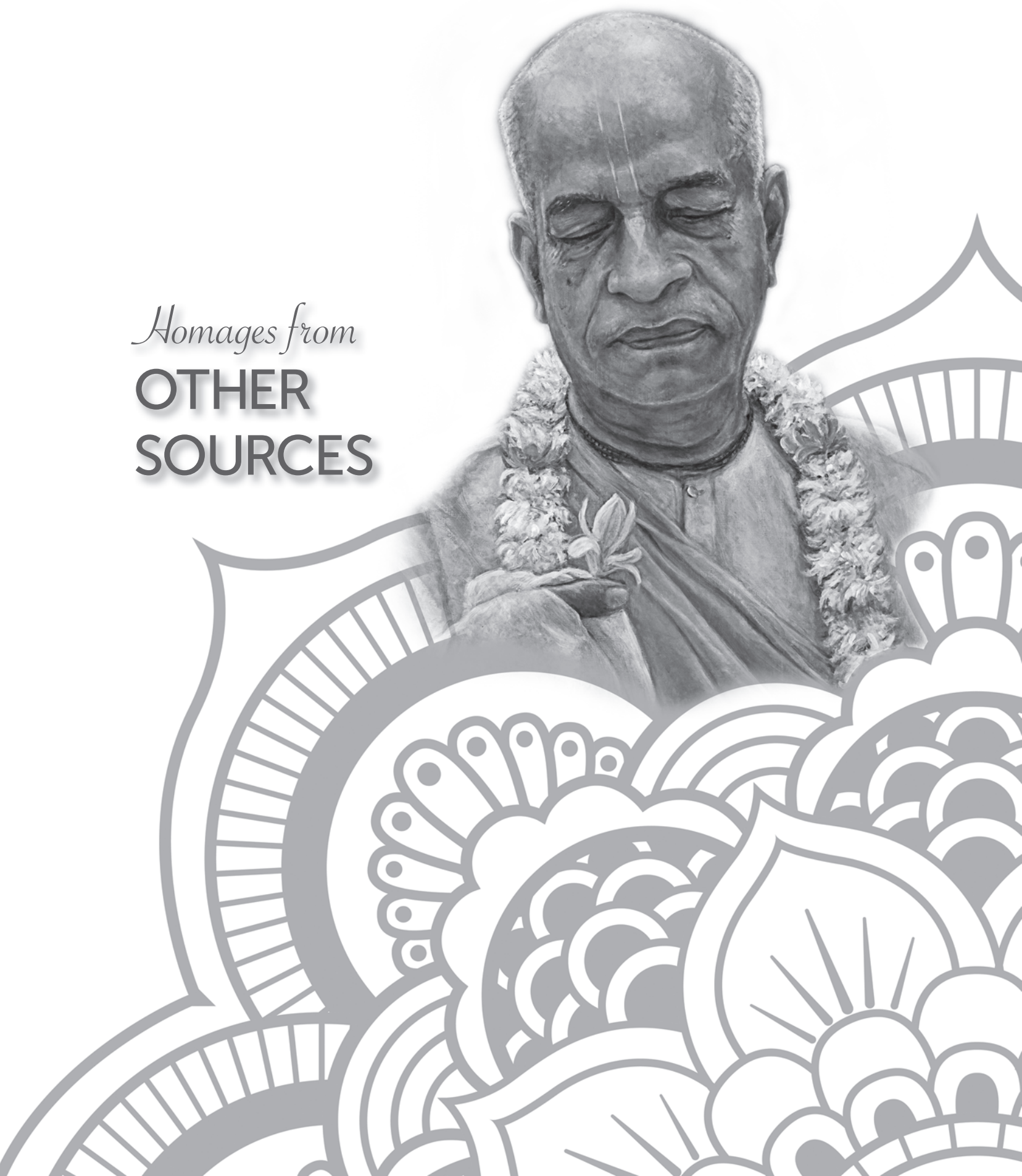


Homages from
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SOURCES**



Aguascalientes Preaching Center

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humblest obeisances under the divine dust of your lotus feet.

For a year we have been preaching in this city of Aguascalientes, and it has been difficult. We find that the people here are quite averse to taking up the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We have tried several methods but have not had the desired success. We are wondering how it will be possible to fulfill Lord Caitanya's prediction that in every town and village the holy name of Kṛṣṇa will be chanted.

But we are following your orders, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for we know that if we have faith in you and the entire *paramparā*, one day all the people of this city of Aguascalientes, and indeed of the whole world, will become devotees of Kṛṣṇa. Therefore please grant us your blessings so we can continue preaching here with unwavering enthusiasm.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your mercy.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Aguascalientes, Mexico.

(written by Premānanda Dāsa)

The Australian Society for Krishna Culture

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to the ever-transcendental-to-time,-place-and-circumstance Śrīla Prabhupāda *vāṇī*!

This is a time of confusion! Just as in some other countries, as of December 2017 same-sex marriage, also called "marriage equality," has now been legalized in Australia with a 61% majority vote. Is there a greater misuse of the word "equality"? And what is this equality? It is the northbound traffic lane claiming equality with the southbound lane and obtaining it. Or in trendier terms: Venus claiming equality with Mars. And what is the end result? The end result is organized and legalized chaos.

It is a fact that some individuals are simply confused about their gender. This comes sometimes from prenatal biological manipulation, as I have heard in one case. One may, however, take inspiration from the gay and lesbian / homosexual class's eagerness for marriage, as opposed to cohabitation, which many straight people prefer to practice. The institution of opposite-sex marriage is, after all, a fully integral part of the practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. There is now a real chance that in matters actually spiritual, undue secular dictation will replace spiritual dictation. This may result in a topsy-turvy situation, and there is a concern about lawsuits for simply preaching one's religious philosophy. You also state that homosexuals are actually impotent.

Your instruction and our rule is "No illicit sex." Licit sex is nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa, as per your *Bhagavad-gītā* As It Is 7.11: "I am the strength of the strong, devoid of passion and desire. I am sex life which

is not contrary to religious principles, O lord of the Bhāratas [Arjuna].” Sex according to religious principles is defined as sex for the purpose of procreation and within marriage. That is all! By nature’s arrangement, the animals do not deviate from the natural course. Humans, with their more developed intelligence, do so indeed. In other words, to their great detriment they fail to follow the rules of *brahmacarya*.

That is called *pravṛtti*. *Pravṛtti-mārga*. *Pravṛttis tu . . . Pravṛtti* is natural inclination. Anyone who has come to this material world . . . *Pravṛttir eṣā bhūtānām*. Everyone is in the *pravṛtti-mārga*. What is that *pravṛtti-mārga*? The *pravṛtti-mārga* is these things: sex, meat-eating, intoxication, like that. This is *pravṛtti-mārga*. *Pravṛttir eṣā bhūtānām niṣṛttes tu mahā-phalām*.

So the whole Vedic literature is there how to make him stop this *pravṛtti-mārga*. That is the whole plan. Otherwise, there are many instances, *loke vyavāyāmiṣa-madya-sevā nityas tu jantuḥ*. *Nitya*. A *jantuḥ* . . . He’s called *jantuḥ*. *Jantuḥ* means animal, or no intelligence. Those who are *jantuḥ*, they have got this tendency, *pravṛttir eṣā*. What is that? *Vyavāyāmiṣa-madya-sevā*: sex and meat-eating. *Āmiṣa*, meat, egg, fish; and *madya*, intoxication. This is *pravṛtti*. *Loke vyavāya*. *Vyavāya* means sex. *Āmiṣa-madya-sevā nityā tu jantuḥ*. *Jantuḥ* means living being, conditioned in the material world, they have got this general tendency, *pravṛtti*. You will find in animals, in birds, in beasts, and beastly human being, two-legged beast . . . There are four-legged beasts and two-legged beasts. Four-legged beasts are the animals—cats, dogs, tigers, etcetera. Cows, asses. They are four-legged beasts. And there are two-legged beasts, *dvi-pāda-paśu*. It is not manufactured; it is there in the *śāstra*. *Dvi-pāda-paśu*. *Dvi* means two, and *pāda* means legged. So any human being who is attached to this *pravṛtti-mārga*—sex, meat-eating, intoxication, gambling—he is *dvi-pāda-paśu*, two-legged animals. This is *pravṛtti-mārga*. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.7.8, Vṛndāvana, 7 September 1976]

Your Kṛṣṇa conscious program in this respect is summarized in a letter you wrote to Karandhara on July 27, 1973:

So, everything is already there but it is now mixed up, *we want to bring the whole world into order by giving the right directions to all classes of men*. Right direction means, to deliver the instructions of Krishna, and because Krishna is perfect, if you present this knowledge anywhere it will automatically defeat all the existing concocted hodge-podge ideas congesting the feeble brains of so-called scientist, philosophers or anyone. [Emphasis mine]

As a resident of Kali-yuga, I find that even my own mind gives me trouble. It is like a weather vane. Sometimes my mind points toward Kṛṣṇa, and sometimes in the opposite direction. Carefully avoiding falling back, from time to time I do have to slow down and even pause the cultivation of my own Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is a matter of adequate and balanced self-management. I believe this is possible because at *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* 2.40 Lord Kṛṣṇa says, “On this path there no loss or diminution.” Instead of imitating the mobility of the antelope, I better take inspiration from the immobility of the python, quite common in my *āśrama*. That will be to my Kṛṣṇa conscious advantage! To paraphrase Mahatma Gandhi’s words on the back cover of your saffron-colored *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*: Sometimes I see no ray of hope on the horizon and disappointment stares me in the face. (By the way, it is worth noting that in your final letter to Gandhi in 1947, as a perfect astrologer you explicitly warned him “that you must immediately retire from active politics if you do not desire to die an inglorious death. . . . [E]ngage yourself cent per cent in the preaching work of Bhagavad-Gita, which is the real function of the Mahatmas.” He was assassinated the following year.) My situation is sometimes exacerbated by less-than-ideal relationships with some of your ISKCON representatives. Anyway, your instruction in this regard is straightforward—that it is all right to remain a little on the side—as you write in a letter to the late Madhudvīṣa Prabhu, dated November 7, 1975:

My point is that even if somebody does not go in one line with the rest of the God brothers, he

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can remain separately, but it does not mean that he may disobey the principles that I have laid down. So long as one follows the principles, he continues to be my disciple.

This year I thought I would be unable to write a Vyāsa-pūjā offering. Just as after the wild Queensland, Australia, tropical storms the ordinary sky invariably clears up again, similarly the sky of my Kṛṣṇa consciousness has cleared up again. Even though *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* speaks much of sense and mind control, as much as I have no influence over the cyclic weather changes, I have only limited control over my internal moods. But Kṛṣṇa keeps showering me with His kindness. For my encouragement He sends me new exciting elements. He kindly supplies me what I need to execute my devotional service. He sends me new faces in Kṛṣṇa consciousness as well, along with new duties, which I have to figure out how to perform. I especially appreciate the creative and exciting challenge to find out how to handle such new situations in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I am just amazed and in awe at the amount of intelligence and creativity Kṛṣṇa may supply one to execute His divine service, as per *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* 15.15: “I am seated in everyone’s heart, and from Me come remembrance, knowledge, and forgetfulness.” It is not my intelligence. It is Kṛṣṇa’s intelligence. Your personal example and words are also major inspirational factors indeed. They also present tests as well. Please allow me to pass these tests successfully.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is a constant adventure “outside the box.” You were and still are the boldest adventurer in Kṛṣṇa consciousness because your Kṛṣṇa consciousness is so determined, full, and unshakeable. Even on your disappearance bed you proved this point. With your last breath you uttered a final definition and summary of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, even though I cannot find this particular Youtube segment anymore. But I find instead a Youtube segment where you preach about *varṇāśrama-dharma*. This previous final episode is especially convincing and inspiring for me.

I remember once reading despondently in your books that Kṛṣṇa’s service is unlimited. How can I serve the Unlimited? How can I provide unlimited service to the Unlimited. It is impossible! Then a few sentences further, you so kindly and so perfectly consoled me by providing the healing mantra for my anxiety: “Kṛṣṇa supplies unlimited intelligence to serve Him.” Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your thoughtfulness and perfection.

Through sound vibration, and to our very great benefit, we can associate with you 24/365, if we choose to do so. As I listen to your classes, even the very same classes over and over again, I find that your every word and sentence is correct and in some cases short-circuits / revolutionizes stereotyped thinking. Your problem-solving program is a case in point.

And the whole world is problem for ordinary persons, but to us it is not problem. Because we see everything Kṛṣṇa’s. If there is problem, it is Kṛṣṇa’s problem. Why my problem? Kṛṣṇa can know how to solve problem. So we have no problem practically. Kṛṣṇa’s problem. Kṛṣṇa will see to it. Just like Arjuna was, I mean to say, encouraged that *nimitta-mātraṁ bhava saavyasācin*: “You don’t worry about your victory. I have already arranged.” So we should have such faith and conviction and let us try. Let us do very sincerely and seriously. Then everything Kṛṣṇa will do. I haven’t got to do anything. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.8–9, New Vrindavan, 24 May 1969]

This passage should, however, not be construed as an invitation for being irresponsible. The other “electrocuting” passage is about the electric fan. Is the electric fan a source of enjoyment or suffering?

Artha means things which we require, positive. And *anartha* means things which we do not require but unnecessarily imposed upon us. So that is suffering. We are thinking that we are enjoying this electric fan, but actually we are suffering; therefore the electric fan is required. So why this electric fan is required? Because the body is *anartha*; it has created the situation. The same electric fan will be a trouble, a misery, in winter season. The same body, the same electric fan—sometimes it is pleasing, and sometimes it is not pleasing. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.7.6, Vṛndāvana, 23 April 1975]

Nor do you contradict yourself or say “maybe” or “perhaps.” Your message is steady, consistent, firm, and definitive. You do not say here that Nanda Mahārāja had ten million cows and there that he had only ten cows. You say throughout your teachings that Nanda Mahārāja had nine lakhs of cows, as in a letter you wrote to Hayagrīva Dāsa on June 14, 1968, or in a *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* lecture you gave in Māyāpur on October 1, 1974. Cows represent real wealth, not paper or plastic money. In other words, you are not a bluffer or a cheater, like so many others, be they politicians, scientists, or so-called spiritual leaders. Your every observation is precise, scientific, and full of logic and reason. In a *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* lecture you gave in Māyāpur on October 10, 1974, we also find a sample of spiritual mathematics, when you state that chanting the name Viṣṇu one thousand times equals chanting the name Rāma once, and that chanting the name Rāma three times equals chanting the name Kṛṣṇa once. Such is the power of the name Kṛṣṇa. In mathematical symbolism, it can be expressed as follows: $1,000V=1R$ and $3R=1K$, and the problem-solving question will be: What is the relationship between Viṣṇu and Kṛṣṇa? These are elementary mathematical problems indeed, but they deal with powerful transcendental entities.

Sometimes my taste for hearing your words surpasses my taste for *japa*. One may ask, “Is there any difference at all between practicing *japa* and hearing *kṛṣṇa-kathā* from Guru, and more specifically from Guru A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda?” There may not be any. But by carefully hearing your words, one cannot avoid the practice of *japa* because you give the soundest reasons why *japa* must be executed. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! There is one thing, though, with which I beg to differ. I do not share your aversion for electric shaving.

I found that imitating your style in particular or imitation in general will not help, either, just as an author’s writings must reflect his own sentiments. We cannot just mechanically repeat your own formulas. But even if we do that, it is all right. This is abundantly confirmed in *Bhagavad-gītā* *As It Is*. One must follow *sva-dharma*, one’s own style, not another’s *dharma*. Our Kṛṣṇa consciousness, even thought based on your words, must be genuine and realized. It must be free from false prestige as well.

To give you a sample of a typical preaching event, I would like to narrate the following for your pleasure. I was seeking some online advice from Apple. After a 59-minute exchange with a male representative located “in the pointy end of Kentucky in the USA,” my problem was solved nicely. Gratitude to Apple Corporation! In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, you offer a preaching technique that includes asking everyone one meets to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*:

In order to become an empowered preacher, one must be favored by Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu or His devotee, the spiritual master. One must also request everyone to chant the *mahā-mantra*. In this way, such a person can convert others to Vaiṣṇavism, showing them how to become pure devotees of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya-līlā* 7.101, purport]

Toward the end of our exchange, I gravitated toward that aim and asked him to utter “Hare Kṛṣṇa.” Then all of a sudden this person emailed me the full Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, with full diacritical marks. This somewhat extraordinary field experience came as a surprise and proved his familiarity with the *mahā-mantra*. The conclusion will have to be that the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* is spreading far and wide. In a *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* lecture you gave in Vṛndāvana on October 21, 1972, you mention a similar instance:

People are chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. You’ll be surprised to know that I was going from London to Nairobi, Africa, and our plane stopped for forty-five minutes in Athens, and as soon as we dropped down, some young men there, in Athens, Greece, they immediately began to chant “Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa.”

Following your Guru Mahārāja, you never compromised in your preaching of Kṛṣṇa consciousness:

When my Guru Maharaja was present even big, big scholars were afraid to talk with His beginning students. My Guru Maharaja was called “Living Encyclopedia”, he could talk with anyone on

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any subject. He was so learned—so we should be like that as far as possible. No compromise—Ramakrishna, avatars, yogis, everyone was enemy to Guru Maharaja—he never compromised. Some God-brothers complained that this preaching was chopping technique and it would not be successful. But we have seen that those who criticized, they fell down. For my part I have taken up the policy of my Guru Maharaja—no compromise. All these so-called scholars, scientists, philosophers who do not accept Kṛṣṇa are nothing more than rascals, fools, lowest of mankind, etc. [Letter to Karanadhara, 27 July 1973]

As evidence that you kept your vow to follow your own Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Mahārāja, in his “no compromise and chopping techniques,” we find that in the Vedabase the word “rascal” is found 10,649 times, 5,155 times in singular number and 5,494 times in plural number. You also use the word “rascaldom” 869 times. The word “rascaldom,” however, is not to be found in the English dictionary. That means the English dictionary needs to change to accommodate your language. I have not analyzed your other classes in respect to the use of the word “rascal.” But it recently struck me that your October 15, 1974, lecture in Māyāpur alone the word rascal is found 19 times, 11 times in singular number and 8 times in plural number. And finally you state, “Nobody should be proud of his knowledge. Everyone is a rascal. Everyone.”

Then you finish on a very positive and optimistic note. In a typical Jagat- or World-Guru fashion, you proclaim unifyingly:

Therefore I say that the Christian, they’re also Vaiṣṇava; the Muslim, they’re also Vaiṣṇava, very lower stage, because they’re offering prayer. *Yad-vandanam*. They offer prayer: “O God, give us our daily bread.” They do not know very much, but the beginning is there. Beginning is there, because they have approached . . . *Catur-vidhā bhajanti mām sukṛtino ’rjuna*. That going to the church or going to the mosque, that is also pious activities. *One day they’ll come out pure Vaiṣṇava. One day*. But that beginning is good. [emphasis mine]

The analytical honesty, accuracy, intelligence, and non-sectarian broadness of this declaration gave me much happiness. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

You are a super-strong preacher. How else could you have founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in New York City after a long and troublesome sea voyage from Calcutta and a lifetime of preparation? On Youtube.com, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NXRHNd2w&t=35s>, Her Grace Jāhnavī Jīvana Devī Dāsī so gracefully and uniquely relates a conversation between your disciple His Holiness Bhakti Bhṛṅga Govinda Swami and your godbrother Akiñcana Kṛṣṇadāsa Bābājī that the whole world needs to hear, as follows:

Akiñcana Kṛṣṇadāsa Bābājī: I would like to tell you something.

Bhakti Bhṛṅga Govinda Swami: What is that?

Akiñcana Kṛṣṇadāsa Bābājī: I am an old man. I have had a lot of experience in this world. From my experience I can honestly tell you there has never been a greater *ācārya* than your spiritual master.

Bhakti Bhṛṅga Govinda Swami describes what happened next. “When he said that I became stunned, because he was a disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja. Then he looked up and said: ‘There has never been an *ācārya* in history who performed miracles like your spiritual master.’ Then he paused and looked at me. He said, ‘Do you know why?’ I was stunned. I could not say anything. He said, ‘Because in history there was never a greater servant of Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s holy name than your spiritual master. Because your spiritual master had so much absolute understanding of Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s holy name and so much absolute faith in Kṛṣṇa’s holy name that he personally carried Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s holy name throughout the length and breadth of the world. Therefore he is the greatest *ācārya* who has ever existed.’”

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

I feel everyone should be aware of these sincere statements about your greatness coming from one of your godbrothers.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am simply a fool. Therefore the best policy for me is to constantly hear, promote, and appropriately quote your own words. You have said all that needs to be said and more. This has been abundantly proven. Your words are the building blocks of ISKCON.

Even though I am weak and full of shortcomings, my only ambition is to carefully use my last everything in your service and the service of Kṛṣṇa and join your “other ISKCON” in the spiritual sky.

Why you only want to be in the spiritual sky with Siddhasvarupa? Why not all? If Siddhasvarupa can go, why not everyone? Siddhasvarupa will go, you will go, Syamasundara will go, all others will go. We will have another ISKCON there. Of course, Mr. Nair must stay. [Letter to Tuṣṭa Kṛṣṇa, 14 December 1972]

If at all possible, I may drag along some other souls as well. Despite all ups and downs, I have faith that my final offering will be to your liking and consequently will qualify for your approval and blessings. These are ecstatic considerations and may produce a tear or two. Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servants at The Australian Society for Krishna Culture, Brisbane, Australia.

(written by Yādavendra Dāsa)

Back to Godhead Magazine

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

In your early issues of *Back to Godhead*, you sometimes ran the subtitle “An instrument for training the mind and educating human nature to rise up to the plane of the soul spirit.” Today, despite the changes that have occurred in the world and in your ISKCON movement over the years, your magazine still elevates the minds and natures of its readers to the plane of the soul. In your early issues, you routinely urged readers to subscribe to *Back to Godhead*, your reasoning being that training requires repetition. By subscribing to BTG, readers would be regularly reminded of the most important business of human life, and over time they would learn more and more of the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Today, most BTG readers receive the magazine regularly, and the authors assume that readers are at least somewhat familiar with the teachings being presented. This allows the authors the freedom to write with greater depth.

As for the authors themselves, the magazine still follows your model: any practicing ISKCON devotee can submit articles for consideration. Kṛṣṇa is inspiring devotees to write for BTG, and every year we receive enough articles that meet your philosophical and literary standards to fill every issue.

Our hope is that the circulation of *Back to Godhead* will grow as your movement grows, and that more and more people will benefit by rising to the plane of the soul by the mercy of this great gift of yours, one of the many you left to respiritualize the world.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants at Back to Godhead Magazine.

Bhakti Lounge (Johannesburg)

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

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

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light onto my path” (Psalms 119:105). This Bible verse, though in reference to God, equally describes you, O master. For you are the embodiment of Kṛṣṇa’s will in this epoch of Kali-yuga. The spiritual master is nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa, and a prayer to Him is a prayer to you, for you are our medium to the Lord. Due to your intimate relationship with Kṛṣṇa, you have gifted the entire universe with an opportunity for reawakening our dormant love for Him. Though we understand you are not God’s equal, sometimes we have heard you say that a pure-devotee preacher is even more merciful than Kṛṣṇa because whereas Kṛṣṇa demands surrender before bestowing His grace, the preacher makes the personal sacrifice of descending to the lower strata of modern civilization and disseminating unconditional love of God indiscriminately.

That same unconditional love is what you espoused as the purpose for your movement—“to bring its members together with each other and nearer to Krishna, the prime entity, thus developing the idea within the members, and humanity at large, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Krishna).” If we, as aspiring servants of Kṛṣṇa and His pure devotees, are to realize this goal, then indeed your words are the lamp that will illuminate our path. The words of the spiritual master “open our darkened eyes and fill our hearts with transcendental knowledge.” Thus if we are to ever reawaken our dormant love for Kṛṣṇa, we must strive to make your words and will our life’s purpose.

It is in this spirit that we offer our humble efforts to you, O master, surrender our hearts and minds to your will, and beg for the illuminating bliss of your transcendental words. May you grant us the clarity of mind and peace of heart to understand and implement your desire in this world. May we thus assist you in your eternal loving relationship with Kṛṣṇa by bringing our fellow lost souls back home to God’s lotus feet.

Yours aspiring servants at the Bhakti Lounge in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Bhaktivedanta Archives

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om̐ 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

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.

*ācāryaṁ mām vijānīyān nāvamanyeta karhicit
na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-devamayo guru*

“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.” (Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 11.17.27)

*tad viddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānaṁ jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ*

“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.” (Bhagavad-gītā As It Is 4.34)

*ohe!
vaiṣṇava ṭhākura, dōyāra sāgara,
e dāse koruṇā kori’
diyā pada-chāyā, śodho he āmāya,
tomāra caraṇa dhori*

“O venerable Vaiṣṇava, O ocean of mercy, be merciful unto your servant. Give me the shade of your lotus feet and purify me. I hold on to your lotus feet.

*chaya bega domi’, chaya doṣa śodhi’,
chaya guṇa deho’ dāse
chaya sat-saṅga, deho’ he āmāre,
boshechi saṅgera āśe*

“Teach me to control my six passions, rectify my six faults, bestow upon me the six good qualities, and offer unto me the six kinds of holy association.

*ekākī āmāra, nāhi pāya bala,
hari-nāma-saṅkīrtane
tumi kṛpā kori’, śraddhā-bindu diyā,
deho’ kṛṣṇa-nāma-dhane*

“I do not find the strength to carry on alone the *saṅkīrtana* of the holy name of Hari. Please bless me by giving me just one drop of faith with which to obtain the great treasure of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.

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

“Kṛṣṇa is yours; you have the power to give Him to me. I am simply running behind you shouting “Kṛṣṇa!

Homages from Other Sources

Kṛṣṇa!” (Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *Saraṇāgati*)

*śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala-bhakati-sadma,
bando mui sāvadhāna mate
jāhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava toriyā jāi,
kṛṣṇa-prāpti hoy jāhā ha'te*

“The lotus feet of our spiritual master are the abode of pure devotional service. I bow down to his lotus feet with great care and attention. My dear brothers! It is through the grace of our spiritual master that we can cross over this material existence and attain Kṛṣṇa.

*guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete koriyā aikya,
ār nā koriho mane āśā
śrī-guru-caraṇe rati, ei se uttama-gati,
je prasāde pūre sarva āśā*

“Make the teachings emanating from the lotus mouth of our spiritual master one with your heart, and do not desire anything else. Attachment to his lotus feet is the best way to make spiritual advancement. His mercy fulfills all desires for spiritual perfection.

*cakṣu-dān dilo jei, janme janme prabhu sei,
divya-jñān hṛde prokāśito
prema-bhakti jāhā hoite, avidyā vināśa jāte,
vede gāy jāhāra carito*

“He who has given us the gift of transcendental vision is our lord, birth after birth. It is by his mercy that divine knowledge is revealed within our hearts, bestowing pure love for Kṛṣṇa and destroying ignorance. The Vedic scriptures sing of his character.

*śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu, adhama janāra bandhu,
lokanāth lokera jivana
hā hā prabhu koro doyā, deho more pada-chāyā,
ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana*

“O spiritual master, O ocean of mercy and friend of the fallen! O universal teacher and life of all people! Alas, alas, O master, please be merciful unto us and give us the shade of your lotus feet. May your glories now be proclaimed throughout the three worlds.” (Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura, *Prema-bhakti-candrikā*)

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Your Divine Grace, as a genuine living *Bhāgavatam*, continuously showed us by your sublime example, without a split second of interruption, how to transcend the bodily concept of life by engaging wholeheartedly in the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Had you not come to the West, we would have certainly perished in the darkest region of material nescience—without a doubt. You mercifully freed us from this miserable hellish material existence and the ever-so-tight grip of the three modes of nature. You gave us the ultimate jewel—Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. We owe you our lives.

We are delighted, humbled, and grateful to inform you that one of our ongoing efforts to preserve your spoken word, presented in the form of your recorded talks and lectures, is nearing completion. The vast majority of your audio recordings are now easily available at no cost to the public. Anyone can go online and immediately listen to your transcendental sound vibration, which is nondifferent from you. Devotees find great delight and enlivenment hearing from you.

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

We do not reject anything, but we accept anything. The only difference is that we do not accept anything for our sense gratification. We do not accept this tape recorder for sense gratification—singing or dancing. We accept this tape recorder to record Kṛṣṇa’s glories, to record Kṛṣṇa’s topics. So, this is the difference only.” [Lecture on *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* 3.31–43, Los Angeles, 1 January 1969]

One of our heartfelt aspirations is to please you by printing all your audio transcriptions in the form of about fifty large hard-bound books, using archival acid-free paper for longevity. Digital data is considered nonarchival because of its extreme vulnerability to failure and the dependence on electricity. Printing your irreplaceable pure *vāṇī* in sets of fifty books and then distributing these sets all over the world will assure your words’ permanence. Your recorded teachings must and will survive far into the future.

The new vault has standard archival climate control, so your transcendental images are being kept safe and free from insects and mold. We are organizing them so future generations will be able to connect your divine *vāṇī* and *vapu*. Although digital images are not archival, the digital format is extremely useful for easy distribution and organization. We pray that in the future we will be able to present these photos in some physical manner by duplication and archival printing.

As always, thank you very much for engaging us in your service.

Your ever-so-grateful servants at your divine lotus feet,

The Bhaktivedanta Archives staff.

Cleveland Nāma-haṭṭa

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Where in the world would we be without you? Just thinking such a thought makes us shudder, because we can’t imagine the fate of this world minus your divine presence in it. You brought back life to a dying world and continuously give us hope; your life-giving teachings nurture us daily as we move along the path of *bhakti-yoga*.

In our Cleveland Nāma-haṭṭa group there are persons from many different backgrounds, but you are the unifying force, the glue that keeps us all together. Your books, full of your “emotional ecstasies,” are fueling us with faith and hope. Your disciples, who channel different aspects of you, are inspiring us, and we pray mightily that Lord Nityānanda will allow us to continue improving our service to you by cooperating more and more in the effort to push on this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

So whether in our weekly *Bhagavad-gītā* classes or at the festivals we host or in the opportunities we have to participate in annual events like the Cleveland VeganFest, we beg to be able to really live Kṛṣṇa consciousness and share it with others.

Your aspiring servants at the Cleveland Nāma-haṭṭa.

College Traveling Saṅkīrtana Party

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet, which have traversed the world bringing divine fortune to countless conditioned souls.

On this auspicious anniversary of your appearance in this world, we offer our worship, respects, gratitude, and surrender unto you, who have wonderfully represented Śrīla Vyāsadeva by explaining the most important Vedic literatures so that those of us aspiring for spiritual perfection can understand and apply this knowledge in our lives.

The conditioned soul cannot revive his Kṛṣṇa consciousness by his own effort. But out of causeless mercy, Lord Kṛṣṇa compiled the Vedic literature and its supplements, the *Purāṇas*. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya-līlā* 20.122]

Not only did you present the teachings of Vyāsadeva, but you also brought his words to life by walking among us as the real person *bhāgavata*, full of spiritual knowledge and detachment from all that is material. Your love for guru and Kṛṣṇa were exhibited in your unmotivated and uninterrupted service to them. We could thus clearly see that real devotional service is not a part-time occupation. This exemplary devotional service of yours, coupled with your extreme humility, evinced by your attributing all success to your own spiritual master, attracted our hearts with a desire to become your disciples and to dedicate our lives to serving you and cultivating love for Kṛṣṇa.

By acting as an exemplary disciple of your spiritual master, you taught us how to attract the Lord's divine grace and mercy. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you showed us how to live as devotees, how to become progressively purified by becoming ideal disciples of the spiritual master.

As long as it does not turn iron into gold by its touch, no one can recognize an unknown stone to be a touchstone. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya-līlā* 6.279, Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya to Lord Caitanya]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a touchstone!

To deliver people in regions throughout the universe who could not meet Him, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu personally entered the bodies of pure devotees. Thus He empowered living beings [His pure devotees] by manifesting in them so much of His own devotion that people in all other countries became devotees by seeing them. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya-līlā* 2.13–14]

We have heard the wonderful and superhuman story of how Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga empowered you to act as a modern-day Vṛndāvana *gosvāmī*. By your sheer determination to execute the order of your spiritual master, you revealed yourself to be the foremost greatly renounced *sannyāsī* mendicant in the holy land of Vṛndāvana. One year before taking *sannyāsa*, you composed your Bengali poem named *Vṛndāvane Bhajana*. In section one, “Lonely Realizations,” you write:

I am sitting alone in Vṛndāvana-dhāma.
In this mood I am getting many realizations.
I have my wife, sons, daughters, grandsons—everything,
But I have no money, so they are a fruitless glory.
Kṛṣṇa has shown me the naked form of material nature.

By his strength it has all become tasteless to me today.

Yasyāham anugrhnāmi hariṣye tad-dhanam śanaiḥ.

“I gradually take away all the wealth of those upon whom I am merciful.”

How was I able to understand this mercy of the All-merciful?

You indeed understood and greatly appreciated how the Lord had taken away all material arrangements and affections from your life. Seemingly alone and separated from family, friends, godbrothers, and even your guru’s institution, you happily took shelter of Śrī Vṛndāvana as one of her residents. Now you were free to execute the order of your spiritual master, which became your mission. Although “alone,” you were actually connected with Kṛṣṇa by way of the order of guru, the guidance of predecessor *ācāryas*, and the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.

You wonderfully personified Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s statement at *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41: *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana*. “Those who are on this path are resolute in purpose, and their aim is one.” With the single aim of executing the order of your spiritual master, you began to write tirelessly in English so that the whole world could receive Kṛṣṇa’s (Vyāsa’s) message and the teachings of Lord Caitanya.

The transcendental fruits of your tear-filled prayers to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī and Śrī Rūpa and Śrī Sanātana Gosvāmīs for the mercy needed to execute this great mission manifested in your publishing the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and securing transportation to America. Now you were unstoppable: neither heart attacks, seasickness, poverty, lack of followers, or being alone in a foreign land were obstacles. Your determination unflinching, you transplanted Kṛṣṇa conscious culture on every continent of the world.

Let us all meditate on your transcendental determination and pray for one drop of the same so that we can offer some service that pleases you, the disciplic succession, and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Your grateful servants on the College Traveling Saṅkīrtana Party.

(written by Pṛthuśravā Dāsa)

Eger Preaching Center

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Just a few days ago we heard the sad news that your youngest son, Vrindavan Chandra De, left this world and joined you in the spiritual abode. He was there with you to assist you when you boarded the *Jaladuta* and departed for the West in 1965.

We were thinking about what would have happened to us if you had not come to the West, or what is even worse, if you had not mercifully decided to appear in this material world. Your mission, for sure, was to save and deliver the most fallen—those who lived in the association of *mlecchas* and *yavanas* as *mlecchas* and *yavanas*.

On the way to America you had two heart attacks. Śrī Kṛṣṇa wanted to take you back to His abode. But you wanted to stay! You wanted to fulfill Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura’s desire to deliver the fallen, Western souls and to spread Lord Caitanya’s teachings to every town and village.

What would have happened to all of us without you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda? What would have happened if you had decided to go with Śrī Kṛṣṇa and had not arrived in America? It is better not to

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think about this, but we did! We tried to imagine what would have happened to us if we had not met you through your books, lectures, and wonderful followers.

Many of us would have become unhappy, disappointed vagabonds, street musicians, or even mafiosi. Or we might have become ordinary people just running for success, recognition, and career. Many of us would be lonely and poor and would have lived hopeless lives.

One of us described this bleak scenario:

Without you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I would probably have given up hope that the world can improve. Without *kṛṣṇa-kathā* and its beauty and sweetness, I would have run after unlimited material illusions, and by now all my strength and hope would have run out. I would probably be crouching in the garbage of bad association—defenseless and lonely. Or I would be running between burning houses and the street like a stray dog all day, swearing and starving.

Without you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, many of us would have lived lives that were far away from real human life: we would be eating meat, drinking alcohol, and running after sensual enjoyments of all kinds. Our lives would not be much better than those of the cats and dogs. But worst of all, we would be unhappy, hopeless, and without any real goal in life.

And even with the desire to live a pure life, there would be the danger of finding a “guru,” a teacher, or a process that would mislead us and keep us far away from our beloved Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Another of us described his situation before meeting Kṛṣṇa’s devotees:

I wanted to be a monk, and I wanted to know reality, because I knew that the world was more than what was taught at school. I’d studied different religions, but none of them really attracted me, not even Hinduism, at least based on the information I was able to access as a teenager. I was sure I wanted to be a monk, but I was afraid I would not find the true religion, and I was afraid I would spend my life following a misguided religion. You saved me from this, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Another of us said that by your mercy she could fulfill the real duty of a daughter: to help her beloved father on his final journey. You were there with him in the form of your divine voice, chanting the holy name. By your mercy the final journey was a real spiritual journey for the departing father and the remaining daughter as well.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! Without you, how poor and unfortunate our lives would have been! How poor and unfortunate the whole world would have been! Although we are so unfortunate that we could not meet you personally, we still can meet you every day if want to. We can hear your many recorded lectures, we can read and hear about you from your disciples who met you, and we can read your books, which are, as you said, direct association with you. You write in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* that if we read the *Bhāgavatam* we can associate with you and also with Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Furthermore, if we listen with rapt attention, Śrī Kṛṣṇa comes and sits down on the lotus of our heart. So nice! Can we imagine anything better than this? And this is possible only by your mercy!

One of us related how many, many years ago she was in New York (Manhattan) and, although at that time she did not yet know about you, she saw many of the places where you started your preaching. She was there during the wintertime and experienced how extremely cold it gets there. How difficult it must have been for you!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! You underwent so much trouble for us, to save us, to give us a chance. Just by following you we have the rare opportunity to return to Godhead, where we belong! You gave us everything we need to make our life perfect: the holy name, the *Bhāgavatam*, the association of devotees, *prasādam*—everything! And here we are, trying to say “Thank you,” but we feel that our weak words will be lost in the blaring noise of the world.

* * *

Yes, we tried to imagine what would have happened to us without you. Many of us met you and your devotees in a way that seemed miraculous. For some of us, meeting you seemed to be the last chance to live a human life. For some of us, you and your books were the answer to our desperate prayers. We came from many different backgrounds, with many different desires, and it is so wonderful that we all met you, your sincere followers, and your most valuable books, and not someone or something else.

So now, instead of being vagabonds, mafiosi, or street musicians, or careerists, howling dogs, or misguided monks, we live pure human lives, practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and try to spread the message of Lord Caitanya by giving people *prasādam*, the holy name, and your books. And this is just at present: our futures—if we follow you—will be even brighter.

Yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you saved us. There is no question of that. There is only one question remaining: how will we ever be able to repay our debt to you?

Your ever-grateful servants at the Eger Preaching Center in Hungary.

Festival of India

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

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-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,

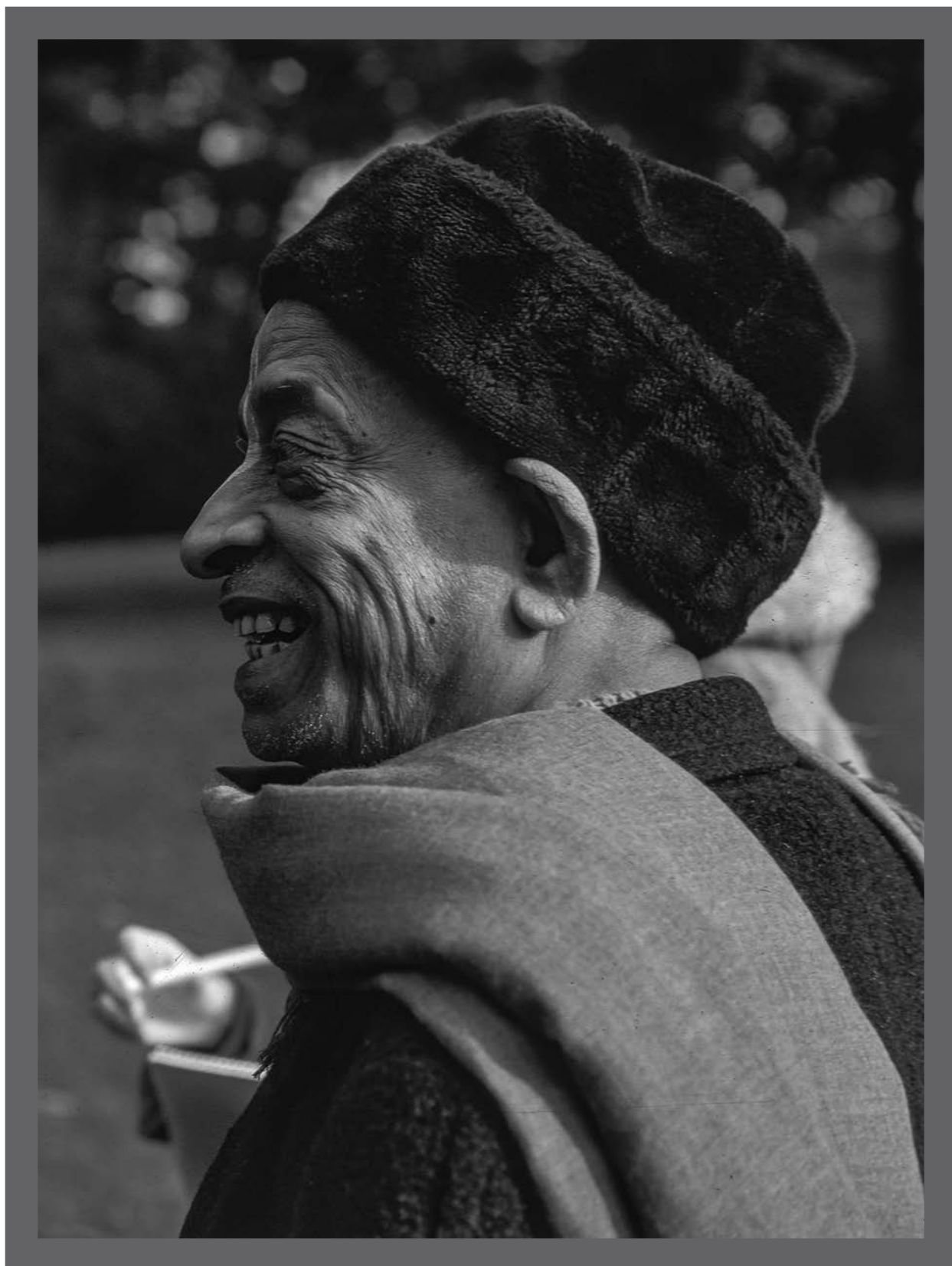
We did our best to man the ramparts of false ego's defenses,
But you picked the locks of our broken hearts and brought us back to our senses.

We're clearly not totally back home yet—we're in the shower for better or worse,
But at least we're making the endeavor, and that's better than our prior life—a curse.

We have to deal with mundane affairs like permits, insurance, and registration,
But you showed us how to Krishnize it all and get off Kali's reservation.

Even material, mechanical things—they are no longer so.
They're now personified friends and allies that radiate Śrī Bhakti's *śakti* glow.

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Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

We erect tents and displays and the beautiful performance stage
To highlight Kṛṣṇa culture and the dharma of the age.

What a wonder! Who is this happy God, so dark and yet so bright?
Oh, that's Jagannātha, Lord of everything, yet He's in your heart all right!

How lucky we are, now that you showed us the way,
To help devotees bring Jagannātha outside to play

And be seen by the people, blessing their lives,
Raising their spirits like the sun in the morning skies.

The Festival of India is blessed to go where the bold devotee delves,
Taking your books, *prasādam*, and *harinām* where the shadows run from themselves.

In North America, east coast to west, we help your devotees
Bless with Jagannāth's ambrosial presence the people of their cities.

We're grateful you gave us a part to play to bring Kṛṣṇa back into the hearts
Of those willing to sing Govinda back into culture and the arts.

Chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, of course! Why didn't we think of it before?!

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for courageously opening the door.

And though you're not physically with us, we find you in the bliss that *bhakti-yoga* brings,
Where Kṛṣṇa sports with Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. Prabhupāda, it's of thee we sing!

Your servants on the 2018 Festival of India Tour.

(written by Atendriya Dāsa)

GBC College for Leadership Development

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As your humble servants at the GBC College for Leadership Development, comprising the trustees, advisors, faculty, course coordinators, administrators, and staff, we hope that this humble offering will serve to bring you some pleasure and invoke your blessings. It is all due to your causeless mercy that we are able to carry out your divine plans and serve in your ISKCON.

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By your continued blessings and grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the GBC College witnessed exponential growth in its fourth year of operation, as it offered the Zonal Supervisor training in two languages besides English, namely Russian and Spanish.

The College conducted the fourth year's English version of its residential session at ISKCON's New Vedic Cultural Centre, in Pune, India, after doing its first three years of residential sessions in English at the Govardhan Eco Village, near Mumbai, India. The participants came from far and wide—Chile, India, Nepal, Śrī Lanka, and the United States—and continued to be a mix of your disciples and granddisciples from different *āśramas*—the four stages of life. The group of residential instructors, online course instructors, graders, assistants, and staff—also from all *āśramas*—has also been expanding, with representation from various parts of the world.

For the Zonal Supervisor training, Russia opened its doors in June 2017 to about forty Russian-speaking leaders from multiple countries. The first residential session for them was held in Sochi, in southern Russia. The teachers, both Russian-speaking and English-speaking, were assisted by translators and came from as far as the USA and India. The participants and teachers assembled again in January 2018 to continue the residential training—this time in Moscow. The classroom training continued as they attended the specially crafted sessions at the ILS (International Leadership Saṅga). Among this batch of candidates for taking up the position of Russian-speaking leaders, those who successfully completed their online coursework and their individual action learning projects graduated in June 2018. For your pleasure, we are happy to add that at the GBC meetings in Māyāpur this year, some senior participants from this batch were already nominated and approved for appointment as Zonal Supervisors in that part of the world, pending their successful completion of the course in June.

In another historic move, the GBC College delivered its first residential training in Spanish in Latin America, in March-April 2018, at the Jaladuta Institute in Campina Grande, Brazil. Forty leaders from different countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru, attended this first residential session. This Spanish-language offering was the result of a project that was originally conceived as an Action Learning Project at the GBC College in the Eco Village, India, and became a reality due to the efforts of seven alumni of the GBC College, with help from local leaders and GBCs. The residential trainers flew in from various parts of the world and also included alumni of the GBC College, who are continuing the traditional *paramparā* system that Your Divine Grace institutionalized—as they now impart the knowledge that they received as a part of their Zonal Supervisor training a few years ago!

On this auspicious anniversary of your divine appearance, it is our fervent prayer that Your Divine Grace may please continue to allow us to cooperatively serve in your transformational institution—the GBC College for Leadership Development. With your blessings and expert supervision, we are hopeful that the College will continue to expand its offerings in other languages and for several other levels of leadership in ISKCON.

Thank you very much for your continued guidance.

Your servants at the GBC College for Leadership Development.

(written by Rūpānuga Dāsa)

Govardhan Academy

*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,

So far, during this school year the students have been developing nicely under your guidance, savoring the gifts of the process you left for us.

We relish the opportunity to hear by reading stories of you each week, and are also presently studying *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Canto Three, Part 2. Before each major Vaiṣṇava festival, we read about the personality or personalities being honored and feel closer to them.

Kīrtana and singing *bhajans* constitute the heartbeat of the school. The students have been learning *mṛdaṅga*, harmonium, *karatālas*, singing, and Western music theory. They have used this knowledge to offer orchestrated *bhajans*, including “The Twelve Names of Nityānanda,” *Varṇī-dhārī*, *Raghupati Rāghava*, *Dālāler Gīta*, and *Kali-kukkur-kadan*. A highlight was offering to you the *bhajan* you yourself wrote, “Prayer unto the Lotus Feet of Kṛṣṇa.” It is so wonderful to see how much progress each student is making, from their daily *japa* practice to their instrumental expertise.

In terms of practical service, they are learning how to cook various preparations, such as rice, *dāl*, *subjī*, chapatis, *pakorās*, chutney, sweet rice, *burfi*, cookies, and more. We also assisted in the distribution of over five thousand cookies to the neighboring towns. The students made a majestic Govardhana Hill to offer, and are learning how to serve *prasādam* as well. They have also been learning how to sew, make Deity outfits, and dress the Deities. How delightful!

We have relished the practice of remembering pastimes through doing dramas: “The Rāmāyaṇa,” “Rāmacandra Purī,” “Lord Caitanya Rescued from the Sea,” “The Birth of Pradyumna,” and “The Churning of the Ocean of Milk.” Along with the dramas, the students engage in fascinating art projects for decorations, props, and more.

In addition, the lifestyle that has been arranged by your blessings—leading a sheltered life while studying in the association of devotees in a beautiful natural setting—is something we are all grateful for every single day. Thank you so much!

Your servants at Govardhan Academy, Śaraṇāgati, Canada.

Grihastha Vision Team

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

A few years ago, thirteen of us came together to help devotees strengthen their service to the Lord in the *grihastha-āśrama*. We were quite aware of the challenges, and we had few resources, but by your

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grace we were determined to, as we say in our mission statement, “support, strengthen, educate, and enliven the individuals, couples, and families who are or will be involved with the *grhastha-āśrama*.”

To date, here are some of the initiatives the Grihastha Vision Team has implemented:

We’ve developed courses, e.g., Strengthening the Bonds That Free Us, a 3-day interactive comprehensive marriage and family course, and From Couple To Couple, a training course to empower healthy married couples to serve as mentors for others.

We’ve facilitated five annual couple retreats in Gītā-nāgari and plan one in Toronto this year.

We’ve promoted the Tṛṇād Api Marriage Model for success in *grhastha* life and the practical application of the *tṛṇād api* verse in our lives.

We’ve identified the twelve principles and values of a healthy Kṛṣṇa conscious marriage, including alignment with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, open and honest communication, commitment and dedication, and more.

We’ve developed a website to provide resources, articles, and brochures on a variety of marriage, family, and parenting topics.

We’ve certified family educators, therapists, and social workers from our group, who’ve traveled to several countries presenting workshops, courses, seminars, and one-on-one couple sessions to help couples, including those who are married, engaged, or considering marriage.

We’ve published a book—*Heart and Soul Connection: A Devotional Guide to Marriage, Service and Love*—which has been translated into Russian, Portuguese, and Italian.

We’ve worked with hundreds of couples on Skype and in person, encouraging and empowering them to have healthy marriages and happy families, thus strengthening ISKCON.

We are getting older, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and want to pass the baton to the next generations. So we are praying to you to kindly send sincere souls who can be trained and inspired to take up this endeavor. Please bless all members of your spiritual family so that they can realize the importance of this much-needed service in your ISKCON.

Please allow us to continue to be instruments in your mission of sharing *kṛṣṇa-prema*.

Your servants on the Grihastha Vision Team.

Haṁsa Avatāra Farm

*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 bow down to your holy lotus feet and give our heartfelt thanks to you for saving the whole planet by preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness everywhere. You gave us the Supreme Lord in the form of His holy

names, the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, and we will try our best to reciprocate your love and mercy by being useful in your mission.

Forever at your feet!

Your servants at the Haṁsa Avatāra Farm in Cancún, Mexico.

Institute for Applied Spiritual Technology (San Antonio)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

You have declared, “Yes, it is a revolution. This is what I think as I write on and on.” (*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you brought the revolution to change the entire course of human history and reestablish the standard for civilized human beings, ultimately reforming their character. You accomplished this not as a bookworm but as a soul surrendered to God. In this regard:

Prabhupāda stressed that development of character is the first stage of training, because without good character everything else is useless. [*A Transcendental Diary*, by Hari Śauri Dāsa]

You are still actively creating an army of relevant *sādhus* and dynamic missionaries who understand how this world works—an army that is changing the face of the earth in a way that is both beneficial and sustainable.

By your prime example and by your sacrifice, you always stressed what matters most in this revolution of character development—loving relationships between Kṛṣṇa and His devotees and among the devotees themselves. We pledge to you to continue striving to achieve such sublime interaction.

Otherwise, without such developed character and resultant correct *sat-saṅga*, we will remain unfit for śāstric studies, insufficiently receptive to your literary message, especially your Bhaktivedānta purports. If we were to read *śāstra* only to engage in debate, argue with others, and score “brownie points,” we would fail to represent you properly.

Since *śāstra* is given to judge oneself, not others, we stay firmly determined to please you by stressing loving relationships in your progressive movement of self-discovery and war on illusion. *Ahaṅkāra* brings disturbance and danger to any community, and is most counterproductive to your movement as well:

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*tapo vidyā ca viprāñāñ niḥśreyasa-kare ubhe
te eva durvinīṭasya kalpete kartur anyathā*

For a *brāhmaṇa*, austerity and learning are certainly auspicious, but when acquired by a person who is not gentle, such austerity and learning are most dangerous. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 9.4.70]

In your purport to this verse you explain:

It is said that a jewel is very valuable, but when it is on the hood of a serpent, it is dangerous despite its value. Similarly, when a materialistic nondevotee achieves great success in learning and austerity, that success is dangerous for all of society. So-called learned scientists, for example, invented atomic weapons that are dangerous for all humanity. It is therefore said, *mañinā bhūṣitaḥ sarpaḥ kim asau na bhayañkaraḥ*. A serpent with a jewel on its hood is as dangerous as a serpent without such a jewel. Durvāsā Muni was a very learned *brāhmaṇa* equipped with mystic power, but because he was not a gentleman, he did not know how to use his power. He was therefore extremely dangerous. The Supreme Personality of Godhead is never inclined toward a dangerous person who uses his mystic power for some personal design. By the laws of nature, therefore, such misuse of power is ultimately dangerous not for society but for the person who misuses it.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is simple, but it requires a cool head . . .

Regarding our practical activities for your pleasure, our enthusiasm has been fueled by what has transpired since the beginning of your latest chapter here in San Antonio and your Ashram5 project since its inception in 2009. Despite all the challenges along the way, Ashram5 has served as San Antonio's first *bhakti* training and resource center, attracting locals with progressive and creative programs, and eventually conducting initiations.

We held the first San Antonio Ratha-yātrā in 2010 and the four that followed annually. We also endeavored for massive *prasādam* and book distribution at the college. We persevered through all the setbacks in our efforts to expand your mission and tried our best to protect the unity of the *yātrā*. All of this, along with various other preaching activities engaging many participants, still serves to enthuse us. We wish to please you by taking advantage of each new opportunity for growth.

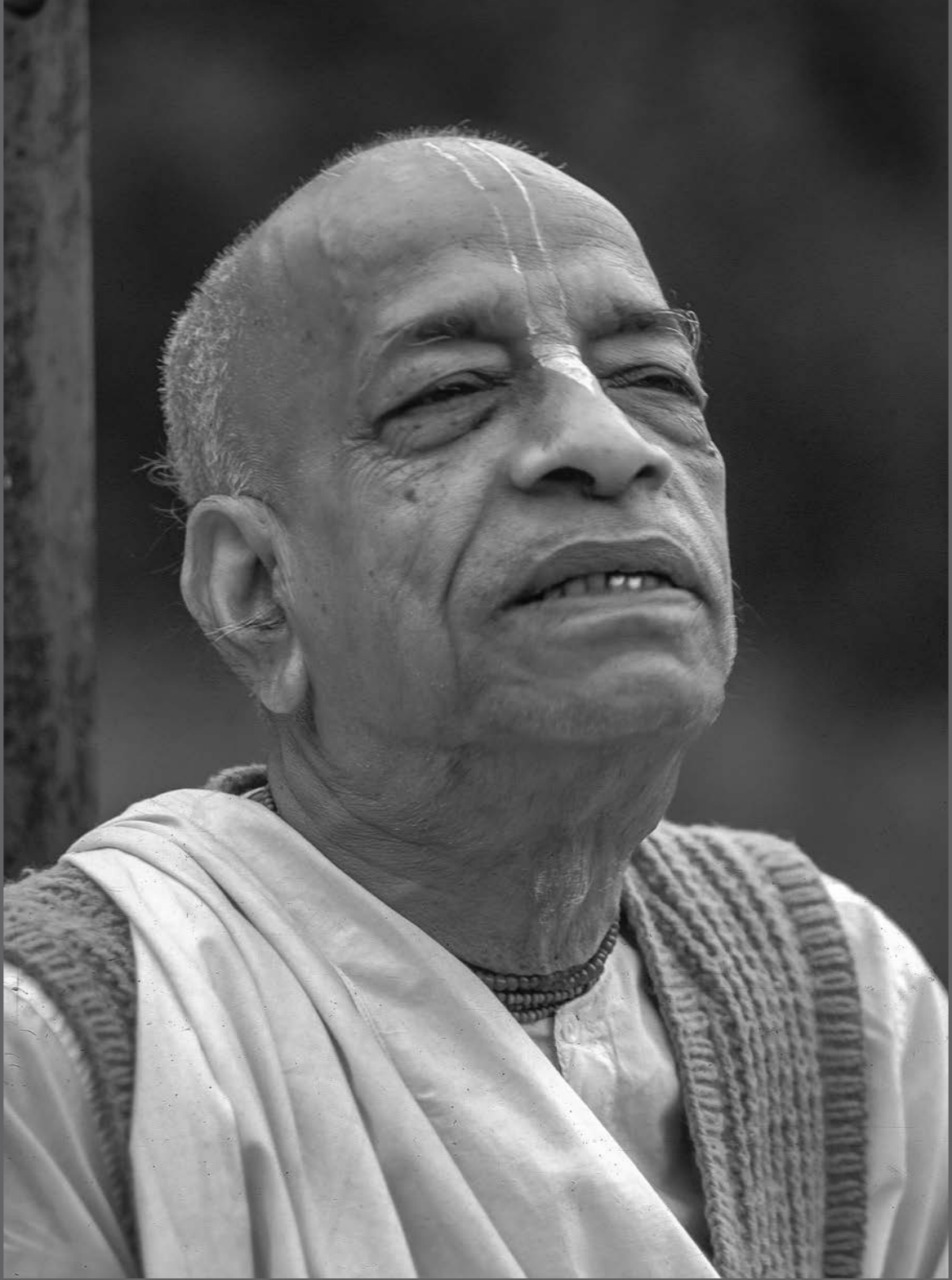
Keeping in mind that this world is not our home and that the holy name is the activating force of everything, we run after you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the giver of Kṛṣṇa.

Kṛṣ means "repetition of birth," and *ṇa* means "one who checks." [*Rāja-vidyā, the King of Knowledge*, chapter one]

A quick look toward the future: The Hare Kṛṣṇa movement in San Antonio will be celebrating its tenth anniversary next Gaura Pūrṇimā. We are envisioning a Bhaktivedanta Center that will clearly define the difference between the plethora of myths and lies as opposed to a realistic, relevant blueprint for a much happier and much less conflicted world. Our humble effort in our Institute for Applied Spiritual Technology is to combine the chanting of the *mahā-mantra* with an inspired lifestyle in order to fulfill this historic purpose.

Your servants at the Institute for Applied Spiritual Technology in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

(written by Advaita Ācārya Dāsa)



International Society for Cow Protection

*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*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, our beloved spiritual master.

We are at war, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Kali-yuga is progressing, and the so-called civilized current-day society is inventing new ways to utilize our precious earth and the divine cow for personal aggrandizement. You saw this coming and told us in your books how and when our world would change. We knew we were not living on a planet like Kṛṣṇaloka, but even though you warned us, we could not and cannot imagine the increasingly demoniac ways that have been and will be developed to exploit Mother Cow, Father Bull, and the earth.

Please bestow on us the strength to fight the war against the henchmen of Kali. Please bestow on us the intelligence to choose our battles. Please bestow on us compassion for the suffering cow and bull. Let that compassion be the leader, the reason, the purpose of the fight. Please bestow on us the wisdom to recognize allies in the war, even though they may not have familiar faces.

Our oldest cow passed away at the beginning of this year, 2018. She had come to us as a baby and was with us for twenty years, which made her a hundred years old in human years. Deterioration through aging did not take over her life until her last month. Her name was Gauravāṇī, and she was blessed to live such a healthy, happy life far away from the slaughterhouse.

In your books you write about compassionate cow protection and why it is crucial to peace and happiness on earth. We were fortunate to become your disciples, and therefore we were exposed to this knowledge. We took this knowledge seriously and have cared for and protected thirty-five cows up till the time of their natural passing, and we are presently protecting twenty-four cows, who will also receive lifetime protection.

Gauravāṇī was one of the thirty-five cows we had the privilege to love and protect till their passing. Yes, we were fortunate to experience love for a cow. Twenty years of caring and protecting Gauravāṇī made a deep impression on our souls and hearts. She was a member of the family, and when she could no longer stand up, we knew it would not be much longer before she passed on to greener pastures. Two and half weeks later she left us.

It is not possible to compare Gauravāṇī's life with the lives of cows not fortunate to be recipients of lifetime cow protection. It is like comparing heaven to hell. In a different time on earth, Gauravāṇī's life would have been typical of all cows' lives, or even less happy than most. Even when you were here on earth with us, most cows were treated better than the majority of cows are treated today. Kali-yuga has advanced and continues to progress.

Gauravāṇī was unique in many ways. She was the herd matriarch. When Gauravāṇī entered the herd to acquire water or visit the nutritional buckets or salt block, the cows would part to clear her path. When she loudly mooed to let the herd know they should follow her to a new hay bale, they would all follow. She had the wisdom and experience that come with living a long life, and the other cows recognized her qualities with respect.

When we found Gauravāṇī down in the pasture and tried to move her to a more comfortable place,

with the hope that she would possibly be able to walk, the ISCOWP herd gathered around us. They started sniffing Gauravāṇī and us and then began licking her. They stayed close to us as we moved Gauravāṇī to a more comfortable location. Within the following two and half weeks, she was never alone. There was always at least one cow sitting with her.

Most cows on earth die far from the herd, away from friends and family and loving caregivers. What did they do to deserve that? They produce milk, and their flesh is tasty to humans who are ignorant. A lonely death and other tortures are their reward. There are no Gauravāṇīs in the commercial dairy industry. The cows do not live very long after their milk supply dwindles. The slaughterhouse is their destination.

You wanted us to protect cows like Gauravāṇī. You had a vision, a plan. You envisioned every temple having a restaurant and a farm. The farm would supply the restaurant and the temple with grain, produce, and cruelty-free milk from lifetime-protected cows. The restaurant would sell *prasādam* prepared from the farm's cruelty-free products. The temple would offer preparations to the presiding Deities made from a pure source pleasing to you and Lord Kṛṣṇa. This is an economically self-sustaining plan that is still applicable today.

The war rages. Do not let us become complacent in our illusion of comfort while Mother Cow and Father Bull live in hell. Give us the strength to fight the war, to help realize your plan and give the divine cow shelter and peace. Let us recognize allies who have compassion for the cows, and let us have the intelligence to engage them in protecting cows. Let them hear your plan, and most importantly let them understand cow protection so they may join us in helping the cows as Kali-yuga progresses with plans to increase their exploitation.

Your descriptions of Lord Kṛṣṇa and His cows roaming the pasturing grounds and woods of Vṛndāvana fill our hearts and minds with satisfaction. The happy faces of the cows and calves as they look upon their cowherd friend Kṛṣṇa, the cows' milk flowing abundantly due to their extreme bliss—this is such a different world from what we now experience, but a world that we can remember in order to inspire us to fight the cruelties Kali-yuga is imposing upon the cows.

It is our honor to assist you in achieving your plans; we pray to be worthy.

Thank you.

Your servants at ISCOWP, the International Society for Cow Protection, Inc.

ISKCON Student Center (Bangkok)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

It is my great pleasure to write an offering to you for this year's Vyāsa-pūjā book and share some of the realizations I have had in the course of serving you and the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Lord Gaurāṅga.

For the last ten years, my wife and I have been helping take care of the ISKCON Student Center here under the guidance of His Holiness Bhakti Vighna Vināśa Narasimha Mahārāja and the GBC's of ISKCON Thailand, His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami and His Holiness Kavicandra Swami. Over the years I have realized how challenging preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness to conditioned souls is, especially as we ourselves are novice devotees. We are doing it as a matter of duty, to push on the *saṅkīrtana* mission of

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Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and out of gratitude to the *guru-paramparā* for giving us this invaluable gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

But when the people we cultivate don't follow the standards of pure devotional service or respect the line of authority, including ourselves, or at times even criticize us, and when several misunderstandings occur among devotees, we feel frustrated and angry and want to discontinue our services. Then I realize how incapable I am to preach and even to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

And then, when I read of the struggles you went through while presenting the Kṛṣṇa conscious philosophy to the Western world (especially to the hippies, at the beginning), I salute you. Your genuine compassion for the fallen souls and your undeterred enthusiasm and determination to fulfill the order of your spiritual master and the *guru-paramparā* and fulfill the predictions of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu—these are simply astounding. The following excerpts from “Mārkinē Bhāgavata Dharma,” a Bengali poem you wrote when you arrived in America, gives a glimpse into your mind as you contemplated the task before you:

(3) Most of the population here is covered by nature's modes of ignorance and passion, and I do not know how they will be able to understand the transcendental message of Vāsudeva.

(5) Therefore, I am simply praying for Your mercy so that I can be able to convince them about Your message.

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

With the devotees' efforts, the gurus' blessings, and the Lord's mercy we have had some success. Since the beginning of our efforts here, around two dozen devotees (most of whom were Thai students affiliated with the student center) have taken initiation from various ISKCON gurus. Most of the students stayed in the center for a few years during their student days and then moved to different parts of Bangkok or other parts of Thailand to pursue their careers and/or family life. But it's a real pleasure to see them continue their devotional practices and support the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Lord Caitanya, along with pursuing their professional careers and meeting their family responsibilities.

Moreover, for the past several years we have been conducting Bhakti Vrikshas (home programs) in Sukumwit, and they are going on well. One or two dozen householders and their children join the Friday evening program, and they have hosted several major festivals, such as Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī and the Advent of the Gītā, in their apartment halls, wherein 100 to 300 well-wishers and devotees join in for practicing different processes of *bhakti-yoga*.

It feels ecstatic to see the mercy of the Lord flow through us and transform the lives of so many people. Nonetheless, when we reflect on the mistakes we have made and the people who have gotten hurt (including ourselves) in these endeavors, I wonder how we could have been so careless and ignorant. So please show us mercy and give us the proper vision, intelligence, and strength so that we can continue to present the Kṛṣṇa conscious message to the people of Bangkok and serve you and your lost children with love and devotion.

Trying to serve,

Your servants at the ISKCON Student Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

(written by Antaraṅga Gopāla Dāsa)

ISKCON Television

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

You were almost 75 years old when I joined in the spring of 1971. In a little over five years you had established an international society spanning the continents. You had taken your disciples to India, where your countrymen were astounded to see the Westerners in *dhotīs* and saris, adorned with *tilaka*, and playing *mṛdaṅgas* while chanting the holy names. Already the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra had been made world famous by its association with the Beatles. The Kṛṣṇa book had been published, artists were busy painting the transcendental pastimes of Kṛṣṇa under your direction, and farms had been established. In 1972, at your Vyāsa-pūjā in New Vrindaban, you gave a lecture on the importance of one who sits on the *vyāsāsana*. You were asked, “If the purpose of life is to become Kṛṣṇa conscious, then why is *māyā* so strong?” You immediately replied, “Because your purpose is not strong.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an incarnation of strong intention—bold, decisive, fearless. Please bless me with that same single-mindedness—to serve the guru in his mission and be exemplary in behavior with deeds and words.

You extended the mercy of Lord Caitanya all over the world. In Nellore, India, on a morning walk, Bhābhūti Prabhu mentioned that the local Gauḍīya Maṭha in Madras had said that if Caitanya Mahāprabhu had wanted Kṛṣṇa consciousness preached in the West, why did He not go there Himself? You suddenly stopped walking, put down your cane, and said, “Because Caitanya Mahāprabhu wanted to give me the credit.” The credit will be yours for the next ten thousand years. No one else can claim any because without your mercy we would all have drowned in the ocean of material life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you had the knack of knowing just how to engage everyone in devotional service. Becoming a devotee was not a cookie cutter process; you treated everyone as an individual. In 1972, in London, George Harrison popped in unexpectedly to visit. You immediately invited him into your quarters and had an extended conversation. George had cut his beard and hair, and you tussled it affectionately as you embraced him to your chest. George asked if he should shave his head and move into the temple. You said, “No! You have a great gift for the world in your music. Just continue your music and Kṛṣṇa will be greatly pleased. He will bless you.” Then you said, “I will give you ideas for some songs.” You got out Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura’s songbook and read the translations of a number of songs. Not long thereafter, George released the famous “My Sweet Lord,” featuring the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. Who knows who will be empowered to extend the mercy of the holy names to every town and village? Only you have the transcendental vision to fan the sparks of *bhakti* and set fire to the materialists’ plans to keep everyone enslaved by *Māyā*.

You engaged Yadubara Dāsa and Viśākhā Devī Dāsī with the same personal touch. They were photographers in India, and you encouraged them to dovetail their propensities for Kṛṣṇa. This past year, Yadubara Prabhu finished and distributed his glorious full-length film about you. It has been playing in cinema theaters throughout the world to packed audiences. Just as you had said:

They [the materialists] are now feeling the weight of this movement. Formerly they thought these people come and go, but now they see we are staying. Now we have set fire. It will go on, it cannot be stopped. You can bring big, big fire brigades but the fire will act. The brainwash books

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are already there. Even if they stop externally, internally it will go on. Our first-class campaign is book distribution. Go house to house. The real fighting is now. Kṛṣṇa will give you all protection. So, chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and fight. One movie expert has opined there are so many ideas in our movement. Try to get our ideas into movies. [Letter to Tamāl Krishna Goswami, 30 October 1976]

So as one fire can light many, your engagement of Yadubara and Viśākhā inspired me, Janardrādhī, and now others to dovetail our interests and talents in making Kṛṣṇa conscious movies.

Janardrādhī and I continue to focus on getting Kṛṣṇa conscious feature films into the theaters. After five years of endeavor, we finally got some financial support. We hired writers. The scripts are in progress. One ISKCON leader has gotten behind our work—your beloved Girirāja Swami. Though we have little to show after our five years of work, in contrast to what you did in five years, we are still very grateful for this opportunity to try to be of service to you in spreading Lord Caitanya’s message all over the world. Please continue to shower your mercy on all the conditioned souls. Your instructions are forever in our hearts. We just pray to be able to serve you.

Your servants at ISKCON Television.

(written by Nṛsiṁhānanda Dāsa)

Krishna’s Castle

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your amazing eternal *līlā*.

You asked for at least ten temples in central London. This year we opened Krishna’s Castle in the prestigious City of London. The City of London is a one-square-mile area, the original London built by the Romans, the wealthiest area on the planet, if wealth were measured in money. By this time next year we hope to report to you the successful opening of a major new temple in London. If that happens, we will have proved that any fool can achieve great success if he simply follows your instructions.

In this instance, success means fulfilling one of your desires for London. The major success achieved by the three devotee couples in the early days was due to their faith in your words and the holy name. I believe that if we keep the street *harināma* up front, then anything can happen. Let’s see what next year’s Vyāsa-pūjā offering will contain, what news we will bring you. By your mercy a lame man can cross mountains, a dumb man can become a great orator, and a fool can start a temple in London.

Your servants at Krishna’s Castle, London, UK.

(written by Paraśurāma Dāsa)

León Guanajuato Congregation

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humblest obeisances. We fall at your lotus feet.

Another year has gone by, and with the passage of time our admiration and devotion for you are constantly growing. When we observe how dramatically Kali-yuga is progressing, we cannot even imagine what would have happened to us if you had not appeared in our lives to save us. It was only because of your courageous and kind determination to spread love of God all over the world that we in this material world, which Kṛṣṇa describes as an unfathomable ocean full of misery where everything is temporary, had the chance to direct our lives toward achieving the ultimate goal of existence.

The power of your preaching, which emanates from the purity of your devotion and love for Kṛṣṇa, has allowed people in every corner of the world to have the opportunity to approach your sublime movement, take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and go back home, back to Godhead. We ask you to please give us the intelligence to be able to contribute to your glorious movement, to help make your movement more relevant and truly respected in the world. Help us present Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a mature and intelligent way, just as you taught us.

Thank you very much for engaging us in your service and in that way giving us the opportunity to approach you and the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Your insignificant servants in León Guanajuato, Mexico.

(written by Dvārakā-rāja Dāsa)

Mantra Lounge

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your auspicious appearance-day celebration.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you so much for giving our small team in Philadelphia a chance to participate in your glorious *saṅkīrtana* mission.

As we read in the *Līlāmṛta*, writing and printing the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* were difficult beyond our comprehension. Typing on a make-shift desk with only one bulb illuminating your room in Vṛndāvana, manually editing every manuscript, walking hours to urge the printer to manually typeset the text and produce the printing plates, checking the galley proofs, finally getting the books printed, and then personally trying to sell them. You set an example for the whole world to follow. As you said, “I will live forever in my books.” Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for writing so many books which “[bring] about a revolution in the impious lives of this world’s misdirected civilization.” *Tad-vāg-visargo janatāgha-viplavaḥ* (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.11).

In an increasingly virtual world of momentary “snapchat” interactions and superficial relations, where your friends aren’t real faces but just faded versions that exist only in the self-created realities of Facebook and Instagram, more and more people are desperate for something substantial. Your books provide them

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a real benefit to hold on to.

In a letter you sent to His Holiness Tamāl Krishna Goswami on December 28, 1974, you wrote:

I am glad that you have understood the importance of my books, therefore I am stressing it so much. Let everyone take these books. If he simply reads one page then he is getting something substantial, a real eternal benefit. Or if he hands it over to his friend and he reads one page the same result is there.

Recently one of the *bhaktas* living in your *āśrama* here explained his encounters with your books over the past year. He first saw a *brahmacārī* book distributor on his university campus, and then later he found *The Science of Self-Realization* in the physics lounge, where he mockingly read a page with his fellow physics grad students. Fast forward a few months, and he finds himself at the Mantra Lounge, having purchased a book from us on the Temple University campus. He now lives in the *āśrama* and is actively engaged in distributing your books. Another new devotee, a *bhaktin*, explains how she first got a book three years ago and then recently met us at a festival and started coming to the Mantra Lounge and reading your books. Slowly she realized how many of your books she had received from different people over the years, and one day she texted us that “it looks like these books are following me everywhere.” Now she is chanting *japa*, has almost completed her reading of your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, and offers her food to Kṛṣṇa. Living in the care of your books is walking in the land of miracles.

Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the infrastructure that you set up for us, with farms, restaurants, and city centers. The millennial generation is increasingly purpose-driven, and our having such a broad vision, dynamic projects, and infrastructure to offer gives everyone something to plug into. We are starting to realize that it is one thing to ask everyone to use their propensities in Kṛṣṇa’s service, and another thing to create the infrastructure to facilitate that.

Here in Philadelphia we have made small attempts to organize the distribution and systematic study of your books. Last year we distributed 28,073 books, and are aiming to distribute 30,000 books this year, with an increased focus on Kṛṣṇa book distribution (a hundred Kṛṣṇa books per month on street *saṅkīrtana*). We experimented with distributing *prasādam* to students and young professionals and were able to distribute roughly 1,500 plates of *prasādam*. This year, we would like to start steady *prasādam* distribution at universities and at the Mantra Lounge to engage more people in the *saṅkīrtana-yajña*.

Roughly six new people are now chanting sixteen rounds of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, and we want at least six more people to fully take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness this year. Last year we participated in fifteen city festivals, where your books were distributed en masse, and this year we hope to participate in twenty. Although our impact and output may be very small, we are inspired by the glimpse of your vision we read in the same letter to Tamāl Krishna Goswami:

So continue these festivals constantly and make them all Krishna conscious. Over-flood the whole country by this preaching work. Let the whole United States become Vaisnavas, then everyone else in the whole world will follow. This is my real ambition.

Your daring and bold vision both excites and challenges us to go beyond our limited ideas of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and figure out how it will take over the world. We humbly pray that your “real ambition” consumes our hearts and activities, and that you please grant us the intelligence to fulfill this ambition. May your vision, so beautifully articulated in your letter, never become folklore or a nice thought in our minds. Please let the urgency of your words burn in our hearts. And while we pursue these goals, please let us not lose sight of our most precious asset—the association of your devotees. Please let us always remember to deeply care for one another and cultivate the mood of team *saṅkīrtana*—the conviction that everyone matters, every bit counts.

Further on in the same letter, your simultaneous instruction and benediction catch our attention:

I am very glad to hear that not only you are maintaining such program but that you want to expand it. Yes, this is our philosophy; anandambudhi vardhanam. It means to expand or to increase. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to double your program. . . . Go on with your program and increase more and more.

We would also like to expand our program in Philadelphia. Earlier this year, our entire team sat together to share ideas about how we would like to see your project expand here: creating urban gardens for university students to plug into, large-scale *prasādam* distribution, student clubs at every university in the Philadelphia area, government funding, larger facilities to accommodate more people, and a greater presence in social welfare organizations in Philadelphia. However, we are just a small bunch and know nothing much about the world. We have a long way to go before we experience the real taste of *bhakti*. Please give us the intelligence and ability to act in a way that would be pleasing to you, since your pleasure and merciful glance are our life's aspiration.

Indeed, this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement was started single-handedly, and in the beginning there was no response, but because we continued to execute our devotional activities with patience, people gradually began to understand the importance of this movement, and now they are eagerly participating. One should not be impatient in discharging devotional service, but should take instructions from the spiritual master and execute them with patience, depending on the mercy of guru and Kṛṣṇa. The successful execution of Kṛṣṇa conscious activities requires both patience and confidence. . . . Similarly, in devotional service surrender means that one has to become confident. The devotee thinks, *avaśya rakṣibe kṛṣṇa*: "Kṛṣṇa will surely protect me and give me help for the successful execution of devotional service." This is called confidence." [The Nectar of Instruction, verse 3, purport]

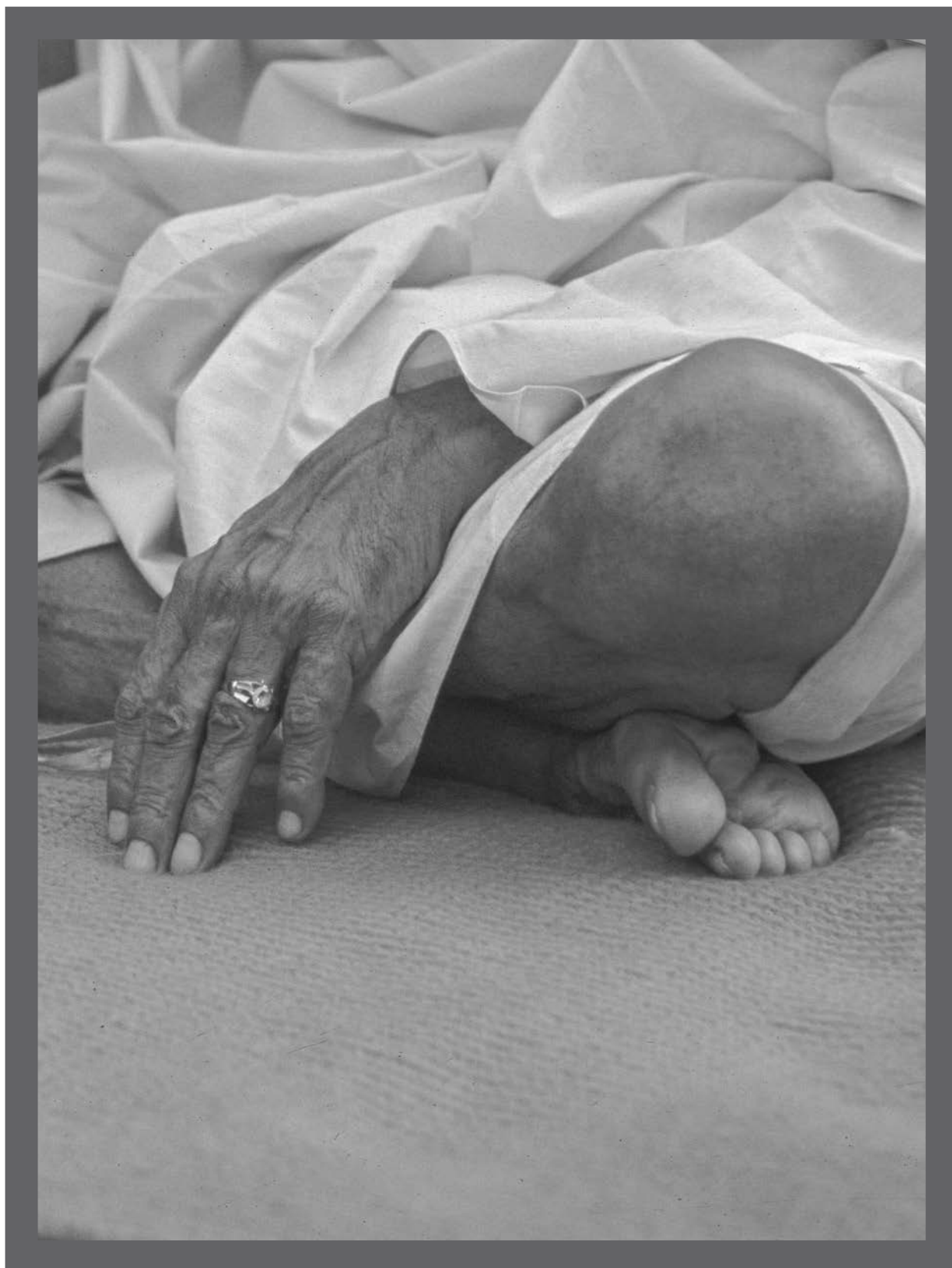
Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for setting such a pure example and giving us such a loving process. We simply pray to be your worthy servants. Through your *saṅkīrtana* vision, mission, and infrastructure, you have given to the entire world a process for complete absorption that is not ordinarily achievable even after thousands of years of intense meditation. Please, in this lifetime, let us have a glimpse of that which you call *samādhi*:

The word *kriyāsu*, meaning "by manual labor" or "by work," is important in this verse. One should engage in practical service to the Lord. In our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, all our activities are concentrated upon distributing Kṛṣṇa literature. This is very important. One may approach any person and induce him to read Kṛṣṇa literature so that in the future he also may become a devotee. Such activities are recommended in this verse. *Kriyāsu yas tvac-caraṇāravindayoḥ*. Such activities will always remind the devotees of the Lord's lotus feet. By fully concentrating on distributing books for Kṛṣṇa, one is fully absorbed in Kṛṣṇa. This is *samādhi*. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 10.2.37]

Your servants at the Mantra Lounge, ISKCON's preaching center in central Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

(written by Maṅgala-ārati Devī Dāsī)

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Radio Krishna Centrale

*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*

Most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You are such a great, pure devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa that your love for the Lord knows no bounds. In fact, so intense is your love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa that it can penetrate the thick darkness of this obscure material existence and dispel the spell of Māyā's magic, chasing away the ignorance in which the conditioned souls have been groping since time immemorial.

You are so transcendently powerful that you have been able to bring the eternally vibrant life of the spiritual world with you and manifest all sorts of wonderful activities even here, in Death's realm.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are eternally our life and soul. You are our lord and master, and as such you are fully entitled to engage us according to your sweet will.

Śrī Kṛṣṇa eternally expands His unlimited consciousness, the resting place of the infinite varieties of all that exists. Everything exists for His pleasure.

The liberated, purely devoted spirit soul, fully endowed with such awareness, is said to be in pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and all his actions unfold as a manifestation of such consciousness. In other words, all his activities are within the realm of pure, transcendental loving devotional service, aiming at pleasing the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

The conditioned soul, under the influence of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's illusory energy, *māyā*, is deprived of such transcendental awareness and therefore devoid of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As a consequence, the conditioned living entity's actions are not for the pleasure of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Under the forceful push of *māyā*, such a soul performs actions only to try to please his own material senses.

Most dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, since you are an exalted pure devotee, constantly absorbed in the ocean of love of Kṛṣṇa, you cannot forget the Lord even for a moment. Completely saturated with Śrī Kṛṣṇa's personal presence, you are expanding your own wonderful unalloyed Kṛṣṇa consciousness as the resting place of the entire magnificent Hare Kṛṣṇa world—your International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Any one of your sincere, faithful followers, fully endowed with such awareness, is said to be situated in Prabhupāda consciousness, and all his activities are a manifestation of such consciousness, or pure service in a loving devotional mood, aimed at pleasing you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thus we surely would not be incorrect to say that, for us, trying to be in Kṛṣṇa consciousness without being fully immersed in Śrīla Prabhupāda consciousness would merely be a grand illusion.

If for any reason we fall under *māyā*'s spell, we become deprived of such awareness, and as a result, devoid of real Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we end up behaving whimsically. Our activities are no longer for Your Divine Grace's pleasure but just for the satisfaction of our gross and subtle material senses.

It's a lunatic's absurdity to think that we can satisfy Śrī Kṛṣṇa without pleasing the spiritual master.

You have explained to us that Śrī Kṛṣṇa does not accept direct service from someone who is not a pure devotee, on the topmost platform of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and that Śrī Kṛṣṇa's intimate, direct servants are particular devotees in the category of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's internal energy, typifying a specific mood of service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, everywhere in your transcendental books you reveal and clarify that serving the pure devotee is even better than serving Śrī Kṛṣṇa. In fact, a devotee does not serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa directly

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but serves His dearest servant. And this pleases the Lord to the highest degree. By one's sincerely and purely serving such a particular intimate associate of the Lord, love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa gradually reaches the stage of perfection in the heart of the servant.

And you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are unequivocally such an exalted pure devotee—a sublime and perfect personality of unfathomable profundity, an emblem of devotional service to Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. You are the most merciful, magnanimous, marvelous, unparalleled loving personality, the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead.

We want to remain eternally at your divine lotus feet and serve Your Divine Grace without interruption.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, keep showering your mercy on us.

If we can develop for Your Divine Grace even just a drop of the transcendental love that you have for Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and thus serve Your Divine Grace with that same love and devotion and do everything that we do only to please you, then our life's aim will be fulfilled.

All glories to Your Divine Grace!

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

* * *

Because We Know This Pleases You

We get up before four because we know this pleases you.
We offer our respects to you and the Lord because we know this pleases you.
We take our morning bath because we know this pleases you.
We wear devotee robes because we know this pleases you.
We mark our body with *tilaka* because we know this pleases you.
We go and greet the Lord because we know this pleases you.
We sing Hare Kṛṣṇa and dance and clap because we know this pleases you.
We grow Tulasī because we know this pleases you.
We whisper Gāyatrī because we know this pleases you.
We offer flowers with scent because we know this pleases you.
We daily chant all our rounds of *japa* because we know this pleases you.
We offer *guru-pūjā* because we know this pleases you.
We play the “Govinda” song because we know this pleases you.
We read only your books because we know this pleases you.
We do not sleep in class because we know this pleases you.
We cook the way you like because we know this pleases you.
We take only *prasādam* because we know this pleases you.
We follow all the rules because we know this pleases you.
We call out Kṛṣṇa's name because we know this pleases you.
We worship Gaura-Nitāi because we know this pleases you.
We have cut all our material ties because we know this pleases you.
We've given up “our own ways” because we know this pleases you.
We gladly bend our will to yours because we know this pleases you.
We tolerate ordeals because we know this pleases you.
We live with devotees because we know this pleases you.
We stay and won't go away because we know this pleases you.
We hear only your words because we know this pleases you.
We preach about the Lord because we know this pleases you.
We do not compromise because we know this pleases you.
We do not change your style because we know this pleases you.

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2018

We speak the way you speak because we know this pleases you.
We fight against “We are God!” because we know this pleases you.
We retort “No, you are dog!” because we know this pleases you.
We challenge so-called science because we know this pleases you.
We use common sense because we know this pleases you.
We observe all our fasts because we know this pleases you.
We’re building temples because we know this pleases you.
We agree to cooperate because we know this pleases you.
We don’t quarrel because we know this pleases you.
We lead a simple life because we know this pleases you.
We serve without a wage because we know this pleases you.
We do not go sightseeing because we know this pleases you.
We go to Māyāpur because we know this pleases you.
We long for Vṛndāvana because we know this pleases you.
We engage in *saṅkīrtana* because we know this pleases you.
We like just what you like because we know this pleases you.
We won’t do what you don’t because we know this pleases you.
We print this book of offerings because we know this pleases you.

* * *

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we know you are still here, but nonetheless we are missing you.

* * *

Most merciful Śrī-Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, the forceful, destructive, insurmountable time factor is fully under Your Lordships’ control. Please grant us the boon to never forget our magnificent spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and to always remember his wonderful pastimes and instructions so that we will never be confused as to how to please His Divine Grace.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, we long only to see our love for you increase more and more, without reservations. Please allow us to continue serving your divine lotus feet life after life; this is the sole meaningful way to exist. Your pleasure is our bliss.

Your humble and respectful servants at Radio Krishna Centrale, Italy.

(written by Narakāntaka Dāsa [formerly Tridaṇḍi Dāsa])

San Antonio Preaching Center (Bernice Drive)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I feel greatly blessed to have the opportunity to offer you this Vyāsa-pūjā homage and update on behalf of the San Antonio yātrā on Bernice Drive. Yet I always find myself at a loss for words when given such an opportunity. There is so much I am grateful for and so much to share; it becomes overwhelming to combine the emotions with words.

First and foremost, we would like to express our gratitude for your books and lectures, whose potency form the foundation of our humble endeavor to help introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the people of this city. It is miraculous to see lives being changed daily by the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you have mercifully delivered. We are also extremely grateful to be able to regularly hear your teachings presented by your disciples, including your wisdom regarding how to deal with the material world. Your example and mood of tolerance and compassion are unparalleled. You will forever be our savior and guide for spiritual perfection. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

The devotees here have been pushing forward the mission as much as possible. We have continued to strive as a team under the guidance of His Holiness Guru Prasāda Swami, His Holiness Dāmodara Swami, and His Grace Rasikendra Prabhu. We all feel ourselves unlimitedly blessed to have the association of such wonderful Vaiṣṇavas. We have become purified by overcoming various obstacles in a short time. Of course, there is certainly much more work to be done. We continue to aspire for the day when, free from any ulterior motive, we, along with all other devotees in this city, shall work under the shelter of your lotus feet with the common goal of pleasing Guru and Gaurāṅga.

We pray daily for the intelligence to realize the instructions you have given us in your books. For instance, Lord Kṛṣṇa states at *Bhagavad-gītā* 15.5:

*nirmāna-mohā jita-saṅga-doṣā
adhyātma-nityā vinivṛtta-kāmāḥ
dvandvair vimuktāḥ sukha-duḥkha-saṁjñair
gacchanty amūḍhāḥ padam avyayaṁ tat*

“Those who are free from false prestige, illusion and false association, who understand the eternal, who are done with material lust, who are freed from the dualities of happiness and distress, and who, unbewildered, know how to surrender unto the Supreme Person attain to that eternal kingdom.”

Aspiring to imbibe this spirit, we have faithfully continued our regular Sunday Feasts and Wednesday night *kīrtanas*. We also try to incorporate one to three more programs weekly. These include book distribution, college preaching, home programs, various festivals, and *prasādam* distribution. Moreover, Kṛṣṇa has facilitated some nice opportunities to develop our congregation. Last December we completed most of our center’s renovation, which, in turn, has enabled us to preach with better focus and quality over the past few months. By Kṛṣṇa’s and Guru’s mercy, we have had some nice turnouts for Gaura Pūrṇimā, Nityānanda’s Appearance Day, etc. We are also happy to inform Your Divine Grace that on July 7 we held our first Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā. We had various vendors, booths, live music, art installations, free *prasādam*, and the participation of local community leaders, as well as book, *kīrtana*, and *japa* booths. We were happy beyond measure to be able to help in this service. Thank you for giving us such an opportunity.

Our goals for the remainder of 2018 and beyond are quite exciting. With renovations completed, we hope to eventually move into another space, in a better part of town. We also envision our little bakery

becoming a full-time operation and a means of supporting the temple. However, our most important goal is to increase distribution of your books. With a little more devotee power, we will become strongly centered on the *bṛhat-mṛdaṅga*. We must strategize to make this happen.

At the root of all our service endeavors lies our hope to chant the names of Kṛṣṇa purely, to always remember Him and never forget Him. After all, as stated in the *Viṣṇu Purāṇa*, “If even for a moment remembrance of Vāsudeva, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is missed, that is the greatest loss, that is the greatest illusion, and that is the greatest anomaly.” We thus pray to have a solid foundation of *sādhana* and thereby increase our taste and desire for chanting the holy name.

Your servants at the San Antonio Preaching Center on Bernice Drive, San Antonio, Texas, USA.

(written by Bhagavān Nārada Dāsa)

Śaraṇāgati

*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*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept the humble obeisances of your disciples, granddisciples, great-granddisciples, aspiring devotees, and well-wishers who reside at Śaraṇāgati. We feel your presence in every aspect of our lives. Your causeless mercy is saving us from materialistic life and allowing us to engage in devotional service to the Supreme Lord. You showed us the way with your devotion, fearlessness, and determination. Your boldness and faith and an unwavering determination to serve Kṛṣṇa and never give up—these constantly inspire all of us. It is a wonder to hear from you and your devotees of your plans and dreams from the first days of coming to the West, and to learn how they came to fruition during the short time you were with us.

Śaraṇāgati is not like most of the other temples and projects under your umbrella. It is not owned or managed by ISKCON but run under the joint ownership of sixty devotees. This means that, while devotees work together, they are also responsible for their own programs, with the overarching goal of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness according to your desires. Our efforts may seem miniscule compared to what the rest of the ISKCON world is doing, but by your grace we are making those efforts from the core of our hearts. Foolish and helpless though we may be, we still beg for your mercy so that we can work enthusiastically in loving co-operation to help others receive your mercy and have their hearts transformed, as you have transformed ours. The circle of friends and devotees in and around Śaraṇāgati is increasing, and the facilities and programs we can offer are expanding. By your grace and with your mercy, I would like to describe some of these programs.

Worship of the cow is of particular importance here, and to facilitate this, a family has established an *ahimsā gośālā* in Śaraṇāgati. This allows devotees and guests to worship the cow and train oxen for farming, and it also provides many blessed gifts from the cows in a cruelty-free way. The Gyr cow in particular is

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a great favorite at festivals such as Ratha-yātrā. The dream is to have a fully functioning village *gośālā*/dairy, working oxen, separate areas for retired cows, and a *havan* pagoda for formal worship ceremonies.

You worked so hard to provide us with books about Kṛṣṇa, and by your grace devotees here have a strong desire to share that knowledge. Several individuals and families have taken it upon themselves to facilitate book distribution by traveling to Kamloops, the closest city to Śaraṇāgati, where last year they started the first Festival of India, distributed *prasādam* and books, and held bi-monthly *kīrtana* programs. There is also Food for Life, regular street book distribution, and book distribution through a veggie club at TRU University, festivals, and yoga studios. Other devotees hold *kīrtana* in the park every other Saturday and facilitate monthly home programs. They run Meetup.com kirtan-bc, which enables them to interact with and teach the more than 150 members. Other individual members carry books and *prasādam* in their cars at all times and tirelessly preach to all they meet. Several devotees also traveled throughout western Canada in a very successful outreach and preaching program.

One devotee family has established a *prasādam* food truck called Govinda's Veggie Bomb, which provides *prasādam* for festivals in Śaraṇāgati as well as for seven other festivals throughout British Columbia. Last year they traveled to nine places throughout California, Oregon, and Washington state, offering delicious vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free *prasādam* to thousands of people.

Here in Śaraṇāgati retreats are being developed that will open up a whole new way for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The Vedic Eco Village bought land in Śaraṇāgati last year and is developing a master plan for its implementation. Ananda Loka Ashram and Yoga Retreat is in its third phase of development and exists to provide the opportunity for true well-being through the spiritual practice of *bhakti-yoga*. Another devotee couple has taken up traveling to distant places, including South Africa, Europe, South America, and Russia. There they teach seminars that promote the health and well-being of individuals, couples, and families.

Self-sufficiency in food production has always been one of your many dreams, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and although we are not in that position yet, several devotees have developed organic farming projects that provide food for the residents of Śaraṇāgati and for others around British Columbia. There are no electricity hook-ups here, so we have developed solar and hydro power as the main ways of providing electricity to the community. Several devotees also interact with the government and other organizations to help make the community fire-safe, offer means of employment, and provide for the many guests who wish to visit Śaraṇāgati.

Deity worship is at the center of the Śaraṇāgati community and in the homes of the devotees. For the last couple of years, great strides have been taken to improve the standard of Deity worship and to make the festival days as opulent as possible. There are many wonderful devotees here who provide various valuable services; each person here contributes to the growth and well-being of the community.

There is one other special feature of Śaraṇāgati, and that is Govardhan Academy, our school, which is undoubtedly the heart of Śaraṇāgati. By your grace we are fortunate to have a devotee family dedicated to running a wonderful school based on your teachings. They work with teachers and families and bring much joy to the community. They have written their own offering, which will be read separately.

You traveled all over the world, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and, like a rain cloud, showered us with Kṛṣṇa's mercy, delivering the key to love and happiness—devotional service to Kṛṣṇa. We learn that if Kṛṣṇa bestows His divine power then we obtain the factual substance, which is service to the spiritual master. We pray for that service, and for the time when we can understand the mercy of Lord Nityānanda, who desired *śraddhā-mātra* (only our faith), and who would then *den parama-ānanda* (give us the topmost divine bliss). We beg for the day when we can understand Lord Nityānanda's promise that *ek-bār dekhle* (upon seeing just once) *cakṣe jal* (tears in our eyes) *'gaura' bole'* (while we chant the name of Gaura) *nitāi den* (Lord Nityānanda will give) *sakala sambal* (all support and spiritual riches). We pray for your mercy so that we can understand the prayer of Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura in which he prays to Lord Kṛṣṇa: *nā theliho* (please do not push me away) *rāṅgā pāy* (from Your reddish lotus feet). *Tomā bine* (without You) *ke āche āmāra* (who is there for me?).

We thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for showing us the essence of perfection in devotional service. We

hope you will accept our humble offering. We aspire to simply follow your teachings faithfully.

Your servants at Śaraṇāgati Dhāma, British Columbia, Canada.

The Temple of the Holy Name

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I've been sharing your books with a variety of people lately. I thought you might enjoy hearing their responses.

I sat on a university lawn with a dozen students in North Carolina. They took turns, each reading one sentence from your discussion of Darwin's philosophy given in *Beyond Illusion and Doubt*.

The first student read, "As soon as one says 'chance,' it means his knowledge is imperfect."

The next student read, "A man says 'chance' when he cannot explain. It is evasive. So the conclusion is that he is without perfect knowledge and therefore unfit for giving *any* knowledge."

Although these students claimed to be atheists, they cheered when their classmate read your conclusion: "He is cheating, that's all." Many of them skipped class to finish reading the chapter.

In Charleston, South Carolina, a soldier purchased *The Science of Self-Realization*. Since he had so many sincere questions, I asked if he'd like to sit and read for awhile. He chose the chapter entitled "Crime: Why and What To Do?" Together, we read your conversation with Lieutenant Mozee of the Chicago Police Department.

[Śrīla Prabhupāda:] [Y]ou should give us the facility to chant the holy name of God and distribute *prasādam*. Then there will be a tremendous change in the population. I came alone from India, and now I have many followers. What did I do? I asked them to sit down and chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*, and afterward I distributed a little *prasādam*. If this is done on a mass scale, the entire society will become very pleasing. This is a fact.

I told the soldier a bit of your history, how you traveled to a foreign country at an advanced age with no money and no support. He was impressed with your conviction and boldness. "He knows how to play his cards." The soldier said, "I like this guy! I respect him and look forward to reading the rest of his book."

Your best audience today is the yoga community. We hold *kīrtana* in their studios and then have the group take turns reading a few pages from *The Perfection of Yoga*. They love this paragraph in particular;

People are paying money to attend classes in gymnastic exercises and deep-breathing, and they're happy if they think they can lengthen their lifetimes by a few years or enjoy better sex life. But we must understand that this is not the actual yoga system. . . . But if we're content at making a show of meditation by sitting very straight in lotus position and going into a trance like some sort of performer, then that is a different thing. But we should understand that such show-bottle performances have nothing to do with the actual perfection of yoga. The material disease cannot be cured by artificial medicine. We have to take the real cure straight from Kṛṣṇa."

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I could never speak so boldly. If I were to try, I would come across like the veterinarian's student who pounded a horse's neck with a hammer after seeing his teacher do it. The student imitated the procedure without knowing that the particular horse his teacher treated had a melon lodged in his throat. As a result, the foolish student's imitation only caused harm. You know how and when to administer strong words. I let your books do the heavy lifting. Initially your readers are shocked that anyone could be so bold. Their first response is to laugh in disbelief. As we read on, though, they admit defeat. They've been defeated and appreciate it. They appreciate the challenge, the chance to grow, even as they wince in pain.

Our job is to simply bring them to your words and encourage them to read.

Your servants at The Temple of the Holy Name, Prabhupāda Village, North Carolina, USA.

Vṛndā-kuṇḍa

*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*

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Once in Vṛndāvana you were walking around the temple and my dear godbrother Viśāla was shouting “Śrī Vṛndāvana-kī jaya! Śrī Vṛndāvana-kī jaya!” You looked at him and asked, “So you like this place?” Viśāla answered, “Oh yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, it's wonderful!” You raised your hand in the air and with a flick of your wrist replied, “Then take it, it's yours!”

So this is the power of the pure devotee—that you can give us the most holy *dhāma* of Vṛndāvana with just a flick of your wrist. Although we are most unqualified and still have very little realization of the glories of Vṛndāvana, you have given it to us! How can we ever repay you for the incredible mercy you have showered upon us?

In my own small way I'm trying to help the devotees relish the holy *dhāma*. I want everyone to experience the mercy you have given us. I don't know how many lifetimes it will take to repay the most amazing gift you have given us.

Vṛndāvana has changed so much since you left. I don't think you would be happy to see all the changes, but you would be happy that now people are taking notice of Vṛndāvana. Here at Vṛndā-kuṇḍa we have dedicated this project at your lotus feet to show everyone the Vṛndāvana you wanted us to see. Please inspire us more and more in this service, and please shower your mercy and blessings on all of us connected to Vṛndā-kuṇḍa!

Falling humbly at your divine lotus feet,

Your devotees at Vṛndā-kuṇḍa, Vṛndāvana, India.

(written by Deena Bandhu Dāsa)

Vṛndāvana Samādhi Sevaites

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

You left India at an age when most people retire and went to the West to give what we had forgotten. It was certainly an enormous challenge to bring us up to the level of human beings and then consign us to the inexorable road of the nectar of devotion. Because of economics and culture, this would seem to be an impossible dream. Nevertheless, your dreams just got bigger and bigger, until you accomplished the goal. “Even if I make one pure devotee, my mission will have been successful.” At the time of those beginnings, there was an American preacher who was famous for a speech that began with the words “I have a dream.” Your dreams contained more than he could have ever imagined. Your dreams were not dreams. Your connection with your spiritual master and Kṛṣṇa reached far beyond. How can we even dream of reaching even an inch of that?

You said, “My only qualification is that I have not changed anything—neither added nor subtracted.” We have tried very hard to avoid changing things. I don’t know how closely we’ve followed. It’s just so tempting to justify this and that by “Well, it’s for Kṛṣṇa; so it must be good.” By the creation of our association in the temples you have arranged for us to be pulled back on track. Am I willing to be pulled back?

But your association is the strongest pull. We have therefore the mercy of Lord Caitanya and His associates in every size and variety: your ISKCON sandwich of *maṅgala-ārati*, *tulasī-pūjā*, sixteen rounds of *japa*, *guru-pūjā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class, evening *ārati*, *Bhagavad-gītā* class, and an amazing diversity of services in between: real welfare work. And there are VIHE intensive study groups and offshoots that have caught on everywhere, to produce Bhakti-śāstrīs, Bhakti-vaibhavas, Bhaktivedāntas—not as fast as you had proposed, but it finally attained momentum. There are book distribution, dramas, light shows, Sunday Love Feasts, Deity worship, grand festivals we can take to the streets, *harināma*, *gurukulas*, farm communities, preaching centers of all kinds, temples, Kārtika *parikramās*, life membership. There is no end to the opportunities for us to purify others and be purified by the process you gave us.

Most of all, for us Samādhi Sevaites in Vṛndāvana, there is your home and your sacred resting place, your Samādhi, where you have made yourself so exclusively accessible. How can we thank you enough for this association? It’s impossible. But each and every one of us prays that we “die trying.” You have given us the goal of life. We found the connection, and we did not even know we were unconnected.

Your presence is undeniable here, even if we can’t recognize the availability wherever your books are read and distributed, and we offer our meager service as diligently as we are capable.

I pray that I take full advantage of what you have given us, and die trying.

Your Vṛndāvana Samādhi Sevaites.

(written by Pārvatī Devī Dāsī)

Yashodapura Ashram

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to thank you for the chance to glorify you, although we aren't really qualified to do so.

In ancient times this land of Kambujadesa (Cambodia) was greatly devoted to the Vedic culture. Many aspects of daily life were conducted according to that culture. We were informed that there were many *āśramas* and *gurukulas* where *brāhmaṇas* underwent austerities, studied, taught, and performed other brahminical activities. At that time the *brāhmaṇas* were protected by genuine *kṣatriya* kings. Also, some *brāhmaṇas* became the kings' advisors. The king would manage the water canals and distribute land to the *vaiśyas* to produce food grain. The *vaiśyas* would pay taxes to king, and the king would protect them and administer their prosperity. Thus the Vedic social system was nicely followed so that the people of ancient Kambujadesa lived happily.

Angkor Wat was previously named Vrah Vishnuloka, indicating that it was the very center of Vedic culture, i.e., for the satisfaction of Viṣṇu (*yajña vai viṣṇuḥ*). Your Divine Grace has informed us that Lord Kṛṣṇa is the original Viṣṇu. Day by day, by the advancement of Kali-yuga, this Vedic system is no longer being properly followed. People in Cambodia are now missing this point of devotion to Lord Viṣṇu/Kṛṣṇa, or in another words they have forgotten Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are very merciful. Because of your efforts and those of your followers, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is now accessible in most places in the world, including Cambodia. Preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the greatest welfare work for human society. In the mood of serving Your Divine Grace's mission, we would like to help deliver your teachings to the people of Siem Reap in particular and to Cambodians in general.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have been distributing *prasādam* in different places in Siem Reap. We usually choose one school. Sometimes we go to different places in the village. We thank you for your mercy. Several devotees outside Cambodia have been supporting this program. We will continue distributing this mercy of the Lord in this way, hoping that the people become purified and after some time become inspired to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness, if not in this lifetime then in the next.

When our center was in Phnom Penh, we printed several of your books in the Khmer language. We have been distributing these Khmer books to people here when we personally meet them or on *harināma*. We will continue distributing the existing Khmer books to people here. Also, a Khmer devotee in Canada, Prasannātmā Prabhu, has been revising these books and also translating your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* into Khmer. We pray to Your Divine Grace that the Khmer edition of your *Bhagavad-gītā* will manifest soon.

Yashodapura Eco Village is also progressing. We have become closer to the villagers where that project is situated. Devotees also now have legal authorization to stay in the village and do Kṛṣṇa conscious activities, both in the village and in the project. We are now fencing off a plot of the land. We have made good connections with the villagers by renting them the land, with the condition that they would not use chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizers. This reminds them to protect Mother Earth. Also, we have started our plan to be able to keep a cow on the land.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, there are several auspicious signs that your mission here in Cambodia is starting to expand. It seems to us that Your Divine Grace has prepared the setting here to establish your mission more solidly. Just recently a Cambodian man joined us on our visit to Māyāpur and Vṛndāvana, and during

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this time he became a serious practicing devotee. Also, two students are staying with us now, and we have high hopes that in time they will also become serious practicing devotees.

We pray to Your Divine Grace that these are good signs that our center here is making real progress. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants in Yashodapura Ashram, Siem Reap, Cambodia.