. We were lost in the material forest. Even though we had the form of humans, we were living like animals. Out of your compassion you came to awaken us from the deep, dark ignorance of animalistic life, of simply eating, sleeping, mating, and defending. You taught us that the real purpose of our human form of life is to re-establish our lost loving relationship with Kṛṣṇa.

We are not there yet. But we know that if, by your grace, we are able to carefully follow your guidelines, in due course we will become fully awakened from our illusion of “I” “me” and “mine” and, by your inconceivable kindness, attain the goal of the human form of life by awakening pure love for Kṛṣṇa within our hearts. It will not at all be difficult if we always remain under the shelter of your most soothing, cooling lotus feet.

Those of us who are latecomers, i.e., who joined the movement after your departure, can still feel the sweet, loving kindness you are bestowing upon us through your ISKCON, your disciples, and your books. And we thank you unlimitedly for that.

*Your eternal servants at ISKCON Austin, Texas, USA.*

(written by Viṣṇu-priyā Devī Dāsī)

# Baba

*Jaya jagat-guru Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, once some of your disciples asked you to describe your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and you answered, “What can I say about him? He was a Vaikuṇṭha man.” The same description applies to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

By establishing ISKCON and carefully developing it, you spread the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu across the globe. In this way you not only followed your spiritual master’s order but also fulfilled the famous prediction of Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

*prthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma  
sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*

“In every town and village across the globe, My holy name shall be heard.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are even more merciful than God Himself! Lord Caitanya preached throughout India, but you spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the world. I offer my obeisances to you hundreds of times.

You also fulfilled the prophecy and prayer Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura expressed in 1885 in his periodical called *Sajjana-toṣanī*:

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Very soon the unparalleled path of *harināma-saṅkīrtana* will be propagated all over the world. . . Oh, for that day when the fortunate English, French, Russian, German, and American people will take up banners, *mṛdaṅgas*, and *karatālas* and raise *kīrtana* through their streets and towns! When will that day come?

Finally, we have the description by Locana Dāsa Ṭhākura in his *Śrī Caitanya-maṅgala* of how Nārada Muni, while visiting the spiritual world, came upon Lord Gaurāṅga. The Lord told him of His mission to destroy the sinful activities of the Age of Kali. “With the powerful chopper of *nāma-saṅkīrtana*,” He said, “I’ll cut the hard knots of demoniac desires from the hearts of everyone. Even if the sinners reject religion or flee to foreign countries, still they will get My mercy. I will send *mora senā-pati bhakta* to go there and deliver them.” *Mora senā-pati bhakta* refers to that devotee who will lead Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* army, or in other words that devotee whom Lord Caitanya would empower to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the world. That commander of the *saṅkīrtana* army is you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Let me offer my obeisances to all the devotees who have surrendered to your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda. And then let me offer my obeisances to the lotus feet of all the devotees who will join your glorious ISKCON movement in the future. I offer unlimited prostrated obeisances to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, again and again. Please shower your mercy on all of us conditioned souls so we can steadily engage in devotional service to Guru and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are like a combination of Śrī Nārada Muni and Śrīla Vyāsadeva. The great saint Nārada Muni always travels throughout the entire universe spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and Śrīla Vyāsadeva compiled the *Vedas* and *Purāṇas*. You are such a great soul that you did both, Śrīla Prabhupāda—traveled and preached, and wrote innumerable books.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, although we are living in the Kali-yuga we are experiencing it as the Satya-yuga, because numerous souls throughout the world are becoming advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. There are many ISKCON temples around the world, and their numbers will increase with time. As the numbers of temples and devotees increase throughout the world, your name will be glorified more and more. I offer my obeisances again and again to your lotus feet.

In commemoration of the passing of Śrīla Haridāsa Ṭhākura, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura wrote this famous verse:

He reasons ill who says that Vaishnavas die,  
When thou art living still in Sound!  
The Vaishnavas die to live, and living try  
To spread the holy life around!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, even though you left your physical body more than forty years ago, through your books and other media you are continuing to enlighten thousands and millions of souls in this world and save them from the darkness of ignorance. This proves you are the great *ācārya* of the modern age, and thus it is proper that you be worshiped as good as God in your many *mūrti* forms in temples worldwide.

Finally, we would like to thank you for the Ratha-yātrā festival. Prior to 1967, Ratha-yātrā was held once a year in Jagannātha Purī, India. But by your efforts, Śrīla Prabhupāda, nowadays it is held not only in multiple Indian cities every year, but in many cities around the world. In Indonesia, too, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā is held repeatedly and is taken from one province to another.

Your grace and compassion, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are millions of times more valuable than anything money can buy. All we can do to show our gratitude is offer our deep obeisances to your lotus feet millions of times. *Jaya jagat-guru Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

Please stay in our hearts eternally.

*Your servants at ISKCON’s Rādhā-Gopīnātha temple in Baba, Bali, Indonesia.*







## Bangkok

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Although we never had an opportunity to be with Your Divine Grace physically, we feel very close to you. We have your *mūrti* form in our center and perform your *pūjā* daily. We also hear regularly from your followers who visit us and give us classes and seminars. We daily study your writings, relishing your Bhaktivedanta purports, and we celebrate your Vyāsa-pūjā with great pomp and enthusiasm.

We feel that our relationship with you is based on love and service. It is our good fortune to be a part of your ISKCON mission, and although we missed the beginning of the Society, we feel that things are still beginning. We have a long way to go to show our gratitude to you. We want to repay you for all the love you have shown us. You desired that the entire world would become Kṛṣṇa conscious, and now it is up to us to fulfill your desire. Please bless us so that we can all work together cooperatively to distribute love of Kṛṣṇa. You have given us everything; we just have to learn how to use it correctly.

Please keep some space under your lotus feet for all of us.

*Forever your servants at ISKCON Bangkok, Thailand.*

## Benin

*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-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

### **ISKCON, the Rhapsody of Śrīla Prabhupāda**

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you!

At *Bhagavad-gītā* 13.22 Lord Kṛṣṇa says,

*puruṣaḥ prakṛti-stho hi bhunkte prakṛti-jān guṇān  
kāraṇaṁ guṇa-saṅgo 'sya sad-asad-yoni-janmasu*

“The living entity in material nature thus follows the ways of life, enjoying the three modes of nature. This is due to his association with that material nature. Thus he meets with good and evil among various species.” To stop this painful process, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you built a house for all humanity. The foundation of this structure was constructed with faith, knowledge, sincerity, determination, and surrender. The bricks were enthusiasm, confidence, and patience. The roofing sheets were tolerance and humility. This house has the potency to expunge from its occupants all misconceptions and misgivings, if they simply follow the instructions of its architect—you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The nature of many mystics and sages is to keep secret the transcendental happiness they enjoy within. But the transcendental bottle of honey known as *kṛṣṇa-bhakti-rasa* has been opened and can now be tasted by all humanity. With great endeavor, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you propagated and revealed the identity of Lord Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and also revealed His will. This you did literarily and by your personal example. That which was known to a relative few you made known to all in its purest form. All furtive and mysterious philosophical debris was removed, and in its stead you transmitted Lord Kṛṣṇa’s pure message of the absolute truth far and wide, and it will continue to be propagated to all humanity for the next ten thousand years, even in the most remote parts of the globe.

Pure Vaiṣṇavas’ compassion and mercy for the fallen souls are extremely rare. Such Vaiṣṇavas have all good qualities. Their unique inclination to render pure devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa distinguishes them from all other transcendentalists.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you chose to offer shelter and compassion to the conditioned souls as your service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. And I am a beneficiary. Your mission was awesomely executed. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you for your massive literary exposition—the amazing transliterations, the thought-provoking translations, and the lucid purports. They have taught many, especially me, the value of human life and given me the desire to live. You gave humanity the secret of success.

At *Bhagavad-gītā* 18.66 Lord Kṛṣṇa says:

*sarva-dharmān parityajya mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja  
ahaṁ tvām sarva-pāpebhyo mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ*

“Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.” If you had not come, Śrīla Prabhupāda, how could I have ever known this ultimate will of God?

Ignorance is the mother of fear. My major botheration before encountering Kṛṣṇa consciousness was the concept of Satan, who is said to lure the conditioned living entities from the path of righteousness and frustrate those endeavoring to be regulated by religious principles. The final end of his victims is the agony of eternal damnation in hell. My question was, “Who is this Satan, and why does God condone this creature and his activities?” Wrong or misinterpreted concepts make people become atheists. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you freed me from a fundamental ignorance and the fear and anxiety born of it.

Kṛṣṇa answers my Satan question at *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.49:

*dūreṇa hy avaram karma buddhi-yogād dhanañjaya  
buddhau śaraṇam anviccha kṛpāṇāḥ phala-hetavaḥ*

“O Dhanañjaya, keep all abominable activities far distant by devotional service, and in that consciousness surrender unto the Lord. Those who want to enjoy the fruits of their work are misers.”

It is one’s attachment to or detachment from the results of one’s activity that creates one’s consciousness, which in turn determines how one reacts to his or her life’s experiences. It is not Satan.

I have seen the princes and paupers, the strong and the weak, the poor and the rich, the beautiful and the ugly, the healthy and sickly, and all this is crystal clear to me now. As Kṛṣṇa says at *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.11:

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

*ye yathā mām prapadyante tāmś tathaiva bhajāmy aham  
mama vartmānuvartante manuṣyāḥ pārtha sarvaśaḥ*

“As all surrender unto Me, I reward them accordingly. Everyone follows My path in all respects, O son of Pṛthā.”

The rain pours down on the earth, and varieties of vegetation spring forth. The rain is not the cause of the vegetative variegatedness. The rain provides an enabling environment for the various seeds to flourish according to their species. The share value of everyone is proportional to his or her surrender to God. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for this enlightenment. You are the embodiment of Kṛṣṇa’s statement that “The self-realized soul can impart knowledge to you because he has seen the truth.”

When there is a forest fire, all the creatures in the forest are thrown into anxiety due to the miseries caused by the fire. Similarly, a person who falls into the ocean is in great anxiety due to the imminent danger of death by drowning. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the rainfall that extinguishes the forest fire and the hand from above that rescues the drowning man. As Lord Kṛṣṇa says at *Bhagavad-gītā* 7.14:

*daivī hy eṣā guṇa-mayī mama māyā duratyayā  
mām eva ye prapadyante māyām etān taranti te*

“This divine energy of Mine, consisting of the three modes of material nature, is difficult to overcome. But those who have surrendered unto Me can easily cross beyond it.”

The material world is also described as an ocean of miseries. To cross an ocean, one needs a strong and capable boat. The *ācāryas* cross the ocean with the boat of devotional services to Lord Kṛṣṇa but still leave it behind for others to cross also. The *ācāryas*’ exemplary devotional attitude keeps the boat on this side for us. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please be merciful unto me so I can maintain a passenger ticket on this boat.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the artist of the Rhapsody of the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. You have provided for all the needs of mankind, both materially and spiritually. Especially, you have given me my eternal father, His Holiness Bhakti Tīrtha Swami. Thus I have uncles and aunties all over the world. Because I am the son of Bhakti Tīrtha Swami, I also have many brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces. You have provided residences for me all over the globe, and you have personally enriched me with transcendental enlightenment. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I lack nothing, but I seriously lack the proper application of these resources. I am begging you, therefore, with a straw in my mouth and with full *daṇḍavats*, to kindly appeal to His Holiness Bhakti Tīrtha Swami on behalf of his disciple so that I can properly and effectively utilize your resources for the purpose you provided them.

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

*Your servants in Benin, West Africa.*

(written by Akrūra Dāsa)

## Brahmapur

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

As we witness your movement growing by leaps and bounds, we are amazed. Hundreds of temples, lakhs of devotees, countless books distributed—your efforts are bearing fruit. We become even more amazed when we contemplate how you foresaw all these things when you started ISKCON singlehandedly. When you were wandering the streets of New York without any money or support, nobody but you knew that the future would see you succeed in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness is such a magnificent way.

The sacrifices you made for the people of this planet have no comparison. We feel indebted to you when we get all kinds of facilities at ISKCON temples. Today, in every corner of the world, people know Hare Kṛṣṇa. What a great offering you have made at the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa!! You never wanted to take credit for your preaching success. Following the order of your spiritual master was your purpose in life. You lived to glorify Kṛṣṇa, and you left this planet while glorifying Kṛṣṇa. Your love for us melts our hearts, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The more we know about you, and the more we apply your teachings in our lives, the more we become attracted to you and feel indebted to you.

Our temple construction is going on full speed. The ground floor and temple-hall granite work are complete. The Italian marble inside the altar room and the teakwood altar work will start soon. Twice a week our youth-forum students go out on book distribution. They are so enthusiastic to distribute your books, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that they feel uneasy if they can't go out. This is due to your mercy alone. We can understand that one succeeds in preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness not due to great scriptural expertise or eloquence but only by developing compassion for suffering humanity, as you showed. Please bless us so that we can develop such compassion. Let your glories resound throughout the three worlds.

*Your servants at ISKCON Brahmapur, India.*

## Budapest

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

I was born in the darkest ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torchlight of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto Him.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This morning, as I meditate on you and write this homage to glorify you, I recall the two most significant events that happened yesterday. As I write them down, I would like to thank you for the transcendental knowledge you have given us by your unimaginable efforts and matchless persistence. Please accept these few lines with love!

Yesterday morning, when I took my mobile phone in my hand to switch off the alarm, I noticed that a message was waiting for me; it had arrived during the night. One of our community members wrote, “Our girl has been born. Both the mother and the child are fine. Dear devotees, please give your blessings that she will be a great servant of the Lord, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and the devotees!” What unique good fortune! The child was just born, and the most magnificent life is already outlined for her!

Lord R̥ṣabhadeva teaches:

*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 samupeta-mṛtyum*

“One who cannot deliver his dependents from the path of repeated birth and death should never become a spiritual master, a relative, a father, a husband, a mother or a worshipable demigod.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.5.18.)

In the morning I received a message from a Vaiṣṇava mother about the birth of her child. That same evening we gave the last honors to another Vaiṣṇava mother, who had left her body a few days earlier. The bereaved devotees told us that they were able to create very favorable circumstances before she left her body, which was very comforting to them. When departing one’s body, to be surrounded by loving devotees chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa from the depths of their hearts—what an extraordinary privilege this is in today’s godless world!

Lord Kṛṣṇa teaches us:

*yaṁ yaṁ vāpi smaran bhāvaṁ tyajaty ante kalevaram  
taṁ tam evaiti kaunteya sadā tad-bhāva-bhāvitāḥ*

“Whatever state of being one remembers when he quits his body, O son of Kuntī, that state he will attain without fail.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 8.6.) In your purport to this verse you write the following: “Therefore the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare is the best process for successfully changing one’s state of being at the end of one’s life.”

As I look back on this day, I feel myself very fortunate, because from birth to death you have given us instructions for all aspects of life. Thank you for opening our eyes with the torchlight of knowledge!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! I pray to you that, with our hearts filled with gratitude, we will always serve you, our transparent medium to Kṛṣṇa, so we can help you open the eyes of more and more fallen souls!

*Your servants in Budapest, Hungary.*

(written by Gauramaṇi Dāsa)

# Canberra

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance.

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

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

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

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

To write a Vyāsa-pūjā homage is indeed a most daunting task. It calls to mind the analogy of trying to illuminate the sun by holding up a candle. But you are most merciful, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and so we pray that you will accept this humble attempt from those of us in a faraway part of the world who have been touched by your infinite compassion.

At *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.34 Lord Kṛṣṇa states: “Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, sometimes a little word like “try” gets lost among all the bigger words. To try is what you requested us all to do. We may even fail occasionally or, indeed, often, but we must continue to try to please you by actually learning and living the truth under your expert guidance.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you built a house in which the whole world can live. However, due to lifetimes of conditioning, we still tend to stay in our own room, thus becoming isolated, and end up exhibiting a very narrow point of view. You wished that we would become *mahātmās*, broad-minded souls. May we try to become such to please you.

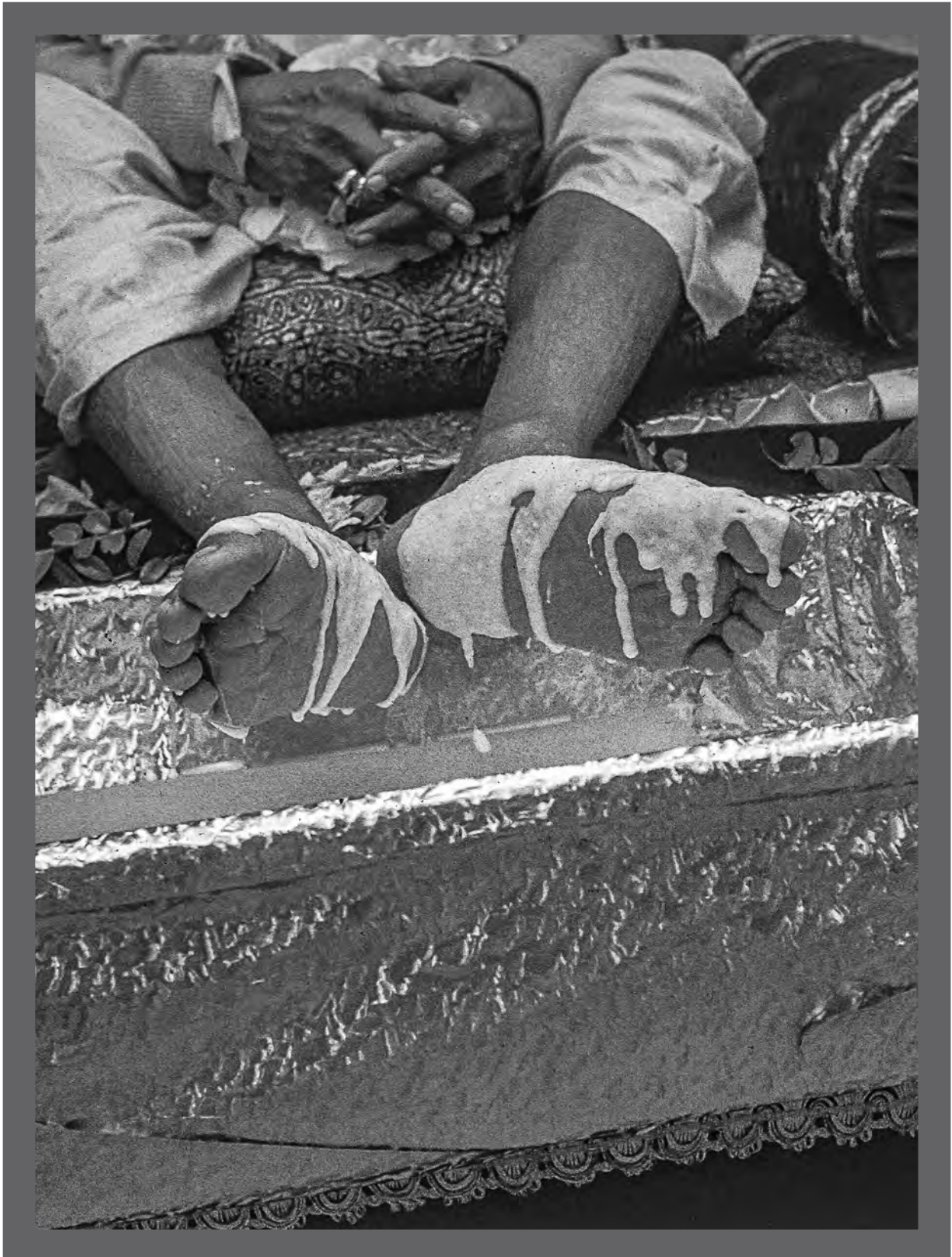
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave the example that a single stick can break very easily but many sticks bound together are not so easily broken. Thus you instructed us that if we can remain united we can be strong but if we do not do so we will become weak and be easily overcome by the material energy. May we try to be united to please you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were aware—and are still aware—of our shortcomings, individually and collectively, and these shortcomings often lead to friction between devotees. Yet we simply cannot deny your statement that our love for you will be shown by how much we cooperate to keep your institution going after your departure. There will always be difficulties. You warned us to expect them in this world. May we try to push on together, to please you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you asked us to discuss Kṛṣṇa consciousness from many angles of vision. Yet there are many of us who consider our opinion the most valuable. Nowadays, so many of us claim to be your true and devout followers. We pontificate, gesticulate, articulate, and conclude that we have understood your teachings better than others. We say that if only everyone else understood you as we do, everything would be all right. When will we accept that everything will be all right when we follow your instructions properly, with true humility? May we try to do so to please you.



Homages from ISKCON Centers



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you saw us suffering intensely in the deep, dark well of illusion. You threw us the rope of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. All we have to do is hang on to the rope by following strictly. Let us hang on tightly through all our many trials and tribulations. May we try to do so, to please you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are still guiding us, chiding us, correcting us, and encouraging us through your *vāṇī*, imploring us to make the proper use of this most valuable human form of life, warning us not to waste even one moment, which cannot be recovered even at the cost of all the wealth in the world. Let us not waste a fraction of a moment in anything unrelated to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. May we try to do so, to please you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you toiled so hard and endured so much to give us the opportunity to go back home, back to Godhead. Let us not be ungrateful or minimize what you gave us, this most wonderful, matchless gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We need to practice it ourselves very sincerely and attempt to give it to others. May we try to do so, to please you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you stated on several occasions that if we chant sixteen rounds daily and follow the regulative principles you will take us back to Godhead. Of this we need to be totally convinced. May we try to be so, to please you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the world is falling apart—that is its nature. So many problems. So many problems. You repeatedly gave us the simple and effective solution: the chanting of the holy names of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Yet we still may think there is another way. There is no other way. Of this we also need to be totally convinced. May we try to be so, to please you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we at the Canberra temple offer you our most humble obeisances from the core of our hearts and pray on this day, and every day for the rest of our lives, that we can be of service to you in even the smallest and simplest way. We thank you for your mighty and noble service to your Guru Mahārāja, the disciplic succession, and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, a service in which you performed the seemingly impossible task of delivering countless conditioned souls around the world from the clutches of *māyā*. You achieved that seemingly impossible task because many have wholeheartedly obeyed your instructions and reaped the benefit. Let us strive with all our might to be in their ranks. May we try to do so, to please you.

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

(written by Ayodhyadeva Rāma Dāsa)

## Cape Town

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are endeavoring to please you by our service of maintaining and expanding your movement here at the tip of the African continent. Cape Town is the most cosmopolitan city in South Africa, and we reach out to people of all cultures with Lord Caitanya's message, which you delivered to the Western world. Many young African guests attend our programs, and some have taken shelter here in your temple.

We are very near the University of Cape Town and hold regular discussion meetings on the campus. Many students frequent Govinda's Cafe to partake of *prasādam*, and they also attend Spirit Matters, a weekly event geared to young people.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

There is a growing Indian community who accept your temple here in Rondebosch as their spiritual home and regard your teachings as the real expression of their Vedic culture.

At our satellite center in Stellenbosch, we are carefully introducing many young students of Afrikaaner descent to your teachings, and they are becoming most favorable to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Especially during the Sunday Love Feast and the major festivals of the Vaiṣṇava calendar, loud and ecstatic *kīrtana* of the holy names resounds in our temple, engaging participants of all ages and races in chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa and dancing enthusiastically, either physically or within their hearts, before the most merciful Śrī Śrī Nitāi–Māyāpur-Chandra. At such times we feel that South Africa is actually the Rainbow Nation.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so we can increase our service to you and all the people of Cape Town.

*Your humble servants at ISKCON Cape Town, South Africa.*

## Chandigarh

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances unto your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and to all the other all-loving personalities in the *paramparā*.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for once again offering us this opportunity to attempt to glorify Your Divine Grace. Actually, the more we try to dive into the nectarean teachings you bestowed upon us in your transcendental books, the more we realize your presence in our lives. This is how connection with the *ācāryas* is maintained, as you declare in the Dedication of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, regarding your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura:

He lives forever by his divine instructions,  
and  
the follower lives with him.

One very fundamental aspect of your teachings is that you would always get to the basics and with clarity set them right. Once the basics are set right, or once the foundation is set, further building can take place. Actually, this is not just your approach: this is the approach of the scriptures, and this is the approach taken by Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself in the *Bhagavad-gītā*.

Before the Battle of Kurukṣetra began, Arjuna, Kṛṣṇa's cousin, friend, and dear devotee, asked various meaningful and selfless questions. Arjuna was deeply considering the consequences of the war. He had great thoughtfulness, even on the battlefield, and he was deeply compassionate as well.

But since Arjuna was not asking *fundamental* questions, not only was he getting more and more confused due to his deliberations, but Kṛṣṇa remained silent. Only when Arjuna asked a *fundamental* question and sought the answer from Kṛṣṇa alone, at *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.7, did Kṛṣṇa begin to speak transcendental knowledge.

Similarly we, or the people of this world, have thousands of mundane questions. But first of all let us ask the root questions: Who is God? Who am I? Why am I suffering the threefold miseries of the material

world, and how can I avoid them permanently? What is my relationship with God? And how should I function in my relationship with Him, i.e., what is my duty, or *dharma*?

Since when you came to the West you found that people were too dull to ask these questions, your first lesson was what the proper questions are for human beings. Not asking these questions while trying to solve life's problems is futile. That would be like trying to solve a numerical problem while beginning with  $2+2 = 5$ . Since the first step is wrong, or untruth, the conclusion must be wrong.

Thus, first of all we must raise and resolve the fundamental questions. All other inquiries will be resolved on the foundation of the answers to these inquiries! Or, we will find that many of our inquiries would not need to be resolved.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, since you addressed the actual disease and not just the various symptoms, you attracted sincere spiritual aspirants from different faiths and religions all across the globe. Even devout followers of other faiths were inspired to take shelter of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Earlier, we Indians were amazed and inspired to see Americans, Europeans, Russians, Africans, etc., taking to devotional service unto Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. However, our inspiration was more or less on the bodily conception only. We thought that since Kṛṣṇa is a Hindu God and these foreigners have taken to His worship, this movement is a great movement. Or, since foreigners are taking to the worship of Kṛṣṇa, at least we, as Indians or Hindus, should also take to this.

But right in the Introduction of *Śrī Īśopaniṣad* you declare: "We are not Hindus."

It is recorded in the *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* that you would often urge your followers in foreign lands—Africa or England, for example—to not just rely on pious Indians or Hindus but to concentrate on preaching to the natives of the land instead.

You went on to establish Kṛṣṇa's identity as the Supreme Personality of Godhead as a concrete principle. You proved practically that the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* are universally applicable. Just to quote a few examples:

In the Introduction to *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* you give a very special definition of the word *dharma*:

*Dharma* refers to that which is constantly existing with a particular object. We conclude that there is heat and light along with the fire; without heat and light, there is no meaning to the word fire. Similarly, we must discover the essential part of the living being, that part which is his constant companion. That constant companion is his eternal quality, and that eternal quality is his eternal religion.

Next you quote *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya-līlā* 20.108, Lord Caitanya's definition of the living entity's *svarūpa*: "The *svarūpa*, or constitutional position, of the living being is to render service to Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead."

Similarly, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.6 states:

The supreme occupation [*dharma*] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self.

Although all these scriptures were available before your manifest presence on the earth, the world didn't know their real glory. Like an expert and hard-working honeybee, you extracted the honeylike nectar from these lotuslike scriptures and labored tirelessly to make us drink the same.

If we just take note of these teachings, not only we but the whole world would benefit. And we will be saved from all sorts of deviations—in our personal lives and collectively as an institution—and we can function as useful instruments in your hands to assist all the living entities.

As Śrīla Śrīnivāsa Ācārya writes about the Six Gosvāmīs:

[The Six Gosvāmīs] were very expert in scrutinizingly studying all the revealed scriptures with the



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

aim of establishing eternal religious principles for the benefit of all human beings. Thus they are honored all over the three worlds, and they are worth taking shelter of because they are absorbed in the mood of the *gopīs* and are engaged in the transcendental loving service of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Similarly you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as a true follower of the previous *ācāryas*, also extracted the essence of the most important scriptures so as to present the truth in an easily understandable manner for the Kali-yuga living entities, at least for the next ten thousand years.

In our movement we very often hear “Books are the basis.” And Your Divine Grace spent a major part of your time during your later years offering us the Bhaktivedanta purports. On this day, once again, with all earnestness we wish to beg that we may regularly study and follow these Bhaktivedanta purports.

Your center in Chandigarh is doing very well, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Congregation and Youth preaching is increasing. People are taking advantage of your books. We distributed 30,200 copies of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and *Kṛṣṇa* book during the marathon month of 2017, as against 27,000 distributed last year. Over 110 devotees are ready to take first initiation. We have seven branches of the Bhaktivedanta Academy for Culture and Education (BACE) near different engineering colleges, and they are attracting youngsters to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. At eight Ratha-yātrās and ten Shobha-yātrās (mini Ratha-yātrās), we distributed your books, the holy name, and Lord Jagannātha’s *prasādam* to thousands of people in seventeen towns in and around Chandigarh.

Over the past year senior devotees conducted many seminars to educate and train the younger devotees. The Bhakti-vaibhava course, started last year under the aegis of the Māyāpur Institute of Higher Education, is continuing successfully. Both congregation devotees and *brahmacārīs* are taking this course. Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is only with your blessings and the guidance of senior Vaiṣṇavas that we have been able to do all this. Kindly continue showering your mercy on us, because that is our hope and our strength.

Fortunate recipients of your mercy,

*Your followers at ISKCON Chandigarh, India.*

## China

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please kindly allow me to offer my most humble obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace and your ISKCON. All glories to your dedicated servants, who tirelessly spread the glories of the holy names.

It was on a fateful summer night in 1987 that I first saw your devotees, in my old school’s auditorium. While everything is still fresh in my memory, as if it happened yesterday, I am no longer the thirteen-year-old “*bhakta* young boy” who was wandering about looking for answers to the mysteries of life and death.

With a mere snap of the fingers, thirty years have gone by since the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement officially started in China. The Chinese devotees are eternally indebted to those great souls, headed by His Holiness Tamāl Krishna Goswami, who were totally sold out to the China mission, following Your Divine Grace's instructions. They pushed aside all obstacles and engaged their bodies, minds, and words in bringing the matchless spiritual gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the people living in China. For the Chinese devotees, the only possible way to try to repay their debt to you and your pioneering disciples is to present Kṛṣṇa consciousness in appropriate and effective ways to more of our compatriots.

Over these three full decades we have witnessed many Chinese people being blessed by becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious. Over these three full decades we have witnessed many devotees become battle-hardened from the twists and turns of preaching in China and yet remain fixed in their service to your lotus feet. And over these three full decades we have also witnessed many struggles, confusion, and even misery among devotees, and we grieved for those who left your shelter.

In the early 90s Tamāl Krishna Goswami said that China is fertile soil for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness because it is like Mother Earth: no sense gratification like that in heaven (i.e., Western countries) and no sufferings like those in hell (i.e., extremely poor countries, where people find it difficult to acquire the basic necessities of life). Thus, he said, it is quite easy to make devotees in China. He saw the huge potential in the character of the Chinese people. Still, the speed of the spread of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is far behind the quickening pace of the spread of Kali's influence.

"One moon is brighter than thousands of stars" is a slogan often heard among devotees, and many take it as a way to explain why there are relatively so few Kṛṣṇa devotees in China. After all, not everyone can afford to purchase a diamond.

But wait! We are actually seeing that countless spiritual groups are becoming increasingly influential in the daily lives of the Chinese people. Many of these groups maintain high standards and are attracting a good number of qualified followers. We may have something to learn from these groups.

What are the challenges lying ahead for the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in China? How can we become more deeply rooted in this land of 1.3 billion people? Should we emphasize strictness of practice or the *prasādam*, teachings, and lifestyle? Should we stress the relationships of the practitioners of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with their family, with their coworkers, with society, etc.? Which one? Or all of them? How can we find the balance between fundamentalism and liberalism, or find a formula that can best represent your teachings while attracting more Chinese people?

Different devotees answer these questions in diverse ways. Crafting an effective preaching strategy for China will remain a crucial topic of discussion for the foreseeable future.

But no one should doubt that something must be done to address this challenge, for this country is unique in its ways of cultural presentations, its thinking, and its social circumstances. While holding on tight to the core principles of your teachings, we are scratching our heads to try to find more effective ways to present Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the hankering conditioned souls of Khasadesh.

As China's thirty years of economic achievements attract worldwide attention, Chinese authorities have widely acknowledged that social morality and favorable family and national traditions are being abandoned, thus creating chaos. Kṛṣṇa consciousness has so much to offer the Chinese people, a way to rectify this situation and bring real happiness and harmony to society. But as you often stressed, Śrīla Prabhupāda, of fundamental importance is that ISKCON members must set good examples in their daily lives to be able to convince people to take shelter of your lotus feet and make Caitanya Mahāprabhu's prediction come true.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, resolving all these issues will not be easy, but we must do so if we want the Chinese authorities and people in general to begin to appreciate your movement and take seriously the chanting of the holy names and the authority of our sacred scriptures.

Please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that by the humble and unrelenting endeavor of your faithful followers we will find the strategies and tactics that will enable us to fulfill the purpose of your divine appearance—to facilitate the chanting of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa in every town and village, including those in China.



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*Your faithful servants in China.*

(written by Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

## Czech Republic

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

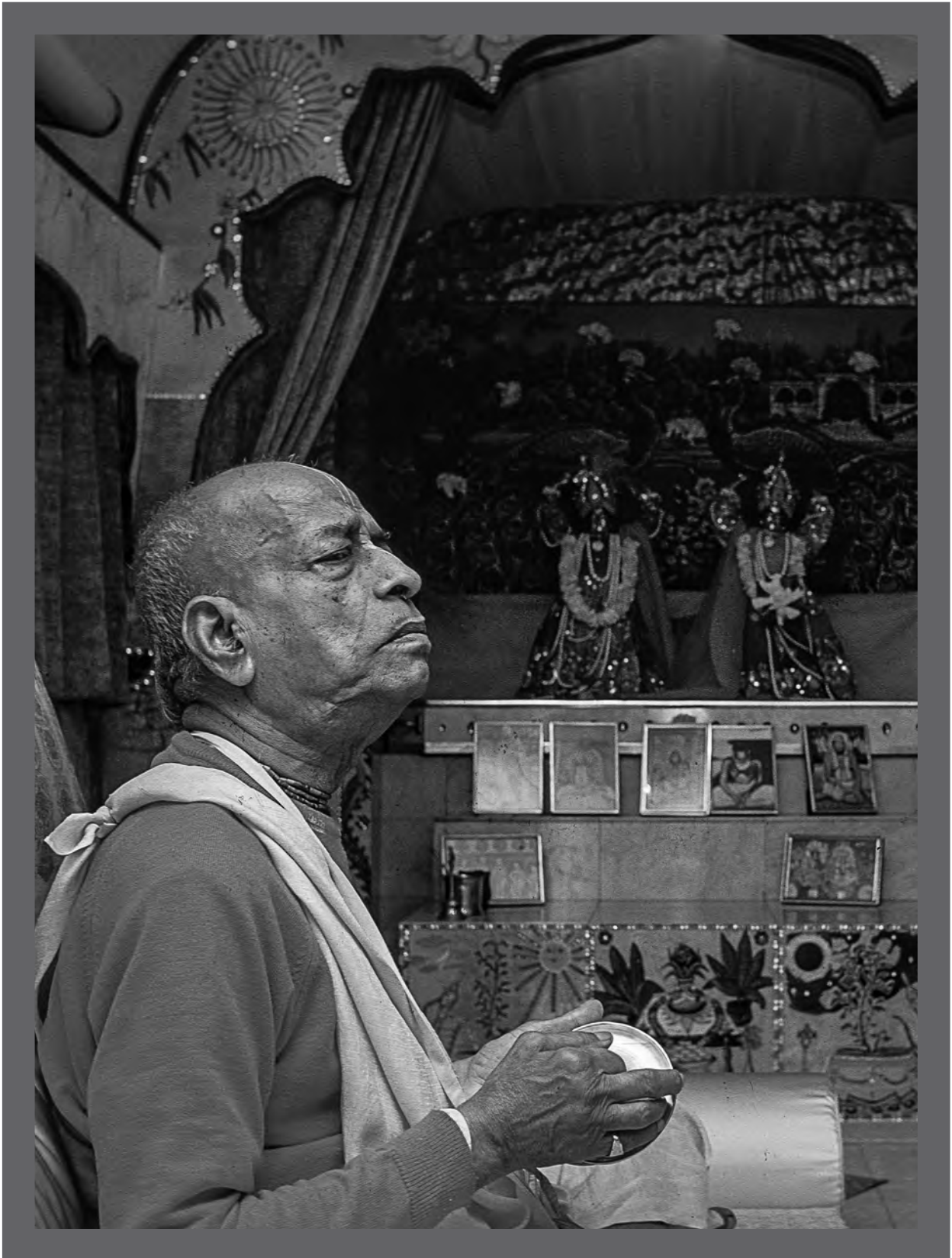
*asat-saṅga-tyāga, —ei vaiṣṇava-ācāra  
'strī-saṅgī'—eka asādhū, 'kṛṣṇābhakta' āra*

For a Vaiṣṇava, the standard behavior is to avoid the association of ordinary people not interested in *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Such common people are, first, those who are too materially attached, especially to women, and, second, people who are not at all devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Vaiṣṇavas should avoid the company of these two kinds of people. (*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā 22.87*)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

As a pure and fearless Vaiṣṇava *ācārya*, you always summon your readers and your listeners to leave the *asat* world. A Vaiṣṇava wants everyone to return to the *sac-cid-ānanda* world, back to home, back to Godhead (*asato mā sad gamaya*). A Vaiṣṇava has no business flattering people to get money and cheap adoration. On your Guru Mahārāja's order you engage us, your disciples and granddisciples, aspiring Vaiṣṇavas, in *sat*, eternal activities that will take us directly back to Godhead: following the four regulative principles and chanting sixteen rounds of the *mahā-mantra* daily without offenses, reading and understanding all your books, listening to your lectures (we are having them dubbed into the Czech language), worshiping the Deities of Nitāi-Navadvīpachandra, Gaura-Nitāi, Pañca-tattva, Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, worshiping Tulasī Devī, eating only *prasādam*, etc.

On your order, we take part in transcendental festivals where we get the company of hundreds of devotees. You engage us in chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa together on the streets and in organizing Ratha-yātrā



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

festivals and *padayātrās*. You inspire us to serve Kṛṣṇa in your Govinda's restaurants and take part in Sunday Feasts, held at your temples and farm communities. You inspire us to distribute your books fearlessly and give *sat-saṅga*, through your books, to as many people as possible.

Last year a young refugee from Turkey (he had been a soldier in the Turkish army and decided to emigrate to Europe) took part in the transcendental book distribution marathon during the Christmas season in the Czech Republic. One of the local devotees who was distributing books nearby told us that for hours on end no one took a book from this poor Turkish *brahmacārī*. No wonder: he could say only three or four words in Czech. But he soldiered on—fearlessly. After several hours, suddenly, one, two, three, four, a dozen people were lined up in front of the *bhakta*, waiting to take a book from him and give a donation. Why? Kṛṣṇa is in everyone's heart and can inspire anyone from within: "Go and get a book from this saintly person!" Kṛṣṇa always helps His sincere and fearless devotees who mercifully offer *sat-saṅga* to others. Recently, Śrīla Prabhupāda, this *bhakta* joined the *brahmacārī āśrama* in your Prabhupāda Bhavan in Brno.

Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura sings:

*sat-saṅga chāḍi kainu asate vilāsa  
te-kāraṇe lāgila je karma-bandha phāṇsa*

"I gave up *sat-saṅga* and became victimized by *asat-saṅga*, the association of nondevotees. Thus, I am bound by the ropes of *karma*."

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you for giving us the association of devotees, *sat-saṅga*, and also for giving us the opportunity to share the transcendental nectar of this association with so many people in the Czech Republic.

Please make us fearless, just like you, and give us the intelligence to avoid *asat-saṅga*. This is our fervent prayer.

*Your servants in the Czech Republic.*

(written by Jaygurudeva Dāsa)

## Detroit

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

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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

All glories to you and your ultimate blessing for humanity, the family of ISKCON, which has grown to very nearly a million members worldwide. There are around a hundred dedicated frontline generals who are constantly preaching to bring more and more lost souls under the umbrella of your causeless mercy.

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

Every year the worldwide distribution of your books steadily increases. New temples and centers are being established each year so that more and more souls can take shelter at your lotus feet. Practically every day somewhere in the world there is a Kṛṣṇa conscious festival being celebrated, giving a blissful experience to all participants. Every moment somewhere in the world your *prasādam* is being served to fortunate souls. O ever well-wisher of every living entity, all glories to your causeless mercy on all of us.

Here at the Devasadhan Mandir, as people enter the temple room they are greeted by you from your *vyāsāsana* and introduced to the mesmerizing Deities of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, who invite everyone to join Them in their transcendental dancing and chanting party. Then the visitors are introduced to the most merciful Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjabihārījī. The forms of Śrī Kuṅjabihārījī playing His flute and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī showering blessings with Her right hand captivate the guests and lift them into the transcendental realm. Then they stand before Their Lordships Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, who are continuously offered varieties of *bhoga*, the remnants of which are distributed as *prasādam*. Who would not be attracted? We sincerely thank you for establishing such a spiritual abode in Michigan with so much effort. As a result we all have an opportunity to participate in rendering pure loving services to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

In the daily *guru-pūjā* we sing:

*śrī-guru-caraṇe rati, ei se uttama-gati,  
je prasāde pūre sarva āśā*

“Attachment to the lotus feet of the spiritual master is the best way to make spiritual advancement. His mercy fulfills all desires for spiritual perfection.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us the easiest path for success: constant engagement in your service. Please give us the intelligence and ability to follow that path.

A team of devotees here is working to establish a long-term plan to beautify and maintain one of your dearest projects—Śrī Devasadhan Mandir. We beg for your continued blessings so that they can fulfill this mission. As you have said, the material energy is very powerful, so please hold our hands tight because we have the tendency to run away from you.

Begging you to forgive our unlimited offenses,

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

(written by Jagad-guru Dāsa)

## Durban

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances. All glories to you. All glories to the *saṅkīrtana* movement. And all glories to the gardener of the fruits of love of God, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Our dear founder-*ācārya*, this year marks the thirty-third anniversary of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha Mandir’s opening. Since the temple opening, we’ve had a timeline embellished with many success stories, along with challenges we have faced in growing as a society. Today, however, we stand as a movement (or a branch of your movement) on a firm foundation due to your dedicated followers’ sincere attempts to serve your mission.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Durban ISKCON is the grand flagship temple of South Africa, with thousands of initiated devotees in its congregation, an enormous annual Ratha-yātrā, very well attended festival programs, and so much more. Last year alone, the temple devotees and congregation members distributed ninety-two thousand volumes of your books. With all these accomplishments, one might be tempted to conclude that the ISKCON Durban yātrā has successfully completed the task you've set out for us. However, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with the high standards you set for your preaching mission, we understand that in truth all these accomplishments are simply the beginning of what you desire from us as your followers.

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.22.35, Lord Kṛṣṇa famously tells His friends the duty of everyone:

*etāvaj janma-sāphalyam dehinām iha dehiṣu  
prāṇair arthair dhiyā vācā śreya-ācaraṇam sadā*

“It is the duty of every living being to perform welfare activities for the benefit of others with his life, wealth, intelligence, and words.” Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, this is certainly our duty above all else, but we've seen that to perform this duty we must remember you and your teachings. Therefore, first we pray that you help us remember you so that all our endeavors may be in line with what you wish for the propagation of the *sāṅkīrtana* movement of the Lord. Please guide us, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we may stay true to your mission and in the service of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, so that we may not compromise the message of this *prema-rasa-bhakti-pracāra* movement and effectively give out the highest love of God to all living entities with all our words, acts, and lives. Grant us the grace to follow in your footsteps so that we may be able to innovatively give out your transcendental teachings to the contemporary world while staying true to the essence of what you have taught us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we also pray that you bless us with increased dependence on you. “Just as the sun's rays in the sky are extended to the mundane vision, so in the same way the supreme abode of Lord Viṣṇu can always be seen by the wise and learned devotees. Because those highly praiseworthy and spiritually awake *brāhmaṇas* are able to see the spiritual world, they are also able to reveal that supreme abode of Lord Viṣṇu.” (*Rg Veda* 1.22.20–21) Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help us see the vision you have for this movement so that in our individual and collective endeavors we may be your instruments in distributing the mercy readily given out by the Lord and his dearmost associates. Just as you exemplify surrender to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga, please guide us to surrender to you, our founder-*ācārya*. This will be the foundation of our success.

Always begging for your mercy,

*Your humble servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha Temple, ISKCON Durban, South Africa.*

(written by Pralambāri Dāsa)

## Enugu

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

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



## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you, ISKCON's founder-*ācārya*.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are *patita-pāvana*, the savior of the fallen. By your mercy, even a most fallen soul like me has gotten the opportunity to chant the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have saved me, and indeed the whole world, with the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I will forever remain grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to be part of this great movement.

Please bless this fallen soul and all of us here in Enugu so that we will remain in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and become your surrendered agents for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this corner of the world.

*Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

*Your servants at ISKCON's Rādhā-Govinda temple in Enugu, Nigeria.*

(written by Daśaratha Paṇḍita Dāsa)

## Gainesville

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

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

### I Have No Opportunity

In Māyāpur, in '75,  
The hot season had just arrived.  
The morning coolness faded fast  
as we sat down to hear your class.

*Ādi-līlā*, 1.13:  
Advaita: same as the Supreme;  
Ācārya: one who always shares  
Caitanya's movement everywhere.

You said, "My guru was most pleased  
To see more and more devotees.  
Not only him, but Kṛṣṇa too  
Himself does what He asks us to:

*"paritrāṇāya sādhu-nām  
vināśāya ca duṣkṛtām  
dharma-saṁsthāpanārthāya  
sambhavāmi yuge yuge*

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

"Unflinching faith in both the Lord  
and the *ācārya* bring you toward  
proficiency in Vedic texts,  
completely and in all respects.

"And when you follow cent per cent,  
You too can teach and represent  
The past *ācāryas* in our line  
When you mature in course of time.

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

"To be *ācārya* is not tough;



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Just follow yours, and soon enough  
Wherever you live in this world,  
You'll broadcast Kṛṣṇa's sacred words.

"You simply say what Kṛṣṇa said  
without concoctions from your head  
or mimicking, like parrot's squawk.  
Assimilate, and then you talk.

"Our devotees are, I would guess,  
Ten thousand worldwide, more or less.  
When you become ācāryas, then  
you'll multiply yourselves by ten.

"One hundred thousand soon shall be  
One million ācāryas, you'll see.  
A million, then, will soon expand  
to ten million—that is my plan.

"Ācāryas in such quantities  
Assure us of no scarcity.  
Since many, many are required,  
you organize and be inspired.

"Just follow your ācārya's words  
And try to make yourself mature.  
Although this age is dark indeed,  
Sincere disciples shall succeed.

"Remain sincere—that's all I ask—  
And make this present birth your last.  
You are all young, not old like me.  
I have no opportunity."

And suddenly you fell in trance,  
aloof from outer circumstance.  
Not knowing quite what else to do,  
Two hundred of us stared at you.

So silent was the temple hall,  
one could have heard a petal fall.  
As bliss absorbed you, I sat still,  
but now it's time to do your will.

*The devotees at Krishna House, ISKCON  
Gainesville, Florida, USA.*

(written by Kālakaṇṭha Dāsa)

## Genova

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, my eternal father,

I bow down at the dust of your divine lotus feet with my deepest attention and appreciation!

You are in my heart more and more. Your activities and your instructions are becoming my life and soul more and more. In May 1974 you visited Rome, and I had the opportunity to meet you, serve you, and hear from you. At that time I was a young boy less than twenty years old. I was very much attracted to you, but I could not properly understand your words or mission.

Now, after forty-four years, I'm repeatedly studying the instructions you gave us in Rome. You said, "Live locally and become self-sufficient. . . . Depend on the land and the cows." This is what we are trying to do now at Śrī Prabhupāda Dhāma, our center here in Genova. You said that this is a "solid program." You wanted to save us and others too.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we never saw anyone else preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness as strongly as you. Many big and important personalities—even big, big spiritual personalities—have come and gone, but nobody preached with anywhere near the power you did, or achieved anywhere near the results. This is very clear proof that you are unique and in a very, very, very special spiritual position!

Nowadays life has become so complicated that it is very difficult to live a simple life, as you wanted. The entire world is going toward hellish life, and to be a normal devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, to work the land and take care of cows, looks very strange and not economically attractive. Such a difficult situation.

We pray at your lotus feet to please bless us so that we will succeed in our preaching program of establishing Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Liguria, Genova, by distributing Kṛṣṇa's holy name, your books, and *prasādam*, and by managing our land project.

Please let me always remain a fool at the divine dust of your lotus feet.

*Your servants at Śrī Prabhupāda Dhāma, ISKCON Genova, Italy.*

(written by Dayānidhi Dāsa)

## Gianyar

Our dearmost beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, all of us here feel very fortunate to be residents in your big house called Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You have built a great house for spreading the message of Lord Caitanya. By your mercy, the devotees here were able to build a temple and form a small community around it. It's been almost sixteen years since our temple was established, and it's been almost twenty years since our community was started. When we look back, we can feel how merciful you have been upon all of us here.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your devotees in this *yātrā* nicely serve Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava by doing *harināma* regularly, distributing books, serving the cows, and doing small-scale farming. Our leaders have carefully planned the programs to further the preaching mission and to help both the temple devotees and our congregation progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We pray to Your Divine Grace that we can execute the plans. Our programs here have been sweetly monitored and directed by your merciful disciples, who regularly instruct us. We feel your mercy coming through them.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will remain indebted to you forever. Without your mercy and your herculean efforts, it would have been impossible for us to come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your mercy is unlimited.

Homages from ISKCON Centers



## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

We pray that we always stay on the path of *bhakti* and help you spread the teachings of Lord Caitanya.  
*Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

*Your servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Temple in Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia.*

## Gītā-nāgarī

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances.

By reflecting on the past year, we have concluded that the importance and relevance of committing to our personal and collective advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the only worthwhile endeavor in the material world. The paradigm shifts you have introduced in the Western world continue to inform our daily efforts to purify and improve ourselves.

As a farm/temple/community project, we are challenged to implement the *varṇāśrama* system you have presented to us. Creating an urban outreach connection with products and services from the farm has helped us understand your vision more clearly. We pray that we will fulfill your desire for a sustainable lifestyle according to the Vedic archetype.

We have also focused on educating college students in the Vedic principles of simple living and high thinking. Students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan, the University of Maryland, Penn State University, and other institutions have visited and stayed on the farm to observe your “Village where the song of God is sung” in action. Drexel University has assisted us in presenting this project in a way that reaches more of the general population. Farleigh Dickinson University has contributed technical assistance to make us more ecologically sustainable.

The Pennsylvania Institute of Power and Light invited us to present your ideals of a sustainable rural community in a faith-based setting. We were thrilled to present a solution for environmental destruction by putting Kṛṣṇa in the center of our lives. You teach us to change our consciousness if we would change the world, and our offering to you is to share this practical advice with the people at large. As we work to embody the lifestyle of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we pray for your continued guidance and support for our efforts.

Our retreat center has hosted people from all walks of life. We are pleased to discuss and show a practical example of Kṛṣṇa conscious cow protection, organic crop production, loving relationships in an intentional community, and alternative fuel generation. You have taught us that a family with a cow and some land can create enough resources to support a life of service to Kṛṣṇa and the devotees—your “simple living, high thinking” in action.

In your purports to the fifteenth chapter of the Third Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, entitled “Description of the Kingdom of God,” you encourage us to appreciate one another and our individual services. Just as the birds in Vaikuṇṭha remain silent so they can listen to the bees singing the glories of the Lord, we are learning to listen to one another with compassion and empathy. Just as the flowers and plants in Vaikuṇṭha are conscious of the austerities performed by Tulasī Devī, with whose leaves Kṛṣṇa garlands Himself, we cherish the sacrifices you have made to follow the instructions of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

We ask for your blessings so we can serve your mission with enthusiasm and perseverance. May we remain dedicated to transforming ourselves and those we may meet by chanting the holy names of Lord Kṛṣṇa: Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare!

*Your servants at Gītā-nāgarī, ISKCON's rural community in Port Royal, Pennsylvania, USA.*

## Glastonbury

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your beautiful lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

If it weren't for you, this entire planet except for India would be devoid of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. There would be much less Kṛṣṇa consciousness in India, as well. You are the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, and by your mercy your ISKCON is becoming greater and greater. It is expanding more and more all over the world, and wherever it previously existed, it is growing even bigger. Because you have chosen to assist Lord Caitanya in His *saṅkīrtana* movement, all the world has benefited. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

How do we measure how much Kṛṣṇa consciousness has grown? We cannot see into the hearts of the *jīvas*, but we can see more and more *jīvas* coming to the temples, more and more temples being built, small temples outgrowing their facilities and being replaced with larger temples, more and more of your books being distributed, more devotees chanting *japa* and following the regulative principles, and more devotees getting initiated. Therefore, we can safely say that you have succeeded in spreading Kṛṣṇa's holy name all over the world and that the number of people chanting the name is increasing exponentially. It would be very difficult for any person or country to stop it now. As Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja puts it in his *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi-līlā* 7.37), "No one can escape the unique loving network of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu." Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

You stayed with us long enough to ensure that your ISKCON would endure, making certain that its roots were firmly planted all over the world. Only then did you leave to be with your friend Kṛṣṇa, or maybe to go elsewhere in the material world to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. After you left we at first had difficulties, but your ISKCON endured the trials and is now blossoming into a beautiful tree with many beautiful fruits and flowers, and it is all due to your mercy and your sincere service to your own Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. As long as we follow your example and sincerely endeavor to serve you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever problems may arise can be solved by your mercy, and Kṛṣṇa consciousness will triumph and increase. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We, your servants in Connecticut, pray to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the strength to always stay under your shelter and never deviate from the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you have established. We have outgrown our previous temple in East Hartford, and by your mercy we now have a much larger temple. Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you!

*Your servants at ISKCON's temple in Glastonbury, Connecticut, USA.*

(written by Pyāri Mohan Dāsa)



## Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were once dubbed a jet-age *parivrājakācārya* because you single-handedly launched ISKCON and, to expand your fledgling spiritual society, flew all over the world despite your advanced age. Those with deeper vision can see that your ISKCON is the saving grace of the planet, for it is redirecting misguided people toward the supreme goal of life in this degraded Age of Kali. And anyone who dedicates his life to assist you in your sacred mission is to be considered most fortunate.

You were directly chosen by Lord Kṛṣṇa to come to this material world and preach His message, and you were directly empowered by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to fulfill His prediction that His holy name would be chanted in every town and village in the world. You have fulfilled the true meaning of the word *ācārya*, perfectly living and practicing what you teach, and always remaining faithful to the disciplic succession. In just twelve years you laid down the foundation of ISKCON, expertly organizing its management structure to ensure a bright future. Today, after fifty years, your ISKCON has grown to become the world's most powerful spiritual movement, bringing great hope to all who take advantage of it. And your books, your most significant contribution to humanity, have the potency to transform hearts from material to spiritual consciousness.

On this anniversary of your appearance, we pray that you will be pleased by our offerings to you thus far in the Guyana *yātrā*: several temples, five annual Ratha-yātrās, many initiated devotees, and an expanding congregation. Our report card for the past year has shown that the year has been marred by many disagreements as we endeavor to call for unity and affection among all the devotees, despite differences. We pray that you guide us so that your Society here can be truly united and function in a broadminded way with love and trust. We pray for the inspiration to create an environment where *bhakti* can nicely grow and bear fruit, with everyone working in the spirit of loving service to you.

If we are to influence the people of Guyana, we need to have our own house, your ISKCON society, in order and live what we preach. We therefore pray that you guide us to purge ourselves of things that cause us to fall prey to the lower modes, leading to *vaiṣṇava-aparādha*. Kindly bless us with the tenderness of heart so that when our brothers or sisters stumble, fall, or become emotionally wounded, we will have the compassion and love to try to understand their position and reach out to help them, and not ignore or belittle them or be overly judgmental.

Let us never forget that we are all part of the same spiritual family. One of your stated purposes of ISKCON is “to bring the members of the Society together with each other and nearer to Krishna.” Please bless us so this will be accomplished within our *yātrā*. Please bless us to be very careful how we deal with one another, looking first at the condition of our own heart and consciousness before we speak or act. Give us the common sense to appreciate the importance of Vaiṣṇava *saṅga* and to empathize with other devotees when they are in difficulty. Kindly help us understand that seeing anyone only externally is dangerous, since the true position of the person's heart may not be visible.

Let us remember that today's fallen souls may be tomorrow's saints, while those who appear advanced today may stumble tomorrow. Please bless us with the vision to see everyone as a covered spark of spirituality, and let the sublime qualities reign in our hearts—kindness, love, compassion, empathy, tolerance, humility, forgiveness, freedom from false pride, etc.

On a morning walk you once said:

Real unity is in advancing [in] Kṛṣṇa consciousness.... In the Kali-yuga you cannot strictly follow, neither I can strictly follow. If I criticize you, if you criticize me, then we go far away from our real life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. . . . So if I find simply fault with you, and if you find fault with

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

me, then it will be factional, and our real business will be hampered. [Morning Walk, Māyāpur, 10 March 1976]

The spiritual world is full of wonderful variety and differences in the “oneness” of service to Kṛṣṇa. Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly guide us to not be fanatics or impersonalists but to embrace one another in a spirit of “unity in diversity.” Let us be convinced that we truly need one another in all our diversity.

One pitfall is that we selectively search out certain of your instructions that are taken out of context to conveniently justify our narrow-minded moralistic disposition. This self-righteousness often leads to conflicts. Please give us the understanding to carry out your instructions to please you, and let us not only preserve the structure of ISKCON but the content and spiritual purpose that form its true foundation.

As we attempt to make ISKCON Guyana flourish in service to Your Divine Grace, we want to be careful not to be labeled as a society of law enforcers or quarrelers, but to be known rather as a society of lovers of God. We know that to please you we must demonstrate this love by our behavior, even with those with whom we disagree. O master, please grant us the desire to really listen to one another and help us stop habitually becoming prone to faultfinding, condemning, or holding grudges.

Let us start praying for one another’s welfare—especially those with whom we differ. Our thoughts and intentions toward others are vitally important for our own advancement and others’ welfare. Our inner life is the root of our actions and future. Whatever effort it takes to create unity, it is well worth it because we know that our love for you will be shown by how we cooperate.

Today we pray to you to bless us to look for the best in every devotee, seeking points of agreement, not emphasizing the differences. Let us be able to step back to gain perspective on our difficulties. Sometimes we are too close to our problems to have an objective view. This is why we need to create an atmosphere of openness and sharing, so that we can gain new perspectives and solutions.

Let us, by your grace, become uncommonly good souls. In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.4.12 you write:

Among the uncommonly good souls there are still gradations, and the best good soul is one who accepts an insignificant asset of a person and magnifies that good quality.

On this auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day, let our purified, compassionate hearts, spiritual vision, combined prayers, and endeavors for harmony be our constant offering to you. For all eternity we owe you an unpayable debt of gratitude, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Thank you for everything you have given us, for everything you have done for us. Thank you again and again.

*Your spiritual family in Guyana, South America.*

(written by Paramātmā Dāsa)

# Hong Kong

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances unto Your Divine Grace.

With all respectful reverence and a hope to please you on this anniversary of your glorious appearance, we offer you this short meditation on your causeless compassion and mercy upon us, the most fallen conditioned souls.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are forever indebted to you. You deeply touched each of our lives with your love and care. To deliver us from the suffering and misfortune we have experienced birth after birth, you personally came and showed us the real purport of compassion by giving us Kṛṣṇa consciousness and awakening in us the understanding that the cause of our misery is forgetfulness of our eternal relationship with Lord Kṛṣṇa. It is by your mercy that we have been given the chance to reconnect with Kṛṣṇa, the supreme enjoyer and controller of everything and the best friend of every living entity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are *karuṇā-sindhu*, an ocean of mercy. When we carefully examine your teachings and apply them in our lives, we can see how you are giving the highest standard of mercy to mankind. In this way we can become enlightened and freed from the entanglement of the material energy.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.2.36–37, you write:

A Kṛṣṇa conscious person should free himself from the clutches of *māyā*, and he should also be compassionate to all others suffering in those clutches. The activities of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement are meant not only for oneself but for others also. This is the perfection of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. One who is interested in his own salvation is not as advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness as one who feels compassion for others and who therefore propagates the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Such an advanced devotee will never fall down, for Kṛṣṇa will give him special protection. That is the sum and substance of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

On this auspicious day of your appearance, all the devotees in Hong Kong are meditating on your compassion and mercy upon us. We will never be able to repay the debt of your love. Still, please kindly reveal to us how we can best be engaged in your service eternally.

We strive to serve in unity and to continue to follow in your footsteps by actively immersing ourselves in your teachings and distributing to all living entities Kṛṣṇa's mercy in the form of His holy names, your transcendental books, and *prasādam*. Since we have personally experienced the great benefit of the teachings you impart in your books, we pray that many more people will transform their lives by reading your books and applying your teachings in their lives.

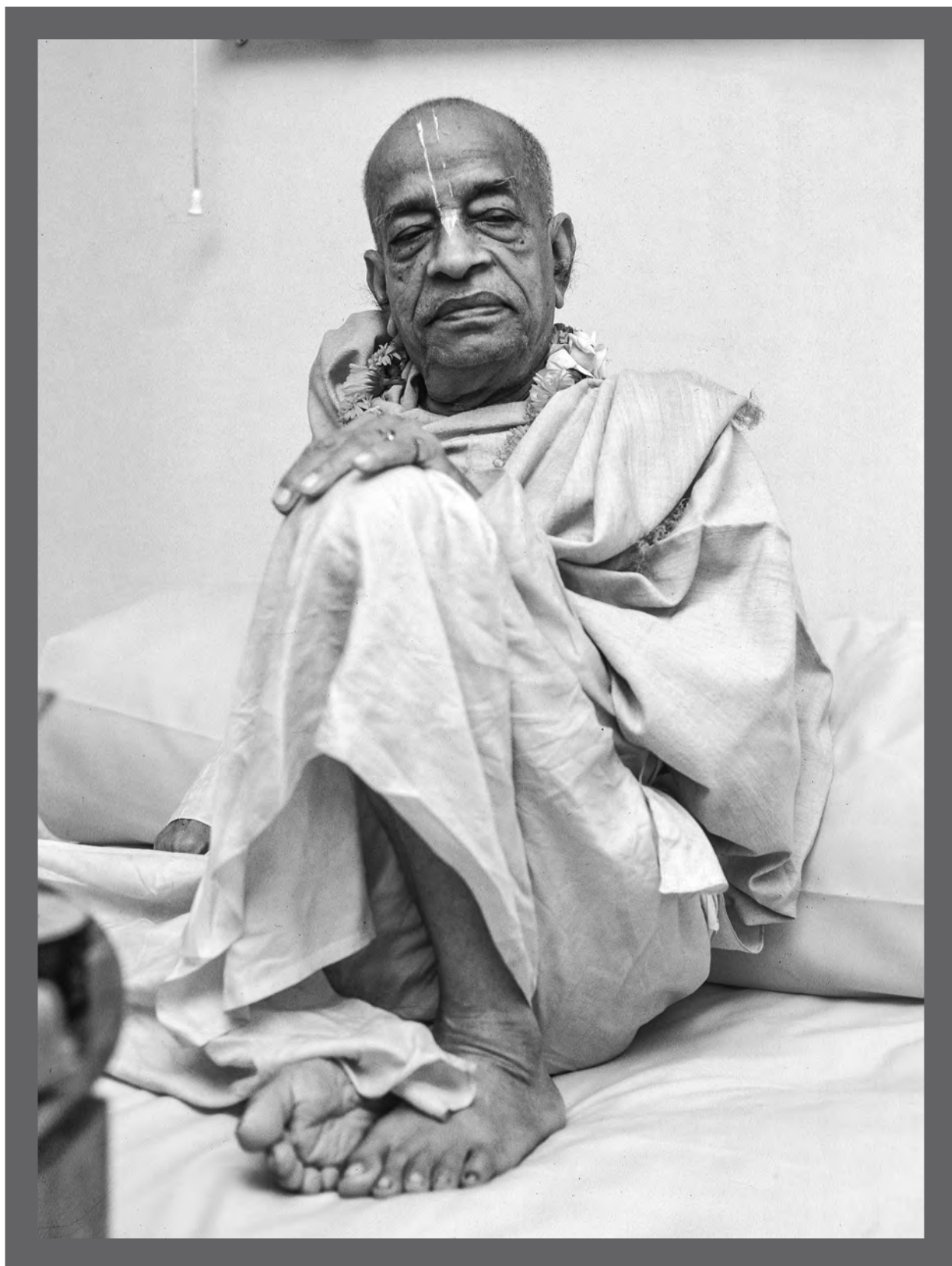
Śrīla Prabhupāda, service to you is our life and soul. We humbly beg for a drop of your unlimited mercy so that we may simply remain specks of dust on your lotus feet and one day be empowered to realize the real depth of the compassion you have so kindly shown us.

Always aspiring to serve you,

*Your servants at ISKCON Hong Kong.*

(written by Lilā-mayī Devī Dāsī and Haridāsa Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers



# ISKCON of Silicon Valley

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer you our respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

In *Light of the Bhāgavata*, at verse 43 you write, “We should not consider going back to Godhead a plaything. We must take it seriously, as enjoined in the scriptures.”

In modern society most people are regularly exposed to degrading influences and are sidetracked by a host of whimsical distractions. Practically, therefore, out of billions of people in the world, very few take to any serious spiritual practice, what to speak of adopting “going back to Godhead” as their ultimate goal. In general, says the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, in Kali-yuga “people have short lives; they are quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky, and, above all, always disturbed.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you started ISKCON not only to give such people sanctified places where they can find refuge in a spiritual atmosphere, but also to give bona fide systematic practices by which anyone can reach the goal of human life by going back to Godhead. These are invaluable gifts, which we at ISV are striving to take seriously.

Among numerous practices that you’ve advised us to take seriously, here are four that are foundational: (1) reading all your books; (2) strictly following the four regulative principles; (3) avoiding the ten offenses to the holy names; and (4) spreading the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement all over the world.

## Reading All Your Books

This seems a daunting task! Nonetheless, it is one that every serious follower of yours must embrace. At *Madhya-līlā* 25.279 of *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, you make this fact crystal clear.

All the devotees connected with the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement must read all the books that have been translated (the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, and others); otherwise, after some time, they will simply eat, sleep, and fall down from their position. Thus they will miss the opportunity to attain an eternal, blissful life of transcendental pleasure.

At first glance, reading all your books may seem an insurmountable challenge. However, by methodically reading a fixed number of pages each day, devotees find that they are able to complete all eighteen volumes of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, all nine volumes of *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, the entire *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *The Nectar of Devotion*, *The Nectar of Instruction*, and so on. In the process, they are becoming fixed in devotional service.

Intelligent humans venerate books and depend upon them not only for solace and entertainment but also for getting needed direction in their lives. As Thomas Carlyle wrote, “What we become depends on what we read after all the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is the collection of books.”

Similarly, we find that although you are physically no longer with us, through your books we can have your intimate association and receive unlimited instruction from you. In fact, the collection of your books contains all the essential knowledge a human needs to attain the goal of life. After all, the original purpose of forming universities was to bring together the most influential and important knowledge available in the world so that people might take advantage of it and thrive. You have done this by leaving us your books, which turn each home in which they reside into a university.

In emphasizing the reading of your books, you follow the mood and method of our *ācāryas*, such as Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī, who writes at *Madhya-līlā* 1.34 in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*:



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The Gosvāmīs carried out the preaching work of devotional service on the basis of an analytical study of all confidential Vedic literatures. This was in compliance with the order of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Thus one can understand the most confidential devotional service of Vṛndāvana.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your purport to this verse, you write, “This proves that bona fide devotional service is based on the conclusions of the Vedic literature.”

We therefore pray to remain fixed in the serious practice of reading all of your books again and again, as you have advised.

### Following the Regulative Principles

In a letter dated July 16, 1969, you tell Brahmānanda Dāsa that those who are truly serious will follow the four regulative principles:

Regarding your plan for advertising membership in BTG, that is nice. I do not see how we can insist that all members must follow the four regulative principles, but this is certainly our recommendation to anyone who is serious about pursuing Krishna Consciousness.

In your purport to *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 19.156, you further highlight the importance of following the order of the spiritual master by remaining faithful in adhering to the regulative principles:

If one thinks that he has become very mature and can live separate from the association of Vaiṣṇavas and thus gives up all the regulative principles due to offending a Vaiṣṇava, one’s position becomes very dangerous. Offenses against the holy name are explained in *Ādi-līlā*, Chapter Eight, verse 24. Giving up the regulative principles and living according to one’s whims is compared to a mad elephant, which by force uproots the *bhakti-latā* and breaks it to pieces. In this way the *bhakti-latā* shrivels up. Such an offense is especially created when one disobeys the instructions of the spiritual master. This is called *guru-avajñā*. The devotee must therefore be very careful not to commit offenses against the spiritual master by disobeying his instructions. As soon as one is deviated from the instructions of the spiritual master, the uprooting of the *bhakti-latā* begins, and gradually all the leaves dry up.

People are serious about many things in the modern world—sports teams, developing their physiques, plumping their bank accounts—but only a rare few are serious about abstaining from illicit sex, meat-eating, gambling, and intoxication.

We pray to remain fixed in the serious practice of following the four regulative principles, as advised by you.

### Avoiding the Ten Offenses in Chanting the Mahā-mantra.

In a letter to Govardhana Dāsa dated March 6, 1970, you wrote:

Chant regularly sixteen rounds of beads daily without fail avoiding the ten offences to the Holy Name of Kṛṣṇa. This will make you intelligent to understand our philosophy, and you will automatically acquire all auspicious qualifications by always being engaged in devotional service of the Lord.

In other words, one must both chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and avoid the ten offenses. One who upholds both of these instructions is known as a serious practitioner.

You confirm this idea at *Madhya-līlā* 12.135 in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, where you similarly state that

while practicing the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa we must also keep our hearts “as clean as Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu kept the Guṇḍicā temple”:

If a devotee at all wants to cleanse his heart, he must chant and hear the glories of the Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa (*śṛṇvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ*). This is a simple process. Kṛṣṇa Himself will help cleanse the heart because He is already seated there. Kṛṣṇa wants to continue living within the heart, and the Lord wants to give directions, but one has to keep his heart as clean as Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu kept the Guṇḍicā temple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to remain fixed in the serious practice of avoiding the ten offenses against the holy name, as advised by you.

### **Spreading the Kṛṣṇa Consciousness Movement All Over the World**

Finally, you consistently define a serious and advanced devotee as one who is absorbed, both mentally and physically, in spreading the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement all over the world.

This definition becomes apparent in your purport at *Antya-līlā* 3.52 in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*:

When the Lord is unhappy because of the condition of the fallen souls, the devotee consoles Him, saying, “My dear Lord, do not be in anxiety.” This is service. Everyone should adopt the cause of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to try to relieve Him from the anxiety He feels. This is actually service to the Lord. One who tries to relieve Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s anxiety for the fallen souls is certainly a most dear and confidential devotee of the Lord.

In another example, at verse 5 in *The Nectar of Instruction*, you describe *uttama-adhikārīs* as those who are always thinking about how to expand the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement:

Out of many such [initiated] Vaiṣṇavas [rendering devotional service], one may be found to be very seriously engaged in the service of the Lord and strictly following all the regulative principles, chanting the prescribed number of rounds on *japa* beads, and always thinking of how to expand the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Such a Vaiṣṇava should be accepted as an *uttama-adhikārī*, a highly advanced devotee, and his association should always be sought.

What’s more, at verse 24 in *Teachings of Lord Kapila*, you designate those who preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness as “superior *sādhus*.”

Those who are preachers are superior to those who go to the Himalayas to meditate. It is good to go to the Himalayas to meditate for one’s personal benefit, but those who undergo many difficulties in order to preach are superior. They are actually fighting for Kṛṣṇa’s sake, and they are certainly more compassionate. Those *sādhus* who leave Vṛndāvana to go fight in the world, to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness, are superior *sādhus*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to remain fixed in the serious practice of expanding the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, as advised by you.

Humans have free will to choose what to do with their lives. Taking one’s spiritual life seriously is a choice that is therefore open to each individual. But even for those who do decide to take a serious approach to spiritual life, there are various religions and spiritual causes, as well as leaders, prophets, and incarnations, to which one may dedicate one’s life.

Among these seemingly unlimited choices, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we at ISV very deliberately choose to

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not only follow you and your teachings but to also adhere to the tenets of your organization, ISKCON. We do so because your mood and method for approaching the Supreme Personality of Godhead and for going back to Godhead is firmly rooted in seriously following *guru*, *sādhū*, and *śāstra*, as is ISKCON.

At *Antya-līlā* 4.102–3 of *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Sanātana Gosvāmī tells Haridāsa Ṭhākura:

Some behave very well but do not preach the cult of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, whereas others preach but do not behave properly. You simultaneously perform both duties in relation to the holy name by your personal behavior and by your preaching. Therefore you are the spiritual master of the entire world, for you are the most advanced devotee in the world.

Recognizing you as the most advanced devotee in the world, on this day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the members of ISKCON of Silicon Valley, pray that we may follow all of your instructions with the utmost seriousness.

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

(written by Vaiṣeṣika Dāsa)

## Israel

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your holy feet. Hare Kṛṣṇa!

You are so merciful that you kindly give shelter to many fallen souls, including us aspiring devotees in Israel. The more we try to take part in your mission, the clearer we see your greatness.

You are a perfect leader, a perfect manager, a perfect cook, author, musician, mediator, book distributor, and fundraiser, and most importantly, you are a true example of a pure devotee of the Lord.

Remembering you and your pastimes is a huge source of strength and inspiration in every field of service we try to take up. Your faith in the holy name, your care for the devotees, your deep knowledge of the scriptures, your desire to serve your spiritual master—contemplating all these glorious attributes of yours gives us life.

We see how all over the world your disciples are carrying forward your mission in such amazing ways. They are living proof that the scientific process you gave us actually works.

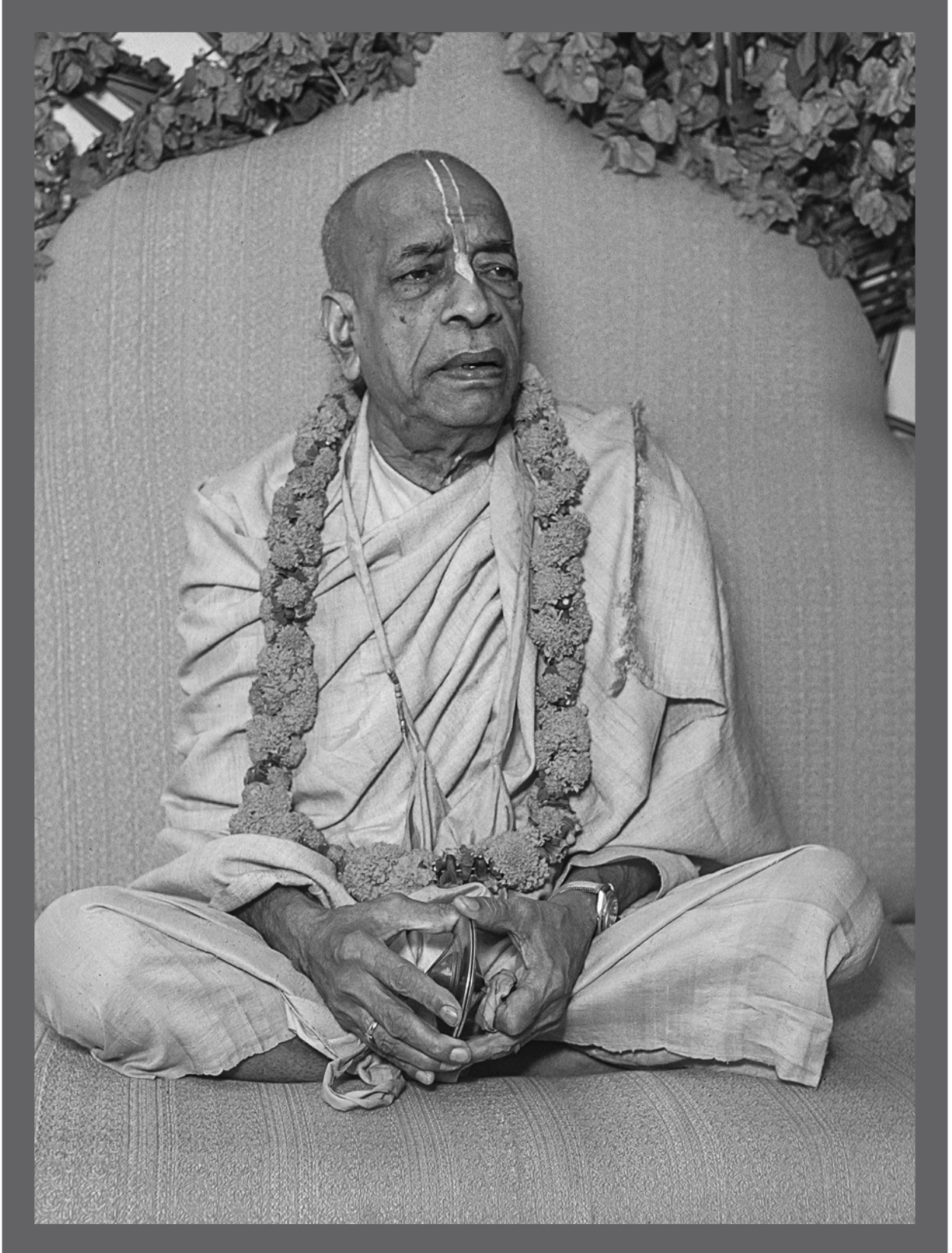
We are also trying to play a part in your mission. We try to deeply think about your instructions and understand what you want us to do as individuals and as a community.

You are the founder-*ācārya* of our movement, the one who built this amazing home for us, and on this day we pray to you: Please help us find our place in the mission you so kindly brought us. Please help us have strong faith in your mission and enthusiastically and cooperatively carry out our services to Guru and Gaurāṅga in a way that will be pleasing to you.

Thank you!

*Your servants in Israel.*

(written by Bāla Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)





## Karuṇa Bhavan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances.

Śrī Śrīmad A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda, you are the most glorious and confidential servant of Lord Kṛṣṇa in the world. Being a pure devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa, you are on the same spiritual platform as the Lord Himself. Thus we can maintain remembrance of God by maintaining remembrance of you, His pure devotee. As you once said, “Do not try to see Kṛṣṇa without the *guru*, and do not try to see the *guru* without Kṛṣṇa.” Thus the holy appearance day of Your Divine Grace is a special opportunity for remembering and expressing love for both Lord Kṛṣṇa and His pure devotee.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you successfully distributed the message of Lord Kṛṣṇa throughout the world. Although you always expressed your humility and spoke of your insignificance as a servant, it is evident to anyone who has studied your life and pastimes that you perfectly displayed all the special qualities of a pure devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa, as described in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.

Your beautiful transcendental qualities are manifest in the many varieties of devotional service rendered by your disciples and granddisciples all over the world. In book distribution, in *prasādam* distribution, in outreach programs covering many towns and cities, and in temple festival celebrations, your qualities of mercifulness, truthfulness, magnanimity, fixed determination, being equal to everyone, compassion, and concern for everyone’s welfare are gloriously displayed.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we conditioned souls simply do not possess the ability to appreciate the greatness and full extent of your transcendental qualities. However, whatever small appreciation we do have benefits us greatly.

*Your aspiring servants at Karuṇa Bhavan, Scotland.*

## Klungkung

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

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

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

*mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṇḍuraṁ laṅghayate girim  
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-gururṁ dīna-tāraṇam*



## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

*jaya śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu-nityānanda  
śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*

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

All glories, all glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, O savior of the most fallen soul!

All glories, all glories to you, O Jagad-guru, who have enlightened the whole world!

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept our humble obeisances at your merciful lotus feet. By your mercy we conditioned souls in this material world are receiving knowledge of self-realization, like light dissipating the darkness of ignorance.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are still conditioned souls who are attached to material enjoyment. We don't have any qualifications at all to praise your unlimited glories. But by your mercy, despite our limited knowledge we feel impelled to write a few words glorifying you on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the savior of the most fallen souls. You have distributed throughout the world the love of Godhead that was bestowed by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. A drop of that love reached Indonesia when your lotus feet walked in Jakarta back in 1973, and since then, even till today, that love has been spreading to all parts of Indonesia.

Here in Klungkung, a small town in eastern Bali Island, your mercy has manifested as a beautiful little temple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjavihārī Mandira, where our beloved Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjavihārī and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi reside. Due to your books, your recorded teachings, and the guidance of your disciples, thousands of people here have become Kṛṣṇa conscious and are regularly engaging in devotional service to Śrī Gaurāṅga and Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Your disciples and granddisciples regularly visit Bali and with full enthusiasm give us their blessings, guidance, and association to strengthen our devotion to you. As a result, in Bali there are now ten ISKCON centers and thousands of enthusiastic aspiring devotees. This fired-up congregation enables us to maintain many programs, such as Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, preaching through Balinese cultural shows, and full observance of Vaiṣṇava festival days in the temple. In your temple in Klungkung we are trying our best to do our regular daily *sevā* to our Deities, and we always perform *guru-pūjā* to you every morning.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, O Jagad-guru, you have indeed been sent by Lord Kṛṣṇa to this world to take up the mission of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu: to spread the holy name to every town and village around the world and to save fallen souls such as us. You have proven your dedication and devotion to your *guru*, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, by following his order to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western world. You have succeeded in introducing Kṛṣṇa consciousness into Western culture, which is full of passion (*rajas*) and ignorance (*tamas*). Millions of copies of your books have been distributed throughout the world, in many different languages; ISKCON has established many temples around the world; and most important, you have produced disciples who are dedicated to spreading your teachings through books and classes and by following the example you showed.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, O Patita-pāvana, O destroyer of the sins of the fallen souls, you have given us the matchless gift of loving devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa (*kṛṣṇa-prema-bhakti*). By your mercy anyone can attain the perfection of spirituality as divine knowledge rises in his heart, giving *prema-bhakti* and destroying ignorance. You are the *parama-guru*, an ocean of mercy, a friend of the fallen souls. Indeed, you are the guru for everyone and the life of all. O *parama-guru*, please give us your mercy and the shelter of your lotus feet. May your glories be sung throughout the three worlds.

O Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day of your appearance we beg you to always shower your mercy upon us here in Klungkung, Bali, so that we can always serve your order and continue to serve your mission. Please shower mercy on your disciples and our gurus so that they will always give us their association and strengthen our *sādhana-bhakti*. Please inspire us to overcome any obstacles that arise in our daily *sevā* to you and our beloved Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjavihārī and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all your gifts and for inspiring so many of your senior disciples to

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

show us so much mercy here in Bali. May the whole world be at peace and enjoy the highest spiritual happiness by chanting the *mahā-mantra*:

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda-*kī jaya!* Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā-*kī jaya!* Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi-*kī jaya!* Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjavihārī-*kī jaya!* *Samavetā bhakta-vṛnda-kī jaya!*

*Your servants in Klungkung, Bali, Indonesia.*

(written by Bhadra Dharma Dāsa and Giridhārī Dāsa)

## Latur

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. Hare Kṛṣṇa! All glories to you, O *jagad-guru* Śrīla Prabhupāda! I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to perform this humble service of writing an homage to you and offering it to your lotus feet.

You several times said that as the grandchildren are especially dear to the grandfather, the granddisciples are very dear to the grand-spiritual-master. We here in Latur are all your granddisciples, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and so we pray that you accept this homage despite its many shortcomings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the way you presented the message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is extraordinary and, indeed, unique. You took so much trouble just to deliver fallen souls like us and give us the shelter of Lord Gaurāṅga and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Who else could have done this? Only you had the compassion in your heart that impelled you to work so hard to transform the hearts of millions.

We devotees at ISKCON Latur are trying our best to please you with all our efforts. O dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, O manifestation of the mercy of Lord Gaurāṅga and Lord Nityānanda, O dearest disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, we are very grateful to you for creating ISKCON and the BBT and allowing fallen souls like us to serve you. Those two golden Lords are your constant companions within your heart because you have conquered Them with your intense loving devotional service.

O most magnanimous ocean of mercy, please let the flow of your effulgent mercy flood our hearts so that we are impelled to chant the holy name and dance and play your *br̥hat mṛdaṅga* eternally for your pleasure. Let us be puppets in your hands, always dancing according to your desire.

Always in your service,

*Your servants in Latur, Maharashtra, India.*

(written by Sundara Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

# Ljubljana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to express our appreciation for you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and renew our dedication to serving your glorious mission.

This year we would especially like to reflect upon your saintly qualities. A saintly person, a true *sādhū*, is a true well-wisher of all of humanity, indeed, of all living beings. At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.25.21 we find this description of a *sādhū*:

The symptoms of a *sādhū* are that he is tolerant, merciful, and friendly to all living entities. He has no enemies, he is peaceful, he abides by the scriptures, and all his characteristics are sublime.

You embody this description, Śrīla Prabhupāda. How tolerant you were with your young disciples! In the beginning days you prepared *prasādam* for them, served them, and cleaned up after them. You waited in line to use the bathroom, as if you were just one of them. You were so tolerant of their shortcomings.

Your merciful nature was powerfully manifested when you came to the Western world in your old age, to a country you did not know, with no money and no friends, just to give the greatest treasure of pure devotional service to the most fallen.

This year we are meditating especially on your friendliness to all living entities. Your love for Kṛṣṇa extended to all His parts and parcels, and thus people who met you could sense in you a complete absence of envy or any desire for exploitation. That's why so many of them took shelter of you. Everyone in this world is looking to be loved unconditionally. So many of your disciples have testified that when they met you they experienced being truly loved for the first time in their lives!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are so eager to extend this kind of love and care to others! People come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness for various reasons, but they stay only if they feel sufficiently loved and cared for. By your mercy, our Ljubljana *yātrā* is vibrant and dynamic, full of devotees who are dedicated to serving your mission through regular *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, book distribution, *padayātrā*, systematic education of new devotees, community outreach, and other successful programs. There are many new local people coming to the temple here, which is situated in the heart of the city. Our desire is to capture these new people in a loving network of friendly relationships with the devotees and provide ongoing care and nurture for their devotional lives.

This is not an easy task. You said that it takes gallons of blood to make one devotee, and it takes even more to keep this devotee in the process of devotional service and nurture him all the way to the highest perfection. It is a difficult task because it means that we have to work even harder to purify our hearts of envy and lust so we can truly care for other devotees without trying to exploit them in any way.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day we pray to you to shower your mercy on us and make it possible for us to bring this young community to a new level of development. Please empower us to extend this loving care to one another and to new devotees, and let this *yātrā* become another shining example of loving and friendly relationships among the devotees, which will attract the whole world.

*Your servants at New Yoga Pīṭha, Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

## London (Soho)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you! All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara!

We simply cannot express in words what you mean to us—it is not possible. You saved us and gave us a purpose in life. You taught us everything.

How can a drop of ocean water properly reciprocate with the vast ocean? That is how we feel about writing this offering to you. All we can do is express our sincere gratitude for your coming to this miserable material world and making Kṛṣṇa and His devotees so accessible to all the conditioned *jīvas*.

Thank you for saving our souls, thank you for showing us the way back to Godhead, and thank you for still being here for us and giving us the opportunity to share with others the most amazing gift you have given to us—Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Just by remembering that we can all have a relationship with you gives us the strength and enthusiasm to walk along the path of *bhakti*.

Thank you for all the unlimited ways in which we can serve you and your dynamic mission, thus engaging our specific abilities in your service. Otherwise, what else would we be doing? Our time would be wasted satisfying our senses and searching for happiness where it doesn't exist. You have shown us the goal and the means by which to reach the goal.

We feel you have taught us especially through your books. Thank you for being present with us through your wonderful books. We feel indebted to you for the sacrifices you undertook to translate and produce these books for the benefit of generations to come.

You are always present before us in your *vāṇī*, in your books, and without them we would be completely lost and drowning in ignorance.

Your compassion can be felt by everyone who reads your books, interacts with the devotees, and takes *prasādam*. The unlimited love and shelter you give know no bounds. Your words are our pathway back home. May the holy name be our sound track in eternal service to you and the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the great compassion you are showing to all conditioned souls, even after your departure from this material world. The potency of the words in your books, your lectures, etc., are truly extraordinary and wonderful and provide the real medicine for contaminated and suffering hearts who take shelter of those words. Those words give us the opportunity to purify ourselves and reach the highest goal—love for Kṛṣṇa.

We owe you our lives, Śrīla Prabhupāda. There's no going back now, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You've stolen our hearts.

We pray that we can deepen our relationship with you every day and that we can learn to serve you better every day.

You are our torchlight of knowledge, and we are eternally indebted to you.

*Your grateful servants at ISKCON's temple in Soho, London, UK.*

## London (South)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*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*

You are supremely spiritual,  
And we are loyal servants  
Of you and Kṛṣṇa.

You stay with us;  
Thus we stay spiritual.

You gave us Kṛṣṇa consciousness  
Because you wanted the best for us.

You are the moon;  
We are earthly beings,

And you always stay with us  
To help us.

Please help us reach  
*Prema-bhakti*  
To come to your home.

We try to distribute  
Your transcendental books  
To please you.

We try to preach widely  
To attract sincere souls  
To you and Kṛṣṇa.

We wish we were born before  
So we could listen to more  
Of your enchanting *kīrtanas*.

We are just single drops of your ocean.

*Your servants at ISKCON South London, UK.*

(written by Pushkar Gupta, age ten)



## Longdenville

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet on this all-auspicious occasion of your 2018 Vyāsa-pūjā. All glories to you.

By your divine grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, since 1970 the devotees here at ISKCON Trinidad and Tobago have been worshiping Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā by cooking, offering *bhoga* and *ārati*, bathing and dressing Them, etc., at the appointed hours.

Since 1991 we have annually been celebrating Ratha-yātrā in central, south, northwest, and northeast Trinidad, and more recently in Tobago.

By your divine grace we are still regularly performing *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and *padayātrā* in the towns and villages of Trinidad. We are continuing to distribute your transcendental books, as well as *prasādam* (including Food for Life).

We conduct religious-instruction classes in a few secondary schools. We also have regular classes and seminars on *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, as well as special courses in *japa* reform, initiation, etc.

Because of the religious and cultural divisions here, many people still see us as just another version of Hinduism. Therefore we need to preach more by example to improve our public and governmental relations and to create more full-fledged *kṛṣṇa-bhaktas*.

From the very beginning of ISKCON in Trinidad and Tobago, you expressed a desire to construct a temple here like the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir in Vṛndāvana. We are still undecided as to where and when, but we are confident that, by your pure desire and our conscientious efforts, Kṛṣṇa will one day enable us to do it for your pleasure and satisfaction.

We also have plans to increase ISKCON in St. Lucia, to reopen ISKCON Barbados, and to open ISKCON centers in Grenada, St. Vincent, Jamaica, and all the other Caribbean islands through the process of beating your *bṛhat mṛdaṅga*, performing *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, and preaching by personal example.

May we always remember and never forget that your foremost desire is that we all become pure devotees of Kṛṣṇa. That will be the best way to please you and glorify you.

Thank you very much.

*Your servants at ISKCON's Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha Mandir in Longdenville, Trinidad and Tobago.*

(written by Devendrānuja Dāsa)

## Málaga

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

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

My most respected spiritual master Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the empowered representative of the Supreme Lord, Kṛṣṇa, and you proved this with your divine actions, your great purity, and your dedication to saving the conditioned souls from the cycle of repeated birth and death. In the future the world will hopefully recognize the magnitude of your divine offerings, your herculean efforts to bring all the fallen souls of this material world back home, back to Godhead. These offerings of yours were not just small-time religious sentiments but full of divine philosophy with practical application on how to stop the process of birth and death of the condemned souls of this world. You wanted to let them taste, even in this life, the eternal happiness of the spiritual world through the great chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, the out-of-this-world taste of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, your divine books, the ecstatic association of pure-hearted Vaiṣṇavas, the blessings of the divine incarnations of the Lord (the *arcā-vigrahas* in all your temples around the world), your great farm projects, your *gurukulas*, the *darśana* of holy *dhāmas* like Śrī Vṛndāvana and Māyāpur, etc.

Your Divine Grace has given a chance to those sincere souls who surrender to your lotus feet to realize the eternal kingdom of God, Kṛṣṇa. You have provided a very precise spiritual process to attain the greatest gift in life, *kṛṣṇa-prema*, by which any soul, imbued with his original loving-service mood toward Kṛṣṇa, can enter the eternal world of the Lord of all material and spiritual worlds.

We, your humble servants at the Málaga *mandira*, beg you to please overlook our shortcomings and bless us with *laulyam*—eagerness to be able to rise to higher and higher levels of unconditional surrender and to become pure, unalloyed tools in your divine hands to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in every town in the province of Málaga, Spain.

*Your eternal servants in Málaga, Spain.*

(written by Nandagopa Dāsa)

## Manchester

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you and your wonderful ISKCON.

Recently we were invited to take part in a fiftieth anniversary celebration at a local Hindu temple in Manchester. The people there insisted we bring our devotees and do a Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā. The whole event went very well. Everyone was very happy and satisfied.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

During the procession it occurred to us that nothing happens by chance. Why was it arranged that people are now asking us to come out and distribute the mercy of the Lord?

It occurred to us that it is not a mere coincidence that shortly after ISKCON celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2016, many spiritual organizations are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary. It appears that as Your Divine Grace was inaugurating ISKCON in the West, the Lord was inspiring people in general to become prepared to eventually take part in your movement of spreading the Lord's holy name.

It seems that the jigsaw puzzle is coming together, that Lord Gaurāṅga's prophecy is taking shape: "In every town and village My name will be sung." The people of this world are accepting your gift more enthusiastically than ever before.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your gift to this world.

Here at your Manchester temple we are trying to serve you in a united spirit. The devotees are beaming with enthusiasm. We remember that you once said that the demigods are queuing up to take part in Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement. When we see the devotees' enthusiasm, we realize that you were not exaggerating.

At your temple here miracles are happening regularly—miracles of the transformation of dry, hard hearts into soft hearts full of love for your beloved Lords, Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

On this auspicious anniversary of your appearance, we pray that we may all remain united in your service. May the Lord grant us the benediction of becoming instruments of His mercy in your lotus hands. May our offering of service to your temple be pleasing to you.

May we always serve you as you want us to.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*Your servants at ISKCON Manchester, UK.*

## Maple

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Your arrival on this planet was predicted again and again;  
Your mercy would shower upon us like the monsoon rain.

Because you took your Guru Mahārāja's instructions to heart,  
You traveled from Vṛndāvan to lands an ocean apart.

By making this extremely treacherous journey to the West,  
You proved you were committed to fulfilling Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta's request.

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

Coming to America, you were not merely another immigrant;  
Rather, a worldwide spiritual transformation was imminent.

You actually reside in the abode of Kṛṣṇa Supreme,  
Your face always glowing beautiful and serene.

Although you were fully self-realized,  
You came to deliver the fallen souls far and wide.

Armed with your most important possession, you left Vṛndāvan Dhām  
With a trunk full of commentaries on the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

To introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the Vaiṣṇava tradition,  
You were resolute to carry forward this mission.

You arrived in America, where young men and women were disillusioned;  
Soon they would wholeheartedly accept the *Bhagavad-gītā*'s conclusion.

You recognized that the population was covered by the mode of ignorance;  
You trusted that repeating Kṛṣṇa's instructions would result in deliverance.

The hippies were lost and protesting the American way of life and the war,  
No longer content with the material pursuit of acquiring more and more.

You effectively harnessed their discontent,  
Steering these souls to become Kṛṣṇa's servants.

"Stop wasting your lives!" was your timeless message,  
And this was backed up by the most perfect knowledge.

Even today it is hard to imagine all that you have done,  
Yet we see it in reality in this worldwide ISKCON revolution.

By your dedication, purity, and inspiration,  
ISKCON temples, restaurants, farms, and schools are in every nation.

Devotees are working on your grand project, the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium;  
From there Lord Caitanya's glories will be effulgent millennium after millennium.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you removed all speculation and doubt;  
Your teachings are all that we need to know about.

By your wonderful books, devotees continue to be made;  
Your *vāṇī* ensured that the proper foundation was laid.

What fortune to have been present when your lotus feet walked this earth!  
Your appearance allowed us to fulfill the reason for this human birth.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are our savior;  
You completely turned around our behavior.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Only through your grace could Māyā by us be possibly overcome;  
Because of your compassion, somehow devotees we have become.

May you always shower us with your merciful glance;  
May we in Kṛṣṇa consciousness continue to advance.

Please help us abandon material pursuits and fully surrender;  
Please keep us at your lotus feet for protection and shelter.

May your glories be sung all over the globe,  
For you have brought light to many a soul.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for saving us;  
Thank you for this gift so precious.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we bow down with gratitude and sincerity;  
May we serve you and the Lord for all eternity.

*Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

*Your faithful servants of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara in Maple, Canada.*

(written by Mīnākṣī Devī Dāsī)

## Mauritius

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. On this most auspicious anniversary of your divine appearance, I beg for your continued guidance so that I can be a tiny instrument for propagating spiritual knowledge in this misdirected society of ours.

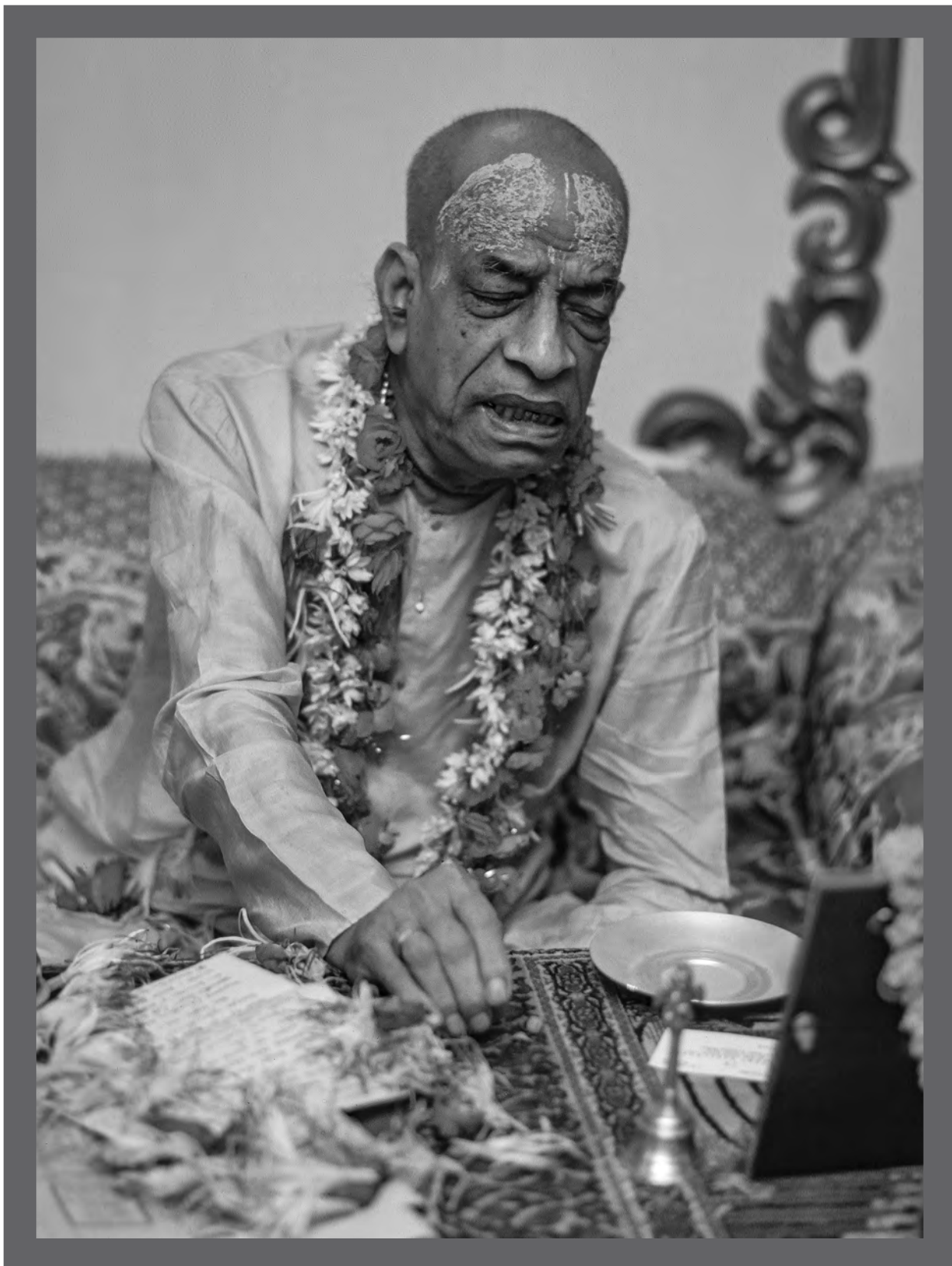
My vocabulary is quite inadequate to do justice to my attempt to express my deep gratitude for all you have given us, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

How does one thank a person who has left behind open homes of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa in every country, galleries of paintings depicting the transcendental *līlā* of the Lord and His many *avatāras*, libraries of books containing the most valuable knowledge in the universe, kitchens where devotee cooks prepare and offer *prasādam*, the most delicious and purifying food in the world, numerous transcendental, uplifting festivals, extended families of devotees in every country, solutions to all material problems, and temples and guest facilities in the main places of pilgrimage on earth?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave me the rationale to mend my ways, to live in harmony with myself and my surroundings by embracing the principles and practices of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the causeless mercy you showered on this undeserving fallen soul.

By translating the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* into English and providing your realized commentary, you have opened up an ever-widening corridor to the spiritual world, whereby one can understand:





## Homages from ISKCON Centers

- (1) the good fortune of a human birth.
- (2) that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
- (3) genuine spiritual *dharma* compared to compartmentalized religion.
- (4) the futility of struggling for material goals in this temporary material world.
- (5) the process for achieving real happiness in this very life.

If not for the astounding sacrifice you made at the advanced age of seventy, this world would have continued accelerating on the path of degradation to hellish life. Your contribution is constantly challenging the status quo of the materialistic value system and ushering in a new world order for unity and peace. Way back in 1966, when you incorporated ISKCON in New York, your vision was clearly encapsulated in ISKCON's objectives, one of which was to bring unity and peace in this world by systematically propagating spiritual knowledge to society at large and educating all people in the techniques of spiritual life.

You may be pleased to know that the vegan movement in the world today has become a strong force against the meat industry. Many leading personalities are aligning with this movement, which is actively educating people about the detrimental effects of meat on health and the environment. You consistently warned society's leaders of the deleterious effects of meat-eating on individual and global consciousness, and people are now waking up to your call.

Since July 2017 it has been compulsory that new disciples undergo an examination to test their knowledge of your position and your teachings. Ways and means are being established to monitor the devotees' progress in understanding your books and preaching their contents. Through your mercy, your ISKCON movement is expanding worldwide.

The world is facing a new addiction: the smart phone. This device is like a handheld television that allows one to communicate cheaply. It has transcended national boundaries and is mesmerizing literally billions of people, immaterial of age or gender. It is one of the biggest time-wasters. The leaders and designers of the various applications are at their wits end, not knowing how to deal with this phenomenon. This is yet another proof of how we are being misdirected by technology. The solution is to teach Kṛṣṇa consciousness from a very young age. Only in this way will society be able to keep a proper balance and achieve the real purpose of life, which is to get out of the cycle of birth and death and go back home, back to Godhead.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your inestimable contribution to this world and for engaging this fallen soul in your ISKCON.

*Your servants at the ISKCON Vedic Farm in Bon Accueil, Mauritius.*

(written by Varada Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

# Mexico City

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious anniversary of your sacred appearance, we feel so committed to helping you spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the whole world, and especially in our country. We were so fortunate to witness your wonderful pastimes in this world! All alone you came to the West and started the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, and by thus bravely serving your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, following his orders so faithfully and obediently, you have changed the course of human destiny. And this unbreakable determination of yours to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness is just one of the many transcendental qualities you demonstrated for our edification.

We humbly ask you to help us train ourselves to serve you as you served your Guru Mahārāja—with the obedience and determination required to receive Lord Kṛṣṇa's favor. Please help us stay united in serving your glorious ISKCON movement, even in a humble and insignificant manner.

Thank you very much forever, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Your humble servants at the temple of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-Gopāla in Mexico City, Mexico.*

# Miami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

One of your unique and most wonderful gifts to human society in general and your disciples and devoted followers in particular comprises your transcendental literatures. In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the very first request the sages of Naimiṣāranya placed before Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī was that he state the absolute and ultimate good for the people of this age. They said:

*tatra tatrāñjasāyusman bhavatā yad viniścitam  
puṁsām ekāntataḥ śreyas tan naḥ śamsitum arhasi*

“Please, therefore, being blessed with many years, explain to us, in an easily understandable way, what you have ascertained to be the absolute and ultimate good for the people in general.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.9)

They further qualified their inquiry by describing the unfortunate condition of the general populace in this Age of Kali.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

*prāyeṇālpāyusaḥ sabhya kalāv asmin yuge janāḥ  
mandāḥ sumanda-matayo manda-bhāgyā hy upadrutāḥ*

“O learned one, in this iron Age of Kali men almost always have but short lives. They are quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky, and, above all, always disturbed.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.10)

Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī replied to the sages’ inquiry with the following words:

*sa vai puṁsām paro dharmo yato bhaktir adhokṣaje  
ahaituky apratihātā yayātmā suprasīdati*

“The supreme occupation [*dharmā*] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.6)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as a spiritual representative of Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī and the entire *paramparā*, you took as your mission the teaching of this highest truth of devotional service to the people of this fallen age. Following in the footsteps of the previous *ācāryas*, you gave us only those transcendental literatures that would lead us on the path of devotional service.

In one of your last instructions, you said, “There is nothing new to be said. Everything is in my books.” All your books are transcendently sweet like sugar candy, and all of them are vital for our advancement in spiritual life. Although every one of your books points to devotional service, one book that especially stands out is *The Nectar of Devotion: The Complete Science of Bhakti-yoga*.

In Part One of *The Nectar of Devotion*, you take us from an understanding of the six characteristics of pure devotional service in chapter one to the point of *kṛṣṇa-prema* in chapter nineteen. This means that if we fully absorb ourselves in practicing the principles described in the first nineteen chapters, we can become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious in this lifetime. You often encouraged us with words like “If you just give this one life for serving Kṛṣṇa, you will go back to Godhead. I guarantee. You will go back to Godhead.”

In your books, you did not write only a few basics that your early followers might be able to grasp. Rather, you also presented the highest knowledge, which can be realized only by those who have already perfected their lives through this process. For example, in the beginning of Part Two of *The Nectar of Devotion*, you write:

The different types of *rasa*, when combined together, help one to taste the mellow of devotional service in the highest degree of transcendental ecstasy. Such a position, although entirely transcendental to our experience, will be explained in this section as far as possible, following in the footsteps of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī.

It is not, however, that you intended for us to wait until we become fully liberated to read the latter three sections of *The Nectar of Devotion*. You wanted us to study the entire *Nectar of Devotion*, along with your other books, again and again. For those who are sincerely following the path of *vaidhī bhakti*, even theoretical or not-yet-experienced knowledge of the various *rasas* will have a profound effect on their consciousness and inspire and encourage them to complete the process.

As you taught us, although the progressive path of devotional service is a spiritual process, it is not a purely mechanical process that guarantees one success just by going through the motions. For example, one may chant Hare Kṛṣṇa for hundreds of years but never achieve perfection if he does not give up the offenses to the holy name. One of the offenses is to disobey the orders of the spiritual master, and one of those orders is to study your books. Regular service to both the book *bhāgavata* and the person *bhāgavata* is essential for us to advance on the spiritual path. Although everything is contained within the holy names of the Lord, we victims of Kali-yuga need to also develop some philosophical understanding of the process to help us stay on the path of *bhakti-yoga*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue to guide us on the path of *bhakti-yoga* and inspire us to regularly

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

serve these two *bhāgavatas* so that we may all perfect our lives through the process you taught us.

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

# Monterrey

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we devotees at ISKCON Monterrey, in northeastern Mexico, would like to tell you how grateful we are for everything you left to us. We, your spiritual grandchildren, cannot imagine what would have become of us if we had never encountered one of your books, seen devotees chanting on the street, tasted *prasādam*, etc. Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the great legacy you bequeathed us, a treasure we appreciate so much that for your and Kṛṣṇa's satisfaction we will continue to pass it on to as many people as possible for the rest of our lives. We all feel so fortunate to have received your mercy and been brought closer to Kṛṣṇa, and for that we will remain infinitely grateful for all eternity.

Spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide for the benefit of every soul, you brought the *mahā-mantra* and the knowledge of Lord Kṛṣṇa into our lives. Because you created this international society, we have met many devotee friends we would have never encountered if we had led another kind of life. We are all so different, but we are united through the *mahā-mantra* and devotional service. This makes us a big spiritual family.

Since we began this process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you have changed our lives. Our only thought is how to serve you better so this spiritual movement can grow and more people can benefit. The more purified we become by practicing the process of devotional service, the more compassionate we become toward all living entities. Because of your infinite mercy and compassion toward all of us, you have involved us in this wonderful mission.

Even though you are no longer physically present with us, and even though we were not fortunate enough to meet you in person, you are still here, inspiring us to follow your teachings.

Thank you for transforming our lives by teaching us that working for our own real benefit means working for Kṛṣṇa's satisfaction.

Once more, on this day of your Vyāsa-pūjā we would like to reaffirm our commitment and loyalty to you. We love you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are the foundation of our lives.

*Your servants at ISKCON Monterrey, Mexico.*

(written by Draupadī Devī Dāsī)



## Montreal

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

During this year's Gaura Pūrṇimā festival in Śrīdhām Māyāpur, your glorious followers joyfully gathered again to chant the holy names and celebrate the ever-increasing glories of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi's divine *līlā* of the worldwide *saṅkīrtana* movement. For me, the highlight of the festival was to see thousands of these most fortunate souls gathering every morning for your *guru-pūjā*. As we all enthusiastically offered you our hearts in loving gratitude, with blissful chanting and dancing, I was repeatedly moved to tears to witness such a powerful surge of loving feelings, which only you could inspire. I realized then that you have always been fully present whenever and wherever your followers offer you their grateful service.

Many times you confided to your sincere disciples that you never felt separated from your own perfect master, and that you always felt guided and sheltered by him. We continue to pray to you that we will somehow be blessed with the seed of such perfect *guru-niṣṭhā*. Only by your mercy can we aspire to join in this divine synergy of loving inspiration. ISKCON is the manifestation of your shelter, under which millions of present and future fortunate souls can spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the effulgent savior of all mankind and the embodiment of real hope for bringing suffering mankind out of the darkness and confusion of this Kali-yuga.

*Your grateful servants at ISKCON Montreal, Canada.*

(written by Gokulānanda Dāsa)

## Mpumalanga

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration. All glories to you, our dearest grandfather.

We fallen souls in this corner of the universe will humbly try to glorify Your Divine Grace on this auspicious day. How could we possibly find the perfect words to do so? Even if we had a thousand mouths,

we could not sufficiently thank Your Divine Grace and glorify you.

In the local language, *mpumalanga* means “the rising sun.” In this province of South Africa, where mining dumps and power-station towers spew out pollutants, the sun is covered most days. But the real pollutant is *māyā*, which covers our vision of Kṛṣṇa. By the mercy of Your Divine Grace, however, we are distributing the holy name, your books, and *prasādam* to every town and village in the province, and so the sun of Kṛṣṇa is now shining here more and more brilliantly.

A grandfather is more compassionate to his grandchild than the father is to his child. The grandfather never shows a mood of anger or chastisement; the mood of love is ever prevalent. That is the mood we feel Your Divine Grace always has toward us. How lucky we are! Not only did you distribute love, but the most *sublime* love—love of Godhead.

We are all struggling, entangled in material existence, and Your Divine Grace has given us the greatest gift, the *mahā-mantra*, by which we can end this entanglement. The process of chanting the *mahā-mantra* is so sublime and powerful that we can easily see the impact it is having on all fallen souls, including us.

An *ācārya* leads by example. How superbly and perfectly Your Divine Grace laid the foundation of this movement! How simple Your Divine Grace made the process! Your Divine Grace is always our inspiration; without your teachings and example we would be lost in this maze of *māyā*. Your teachings are the perfect force to mold us into better human beings, to make us more tolerant and humble.

On this auspicious day we humbly beg Your Divine Grace to always be merciful upon us. It is only by that mercy that we will be able to assist Your Divine Grace in spreading the chanting of the *mahā-mantra*, in distributing books and *prasādam*, and in taking the Ratha-yātrā festival to every town and village throughout Mpumalanga and Mozambique.

*Your eternal servants at ISKCON Mpumalanga, South Africa.*

## Mumbai (Chowpatty)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

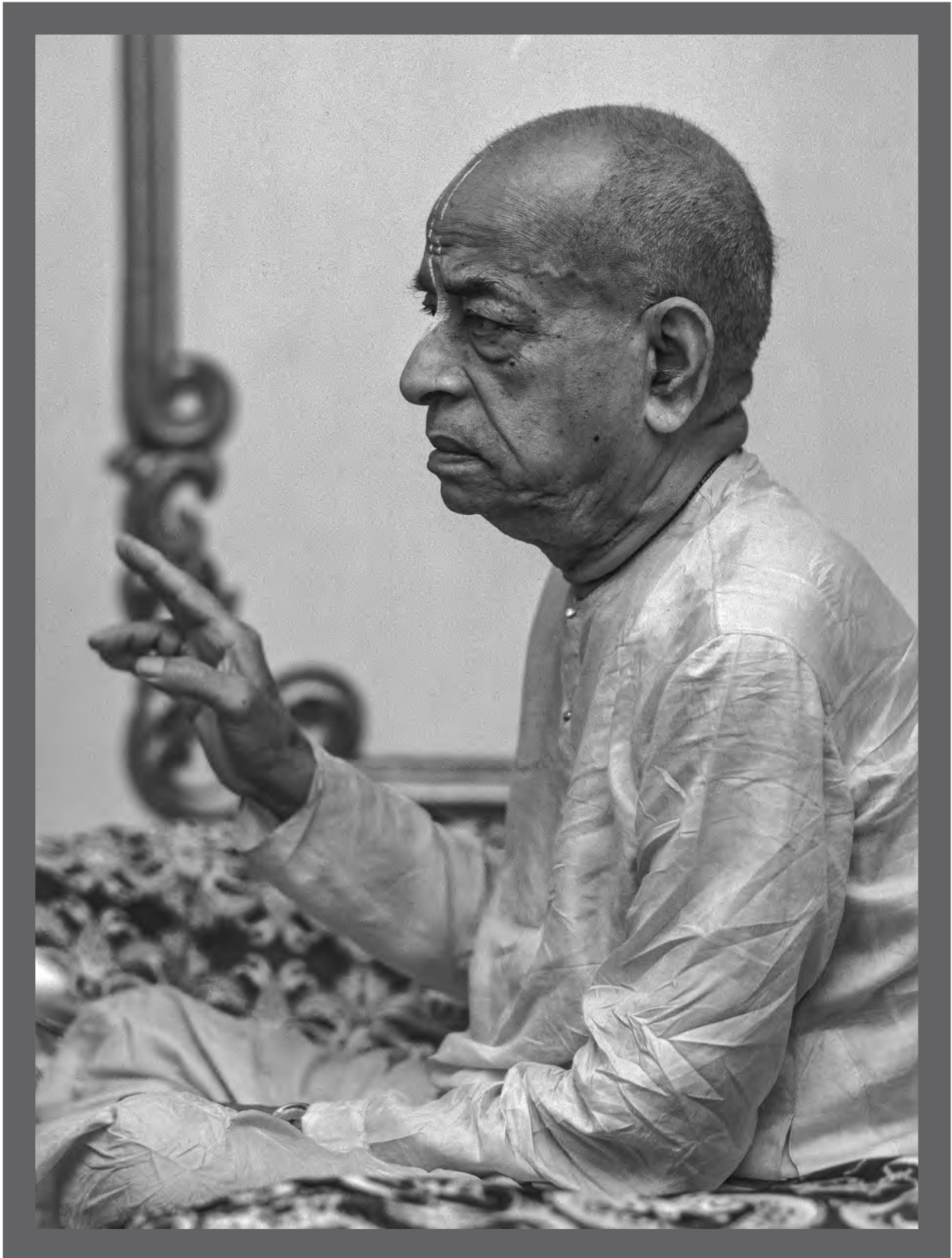
Please accept my humble obeisances.

On this most auspicious anniversary of your appearance, I would like to express my gratitude for so much I have received from you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your absorption and focus in following the orders of your spiritual master are a tremendous inspiration for all of us. In 1922 Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura gave you the order to go to the West and preach the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu in the English language. From 1922 until 1965, you experienced so many ups and downs in your business life, in your personal life, in the Gauḍīya mission, and in your various attempts to preach, difficulties that could have easily created hopelessness and shaken anyone’s faith and inspiration. But you never allowed these obstacles to overcome your determination to carry out your *guru*’s order; you never got discouraged, but rather, depending fully on Kṛṣṇa and having faith in the holy name and your Guru Mahārāja’s instructions, you continued preaching, courageously sailed alone to New York in 1965, and established ISKCON there in July of 1966.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your example you taught us how each and every verse of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā* is like a precious jewel and how by the currency of faith one can purchase that jewel. In the 1950s, when you read the verse from the *Bhagavad-gītā* beginning *vyavasāyātmikā buddhiḥ ekeha*

Homages from ISKCON Centers



*kuru-nandana*, and then the commentary by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura, in which he says that one should make the instructions of the spiritual master one's mission in life, you took those words into your heart and with full faith redoubled your determination to preach in the West. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you spent sleepless nights translating the Sanskrit and Bengali commentaries of the great *ācāryas* into English to give us access to the treasure of so many of these jewels in your books. We pray at your lotus feet that we may also receive a small fraction of the currency of faith that you have and purchase some of these jewels so we can imbibe these instructions into our lives.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, not only have you given us *sambandha-jñāna* in your books, but you have also facilitated us with *abhidheya-jñāna* by creating the institution of ISKCON, which has all the facilities for us to practice what you have given us in your books. Ratha-yātrā is one of the Lord's most esoteric pastimes, signifying as it does how the greatest devotees of the Lord—Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and the *gopīs*—having suffered years of separation from Kṛṣṇa, are now pulling Him from Kurukṣetra back to Vṛndāvana in the chariot of their minds. You took this Ratha-yātrā pastime out of India and established it all over the world, thus enabling anyone to come forward, pull the chariot ropes, assist in this divine pastime, and get the mercy of the Lord's devotees.

On this most auspicious day, I would like to seek your blessings so that I can dedicate each and every moment of my life to serving in your mission by assisting the Vaiṣṇavas in the mood of a servant of the servant, with gratitude and humility.

*Your servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha temple in Chowpatty, Mumbai, India.*

(written by Gaurāṅga Dāsa)

## Mumbai (Juhu)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This year Makara-saṅkrānti, January 14th, marked the fortieth anniversary of the inauguration of the palatial marble temple you built here for your beloved Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī. We held a four-day festival, with the participation of about 125 guests from around the world, including about 75 of your disciples who had helped you build this landmark project. Śrīmān Padmanabha Acharya, one of the original tenants at Hare Krishna Land who was blessed by your stay in his house, and who is now the Governor of Nagaland, participated in the program and glorified Your Divine Grace. Devotees from four ISKCON temples in Mumbai who participated in the festival were inspired by the heart-touching speeches of your servants, who shared accounts of their transcendental association with you in Bombay, your transcendental "office." Please give us the intelligence to realize your dream of making the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī temple the leading preaching center in the world.

By your divine will, the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium at Māyāpur is manifesting fast. The work is in full swing, and the financial requirements are demanding. We would like to financially help the TOVP in a big way. Kindly bless us so we can raise significant funds for the TOVP and help that magnificent temple of yours be inaugurated in 2022.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

At the Talasari farm, we have completed the swimming pool cum ground-level water-storage tank, additional guest rooms on the first floor, and an overhead water tank. Renovation of the ground-floor guest rooms is underway.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have completed the kitchen complex for Food for Life, the sweets stall, the bakery, and the Deity kitchen extension on the ground floor of the old *gurukula* building. We have also renovated the *brahmacārī* kitchen and made a *brahmacārī prasādam* hall on the ground floor.

In order to help the *saṅkīrtana* department function in a better ventilated place, we have made an office and a book godown on the ground floor. Now the *saṅkīrtana* department is functioning in this new place and we seek your blessings to increase book distribution.

During the book distribution marathon in December 2017, we scored 392,034.25 book points, which included 188,690 mahā-big books. Our book score for the year 2017 was 513,895.25. We stood in second place in the world for the marathon and third place in the world for our annual score.

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

*Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Juhu, Mumbai, India.*

## Mumbai (Mira Road)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.15, the sages at Naimiṣāranya glorify Sūta Gosvāmī with these words:

*yat-pāda-saiṁśrayāḥ sūta munayaḥ praśamāyanāḥ  
sadyaḥ punanty upasprṣṭāḥ swardhuny-āpo 'nusevayā*

“O Sūta, those great sages who have completely taken shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord can at once sanctify those who come in touch with them, whereas the waters of the Ganges can sanctify only after prolonged use.”

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because you have completely taken shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord, millions of *jīvas* are being sanctified just by your association and have gotten the highest gift of *prema-bhakti*.

Thirumangai Alwar, an incarnation of the Supreme Lord's bow, engaged people in the mode of ignorance in serving the Lord by employing in the service of Lord Rāṅganātha the treasure that robbers had stolen. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the only *ācārya* who has engaged people in the mode of ignorance in devotional service by engaging drug-addled hippies in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Although we are in Kali-yuga and thus affected by the modes of ignorance and passion, still, by following your instructions we can be elevated to the mode of goodness. And if we follow your instructions with determination, we can even attain the mode of pure goodness.

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.10 the sages at Naimiṣāranya give this assessment of the people of this age:

*prāyeṇālpāyusaḥ sabhya kalāv asmin yuge janāḥ  
mandāḥ sumanda-matayo manda-bhāgyā hy upadrutāḥ*



“O learned one, in this iron Age of Kali men almost always have but short lives. They are quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky and, above all, always disturbed.” Despite these disqualifications, however, whoever came in contact with you was transformed by your divine association.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us the most invaluable gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and also given us the means to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Out of the countless ways you have given us to become Kṛṣṇa conscious, we are very fond of the frequent festivals relating to Lord Kṛṣṇa and His pure devotees. By giving us the Vaiṣṇava calendar, you keep us engaged throughout the whole year celebrating these festivals, which fill our hearts with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We involve ourselves wholeheartedly celebrating these festivals and engage many others in serving Lord Kṛṣṇa as well. We also come to know about various personalities in our *guru-paramparā*, and after reading about them our *sādhana* improves.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you also have given us the Vaiṣṇava *bhajans* of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, Śrīla Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, and other Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas*. By giving us these *bhajans* you are teaching us how to glorify Lord Kṛṣṇa’s pastimes and what our mood should be while praying, namely that our own sense gratification should not be the center of our prayers. We learn how to humble ourselves when we sing the *bhajans* celebrating the frequent festivals.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have very nicely scheduled *bhajans* that have to be sung daily for the Deities—*Gurv-aṣṭaka*, the Nṛsiṁha prayers, *Guru Vandana*, *Jaya Rādhā-Mādhava*, the *bhoga-ārati* song, the *nāma-kīrtana* song, and the *sandhyā-ārati* song.

### ISKCON Mira Road Preaching Report

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your causeless mercy we conducted Ratha-yātrās at Mira Road, Thane, Kandivali, Worli, Bhayender, Borivali, Chembur, Nallasopera, and Virar.

There were 27,000 transcendental books distributed by the congregation devotees during the Gītā Marathon last December.

The Deity department is very well taken care of by temple and congregation devotees. With love and care, five *āratis* are offered every day, preceded by *bhoga* offerings.

More than 700 children attended summer camps and participated in the children’s Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā and the spiritual science exhibition.

A hundred children attended the *japa* course conducted by His Holiness Bhakti Br̥hat Bhagavat Swami.

We conducted a residential Diwali camp. We held weekly *Gītā* classes for children at residences and some schools.

Youth festivals for unmarried boys and girls were conducted every month. Young boys and girls who attend these programs have started doing their *sādhana* seriously.

Bhaktivedanta College students are doing Bhakti-śāstrī.

More than fifty Devotee Care leaders are preaching to, engaging, and taking care of congregational devotees and newcomers.

The Rādhā-Giridhārī home school—a *semi-gurukula* conducted as per the instructions of His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Mahārāja and His Grace Kamalalochan Prabhuji—has been started with fifteen children, who are in the temple from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are guided by a staff of ten teachers.

Our Govinda’s Restaurant is functioning very well, getting a good response, especially on weekends and festivals.

Food for Life is functioning well, providing *prasādam* throughout the day and providing *prasādam* to thousands of children in school every week.

Twelve hours of *harināma-saṅkīrtana* are done every Ekādaśī.

We started a *gośālā* at Boisar and are marketing cow products.

We do two love-feast programs: a Hindi one with attendance of around 400 devotees, and an English one with attendance of around 100 devotees.

We treat Life Members with special care, giving them an opportunity to offer *ārati* to Their Lordships

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

on their birthdays and providing lectures exclusively for them.

The guesthouse is functioning well.

ISKCON at Charkop and Vapi are functioning well.

\* \* \*

We pray at your lotus feet to give us the strength and intelligence to come to the pure stage of chanting, to engage others in making advancement toward this stage, and to have no ulterior motive in our preaching activities. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help us all. Give us strength. Let us be as you are, without selfish desires or aspirations. We offer you all respects, for thus we may come to know you correctly. Then, when we chant the holy name in great ecstasy, all our offenses will cease.

*Your servants at ISKCON's temple on Mira Road, Mumbai, India.*

## Munich

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

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

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

**Śrīla Prabhupāda**  
(a small poem)

Like the moon among so many stars,  
You appeared on the horizon  
of the Western skies  
to illuminate the world  
with the cooling rays  
of Lord Nityānanda's mercy.

The nectar rain of love, the moonshine of your love—  
may it shine, may it shine, may it shine  
forever.

*Your servants in Munich, Germany.*

(written by Nikhilānanda Dāsa)

# Nagar Saṅkīrtan Mandir

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

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

*jaya śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda  
śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, although I don't have any qualification to describe your glories, on this auspicious day please allow me to offer you this short homage in the form of poem.

## O Śrīla Prabhupāda

Like the winter winds,  
You cool down the dried heart.  
Like the morning dew,  
You wash the faces of grief.  
Like a rainstorm,  
You extinguish the flames of lust.

Like the ripples of ocean waves,  
You clean the ocean of sin.  
Like lightning in the day,  
You wake up the dreaming souls.  
Like the singing of a bamboo tree,  
You whisper the strains of the holy name.

Like the dance of an angel,  
You fly the soul into spiritual space.  
And like the sun,  
You illuminate all hearts with the love of spiritual devotion.

*Your servants at the Nagar Saṅkīrtan Mandir in Jembrana, Bali, Indonesia.*

(written by Maheśa Paṇḍita Dāsa)

## Nagpur

Dear Parama-pūjyā Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*Daṇḍavat-praṇāmās* from all your granddisciples here in Nagpur, India.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we trace the origin of our temple here to the following letter you wrote on April 8, 1975, to Ashis Roy, a leading resident of Nagpur:

My dear Mr. Roy,

Please accept my greetings. I am in due receipt of your kind letter dated 27th March, 1975, and have noted the contents carefully. The process of opening a center somewhere is that we go there and hold classes for one week on the teachings of Bhagavad-gita and if the people like, then we'll open a center. Actually, the teaching of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that in every town and village there will be a center of Krishna Consciousness, is essential. People must co-operate. If not, then they will have to suffer. So, I am very glad that you have come forward, being one of the leaders of the cultural community. I am very much enthused by this. Our ideology is standard. It is not anything new, but it is very old. It is not anything concocted. *ajo nityah sasvato 'yam purāṇo na hanyate hanyamane sarire*: The living entity is unborn, eternal, ever-existing, undying and primeval. He is not slain when the body is slain. (Bhagavad-gita 2/20).

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Vṛndavana festival, which will be held on the 20th of April up to the 27th of April. We will be opening our temple there. If you can come, then we can talk in detail about a center at Nagpur.

I hope this meets you in good health.

Your ever well-wisher,  
A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swami

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mission to preach in the West took a lifetime of preparation. Similarly, here in Nagpur it has taken our lifetime to fulfill your desire. There were so many challenges and obstacles, but now it seems that we are ready.

The introductory phase of establishing ISKCON Nagpur is over, and we now have a nice middle-sized temple here with twenty-five temple devotees, of which fifteen are *brahmācārīs*. We are doing well in the book marathons and have around forty-five boys in VOICE (Vedic Oasis for Culture, Inspiration, and Education). There are many other preaching initiatives, such as twenty Bhakti Vriksha groups. All functions of the temple are going on at an acceptable standard, and we have no debt.

As we informed you last year, His Holiness Lokanāth Swami signed a memorandum of understanding for five acres of land to build a temple. Now, for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha, the presiding Deities of ISKCON Nagpur, we are pleased to inform you that the land was registered in the name of ISKCON Nagpur on 9 December 2017.

With great joy we conducted the *bhūmi-pūjā* on the land on 18 April 2018. We aspire to complete the entire 100,000-square-foot temple within five years, at an estimated cost of around 40 crore rupees. Please empower us with your special benediction to achieve this target.

We thus pray for your mercy so that we will always remain absorbed in service to Kṛṣṇa and always remain humble servants of the servants of your servants. Please free us from all desires for personal honor and inculcate in us the desire to be steadfast soldiers in service to your mission.

*Your servants at ISKCON Nagpur, India.*





## New Badarikāśrama

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. Please also accept our attempt to glorify and please you on your divine appearance day.

At *Śrīmad-Bhagavatam* 11.20.17, Śrī Kṛṣṇa compares the human body to a boat perfectly suitable for crossing the ocean of material existence, “having the spiritual master as the captain and the instructions of the Personality of Godhead as favorable winds impelling it on its course.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are indeed the captain of the ship on our voyage back home, back to Godhead. In fact, it is by your continued mercy that we are even aware of the divine purpose of this human body. That knowledge alone is worthy of our unlimited gratitude.

As the effects of Kali-yuga intensify, we see that the lost souls of this age are becoming more and more confused and desperate, adrift in a bewildering and apparently endless ocean of disappointment. Although you stayed in Denver for only one week in 1975, by our attempt to study, remember, and follow your ever-potent instructions, we at New Badarikāśrama continue to tangibly experience your merciful presence with us. By immersing ourselves in your teachings, we are practically realizing that the activities of cultivating our own Kṛṣṇa consciousness and of sharing Kṛṣṇa with others are deeply intertwined, nourishing each other. It is especially appropriate, therefore, that the front room of the house you stayed in while visiting Denver is now a space both for devotees to engage in *sādhana* and for us to conduct outreach programs centered on chanting the holy name and discussing your books.

In a letter to Karandhara Dāsa written on 22 December 1972, you described “the spirit of enthusiastic service, which is individual and spontaneous and voluntary.” Our community is working to encourage and protect this mood of service that you so valued. By the strength of your example and your instructions on enthusiastic service, devotees are investing more deeply in your multifaceted mission by taking up and excelling in services that inspire them. By your mercy, the past year has seen us improve Deity worship standards, expand Bhakti-śāstrī and other educational programs, and increase the quality and quantity of *prasādam* distribution through our Rādhā-Govinda’s restaurant. Devotees are taking leadership roles by organizing festivals, hosting outreach programs, holding public readings of your books, enriching devotee training, and distributing transcendental literature. We are particularly happy to report that we now have a *saṅkīrtana* van and several traveling book distributors. All of these devotees can trace their inspiration and spiritual nourishment back to Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you remain the captain of our ship through your gifts of the holy name, devotee association, your Bhaktivedanta purports, gorgeous Deity worship, and the blissful activities of sharing Kṛṣṇa with others. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for engaging us in the service of your lotus feet. Our shared vision is of a devotee community where we accept our challenges as pathways to better service and our successes as opportunities to glorify you by our personal and collective examples. May we always cooperate for your pleasure.

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

## New Biharvan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda:

*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*

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Bāṅkebihārī, the presiding Deities of Boise.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I would like to summarize the realizations of the fifteen devotees who spent three months reading in depth the condensed version of your *Līlāmṛta* biography. These devotees included your disciple Patraka Prabhu and fourteen granddisciples and aspiring initiates,

One-line summary: No one can fathom your unlimited greatness and compassion.

Patraka Prabhu mentioned how he keeps on thinking how rare a soul you are and how you made his fortune when he saw you. How rare? He said there are 8,400,000 species of living entities and there are countless souls in each one of them. There are only 400,000 human species, and out of these there are numerous lower forms of human life that are mostly uncivilized. The civilized human beings are those who follow regulative principles of social, political, and religious life. Those who are socially and politically developed but who have no religious principles must be considered *narādhama*s. Unlike the miscreants and *narādhama*s, there are some adherents of the regulative principles of the scriptures, and they are called *sukṛtina*ḥ, or those who obey the rules and regulations of scriptures, the moral and social laws, and are, more or less, devoted to the Supreme Lord. Out of these there are four classes of men—those who are sometimes distressed, those who are in need of money, those who are sometimes inquisitive, and those who are sometimes searching after knowledge of the Absolute Truth. These persons come to the Supreme Lord for devotional service under different conditions. These are not pure devotees, because they have some aspiration to fulfill in exchange for devotional service. (paraphrasing your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 7.15)

Out of many thousands of such men, one may endeavor for perfection, and of those who have achieved perfection, hardly one knows Kṛṣṇa in truth. Even the great demigods are sometimes confused about Kṛṣṇa. And if one does know Kṛṣṇa, then that great soul is very rare: *sa mahātmā su-durlabha*ḥ. (*Bhagavad-gītā* 7.19). Of those *su-durlabha*ḥ pure Vaiṣṇavas, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are in front of the line. Patraka Prabhu further added that even the demigods want to come down to serve you. And therefore birth as an ISKCON devotee, especially one of your disciples, is also rare because they were and are able to serve you. His wife Mother Diana concurred, adding that it was her good luck that you appeared in this world when we were around.

Mother Anādi (a granddisciple of yours) agreed that, indeed, because you are so rare, our birth is rare because in our small ways we are able to serve you. She realized that you were not only a pure Vaiṣṇava but above all a warrior, indeed the commander in chief (*senāpati*) in Lord Caitanya's army. Like Arjuna, you wanted the benediction of being able to fight for Kṛṣṇa until your last breath.

Mother Lalitā, another granddisciple, said she cannot even comprehend where she would be without you and your books. She said that the best way to serve such a pure self-realized soul as you is by distributing your books, and that we should not lose this opportunity to serve you by distributing your books and connecting other fortunate souls to you so all of us can go back home, back to Godhead.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Bhaktin Andrea, Mousami, and Murāri Prabhu were overwhelmed by your compassion.

More than half the class was made up of aspiring devotees working in companies and businesses. In their realizations of your greatness, they saw how by keeping Kṛṣṇa and *guru* in the center you achieved what would otherwise have been impossible goals.

Bhakta Ranjan marveled at your singleminded focus on your *guru's* instruction and how Kṛṣṇa miraculously provided you with all the resources you needed to execute the mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide.

Bhakta Parik wondered at your vision to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world. A true revolutionary, you gave the whole world a simple way to remember Kṛṣṇa by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*. You got things done fearlessly, having taken shelter at the feet of Kṛṣṇa. Similarly, Bhaktin Anupama also saw that you were fearless because of your direct connection with Kṛṣṇa, and that that fearlessness, combined with your purity, enabled you to connect the rest of the world to Kṛṣṇa through the *mahā-mantra*. She liked the idea that you genuinely wanted the world to become a beautiful place by focusing people on Kṛṣṇa.

Mother Kāmagāyatrī (a granddisciple) also glorified you as a visionary, but a gracious visionary. In your vision you accepted everyone, no matter what background the person came from, and you were a visionary with your vision to change the world through your books, especially *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

Bhaktin Jaya and Ingar both lauded your compassion and humility, as evinced by your serving *prasādam* and standing in line like everyone else for a shower. To Bhakta Michael you taught how recognizing that Kṛṣṇa is in control assures that He will take care of everything.

Bhakta Rahul could not get over the fact that you brought the high philosophy of the *Vedas* to a practical level so that everyone could lead a simple life and still accomplish amazing things by following you.

To sum it all up, Bhakta Jayanta reminded all of us of the twenty-six qualities of godly people that Lord Kṛṣṇa lists at *Bhagavad-gītā* 16.1–3. Jayanta pointed out that you had all those qualities in full. Your fearlessness and strength were rooted in your faith in Kṛṣṇa, but you were still the emblem of modesty and humility. You opened a hundred and eight temples, initiated thousands of disciples, and transformed millions of lives with your millions of books distributed by your devotees. You mastered the *Vedas*, as your name indicates, and gave the world a new culture—Kṛṣṇa culture, which is the fusion of the best of both Vedic and Western culture. In the current era of fake news, you were authentic, honest, and truthful. Your devotion to Kṛṣṇa was contagious, and your compassion for the fallen souls unlimited.

In conclusion, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your greatness truly is unlimited due to your absolute faith in Kṛṣṇa, the holy name, your Guru Mahārāja, the *paramparā*, and the scriptures. Out of your genuine and unlimited compassion, you flooded the world with half a billion books and still counting. To the ordinary mind, all this is unfathomable. The world is experiencing Lord Caitanya's Golden Age in this Kali-yuga because of the flow of the golden teachings of your books. All glories, all glories to you.

Please bless us with a few drops of your unlimited compassion.

*Your insignificant servants and admirers in Boise, Idaho, USA.*

(written by Anantarūpa Dāsa)

## Newcastle

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Today, on your Vyāsa-pūjā day, all we can offer you is our gratitude for going all over the world to bring everyone this wonderful process of *bhakti-yoga*, centered on the chanting of the holy names of the Lord. Without your mercy and compassion, we wouldn't even know who Kṛṣṇa is, much less how to go to Him.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we here at ISKCON Newcastle are daily striving to practice the science you gave us. We are becoming purified, and we pray that you will keep us under the shelter of your lotus feet forever so that we will always be engaged in trying to please Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

O most merciful Vaiṣṇava! Where would we be without you? If not for you, how could it ever have been possible for us to become free from the hellish life of this material world? Please be merciful to us and give us the shelter of your lotus feet. Without your mercy we are lost and completely unable to obtain the mercy of Kṛṣṇa.

You once said that it is impossible for a disciple to repay the debt to his spiritual master. We therefore beg at your lotus feet that you will demand from us that we eternally make payments on this unrepayable debt, just as Ananta Śeṣa is eternally speaking the glories of Śrī Kṛṣṇa without ever being able to finish.

We know that you have given us the best, and that the only flaw is our weakness of heart. So please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, keep us with you always.

We are striving to extend your mercy to our brothers and sisters in Newcastle. We are trying to construct a temple in Newcastle, and with your mercy the endeavor of the devotees will bear fruit and we will continue to preach this wonderful message of eternal life, knowledge, and bliss as long as we live.

May you be strongly present in our hearts and minds so we can dispel the ignorance in our own hearts and the hearts of others. Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and a most happy Vyāsa-pūjā day to you.

*Your sons and daughters at ISKCON Newcastle, South Africa.*

## New Delhi

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

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

Most respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You wanted your followers to have a big, main temple and a dozen other temples in Delhi. By your mercy, today we have fourteen temples or centers in Delhi-NCR. In every center, devotees are working very hard to please Your Divine Grace.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

As a pilgrim worships the Gaṅgā by offering her own water back to her, so every year we try to worship you by humbly offering to you whatever we have been able to achieve by your divine grace.

Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura confirms in the ninth *śloka* (the *phala-śruti*) of the famous *Gurvaṣṭaka* prayers that if a disciple attentively recites these prayers to Śrīla Gurudeva during the *brahma-muhūrta* period, the disciple is sure to achieve direct service to the lotus feet of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will remain the preeminent *śikṣā-guru* for all ISKCON members, forever. We seek your blessings so that we may be able to work and serve together with organization and cooperation, as Your Divine Grace wanted.

To achieve real success in your service, we need to be introspective, we need to be absorbed in our service, and we need to be independently thoughtful.

By your mercy, last year ISKCON Delhi distributed more than half a million copies of your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and other books containing your emotional ecstasies, i.e., your purports. Around fifty new devotees dedicated their lives fully to the *sankīrtana* movement, and hundreds of devotees chanted the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* for the first time. Many thousands tasted *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* from any one of the centers built for your pleasure and functioning in line with your vision.

Scores of dignitaries visited the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pāthasārathi Temple, and many were called upon by our preachers to “hunt for the rhinoceros,” which you wanted. The visitors included His Excellency the Governor General of Australia, who garlanded your *mūrti* when he arrived, and both the President and the Prime Minister of India, who were each formally greeted by His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami, and who both gave special addresses praising ISKCON Delhi. In addition, the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, along with several cabinet ministers, members of parliament, intellectuals, diplomats, and other luminaries received the mercy of beholding Their Lordships and Your Divine Grace.

Hundreds of young people participated in various festivals, and Udgār, a large youth festival we held for more than two thousand youngsters, was conducted at the Siri Fort Auditorium under the august presence of the Honorable Vice-President of India. This year, we seek your blessings to successfully conduct this youth festival for more than eight thousand students and thus connect them to your unparalleled movement.

By your blessings, we now have nearly 160 devotee-care counseling groups, called Ashraya, each scrutinizingly studying your books from all angles of vision. Another 70 Bhakti Vriksha groups, a large Nama-haṭṭa congregation, nearly 100 BACEs and preaching centers—all are actively preaching as you desired in Delhi-NCR.

Now there are regular preaching programs for IITs, NITs, AIIMs, and judges, and these centers of excellence are now ensuring a steady flow of talent to carry forward your movement in Delhi.

Via the ISKCON Delhi Facebook page, every day 300,000 people go online to take *darśana* of the Deities. Fifteen schools have adopted Value Education books based on your teachings.

Last year your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration was attended by the Mauritian ambassador, and over 1,008 preparations were offered by devotees in a packed pandal program attended by nearly 1,500 devotees. This year we seek your mercy to hold an even bigger program.

The movie “Hare Kṛṣṇa! The Mantra, the Movement, and the Swami Who Started It All” was inaugurated by the Honorable Vice President of India and the Economic Advisor in the presence the Prime Minister of India, Shri Bibek Debroy, and we could sense your omnipresent mercy pervading the packed Siri Fort Auditorium.

We seek your mercy so that this year we can inspire hundreds with faith in your teachings, the holy name, and the *guru-paramparā*. We seek your mercy so that we can connect to Kṛṣṇa more discerning individuals of the highest pedigree and profile. We seek your mercy so that we can reach out to the corporate fraternity and tap more funds and friends to maintain and grow your temples and congregation.

We seek your blessings so that we can offer you a massive Vyāsa-pūjā book this year—exclusive to ISKCON Delhi—containing at least two thousand devotees’ Vyāsa-pūjā offerings. This would double what we were able to do last year. Lord Kṛṣṇa’s instruction in the *Gītā*—*ācāryopāsanam*, “the *ācārya* should be worshiped and glorified”—is most applicable to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the true *jagad-guru*.



We know that there have been many faults in our services unto your lotus feet, for which we are solely responsible, and that whatever we have achieved is solely due to the mercy of Your Divine Grace. We forever remain indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, begging for your mercy, as always.

*Your servants at ISKCON's Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pārthasārathi Temple in New Delhi, India.*

(written by Mohanarūpa Dāsa)

## New Dvārakā

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

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

Since the day you left I've been so lonesome,  
But I'll have grown some when I see you again.  
Forty-plus years without your personal association,  
In separation we find spiritual elation serving you.

Your books, recorded lectures, and *guru-pūjā*  
Fill up that huge gap in our lives.  
The service you gave us we do still to this day,  
Because there's no way we could leave you again.

I had a dream you were speaking here in the *mandir*,  
And I ran to see and hear you, giving up everything and everyone else.  
I long for you, belong to you, I long for you.

There's nothing in this life that I've ever tried  
That didn't leave me fried, except for you.  
The feeling of being with you, seeing you, and serving you  
Is exhilarating, intoxicating, and timeless like the morning dew.

Soon will be the day when we will leave this place  
And go to your space, by your grace, to rejoin with you.  
There's nothing more I want at the end of this life  
Than to give up this strife and go back home to you!

I had a dream you were speaking here in the *mandir*,  
And I ran to see and hear you, giving up everything and everyone else.  
I long for you, belong to you, I long for you.

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you've given us the best days of our lives.  
Only your *sevā* can save us.

*Your servants in New Dvārakā, ISKCON's devotee community in Los Angeles, California, USA.*

## New Gokula

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

It is said: By the grace of the spiritual master one gets Kṛṣṇa.

You are giving that grace freely to all, just as the rays of the sun fall equally on fertile fields, stone, and barren land alike. But, our dear master, are we really qualified to accept this greatest of gifts? Somehow, by your mercy we must be. Sometimes we feel totally unqualified, so packed up in our daily activities that you are far from our thoughts. This is so even though you have so kindly arranged so much mercy to bombard us every day. Still, we seem to think that just by showing up we will be able to see Kṛṣṇa. He is not so cheap. Does it not require our full absorption in Him?

You have also told us to “shoot for the rhinoceros,” but we then backpedal with the words “we cannot hope to do what you can.” Does it not require faith in your words for these things to become doable? We have so little faith. Please, my dearest master, cleanse away our doubts and ask the Lord again to have mercy upon all us lazy rascals.

*Your unworthy servants residing in New Gokula, Vancouver, Canada.*

## New Goloka

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

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracārīṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances and our most sincere gratitude for your bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone around the world. Thank you for opening our eyes, which had been shut by the darkness of ignorance as we tried to find enjoyment by chewing the chewed remnants of material

sense gratification. Without a clue as to our true purpose in life, we were wandering aimlessly in Māyā's playground until we had the good fortune of reading your books, meeting your disciples, or meeting you face to face. Your mercy is all that we are made of. So actually, there is no way that we can truly thank you enough for what you have done for us.

Fifty-three years ago you lit the fuse of the Hare Kṛṣṇa explosion when you set foot in America for the first time, on September 18, 1965. For a dozen years (until you left the planet on November 14, 1977) you crisscrossed the USA, Europe, India, Australia, and other lands as you circled the globe fourteen times, freely giving the mercy of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. Starting the International Society for Krishna Consciousness from your little storefront at 26 Second Avenue in New York, you did what no other Vaiṣṇava had ever done before. Who would have predicted that your *kīrtanas* in Tompkins Square Park in New York in 1966 or on Hippie Hill in San Francisco in 1967 would be the beginning of a movement that today is active on six continents? Now everywhere there are devotees serving your ISKCON mission in temples, farm projects, schools, restaurants, and preaching centers. You never doubted your mission, nor did your faith in your Guru Mahārāja or Gaura-Nitāi ever waiver. Your unbreakable faith is the reason we are here today.

Under the direction of His Holiness Bīr Krishna Goswami, we have made it our mission here at New Goloka Dhāma to create a wonderful community of Vaiṣṇavas who are serving Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Golokānanda, raising their children in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and sharing your teachings with our neighbors in North Carolina. Over the past few years we have greatly increased our outreach programs. Devotees go to Raleigh, Durham, or Chapel Hill for *harināma-saṅkīrtana* every week. There are at least four Bhakti Vriksha or Nama Hatta groups that meet every Friday in the homes of congregational members. Devotees have campus Bhakti Yoga Clubs at nearby universities, where students join in *kīrtana* and take *prasādam*. Furthermore, we are now taking out Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā several times a year on Ratha-yātrā as part of local parades. These parades include the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Fourth of July Parade, and several Christmas parades.

But most importantly, we have greatly increased distribution of your transcendental books. We remember these words of yours: "If you really want to please me, please distribute books, distribute books, distribute books." We know that when we distribute your books conditioned souls are getting your direct association, and that your association will purify them and bless them with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In your own words, from your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.18:

Here is the remedy for eliminating all inauspicious things within the heart, which are considered to be obstacles in the path of self-realization. The remedy is the association of the *Bhāgavatas*. There are two types of *Bhāgavatas*, namely the book *Bhāgavata* and the devotee *Bhāgavata*. Both the *Bhāgavatas* are competent remedies, and both of them or either of them can be good enough to eliminate the obstacles. A devotee *Bhāgavata* is as good as the book *Bhāgavata* because the devotee *Bhāgavata* leads his life in terms of the book *Bhāgavata* and the book *Bhāgavata* is full of information about the Personality of Godhead and His pure devotees, who are also *Bhāgavatas*. *Bhāgavata* book and person are identical.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the person *Bhāgavata* who has given us the book *Bhāgavata*, and anyone who gets your association will become Kṛṣṇa conscious either in this life or in a future life. As your obedient disciples and granddisciples, we have made it our life's mission to fulfill your desire to offer all conditioned souls suffering in Kali-yuga the opportunity to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Please grant us your mercy and increase our desire to preach on your behalf by distributing your books for years to come. In this way we may attempt to thank you for the unlimited mercy you have bestowed upon us.

*Your servants at New Goloka Dhāma, Hillsborough, North Carolina, USA.*

(written by Dṛṣṭa Dāsa)

Homages from ISKCON Centers



## New Govardhana (USA)

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

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

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

No words can adequately convey the gratitude and appreciation my heart holds for you.

Mark Twain once said, “The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.”

The first day was both a blessing, because I was given another chance to find and serve Kṛṣṇa, and a curse, because I was set free in a madhouse of sense enjoyment among the spiritually blind and uninformed.

The second of those two days came when I first encountered your instructions in the form of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. I was amazed at its piercing clarity and thorough presentation of clear, convincing philosophy concerning the soul, this world, and what was worth striving for—revival of our eternal relationship with the ultimate object of our desires, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. The “Song of God” explained the “why” of my life.

I was raised Catholic and given a different vision of God and the universe, one which was more impersonal and devoid of the answers my soul needed to be truly happy. Your words cut through the dense forest of doubts I harbored in my heart and blazed a clear path I could logically follow to revive my dormant love for the Supreme Lord.

I did not understand the importance of your role in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West and the world abroad until I came to the New Govardhana temple and began associating with devotees. Like a touchstone that converts useless lead to gold, you transformed the lost and misguided into stalwart representatives of the Absolute Truth and tireless servants of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Govinda.

In the New Testament (Mark 6:4) it is written, “Then Jesus told them, ‘A prophet is without honor only in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his own household.’” Your wife, your family, and your peers could not see in you what Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura saw. His instruction to you to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West changed not only your life but the whole world.

It was your tireless and magnanimous efforts, Your Divine Grace, that truly saved me and everyone else like me. Like a shepherd calling back his flock from the field at the end of the day, you have brought so many of us wayward souls back to the Supreme Lord’s lotus feet.

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.7.46 Lord Kṛṣṇa says:

A saintly person, just like fire, sometimes appears in a concealed form and at other times reveals himself. For the welfare of the conditioned souls who desire real happiness, a saintly person may accept the worshipable position of spiritual master, and thus like fire he burns to ashes all the past and future sinful reactions of his worshipers by mercifully accepting their offerings.



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

It was your sincerest wish that we take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously, deeply study your teachings, and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others.

This year many members of the New Govardhana community have taken up the mantle of firm spiritual commitment and become initiated by one of your surrendered representatives. I am honored to be one of the neophyte souls striving to continue the work you have started, and I am helping my wife to do the same.

There is no way we can ever repay you for the good fortune you have bestowed upon us. Please bless us so that we may continue to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī and spread Lord Caitanya's message to one and all.

*Your servants at New Govardhana Dhāma, San Diego, California, USA.*

(written by Jagannātha Tīrtha Dāsa)

## New Māyāpur

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On behalf of all the devotees here in New Māyāpur Dhāma, we thank you for introducing us to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the topmost *yoga* system in the entire creation. As Lord Caitanya's *senāpati-bhakta*, commander in chief, you declared war on *māyā* and marched across Mother Bhūmi with your disciples, purifying her of impersonalism and voidism.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you personally came to New Māyāpur to gift this castle to the King and Queen of Goloka. Three times you visited here, surcharging the dust with the touch of your lotus feet and making this place into a holy *tīrtha*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are trying our best to maintain your room as it was when you stayed here. We cherish what you once said about New Māyāpur, related in a letter written by Tamāl Krishna Goswami in August 1977:

His Divine Grace remembered New Mayapur very fondly: "Is the New Mayapur palace maintained nicely? I like to live there. Especially my wonderful room. I like to live there. I like that New Mayapur facility. Nice vegetables, flowers, grains. This is very encouraging to have such a farm, where all problems are solved."

You stressed self-sufficiency for New Māyāpur in a series of lectures you gave during your stay. It has been a struggle maintaining the temple. We are still endeavoring to grow our own vegetables and fruits and look after the cows. We know that we are just your instruments. When we will be pure-hearted you will again make this *yātrā* flourish. We just have to keep firm faith in your words and intense devotion

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

to your lotus feet and keep serving New Māyāpur with determination, and things will become manifest.

It is our great fortune that senior Vaiṣṇavas like His Holiness Janānanda Goswami and His Grace Ajita Prabhu are helping this *yātrā*. Janānanda Mahārāja is spending quality time here and nourishing the spiritual lives of the devotees, who had long been deprived of the association of senior devotees. Mahārāja graced us by inviting devotees from all parts of the world for his 2018 Vyāsa-pūjā in New Māyāpur. It brought in a flood of *kīrtana* and enlivening *sādhū-saṅga*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you struggled so hard to bestow upon us the greatest gift, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, by which we can perfect our lives. As Lord Śiva drank poison to save humanity, you underwent severe austerities to save the whole world from the poison of impersonalism and voidism.

*tapyante loka-tāpena sādhaḥ prāyaśo janāḥ  
paramārādhanaṁ tad dhi puruṣasyākhilātmanaḥ*

“It is said that great personalities almost always accept voluntary suffering because of the suffering of people in general. This is considered the highest method of worshiping the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is present in everyone’s heart.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 8.7.44)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we know that reviving the French *yātrā* will bring immense joy to you. Only by your causeless mercy will this be possible. Please guide us toward making New Māyāpur what you wanted: a self-sufficient, vibrant holy *tīrtha* that devotees from around the world will want to visit regularly.

*Your servants at New Māyāpur, ISKCON’s rural community in France.*

(written by Locanānanda Dāsa)

## New Ramaṇa Reti

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On seeing your picture, an Indian astrologer declared, “This is a man who can build a house in which the entire world can live in peace.”

I have now come to understand that your house is the servants’ quarters for the spiritual world. And we can live there only when we agree to follow your house rules. As parents say to their rambunctious adolescent children, “As long as you are under my roof, you live by my rules.” By living in ISKCON we can really get to understand you—your desires, your mission, and your charming but bold gentleness. Everyone knows you only really get to know someone if you live with them. Your instructions are nondifferent from your heart. Such is the nature of the pure soul, fully representing Kṛṣṇa through the *paramparā*. As Yudhiṣṭhira answered Yamarāja in the *Mahābhārata*, “The heart of the pure devotee is the place to find real religious principles.” Living in your ISKCON house with your other followers and serving you

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

cooperatively is your training for us, our *sādhana*, which will make our life successful and bring us to the perfection of life, *prema-bhakti*.

You taught us by everything you did, even the smallest of things, such as drinking water. We never saw anyone else do that; it was so charming and endearing. But all the while you were organizing and managing a worldwide society. And this at an age when everyone else is slowing down.

The example you showed by your behavior and preaching, doing what had never been done before, showed the world the meaning of *ācārya*. Leaving us all in awe, you exposed the envious imitators.

Now, as years go by, your instructions are starting to mature in us, and as our commitments deepen we see the result: ISKCON is becoming more organized to push on the mission of Lord Caitanya with renewed enthusiasm. We are directly experiencing this and feeling it in our innermost self. This connection is the sublime and mysterious nature of the *yoga* you presented to us in the form of the simple method of chanting the holy names, the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, without offense.

One of the prayers we say every day is “I offer my respectful obeisances unto all the Vaiṣṇava devotees of the Lord. They can fulfill the desires of everyone, just like desire trees, and they are full of compassion for the fallen souls.” When we say this while meditating on you, we can understand what compassion is. As stated at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 8.7.44:

It is said that great personalities almost always accept voluntary suffering because of the suffering of people in general. This is considered the highest method of worshiping the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is present in everyone’s heart.

And at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.18.9:

May there be good fortune throughout the universe, and may all envious persons be pacified. May all living entities become calm by practicing *bhakti-yoga*, for by accepting devotional service they will think of each other’s welfare. Therefore let us all engage in the service of the supreme transcendence, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and always remain absorbed in thought of Him.

In fact, every verse about great devotees describes your character. Even understanding one of Kṛṣṇa’s four special qualities, that “He is surrounded by loving devotees,” is now within our living experience. Oh, thank you, Kṛṣṇa, for letting Śrīla Prabhupāda come! For Śrīla Prabhupāda is giving us his Kṛṣṇa—Rādhā’s Kṛṣṇa!

And lastly, as others throughout the years have done, let us repeat some words of our previous *ācārya* Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura: “Kṛṣṇa appears in the form that His dear devotee desires to see. He gives His devotees the power to sell Him to others.” In his *Śaraṇāgati* (*Bhajana-lālasā*, Song 7), the Ṭhākura writes:

*kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāro,  
tomāra śakati āche  
āmi to’ kāṅgala, ‘kṛṣṇa’ ‘kṛṣṇa’ bolī,  
dhāi tava pāche pāche*

“O venerable Vaiṣṇava, Kṛṣṇa is yours, and therefore you are able to give Him to others. This is certainly within your power. I am indeed wretched and fallen, simply running after you crying ‘Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa!’”

Who can give Kṛṣṇa? Only one who has Kṛṣṇa. Only such a *premī bhakta* can give Kṛṣṇa. No one else. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Your aspiring servants in New Ramaṇa Reti, ISKCON’s rural community in Alachua, Florida, USA.*

(written by Madana-mohana Dāsa)

# New Vrindaban

## Lost and Found Again

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to your worldwide ISKCON movement.

Five decades have passed since Hayagrīva Dasa wrote you a letter in 1968 about acquiring 133 acres of land in the lush countryside of West Virginia to start the first ISKCON farming community. You enthusiastically welcomed the idea and encouraged Hayagrīva and Kīrtanānanda to pursue the project. You saw this idyllic rural setting with its many hills as an extension of Vṛndāvana, where Kṛṣṇa sported with His cows and cowherd boyfriends, and where you spent your days before coming to the West. You were keen to give the Western people an alternative to modern materialistic life and an opportunity to reap the benefits of living simply, in harmony with God's creation. But more than this, you wanted to create Vṛndāvana in the West, to give people the joy of serving Kṛṣṇa in His holy abode. Your vision was grand: "You have New York, New England, and so many 'New' duplicates of European countries in the USA," you wrote in a letter to Hayagrīva in March 1968. "Why not import New Vrindaban in your country?"

## Decade of Pioneers (1968–1978)

But what you envisioned was far from the reality in the beginning. In the beginning there was only a rundown nineteenth-century wooden farmhouse in the middle of hilly terrain, muddy fields, and dense forest. How was it possible to live there, let alone transform it into Vṛndāvana? And in a letter dated 18 November 1968 to Hayagrīva, you added:

New Vrindaban should be taken up very seriously because actually I want to develop a replica of Old Vrindaban. I have got ambition to construct there seven temples as follows: 1. Radha Madan Mohan, 2. Radha Govinda, 3. Radha Gopinatha, 4. Radha Damodara, 5. Radha Raman, 6. Radha Gokulananda, 7. Radha Syamasundara.

You wanted these seven temples, expansions of those presided over by some of Vṛndāvana's foremost *ācāryas*, to be places of pilgrimage for people far and wide. We could not understand the depth of your desire or how we could fulfill it, but your instructions indicated your faith in us as instruments in Kṛṣṇa's bigger plan, a faith that alone empowered us.

And so the first decade saw what no one but you could have imagined. We developed the land, built a temple, tilled the soil, and brought forth the wealth of the earth. A fledgling society emerged that began to thrive. You visited four times during these years, each time encouraging us to follow the ideals of a simple-living-and-high-thinking lifestyle. Our main business should be cow protection, you often emphasized, which would form the backbone of New Vrindaban's self-sufficient farming community. You also advocated Kṛṣṇa conscious education for our children, the future hope for the world, you said. During this decade, adjoining forests, or "*bans*," were purchased and added to New Vrindaban—Madhuban, Bahulaban, and Nandagram. A guesthouse was built and beautiful Deities, including the principal Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vrindaban-Chandra, were installed, bringing your vision to life. A hundred and fifty cows yielded 120 gallons of milk a day, and the gardens produced plentiful flowers, vegetables, and fruits. In 1975 the Nandagram *gurukula* was officially reopened, after several attempts to start a school since 1969, and you were eager to train young boys and girls in the Vaiṣṇava culture.

But it was not easy. The hard labor, sub-zero temperatures during winter, austere living conditions,

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

and dependence on the elements for survival tested our faith and endurance. Still, the joy we derived from this simple lifestyle and from loving and serving Kṛṣṇa ignited our will to serve selflessly. We wanted to offer you a permanent home in New Vrindaban as a token of our love and appreciation. And so, from a simple blueprint, a palace emerged, your Palace of Gold. Unfortunately, you left this world without seeing it completed, but we were assured of your presence there when we witnessed the miracle of how it unfolded.

### Decade of Dedication (1978–1988)

New Vrindaban continued to grow beyond our expectations. Your Palace of Gold represented our dedication to your mission and service and undoubtedly Kṛṣṇa's desire to glorify His pure devotee.

The novice devotee architects and constructors created a breathtaking masterpiece that would become famous for its unique 22-karat gold-leaf lattice work and domes, exquisite marble work, spectacular stained-glass artwork, intricately carved teakwood, superbly crafted terraces, and plush gardens and lawns.

And so your Palace of Gold made New Vrindaban glorious. Because Vṛndāvana resides in your heart, your presence in your New Vrindaban home brought the eternal Vṛndāvana to this tract of land in West Virginia and transformed it into a place of pilgrimage, a holy *dhāma*. Thus your memorial shrine attracted thousands of tourists and pilgrims from all over the world, making New Vrindaban a hub for spiritual seekers and practitioners.

Soon more “*bans*” were added to expand the land to almost 2,500 acres. More Deities were installed, and Rādhā–Vrindaban–Chandra's temple construction began. The cow protection program expanded to care for almost 400 cows, and the Valley Barn was constructed. The Palace Rose Garden won a prestigious award and would win subsequent awards for the next few years. Two lakes (Kusum Sarovara and Caitanya Ghat) were completed, adding to the splendor of the holy *dhāma*.

### Decade of Struggle (1988–1998)

New Vrindaban was becoming a spiritual paradise unlike any pilgrimage site the world had seen. The main difference was that this place of pilgrimage consisted of a spiritual community with around six hundred people living together with conflicting needs and varying levels of spiritual advancement and realization. And so, the difficulties of the next decade were prone to happen. Even though you had faith in your leaders and followers, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we were still immature in our understanding of the philosophy, practices, and culture. We also had free will to choose the right or wrong path, and how each of us viewed the philosophy and imbibed and practiced it was tested. Then just like the demons that had entered the eternal Vṛndāvana, different deviant tendencies filtered into the community, causing dissension, distress, and a most embarrassing time for ISKCON. Thus New Vrindaban and its leaders were excommunicated from ISKCON and left to deal with the crises on their own. A series of lawsuits followed, the *gurukula* was closed, the cow protection program dwindled, the standards of purity you set began to diminish, and efforts to reconcile disputes were thwarted. Śrīla Prabhupāda, New Vrindaban was lost, but not for long.

### Decade of Divine Intervention (1998–2008)

Just as the residents of Vṛndāvana pleaded to Kṛṣṇa for help in the face of terrifying demons and were saved, several of your sincere followers endeavored to restore New Vrindaban to its initial glory and to take shelter of you during this trying time. And sure enough, you intervened to set things straight. By your mercy and desire, New Vrindaban was again found and placed on the ISKCON map.

By the end of 1998, six *gurukuli* retreats had been held to enable *gurukulis* to openly discuss the issues they had faced and to heal from their traumatic experiences. Two more followed, and by 2006 the Kulimela Festival was inaugurated to allow the second generation to find themselves again and become rejuvenated by *sat-saṅga* and the holy name. Cow protection initiatives intensified, and the temple barn was completed, allowing visitors to view and milk the cows. In 2006 ISKCON's GBC officially recognized the Palace of Gold as





## Homages from ISKCON Centers

your Smṛiti Samādhi, your first *samādhi mandira* in the West and the place where you will forever reside. An inaugural festival was held for the annual twenty-four-hour *kīrtana* event, and your dream for spiritual education started to again unfold with Gopāl's Garden Homeschool Co-op, opened in 2007.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we cannot erase the past, but we can take lessons from it. New Vrindaban was like a stage, showing the rest of your ISKCON movement, and even the world, how to learn from mistakes, to forgive, and to persist in our journey forward. In any journey there will always be storms, which is the nature of the ocean of material existence, but with you as the captain of our ISKCON boat, your devotees as the sails that guide us on our journey, and with purity, humility, and unity as the winds that push us forward, we will be safe.

Those who are surrendered to the Lord and His pure representative are never lost. As Kṛṣṇa says, "For one who sees Me everywhere and sees everything in Me, I am never lost, nor is he ever lost to Me." (*Bhagavad-gītā* 6.30)

### Decade of Renewal and Growth (2008–2018)

By your grace a new era dawned. Renewed in our spirit of devotion and enthusiasm, we forged ahead to continue planting and cultivating what you had initially given us. Restoration of the buildings and property and of your Smṛiti Samādhi began, which again attracted many thousands of pilgrims and devotees each year to come together and glorify you and your holy memorial. CNN, a leading American TV news channel, recognized your Palace of Gold as one of the "eight religious wonders to see in the US." We held the first Festival of Colors in New Vrindaban and the first Ratha-yatra festival in Wheeling, West Virginia, among many other inspiring festivals. And as an effort to show our recommitment to your mission and ideals, we started constructing the first of the seven temples you had envisioned.

The end of this decade wears the crown of fifty long and eventful years as we celebrate New Vrindaban's Golden Jubilee year. Numerous festivals are being held for neighbors, pilgrims, VIPs, and past and present New Vrindaban residents to strengthen relationships, thank them for their unrelenting support, and engage them in the fundamental practices you so religiously established—hearing and chanting of Kṛṣṇa and worshipping Him in His holy abode.

### Future Decades of Dependence

Looking into the next decade and beyond, we acknowledge that we have a long road ahead in fulfilling your purpose and vision for New Vrindaban. The cow protection and education schemes need further growth. Only by your inconceivable mercy and blessings can the seven temples on the seven hills become manifest and the whole of West Virginia become Kṛṣṇa conscious as you desired. But all this means nothing if we do not become worthy instruments in your hands, become humble, imbibe fully the eternal spiritual principles you've given us, live in harmony and work cooperatively with one another, care for and take strength from one another, and fight the demons that constantly attack our minds and hearts. But how will this all be possible? You taught us that the Vṛndāvana mood is to become the servant of the servant of the servant of Kṛṣṇa, to fully depend on the compassion of His servants.

So today we humbly beg your surrendered servants of ISKCON to help us fulfill our internal and external goals and to bless us with the purity and strength that are required to fulfill your dream of giving Vṛndāvana to the entire world.

As we enter the next decade and the next fifty years, let us take courage in your shelter. Let us remember the sacrifices you made to give Vṛndāvana to us. Let us deeply appreciate and honor your priceless gift and become transparent media to give this gift to others. Let us never be lost again without your shelter.

*Your grateful servants in New Vrindaban, ISKCON's rural community in West Virginia, USA.*

# Nicaragua

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

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

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

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

Our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this occasion of the celebration of your all-auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for saving us from the dark well of this material world. For us, every day is your Vyāsa-pūjā, a day to remember you, worship you, and serve you.

Out of your boundless mercy you left us this big family of Vaiṣṇavas as your legacy, the family living within ISKCON—the house in which everyone can live. There are not enough words to describe all of your glorious qualities.

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo  
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi  
dhyāyan stuvaṁs tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

You are our *jagad-guru*, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Without your grace we cannot make any spiritual advancement. We owe you our lives. Thank you for coming to the Occident and illuminating us with the brilliant torchlight of knowledge in the form of all your written and spoken words.

Thank you for letting us serve the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and for letting us serve you, and through you every *ācārya* in our Vaiṣṇava *paramparā*.

*Your humble servants at ISKCON Nicaragua.*

# Noida

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you on your Vyāsa-pūjā day.

We are sheltered at one of the many spiritual oases you set up throughout the world for the benefit of humanity, irrespective of one's religion, caste, nationality, or gender, to name but a few superficial

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

designations. It is these superficial designations that create all the boundaries dividing humanity and enable Māyā to rule. We are immensely fortunate to be sheltered from the onslaught of Māyā. We are very grateful for your unlimited sacrifices, along with your books, lectures, *kīrtanas*, *bhajans*, letters, and much more that you have given us out of your causeless mercy. It is difficult to imagine our situation without all your blessings.

We at ISKCON Noida are making an insignificant effort to assist you in your mission to fulfill the prediction of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that His name will be sung in every town and village. The following is an update of our tiny activities, which are meant solely for your pleasure.

In 2017–2018 we have further expanded the congregation preaching. Now we have 45 Bhakti Vrikshas in Noida, compared to 35 the previous year.

This year we have started PDC training, which is meant to train the *brahmacārīs* before they are admitted into the *āśrama*. Many *brahmacārī* aspirants from all over Maharashtra are undergoing this year-long training.

We distributed 25,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* during the 2017 book marathon. We distributed many more small and big books throughout the year.

IYF has organized four Umang festivals. Four BACEs are running successfully, with fifty devotees. Last year three devotees joined the *brahmacārī āśrama*. During the book marathon, IYF organized a *Bhagavad-gītā* talent search, in which 3,500 students participated.

This year Bhakti Vinod Sabha organized their yearly Tarang festival, with 108 couples attending, which is double the number who participated last year.

The Bhaktivedanta Academy has successfully conducted its premier lecture series, entitled “Rejuvenation.” It also conducted a Vedic wisdom contest, in which thirty schools participated. Apart from this, we had many other seminars offered by senior speakers, such as His Grace Mahātmā Prabhu, His Holiness Bhakti Bṛhat Bhagavat Swami, and His Grace Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa Adhikārī Prabhu. There were also a few health seminars.

We have started monthly *yātrās* to Vṛndāvana and other holy places. All of this is apart from the many small and big festivals and many *yātrās* and courses.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our contribution is very insignificant compared to what you have done for us. We humbly beg at your lotus feet to please accept this small offering. We beg for your merciful blessings so we can improve the quality and quantity of our service, so that we can do something tangible for your pleasure. This being Kali-yuga, we can expect many factors to divide us, so please empower us to stand united in our determination to serve your mission. Please enable us to always be conscious of you, and let our only guiding principles be your books, our only work your service, and our only aspiration your pleasure.

*Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Noida, India.*

## Nueva Nīlācala

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humblest and most respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

I remember how over forty years ago in this Nueva Nīlācala temple in Guadalajara, in 1977, we were all glorifying you ecstatically at *guru-pūjā*. The most enthusiastic among us were the large group of



*saṅkīrtaneros*, book distributors, who were always very eager to go out to the streets and distribute your books. At that time many people were attracted to the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. You gave us such practical knowledge for that time, when so many frustrated young people full of material illusions were attracted by the spiritual life you offered. Your instructions gave us the tools to change our lives for the better, and the program of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you provided made us more and more determined to serve Kṛṣṇa, Lord Caitanya, and people in general. At that time many were receptive to the idea that Kṛṣṇa is God and that one could meet the Supreme Lord, serve Him, and glorify Him.

Currently our preaching has changed, since people are different now. They are less receptive to the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. These days we can only pray to your divine lotus feet for the intelligence and spiritual vision to be able to attain more and more attraction for the wonderful form of the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and to convince people of the importance of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please empower us to overcome all difficulties and strictly follow the rules and regulations of *bhakti-yoga* you gave us.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will forever be our example of perfect Kṛṣṇa consciousness, a *mahā-bhāgavata* who, due to your oceanic compassion, strove with unshakeable faith and determination to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide and thus awaken that consciousness in all of us. We humbly pray to you that we may continue practicing and preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the faith and sincerity you taught us, and that you will always keep us under the shelter of your lotus feet, life after life.

*Your humble servants at ISKCON's Nueva Nilācala temple in Guadalajara, Mexico.*

(written by Rādhikā Devī Dāsī)

## Osaka

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We can't express how grateful we are to you for the austerities you underwent to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every corner of the globe, just to save fallen souls like us. Your direct disciples, following in your footsteps, regularly come here to the Osaka *yātrā* and preach the essence of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's teachings. By your mercy, the number of devotees is increasing day by day.

Here at the ISKCON Osaka center we have a feast every month. We celebrate Śrī Kṛṣṇa-jaṇmāṣṭamī and all other major Vaiṣṇava festivals. We hold a yearly Ratha-yātrā festival, especially liked by Osaka's kids. Devotees give regular *Bhagavad-gītā* classes at several locations. We also have *kīrtana* programs.



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All the devotees cooperate to serve you and your devotees, all to fulfill your desire that as many people as possible will be blessed with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Although we don't have a temple, we do have the all-merciful Nimāi-Nitāi Deities at the Osaka center, and to please Them we cooperatively serve Them and perform *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in the streets of Osaka. At *Bhagavad-gītā* 3.21 Lord Kṛṣṇa describes the importance of the *ācārya*:

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

“Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you introduced the *saṅkīrtana* movement all over the world, centered on the congregational chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. By following in your footsteps, thousands of devotees are receiving the mercy of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so that we can continue maintaining and expanding all these preaching programs for your pleasure.

*Your granddisciples at ISKCON Osaka, Japan.*

## Ottawa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this glorious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

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

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

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

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

Every morning we chant the *Gurv-aṣṭaka* prayers composed by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura, in which he writes:

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

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

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

Lord Kṛṣṇa confirms this statement at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.17.27:

*ācāryaṁ mām vijānīyān nāvamanyeta karhicit  
na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-deva-mayo guruḥ*

“One should know the *ācārya* as Myself and never disrespect him in any way. One should not envy him, thinking him an ordinary man, for he is the representative of all the demigods.”

And at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 9.4.68 Kṛṣṇa states how dear the pure devotee is to Him, and vice versa:

*sādhavo hṛdayaṁ mahyaṁ sādḥūnām hṛdayaṁ tv aham  
mad-anyaṭ te na jānanti nāhaṁ tebhyo manāḡ api*

“The pure devotee is always within the core of My heart, and I am always in the heart of the pure devotee. My devotees do not know anything else but Me, and I do not know anyone else but them.”

Therefore it is clear that it is impossible to achieve the mercy of the Supreme Lord and advance in devotional service without taking shelter of the lotus feet of the spiritual master. We have seen in the lives of many of the *ācāryas* how much they have endeavored to get the mercy of a spiritual master.

Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura’s spiritual master, Lokanātha dāsa Gosvāmī, took a vow not to accept any disciples, and thus at first he was unwilling to accept Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura for initiation. Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura immediately began to do menial service for him, namely, cleaning the latrine where his *guru* would relieve himself before doing his oblations in the morning. After a long time, Lokanātha dāsa Gosvāmī, pleased with his humility, finally accepted him as his sole disciple.

There is the similar case of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, who was so determined to receive initiation from Gaura Kīśora dāsa Bābājī that he promised to commit suicide if he couldn’t. It was only then that Gaura Kīśora dāsa Bābājī, seeing Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī’s unbreakable determination, agreed to accept him as his sole disciple.

These historical accounts give us some sense of the determination, urgency, and humility a disciple must have to get the mercy of the Lord through the medium of the spiritual master.

This year, on the glorious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. In the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* we read how Śrīla Vyāsadeva, in trance, saw the Supreme Personality of Godhead, saw that the conditioned souls were suffering under the spell of the Lord’s external energy, and also saw that their misery could be mitigated by their rendering pure devotional service to the Lord. Thus Śrīla Vyāsadeva wrote *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to teach the people the science of devotional service. In the same way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you saw how the people in the Western world are suffering due to being consumed with gross material enjoyment and being bound by the ropes of the modes of material nature. Thus you presented the literary incarnation of God, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, for the benefit of the Westerners and, indeed, the benefit of everyone in the world. You realized that by following Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura’s instruction to preach in the West you were following in the footsteps of Śrīla Vyāsadeva and the previous *ācāryas*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, before you came to the West we had no idea of the importance of accepting a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession. So out of your causeless mercy you came

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to us and taught us the importance of the bona fide spiritual master, and everything else about Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Despite your advanced age, with great determination you faced many difficulties to bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to us and everyone throughout the world. What great fortune for all of us that, due to your firm faith and sincere desire to execute the order of your Guru Mahārāja, Kṛṣṇa empowered you to go to the West and save us. Not only did you teach us who Kṛṣṇa is and how to worship Him by performing *sādhana-bhakti*, but you went beyond the basics and gave us the highest teachings concerning *prema-rasa-tattva*. In addition to the *Bhagavad-gītā*, you gave us *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *The Nectar of Devotion* and *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. You gave us abundant instructions on how to give up our material desires and become followers of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī (*rūpānuga-bhaktas*). You taught us how to become transcendently greedy to achieve the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa. Often we take all your suffering, kindness, and mercy for granted because we are not ready to give up our material desires and surrender fully by giving our life and soul to Guru and Kṛṣṇa.

We conditioned souls in this material world are given a chance to end our suffering by performing devotional service, perfecting our lives, and going back home, back to Godhead. But since time immemorial we have been misusing the great gift of this human life. Instead of taking advantage of the great gift of this human body, we continue in the cycle of repeated births and deaths.

At *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41 Lord Kṛṣṇa says:

*vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana  
bahu-sākhā hy anantās ca buddhaya 'vyavasāyinām*

“Those who are on this path [of Kṛṣṇa consciousness] are resolute in purpose, and their aim is one. O beloved child of the Kurus, the intelligence of those who are irresolute is many-branched.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were always resolute in your purpose and have kindly given us all that we need to also become resolute in purpose. Your mercy is available to everyone; it is simply up to us to take shelter at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to you. May we become resolute in the purpose of faithfully abiding by your instructions and dedicating our lives in loving devotional service to you.

*Your servants at ISKCON Ottawa, Canada.*

## Pandharpur

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

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.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a Vaikuṇṭha man. To deliver the fallen, conditioned souls, you tirelessly traveled around the world and established many temples, *gurukulas*, farm communities, educational institutes, restaurants, etc. “The pure devotees are not satisfied only by knowing everything about the Lord; they are also eager to broadcast the information to others, for they want to see that the glories of the Lord are known to everyone.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.5.9, purport)

Despite your enormous success at distributing Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always remained humble and never took credit for yourself. Your attitude was perfectly in line with the *śāstric* descriptions of an unalloyed servant of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we devotees in Pandharpur are trying our best to serve you. We are preaching to young people in local colleges, conducting Nama-haṭṭa preaching in the villages around Pandharpur, doing *padayātrā*, celebrating Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, distributing your books, and distributing *prasādam* during Āṣādhī and Kārttika Ekādaśīs to masses of visitors. Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year we opened a Govinda’s restaurant to serve *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* to visitors.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so that we can continue to be part of your preaching mission of spreading Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*Your servants at ISKCON’s Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharināth Temple in Pandharpur, Maharashtra, India.*

(written by Prahlāda Dāsa)

## Paris

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, Your Divine Grace,

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

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

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

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



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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your unmotivated, transcendental devotional service at the lotus feet of your spiritual master. All glories to the divine *paramparā*. All glories to you.

By your mercy we belong to ISKCON, and in our humble way we are trying to participate in the sublime *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, of whom you are the exalted representative. By your mercy we are trying to follow in the footsteps of the previous *ācāryas* and say a few words to glorify the pure devotee of the Lord. You are actually the incarnation of the pure devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa, and so many features of your personality are particularly dear to us. No words will ever be adequate to describe them. Still, we are especially inspired by how you overcame the trials of life to accomplish your mission, and this applies to the situation of the Paris temple.

At *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.38, Lord Kṛṣṇa says:

*sukha-duḥkhe same kṛtvā lābhālābhau jayājayau  
tato yuddhāya yujyasva naivam pāpam avāpsyasi*

“Do thou fight for the sake of fighting, without considering happiness or distress, loss or gain, victory or defeat—and by so doing you shall never incur sin.”

Your whole life is the direct implementation of this verse. In ancient times great *kṣatriya* gladiators were chosen for their response to attacks. In the same way, you were noticed by Kṛṣṇa and sent to this material world to save the poor souls of this Age of Kali despite the difficulty of the task. You took up the challenge with determination and humility. You faced great difficulties before experiencing a final success as brilliant as the sun. As a *grhastha* you were hardly helped by those around you. Then, your first organization, The League of Devotees, could not continue, and you had to close it down. The first manuscript of your translation of the *Bhagavad-gītā* was stolen, and you had to write another one. Your first disciples did not always obey or even properly respect you, and yet you were extremely patient with them, just like a loving father.

Now we, as junior devotees, have been given the mission of serving Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parīśvara and spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Paris area. It is not easy because we are weighed down by the heavy past of this *yātrā* and our own disqualifications. So we depend fully on your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Full of faith in your divine example, we always keep in mind this formula: I will persist until I have succeeded. Our success will be to join you back home, in Goloka Vṛndāvana.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you by your exemplary life, and your disciples by their courage and their fidelity to you, are showing us the way: loyalty. May we always be worthy to walk in your footsteps and in their footsteps.

Some service has been accomplished in Paris, but much remains to be done. In fact, there is no end to genuinely unmotivated devotional service. It goes on and on, as you taught us. And it leads us to the spiritual world, where it continues forever.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is our duty and pleasure to serve you forever in the association of your wonderful devotees, who are all your children. To see you smile is our greatest and only reward. We beg Lord Kṛṣṇa and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī that we will always remain at your lotus feet. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*Your servants at ISKCON's Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parīśvara Temple, Paris, France.*

(written by Bhāvasindhu Dāsa)

## Perth

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Under the instruction of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you traveled to the West to help the many souls there caught in the vast net of illusion. Your enthusiasm to please your spiritual master knows no bounds, and we are the most fortunate recipients of your unconditional generosity.

Through your strong faith in Kṛṣṇa, your determination, the many austerities you underwent, your patience, and your desire to please your spiritual master, you overcame many adversities to propagate the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement throughout the world. You are an ocean of mercy and compassion, which impelled you to overcome all obstacles in order to freely distribute pure love for Kṛṣṇa.

Your pragmatic teachings on how to become Kṛṣṇa conscious and serve Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission with one's thoughts, words, and deeds are perfect. Your teachings have stood the test of time, and many people have taken to the process by associating with you through your powerful books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you took personal responsibility for providing us with the only weapons that can protect the entire human race as it spirals into degradation from the onslaught of Kali. You instructed your disciples to go far and wide to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness and arm the masses while taking to the process themselves. For this we are eternally grateful and indebted to you. You stated:

Our leaders shall be careful not to kill the spirit of enthusiastic service, which is individual and spontaneous and voluntary. They should try always to generate some atmosphere of fresh challenge to the devotees, so that they will agree enthusiastically to rise and meet it. That is the art of management: to draw out spontaneous loving spirit of sacrificing some energy for Krishna.  
[Letter to Karandhara, 22 December 1972]

Perth has a growing community of devotees, many of whom have only met you through your books or through the various preaching programs held here. It is wonderful to see their eagerness to serve. We, as aspiring leaders here, have been actively trying to make your temple and congregation stronger.

An accounting information system was put in place in 2017. The system has enabled us to have regular monthly reports on the financial performance of the temple and the restaurant. As a result, we are able to collectively make decisions based on facts and figures.

The new-temple project team that was formed in the first quarter of 2017 has thoroughly and objectively evaluated the various options for building a new temple. Based on the pros and cons of the various options, we will be shortly making a choice, paving the way for making substantial progress on matters related to the new temple during 2018.

We were able to launch our ISKCON Perth Devi group in 2016. Since then the Devi girls have been learning and sharing the principles of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with one another and with the wider community in Perth. They have shared the cultural aspect of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, both in the temple and outside, through the medium of drama, song, and dance presentations. By your grace they were able to take Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the World Peace Day, organized by the United Nations, and participate in Youth Quest, organized by the Multicultural Association of Western Australia.

Today we pray to Your Divine Grace for sincerity and spiritual strength so that we can reach out and continue sharing this sublime process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Our goal for the upcoming months and years is to learn and practice spiritual life and then take Kṛṣṇa consciousness to other organizations and people in general. Thank you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

for your constant compassion, guidance, and protection. You are our hero, our savior, and the source of our inspiration.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy the Hare Kṛṣṇa Sunday School has grown in attendance every year. This year fifty students were registered. In a few cases the parents have reported to the dedicated and selfless teachers how their children have been preaching to them and transforming the household. In one case a parent reported that after three classes their child came home and insisted they must become vegetarians.

In a letter to Arundhatī Devī Dāsī written on July 30, 1972, you said:

Child-worship is more important than deity-worship. . . . These children are given to us by Krishna, they are Vaishnavas and we must be very careful to protect them. These are not ordinary children, they are Vaikuntha children, and we are very fortunate we can give them the chance to advance further in Krishna Consciousness. That is a very great responsibility, do not neglect it.

We have taken this instruction of yours to our heart and are trying to fulfill your desire by serving the little Vaiṣṇavas.

Under the guidance of our seniors and according to your teachings, we are guiding the children to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness easily. We are engaging them in various activities like *śloka* recitation, singing songs, presenting dramas, performing in talent shows, etc. We also conduct a children's Ratha-yātrā every year on our temple premises for your pleasure, as you too organized a Ratha-yātrā when you were just a small child.

Some dedicated devotees regularly go out on book distribution, and recently we have been combining book distribution with *harināma*. Wonderful *kīrtana* events are regularly organized by your devotees here, and now weekly *kīrtanas* for the public have begun.

The communications department was established in 2016 with a view toward facilitating the many preaching programs and for relationship-building within the community. In this regard, we have a dedicated team of devotees who are nicely learning by doing this *sevā*. The areas covered by the communications department are social media, public relations, interfaith, and master of ceremonies. We pray that, if you desire, this new department will manifest its full form and be active in propagating Kṛṣṇa consciousness here in Perth.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg for your mercy so that we can become better instruments in pushing on your mission, to please you and Lord Caitanya.

*Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Perth, Australia.*

## Philadelphia

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

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

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The saintly persons who established the major religions of the world were undoubtedly exalted and empowered souls. Their accomplishments are wonderful. Still, they preached among their own people—those with similar customs, backgrounds, and expectations. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, started the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement by personally transplanting the transcendental science of *bhakti* among the people of a completely different community and country. That in and of itself is amazing. But you didn't stop there. Following the direction of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, you continued to travel and preach in order to liberate souls from practically all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, in every inhabited continent of the world. In so doing, you proved that Kṛṣṇa and *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* are universal and all-attractive regardless of the recipients' culture, race, nationality, or religion. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you began your mission with no material support. You received no encouragement or resources from any institution, community, or family. You were completely alone from a worldly standpoint, yet always accompanied, protected, encouraged, enlivened, and guided by Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Your personal activities and your preaching adventures have inspired dozens of books demonstrating how a devotee lives in the world. And you yourself also wrote scores of books, including translations of Vedic scriptures, made understandable for modern times. Your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, with no artificial additives, is truly “organic” because it is pure and unadulterated spiritual knowledge descending through you and the *guru-paramparā*, directly from Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself.

Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira organized the Rājasūya sacrifice so that all the leaders of the world would gather and recognize the unparalleled position of Lord Kṛṣṇa among all the luminaries of the universe. Sahadeva nominated Lord Kṛṣṇa as the most deserving candidate for receiving first worship at the sacrifice. Similarly, on your Vyāsa-pūjā day, we, along with devotees, religionists, and thoughtful persons around the world, gather to recognize and remember your unique and central position not only within ISKCON but also within the ranks of the foremost saintly persons extolled in the annals of history. Today we boldly declare that anyone making an objective assessment of the facts will conclude that your devotional service to uplift the souls rotting in this material world is unparalleled.

Some may object to this glorification, thinking it excessive or simply an example of the emotional rhetoric of your followers. We say it is a practical recognition of the objective truth of the last line of Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura's *Śrī Guru-vandanā* song: *ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana*. “Your fame is spread all over the three worlds.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an effulgent full moon among the limitless Vaiṣṇava stars shining in the expansive firmament of *bhakti*. That your merciful radiance continues to beam upon us is our extreme good fortune. Your wonderful deeds and kindness engadden our hearts, especially when we take the time to contemplate your truly unique and exalted position. Please allow us to take shelter of your lotus feet.

*Your servants at ISKCON of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.*

## Phoenix

Dear grand-spiritual-master Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of Your Divine Grace's Vyāsa-pūjā, we prostrate ourselves at your holy feet and offer you our most humble obeisances.

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

We thank you for your constant guidance in the form of your instructions and causeless mercy. Without these, it would be impossible for us to move forward even a millimeter in our spiritual lives. As we sincerely try to follow your instructions, we can feel and understand your divine presence and mercy. Your teachings are practically unlimited, and your order to expand Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's movement for the benefit of humanity at large by following your example of compassion, humility, and cooperation is the greatest inspiration and entrusts us with an extraordinary responsibility.

As Lord Kṛṣṇa accepted Arjuna as his instrument to reestablish genuine religion in the world, thus making Arjuna's life glorious and meaningful, we beg you to accept us as part of this wonderful Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and empower us to carry forward your instruction "as it is." Please bless us so that we may be able to properly carry out your mission with our feet grounded and our ego under control, and so that we may be able to inspire others, as you have inspired millions up to the present day.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu desired and predicted that the *saṅkīrtana* movement would be established in every town and village around the world. Your Divine Grace is the transparent and pure representative of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We pray that you forgive our mistakes and offenses and help us remove any *anarthas* from our minds and hearts so that we can fall at the dust of your lotus feet and be empowered to help you fulfill your glorious mission.

All glories to Your Divine Grace! *Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*

*Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Phoenix, Arizona, USA.*

## Phuket

Dear beloved eternal spiritual preceptor Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It is our great fortune that your ISKCON society came to Phuket. Most of our devotees were born in Nepal but grew up in Burma. Some Russian devotees also attend from time to time, but the Nepalis look after the management of the center. We all have some job or business to take care of. In search of economic prosperity, we came to Phuket. We didn't find the gold we expected but instead found the gold of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Kṛṣṇa tricked us—for our eternal benefit.

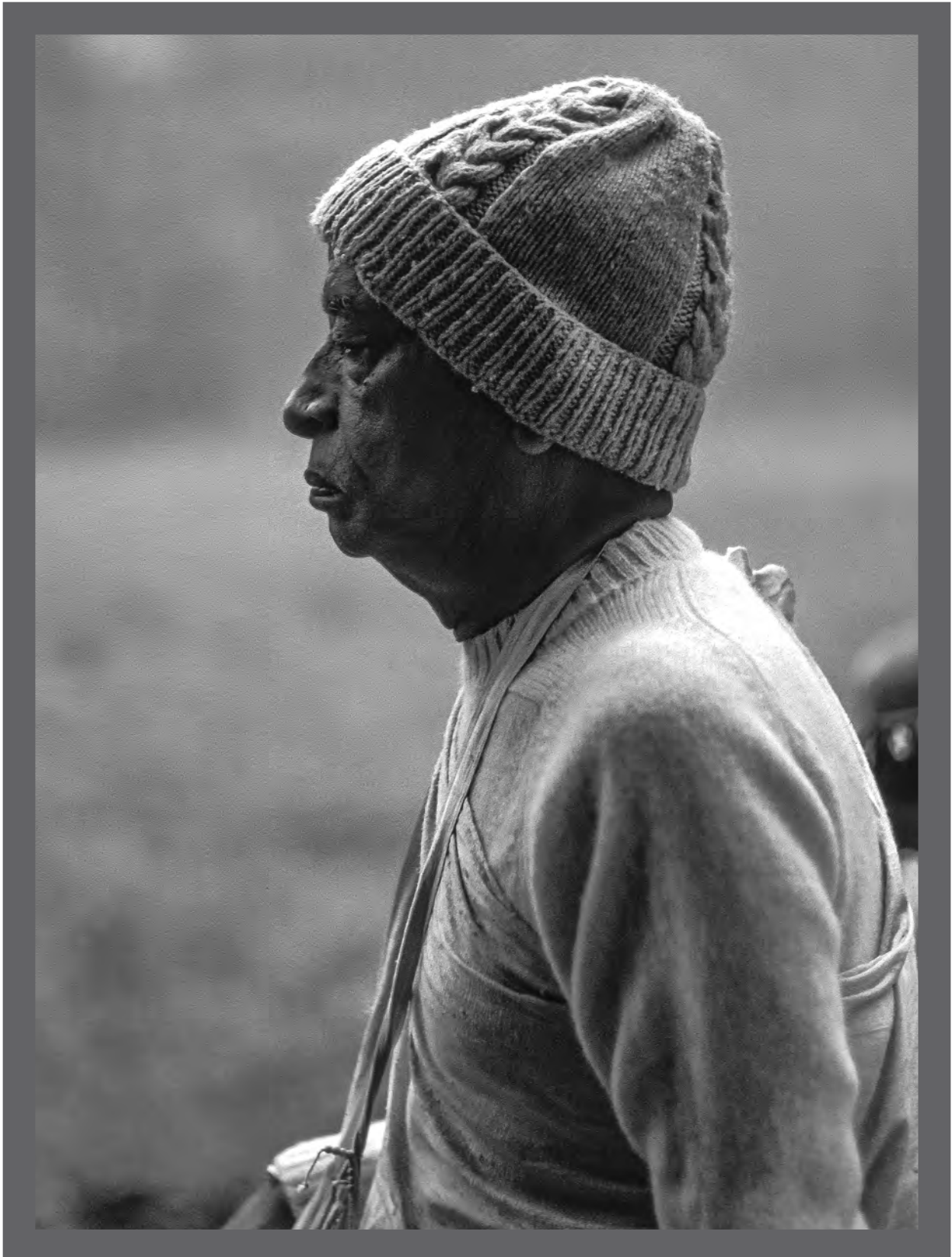
We are fortunate to have been brought to Kṛṣṇa's devotional service instead of serving the *māyā* of material life. We have to thank Lord Kṛṣṇa for that, but we also thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because you are Lord Kṛṣṇa's dear devotee who took the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the world. Without your efforts, we would have never had any hope of breaking free of Māyā's shackles. Thank you for your kindness, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We bow to your lotus feet and beg you to please continue to bestow your kindness on us.

*Your insignificant servants at Phuket, Thailand.*



Homages from ISKCON Centers



# Pietermaritzburg

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this glorious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, please allow us to offer our minds, our bodies, and our souls in your service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your arrival lecture in Los Angeles on May 18, 1972, you said:

So, my dear boys and girls, about six years ago I came to your country single-handed, with these pair of cymbals. Now you are so many chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. That is my success. It was the prediction of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

*prthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma  
sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*

Lord Caitanya desired that “In all the towns, in as many towns and villages as there are on the surface of the globe, My name will be broadcast.” He is Kṛṣṇa Himself, *svayam kṛṣṇa*, *kṛṣṇa caitanya-nāmine*, simply changing His name as Kṛṣṇa Caitanya. So His prediction will never go in vain. That’s a fact.

So my plan was that “I shall go to America. America is the leading country of the world. If I can convince the younger generation of America, they will take up.” I am old man. I came here at the age of seventy years; now I am seventy-six. So my warning is already there. In 1971 I had a severe heart attack. You know, all. So the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu is now in your hands. You are American boys and girls—very intelligent and graced by Kṛṣṇa. You are not poverty-stricken. You have enough resources, prestige. Everything materially—you are all well-equipped. If you kindly take this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement seriously, your country will be saved, and the whole world will be saved.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in this lecture you allude to many instructions that we sincerely pray we can execute.

**“That is my success.”**

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as a humble offering from ISKCON Pietermaritzburg, we would like to present unto your lotus feet the Śrī Śrī Dayāl-Nitāi Gaura-Hari Temple.

**“The mission . . . is now in your hands.”**

Last year saw many important developments in our *yātrā*, led by the grand and ecstatic installation of the Deities and opening of the temple. Today is exactly one year since that auspicious day. We pray that in the execution of our services to you we have not committed any offenses.

**“Your country will be saved, and the whole world will be saved.”**

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on October 1, 2017, we had an amazing and the auspicious installation of Śrī Śrī Dayāl-Nitāi Gaura-Hari. Many people attended the four-day festivities. We are indeed extremely grateful

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

to all our donors and well-wishers who assisted in the project. Please allow me to express my gratitude to the devotee community, who drove this entire project. Their selfless service to your lotus feet is evident in this project, which we offer unto you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your pleasure we took part in the December book marathon, placing sixth in the country. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please enthuse our devotee community to try to distribute more books for your pleasure.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are indeed really grateful to you for giving us Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We feel such great gratitude when we think of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.  
As we reflect on what we have to be grateful for,  
We feel so much,  
Yet we offer so little.  
We want you to know how much  
We appreciate you.  
You are our inspiration,  
And an inspiration for the entire world,

We hold a special place in our hearts just for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.  
We've found solace,  
We've found hope,  
We've found true happiness  
In your service.  
As time passes  
We often forget to pause  
A moment to remind ourselves  
Of our good fortune.  
Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you,  
Thank you for giving our lives meaning,  
For the inspiration to get up early  
While the entire world sleeps,  
For the joy of serving Kṛṣṇa.  
You told us that if devotional service is done lovingly  
It will bring immense joy.  
Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.  
Please bless us so we can carry out your instructions.  
Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
We love you.

*Your most fallen servants at ISKCON Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.*

(written by Nityānanda Prāṇa Dāsa)

## Radhadesh

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, the Radhadesh-vāsīs, beg to offer our prostrated obeisances to the dust of your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, these days the ISKCON world is largely focused on the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, now under construction in Śrīdhām Māyāpur. Recently we were blessed to receive two saintly devotees who are begging charity for this mammoth devotional project. Janānivāsa and Braja Vilāsa Prabhus are performing extreme *tapasya* in order to serve you by encouraging devotees to assist you in making the *adbhuta-mandira* manifest. These highly praiseworthy devotees are tolerating unbearable separation from the *dhāma*, and Braja Vilāsa Prabhu has literally broken his back in the course of his service. Yet still he continues to travel and inspire devotees to surrender resources big and small so that we can participate, even at a distance, in bringing the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium to fruition.

It is said that great personalities almost always accept voluntary suffering because of the suffering of people in general. This is considered the highest method of worshiping the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is present in everyone's heart. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 8.7.44]

Although here at Radhadesh our contribution is insignificant in comparison to the colossal undertaking of the TOVP, we are nevertheless encouraged and hopeful when we hear about that project, see presentations of its progress through social media, and, most significantly, see the example of those great souls, including our own Hṛdaya Caitanya Prabhu and his devoted wife Vinode Mañjarī Devī Dāsī, who are giving everything to fulfill this cherished desire of yours. They inspire us to look internally and question ourselves about how we can surrender more to your instructions and guidelines on the path of *bhakti*.

“The power of thought should be developed in association with persons who are authorities in the scriptures—saintly persons and spiritual masters.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 10.4–5, purport)

The measure of our realization of the unlimited devotional resources you have continued to make available to us is how we utilize them in our service to you, to the disciplic succession, to the Lord, and to one another, and how we extend that mercy to the floundering souls so desperately in need of it. We beg for your continued compassion, guidance, and blessings so that we may progress in a way that brings satisfaction to you.

Aspiring to serve the servants of your servants,

*Your descendants in Radhadesh, Belgium.*

## Rome

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

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

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this sublime anniversary of your divine appearance, and forever.

Here, within our small preaching center in the heart of Rome, every morning we pray to Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śācīnandana that we may satisfy you by increasing the distribution of your sacred literature. Well aware of the fact that through harmony little things grow, we also pray to be able to go on cooperating with one another with an attitude of service, so that our commitment may develop more and more as we become increasingly suitable instruments for the realization of your expansion plans in the Eternal City.

A month and a half ago we took part in the fourth edition of the ISKCON Leadership Saṅga, held in Śrī Māyāpur Dhām, and it was highly inspiring as well as instructive to take advantage of the guidance and examples of so many of your sincere and staunch disciples and granddisciples. Acknowledging that Your Divine Grace is at the core of all ISKCON members' spiritual lives motivates all of us to proceed strongly and in a balanced way along the path of *bhakti*.

Thank you for sheltering us in your extraordinary family and for teaching us the right way to transcend the *guṇas*, thus purifying our mistaken desire to lord it over the variegated features of the material nature:

The process of devotional service, beginning with hearing, chanting, remembering—the prescribed nine methods for realizing devotional service—should be practiced in the association of devotees. Gradually, by such association, by the influence of the spiritual master, one's material desire to dominate is removed, and one becomes firmly situated in the Lord's transcendental loving service. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 14.27, purport]

We beg you to intercede with Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śācīnandana, the Deities here in Rome, so that we may offer you a bigger temple in the capital city of Italy. The small preaching center in Via Sardegna is clearly the prelude to the symphony you have arranged for Rome, and in this overture, begun six years ago, all the devotional themes and tunes you've taught us have been played under the expert guidance of your faithful servant His Grace Madhusevita Prabhu. Still, because an overture is meant to be but a prelude to a symphony, we long for the full realization of your "ISKCON Rome": the *domus* Hare Kṛṣṇa temple in this city, a greater and better way to express and expand your glorious teachings.

*Your insignificant, aspiring servants at ISKCON Rome, Italy.*

(written by Harikīrtana Dāsa)

## Saltillo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this glorious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, please allow us to offer our most humble obeisances unto you, ISKCON's founder-*ācārya*.

Dear *param guru*, please let us carry out your orders according to what you write in the following passage from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*:

The expert devotees also can discover novel ways and means to convert the nondevotees in terms of particular time and circumstance. Devotional service is dynamic activity, and the expert devotees can find out competent means to inject it into the dull brains of the materialistic population. Such



transcendental activities of the devotees for the service of the Lord can bring a new order of life to the foolish society of materialistic men. Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His subsequent followers exhibited expert dexterity in this connection. By following the same method, one can bring the materialistic men of this age of quarrel into order for peaceful life and transcendental realization. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.16, purport]

Because the sleeping souls of Saltillo are so immersed in the dreams of *māyā*, we are distributing thousands and thousands of your books to wake them up. To date we have distributed almost a million of your books here. We also regularly hold festivals, do *harināma*, give public lectures, give lectures at universities, and hold cultural preaching programs. Still, very few of the sleeping souls in this city are visiting our Rādhā-Govinda Mandir. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg you to infuse us with your *śakti* so we can convert some of these souls to *kṛṣṇa-bhaktas*. That is the only way for them to become happy, stop their entanglement in *saṁsāra*, and go back to Godhead.

We beg you to shower your mercy on us so that we can be your bona fide followers and never, ever separate ourselves from the sacred Vaiṣṇava *saṅga* of your ISKCON. Let us always remain under your hierarchical system of GBC, temple presidents, etc. Let us never commit offenses to any Vaiṣṇava, and let us always remain under your protection and that of the previous *ācāryas* in the *paramparā*. Please let all your Vaiṣṇava followers in this *mandira* and this country cooperate to fulfill your desires. The test of our love for you will be how we cooperate and stay united in your sacred ISKCON Vaiṣṇava *saṅga*, in love and truth and without quarrels. Please bless us so we can pass this text. That is our humble request to you.

*Your servants at ISKCON's Rādhā-Govinda Mandir in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico.*

## Scarborough

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

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

My dear grand-spiritual-master,

We consider that it is the fault of our destiny or *karma* that we were born after your disappearance pastime. We would love to have had your personal association, the association of the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, who introduced Kṛṣṇa consciousness to millions worldwide and infused knowledge of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, into our hearts. One devotee mentioned that hearing or reading your teachings and following your instructions means being in your association. We strongly agree with that devotee, dear grandfather, because it is only by your causeless mercy that a small congregation comprising less than twenty-five core devotees is able to hold weekly Friday and Sunday feast programs feeding more than a hundred people every week, with more than eight varieties of dishes.

Our preaching center—ISKCON Scarborough—is making a humble effort to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness by following your teachings under the guidance of your ardent disciples. Never in our dreams did any of us imagine that a small handful of devotees could hold programs like weekly *Bhagavad-gītā* classes on

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

live radio in the Tamil language, heard by people from every part of the world. Or like the monthly Śvāti Nakṣatra programs to please Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva so He will bestow upon us more strength to preach to the community and fearlessly serve the Vaiṣṇava *paramparā*. Or like our Janmāṣṭamī and Gaura Pūrṇimā celebrations, which fill up our little temple with so many devotees that we can't see the floor. Because we serve more than ten varieties of *prasādam* on those days to more than a hundred devotees, the temple management has seriously discussed buying larger plates.

The monthly *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes based on your translations and purports attract more than fifty devotees thirsty for transcendental knowledge, who sit with rapt attention for more than three hours. Within our small center we host many seminars and workshops given by your enthusiastic disciples and granddisciples. My dear grandfather, apart from our winter book distribution marathon and our *japa* marathons, our Kārttika home programs are the highlight of our temple. We hold a home program practically every day of Kārttika, so people from the community need to book us a year in advance! But our biggest program is Ratha-yātrā, where we take Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā out to our local park so they can enjoy the beautiful atmosphere there while attracting more than three thousand celebrants, who are served sumptuous *prasādam* to their heart's content solely by the devotees of our temple.

When we contemplate all these programs and then consider the small number of devotees in our *yātrā*, we realize how miraculous it is that all these programs have manifested. We know that this is all happening just by your causeless mercy; there can be no other explanation. My dear grandfather, these are not our achievements: they are all your victories, your achievements, the fruits of your spiritual labor—fruits that we are undeservingly and causelessly enjoying. All these programs are the direct result of your teachings and instructions, through which we experience your nectarean association.

My dear grandfather, we are forever your servants, forever indebted to you. Although we never saw you physically, we have heard your voice and read your teachings, and thus we have felt your presence, assured that associating with you through your words is as good as associating with you personally. As you wrote in a letter to a disciple:

We are not separated actually. There are two—*vani* or *vapu*. So *vapu* is physical presence and *vani* is presence by the vibration, but they are all the same. [Letter to Hamsadūta, 22 June 1970]

Please bless us so that we shall always remain in your service, the service of the Vaiṣṇavas, and the service of their Lordships Śrī Sri Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and so that we may always remember Kṛṣṇa and never forget Him by loudly chanting

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

*Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Scarborough, Toronto, Canada.*

(written by Sudarśana Gopāl Dāsa and Amal Tagore Prabhu)

## Suriname

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Devotees began to visit Suriname in the mid-1980s, but it was only around the year 2000 that ISKCON became organized and took root. Through your books, your *mūrti*, and your transcendental recorded teachings we feel very closely connected to you. We beg you to please accept this simple homage from our hearts on this, your sacred Vyāsa-pūjā day. We know that by serving loyally within your ISKCON we will automatically be blessed with the opportunity for spiritual enlightenment and purification, and that our path back to Godhead will open wide.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we feel very obligated to you as we see the congregation growing and see how so many are becoming spiritually transformed and happy by taking to devotional service. Before you founded ISKCON we had heard of Kṛṣṇa, but now, through your kindness, we are getting to know Him in truth.

We now have our main temple in Paramaribo, the capital city. Two years ago we introduced Ratha-yātrā there, and the participation was tremendous.

Through the preaching efforts of our devotees and due to the confidence people have in us, this year saw three properties donated to ISKCON. We are in the process of legally transferring them to ISKCON's name. We have organized several Nāma-haṭṭas in various parts of the country, and by your kindness many senior Vaiṣṇavas visit our *yātrā* yearly to give spiritual guidance and inspiration.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are all extremely grateful to you for everything you have given us. Therefore the least we can do is sincerely dedicate our lives to fulfilling your mission and pleasing you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, again we thank you for everything you have done for us—for saving us and saving so many others.

*Your aspiring servants in Suriname.*

(written by Nṛsimha Dāśī)

## Taipei

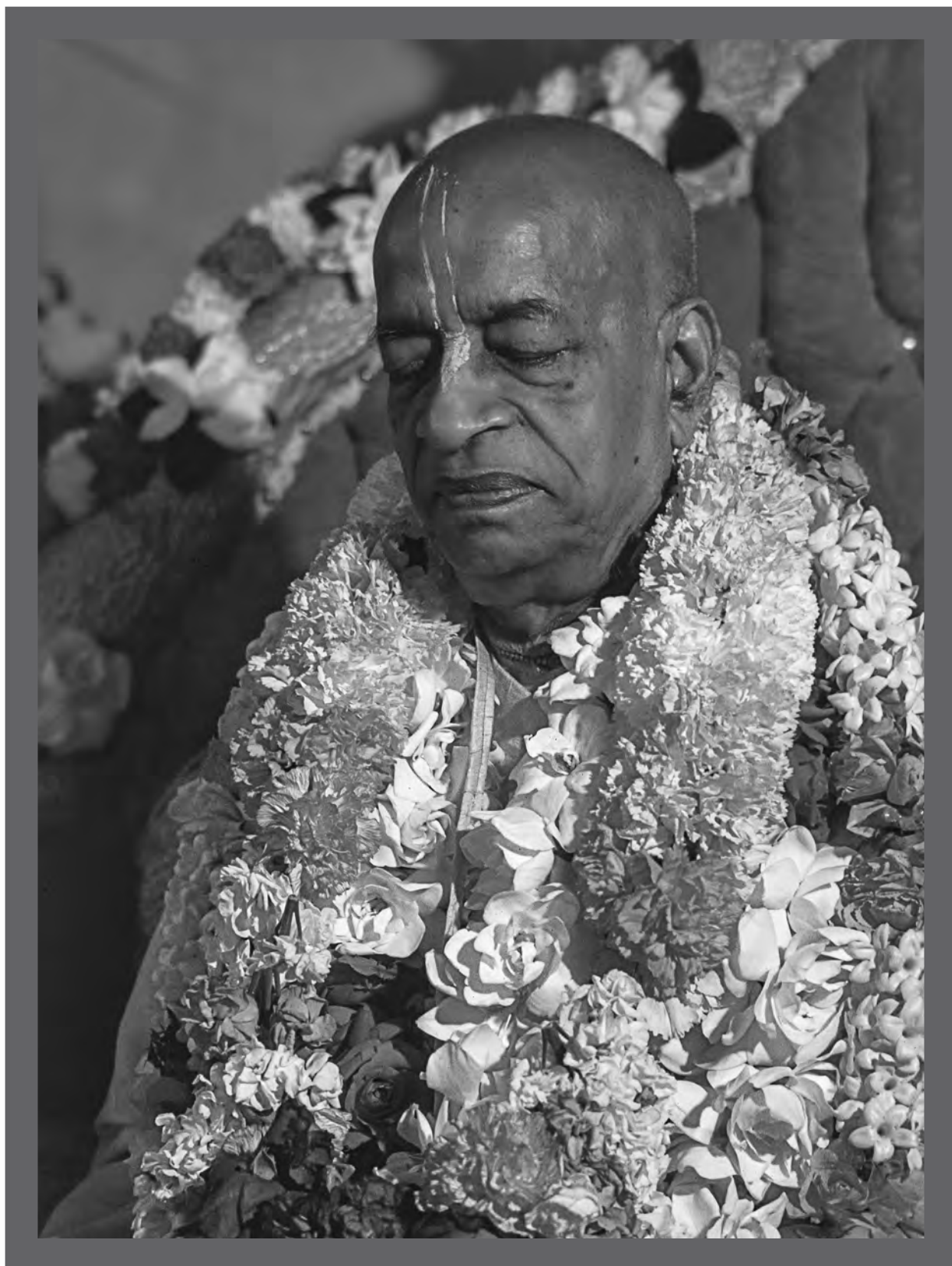
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

The conditioned souls have been wandering around the numerous universes since time memorial, going from planet to planet, from one body to another, transmigrating through the 8,400,000 species of life. By some great fortune we now have the human form of life. It is very rare to obtain the human form of life, and even more rare to have the opportunity to practice devotional service and thus awaken our dormant love for Kṛṣṇa. How fortunate it is that we have received from you the transcendental Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*!

As one candle lights another candle, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have lit the flame of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in our hearts. You are the illuminating candle and, indeed, the light-tower for the world. You delivered love of God to us, reminding us of our eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa and our duty to love Him. You gave

Homages from ISKCON Centers



## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

us pure knowledge of the Absolute Truth. You taught us the ultimate conclusion of all knowledge. You taught us how to transcend the material modes and how to love Kṛṣṇa and how Kṛṣṇa loves us.

You sent your sincere, loyal followers to plant the seeds of this knowledge among the Chinese people of Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mainland China. In the mid-1980s your very beloved followers—Tamāl Krishna Goswami, Giridhārī Swamī, Yaśomatī-suta Prabhu, and others—distributed your books all over the island of Taiwan. A Kṛṣṇa consciousness center was started in Taipei, where some *haṭha-yoga* courses and Kṛṣṇa consciousness were taught. After the rain of your mercy had fallen on these Chinese-speaking lands for some time, the seeds of Kṛṣṇa consciousness germinated and began to grow, and then many creepers of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* became firmly rooted and began to flourish. An official Taipei preaching center was established in the 1990s, and although the location has changed, the programs, outreach, distribution of your books, and *harināma* have continued to the present day.

We are still very, very far from achieving the perfection of life. We still have much work to do in improving ourselves individually and collectively. Therefore we devotees in the Taipei *yātrā* pray for your mercy so that you will continue to allow us to serve in your ISKCON society and remain united in lovingly serving your instructions to please Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Thank you so much, again and again, for your loving mercy toward us.

*Your sincere, thankful servants at ISKCON Taipei, Taiwan.*

(written by Rājalakṣmī Devī Dāsī)

## Togo

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

For millions of births we have been *mlecchas*. In this lifetime we were the most abominable *mlecchas*, committing all kinds of sinful activities. O divine father, our only glimmer of hope is to take shelter at your lotus feet, to hear the words emanating from your lotuslike mouth, and to take your instructions as our life and soul.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your words, your books, your smile—these are the only things that matter in our lives. You alone have rekindled our desire to live—not in this material world but in the eternal kingdom of God. To you we offer our prostrated obeisances crores of millions of times.

*Your servants at ISKCON Togo.*



# Tokyo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As the years pass, we at your Tokyo temple realize deeper aspects of *bhakti*. We now understand a little of the difficulties you went through while managing your temples all over the world. As we grow older, we have begun to understand the austerities you underwent at the advanced age of seventy to begin this movement and give us Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Tokyo, being Japan's commercial hub and a major world city, is very strongly influenced by the modes of passion and ignorance. A wide variety of people visit the temple here. Some are getting connected with the *paramparā* and some are trying. We observe certain behaviors by the guests that are least expected. Sometimes we feel they're mentally unstable. But they come to the temple, take *darśana* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, participate in *kīrtana*, and take *prasādam*. They feel happy. Because they're ignorant in spiritual matters, they commit offenses. We have to tolerate in order to give them devotee association and Kṛṣṇa consciousness, just as our seniors had to tolerate us.

We have heard from your disciples how devotees used to behave in the early seventies. But you always tolerated their mistakes. Hearing these pastimes encourages us to continue discharging our duties to the best of our ability. We deeply appreciate how you are pouring your causeless mercy on all these souls and on us, who otherwise would have remained in darkness for untold eons.

Because of your instruction to establish temples in the main cities of the world, innumerable souls are getting connected to the sublime path of ultimate deliverance: Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Now more and more Japanese devotees are visiting India on pilgrimage. As you have always guided us, devotees have started consistent preaching programs in Japanese. By the tireless efforts of the senior Japanese devotees, we now have regular *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes. Book distribution and *harināma-saṅkīrtana* are consistently going on. We are trying to further improve the *prasādam* standards in the temple.

Due to your guidance and mercy, local devotees are taking more responsibility and initiative. Please bless all the devotees here so that we can fulfill your dream for preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Japan.

A new Japanese *Bhagavad-gītā* is in the works and should be published this year. Devotees are also translating *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* and *The Nectar of Devotion* into Japanese.

Since the inauguration of the new Tokyo temple in 2011, we have worked hard to stabilize its operations, and that has now been accomplished. We seek the necessary empowerment from Your Divine Grace to take the Tokyo temple to the next level, where it deserves to be.

We again express our deep gratitude for your spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over world. We are encouraged when we hear of your pastimes in Japan from senior Vaiṣṇavas. Your three visits to Japan and your praise of Japanese culture inspire the devotees here. Your first choice was to start Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Japan, and today all the devotees here beg that you use all of us as instruments in your service. You have always said that you are present in your books, and so devotees try to read them as much as possible, though understanding English is a challenge.

In a letter to Sudāmā Prabhu (who started ISKCON in Japan), you wrote that it would be better for him to make young Japanese devotees then to learn Japanese. So please engage us in your service. In the early days your patience and tolerance, coupled with your rock-solid determination, made the movement grow very fast. Please give us a drop of your determination so we can make Japanese preaching a great success.

*Your humble servants at ISKCON New Gaya, Tokyo, Japan.*

# Tucson

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

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

## Rhymes of Love

Whatever we do, we do it for you,  
Taking on challenges and seeing them through,  
Preaching your purports, knowing they're true,  
Standing strong, humble Tucson crew.

From early rising, chanting Kṛṣṇa's names,  
Energizing hearts' sacred flames,  
Hearing you chant, hearing you speak,  
We try memorizing the *śloka*s complete.

Absorbed in *japa*, hearts mobilizing,  
Giving full attention (postpone organizing!)  
Corralling the mind (stop criticizing!).  
Simply hear Kṛṣṇa's names, you're emphasizing.

People love Govinda's, *prasādam* appetizing,  
Ambience of love, it's so tantalizing.  
We chant and preach, your books crystallizing,  
Melodious *kīrtan*, holy names mesmerizing.

No one's impressed by false moralizing  
Or preying politicians who try galvanizing  
Pseudo well-wishers—they're only patronizing.  
Living your teachings—the best advertising!

Your instructions are truth, no compromising.  
Your books and your wisdom, worth analyzing.  
Inspired by your words, would it be so surprising  
If the cheated world staged a spiritual uprising?

Getting on in years, now I'm realizing  
The next generation may be more enterprising.  
Let them do well, but keep on advising.  
Roots grown much deeper, *saṅga* stabilizing.

We've given our lives, you've given the glue  
That binds us together, only *bhakti* is true,

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

“Pleasing and healthy like morning dew.”  
Loving Lord Kṛṣṇa, like the sky oh so blue.

*Your servants at ISKCON of Arizona, in Tucson, Arizona, USA.*

(written by Sandāminī Devī Dāsī)

## Ujjain

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our most humble and respectful obeisances unto you, the personality who by your personal example taught us the art of taking shelter of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and becoming most dear to Him. We offer our most respectful and humble obeisances to you, the messenger who appeared on this wretched planet just to show by your own example how the essence of the *Vedas* is to control the senses and engage in pure devotional service. We offer our most humble obeisances unto you, the spiritual master who taught by your own example how the perfection of every activity—including the promulgation of Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s teachings—is in following one’s own bona fide spiritual master. Today we offer our most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet because you mercifully saved us, who were busy hiding behind pseudo philosophies ultimately aimed at material enjoyment as gross as that in the West.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please allow us to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for showing us the path to perfection.

Nityānanda Prabhu can and will go to any lengths to please the Golden Avatāra, and Lord Nityānanda’s pastimes are still going on. Performing the most munificent *saṅkīrtana* pastimes, He blessed us by sending his empowered servant—you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you very much for saving us from the degrading association of all the materialistic people around us who are expert in finding ways to avoid Kṛṣṇa. Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you very much for promoting Kṛṣṇa consciousness in India, even in such a small city as Ujjain, the personal abode of Lord Mahākāleśvara (Śiva), and saving us from degradation. Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you very much for telling us through your purports what really pleases Lord Śiva.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, today we realize how difficult it was for us unfortunate people born outside of Gauḍa-deśa to understand the teachings of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. We will never be able to thank you enough for the culture of dancing to the right song with the right instruments and thus being established on the actual path to self-realization. We can never be grateful enough to you for telling us explicitly what is what. Thank you very much, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, for cutting the knots of attachment to cheating religion in our hearts.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in our attempts to assist you in your mission to please Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, last year we were able to distribute books containing your words totaling 61,000 book points in different

places of Madhya Pradesh. We pray at your lotus feet so that we may be able to keep up our enthusiasm to spread your mercy all around your abode in Ujjain.

By your mercy we had the great opportunity to organize ISKCON's midterm GBC meeting last year and were able to receive, assist, and serve thirty international GBC members, who are pushing your mission forward all over the world.

Also, we had the great blessing of observing the Śrīla Prabhupada Memorial Festival on September 17, the anniversary of the day Your Divine Grace landed in America, in the city of Boston, in 1965. This festival brought together three thousand devotees from all over the world to glorify you.

We thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for sending your sincere followers to deliver us from our precarious situation. With the same mood—to deliver fallen souls proud of their so-called religion—you appeared here. Following in your footsteps, within the past ten months we were able to recruit and train twenty-four full-time devotees into the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madanmohan. Please bless us so that we may be able to improve the quality of devotee consciousness more and more for the pleasure of Their Lordships.

We remember how foolish we were, doubting Kṛṣṇa's instructions just because they went against our pursuit of the frustrating mirage of sense gratification. But you made arrangements for us in the form of such a magnificent temple that today we feel that if we can do anything to repay you it will be to follow your instructions with every breath and step.

Please bless us, dearest spiritual master, so that we may be able to remember your mercy, which is manifest in such a favorable situation of spiritual life. Please help us realize that everything we have today is a result of your taking all the pains in the universe so that we could be happy in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please bless us with faith in your transcendental instructions.

By your causeless mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we were able to continue serving the dedicated preachers of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement by providing them with proper care and treatment at our Ayurvedic Treatment Facility, Arogya Niketan, here in Ujjain. We were blessed this year with the association of His Holiness Jayādvaita Swami, His Grace Bhūrījana Prabhu, His Holiness Bhakti-vidyā-pūrṇa Swami, His Holiness Badrinārāyaṇ Swami, His Holiness Candramauli Swami, His Grace Nareśvara Prabhu, and many others.

Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and Her friends pulled Kṛṣṇa in His stunning cart, and by your divine grace they are engaging us in the same service here in Ujjain. You once said that as soon as there is Ratha-yātrā organized in every city, all the false religions will disappear. Also, for the second time since the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madanmohan, we were blessed with the ability to organize a boat festival for Them, with the enthusiastic participation of the devotees from all walks of life.

Śrīla Prabhupada, we are sure that Lord Mahākāleśvara is very happy that we brought his worshipable Lordships, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madanmohan, to his city of Ujjain. We just wish to serve Your Divine Grace in your mission of pleasing the Supreme Personality of Godhead by pleasing all the Vaiṣṇavas.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you arrived at Boston Harbor you at first saw what a nasty place you had come to, having left the peace and tranquillity of Vṛndāvana. You had with you a trunk full of volumes of the most revolutionary scripture, a scripture that can be appreciated only by the most sinless of all souls. So you created the audience for this spotless scripture by recruiting devotees from the most deviant population of the USA ever—the hippies.

We realize today, from the words of your sincere disciples, that people are still coming to ISKCON only because of you. It is you alone who are preaching because it is only your written and recorded words that are coming out in the form of our own writings and lectures. By your mercy Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva mercifully took up residence here to allow us to serve Him. Thank you for showering us with mercy via those who carry you in their hearts.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, some thought that when Lord Caitanya said that His name would resound in every town and village in the world, that world comprised only Bhārata-vārṣa. But you knew better, and you proved it by boarding that cargo ship, traveling to the heart of the degraded West, and then conquering the youth of the entire world by sharing with them Lord Caitanya's great treasure: absolutely pure love for Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, with Lord Caitanya's philosophy of pure love of God, you went to the land of

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

darkness, the West, and helped Christians practice what Lord Jesus Christ actually wanted them to: to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, since you wanted all your disciples and future generations of ISKCON members to read and meditate on your books, many of the devotees of ISKCON Ujjain have read the complete *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* within one year, and we will soon begin reading the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*—all in an effort to please Your Divine Grace.

Although we are too weak to offer any substantial glorification of Kṛṣṇa's personal commander in chief, we wish to express our gratitude and pray to you to please bless us so that we may be able to please you with our cooperation. You have created such immense good fortune for us. Please bless us so that we may not squander it by petty dissent. Please bless us so that we may become ever more enthusiastic in your service.

*Your servants at ISKCON Ujjain, India.*

## Vilaggio Hare Krishna

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

A few days ago, during the early morning hours, my mind found peace in thoughts related to Your Divine Grace, and while meditating I saw you wearing an exquisite garland of radiant beauty. As I looked closer, I noticed that it was made with special flowers whose petals were your effulgent qualities and whose scent was made of particles of gratitude, the deep gratitude that all your disciples and granddisciples manifest for your divine personality.

No doubt “we are carried away to the realm of gratitude” when we realize how much you have given us in the few years (too few) in which you were present among us. You invested so much of your time and energy in raising us to the platform of human consciousness and keeping us spiritually alive. You came into the middle of our problematic society, leaving the transcendental peace of your dearest Vṛndāvana, and did not give up on us, even after seeing our hopeless condition. Therefore we thank you from the core of our heart for having stayed with us year after year after year to instruct, guide, help, and encourage each one of us in our way back home, back to Godhead.

You have stolen our hearts and minds, and we are very happy to be your property, for you are our hero who have filled our empty life with an incredible wealth of knowledge and realizations, the diamond that gave value and beauty to our poor, ugly existence. You have been for us the dearest father, the beloved well-wisher, the loving advisor, the master who answers all questions and dispels all doubts, the absolute example, the perfect judge, and the constant shelter.

I have no words to express how much we appreciate the innumerable moments you spent with us, making us feel at ease with your entertaining stories, your oceanic smiles, your encouraging words, and your steady example—all of which inspired us to continue our devotional duties with increased attention and concentration.

With your humble and yet gigantic personality you won the respect of prestigious scholars and the affection of small children, with integrity and full dedication you carried out the order of your beloved



spiritual master, with audacity you accomplished the impossible (a word that did not exist in your vocabulary), with your mystic power you transformed the ordinary into the extraordinary and performed miracles (each one of us is your miracle), and with great modesty you gave all the credit for your success to the mercy of your Guru Mahārāja, taking none for yourself. Who will not appreciate the long list of your qualities (too long to mention), which now reflect brightly in your disciples and granddisciples, ready to start a golden era in the middle of Kali-yuga?

Our gratitude goes to your steady leadership, to the captain who steers the ship in the right direction and takes everyone across the ocean of nescience. We marvel at your fortitude and perseverance in the face of the many heavy challenging events you had to confront, and we pray to have a bit of your courage and strength whenever we have to face difficulties in life.

With ever-fresh admiration we approach your books, and the ecstatic poetry of those pages fills us with joy, transforms our consciousness, and brings us to another level, another world far from the pettiness of day-to-day life, into a higher and broader scope of existence. You left a legacy of priceless knowledge that carries us, step by step, to the highest form of pure bliss. But most surprising, through your Bhaktivedanta Book Trust you made this body of knowledge available to each and every person in this world, no matter where one lives or which language one speaks.

We feel in our heart deep gratitude for having been introduced to the chanting of the holy name, which alone can save us from the worst fears. You sung for us melodious devotional songs and *mantras*, and made us dance in ecstasy. “Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy” was your motto, “and if you chant with devotion and pray with your heart, the Divine Couple will dance on your tongue!” Your enthusiasm in spreading the holy name was so overwhelming that you were able to turn into reality the dream of the previous *ācāryas*: to gather people from every nation and inspire them to chant the *mahā-mantra* all together.

Will we ever be able to thank you enough for having opened wide for us the doors of the storehouse of love of Godhead and distributed that love liberally to every corner of the world? You first made us aware of our original nature, so long hidden from us under layers of misunderstandings. You explained to us very clearly the difference between reality and illusion, spirit and matter, remembrance and forgetfulness. And then you introduced us to the glories of the pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, the pinnacle of spirituality, in a language suitable for our comprehension. You even allowed us to worship Their blissful forms on the altar and brought us with you to see Vṛndāvana, Govardhana, Māyāpur, Jagannātha Purī, and so many other holy places completely unknown to us.

Our gratitude knows no bounds when we recall your herculean efforts to create an international society of devotees (ISKCON) where we could sustain one another on the spiritual path, a vast family where we could interact in an exchange of experiences and realizations, with a spirit of cooperation, mutual understanding, tolerance, and maturity, qualities you inspired in all of us with your personal example. You also made us well aware of our vulnerability if we isolate ourselves, or if we fall prey to fanaticism, factionalism, and various kind of deviations. You were therefore forgiving of our weaknesses but absolutely uncompromising when it came to philosophical drifts.

We will never get tired of thanking you for feeding our mind and soul with firm faith in *guru*, *śāstra*, and *sādhū*, the pillars of spiritual understanding, and for feeding our body and soul with copious delicious *prasādam* cooked by your very own hands. In this way you taught us to control our mind and senses, the tongue in particular, and set for us a balanced lifestyle without demanding from us rigid austerities. Like an expert gardener, you nourished our small devotional seeds with the rain of your mercy and the sun of transcendental knowledge, making them grow and flourish. Without your constant care we would have entangled ourselves in the inextricable networks of impersonalism, Buddhism, Māyāvādisim, or *sahājiyaism*, or become victims of fake *gurus* and other pseudo-spiritualists, or blind followers of ridiculous materialistic scientific theories, or else supporters of the various so-called humanitarian movements. We will never be able to thank you enough for opening our eyes with the torchlight of knowledge and saving us from these innumerable traps of *māyā*.

We again express our gratitude thousands of times for all the literatures you have compiled, all the letters you have written, all the words you have spoken, all the thoughts and time you have dedicated to

## Homages from ISKCON Centers

us, all the instructions, corrections, appreciations, solace, protection, refuge, and care and attention you gave us, and also for all the exhausting journeys you have endured with heavy consequences for your health, for all the gifts, the successes and achievements, and for everything else I did not mention and without which our life would not be the same.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for having left behind you a better world.

*Your servants at Vilaggio Hare Krishna, Bergamo, Italy.*

(written by Āli Kṛṣṇa Devī Dāsī)

## Vṛndāvana

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our beloved father and guide, and on this most auspicious anniversary of your appearance day we pray to Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma via Guru and *paramparā* to bless us so that we may glorify you for Their pleasure and the pleasure of the devotees.

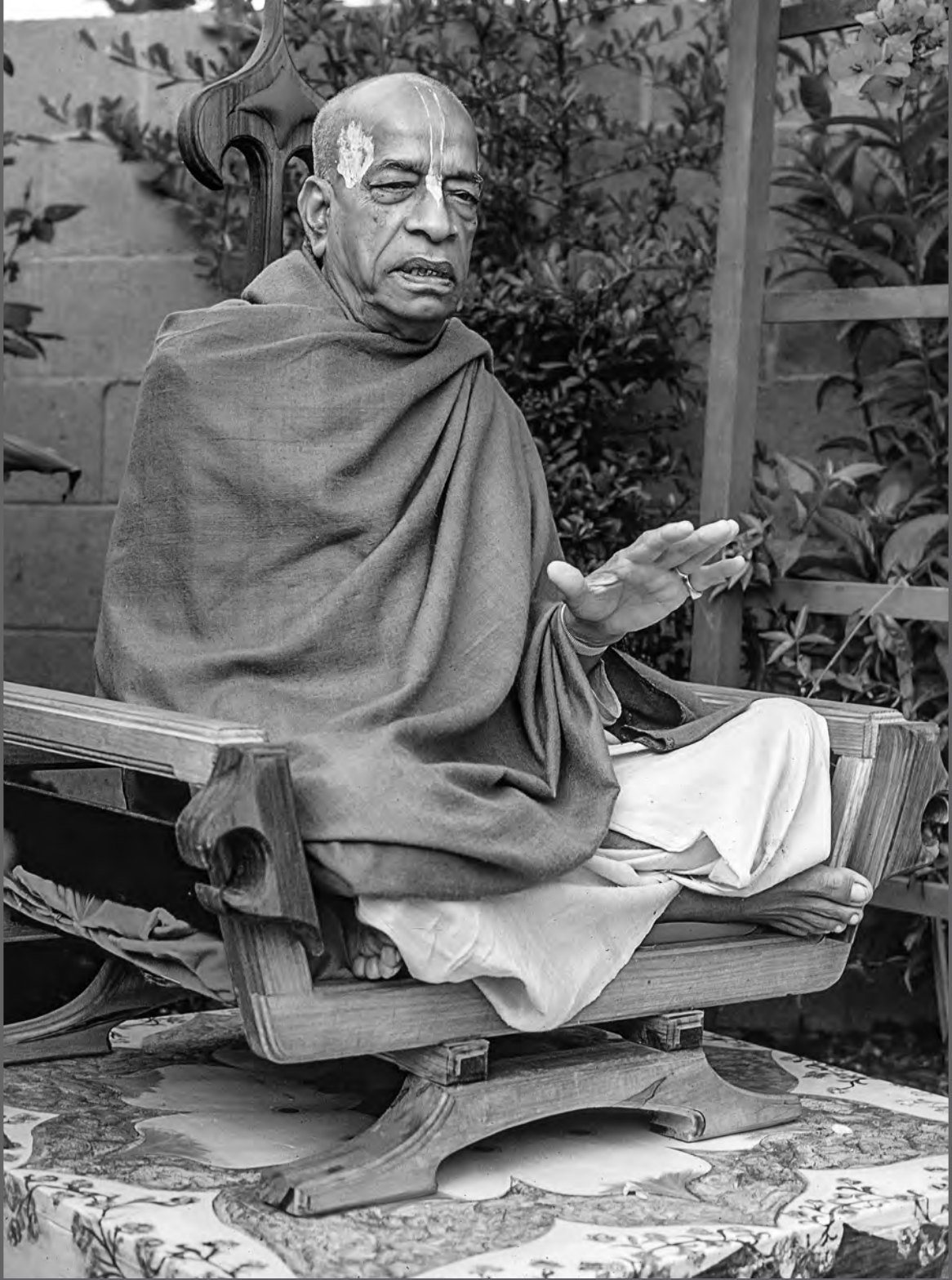
We thank you for building a house in which the whole world can live. ISKCON Vṛndāvana is the ideal temple, which devotees visit from all over the world. We assemble together in the morning and evening to glorify Their Lordships and you. During that time, we all forget our so-called nationalities and experience how wonderful it is to live in a house with no boundaries. Thank you for giving us the spiritual United Nations.

By your causeless mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, here everyone is welcome. Many visiting devotees who come to stay for extended periods can serve in one of the many departments established under your guidance.

We have recently started new projects, which include an Eco Farm, an expanded *gurukula*, and a devotee care facility. Our management committees meet regularly to see how the infrastructure set up by your blessings continues to grow.

Their Lordships are being served sincerely, and daily the Deity *śṛṅgāra* is the most astonishing and enchanting in all of Vṛndāvana. This is observed not only by your followers but also by the dignitaries who visit the temple. One saintly person recently commented that the unique quality of the *kīrtanas* and Deity service here are a sign of the fragrance that you have given us through your devotion and *tapasya*. Anyone who visits your *samādhi* feels your presence there. Such is your mercy that is being appreciated by many visitors.

Other departments that are consistently under the growth culture and that are endeavoring sincerely and persistently include the kitchen department, which feeds tens of thousands per month, the BBT department, which distributed over one *lakh* of books in 2017, the Bhīṣma department, which cultivates our regular donors, the Life Membership department, the Nāma-haṭṭa devotees, who are preaching in villages and homes, the Devotee Care team, which performs invaluable Vaiṣṇava *sevā*, and the Accounts



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Department, which ensures that funds are utilized as wisely as possible. Our well-staffed bookshops and stalls preach and distribute books on the premises. The Vṛndāvana Management Committee, under the auspices of our temple president, Pañcagaṇḍa Prabhu, meets frequently to review the activities of each department and empower them to do better. The heads of the departments and the Vṛndāvana Executive Board also meet regularly for respective reviews. This is all to maintain your Vṛndāvana temple at the highest possible standard.

We humbly beg you to continue bestowing your mercy upon us. Please give us the strength to bear all trials and troubles and the determination to continue to serve you, the Deities, and the devotees for your transcendental pleasure.

*Your servants at ISKCON's Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Temple in Vṛndāvana, India.*

(written by Trikālajña Dāsa)

## Washington, D.C.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Almost fifty years ago your early disciples, inspired by you, somehow opened a small center on Q street, here in the nation's capital. It is a miracle that within a few years, with the divine arrangement of Guru and Gaurāṅga, a large estate was acquired in the prestigious location of Potomac, Maryland. Those surrendered souls spent days and nights as your enthusiastic servants to make an *āśrama* and temple there and maintain the beautiful landscape as well.

Over many years we have had the opportunity to hear your unlimited glories by senior Vaiṣṇavas who made Potomac their preaching center. We second- and third-generation devotees never had a chance to directly witness your pastimes, and yet, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, there never was a time when we felt any less of your presence. Your faithful first-generation soldiers had safeguarded the gold mine of all your memories, in written as well as visual form. It would not be possible to even appreciate, what to speak of narrate, your lifetime of superhuman activities without those first disciples.

We simply beg at your lotus feet that you guide and bless us so that we can construct a beautiful new temple in Potomac, a temple befitting the nation's capital, where people of all races and nationalities will gather together in large numbers and sing *jaya śacīnandana gaura-hari* so that even politicians will notice our presence and change their dealings.

*Your servants in New Hastināpura Dhāma, ISKCON's temple in Potomac, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.*

(written by Vanamālī Dāsa)

# Wiesbaden

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On your appearance day,  
please allow us to dedicate these words to you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You appeared for us in ISKCON's Hari Nāma Desh Community  
in the form of your *mūrti*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You came to the West to bring the philosophy  
of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You wrote books about Kṛṣṇa that are spread all over the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You made the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* available to us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
Your devotion and your *sādhana* are models for us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You are committed to saving all fallen souls.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
Because of you, our children and grandchildren  
can do so much for humanity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
Through you we are all connected with Kṛṣṇa.



## Homages from ISKCON Centers

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
Without you our lives would have no meaning  
and we would still be in the material swamp.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You accepted Bhakta Richard (now His Holiness Rādhānāth Swami) as your disciple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
As the sun shines in the sky, your name shines in the firmament.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy  
and for your books of the highest knowledge.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You sent us our Guru, through whom  
we serve you and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
Your love for God has made a different person out of me.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You undertook a long and difficult journey  
even at an advanced age.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You made the holy name available to us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
From you we have learned that Kṛṣṇa is God.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You are carrying us through our difficulties in life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
Although we do not deserve it, we have your grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.

## Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

You told us about Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You taught us how to spread the mission of Lord Caitanya.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
we thank you for your mercy.  
You are always there, and we are allowed to serve you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
We thank you for everything.

*Your want-to-be servants at ISKCON's Hari Nāma Desh Community in Wiesbaden, Germany.*