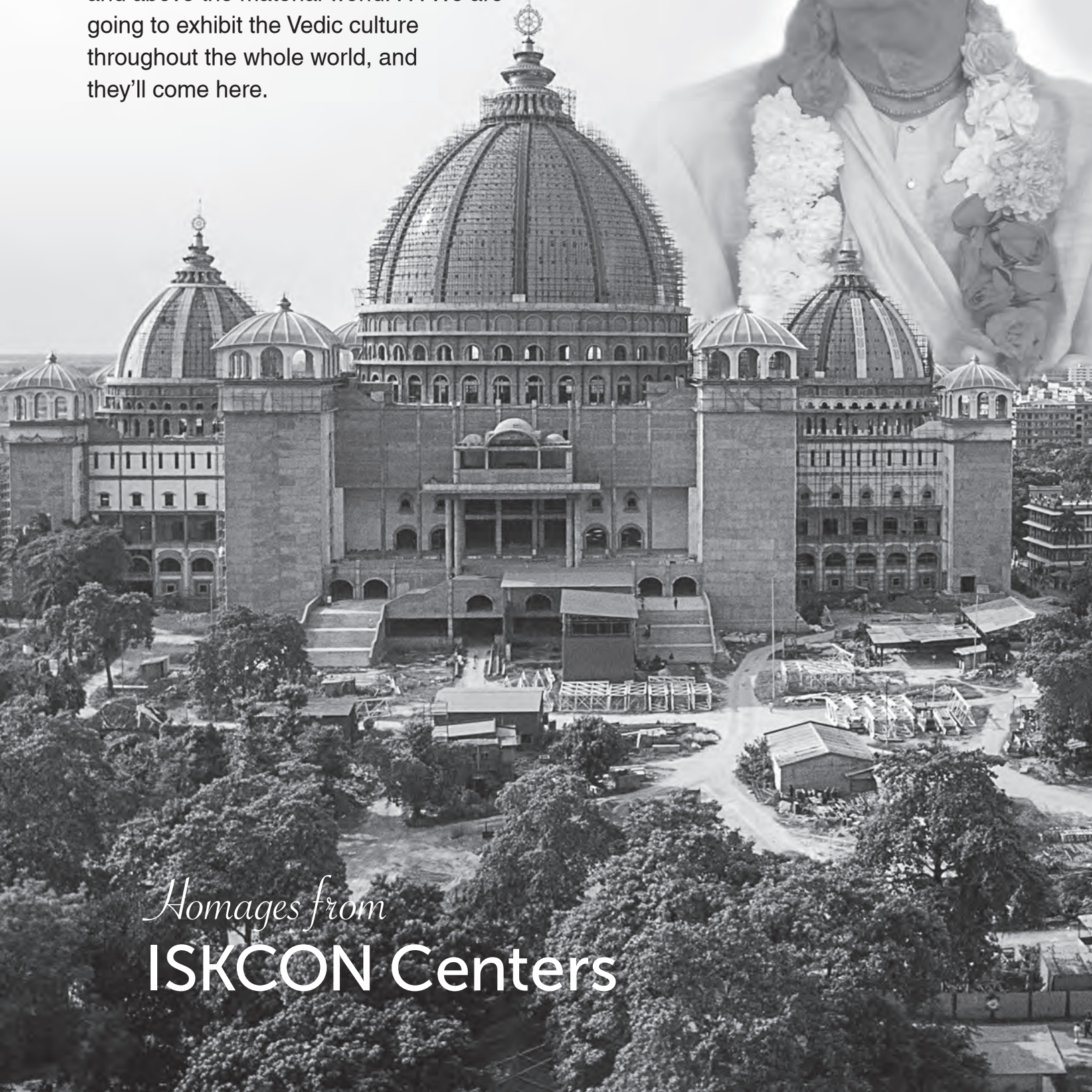
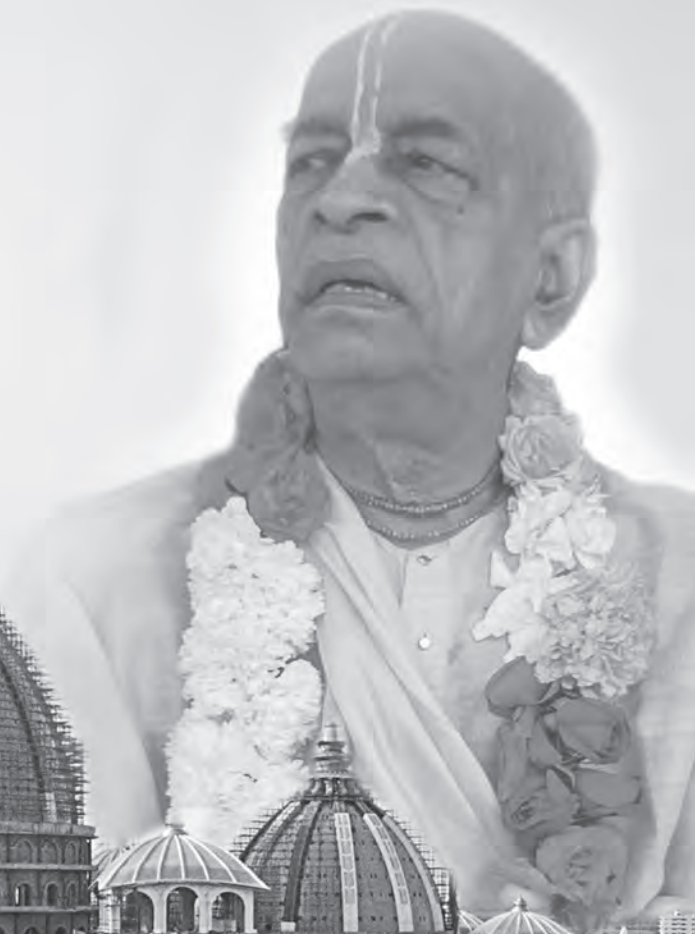


No "Understanding," simply Vedic—
"Temple of Vedic Planetarium." That's all.
We shall show the Vedic conception of
planetary system within this material world
and above the material world. . . . We are
going to exhibit the Vedic culture
throughout the whole world, and
they'll come here.



Homages from
ISKCON Centers

Abentheuer

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you and your wonderful mission.

Last year, the sweet devotees of your Goloka Dhāma temple here in Abentheuer made wonderful new steps in improving our managerial structure. They did so with the desire to increase the quality of our service to you. You personally showed us how wonderfully you used your managerial skills to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Shortly before departing this world, you asked Girirāja Swami how your movement would go on even after your departure. After his attempted answer, you told him: “Organization and intelligence.” We beg your blessings to imbibe both of them in our sincere attempts to improve and intensify our service at your lotus feet. Your dear disciples Rasamaṇḍala Dāsa and Anuttama Dāsa are assisting us greatly in this, and we wish to acknowledge their services and glorify them for all their support and care.

At the moment, we are trying to apply these managerial tools, especially through team building. We hope that more and more devotees in our community will be inspired to serve together and get strength from one another through jointly serving your mission.

This year your missionary mood and intense desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness also deeply resonate in our hearts, and even though our community is situated in a national park, we are now trying to develop more strategies to distribute the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to a greater number of sincere souls. Kṛṣṇa is kindly assisting us by sending many sincere souls who come as volunteers with a desire to experience community life; some of them “miraculously” become devotees by practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This is possible only by your mercy.

Please send your kind blessings to all the dedicated devotees serving in our community and allow us to wonderfully represent you to the German people and to the world. Your powerful blessings are what we need most, for they can make everything possible. Please allow our team to be deeply connected to you through regularly reading your books and serving your mission with dedication.

Your devotees in Goloka Dhāma, Abentheuer, Germany.

(written by Gaurahari Dāsa)

Abidjan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, grandfather, savior of the whole world.

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

What a great joy to know that we are also part of your glorious family! Indeed, you built a house in which everyone can live peacefully and harmoniously. What else do we need?

We are accountable for ever little action we perform in this material world, and no one escape the consequences of his actions. But we have the strong feeling that you have been acting and continue to act like our infallible lawyer—negotiating a reprieve for our previous sins—and so there is no need to fear anything even though devotional service is not at all easy to practice in this Age of Kali.

In the *Bhagavad-gītā* (9.30) Kṛṣṇa says:

*api cet su-durācāro bhajate mām ananya-bhāḥ
sādhur eva sa mantavyaḥ samyag vyavasito hi saḥ*

“Even if one commits the most abominable action, if he is engaged in devotional service he is to be considered saintly because he is properly situated in his determination.”

Please bless us so that we don’t misunderstand this verse and act whimsically, something you warn us about in the purport, where you carefully distinguish between an accidental falldown due to strong material conditioning and a whimsical falldown due to our laziness and not being serious in our devotional service.

So, your mercy is always available; it is up to us to choose to accept it and become qualified for it. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mercy is much needed.

Please assist us so we can make your ISKCON temple in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, very strong for your pleasure and that of Lord Kṛṣṇa and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. Then we will be able to defeat Māyā’s army, which is very difficult to overcome.

We ever remain prostrated at your holy feet and always beg for your mercy.

Your servants at ISKCON’s yātrā in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

Aguascalientes

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humblest obeisances under the dust of your lotus feet, which are the refuge of all the conditioned souls in all the material universes.

As each year passes and we get older, we better understand what you repeated thousands of times in your lectures and lectures: this material body, which covers our true self, is subject to birth, old age, illness, and death. During these years, many of us are suffering, and soon death will come. Because of your mercy, we are chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, the antidote that ensures that we won’t have to return to this material world and again suffer that fourfold misery or, worse, have to repeat it a million times more.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will never be able to repay you for the blessing you have bestowed upon us to get us out of this material body and obtain Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s mercy.

We prostrate ourselves at your lotus feet. May you continue to bless us so that we won’t forget the goal of human life—self-realization and Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your most fallen and aspiring servants at ISKCON Aguascalientes, Mexico.

(written by Premānanda Dāsa)

Amravati

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet on this most auspicious 123rd anniversary of your appearance. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Vyāsa-pūjā day deepens fond memories of your glories as well as your intimate personal love and compassion for all of us. It brings us immensely closer to you. And the closer we are to you, the deeper our spiritual realization. Ideally, your appearance should be celebrated every day of the year, since we are your sincere followers. For us, you appear almost at every moment in our lives. As we strive to serve you with utmost sincerity, you transcend time and space and appear constantly in our hearts. Therefore each moment becomes a Vyāsa-pūjā festival.

Understanding the divinity of Kṛṣṇa's appearance liberates one from bondage, and the same is true for understanding the significance of the appearance of a pure devotee like you.

While contemplating the significance of your appearance in this world, I came across the following passages of *śāstra*. The *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 3.6) speaks about the rarity of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's appearance in this world, once in a day of Brahmā:

*brahmāra eka dine tirho eka-bāra
avatīrṇa hañā kareṇa prakāṣa vihāra*

“Once in a day of Brahma, He descends to this world to manifest His transcendental pastimes.”

And in the Kali-yuga after the Dvāpara-yuga when Kṛṣṇa appears in Mathurā, He appears in Navadvīpa as Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu to bestow the most rare *vraja-prema* through *prema-nāma-saṅkīrtana*. In the *Caitanya-maṅgala* (*Sūtra-khaṇḍa*, song 12.565) Lord Caitanya Himself further predicts:

*ebe nāma-saṅkīrtana tīkṣṇa khaḍga laiṇā
antara asura jīvera phelibe kṛtīṇā*

*yadi pāpi chāḍi dharma dūre deśe yāya
mora senāpati-bhakta yāibe tathāya*

“Taking the sharp sword of the congregational chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, I will root out and destroy the demoniac mentality in the hearts of all conditioned souls. If some sinful people escape, going to far-off countries, then my *senāpati-bhakta* [general of the devotees] will come at that time to give them Kṛṣṇa consciousness.” (*Caitanya-maṅgala*, *Sūtra-khaṇḍa* 564–65)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as Kṛṣṇa and Caitanya Mahāprabhu appear only once in a day of Brahmā to offer the most rare love of God experienced by Vṛndāvana's residents, so Your Divine Grace, as Their eternal associate, also appear only once in a day of Brahmā to spread that love all over the planet. There is no exaggeration in this conclusion.

The longer one serves in the *saṅkīrtana* movement, the deeper one realizes your unique contribution, not only for the people of this Kali-yuga but for the entire day of Brahmā.

In the past few years, a lot of spiritual organizations and “sadhus” have appeared everywhere, thus apparently causing the virtual tsunami of spirituality that has inundated the globe. But these questions arise: “Where were they fifty years ago?” and “What has actually caused this huge spiritual wave to come?” The natural answer is that you were the only one who not only inaugurated the worldwide *saṅkīrtana* movement but also became the cause of this worldwide spiritual wave.

Seeing the impact of pure devotion and the preaching mood of ISKCON, many “sadhus” are trying to capitalize on the growing interest in spirituality. But ISKCON has proven uniquely successful in truly

transforming the lives of the most fallen and ignorant people of Kali-yuga. The point to ponder here is why all these so-called spiritual organizations have been unable to transform the lives of the fallen souls. Why does ISKCON have this unique transcendental effect? From the previous references, it is obviously very clear that you were the only empowered servant, the Lord's agent who was especially empowered to spread the holy name globally. And gradually, as a devotee surrenders completely unto you, this divine empowerment will be transferred with utmost efficacy.

There is no one like you in this whole creation, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are really exceptional.

So hereby we would like to offer you a report of our last year's minuscule efforts at devotional service in Amravati.

Since Vyāsa-pūjā 2017 we have been conducting a weekly Sunday morning *harināma-saṅkīrtana* party in different localities of Amravati, and so on this day we have completed two years of uninterrupted *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, due to which the awareness of ISKCON has gradually spread all over the town.

This year we also had our second Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā Festival, which was appreciated by all.

Youth preaching has been revived and has been going on for the last ten months, and the first small youth VOICE Center is running successfully.

Gradually the book distribution scores are increasing due to the Gītā Contest as well as *harināma-saṅkīrtana*.

Mass preaching through *bhāgavata-kathā* and *Bhagavad-gītā* courses has also increased.

The Nāmahaṭṭa preaching is gradually spreading its wings to the villages in the vicinity.

There is also a very strong desire in the whole Vaiṣṇava community here to offer at least a renovated temple to your dear Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārakādhīśa by next year on their 20th Installation Anniversary.

Now we need to seriously accept the responsibility of fulfilling your glorious mission. And it's sure that it can happen only by our increased dedication unto you. So from now on, to develop that dedication, we are starting a weekly Prabhupāda-līlā-kathā program.

Please kindly bless us so that we can become humble instruments in your hands.

We are eternally grateful to you from the depths of our hearts for everything you have given us, and for this divine service privilege, by which we have inherited your legacy.

Aspiring to be your eternal servants, we remain

Your devotees at ISKCON Amravati, Maharashtra, India.

(written by Ananta-śeṣa Dāsa)

Atlanta

*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*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet on this 123rd anniversary of your divine appearance in Calcutta, West Bengal, India.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

It is clear that your appearance is divine. You are not a conditioned soul who took birth due to his karmic reactions. Rather, you appeared out of your causeless mercy to save the condition souls of Kali-yuga by expanding the divine mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Lord Kṛṣṇa appeared as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu 533 years ago for two primary reasons. One was to give special mercy by making pure love of Godhead easily available even to those unqualified to receive it, and the other was to taste the nectar of devotion to Himself, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

It is this second reason that our previous *ācāryas* consider the primary reason for the Lord's descent, and it is through this nectar of devotion that the holy name of Kṛṣṇa is spreading all over the world. You are the current *nitya-siddha*, a specially empowered soul who came and made this nectar available in every town and village of the world by your example and through your instructions.

The nectar of *harināma-saṅkīrtana* that you launched continues to expand worldwide. It has even reached China, one of the countries devotees did not visit while you were still present. You desired the preaching to open up there, and you even blessed devotees to do that work in the future. This is your mercy—that you saved some preaching nectar for your granddisciples. In conversations with your disciples about why it took so long for a pure devotee to come to the West, you stated that Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura could have singlehandedly completed the work, but out of his kindness he left some preaching nectar for you. You have also left some for us.

At the time of your divine disappearance in 1977, you had opened 108 temples worldwide, a task that took you only eleven years to complete. Even nondevotees consider this an extraordinary achievement. And just forty-two years after your departure we now have approximately 650 temples worldwide.

Of course, we understand that the nectar of *saṅkīrtana* is spreading because your followers keep your instructions close to their hearts. They are teaching others to follow and practice *saṅkīrtana* as you have given it to us. They are cooperating with your management body, the GBC, because you stated that this will please you. The secret to success in *saṅkīrtana* is to adhere to the principles and mood you exemplified as ISKCON's founder-*ācārya*. As a result of following this work ethic, your ISKCON Society is expanding worldwide, and those who participate in it are tasting the ever-expanding nectar Lord Caitanya Himself wanted to taste.

Lord Caitanya states in His *Śikṣāṣṭaka* (1), *paraṁ vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam*: “Glory to the *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana*! *Ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam*: “It cleanses the heart of all unwanted things.” And *prati-padaṁ pūrṇāmytāsvādanam*: “It enables us to taste at every step the nectar for which we are always anxious.”

Because you taught the practice of *saṅkīrtana* in Lord Caitanya's mood, as expressed in this verse, the Lord's holy name is being chanted and worshiped all over the world. You showed us how to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness by setting the example of fearless preaching and opening new centers. “Just depend on Kṛṣṇa,” you said. “We are the sons and daughters of the richest person in existence. We don't have to worry.” How else could a penniless swami carry off such an impossible task? How else is it that even after your physical departure your movement is still growing?

We have to have faith in your instruction to cooperate with the GBC and one another. We need to tolerate one another's faults, understanding that they are not impediments to the *saṅkīrtana* movement. Lord Kṛṣṇa says at the end of the *Gītā* that if we surrender to Him He will protect us from all sinful reactions: “Have no fear.” That protection is your watchful eye and your guidance, which you left us in the form of your books, lectures, letters, example, and the ISKCON Society.

We at ISKCON Atlanta pray to you on this most sacred day that you continue to forgive us for our shortcomings in serving you, that you give us extra mercy so we can understand how to live by the principles of devotional service you taught, and that we continue to taste and expand the nectar of *saṅkīrtana*.

Your servants at ISKCON Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

(written by Śikhi Māhiti Dāsa)



Baha

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga! All glories to you!

You are very dear to your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Gosvāmī Prabhupāda, who ordered you to take the message of the pure teachings of Śrī Caitanyadeva to the Western countries, which are full of demonic people. Without any personal consideration, you put your full faith in your Guru Mahārāja's order to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the most fallen conditioned souls, such as ourselves. You surrendered everything to Kṛṣṇa and, guided by the hand of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you acted as His instrument.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, from your childhood you were focused on the transcendental. For example, when you were young you performed a Ratha-yātrā festival, and everyone could understand that you were not an ordinary boy. Later, by the grace and order of your spiritual master, you had the desire to preach and develop the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement throughout the world. What you brought for us *jīvas* in the human form of life is the highest gift: Kṛṣṇa. You gave us the chance to chant His holy name, offer Him some service, and develop our love for Him. The whole world is facing disaster due to its lack of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We feel that *māyā* is very strong. In a room conversation, one of your disciples asked, "Prabhupāda, why is *māyā* so strong if our purpose is to be with God?" You replied, "No, your purpose is not strong." So it is just a question of having faith in the guru's words. Because we don't have a desire to serve Kṛṣṇa and want to be like God ourselves, He sends us to the material world and we suffer repeatedly. We do not want to realize our constitutional position as souls. That is our problem. But you came to give us the light of real knowledge so we can be fixed in the transcendental position.

"We are not the body but a soul." This is what you usually emphasized to your disciples. The soul has to serve the Supersoul because only by serving Him with love and devotion can the soul be freed from all miseries and become happy. All over the world you changed hippies into happies. You are so special, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You endeavored seriously and sincerely to transform this material world into the spiritual world. You were an old man, yet still you set a great example for the whole world of how a disciple should be. You once said, "There is no question of becoming perfect. *Try* to become perfect. That is perfect. . . . Remain always student and try to become perfect. That is wanted." You showed us that all credit for whatever we do on the devotional path should go to our spiritual master. It is only because we have received his mercy that we can render service to Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all glories to you. You started this movement by giving your life to fulfilling the expressed desires of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. All glories to you. You brought Śrī Harināma Prabhu to the Western countries and encouraged people as much as possible to take Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously and spread it all over the world. Although you did this wonderful thing, still you thought that all of this was done by your Guru Mahārāja. What a wonderful devotee you are! Such humility is one of the characteristics of a Vaiṣṇava. In every aspect of your life you teach us how to become humble servants of the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa and the guru.

Now, all over the world, by your causeless mercy, many people are joining this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and trying to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness according to their ability. Therefore it is our duty to keep the devotees well, teach them to cooperate with one another, and train them in the right way, as

you did with your disciples. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are so merciful. Kindly accept us and train and inspire us from within the heart how to serve Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga. Kindly guide us to offer Lord Kṛṣṇa devotional service in order to become His humble servants

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg for your mercy. Although you are not physically present, we understand you are still living in your books. Therefore we repeatedly beg you to kindly guide, train, and inspire us to become instruments in your hands to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world. Thank you very much. Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha Mandir, Baha, Bali, Indonesia.

Brahmapur

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious occasion of your appearance day, we, the devotees at ISKCON Brahmapur offer our grateful hearts unto your lotus feet.

As time unfolds, we see that your dreams are coming true. Your simplicity, magnanimity, and compassion for the suffering people of the world have given us the opportunity to experience the power of the Lord's holy name.

By your mercy we have many enthusiastic devotees who are very seriously participating in distributing your books to the people in India's interior villages. Every Sunday our congregational devotees and youth go to different villages to distribute your books.

We are also on the verge of completing our temple construction. The granite work on the ground-floor hall and the first-floor temple room is now complete. The main altar room is also complete, done in Italian marble. All the glass windows have also been fitted. This year we plan to finish the marble design railing, the teakwood carving on the main altar, all the wooden door work, and the grading of the terrace. This year we also acquired a new plot of land near the temple so that we can increase our activities in the future.

As the Age of Kali progresses, we find more and more internal and external challenges in spreading the holy name of the Lord. At the same time, we are confident of the shelter you have offered us in the form of ISKCON.

Please bless us so that we can have deep faith in your instructions and the strength to follow them even in adverse situations.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.2.8) we read that any activity we perform must increase our interest in hearing and chanting about Lord Kṛṣṇa; otherwise, that activity is a waste of time. Please bless us so that we can give up all selfish desires and increase our interest in hearing and chanting the glories of the Lord more and more.

Your eternal servants at ISKCON Brahmapur, India.

Brampton

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

First we would like to offer our heartfelt, sincere gratitude for giving us the opportunity to develop profound *kṛṣṇa-prema* through following the principles of *sādhana*, *sat-saṅga*, and *sadācāra* that you so meticulously taught us, with Lord Kṛṣṇa in the center of our activities.

“Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 3.21)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, following the instructions of your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, at the age of sixty-nine you crossed two oceans and three continents to bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West. Your only motive was to teach people that Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the ultimate goal of life and that it is the duty of every soul to surrender to Him. You taught us that a sincere and earnest heart is required to receive Kṛṣṇa’s grace through the *guru-paramparā*. You never demanded respect but always commanded respect by your purity, your power of love for the fallen conditioned souls, and your sincere desire that they transform their lives through the culture of unalloyed *bhakti-yoga*. Leading by example, you are the topmost surrendered devotee, possessing in full all twenty-six qualities of a devotee enumerated in the *śāstra*. Holding on to your lotus feet, we beg your mercy and blessings to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī and Their devotees in the ISKCON Brampton congregation with humility, compassion, and sincerity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to inform you of some of the major achievements of our community so far this year. With your mercy and under His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami’s direction, we have been able to move from a rented facility to our own property in order to better serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī. Our congregation has been growing to the point where even the new temple looks small during festival days. This is all due to your endless mercy.

A dedicated team of devotees has been energetically working to engage all congregation members in the *saṅkīrtana* movement. Last year we were able to distribute more than four thousand books with your blessings. You always wanted congregational members to stay connected and work together as one family, and we are trying to achieve that through devotional services such as *bhakti-vṛkṣas*, *vaiṣṇavī-saṅgas*, Deity worship, congregational chanting, regular Sunday feasts, and festival activities. Since we are a Vedic center, Kṛṣṇa conscious education has been our primary goal. Our Sunday school has over fifty students of varying ages from 5 to 14. Our Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī Vṛnda youth group (ages 15 to 27) has about 14 members. The older devotees enhance their knowledge by participating in Vedic courses and seminars throughout the year. We have been able to add more families and members to our congregation each week. All of this has been possible only because of your causeless mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a pure representative of the Supreme Lord, serving Kṛṣṇa twenty-four hours a day. It was your total surrender and dedication to the Lord that inspired and continues to inspire, through both your *vāṇī* and your *vapu*, so much love and adoration in the hearts of your followers. We beg your mercy so we can keep our congregational members together with Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī in the center and never allow ourselves to become separated from Them in our hearts. On this day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we promise to constantly re-evaluate our priorities by serving Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī and His devotees first and to always derive our greatest happiness by preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness to one and all.

Your insignificant menial servants at ISKCON’s devotee community in Brampton, Canada.

Budapest

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The year 2018 was special for Hungary, since it was in that year that the first volume of the unabridged *Śrīla Prabhupāda-Līlāmṛta*, your biography written by your dear disciple Satsvarūpa Dāsa Goswami, was published in Hungarian. For many years we had had the abridged version, but we couldn't wait to have the complete edition, with all the details of Your Divine Grace's life and adventures. As soon as the first volume came out, we started reading about you each morning at breakfast at the Budapest temple in order to get to know you better and come closer to you. Reading about you every day with the devotees made our days special. We were able to collectively absorb our minds in you on a deeper level than ever before. During our readings, there were times when we were amazed by your courage, deeply touched by your compassion, startled by your divine, superhuman efforts, and moved by your dedication to the spreading of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission. To preach in the West was an instruction given to you by your spiritual master, and you took it fully to heart and made it your life and soul. Because of your commitment, Kṛṣṇa gave you all facility and success.

Even though we had always known that you received an instruction from your Guru Mahārāja to preach in the West, the *Līlāmṛta* has given us insight into what you went through to actually bring us Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your selfless, compassionate mood is perfectly expressed by Prahāda Mahārāja in one of his prayers to Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva that you often quoted:

My dear Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva, I see that there are many saintly persons indeed, but they are interested only in their own deliverance. Not caring for the big cities and towns, they go to the Himalayas or the forest to meditate with vows of silence [*mauna-vrata*]. They are not interested in delivering others. As for me, however, I do not wish to be liberated alone, leaving aside all these poor fools and rascals. I know that without Kṛṣṇa consciousness, without taking shelter of Your lotus feet, one cannot be happy. Therefore I wish to bring them back to shelter at Your lotus feet. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.9.44]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were never interested in your personal success; you have always been the well-wisher of others, the well-wisher of the whole universe.

You begin your purport to Prahāda's verse with an extraordinary statement: "This is the decision of the Vaiṣṇava, the pure devotee of the Lord." And this was *your* decision, Śrīla Prabhupāda: to come to the West and then deliver the whole world, although you knew what it would take. This proves your causeless mercy.

You continue your purport, writing:

[The devotee's] interest is in the busiest part of the world, where he teaches people Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement was started for this purpose. . . . One wanders within the universe, life after life, but by the grace of a devotee, a servant of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, one can get the clue to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and then not only become happy in this world but also return home, back to Godhead. That is the real target in life. . . . The members of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement must be fully convinced that without Kṛṣṇa one cannot be happy.

You are that devotee, a true servant of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who has given us the clue to Kṛṣṇa consciousness so that we can become happy and eligible to return home, back to Godhead. You have given us a real target in life, since you have full conviction.

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You have shown us what it means to strictly follow the order of the spiritual master by yourself taking your Guru Mahārāja's order as your life and soul. That was your secret, which you kindly and generously shared with us. As you write in a Fourth Canto purport:

When one becomes serious to follow the mission of the spiritual master, his resolution is tantamount to seeing the Supreme Personality of Godhead. As explained before, this means meeting the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the instruction of the spiritual master. This is technically called *vāñī-sevā*. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura states in his *Bhagavad-gītā* commentary on the verse beginning *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana* (Bg. 2.41) that one should serve the words of the spiritual master. The disciple must stick to whatever the spiritual master orders. Simply by following on that line, one sees the Supreme Personality of Godhead. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.28.51, purport)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us everything we need to see Kṛṣṇa and go back to Him. Now it is up to us what we do with such a treasure. Please bless us here in Budapest so that we will be able to stick to your order and become serious about expanding your mission. We have great plans for preaching in Budapest in order to serve you, but your blessings and empowerment are indispensable to our success. We would like to offer you more and more books distributed, more devotees who make your mission their life and soul, and a growing and deepening community that evolves into a *varṇāśrama* society. But without your help we are useless. Please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we become worthy of the invaluable inheritance you gave us. Please empower us so that we can make you proud and happy through our preaching efforts.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity for serving you in Budapest.

Your servants at ISKCON Budapest, Hungary.

(written by Gurūttama Dāsa)



Calgary

*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*

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

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

Our *ācāryas* clearly state that people who try to know Caitanya Mahāprabhu without getting the mercy of Nityānanda Prabhu will never be successful. One must humbly pray to Lord Nityānanda Prabhu, who is the original spiritual master, in order to be guided to the lotus feet of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. The two most famous biographies of Caitanya Mahāprabhu were inspired by Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu. Our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda established Lord Nityānanda's Deity along with Lord Caitanya's all over the world to give all *jīvas* the opportunity to receive direct mercy from the ever-compassionate Nityānanda Prabhu.

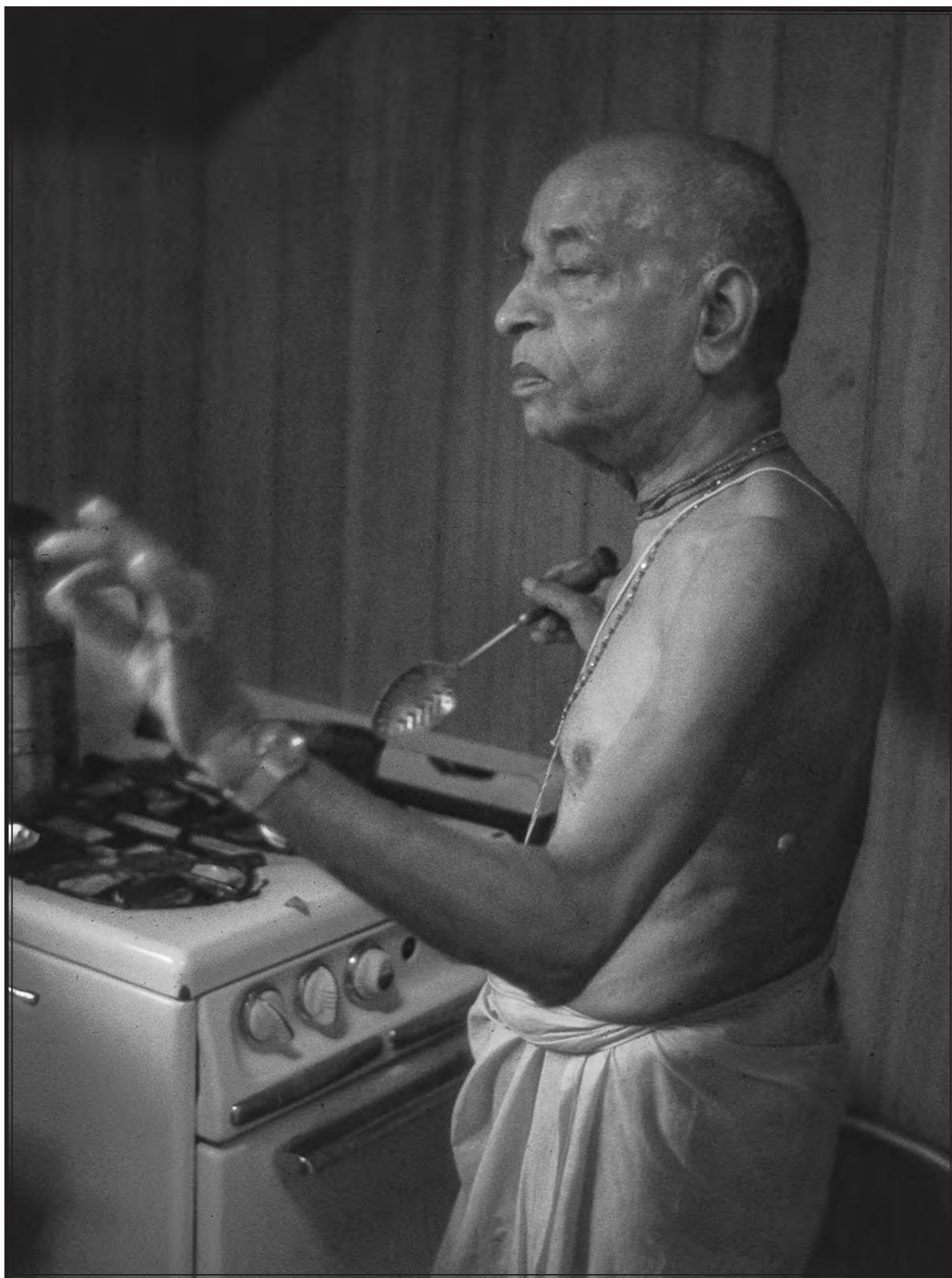
Lord Nityānanda Prabhu appeared in order to please Lord Caitanya by following His orders. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission was to please his Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, by following his orders. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a *prayojana-guru* in this Age of Kali. I'm a follower of your follower, trying to be an insignificant building block in your movement, which is the present days' proven method of spiritual success. For that reason, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you and thus receive a glimpse of the compassionate mercy of Lord Nityānanda.

Haribol.

Your servants in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

(written by Ācāryānidhi Dāsa)

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Canberra

*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*

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

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day we honor the guru, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our spiritual master. Actually, we honor Śrīla Prabhupāda every day all over the world, in all the temples of ISKCON, and also in our minds, words, and deeds, because we are the disciples and followers of Śrīla Prabhupāda, and our spiritual awakening is a product of Śrīla Prabhupāda's dedication.

Śrīla Prabhupāda said that his Guru Mahārāja “sent all you nice boys and girls” to him and that we were his new family. After taking *sannyāsa* he left his own family behind. We knew that he had our best interest at heart, even though at times there were difficulties required in order to establish the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

This preaching was emergency work. Śrīla Prabhupāda worked as if there were no tomorrow, and his disciples also worked as if there were no tomorrow. However, Śrīla Prabhupāda was always more consistent, steady, and expert at everything. He could also walk faster than his young disciples, who seemed to find it difficult to keep up with their elderly guru on morning walks.

Śrīla Prabhupāda said that he did not know how long he had to live, that he was living on borrowed time due to his advanced age and health issues. While aboard the *Jaladuta* he was unsure whether he would survive the dangerous Atlantic Ocean.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's plans for growing the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement exceeded the expectations of all his disciples, and much sacrifice had to be made, but because of Śrīla Prabhupāda's *bhakti* potency and purity of purpose, “impossible” became “a word in a fool's dictionary.”

The name, form, and *līlā* of Lord Kṛṣṇa are now being accepted not only in every town and village of India but all over the world, including places where previously any form of religion was banned, such as Russia, the heart of what was once known as the Soviet Union. In the USSR it is well documented that Karl Marx's ideology of labeling religion “the opium of the people” was heavily enforced by the KGB, the main Soviet security agency.

The magnitude of Śrīla Prabhupāda's achievements and contribution should never be underestimated or taken for granted. Śrīla Prabhupāda was instrumental in changing the course of world history. He was truly fearless, having total faith that Lord Kṛṣṇa was his companion, guide, and protector. Lord Kṛṣṇa was more than just a witness to Śrīla Prabhupāda's activities; He was Śrīla Prabhupāda's friend and beloved, and constantly in his heart and mind. That is Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is wonderful, and the transparent representative of the Lord, the teacher by example, the *ācārya*, always amazes his disciples. The disciples cannot believe their good fortune to be in the presence of such a spiritual master, who is so dear to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and so intimately connected to the mission of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa selected Śrīla Prabhupāda to carry out the difficult task of reconnecting all *jīva* souls to the powerhouse of spiritual energy. Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Paramātmā, selected a special devotee for a special service at a special time and place to unfold Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission. That special devotee was His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda, who became known

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as “the jet-age *parivrājākācārya*.” He circled the world tirelessly by airplane in his preaching efforts, although that mode of travel was unprecedented for a *sādhu* at that time.

From 1966 to 1977, many persons who had never heard of Śrī Kṛṣṇa were drawn to abandon friends, families, studies, and jobs in order to join ISKCON temples full-time and become preachers and disciples of Śrīla Prabhupāda. After some basic training, these disciples were sent out to start new temples in new cities with only a box of *Back to Godhead* magazines, a few packets of incense, and a strong desire to please their guru, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

How could such a thing happen? How could an elderly *sādhu*, beginning at such an advanced age, attract such a dedicated following? This is due to the *acintya-bhakti-śakti* of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, carried by His pure representative, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Śrīla Prabhupāda’s spontaneous attraction to Śrī Kṛṣṇa was powerful enough to compensate for the inexperience of his disciples and to inspire them to also do the impossible.

There is so much more to say. It is all quite amazing. It never ceases to amaze us that this is what Śrīla Prabhupāda made available to the world, something amazingly wonderful—the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Always in appreciation and awe of our spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

His devotees in Canberra, Australia.

(written by Svayambhūr Dāsa)

Cape Town

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are writing from a smallish two-storey house directly opposite the train station in Cape Town, South Africa. After thirty-one years, ISKCON Cape Town has grown into a wonderful congregation of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s devotees. We daily worship Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Māyāpurcandra. With your blessings the *brāhmaṇa* community will grow strong enough for us to install the two “big moons of Māyāpur” by bringing out the larger Deities to stay.

We also hope to train up many devotees at the newly blossoming Bhaktivedanta College.

May we be blessed to worship the Deities and engage others in worshipping Them. May we be blessed to study the scriptures and teach others the scriptures.

Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Māyāpurcandra have decided to take up residence right in the heart of the student town known as Rondebosch, a stone’s throw from one of the top universities in Africa. We meet with students at their campus throughout the week and teach them about devotional life. Another program that’s also blossoming with success is the one being run at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. The devotees in Stellenbosch are also increasing by leaps and bounds by dint of both their intense dedication and your blessings.

You gave us a house in which the whole world can live. Please bless us with the ability to work together to fill it with sincere devotees of the Lord. Please bless us to increase our preaching efforts in order to

bring new potential servant-leaders to the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Māyāpurcandra.

Just as you accomplished so many miracles for Kṛṣṇa by your cent per cent following of the orders of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Ṭhākura, so too do we hope to please you by our own cent per cent following of your divine instructions and by expanding your glorious movement all over the Western Cape—a movement you said is meant to bring about a revolution in the impious lives of a misdirected civilization.

You left us beautiful, simple instructions for successful preaching: books are the basis, purity is the force, preaching is the essence, and utility is the principle.

May the books fly out like hotcakes into the hands of those souls who are starving for spiritual nourishment!

Please let us all take shelter of the force of purity, which will speak for itself!

Please let us preach the essence so that preaching will *be* the essence!

Please let us see with *premāñjana-cchurita-bhakti-vilocanena*. Please, will you smear our eyes with the ointment of love of God so that we are able to see how to utilize everything in the Lord's service?

You worked tirelessly to leave us an ocean of transcendental literature by which we can saturate our consciousness with Kṛṣṇa.

If we took all the books you wrote, from the smallest in size up to the largest volumes of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and printed them in all the languages of the world, and then stacked them in a pile that reached the sky, we would surely realize that we were at the bottom of a stairway to heaven, Goloka Vṛndāvana.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for everything you have done to save us! Please bless us to keep climbing that stairway to Goloka and to also bring other souls on the journey back home, back to Godhead.

May we all remain eternally under your shelter. May we all eternally serve your mission.

Your indebted servants, the devotees at ISKCON Cape Town, South Africa.

Chandigarh

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances unto your divine lotus feet. All glories unto you and your loving followers in the disciplic succession.

On this most blessed day of your appearance, all your followers get this golden opportunity as well as your special mercy to reflect upon and understand your personality more deeply so that we may advance in our love for you and consequently for Kṛṣṇa. Although we can never completely understand or describe your unlimited glories, still, as your small children we are making this humble attempt to please Kṛṣṇa and His devotees.

In one of your lectures on *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Your Divine Grace states, “When Nityānanda was

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preaching in Bengal, He first of all delivered . . . Jagāi and Mādhāi.” (Lecture on *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā* 1.2, Māyāpur, 26 March 1975) They were the most sinful and fallen candidates to preach to at that time. You continued: “That was His first business. He showed how to serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu.” Since Nityānanda Prabhu is the *ādi-guru*, His true representative must be harmonious in heart with Him.

From your pastimes we learn that you displayed the same mood as Nityānanda Prabhu. To nicely serve and glorify your Guru Mahārāja, you took the great risk of going to the West at such an advanced age, without any kind of support. You first of all started preaching to the most fallen people of this Kali-yuga of that time: the hippies.

In the remainder of this offering, we have, in the form of a poem, made an insignificant endeavor to describe your wonderful exchanges with your Guru Mahārāja and also how your mood was the same as Nityānanda Prabhu’s, i.e., to nicely serve one’s *guru* at any cost. By our rendering service in such a devotional mood, we hope that we may also be able to please you and Lord Caitanya. As your aspiring followers, we beg at your lotus feet for a drop of that very same mood so that we may nicely serve and please Lord Nityānanda’s representative in our life, whatever the risk.

Śrīla Prabhupāda’s Miraculous Show

O dear Prabhupāda, if we throw
Ourselves into the ocean of your miraculous show,
We cannot sit idle but quickly, not slow,
Must align ourselves with your devotional flow.

Twenty-six you were when a friend dragged you closer
To Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Mahārāja’s exposure.
At once he implored you—you nearly were floored:
“You are young and educated, please go abroad
And preach the message of Mahāprabhu, the Supreme Lord!”

Appreciated by you, as it touched your heart’s chord,
At the same time you argued him with logical word.
Defeated, you appreciated his every word as a pointed dart;
You immediately accepted him as spiritual master in your heart.

From that day onwards your hankering began
For Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta, “The Vaikuṇṭha Man.”
To meet him in Vṛndāvana, you made a nice plan,
Felt overjoyed by thinking, “I will meet him again.”

On reaching the camp at Kosi, you got a choice:
Either go for Viṣṇu *darśana* or hear Bhaktisiddhānta’s voice.
You thought it wiser to listen, and your mind was clear;
Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta marked you: “He likes to hear.”

Simply hearing *guru* with fastened attention
Awakened your love and strengthened your relation.
By Kṛṣṇa’s arrangement, without any prior mention,
At Allahabad Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta gave you initiation.

On Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta’s 62nd birthday celebration,

You offered a poem and an essay for this occasion:
“Oh! My master the evangelic angel.”
You opened your heart, shining with candle:
“Absolute is sentient, thou hast proved /
Impersonal calamity, thou hast removed.”
To every guest, this stanza Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta showed,
Declaring openly that his heart you had successfully explored.

You never asked your *guru* any question
But “How shall I serve you?”—this is the only one you mention.
Business plans failed but spiritual ones got sanction;
Kṛṣṇa’s special favor you saw in action.

Again, at Rādhā-kuṇḍa, *guru* instructed you with grave looks.
Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta said, “If you ever get money, print books.”
Two ambitious instructions of *guru*; at heart you shook.
You began serving, and relentless attempts it took.

You lived in poverty with no certainty.
How to fulfill *guru*’s instructions was your only anxiety.
A one-man army, you worked to accomplish a task mighty:
Translated and published *Bhāgavatam*, thus pleased the Almighty.

Nobody helped you at the momentous hour of need,
Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta’s instructions were all you did heed.
Endeavored to preach in India but couldn’t succeed;
According to *guru*, success was waiting in the West indeed.

You were longing to go to the West and start anew;
After 43 years of struggle, finally the dream came true.
Got free passage on the *Jaladuta*, a big cargo ship;
As the Lord’s lone *dūta*, you left for America to grip.

With only Rs. 40 in hand you set out on the expedition.
Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Kṛṣṇa’s avatar, was your only ignition.
Despite two heart attacks on the way, you survived to create
A Kṛṣṇa conscious culture for the world to emulate.

Always ready to dance as per Kṛṣṇa’s direction.
Bhaktivedanta your name, Kṛṣṇa proved by mega-exhibition:
108 temples, more than 70 books, and 5,000 disciples worldwide.
Encircled the globe 14 times, unbelievable success came to your side.
Transforming all types of hearts is your real magical tide;
Gave all credit to your *guru*, thus remained free from pride.

Adore, Adore! With full enthusiasm celebrate
Śrīla Prabhupāda’s 123rd Vyāsa-pūjā on this date.
With all humility, at your lotus feet we heartily bow,
We beg for drops of mercy to align us with your devotional flow.
By our serving you with our hearts, love for Kṛṣṇa will always grow.

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This is your glory and that of your miraculous show.

You will be pleased to know, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that your center in Chandigarh is progressing steadily. Devotees are enthusiastic about book distribution. During the marathon of 2018, we distributed 33,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* and *Kṛṣṇa* books (compared to 30,200 last year). Our congregational and youth preaching is progressing well. There was a big initiation ceremony on 6 January 2018, in which 178 devotees took first initiation and forty second initiation. Devotees from Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali, Ludhiana, Shimla, Pilani, Hoshiarpur, Ponta Sahib, and Yamuna Nagar (towns in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Union Territory Chandigarh) were initiated. Our devotees are actively preaching in these areas. We organized eight Ratha-yātrās and nine Shobha Yātrās, which benefited thousands of people who had *darśana* of Lord Jagannātha, heard beautiful *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, and tasted delicious Jagannātha *prasādam*. The Bhakti-vaibhava Course, started two years ago under the aegis of MI, entered its third, penultimate year. We are planning two Bhakti-sāstrī courses in Hindi, one in Chandigarh and the other in Panchkula. These courses will start in the first week of June 2019 for the benefit of the devotees. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we were able to do all this with your blessings and the guidance of senior Vaiṣṇavas. Kindly always continue showering your mercy.

Your beggars for mercy at ISKCON Chandigarh, India.

(poem composed by Vaiṣṇava Priya Gaurāṅga Dāsa)

China

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

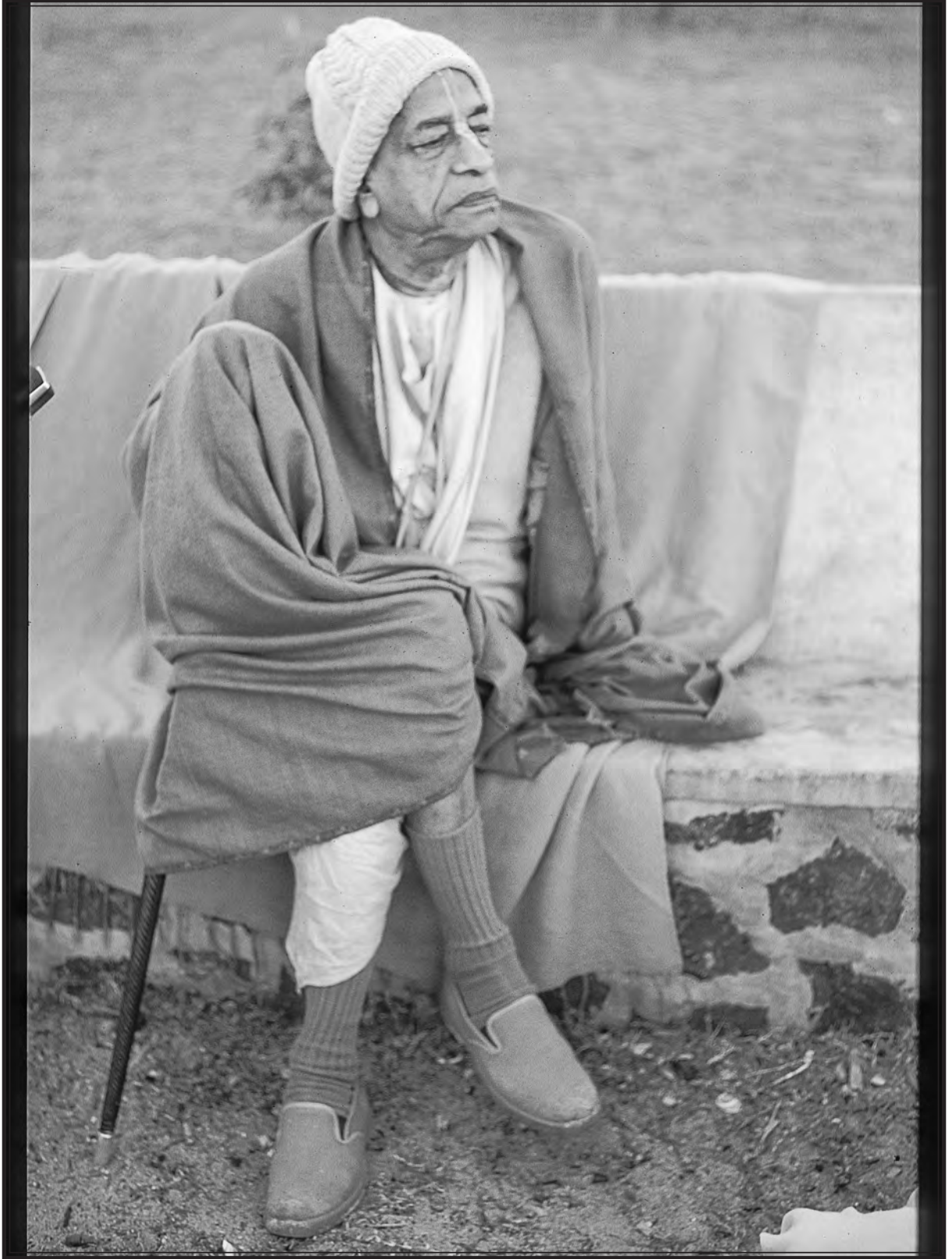
*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet and your preaching mission.

Thank you for instructing His Holiness Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Goswami in 1976 to introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness into China. He took on “the China mission” as his responsibility, and because of his devotion and determination Kṛṣṇa consciousness has taken root and has blossomed in China.

China is a very large country. Since I took up the service as ISKCON China’s general secretary in July last year, I have toured the whole country four times, visiting many dedicated devotees. Each visit lasted about a month, and I could spend only two or three days in each place, but I have not been able to cover all the places where devotees are serving you. We greatly appreciate all the efforts of Tamāl Krishna Goswami and other senior devotees (mostly your disciples) who have helped spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness across China.

We recently did a devotee survey. For a number of reasons, the survey could not be widespread,



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and only 600 devotees submitted completed questionnaires. According to our estimation, the number of Chinese devotees presently serving you in China is between 1,000 and 1,500. Moreover, 30 per cent of that number consists of devotees over 60 years old. Attracting young Chinese to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness is a serious challenge for us.

After visiting the Chinese centers for a little over six months, I concluded that there are many problems among our devotees that require attention. There is a need for more solidarity and cooperation and to upgrade the code of conduct, and more importantly there are several conflicts among devotees, conflicts that weaken the entire community. Let us not forget, however, the condition in which the devotees live. They have no temple, no Deities, and no freedom to do *harināma* or book distribution, and they need to earn a living to support their families. They can meet only once a week for association in apartments. The fact that they are able to maintain their Kṛṣṇa consciousness is quite an achievement. The members of our management team have the same responsibilities, and because of China's sociopolitical situation, we don't have the legal right to practice freely.

In view of all the above, we know that it is very difficult to manage ISKCON China in a comprehensive way. Therefore, over the past six months we have made some management adjustments and achieved some initial results:

1. Training devotees to better manage.
2. Training group leaders and local communicators as the core management.
3. Setting up national group leaders to facilitate overall management.
4. Drafting a Code of Conduct Manual to unify the behavior of the devotees and let the behavior spread by example.
5. Shifting the focus of communication from newcomers to the local devotees and then inspiring the newcomers to become devotees.
6. Gradually establishing a clearer management system so that the team leader becomes the core of the system.

China is quickly becoming a superpower, so the Chinese devotees should live up to the highest standards of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is hoped that we can double the number of devotees over the next three years and multiply their influence and improve our management system.

Our dear Grandfather Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said that for our movement to go on, the most important things are organization and intelligence, and we understand very deeply now the importance of these two things. Without good organization and management, the number of devotees will not grow and our movement in China will struggle to move forward. And without intelligence, we cannot keep pace with the changing times, places, and situations.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said that the Chinese devotees will be the last to come but will be the best. We are so deeply inspired by those words. Even if the Chinese devotees don't have a very deep understanding of the Vaiṣṇava philosophy, or cannot sing Vaiṣṇava songs properly, they are sincere, simple, and determined. That alone gives us hope. The strength accumulated by the Sleeping Tiger will unfold through the *saṅkīrtana* movement when the Tiger wakes up.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that under the protection of your lotus feet and under the guidance of your excellent disciples, we can all serve you better by fulfilling your Chinese Mission.

The servants of your servants in China.

(written by Govinda Vallabha Dāsa)

Delhi

*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*

Śrīla Prabhupāda *devam eva prasādayet* . . .

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious anniversary of your divine appearance day in this material world, please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances unto the dust of your divine lotus feet. We prostrate our bodies beneath your sacred feet, which turn all soil they rest on into a holy place.

In his *Bhakti-sandarbha*, Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī, cites this verse:

*harau ruṣṭe gurus-trātā gurau ruṣṭe na kaścana
tasmāt sarva-prayatnena gurum eva prasādayet*

“If Hari is displeased with someone, the guru can still save him, but if the guru is angry with someone, nobody can save him. Therefore with all effort one must please one’s guru.”

We maintain: Śrīla Prabhupāda *devam eva prasādayet*!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your desire and mercy, today we have fourteen temples and centers in the Delhi-NCR. While the number of devotees is steady—and in places, growing exponentially—the most encouraging part is that in each of these centers devotees are working very sincerely, with the clear aim in their hearts and minds to render pleasing service to Your Divine Grace.

As we expand, venturing into bigger adventures in spreading the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement far and wide, we naturally run into challenges. Logistics, communication, people management, devotee care, community management and growth, individual and collective devotional growth, finances, strategy, and execution are some of the challenge areas that come to mind. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us a *sūtra* instruction to remain devotionally ambitious and individually responsible, and to work dispassionately as a unit in the face of unforeseen challenges, when you said, “Your love for me will be shown by how you cooperate among yourselves after I have gone.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you being the preeminent *śikṣā-guru* for all of us in ISKCON for all generations to come, your clear instructions guide us and allow us to navigate each challenge we face in our preaching.

From those devotees who are very close to your heart and who know your heart’s desire well, we hear of your great emphasis on the transcendental welfare activity of book distribution. Last year, propelled by their guidance and nourished by your mercy, your devotees distributed more than half a million copies of *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in the Delhi-NCR. About thirty devotees have dedicated their lives fully to book distribution and serve as your agents of happiness by distributing this wealth of authentic spiritual knowledge on street corners, outside shopping malls, at railway stations, at colleges and business institutions, etc.

Another mass outreach program we have started is the new *nāmaḥaṭṭa* preaching, through which thousands of visitors are getting to experience spiritual bliss by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*—many for the first time! Through these programs, many hundreds have started coming to the temple programs regularly, seeking further guidance and reaping the rewards of rendering service to their Lordships.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your ISKCON institution is seen as a place of genuine spiritual education and welfare and an organization for cultivating pure devotional culture. It is greatly appreciated by leaders of society coming from various areas of expertise. Scores of dignitaries visit The Glory of India—the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pārthasārathi Temple—to receive the blessings of Their Lordships, to ask for spiritual guidance on various complex contemporary matters, and to find inner peace, which, sadly, is seldom available elsewhere. Recently the biggest name in the nation, a great living example of an ideal servant-leader and the decisive hyperachiever who is changing the face of our nation, the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modiji, visited the temple to inaugurate your “Astounding *Bhagavad-gītā*,” the world’s largest and heaviest *Bhagavad-gītā*, produced by your devotees in Italy. The occasion was special, covered live by the entire media establishment, enabling millions to watch the proceedings on television. Śrīla Prabhupāda, the Prime Minister congratulated the current ISKCON leadership and specifically expressed his deep gratitude for your selfless, lifelong sacrifice in bringing the universal wisdom of spirituality taught in the *Bhagavad-gītā* to every nook and corner of the world.

More than six thousand devotee youth attended the Udgār Festival, held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, with the Union HRD Minister of India as the chief guest.

As we expand, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are committed to maintaining our focus on the essentials—good *sādhana* practices, strengthening our integrity by honestly following the regulative principles of freedom, learning the application of the art and science of *bhakti*, and rendering practical devotional service for the pleasure of Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga.

The fortress of devotion stands on the foundation of devotee association, and we have several systems to enable devotees to get such association, guidance, and counseling through the devotee-care initiative called Ashraya Groups. With nearly two hundred such groups spread across Delhi-NCR, endeavors are directed to provide ongoing guidance and support to young devotees. Formal, systematic, and deep study of your books from different angles of vision is being done, and regular small-scale festivals are organized to fire up the enthusiasm in the devotees’ hearts. Dozens of *bhakti-yrkṣa* groups, approximately a hundred active, major centers of the Bhaktivedanta Academy for Culture and Education (BACE), and a large *nāmahaṭṭa* congregation ensure that more and more devotees are maturing in order to further your vision of making society at large Kṛṣṇa conscious. Also, regular preaching programs for IITs, NITs, AIIMS, groups of scientists, lawyers, and judges, and other centers of excellence now ensure a steady flow of talent to take your movement in Delhi forward.

On the social media front, we have *lakhs* of viewers visiting our official Facebook page daily. Several schools have included our Value Education books, which are based on your teachings, using them in their curricula. It was also your desire to have first-class Deity worship, so new dresses were offered at each of this year’s major festivals, which we celebrated along with several festivals honoring the *guru-paramparā*, several Śobha-yātrās, and several Ratha-yātrās.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all this has been possible only by your merciful guidance, and all the energy we’ve expended has been given with the aspiration to please your heart. The gratitude devotees feel for you is most visible during your Vyāsa-pūjā celebrations. Last year the devotees celebrated Vyāsa-pūjā on a grand scale, with over 2,100 dishes cooked and offered at a packed pandal program, and nearly 1,500 devoted guests floating in an ocean of ecstasy of love for Your Divine Grace. This year we seek your blessings to make your Vyāsa-pūjā festival even grander. Plans are in place to publish Delhi-NCR’s own Vyāsa-pūjā book, with about three thousand offerings from the Delhi-NCR devotees.

As all this energy is invested, we pray that our work does not become a mere display of muscle power or a demonstration of mental or intellectual gymnastics. Our aim, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is to become pure devotees of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, as you have directed and desired, especially in this region, through your dear disciple His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami. We know that there have been many faults and mistakes in our services to your lotus feet, for which only we are responsible, and we also know that whatever has been achieved is merely due to Your Divine Grace’s blessings. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we stand eager to be corrected for our mistakes and remain gratefully indebted forever to you for giving us the priceless jewel of Kṛṣṇa consciousness—the highest and most worthy reward.

Your servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pārthasārathi Temple, ISKCON Delhi, India.

(written by Mohanrūpa Dāsa)

Denpasar

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came to Indonesia in 1973, and on February 25 of that year, in Jakarta, you said:

This is not a sentimental movement. No. It is scientific. That is why . . . Christian—anyone—[can take it up,] because it is science: . . . Two plus two equals four. It is four for everyone. Not that because one is Muhammadan then it will be five, or because one is Christian it will be three. No. Two plus two equals four. . . . Similarly, this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement will be effective for anyone if he studies it impartially. Otherwise, how in the Western world the Americans are accepting? They are not foolish people, all these young men; they are qualified, educated. How they're accepting this movement very seriously? I have got many branches, almost in every city in America. Similarly in Europe. Why not here?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you planted the seed of Kṛṣṇa consciousness here in Indonesia, and by your desire, as you said above, “Why not here?” You were referring to Indonesia. Now the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has spread all over Indonesia, especially in Bali.

On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to submit our humble report. Here at our Jagannātha-Gaurāṅga temple, in the capital of Bali, by your mercy we are trying to be your instruments in spreading the culture of *bhakti*, of love and devotion to God, by doing what you already set up as the infrastructure of your ISKCON, especially transcendental book distribution and *harināma-saṅkīrtana*. The devotees here are dedicated to doing these two activities for the welfare of the people of Bali, and also for their own welfare, since these activities purify our own consciousness, allowing us to get to the platform of pure devotion to the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Daily *harināma-saṅkīrtana* here has been going on for nine years now, and the number of transcendental book distributors increases day by day.

Here in Bali we already had a culture of *bhakti*, devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa, coming from our ancestors, although the divine philosophy was forgotten because of the degrading influence of the Age of Kali. So the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement's spreading of the knowledge of *bhakti* is needed here and will be very beneficial in preserving the spiritual values of the Indonesian culture. Actually, this is the real challenge in Indonesia: how to inject the essence of the knowledge of *bhakti* into the traditional Bali culture in such a way that it can be accepted very nicely by our brothers and sisters, the people of Bali. So on this most auspicious day of your appearance, we beg for your blessings so that we can be your good representatives.

Your servants at ISKCON's Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Gaurāṅga Āśrama in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.

Denver

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude and the sincere obeisances of all the devotees here at New Badarikāśrama, Denver, Colorado. All glories to you and to the ever-expanding benefit you have given to the entire world.

Seeing the need, you set off to fill the whole universe with the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu—to give the haggard living entities the real substance they are looking for. Despite the popular opinion of the time that Lord Caitanya’s prediction that His name would be sung “in every town and village” was hyperbolic and a practical impossibility, you submitted your very life at the feet of your Lord, Rādhā-Govinda, and fulfilled the Lord’s prediction. You delivered (and are still delivering) misguided and stubborn souls to Their lotus feet.

*om pūrṇam adaḥ pūrṇam idam pūrṇāt pūrṇam udacyate
pūrṇasya pūrṇam ādāya pūrṇam evāvaśiṣyate*

“The Personality of Godhead is perfect and complete, and because He is completely perfect, all emanations from Him, such as this phenomenal world, are perfectly equipped as complete wholes. Whatever is produced of the Complete Whole is also complete in itself. Because He is the Complete Whole, even though so many complete units emanate from Him, He remains the complete balance.” (*Śrī Īśopaniṣad*, Invocation)

Your wholeness has been distributed into so many whole parts in the form of your loving disciples and followers, who continue to fulfill the mission you set out to realize. As with the nature of the Absolute, your wholeness remains whole. Your presence is ever present, your words are ever fresh, and your mission ever growing and effecting change in the world. By your association through both *vapu* and *vānī*, you implanted your varied and transcendental personality into the hearts of so many, who now pulse with the same urgency to make everyone fortunate by receiving the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

At the end of the *Bhagavad-gītā*’s preface you write, “We hope, therefore, that people will derive the greatest benefit by studying *Bhagavad-gītā* As It Is as we have presented it here, and if even one man becomes a pure devotee of the Lord, we shall consider our attempt a success.”

Not only has your attempt been successful by making one pure devotee, but throngs of pure devotees and sincere followers have flowed from your heart and into the world as an inundation protected by Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu Himself.

And just as the verse from the *Īśopaniṣad* declares that each complete unit is “perfectly equipped,” you have equipped us with everything. The very quality of our life, the very flavor of our association, the ways we organize our time, the food we eat, the way we dance, the songs we sing—all are gifts, *complete* gifts, for the amnesiac children of this universe. Due to the great disease of ignorance, we have forgotten our real father. By these gifts, that remembrance is distinctly awakened and nourished!

“But those who always worship Me with exclusive devotion, meditating on My transcendental form—to them I carry what they lack, and I preserve what they have.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 9.22)

You have given the sum of your life to the service of the Lord and made yourself fully available and present to your followers. Thus you have given us everything.

Here in Denver, Colorado, where we are engaged in service under the magnanimous shelter of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, your presence is magnanimously sustaining our lives. The devotees here eagerly and regularly dive deep into your oceanic books and find great and priceless gems, pearls, and treasures that they actively share with the people of Colorado.

Only fools would consider the possibility of ever repaying the spiritual master for the mercy they have received. In supplication, we ask you to please accept and sustain our services to you forever.

Your servants at New Badarikāśrama, Denver, Colorado.

(written by Ānanda-Murāri Dāsa)

Detroit

*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*

Our dearmost ever well-wisher Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Your ISKCON is growing, with so many milestones being crossed and with glorious victory flags being raised in many areas for spreading the holy name in every town and village.

By your special mercy only, this year will be marked as one of the most jubilant years in the history of your ISKCON all around the world, especially in Michigan. Vibrant spiritual programs are regularly being conducted to connect more and more lost souls with you.

You gave us the *guru-pūjā* song, with one simple but most powerful instruction:

*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.”

As conditioned souls, we have many unfulfilled desires. We are constantly struggling to fulfill them, since we are under the clutches of Māyā. But if we follow your simple but most effective formula, everything is accomplished so easily. Being the savior of the whole universe, you intelligently established this principle in our daily routine so that we have very little chance of forgetting it if we attend *guru-pūjā* every day.

So many of your dear ones in your beloved family follow these instructions, and as a result, your crown-jewel project, the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, is developing with tremendous progress. The

Homages from ISKCON Centers



BBT published the largest *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, and it was subsequently unveiled by the prime minister of India. More books have been distributed this year than in the previous year, all just to please you. Many more people have attended festivals like Lord Jagannātha's Ratha-yātrā and had memorable experiences.

With your special mercy, the expansion and upgrade of Devasadhan Mandir, your special gift, is ongoing. We have completed the Welcoming Grounds with a new elegant entrance, finished the attractive Matchless Gift Shop, acquired a generator for backup power during blackouts, and expanded the *pūjārī* area. All Bhakti-vriksha devotees are sincerely participating with utmost dedication in loving services to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārījī. You are continually sending us new souls. As a result, we have a very dedicated group of devotees constantly assisting and inspiring one another.

Thank you so much, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us everything we need to be happy and go back to Godhead in this lifetime. Now it is up to us to not run away from you. We beg you, please hold our hands tightly so that we will never be separated from you and your ISKCON.

Begging your forgiveness for our unlimited offenses,

Your humble servants at the Devasadhan Mandir, ISKCON's temple in Detroit, Michigan, USA.

(written by Jagad-guru Dāsa)

Durban

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

In *Śrīmad-Bhagavatam* (10.80.43) Lord Kṛṣṇa states that a person can easily fulfill his or her life's purpose and attain eternal peace by the grace of the spiritual master. All material difficulties are immediately stopped as soon as one follows the instructions of a bona fide spiritual master.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the epitome of a bona fide spiritual master. *Śrīmad-Bhagavatam* (11.26.33–34) further advises that anyone who is fearful of the material energy should immediately take refuge at the lotus feet of the Lord's saintly devotees. Saintly devotees such as yourself are often thought of as akin to the sun. The light of your words shines brightly and opens the eyes of all living entities to real knowledge and happiness, and thus the darkness of ignorance is dispelled. Because of this, the saintly devotees of the Lord are considered the only true friends and family to all. They alone are the suitable recipients of service.

No one would have blamed you for leaving the West shortly after you arrived, if you had caught the next boat back to Vṛndāvana, the home of all spiritual piety. But no, your resolution was unbreakable. Your compassion, fueled by your ardent desire to please your spiritual master, was our ultimate saving grace. Your mercy has brought us to this point, which, hopefully, is the end of a journey through 8.4 million species.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came to the West as a stranger but made the whole world your family. Your reminding us of our eternal position was enough to change our lives. The holy name, your books, Deities, songs, *prasādam*—you have given us everything we need to purify our senses and perfect our consciousness. Out of love for you, your followers have opened temples, created farm communities, and dedicated their lives to the fulfillment of Lord Caitanya’s mission, that is, spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to one and all. You opened your heart to us and let us witness your deep and true love for Kṛṣṇa so as to uplift us on our own difficult journeys.

Our mission is to see *sarve sukhino bhavantu*: everyone become happy. We don’t want to see that we exploit somebody else and I become happy. No! We want to see everyone happy. Therefore we are trying to spread the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement that everyone will be happy. [Wedding address, Los Angeles, 4 December 1973]

Some of us may never truly reach the ultimate height of spirituality, but you love and accept us all the same and try to fan whatever small spark of sincerity we have within our hearts. And this blessing is the height of our existence. May we eternally render service at your lotus feet!

Your servants at ISKCON’s Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānāth Temple in Durban, South Africa.

Gainesville

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

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

Dual Citizen

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,
like yogīs who expand,
you lived at once in different places,
cultures, worlds, and lands.

You were a loving father to
your daughter, wife, and sons.
And then you made the world
your fam’ly, loving everyone.

Though born deep in the sacred East
with wise and learned peers,
your first success came in the West
with novice volunteers.

You thrived in Vaiṣṇav culture and
Victorian as well;
in Butler, staid, suburban life;
in New York, hippie hell.

You made the hippies happies and
turned college kids to sages.
You always moved, yet sat and wrote
the books that still engage us.

You did not side with East or West.
You took the best of each,
the lame man and the blind man team
surpassing either’s reach.

No Easkcon and no Weskcon can
emerge where you preside.
Your words alone keep ISKCON strong,
diverse yet unified.

O saint who walked among us
in this crazy world of woe,

how kind of you to visit from
the spiritual abode.

“My devotee lives in My heart,”
Lord Kṛṣṇa proudly tells.
And by your loving lessons you
live in our hearts as well.

Your servants at Krishna House, ISKCON's temple in Gainesville, Florida, USA.

(written by Kālakaṇṭha Dāsa)

Genova

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I bow down like a stick at your divine lotus feet with the utmost feelings of gratitude!

The remembrance of you comes to me more and more deeply, especially in times of difficulty. How many hardships and obstacles you faced in order to present and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness for our benefit! Filled with divine compassion, you struggled alone, a real soldier, a fighter for Śrī Kṛṣṇa and your divine spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura!

March 6, 1966, was your first Gaura-Pūrṇimā in America. You were alone in New York City, with no devotee's company. You made an entry in your diary, writing that there was no festival, as there was in Māyāpur and Vṛndāvana. You also wrote that you were in America not for your personal sense gratification but for pushing on Lord Caitanya's mission, and that you were ready even to go to hell to accomplish that mission. Such deep conviction and strong determination! I'm spellbound, and more and more impressed, by your unique qualities of compassion and determination! Every day we are increasingly indebted to you! How and when can we repay our debt to you? It's an impossible task, but at least we will try with utmost effort.

Here in Genova, Italy, we are trying to establish a self-sufficient community based on cow protection, agriculture, and preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the local people by distributing your books, distributing *prasādam*, and taking care of the congregation of devotees. People are forgetting their real interest. I feel very much bound by your kindness toward me, and I wish to dedicate all my remaining days to your service! You are my reality in difficult times, my shelter, my only security. The divine knowledge you speak protects me from unhappiness. I bow down again and again at your divine lotus feet with the deepest gratitude and the determination to serve you and your sacred mission with no personal consideration!

Your servants at Śrīla Prabhupāda Dhāma, Genova, Italy.

(written by Dayānidhi Dāsa)

Gītā-nāgarī

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

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

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

A Vision of the Spiritual World

It is indicated herein that the cycle of birth and death cannot be stopped unless one is a pure devotee of the Supreme Lord. It is said, *hariṁ vinā na mṛtiṁ taranti*. One cannot surpass the cycle of birth and death unless one is favored by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.25.41, purport]

As soon as one falls down to material activity, there is no rescue from the cycle of birth and death [without the Lord's mercy]. It is stated here by Lord Kapila: "Without My mercy" (*nānyatra mad bhagavataḥ*). [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.25.41, purport]

A man bound by the hands and feet cannot free himself—he must be helped by a person who is unbound. Because the bound cannot help the bound, the rescuer must be liberated. Therefore, only Lord Kṛṣṇa, or His bona fide representative the spiritual master, can release the conditioned soul. Without such superior help, one cannot be freed from the bondage of material nature. Devotional service, or Kṛṣṇa consciousness, can help one gain such release. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 7.14]

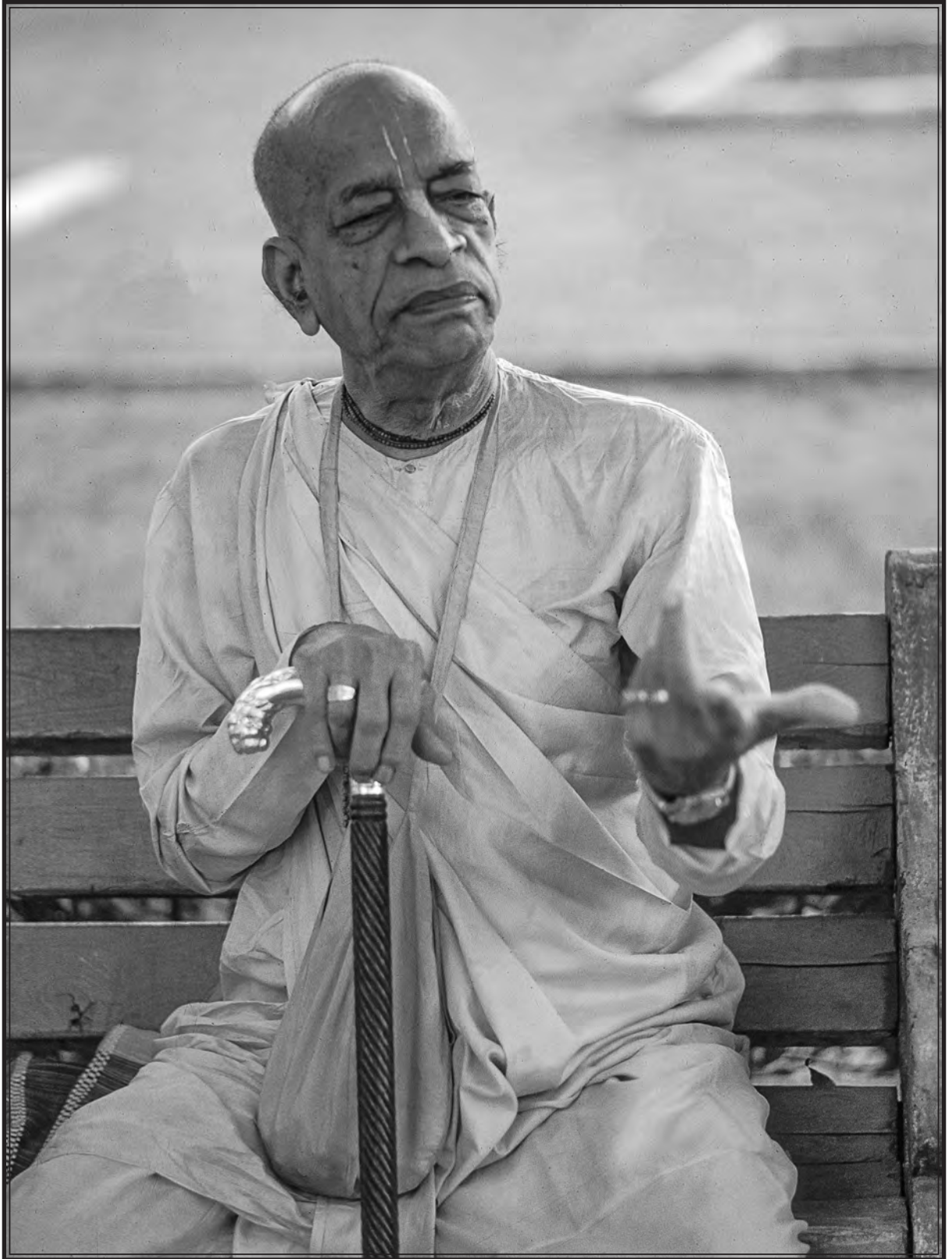
Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We are bound by the rope of our false identification with our material bodies, with their attachments and expansions. Only by our conscious choice to surrender to the merciful glance you have offered us are we able to begin our journey to reclaim our true nature as eternal servants of the servant of the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Your eternal message of hope and inspiration guides us to reach beyond the stars of the material world and tread the path back home, back to Godhead.

With complete faith in the protection of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, you shelter our neophyte efforts to become pure devotees. Throughout your books and lectures you paint a complete vision of the spiritual world. You simply ask for our cooperation with the Supreme Absolute Truth and the previous *ācāryas* so that we can achieve the final perfection of our human lives by practicing devotional service. When will we act with sincerity and determination to fulfill our part of the formula you gave so clearly?

Your Gītā-nāgarī community strives to fulfill your vision of cow protection and farming while linking with city residents. We continue to reach out to students and the general population to show an example of how by following God's plan we can work together to manifest a peaceful and harmonious society, depending on nature and the cows.

The favor of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is embodied in your tireless attempts to reform us and gather us back to our rightful place at the feet of the great devotees. We pray for the willingness to sacrifice our false designations and gather with others to serve your mission of liberation for everyone. Please bless us with the desire to rise above our self-centered interests so that we can become actual



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servants who value pleasing Kṛṣṇa and His devotees. May we retrace the path you created with your footsteps in order to show us how to purify ourselves and spread the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We offer our respectful obeisances millions and millions of times at your lotus feet. Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

Your aspiring servants at your Gītā-nāgarī farm community in Port Royal, Pennsylvania, USA.

Glastonbury

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Another year has passed and your ISKCON is continuing to grow. More and more of your books are being distributed, more and more souls are coming to your temples, and more and more preaching centers, Bhakta Vṛkṣa programs, home programs, and outreach programs are emerging. You started something spiritual with such a humble beginning, yet because it is spiritual it is ever increasing. Increasing in so many wonderful and different ways. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

You are not from this world; you are a Vaikuṇṭha man, from the spiritual world. You are completely transcendental, and if we surrender unto you we can also become transcendental, completely spiritual. You are fully surrendered to your Guru Mahārāja and Kṛṣṇa, and therefore the impossible has become possible by their mercy. If we surrender to you, which automatically means surrendering to Lord Kṛṣṇa, we may also do amazing things. To the degree we surrender to you, we will be able to spread your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

Please help us always remember you and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Please help us continue to serve and support your ISKCON, as well as set an example for others to follow. We are lacking in so many ways, but with your mercy all things are possible. Please continue to shower your mercy upon us despite our shortcomings, and please continue to allow us to serve you and your mission.

Thank you for always being there for us.

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your humble servants at ISKCON Glastonbury, Connecticut, USA.

(written by Pyāri Mohana Dāsa)

Guadalajara

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is amazing how you achieved so much in such a short time. You were able to create a wonderful movement like ISKCON. Here in Guadalajara, we can receive the great mercy you gave to all conditioned souls fortunate enough to participate in your beautiful movement. You made it possible for people to find a reason to be happy in this life. You gave us the wonderful Ratha-yātrā festival. And thanks to the service of many devotees here in Guadalajara, we have been celebrating this festival for over forty years. Thousands of people have had the opportunity to see Śrī Jagannātha and take *prasādam*. We try to distribute twenty thousand plates during the festival. It is due to your causeless mercy that we have the opportunity to share everything we have. Without you, many souls wouldn't have the good fortune to know Kṛṣṇa consciousness. When I see the photo of you seated on the San Francisco Ratha-yātrā chariot, just by looking at your example I can see how sublime it is to serve Kṛṣṇa.

We never had the fortune of having you visit Guadalajara. The closest you came was Puerto Vallarta. Since then, devotees go to that place on pilgrimage—they want to see the place where you were hosted (El Palomar). There is also a letter in which you sent your blessings for the celebration of the Ratha-yātrā festival.

We have had the opportunity to get to know you more intimately by associating with your disciples. It is wonderful to listen to their pastimes with you. On this day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we have the opportunity to honor all that you did for us.

We are eternally indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we hope to have the opportunity to serve you properly. In that way our lives will have some meaning.

Your most humble servants at Nueva Nīlācala Mandir, ISKCON's temple in Guadalajara, Mexico.

(written by Govinda Caraṇa Dāsa)

Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On your glorious appearance day, please accept our most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Today we meditate on all the wonderful gifts you so kindly left for us. We would like to sincerely thank you from the cores of our hearts for providing us with so many temples and Deities. We thank you for all your sacred books and lectures, *kīrtanas* and wonderful devotees, and the full life of devotional engagements you gave us. All of this serves to purify our existence. Your ISKCON temples all over the world are truly oases in this harsh, desertlike world.

Thank you for the rich legacy being carefully preserved and kept alive by your sincere disciples and granddisciples. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to you for giving us so much and for setting up such an extraordinary Society, which undoubtedly is the saving grace of this world. We will always fall short in our efforts to express our gratitude to Your Divine Grace. Please shelter us and bless us to remain firmly situated as useful instruments in your mission.

With the world facing rapid ecological degradation and imminent economic, political, and social chaos, your movement is turning out to be the only source of optimism and solace in this dark Age of Kali. Our humble prayer is that you continue to shower us with your mercy so that we can increase our enthusiasm and determination to serve your mission. We would like to remain ever grateful to you and all the devotees who helped to nurture and guide us to stay fixed and focused on the path of *bhakti*. Today we fervently pray to you, begging that you provide us with the spiritual strength, intelligence, and willpower to carry on serving the Lord with love, trust, and care for one another.

The past year saw the Guyana *yātrā* facing some big challenges. You practically demonstrated throughout your life how accepting reversals and facing impossible or risky situations can be viewed as Kṛṣṇa's mercy. We have learned important lessons as we crossed the various hurdles, and presently there are various strategies to stabilize our *yātrā*. We are now moving forward more cautiously. We have realized that if we wish to join Kṛṣṇa, the important qualification He is seeking from us is that we become truly humble, without arrogance.

We are confident that your causeless mercy will enable us to become worthy servants in your ISKCON. Please guide us so that we may have the determination to faithfully follow your discipline, rules, regulations, standards, and, above all, your perfect personal example. In this way we hope that we will always keep you as the root from which we, and others in the future, will continue to grow spiritually healthy and be happy in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Kindly allow us to always remain under the shelter of your lotus feet. Please continue to keep your benevolent eyes on us and guide us on the right, narrow, but straight path.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Guyana.

(written by Paramātmā Dāsa)

Hong Kong

*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*

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I am very happy and honored to have an opportunity to write a few words glorifying Your Divine Grace, our dearest spiritual teacher, father, grandfather, and ISKCON’s founder-*ācārya*. This I do on behalf of the Hong Kong *yātrā*.

First, we thank you for giving all of us a very kind, humble, and ideal example of what it means to be a spiritual master. Your example of kindness and humility has allowed all of us to approach the path of devotional service more easily.

Second, we thank you very much for establishing the ISKCON Society. The ISKCON movement is a place where we can learn how to worship Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi in a proper and systematic way. It also facilitates the association of numerous wonderful devotees from various parts of the world, something that would not have been possible fifty years ago. Through them, and with them, we learn much about your glories.

In preparing to write these words of glorification for you, I read a Vyāsa-pūjā offering to Your Divine Grace written by Tamāl Krishna Goswami. He writes of *vāṇī* and *vapu* association and informs us that by associating with ISKCON, which you said was your body, generations of devotees can also receive Śrīla Prabhupāda’s *vapu* association.

Unfortunately, many of us did not have the fortune of your physical association. However, we have heard of the many wonderful experiences devotees such as Tamāl Krishna Goswami had in your physical association. It is clear that *vapu* association is also very important and does much to support and improve our spiritual practice.

Tamāl Krishna Goswami shares in his offering to you that he asked to be allowed to give up all his other responsibilities in order to become your personal secretary. He felt he had a lifetime to fulfill your instructions to him but that as long as you were present he should assist you physically. If doing that would make a single stroke of your pen easier, that would be worth more than whatever else he himself might be able to do on his own account. From this statement I better realize that I should also cherish *vapu* association with the spiritual master.

Continuing his own offering to you and repeating your words “ISKCON is my body,” Tamāl Krishna Goswami writes, “I cannot accept that when I sealed the chamber of his *samādhi*, the chance for serving his *vapu* was forever lost.” He goes on to give many examples of how we can serve your *vapu* through serving your ISKCON Society. Our endeavor should be to make your body, ISKCON, healthy and to remove whatever sickness may infect it. He writes, “Until the entire planet is Kṛṣṇa conscious, ISKCON’s work is not done. But that may take lifetimes. Only then will I be prepared to lay Prabhupāda’s ‘ISKCON body’

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into its *samādhi*.” It is thus your *vāṇī* instruction that directs us to service of your *vapu*, in the form of serving your ISKCON Society.

On a more personal note, one of my services is to iron your clothing and then dress your *mūrti* residing in the Hong Kong temple. In addition to serving your *vapu* in the form of serving ISKCON, I also cherish the opportunity to serve your *vapu* by ironing your clothes and dressing your *mūrti*. For both, I am eternally grateful and very happy to serve in these ways.

Your servants at ISKCON's Hong Kong yātrā.

(written by Śītārāṇī Devī Dāsī)

ISKCON Austin

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You turned many crows into swans by showering your mercy upon them. You accepted anyone and everyone and showed them the path to the Supreme Lord, Kṛṣṇa. Though you departed this earthly plane forty-two years ago, you continue to shower your mercy on countless thousands of souls through your disciples, devotees, books, and hundreds of temples all around the world. The magnitude of positive change you brought about in the lives of the countless people you touched is unprecedented. This is not possible for ordinary souls, and we all are indebted to you for the sacrifices you made in preaching the one religion, love of God, or Kṛṣṇa consciousness, for the benefit of human society. To get an opportunity to glorify such a person is very rare indeed, especially for a crow like me.

People may learn the *Vedas* or practice austerities their whole life and still miss the goal of human life. By your example, you showed the common man with faith how to achieve the ultimate goal: rekindling our forgotten love of God.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the process of turning our consciousness away from illusion and toward the Supreme Brahman, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Kṛṣṇa consciousness means to associate with Kṛṣṇa—either with His name, His devotees, His messages, or with any other manifestation of His internal energies, which are all absolute. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is training people how to be absorbed in thought of Kṛṣṇa 24/7.

These are some of the messages you gave about Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is amazing that perfecting any of the messages above exceeds what one can achieve by reading the *Vedas* one's whole life. It is your glory that you taught love of God, which goes beyond liberation into the Brahman effulgence, with a simple message that everyone can follow. Defeating Māyāvādīs with your perfect knowledge is your glory. Helping us understand transcendental knowledge through your books and devotees is your glory.

Establishing ISKCON, which continues to grow in all parts of the world, is your glory. Helping us remember and glorify you is your glory. It is not possible to find the end of your glory. For fallen souls like me, there is no better thing in life than to bow down at the dust of your lotus feet.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us Kṛṣṇa consciousness, truly the one gift that keeps on giving.

Your eternal servants at ISKCON Austin, Texas, USA.

(written by Bhakta Chakravarthy Yarlagadda)

ISKCON of Silicon Valley

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a pure devotee who is following Lord Caitanya through the *paramparā* system. And the system you established for practicing devotional service in ISKCON is your system and institution. It is therefore potent and able to assist those who follow it to reach perfection in devotional service.

Recently, I heard a neophyte devotee tell someone that he was “graduating from ISKCON.” He claimed he had found a “higher process of *bhakti*” that is “beyond the rules that ISKCON devotees follow.” Someone had convinced this devotee, who had yet to assimilate your teachings, that ISKCON is for beginners and that to pursue a more advanced path of *bhakti* he would have to leave ISKCON and follow another *ācārya*, as well as some other mood and method of devotional service. When I heard this, I was reminded of one of Akrūra’s prayers in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.40.26): “Just as a fool overlooks a body of water covered by the vegetation growing in it and chases a mirage, so I have turned away from You.”

Aside from my being attached to ISKCON because it is your institution, Śrīla Prabhupāda, an objective observer, by studying *sāstra*, can see how ISKCON is perfectly equipped to elevate those who follow its tenets not only to the platform of spontaneous devotional service but also to *kṛṣṇa-prema*, the highest perfection of life. As you often suggested, one may stay in ISKCON to attain the perfection of life and devotional service.

But then what does it mean to “stay in ISKCON”? Is this a legal matter? Does one need a membership card to prove one’s allegiance? Or must one live in an ISKCON temple *āśrama* or near an ISKCON community?

If not, then what does it mean “to be in ISKCON”? My proposal is that one who believes in and follows your mood and method of performing devotional service is in ISKCON. As ISKCON’s founder-*ācārya*, you chalked out a system that can be followed by all aspiring devotees, regardless of where they live or what their backgrounds may be. One who follows the system you’ve given to the best of his or her ability, and cooperates with others who are doing so to spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement, is not only in ISKCON but is a liberated soul. You mention this in your purport to *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 11.89:

A devotee is always thinking of how better to serve Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and how to broadcast His name, fame, and qualities throughout the world. One who is *nitya-siddha* has no business other than broadcasting the glories of the Lord all over the world according to his ability. Such people are already associates of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Therefore

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Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura says, *nitya-siddha kari' māne*. One should not think that because Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was personally present five hundred years ago, only His associates were liberated. Rather, Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura says that anyone is a *nitya-siddha* if he acts on behalf of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu by spreading the glories of the holy name of the Lord. We should respect those devotees preaching the glories of the Lord as *nitya-siddhas* and should not consider them conditioned.

On the other hand, one who lives in or near an ISKCON community but does not have faith in you or the system that you've established, and who therefore neglects to follow your mood and method of practicing devotional service and of cooperation, may be said to be “not connected” to ISKCON. Such a person, although connected to ISKCON by physical proximity, may not actually be *in* ISKCON.

People sometimes say, “ISKCON is an institution. I don't like institutions.” But perhaps the following definition of institution will help those who recoil at the word “institution” to reconsider their cynical opinion about ISKCON being an institution. According to Joseph O'Connell, the late preeminent academic scholar of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, an institution is the means by which one transfers a particular culture across time and geography. And culture, he suggests, is the set of values that a given community holds as “real, right, and valuable.”

With this helpful definition, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I propose that the institutional side of ISKCON is intact; that is, ISKCON devotees are working together to the best of their ability to imbibe and transmit Lord Caitanya's teachings throughout the world, following in your footsteps.

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.2.30, the demigods, in one of their prayers to Kṛṣṇa while He was within the womb of Devakī, tell us why following the pure devotee and his system is effective. They say that following in the footsteps of great saints, like you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is *mahat-kṛtena*: *the best means of crossing over the ocean of material existence*. They further explain that self-effulgent, empowered souls, who strictly follow the *paramparā* and set up systems, leave these systems behind to make it easy for others to go back to Godhead just by following their systems. Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.2.31 you confirm this principle:

Kṛṣṇa will accept a devotee who strictly follows the regulative principles and the method prescribed in the various books and literatures published by the authorities. The *ācārya* gives the suitable method for crossing the ocean of nescience by accepting the boat of the Lord's lotus feet, and if this method is strictly followed, the followers will ultimately reach the destination, by the grace of the Lord.

The way of following in the footsteps of great souls is called *ācārya-sampradāya*; the perfect process the great souls leave behind is called *mahat-kṛtena*; and the worship of the great souls who establish these processes, especially by following them, is called *ācārya-upāsanā*.

Sūta Gosvāmī also mentions this principle at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.25:

Previously all the great sages rendered service unto the Personality of Godhead due to His existence above the three modes of material nature. They worshiped Him to become free from material conditions and thus derive the ultimate benefit. Whoever follows such great authorities is also eligible for liberation from the material world.

Lord Kṛṣṇa hints at this principle in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (13.26):

Again there are those who, although not conversant in spiritual knowledge, begin to worship the Supreme Person upon hearing about Him from others. Because of their tendency to hear from authorities, they also transcend the path of birth and death.

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Thus, we can be sure that those who follow the system given by great souls are also eligible to achieve the same exalted spiritual results that these great souls have attained, even if such followers have no other qualification than their penchant for following authority. Those who follow you, the most exalted of *ācāryas*, by faithfully following your mood and method will therefore know success.

But some argue, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you only gave the basics of devotional service, *vaidhī bhakti*. To learn spontaneous devotional service (*rāgānugā bhakti*), they say, one must align oneself with a different teacher or organization. This is a mistaken idea.

Anyone who makes even a cursory study of the regular practices followed by ISKCON devotees will see that these devotees are following the tenets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the teachings of the Six Gosvāmīs. In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.29.15–19, Lord Kapiladeva explains that by the *vaidhī* process—executing prescribed duties in devotional service, including regularly visiting the temple, respecting the spiritual master and the *ācāryas*, controlling the senses, and so on—one becomes fully qualified with all transcendental attributes and his consciousness is thus completely purified. At that time, he is immediately attracted simply by hearing Kṛṣṇa’s name or hearing of Kṛṣṇa’s transcendental qualities.

Thus, those in ISKCON who strictly follow are already on the path of *rāgānugā bhakti*, as they are followers of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the Six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana. Such practitioners will attain not only *rāgānugā* with full taste and realization but also *rāgānugā*’s goal, *prema-bhakti*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you explain this in Chapter 19 of *The Nectar of Devotion*:

In the beginning a devotee is engaged in the regulative principles of devotional service by the order of his spiritual master. When one thereby becomes completely purified of all material contamination, there develops an attachment and taste for devotional service. This taste and attachment, when gradually intensified in the course of time, becomes love.

What’s more, all our Vaiṣṇava *sāstras* say that when one chants the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra under the order of the guru and *sāstra*, his or her taste will develop. For example, in the last verse of his *Śaraṇāgati*, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura explains how the holy name has taken him by the hand back to Goloka.

But most importantly, ISKCON devotees worship Lord Caitanya as their universal guru. When one worships the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya, one automatically develops love for Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in Vṛndāvana. Śrīla Prabodhānanda Sarasvatī Ṭhākura writes:

*yathā yathā gaura-padāravinde
vindeta bhaktim kṛta-puṇya-rāśiḥ
tathā tathotsarpati hṛdy akasmāt
rādhā-padāmbhoja-sudhānśu-rāśiḥ*

“To the degree that we surrender to Lord Caitanya’s service, to that degree we gain qualification for the service to Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī’s lotus feet in Vraja.”

And Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura writes in his *Navadvīpa Dhāma Māhātmya* that by performing menial service to the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya in *dāsyā-rasa*—for instance, by spreading His *saṅkīrtana* movement—one develops spontaneous *bhakti*. And Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura, in his song *Sāvaraṇa-śrī-gaura-mahimā*, confirms:

*gaura-prema-rasārṇave, śe taraṅge jebā ḍube,
se rādhā-mādhava-antaraṅga*

Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* movement is an ocean of nectar, and one who dives deep within that ocean will come out on the shore of the pastimes of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Kṛṣṇa sent you from Vṛndāvana to the West to show all the people of the world how to achieve these goals. We, the devotees of ISKCON of Silicon Valley, have therefore taken shelter

of you by reading your books, executing your explicit and implicit orders, and following your mood and method of performing devotional service. By doing so, we are tasting your mercy and living very happy lives under your shelter.

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

(written by Vaiṣeṣika Dāsa)

Israel

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Meditating on you is a constant and challenging matter. Our life is truly surrounded by things you gave us without expectation. You gave us the holy name in the sweetest form, the holy *dhāma*, worship of Rādhā-Mādhava, Vaiṣṇava *saṅga*, *prasādam*, etc. This list can continue for eternity. Most amazing is that we inherited all this from you without any proper understanding of the true nature of the spirit of those things.

Therefore we are trying to study your books, which will be the guidelines for all of humanity for the next ten thousand years.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an ocean of compassion and inspiration even for such a remote and controversial place as Israel. Getting your mercy in form of your books, *harināma* parties, and *prasādam* on a daily basis proves that the process you gave us is for all times, all places, and all circumstances, and is applicable to all human beings on this planet earth.

The greatness of a person is judged by what he gives to whom and at what price. You offered us the highest thing—love of Godhead—and the price you asked is a little faith. But who are we? We are the modern people of Kali-yuga, without culture and ever unhappy and full of faults.

We pray daily for your guidance and support. Without you we can't progress even one step on the path back home, back to Godhead.

Some say that a direct connection is necessary in order to develop a relationship. We feel our personal connection with you through your sincere disciples—especially by hearing from them about you—and by deeply studying your books. Previously, we mentioned that you expect nothing from us in return for your gifts, but that's not absolutely true. You requested only that we give to others the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness we have received from you. Therefore we try our best to help spread your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, sharing the happiness we feel and the experiences we have had by your grace.

Daṇḍavats from

All your grandchildren in Israel and the devotees of the Israeli yātrā residing in Māyāpur.

Kaduna

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please be very merciful to me and kindly place your lotus feet on my head, using it as your footstool,

This is the first time I am getting the opportunity to glorify you on your Vyāsa-pūjā. I am not qualified to do so, but with the blessings of my spiritual masters I will take the opportunity to purify myself and try. Please forgive me for my mistakes.

Due to your ever-flowing love for Lord Kṛṣṇa, you freely gave your causeless mercy to the world, thus saving countless souls, including me, who am very fallen. You are a true father to us all and our ever well-wisher, making yourself available to us in your books. Through them we have the opportunity to associate with you all the time.

Your ISKCON temples, with their beautiful, elaborate process of Deity worship, have successfully made pure devotees all over the world, and many more will be made in the future.

You are very expert at pleasing Lord Kṛṣṇa, and you delight in training your devotees and empowering them in their service.

Here in Kaduna we strongly pray to you for your blessings so that our *harināma-saṅkīrtana* can dig deep into the heart of Kaduna and bring forth more souls to be delivered.

We beg you to give us more devotion and sincerity while engaging in your service.

Please give all of us shelter at your divine lotus feet.

Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all your support and encouragement. We owe you our lives and are happy to use them in your service.

Your humble servants in Kaduna, Nigeria.

(written by Hari Lilāmṛta Dāsa)

Koh Samui

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. *Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

On your most auspicious appearance day, we offer you our deepest gratitude, for it is only by your causeless mercy that we have received the opportunity to perform devotional service. Without you our lives would have been completely useless. If you hadn't appeared in our lives, we cannot imagine where we would be. We would never have come out of the darkness of ignorance. You enlightened us, dispelling the deep darkness of ignorance with the brilliant light of transcendental knowledge.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this occasion of your holy appearance, I would like to present you with a report about our preaching here in Koh Samui, Thailand. We have been preaching and doing devotional service here for fifteen years, and during this time we have had a few accomplishments. We now have about fifty initiated devotees, with many more aspiring to be initiated. We have been doing weekly Sunday and

Tuesday programs, and the devotees attend them enthusiastically. Many senior devotees from among your sons and grandsons visit Koh Samui frequently.

Last year, on Balarāma Pūrṇimā, we opened a new preaching center, along with a Govinda's restaurant. We have been regularly organizing programs at the center, including *maṅgala-ārati*, *darśana-ārati*, and *sandhyā-ārati*. Devotees also come and do Deity worship. We have been celebrating all the auspicious festivals, such as Janmāṣṭamī, Rādhāṣṭamī, and Gaura-Pūrṇimā. Some devotees have been practicing very serious devotion and austerities. Last year, His Holiness Lokanāth Mahārāja initiated a number of devotees.

Please keep showering your causeless mercy on us so that we can go on to attain pure devotional service and at the same time assist you in your mission. This is our insignificant glorification on behalf of the Koh Samui devotees.

Your eternal servants at ISKCON's temple in Koh Samui, Thailand.

Krishna's Castle

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

So now we have got very great responsibility to spread this message all over the world, and in London you have got now a great chance to preach in the most important city in the world.
[Letter to Yamunā, 3 July 1969]

London, which is today (to quote you) "the greatest city in the world," was once a small walled Roman town that measured a humble square mile before it grew into the metropolis it is today. Currently, the area that was once the originally walled town is called the City of London and is home to many of the world's leading bankers and businesspeople. By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we had the greatest fortune to open Krishna's Castle within that historic region. This gives us "a great chance to preach," following in the footsteps of the original six disciples of yours who came to London and pioneered the preaching here.

Interestingly, the motto for the City of London is *Domine dirige nos*, "Lord, guide us." So with your guidance, we pray we can continue our adventurous life of chasing rhinos.

Your servants at Krishna's Castle, ISKCON City of London, UK.

Ljubljana

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Here in Slovenia the devotees are most thankful to Your Divine Grace for frequently sending us senior devotee association in the form of your disciples and other faithful followers, *gurus*, guides, and mentors.

By your mercy and the mercy of our Deities, Śrī Pañca-tattva and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, we are putting our full efforts in spreading the message of Lord Caitanya to our fellow countrymen by distributing your books and organizing yearly *padayātrās*, Holy Name Festivals, retreats, etc.

In July 2018, the eighteen-day *padayātrā* was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital. By the efforts of Lalita Govinda Dāsa, our most senior devotee, this was already our seventeenth consecutive *padayātrā*. With our special traveling Deities, Śrī Śrī Nitāi–Gaura-naṭarāja, we performed *harināma-saṅkīrtana* from street to street and distributed books and *prasādam*. We also visited two tourist towns, the alpine town of Bled and the seaside town of Portorož. During *padayātrā*, 1,200 transcendental books were distributed.

During the December marathon, 178 devotees were engaged in book distribution. For your pleasure they distributed 13,369 transcendental books and 29,716 pieces of *prasādam*. In all of 2018 we distributed a total of 17,134 books.

In August last year, fifty devotees attended the five-day Japa/Kīrtan Retreat in the woods of Pohorje. Your beloved spiritual daughter Nārāyaṇī Devī Dāsī was our spiritual guide and inspirer.

For your pleasure, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have also translated and published in Slovenian the first part of *Kṛṣṇa* book and *Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers*.

In addition to these occasional services, we try to inspire devotees and people in general with our regular Sunday Love Feasts, Sunday School for children, regular Saturday *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in downtown Ljubljana, and regular devotee *saṅgas*. We are also trying to establish devotee care through a mentorship system and a *grhastha* support team.

We put a lot of emphasis on the systematic study of your books, and so we host Bhakti-vedānta and Bhakti-śāstrī courses.

Since we are well aware of our complete dependence on the mercy of the holy name, we organized four Holy Name Festivals in 2018.

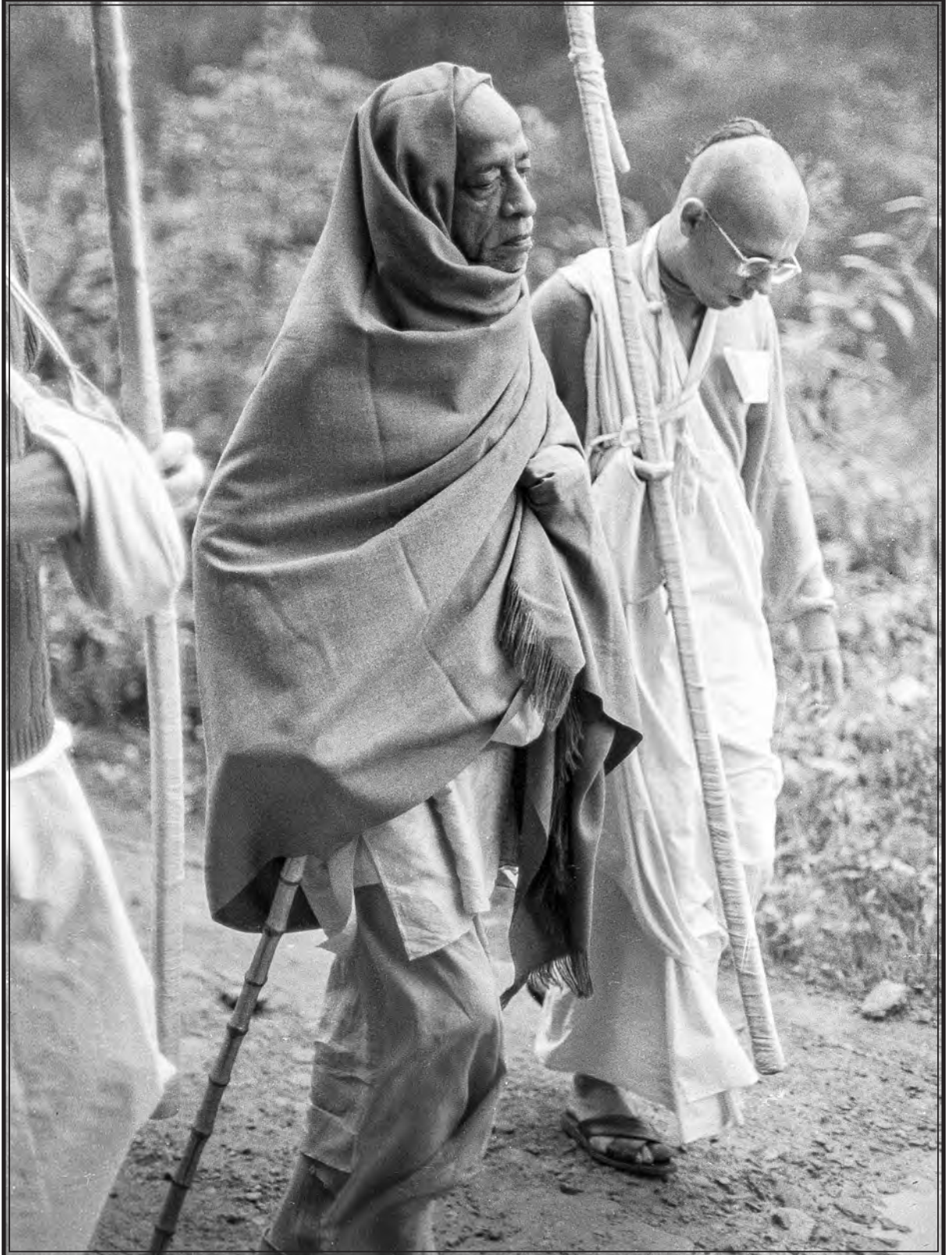
Your devotees at New Yoga-pīṭha, ISKCON's temple in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Lome

Dear *patita-pāvana* Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We humbly bow to your lotus feet.

Today, if there is a light that enlightens us and shows us the way to follow, it is you and the immense knowledge you have left us in your books. Without your books, we would be children of perdition today. We are not worthy and qualified, but you have brought us to the rank of servant of the servant of your pure devotees.



Homages from ISKCON Centers

You enlighten our lives by giving us the process of how to love Kṛṣṇa. Your love is pure; without it, our lives would not have changed and we would not have taken part in the process of chanting the holy name.

Great and noble is your mission. Taking refuge at your lotus feet, we pray only that Your Divine Grace may continue to guide us on this path of devotional service to Kṛṣṇa, so that one day we will qualify to truly be a servant of the servant of the Lord's servant.

Your servants in Lome, Togo, West Africa.

(written by Akiñcana Dāsa)

London

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This year we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of your installation of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara at number 7 Bury Place. Who would have thought that fifty years later, by your divine vision, we would still be here in London, going strong with a thriving community and now bursting out of our current temple at 10 Soho Street.

Seven Bury Place is in Bloomsbury, just off a busy road leading one way into Holborn and the law chambers and the other into the hustle and bustle of Oxford Street.

By your transcendental actions on 14th December 1969 you set in motion a series of events that have brought great auspiciousness to thousands of fortunate souls who have since come to take *darśana* and serve Their Lordships.

No longer are we at the crossroads of our life wondering which way to turn.

We are daily blessed by the gentle smile of Lord Londonīśvara and the ever-blessing hand of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī.

You did this, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You called Them here and asked Them to stay—to stay here day after day and year after year, tolerating our mistakes, our weaknesses, and our conditionings.

With one confident stroke of mercy—by pouring ghee, milk, and other auspicious substances over Their Lordships' heads, repeating sacred mantras, and offering blessed items in the cramped temple room at 7 Bury Place, you established the King and Queen of Vṛndāvana in London forevermore.

They stay to glorify you alone, fulfilling Their promise that Their devotee never perishes. For this one selfless act of establishing Their Lordships in the UK, you will be forever remembered and worshiped.

We pray that we can please you in our humble efforts to serve Their Lordships through Deity worship, book distribution, preaching programs, festivals, courses, and much, much more!

It takes a vast number of dedicated volunteers to carry out all our services each day. But today we pause to take a step back and gaze in awe and reverence at the exalted soul who set the whole transcendental show in motion.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servants at ISKCON London, United Kingdom.

Longdenville

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

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

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 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 thank you over and over again for allowing us to be part of your transcendental ISKCON, Lord Caitanya's Hare Kṛṣṇa movement.

You have said that by our constantly reading and distributing *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, and all the other books you have left us, this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement will spread automatically.

Since 1970, when you sent some of your disciples to establish ISKCON in these tiny but important (as you yourself said) islands of Trinidad and Tobago, your books have been distributed here.

We are seeing some of the results of people accepting and reading your books, but we don't want to stop even if we live to see the whole of Trinidad and Tobago adopt the principles and practices of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

At present, our youths are very enthusiastic to assist with organizing *padayātrā* and participating in it. They are also regularly conducting three- to six-hour *kīrtanas* in the temple. This is all by your mercy and kindness.

We pray that by your blessings and grace we may increase and improve our efforts to assist you in building a house in which the whole world can live in peace.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants in the service of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi at ISKCON Longdenville, Trinidad.

Málaga

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Today on your Vyāsa-pūjā, as every year, we, the devotees at the Málaga temple, try to please you by coming together and glorifying your personality, your activities, and your mission. By doing so we as a community are strengthened in our relationships and in our spiritual advancement.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura wrote:

*śuddha-bhakata-caraṇa-reṇu,
bhajana-anukūla
bhakata-sevā, parama-siddhi,
prema-latikāra mūla*

“The dust from the lotus feet of pure devotees gives rise to devotional service, and service to the devotees is itself the supreme perfection and the root of the tender creeper of divine love.”

Prema, divine love, is the highest goal in *bhakti*, and that is what we are yearning for.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda continues:

*mādhava-tithi, bhakti-janani,
jetane pālana kori*

“With great care I observe holy days like Ekādaśī and Janmāṣṭamī, for they are the mother of devotion.”

So is Vyāsa-pūjā, the anniversary of the day when you appeared, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we feel how these days motivate us to try to spread this movement as you wanted.

Even though we have a small community, we want to inundate the whole of Málaga with the sounds of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Therefore every Friday a group of devotees goes out on *harināma-saṅkīrtana* to the center of Málaga city. People love *harināma*, Śrīla Prabhupāda. And after handing out hundreds of invitations, to see a few of those people coming for the Sunday Feast gives us the realization of the power of this process: *ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam*.

Our annual Janmāṣṭamī festival is growing in attendance every year. We have more than a thousand guests who leave our temple with a very positive impression of what your movement really is. With the help of the whole congregation, on that day we organize a wonderful cultural program in which we exhibit Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a very artistic way, with very well organized dramas that have a very touching message for the crowd, beautiful *bhajans*, nice presentations of the philosophy, and of course loads of *prasādam*.

By seeing the delightful effect *prasādam* has on people, we got inspired to open a daily lunch *prasādam* program at the temple, where people can come and have *prasādam* for a small donation. It's gotten a splendid response from the public.

Only by your mercy did we receive Kṛṣṇa consciousness (*kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāro, tomāra śakati āche*), and only by your grace can we give Kṛṣṇa to others. We are so indebted to you: *yadi*

prabhupāda nā hoito, tabe ki hoito. What would have become of us without you, Śrīla Prabhupāda? Everything we have is because of you, everything we are is because of you.

So on this day, when our devotion, gratitude, love, and respect for you only grow, we ask you for your blessings so we can be fixed, steady, and loyal to this movement, dedicating our lives to it to make it grow, and so that all of us, united, can make Lord Caitanya's prophecy come true: "In every town and village of the world, My name will resound."

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servants at the ISKCON temple in Malaga, Spain.

Managua

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Once more we celebrate your transcendental appearance. This is another opportunity to glorify you, prostrate our humble hearts at your lotus feet, and thank you for allowing us on this side of the planet to participate in Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission, a mission in the disciplic succession of which you are a part and which you have left us as a legacy.

*kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāro,
tomāra śakati āche
āmi to' kāṅgala, 'kṛṣṇa' 'kṛṣṇa' boli',
dhāi tava pāche pāche*

"O venerable Vaiṣṇava! Kṛṣṇa is yours; you have the power to give Him to me. This wretched soul is simply running behind you shouting 'Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa!'"

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you very much for your torrential causeless mercy.

Your devotees of ISKCON Nicaragua.

Manchester

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you and your *saṅkīrtana* movement.

In a letter to His Holiness Tamāl Krishna Goswami, you expressed your happiness to have centers in Manchester and Liverpool: “In England your suggestion to open a few other Temples in big cities like Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool is very much welcome.” [Letter to Tamāl Krishna, 1 May 1970]

The Manchester *yātrā* has been growing nicely over the past few years. Through *saṅkīrtana*, strong preaching, and unity in our community, people have been joining this sublime movement and are taking up the simple process so expertly presented by you.

Only through your sacrifice and complete faith in Kṛṣṇa has this been possible.

At least thrice per month we perform street *saṅkīrtana* and distribute *prasādam*. Book distribution via all avenues is increasing year after year. Devotees enthusiastically participate in these preaching activities for the benefit of the troubled souls in the city of Manchester.

We are blessed that more youth are joining the movement in Manchester and taking up chanting the holy name—they are the future of this mission.

Your books are so important, and we strongly emphasize studying them. We have extra programs in the form of *saṅga* groups, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* discussion groups, and regular weekend morning programs. There is a hunger to go deeper.

There is no doubt that as our sincerity and determination increase, Kṛṣṇa will send more devotees and opportunities to spread this movement. When we are cooperative, all this happens by your grace.

Every year, Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā takes place in both Liverpool and Manchester, with strong congregational support and a wonderful response from local communities.

We want to expand our humble temple in the heart of Manchester and are focusing on acquiring either new land, a larger building, or an extension of the property.

So many people are seeking spiritual knowledge and want to re-establish their lost relationship with Kṛṣṇa.

The scope of preaching is endless, and we all pray that we may have more time and opportunity to please you. We beg at your lotus feet that in some small way we may serve you and continue our success, which is possible only if we follow your example of personal sacrifice.

We quote from *Mārkinē Bhāgavata-dharma*, which you wrote at Boston Harbor, 18 September, 1965:

*akhila jagat-guru! bacana se āmār
alaṅkṛta koribār khamatā tomār*

“O spiritual master of all the worlds! I can simply repeat Your message, so if You like You can make my power of speaking suitable for their understanding.”

*taba kṛpā ha'le mor kathā śuddha habe
śuniyā sabāra śoka duḥkha je ghucibe*

“Only by Your causeless mercy will my words become pure. I am sure that when this transcendental message penetrates their hearts they will certainly feel englanded and thus become liberated from all unhappy conditions of life.”

*āṇiyācho jadi prabhu āmāre nācāte
nācāo nācāo prabhu nācāo se-mate
kāṣṭhera puttali jathā nācāo se-mate*

“O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like.”

Somehow we have come to reside in Manchester, and somehow we have come in contact with the devotees of the Lord. We are all unqualified to take up this movement and preach the message of devotion. Please make us dance—make Manchester dance—with the sound of the Lord’s names.

Your most humble servants at ISKCON Manchester, United Kingdom.

Maple

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious occasion of your appearance,
We bow down to you with utmost reverence.

The comforts of the land of Kṛṣṇa you left,
Traveling the turbulent seas to come to the West.

At an advanced age when most people would retire and rest,
You desired to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness at Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī’s behest.

Despite so many struggles in the early days,
Your faith in Guru and Kṛṣṇa kept you unfazed.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you brought the medicine for this Age of Kali,
The effective antidote you gave is *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*.

In your mission you were resolute;
The number of souls you have saved is impossible to compute.

While we were actively in Māyā’s chase,
You told us we should seek Kṛṣṇa in every case.

Homages from ISKCON Centers



If you had not come to save us, where would we be?
In the clutches of Māyā—that is a certainty.

All of the knowledge you presented is timeless,
Leaving nothing for us to fabricate or guess.

Like a lion fierce with force and determination,
You inaugurated the *harināma-saṅkīrtana* revolution.

Despite enduring much noncooperation and difficulty,
You pushed forth, trusting in Kṛṣṇa completely.

You set an example by both your words and your actions;
To humbly follow in your footsteps must be our position.

You asked us to be goodwill ambassadors,
Showing the masses that they are actually not the controllers.

Coming from a disciplic succession of bona fide *ācāryas*,
You perfectly brought the *Bhagavad-gītā* and the *Purāṇas*.

You planted the seed of the creeper of devotional service in people's hearts,
But said that gossip, Vaiṣṇava *aparādhā*, and the need for power can break it apart.

You would always appreciate the devotees' accomplishments in the mood of service;
Your encouragement caused even more determination and purpose.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are truly our savior,
Realigning our lives of peril with instructions and candor.

We in this material world were bound and conditioned;
You came to bring us out of darkness and make us enlightened.

You are the pure Guru in which we forever seek shelter;
You and Kṛṣṇa are now in our hearts front and center.

Completing our days with *prasādam*, Deity worship, and festivals,
You have transformed our lives of drudgery into being incredible.

By chanting, hearing, reading, and *sādhana* becoming part of our daily routine,
We have a chance to go back to Godhead and avoid Yamarāja's guillotine.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the epitome of purity;
You dealt with everyone with compassion and equanimity.

You smashed the doubters with as-it-is philosophy,
Showing the ultimate goal of life is to be Kṛṣṇa's devotee.

You established the pillars and the foundation;
Through words, books, and ISKCON we can heed your direction.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our ever well-wisher;
You have blessed us with so much mercy and favor.

May your instructions and memories we always remember;
May we always at your lotus feet surrender.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything, Your Divine Grace;
It is because of you that ISKCON we continue to tightly embrace.

Please continue to shower us with your merciful glance.
May we in Kṛṣṇa consciousness continue to advance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we cannot express our gratitude effectively;
However, please allow us to serve you and Kṛṣṇa for infinity.

Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity;
We bow down at your lotus feet again and again with sincerity.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

All your faithful servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara temple in Maple, Canada.

(written by Mīnākṣī Devī Dāśī)

Mauritius

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept the humble obeisances of the Mauritian devotees at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Śrī Kṛṣṇa empowered Lord Śiva to preach a doctrine that would drive people away from Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. Thus, as Śaṅkarācārya, Śiva preached the Māyāvāda philosophy. This philosophy is so devastating that Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu warned us that anybody who hears it would have his or her *bhakti* destroyed (*māyāvādi-bhāṣya śunile haya sarva nāśa*). As a matter of proof, in his final years Śaṅkarācārya tried to rectify the situation by harshly addressing his followers as “fools” and “rascals,” and he ordered them to worship Govinda because He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead (*bhaja govinda bhaja govinda bhaja govinda mūḍha-mate*)—but nobody listened to him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you took all risks to do what Śaṅkarācārya failed to do in his final years: convert his followers into devotees. Any sane person with access to your teachings and preaching mission can immediately realize how boldly, fearlessly, and vigorously you preached against Māyāvāda philosophy, recognizing it as the greatest calamity inflicted upon mankind. Since you knew very well that the Māyāvādīs are expert at twisting and interpreting Sanskrit verses according to their whims and interests, you wisely included word-for-word Sanskrit-English equivalents in your translations of the *Bhagavad-gita*, *Śrīmad-Bhagavatam*, *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Īsopaniṣad*, and *Nectar of Instruction*. Adding such equivalents is certainly risky because it opens the door to challenges from other Sanskrit scholars and the leaders of the Māyāvāda school. But few have dared challenge your literary works, and this lack of a challenge indirectly confirms your prediction that your books will be the spiritual lawbooks for the next ten thousand years.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you were personally present, you successfully transformed into stalwart devotees many followers of the Māyāvāda school of thought—a philosophy prevalent in human society in various forms and to varying degrees in Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Jainism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and so on. Currently, your books and the intense preaching of your spiritual warriors continue your legacy of curbing the influence of Māyāvāda on human society.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, we, the Mauritian devotees, humbly beg that you kindly continue to bless all your spiritual warriors throughout the world so that they may purely represent you and broadcast your glories and the message of Godhead.

Your insignificant servants at Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarām Mandir, Mauritius.

(written by Jayānanda Dāsa)

Miami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you for so nicely establishing the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in complete accordance with the principles of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-Sindhu*.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, we especially appreciate your emphasis on regularly and eagerly participating in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class, as is prescribed in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* itself:

*śṛṇvatāṁ sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ puṇya-śravaṇa-kīrtanaḥ
hṛdy antaḥ stho hy abhadrāṇi vidhunoti suhṛt satām*

*naṣṭa-prāyeṣu abhadreṣu nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā
bhagavatya uttama-śloke bhaktir bhavati naiṣṭhikī*

“Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead, who is the Paramātmā [Supersoul] in everyone’s heart and the benefactor of the truthful devotee, cleanses desire for material enjoyment from the heart of

Homages from ISKCON Centers

the devotee who has developed the urge to hear His messages, which are in themselves virtuous when properly heard and chanted. By regular attendance in classes on the *Bhāgavatam* and by rendering of service to the pure devotee, all that is troublesome to the heart is almost completely destroyed, and loving service unto the Personality of Godhead, who is praised with transcendental songs, is established as an irrevocable fact.” [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.17–18]

These verses encourage us to develop the urge and eagerness to hear the *Bhāgavatam*’s messages. The whole purpose of the *vaidhī-sādhana-bhakti* process that you gave us is to help us develop and express our eagerness to approach the Lord. We express our eagerness to hear the message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* by enthusiastically attending *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class, listening attentively, and trying to understand how to apply its philosophy to our own lives.

You told us that “Religion without philosophy is sentiment, or sometimes fanaticism, while philosophy without religion is mental speculation.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 3.3, purport) Śrīla Prabhupāda, although you have established ISKCON based on the highest philosophy in the universe, and although you have given us numerous volumes of your transcendental literatures, still too often we do not carefully study those books, and thus we lose focus on the core reasons for which we follow the practices you established. We thus risk practicing “religion without philosophy” out of sentiment because we do not sufficiently internalize the philosophical basis for the process we are trying to follow. If we fall to the level of sentimentalism, we are sure to become victimized by the lower modes of nature and thus become implicated in faultfinding, material favoritism, noncooperation, and laziness, all of which are characteristic of us victims of Kali-yuga, and unfavorable for those on the spiritual path.

On the other hand, it is also significant that one does not need to be very learned to receive the miraculous benefits of following this process, because transcendental knowledge is received from within the heart by the grace of the Lord. The price we must pay is the eagerness to understand the message, eagerness that does not depend on any material qualifications at all. In this way, devotional service is available and can be practiced by any person, anywhere, and at any time. The only qualification is to sincerely desire and attempt to follow the process. And if we sincerely choose to follow the process, we can all experience bliss and satisfaction, as described in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (10.9):

*mac-cittā mad-gata-prāṇā bodhayantaḥ parasparam
kathayantaś ca mām nityam tuṣyanti ca ramanti ca*

“The thoughts of My pure devotees dwell in Me, their lives are fully devoted to My service, and they derive great satisfaction and bliss from always enlightening one another and conversing about Me.”

Here “pure devotee” does not mean only pure devotees who, like your good self, already have achieved love of God, but also those who are following the pure devotional path you have given us. In so many ways we are advised to fill our hearts with the transcendental discussions of the Lord’s messages and pastimes. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us with the ability and desire to achieve that goal and to experience the resultant great satisfaction and bliss, so we can give up our miserable, degrading attitudes of faultfinding, criticism, and noncooperation that currently stifle our attempts and enthusiasm to perfect our lives through the divine process of *bhakti-yoga* and return home, back to Godhead.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Miami, Florida, USA.

Monterrey

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

On this day of your Vyāsa-pūjā we would like to thank you once again for everything you’ve done for us. Here in Monterrey we are very aware of this great mission you’ve entrusted to us through our spiritual masters. Each one of us is doing everything possible to please you every day. Although our service is imperfect, we are endeavoring with effort, enthusiasm, and much love to bring your mission to more people.

A year ago when we presented your movie—“Hare Kṛṣṇa! The Mantra, the Movement and the Swami Who Started It All”—it was incredible to see how people who’ve never heard of you chose to watch the movie instead of some commercial film. Watching that movie brought great satisfaction to all your followers—your disciples and us, your spiritual grandchildren. The legacy you’ve left is impressive: ISKCON is the most complete institution for the social and spiritual development of the world that we’ve seen in our entire lives. Everything is there: the formula for how to become a better person day by day, and the key to world peace. ISKCON is a great transcendental treasure that you’ve left us, the biggest inheritance that anyone could have. Your books teach us how to practice pure devotional service (*sādhana bhakti*) to develop pure love for Kṛṣṇa. Thanks to you, we have spiritual masters who faithfully follow your mission and inspire us a lot. They convey the love and knowledge you have taught them.

And what about the Food for Life program? Not only do we distribute *prasādam* to people of all social strata, but we also awaken their spiritual awareness and awaken in ourselves the feeling of sharing Kṛṣṇa consciousness and being compassionate with other human beings.

We are all spiritual siblings, and you have taught us to respect all living entities and to share this great knowledge so as to revive our true consciousness so we can go back to our real home, back to Kṛṣṇa. Serving the devotees and prospective devotees is expressing love toward Kṛṣṇa. And you have left us a great legacy and invaluable knowledge. You have taught us how to work as a team and cooperate as a spiritual family.

Thanks a lot for everything, our dear spiritual grandfather Śrīla Prabhupāda. We love you so much, and because of you and the great effort you’ve made to bring us this great knowledge, we are committed to continuing this great mission for your satisfaction with a lot of enthusiasm, love, and joy.

Your servants at ISKCON’s temple in Monterrey, Mexico.

(written by Draupadī Devī Dāsī)

Montreal

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I feel so unqualified to offer you this glorification on behalf of our temple’s community, but let me try anyway.

Lately, I have been seeing so many signs that major events will take place all over the world. Everything is getting very topsy-turvy. I could cite so many very strange and unusual situations happening everywhere. But by your grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, even the worst possible outcome will be an opportunity for us to make your movement stand out even more.

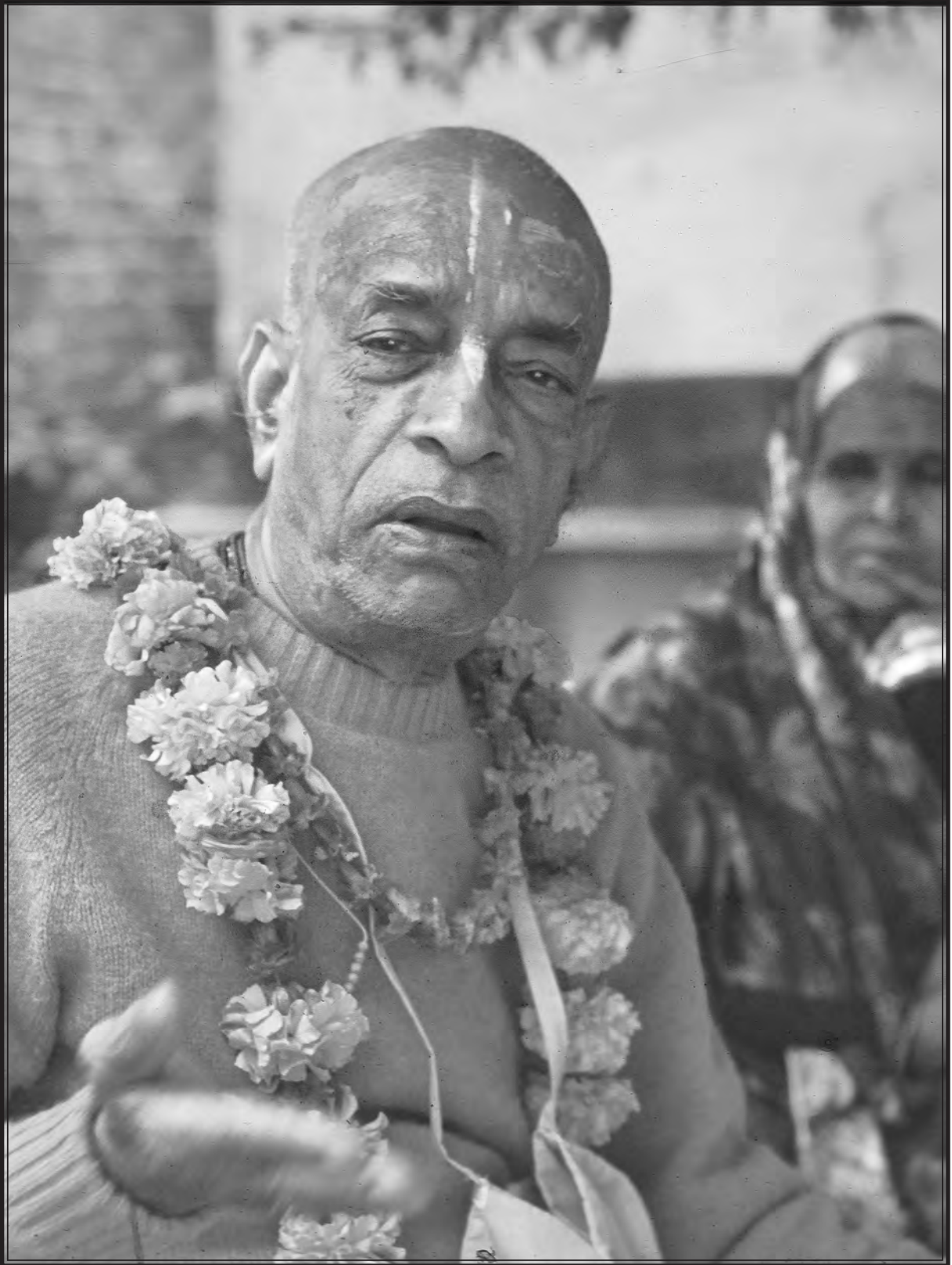
I pray that by your mercy it may become very clear for all of us aspiring devotees that our only chance to make it will be to fully cooperate with one another, as you have so nicely explained with the example of the sticks. Individually the sticks can easily be broken, but if we bind many sticks together they become very difficult to break.

Recently, I’ve also seen that you are empowering a very wonderful devotee in one of the most powerful countries of the world to have a very positive influence on so many people. She has announced her candidacy for president of the United States, and according to many expert politicians, she has a good chance of winning. It is so encouraging to see your direct input in the unfolding of Lord Caitanya’s plan to conquer the whole world. Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for letting us somehow be connected to this extraordinary mission.

Let us just pray, O Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we may continue to play an insignificant role in this miraculous mission for the rest of eternity.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Montreal, Canada.

(written by Advaita Chandra Dasa)



Mumbai (Juhu)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We have named your farm at Talasari “Nilāchal Vedic Village.” It will house a temple, a *gośālā*, a guesthouse, guest cottages, an *āśrama*, a school, a dispensary, and an amphitheater. We continue to receive organic vegetables, flowers, fruits, and milk from the farm. We renovated the guesthouse and inaugurated it on 23 January 2019. The leveling of the earth in the uneven topography of the main area is in progress. The amphitheater is almost completed, and we had an inspiring Holi festival with flowers in the amphitheater.

The Bhaktivedanta Information Services and Mailing (BHISMA) department has received ISO 9001: 2015 certification for quality management systems in accordance with the requirements of the International Standards. Kindly bless us to keep improving our quality management services and get similar certification for other departments in the temple.

The Living Foodz Epicurean Guild Awards recognizes and honors best practices, persons, and institutions in the food industry in India. This year, a new category named “Social Impact / Change Makers” was introduced. In this category your ISKCON received the very first award as Change Makers in the society through *prasādam* distribution.

The accounts office was fully renovated, and it was inaugurated on this year’s Gaura Pūrṇimā day.

During the Book Distribution Marathon in December 2018, we scored 377,863.25 book points, which included 182,391 Maha-big books. Our book score for 2018 was 552,213.25. Kindly give us your blessings and inspiration to distribute more books this year.

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

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON’s Rādhā-Rāsabihārī temple in Juhu, Mumbai, India.

Mumbai (Mira Road)

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, the savior of the whole world!

Śrīla Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura writes:

*śrī-rūpa sanātana bhaṭṭa-raghunātha
śrī-jīva gopāla-bhaṭṭa dāsa-raghunātha*

*ei chay gosāir kori caraṇa vandan
jāhā hoite bighna-nāś abhīṣṭa-pūraṇ*

“All glories to Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī, Śrī Sanātana Gosvāmī, Śrī Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī, Śrī Jīva Gosvāmī, Śrī Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī, and Śrī Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī. I offer my obeisances to the feet of these Six Gosvāmīs. Bowing to them destroys all obstacles to devotional service and fulfills all spiritual desires.”

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, bowing down to you destroys all obstacles to devotion and fulfills all spiritual desires.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are just like the ocean of love of God, and you are popular with both the gentle and the ruffians because you are not envious of anyone. We see how everyone loves you because you love everyone. Whatever you do, you are all-pleasing to everyone, and you are fully blessed by Lord Caitanya. Thus you are engaged in missionary activities meant to deliver all the conditioned souls in the material universe. You have also engaged your disciples in the same way.

You are very expert at scrutinizingly studying all the revealed scriptures with the aim of establishing eternal religious principles for the benefit of all human beings. You have also trained your disciples to scrutinizingly study the scriptures and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the whole universe.

You are engaged in chanting the holy names of the Lord and bowing down in a scheduled measurement. You are utilizing the valuable lives of as many human beings as possible by engaging them in Kṛṣṇa consciousness 24/7.

By executing devotional activities, you have conquered over eating and sleeping and are always meek and humble, enchanted by remembering the transcendental qualities of the Lord. You have imparted the same qualities to your disciples.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have all the qualities of the Six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana. Some of those qualities are listed below:

Sanātana Gosvāmī: He built the first temple in Vṛndāvana and uncovered Śrī Kṛṣṇa's pastime places. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you founded the first ISKCON center in 1966 in New York and established 108 abodes of the Supreme Lord all around the world.

Rūpa Gosvāmī: *śrī-caitanya-mano 'bhīṣṭam*: Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī said that Rūpa Gosvāmī could understand the mind of Lord Caitanya. Svarūpa Dāmodara said that Rūpa Gosvāmī knew the inner feelings of Lord Caitanya because he had received the full measure of Lord Caitanya's mercy. Otherwise, it would not have been possible. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you knew the mind of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and in order to please him you started ISKCON to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the whole world.

Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī: He had such a beautiful voice; it was just like the voice of a cuckoo, and when he would sing the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* verses, he would sing each *śloka* in three or four different melodies. In this way, and by his exceptional cooking, he greatly pleased Lord Gaurāṅga. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you satisfied Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the combined form of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, by your exceptional cooking and singing.

Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī: He is renunciation personified. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are renunciation personified. You always gave credit to Guru and Gaurāṅga for the impossible tasks you accomplished.

Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī: He gave the rules and regulations for Deity worship. Similarly, you have given us rules and regulations for Deity worship.

Jīva Gosvāmī: He wrote an astounding half million Sanskrit verses (about 25 books). Similarly, you translated scriptures and wrote many books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your pleasure, here is a report of our efforts to please you that the devotees at ISKCON Mira Road performed last year:

We conducted Ratha-yātrā at Mira Road, Borivali, Thane, Worli, Vapi, Kandivali, Bhayender, Nallasopera, Vasai, and Virar, all with ecstatic *kīrtanas*, cultural programs, *prasādam* distribution, book distribution, and lectures. These were followed up with *Gītā* crash courses, weekly *Gītā* classes at these places for all ages.

Five hundred devotees distributed 43,000 Mahā big books during the December marathon, thereby achieving 4th position among medium temples in World Saṅkīrtana Newsletter. This year we did a *Kṛṣṇa* book marathon before Janmāṣṭamī and are planning a *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* marathon before Gaura Pūrṇimā.

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Every month ISKCON Mira Road congregation devotees participate in a monthly *saṅkīrtana* festival, weekly *saṅkīrtana*, and Sunday-feast book distribution, thereby achieving the top-4 position among medium temples in the World Saṅkīrtana Newsletter

The Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī Home School has 26 students and 20 staff members. This year we have separated the boys' and the girls' sections. We successfully celebrated the first anniversary of the school.

Summer camps for children were conducted in schools and 25 residences. A children's Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā was conducted, wherein food preparations were made by children, *kīrtana* was led by children, decorations and *ārati* were done by children, and 200 children participated in a spiritual science exhibition on Nṛsiṁha Caturdaśī. The theme for the spiritual science exhibition was the full Seventh Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

A Bhaktivedanta Contest was held, including drawing, *śloka* recitation, story-telling, and quiz competition. 500 children from 25 schools participated, from Mira Road, Borivali, Bhayender, Dahisar, and Thane.

Youth festivals for teenage boys and girls are conducted every month, followed up by weekly classes.

Bhaktivedanta College: the first batch of students passed our Bhakti-śāstrī test and received a degree. The next batch has started with 50 students for Hindi and 20 students for English Bhakti-śāstrī.

Devotee-care leaders are conducting regular devotee-care programs at their residences. They celebrated Janmāṣṭamī at different venues and conducted Kārtika *dīpa-dhāna* at different venues for 30 days.

The Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī Kalakṣetra conducts Odissi and Bharat-natyam classes every week.

Govinda's restaurant is attracting huge crowds every weekend.

The Food for Life program is feeding hundreds of children in schools every week.

The happiness course and the diploma course are attracting newcomers every week, and they are getting attracted to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The Deity department is very well taken care of by temple and congregation devotees. *Ārati* and *bhoga* are offered five times a day with love and care.

Twelve-hour *harināma-saṅkīrtana* is done every Ekādaśī.

A *kīrtana melā* with many *kīrtanīyas* was conducted during Brahmotsava.

We have two love-feast programs, one for Hindi speakers, with an attendance of 400, and one for English speakers, with an attendance of 100.

Life members are treated with special care. They're given an opportunity to offer *ārati* to their Lordships on their birthdays and given a lecture exclusively for them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we be instruments in the Lord's inconceivable plan and serve together in your mission. However, your instruction to cooperate is crucial. We have to act as a team because that will give strength to all of us. On this auspicious day we pray to Your Divine Grace to bless us all with the intelligence, determination, tolerance, flexibility, and Kṛṣṇa consciousness to overcome our differences and cooperate fully, as you desired.

Your servants at ISKCON Mira Road, Mumbai, India.

Nagar Saṅkīrtana Mandir

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

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Vyāsa-pūjā always reminds us of the thousands of miles you journeyed on the *Jaladuta* in 1965 to bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West. It was a journey of hope for the fallen souls, who suffer due to their grievous sins. Your determination and persistence in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world are evidence of your profound mercy. You gave us a chance to approach the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Through your books, so many souls are being saved and realizing their true position as servants of the Supreme Lord.

So many souls are being illuminated by your teachings.

So many souls can now understand what real happiness is.

So many souls have been blessed with a chance to chant the *mahā-mantra*. Nowadays, the *mahā-mantra* echoes in every corner of world, making this world more peaceful and happy.

All this is only because of your mercy.

The journey you undertook in 1965 to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the most important event in the history of the world! You were carrying the most precious gift anyone could wish for: Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Without your undertaking that journey, there would be no enlightenment for human society and this world would be sinking even deeper into the black pit of moral degradation. I am unable to describe your mercy, which is like an infinite ocean. Please give your mercy to us. Bless us with determination and purity as we undertake our own journey toward Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and bless us so that we can also help others become Kṛṣṇa conscious and thus attain true peace and happiness.

Your servants at the Nagar Saṅkīrtana Mandir in Jembrana, Bali, Indonesia,

(written by Kṛṣṇa-jñāna Devī Dāsi)

Nagpur

*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,

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

On this very auspicious anniversary of your appearance we would like to beg for your blessings and mercy and also offer our insignificant services at your Nagpur center.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on April 8, 1975, you wrote in a letter to Mr. Ashish Roy: “If you can come, then we can talk in detail about a center at Nagpur.” Now after many years your dream is taking shape. It brings much joy to our hearts that we can serve you in this way, under the direction of your dear disciple His Holiness Lokanāth Swami.

With many of your disciples and other senior Vaiṣṇavas present, on March 21, 2019, at the Gaura-Pūrṇimā festival, we installed Lord Ananta-śeṣa on the new temple land, and construction started that day. This will be a unique project and will become a landmark in Nagpur, attracting masses of people from all over central India to the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopinātha. This project will transform the hearts of those who visit and fill them with love of Kṛṣṇa.

Developing this project will be a challenge, and we don’t have the qualifications to fulfill your desire here. We are happy to report that cooperation among the Nagpur devotees is solidifying and that devotees are practicing good *sādhana* in order to have the spiritual strength to serve our *guru-paramparā*. At the same time, we are in great need of your mercy and blessings, through which your desire for this temple will be fulfilled. Please bless us, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your grandsons and granddaughters at ISKCON Nagpur, India.

New Biharvan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*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*

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your most auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day is the most joyous occasion, but sometimes also the most difficult. Joyous because all of us receive your causeless limitless mercy and hear your glorious pastimes; difficult because we do not know how to glorify you with our limited vision. Many of your granddisciples, like me, become tongue-tied.

Every year, when contacting all your disciples, temples, and multitudes of ISKCON entities to write an offering for your Vyāsa-pūjā book, Draviḍa Dāsa reminds everyone to “not ‘recycle’ an offering—no offerings from previous years will be accepted.” In my opinion he has nothing to worry about.

As Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī writes in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 10.161–62):

*sakala bhariyā āche prema-phula-phale
bhāsāila tri-jagat kṛṣṇa-prema-jale*

*eka eka śākhāra śakti ananta mahimā
‘sahasra vadane’ yāra dite nāre sīmā*

“Every branch and subbranch of the [Caitanya] tree is full of innumerable fruits and flowers. They inundate the world with the waters of love of Kṛṣṇa. Each and every branch of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s devotees has unlimited spiritual power and glory. Even if one had thousands of mouths, it would be impossible to describe the limits of their activities.”

In the *Bṛhad-bhāgavatāmṛta* (1.5.31), Nārada Muni implores his tongue to glorify Kṛṣṇa’s devotees:

*rasane te mahad bhāgyam etad eva yad īhitam
kiñcid uccārayaivaishāṁ tat-priyāṇāṁ sva-śaktiṭaḥ*

“Dear tongue,” [Nārada] then acknowledged, “this effort of yours attests to your great fortune. As far as you are able, just go on speaking something about these beloved devotees of Kṛṣṇa.”

Śrīla Sanātana Gosvami (as paraphrased by Gopīparāṇadhana Dāsa) comments:

To avoid discouraging his tongue, Nārada gave it some practical advice: “If you cannot adequately praise Kṛṣṇa, then at least try to praise His devotees. If you cannot describe the devotees’ transcendental glories, then simply describe their activities. If you cannot describe everything about those activities, then just describe something. Even if you cannot speak with full realization, speak anyway. The attempt to say something will be all-auspicious.” Nārada proposes to his tongue: “You would do better to glorify the Lord’s devotees than to glorify the Lord.” Although the greatness of the devotees is also ultimately indescribable, the Lord’s greatness has no beginning or end, defeats all attempts at analysis and classification, and cannot be fully understood even by the Lord Himself. To Nārada, however, the Lord’s devotees appear similar to human beings; he has seen them, so his tongue should be able to describe their deeds. If his tongue offends the devotees by making false statements about them or by distorting accounts of their activities, the devotees will easily overlook those mistakes, because devotees are always compassionate to unfortunate persons. Therefore Nārada recommends glorifying the Vaiṣṇavas as the best engagement for his tongue.

And that is exactly what your immediate disciples are doing. Your greatness is also indescribable.

While granddisciples like me get tongue-tied, we are thankful to your disciples for constantly engaging their tongues in chanting your glories. During my thirty-five-year-long association with ISKCON, I have been amazed and have marveled at how I could continuously hear from the thousands of mouths of your disciples about your unlimited spiritual power and glory and never reach an end.

Homages from ISKCON Centers



The Bhaktivedanta VedaBase has a section called *Biographies and Glorification of Śrīla Prabhupāda*, which contains eighteen books, some of them multivolume ones. That list, however, is not complete, for there are many more books some authors have chosen not to give to the VedaBase, and new books are being published all the time. YouTube has hundreds of hours of video of devotees recounting their memories of you. Los Angeles and other temples throughout the world hold “Śrīla Prabhupāda memorial/glorification festivals,” with new pastimes and glories of Your Divine Grace added every year.

Hari Śauri Dāsa, who recorded your pastimes in his *Transcendental Diary*, told us that he had requested Professor Burke Rochford, Jr., of Middlebury College (Vermont, USA), to write a foreword to his multi-volume memoir. Professor Rochford was late, so when Hari Śauri Dasa called him, he apologized and in passing said something to the effect that ISKCON devotees have more material on six months in the life of their *guru* than Christians have on the entire life of theirs (i.e., Jesus Christ).

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day, please reveal to us more of your spiritual power and glories so that we can hear and repeat them. Just as the process of hearing and repeating the pastimes of Kṛṣṇa is sufficient to go back to Godhead, so hearing and repeating your pastimes is sufficient to get us back to Godhead.

Your devotees in New Biharvan, Boise, Idaho, USA.

(written by Anantarūpa Dāsa)

New Dvārakā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, the members of New Dvārakā, your first world headquarters, offer our humble obeisances unto you. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to use our human form of life for the purpose for which it is meant—understanding God, Kṛṣṇa. We’d like to express our appreciation for what you’ve done for us by describing what we, your disciples and granddisciples, are doing in an attempt to fulfill your vision for an International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

In the areas of Deity worship and *sādhana*, we’re pleased to report that almost fifty years after you opened New Dvārakā, we’re still observing the same morning program that you established in the early 1970s. We perform *maṅgala-ārati* and have *kīrtana* beginning at 4:30 am, followed by Tulasī-pūjā and recitation of the ten offenses. After chanting *japa* for about an hour and forty minutes, at 7:00 am we greet Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārakādhīśa, and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, who have been gorgeously dressed by a dedicated group of *pūjārīs*, some of whom have been engaged in Their service for over forty years. *Guru-pūjā*, offered to your *mūrti* (which is also bathed and dressed daily), is next, followed by an ecstatic 25-minute *kīrtana*. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class follows, and on Sundays we listen to one of your recorded lectures. Aside from the fifty or so devotees who physically attend these programs, sometimes as many as a hundred watch and listen on their computers in different parts of the country.

We just completed a top-to-bottom renovation of the Deity room, done by a crew led by your disciple Śrī Rāga Dāsa, who oversaw the project tirelessly for a year, doing a lot of the work himself. His inspiration was knowing that the *pūjārīs* of New Dvārakā, headed by your disciple Rabīndranātha Dāsa, have historically

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been committed to seeing that the correct number of *āratis* and offerings are performed daily while strictly maintaining a high standard of cleanliness and punctuality.

In the area of book distribution, your disciple Māyāpur Śāśi Dāsa, our temple treasurer, who has been responsible for publishing the World Saṅkīrtana Newsletter since the mid 1970s, informed me that over 250 New Dvārakā devotees have contributed to the distribution of more than ten million of your books over the years, and that New Dvārakā leads the world in Arabic book distribution. Significant financial support for this great achievement has been provided by the temple's restaurant and gift shop (both named Govinda's), which have been successfully managed by your disciples Svavāsa Dāsa and Taḍit Devī Dāsī, our temple president and his wife. The vast majority of the books distributed were actually produced here in New Dvārakā, the home of the North American BBT, by a group of your disciples who have made your book production and distribution their life and soul. The New Dvārakā tradition of distributing your books is currently being carried on by eight full-time and many part-time distributors, who regularly go to schools, tourist attractions, music festivals, and shopping centers.

New Dvārakā, while not the home of the first Ratha-yātrā festival in North America, has been the home of the most expansive one for the past forty-two years, and has helped develop Ratha-yātrā worldwide. Following in the footsteps of your beloved disciple Jayānanda Dāsa, your granddisciple Ratnabhūṣaṇa Dāsa has built ten Ratha-yātrā carts, which are being used far and wide, and he helps cook the feast for all the other festivals that New Dvārakā observes. These include all the major ones on the Vaiṣṇava calendar. At these festivals, which have been observed since the temple opened in 1970, thousands of people see the Deities, hear and chant the holy names, hear discourses on Vaiṣṇava philosophy, and take *prasādam*. The festivals are yet another example of how we, your followers, are trying implement the ideas you've given us on how to practice and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The major renovation to the Deity room was not the only construction work in New Dvārakā. All the temple properties are regularly maintained and upgraded. Some recent projects include retrofitting all the temple apartment buildings, a facelift for both the temple and the restaurant, a new set of outside doors for the temple building, and a remodeling of your garden.

The residents of New Dvārakā still intensely feel your presence here, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The motive for whatever we are doing is to please you. The above description of the activities we're performing is by no means complete. There's much more that we are doing. More importantly, though, there's much more that we should be doing. We realize that we owe our lives to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please bless us with the ability to be fixed in your service.

Sincerely,

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

New Gokula

Hare Kṛṣṇa Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you and to Guru and Gaurāṅga.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am very happy to write this offering for your Vyāsa-pūjā day, as it gives me an opportunity to speak with you directly, heart to heart.

Thank you for bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West. When I was in India, I did not join you. But

my greediness brought me to Canada, and I even came to the temple for business. But you and Kṛṣṇa are so kind that you not only cured my greediness but also gave me the strength to quit everything and join you completely. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have beautiful Deities. You named them Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-mohana. Lord Madana-mohana’s lotus feet and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī’s *abhaya-hasta* really protect and encourage all of us. You said that you are establishing ISKCON so that the entire world can stay under that umbrella. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for establishing temples for us to take shelter of all around the world.

As Servant Leader of the Temple (SLT), I feel so happy to serve you to the best of my ability, along with the mission you started. Thank you for teaching us how to build our community with love, care, friendliness, patience, and tolerance. The community members really help me. When I bathe you every day, I talk to you, and I get so much of your mercy that I can easily and peacefully serve the *dhāma* every day. Dear Grandfather, please keep showering your mercy on all of us.

You told us that if we are sincere we should go to Kṛṣṇa and He will help, for everything belongs to Him and He will provide. So we are trying to be sincere and always pray to you, “Dear Grandfather, please make me sincere so that Kṛṣṇa will help and provide whatever is needed to serve your mission.” Please bless me, Grandfather.

You were very strict about us daily attending *maṅgala-ārati*, even if we are sick and cannot walk. His Holiness Navayogendra Swami, my *dīkṣā-guru* and your personal secretary, says the same. So ever since I became SLT in April 2015, I have regularly attended *maṅgala-ārati* and am trying to bring in others, too. Early-morning *sādhana* really keeps us in high spirits to serve Their Lordships and the devotees. Thank you for insisting we follow this discipline.

By your mercy, your disciples His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami and His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami (both GBCs) appointed Rūpānuga Dāsa as our mentor and thus showered their mercy upon us. With his help, we have established Rāma-rājya in our New Gokula Dhāma (Vancouver, Canada). Everyone is happy and enthusiastic to serve the *dhāma* more and more. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we can feel your energy in and around the temple all the time.

Our book distribution—something very dear to you—has leaped to great heights under Morshekar Dāsa’s leadership. From last year’s target of a 10% increase in remittances to the BBT, we have achieved a 160% increase this year. Our team grows slowly but steadily, and we intend to “double it,” as you always said. We need your kind mercy and guidance to achieve this. Please shower your mercy upon us.

As for book sales, among medium temples in North America (NA), our ranking was #3, and we ranked #10 in the top 10 of outstanding temples in NA.

For the pleasure of Their Lordships and yourself, the following are last year’s book distribution scores:

Month of Bhadrā: 11 *Bhāgavatam* sets on golden stands. Marathon month: 1,310 *Bhagavad-gītās*; 2 *Bhāgavatam* sets; 1 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* set; 20 big books; 161 medium books; and 42 small books. Gaura-Pūrṇimā: 30 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets and 1 *Bhāgavatam* set. This year (so far): 265 *Bhagavad-gītās*; 70 big books; 58 medium books; and 242 small books.

Our daily *harināma* (street *kīrtana* and book distribution) is going on, and devotees enthusiastically participate under Īśvarī Jāhnava Dāsī’s leadership. They distribute knowledge about the Absolute Truth, as you have taught us, to the public at large, which is very thirsty for such knowledge. Thank you for educating us, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Last year Nārada Muni Dāsa, our Servant Leader for the Deity department, improved the standards of Deity worship, especially in performing *abhiśekas*, as you always wanted the *best* for Kṛṣṇa. To join in this wonderful *sevā*, nine devotees took *brāhmaṇa* initiation last year.

Festivals are our main attraction to give people Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We all love and enjoy them, as they foster enthusiasm among the devotees. Thank you, dear Grandfather, for introducing them. Mathurā-līlā Dāsī, our Servant Leader for Festivals, says, “Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your divine mercy and inspiration our festival committee continues to maintain and improve our festivals all year long. Dear

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Śrīla Prabhupāda, please give us the strength and intelligence to carry on with your divine instructions.”

Our Servant Leader for Finance says, “Śrīla Prabhupāda, I hope to continue your tradition of excellence in finance.” And she quotes you as follows:

You are GBC so you must stop all this [misappropriation of funds] from going on. The best procedure is that the Treasurer takes all money collected and immediately writes it in the book and then daily deposits everything in the bank. None of the collection should be used for spending. All expenditures should be done by check as far as possible. Check means two signatures, so in this way this nonsense will be stopped. Please see that all temples are following this system. [Letter to Gurukṛpā, 26 August 1975]

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for guiding us on how to do accounting, too.
Nanda Gopāl Dāsa, our Servant Leader for Newcomers, says:

My dear *parama-guru*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have created a home in which the whole world can take shelter. Through Your Divine Grace’s transcendental qualities, your transcendental books, and the qualities of your disciples, you continue to attract the fallen conditioned souls toward Kṛṣṇa. It is our responsibility to nurture and strengthen that attraction. In New Gokula Dhāma, as part and parcel of that global home, we are trying to nurture love and care for everyone, especially for newcomers. We are trying to create a group of mentors responsible for guiding our congregation and nurturing it with Kṛṣṇa consciousness so that we grow and stay united to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-mohana and Their devotees with love and devotion. We sincerely seek your blessings to make our endeavor an ongoing success.

Since you considered communication very important, Jaya Govinda Dāsa, our Servant Leader for Communications, uses mass media to reach out to the public to bring them to our temple. You mentioned that we can spiritualize material things by using them for Kṛṣṇa. Thank you for giving us such knowledge, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

You told us that no one within a ten-mile radius of an ISKCON center should go hungry. In 2004, on Jagannātha Mīśra *utsava* (the day after Gaura-Pūrṇimā), we began Hare Krishna Food for Life, so this year we celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. Thank you for giving us the *sevā* to distribute *kṛṣṇa-prema* through *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*.

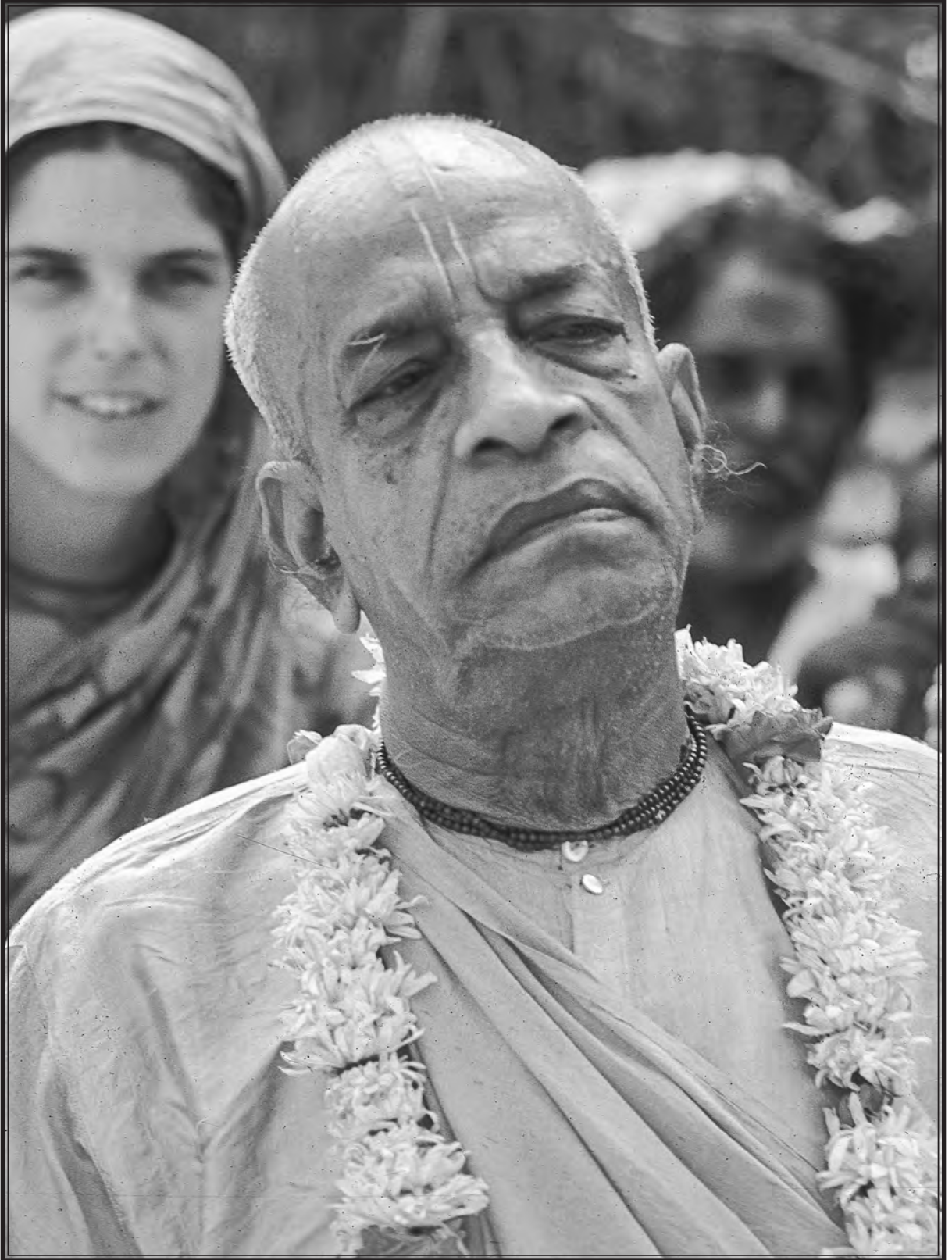
We are now inspired to build an *adbhuta mandira* for Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-mohana under the very able guidance of Navin Maharaja (not a *sannyāsī*). This new *mandira* will be a tourist attraction for both local and international visitors so that we can give them Kṛṣṇa consciousness and distribute more of your books. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us so many books to attract people from various backgrounds and interests. Even though we miss you in your *vapu* form, we relish your presence in your *vāṇī* form. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for teaching us how to love you in separation.

Lots to say, but I end here by seeking your blessings and mercy on all of us. May we serve you selflessly and help bring peace and happiness in this miserable material world.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servants at New Gokula Dhāma, Vancouver, Canada.

(written by Manu Dāsa)



New Goloka

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances on behalf of all the devotees at New Goloka Dhāma on this most auspicious day of your appearance in this world. We are all eternally indebted to you for your causeless mercy upon us.

We here at New Goloka Dhāma have been working for years to develop a Kṛṣṇa conscious community that will help devotees, new and old, to continue growing in their Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Naturally, we all look to you for guidance in everything we do as devotees. So with this in mind I consulted the Vaniquotes Internet site to see what you had to say about Kṛṣṇa conscious communities, for your words are the essence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In an evening conversation with devotees on January 25, 1977, you said,

Community means to help one another. . . . This is training. Community means I learn from you; you learn from the principles. . . . This is opportunity. You learn it. *Sādhū-saṅga*. By association . . . we must be *sādhū*.

Within the transcription of this conversation is a verse cited from the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Madhya 22.83) to further illustrate your points:

*kṛṣṇa-bhakti-janma-mūla haya 'sādhū-saṅga'
kṛṣṇa-prema janme, teṅho punaḥ mukhya aṅga*

The root cause of devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa is association with advanced devotees. Even when one's dormant love for Kṛṣṇa awakens, association with devotees is still most essential.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are teaching us that our communities are meant to help us become *sādhū* and that through association we should learn the principles of *bhakti* so that we can reach the goal of human life—pure devotional service. The citation of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* verse makes it clear that our association with you, the topmost devotee, is essential to any advancement we may make on the path of devotional service. Yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever we do should be a service to you, as you are the root cause of our good fortune. And what is our good fortune? It is to have been blessed by you to be initiated into ISKCON, into the line of great Gauḍīya *ācāryas* going back to Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself. What mercy you have bestowed upon us!

Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we come together today on your most holy Appearance Day to again rededicate our lives to you as your disciples and granddisciples. Please bless us so that we may continue to expand this great Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement you brought first to the USA and then to the rest of the world. Thank you a million times over for the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness!

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

(submitted by Dr̥ṣṭa Dāsa)

New Govardhana (USA)

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

*mūkaṁ karoti vācāraṁ paṅguṁ lañghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

*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*

Pacific Beach, the area of San Diego where New Govardhana Dhāma is located, is a beautiful place for forgetting Kṛṣṇa. The sun and sea encourage laid-back complacency. The fashion blatantly celebrates licentiousness. All-pervading advertisements promise that we will very soon be happy here. Gambling, meat-eating, intoxication, and illicit sex are the only sources of inspiration for the vast majority of the people here. In short, as your Guru Mahārāja once said about the whole material world, this place is not fit for any gentleman.

But still, you came here. You not only visited this material world but also visited its cultural pit, southern California. Despite knowing the highest ethical standards, the most sophisticated philosophy, and the most elevated culture, you chose to spend some time here. You gave ignorant and offensive souls a chance to hear your learned, realized exposition of Kṛṣṇa conscious philosophy and your pure, offenseless chanting of the holy name. You painstakingly presented the authorized process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, by which any person can be purified, and you sincerely encouraged everyone you met to take it up. If you—a “Vaikuṇṭha man”—were willing to preach in this lowly place, then what excuse could us natives possibly give for not doing so? An audience you deemed worthy, we must deem worthy.

Therefore, rather than escaping, your devotees preach in this lousy scenic city. And you were right, of course: even here there is innocence to be found. Though thoroughly engaged in sinful life, many do so not out of viciousness but out of cluelessness, having simply never been given another option. And upon meeting your devotees or reading your books or tasting kṛṣṇa-prasādam, some who were once misled and miserable become the most fortunate souls. Some of your sincerest devotees have joined and been nurtured here, and there are undoubtedly more to come. People can truly become happy here—not from the sun, not from the surf, not from the sights, but from service to you.

Therefore we pray for your blessings to continue serving in this rotten tourist spot. And this requires that we don't lose our minds. May we remember that we aren't here on vacation, that this place is part of the prison house of the material world, where all the inmates must suffer. May we remember that the solution to all problems is Kṛṣṇa consciousness and not Californian notions of yoga and love. May we read your books and may we study them. We need spiritual strength in order to truly help anyone, and such strength comes not from mere endeavor but from pleasing you. So in heaven or this hell, Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we please you.

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

New Māyāpur

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you.

We are humbly writing this offering on behalf of all the devotees of New Māyāpur.

We are so grateful you offered us this wonderful legacy: the opportunity to continually serve Their Lordship Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda-mādhava, along with all Their devotees. Generations of devotees given their hearts to maintaining this place as you requested, and by your mercy we are hoping to be able to make it flourish and reveal the shelter you saw in it. Please empower us to distribute your books and the Lords' *prasādam*, to renovate and develop this place, to teach your books, to follow your instructions and your standards, and to manifest your vision. Please protect us from making offenses toward your devotees, you, or Their Lordships. Please give us the benediction to always remain in your service. Thank you for all the mercy you are showering on us through your fully dedicated disciples.

May we always please you.

Aspiring to serve you, we remain

Your devotees in New Māyāpur, France.

New Raman Reti

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept the humble obeisances from all the devotees in the New Raman Reti community in Alachua, Florida.

In July 1971, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you visited Gainesville, Florida, which is just a few miles from New Raman Reti, for a couple of days. At that time the New Raman Reti property had not even been purchased. Yet despite describing Gainesville as “a remote corner of the world, thousands of miles from the birthplace of Lord Caitanya,” you had also encouraged the devotees, in a letter you wrote from London in June 1971, to “do something wonderful there in Gainesville. Wonderful means simply you chant loudly and distribute prasadam. That is not very difficult. It is very easy. Simply if you do it enthusiastically and sincerely, then success will be there.”

As we try to make those instructions our life and soul, we are reminded of your first meeting with your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. At that monumental meeting, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī planted in you the seed of your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the English language in the West. You carefully nurtured that seed, and it later fructified when you crossed the ocean with three trunks of books, the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, laboriously translated,

commentated, and printed by you without much assistance from others. So through your careful and deliberate meditation on the instructions of your spiritual master, ISKCON was born and began to grow into a significant branch of the Caitanya tree.

Oh, the potency of a life-giving seed! What a remarkable phenomenon! In his attempt to create the universe, Lord Brahmā received instruction from his spiritual master and father, Lord Nārāyaṇa, in two syllables: *ta pa*. Brahmā honored that instruction by practicing lengthy meditation, and the Lord then instilled in him the knowledge of how to take the material elements of the universe and form them into fields of activity so that countless conditioned souls could make progress.

You too carefully and deliberately meditated on Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's instructions and, taking his seed idea to take Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide, developed and grew—and continue to grow—a global transcendental force in which countless conditioned souls can blossom and taste the nectar of devotional service. Your Society provides innumerable ways to be engaged, and your glorious books provide guidance to devotees at all stages of *bhakti*, from beginners up to those who have become elevated through practice. All can be accommodated in the house you've built and perfect the process of pure devotional service, ending their entanglement in the material universes created by Lord Brahmā.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda! Our great divine master! Your compassion, determination, enthusiasm, purity, patience, and unadulterated love for the Lord have touched and forever changed the hearts and minds of millions of living entities! Their journey through the painful cycle of repeated birth and death, forced on them by their unlimited karmic entanglement, has been eternally and permanently altered! In *The Nectar of Instruction* you write a most encouraging statement: "Devotional service is so pure and perfect that once having begun, one is forcibly dragged to ultimate success." That one statement alone sounds the glories of *bhakti* like the resounding beat of a kettledrum. Oh, how great you are, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that with your transcendental vision and your hard work you were able to establish the mission of Lord Caitanya all over the world! Uncountable living entities have now started on the path back home, back to Godhead!

Here at New Raman Reti we bow collectively at your soft lotus feet. O Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg to stay on the path and never deviate from your perfect instructions. Even with hundreds of mouths speaking for millions of years, none of us could ever reach the limit of your glories or come to the end of the ways we can engage in serving you.

Any and all success this movement has gained belongs to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We pray that our New Raman Reti community, with its hundreds and hundreds of personalities to be engaged, sticks to the path you chalked out, and that each of us eventually meets you again, although we fully realize that you have always been present and have never left us. We beg for the good fortune of continuing to assist you in your service to our glorious disciplic succession.

For your pleasure, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to describe some of the programs being developed here at New Raman Reti due to your inspiration. By your grace, the gorgeous Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitai preside over the community. Their daily worship and breathtaking *darśanas* completely absorb both those who see Them and those who assist in Their worship. A number of devotees work hard in Their kitchen to provide Their Lordships with sumptuous offerings and to provide Their devotees with opulent *prasādam*. Those hard-working devotees in the kitchen often go unnoticed by others, but they are content knowing that they are pleasing you by their service. We also have wonderful festivals, a very active *harināma* program, and *prasādam* distribution at the nearby Santa Fe University. The Ratha-yātrā committee, complete with its own *harināma* and *prasādam* distribution efforts, hosts cultural events and does book distribution each year in eight major cities in Florida, then crosses the sea to celebrate Ratha-yatra in Puerto Rico and in two different places in Santo Domingo.

We have two schools on the temple property, one a government-approved charter school serving 150 students from both within and outside our community—and all have the opportunity to take nutritious *prasādam* for lunch! The other school, the Bhaktivedanta Academy, has a hundred students and twenty teachers. Many of the teachers in both schools are the children of devotees, grown up and now qualified as academic instructors.

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Recently, energetic devotees have begun to develop an eco-garden project and to revive cow protection at New Raman Reti in order to demonstrate some of the aspects of simple living and high thinking that you taught us.

There is an active Indian community outreach program, along with a number of programs for our youth, including the ever-popular bus tours, which yearly take over 150 young devotees preaching and experiencing Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout North America and Europe. For your pleasure these young devotees, ages 12–29, perform devotional plays, do *harināmas*, distribute *prasādam*, take part in *japa* seminars, and, of course, distribute books.

Our community has also rededicated itself to increasing book distribution. Last year a total of 15,974 books were distributed as a result of this enthusiastic revival, and the number of devotees who participate in these the monthly *saṅkīrtana* festivals has increased by 200 percent over the last year!

New Raman Reti is also the home of a branch of your Bhaktivedanta Institute, which recently hosted a well-attended conference on consciousness in Gainesville. The main offices of *Back to Godhead* magazine, the ISKCON Prison Ministry, the Child Protection Ministry, ISKCON News, Krishna.com, and several devotee-care initiatives are all located in our expanding village.

Many devotees are also engaged in systematically studying your books, both in groups and individually, and some conduct online classes. Śrīla Prabhupāda, the house you have provided us has so many rooms and services that anyone can be fully engaged in serving you. The above is only a partial list of what's happening here. And we are but one of the centers that grew from that seed you sowed and then watered with your ardent desire to rescue conditioned souls from the clutches of illusion and fulfill your Guru Mahārāja's vision.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are far from the mark of pure devotion—prone to wasting time and idle talk. Still, we know that you gave us the highest transcendental goal: to fully, lovingly, and eternally engage in the Supreme Lord's blissful service. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the lord of our lives, the captain of our ship, our eternal divine master! We pray that we will always be engaged in your service, and that throughout all eternity we will never tire of attempting to repay our debt to you.

May you be pleased to smile your beautiful, oceanic smile on our feeble attempts to serve you. Please accept us as yours and always engage us in assisting you in your service to the Lord. We have no other request.

Your aspiring servants at the New Raman Reti community in Alachua, Florida.

(written by Nanda Devī Dāśī)

New Remuṇā

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

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

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who saved us from the cycle of birth and death! You are bestowing on us pure *bhakti* for Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Kṣīra-cora Gopīnātha!

Prior to coming in contact with your message through your devotees and books, we knew only suffering caused by the dualities of the material nature. Some of us wanted to get free of this suffering, but we had no idea where to start or what to do. Your words leapt off the pages of your books and pierced our

material coverings, giving us hope that there was a way out. We began to read and listen to your message. Then we started chanting, and the way to our eternal home became clearer day by day.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this anniversary of your most blessed appearance, we find ourselves just beginning to understand the magnitude of your gift to us but with little means to repay you. It is only by following your example of glorifying and serving your spiritual master that we attempt to write this offering.

It is customary to wish someone good health on his or her appearance day. You showed that pure devotion to Kṛṣṇa does not depend on the state of one's health. You pushed on the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu without consideration for your comfort or ailments. In 1976, while you were visiting us here in Toronto, you had an infected tooth. "Any ordinary man would be in agony, completely disturbed mentally, and complaining all the time." (*Transcendental Diary*, vol. 2) Your close servants tried to save you from the trouble of having to speak while you were in pain, discouraging you from giving the Sunday feast lecture. Approximately three hundred Indian people had come to the feast, and, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you didn't even consider disappointing them. Rather, you gave an enthusiastic lecture, encouraging the attendees to cultivate their Kṛṣṇa consciousness and give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others.

You once said, "ISKCON is my body." Thus each and every temple in ISKCON is an indispensable organ in your body. The health of ISKCON Toronto, New Remuṇā-dhāma, is integral to your eternal health. So on this day we want to give you a health report for New Remuṇā.

This past year has not been without its challenges. However, because of the principle you gave us—"Books are the basis"—we have weathered the storms. Our *saṅkīrtana* team is now known globally for its dedication to distributing your books. Also, through the hard work of experienced devotees, a new management system was designed and instituted. In the past, preaching was simpler. In today's complex society we need to approach people from so many angles. The new management structure incorporates devotees dedicated to each of the identified areas of preaching and service. We are already seeing the results: more devotees are becoming involved in the preaching, more people are taking to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and more devotees are tasting ever-increasing bliss.

So rather than simply wishing you good health on your appearance day, we will work as hard as possible to contribute to the health of your ISKCON body and your eternal happiness. Please bless our efforts so that they may enliven you and please Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants at New Remuṇā, ISKCON Toronto, Canada.

New Tālavana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your pure devotional service. I beg to offer New Tālavana's Vyāsa-pūjā offering to you.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for serving the mission of your Guru Mahārāja with absolute sincerity. You preached the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu with great conviction and underwent all kinds of troubles and pains to deliver that message to the people of the West. You organized a society to teach the message, and accepted disciples willing to follow your order. You led that society and engaged its members in assisting your preaching. You connected us to the Supreme Personality of Godhead and encouraged us to carry your message everywhere. You made us fortunate.

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Without you we were immersed in an ocean of illusion, suffering birth, death, old age, and disease. By your potency you cut our attachments and inspired us to pursue devotion. You left a legacy so large that your disciples and followers continue the mission with no end in sight. You deserve more praise than we're capable of offering in this limited space, and more documentation of your story. Still, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for and appreciation of your pure devotional service, which has delivered us from darkness, illusion, fruitive activity, bondage, and forgetfulness of the Absolute Truth. Your expert and masterful movement and leadership in this world saved us from all of the above and more. Thank God you didn't abandon us.

In fact, you even taught us who God is and what His life is like. Furthermore, you enrolled us in His service as your servants. Consequently, the opportunity to again love Kṛṣṇa arose by your mercy. Your books became our televisions, radios, magazines, and newspapers. They cleansed our brains and kept us from going insane. They made us devotees and scholars in the line of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. What a masterful writer you are, all the while allowing us to do the editing, publishing, purchasing, distribution, and translating into many languages, continuing the same publishing process in those languages.

You are the greatest of souls in our time, for you are delivering the earth from demonic behavior, as Lord Kṛṣṇa did five thousand years ago. What more can be said? You are truly a powerful touchstone, purifying all.

On the day of your Vyāsa-pūjā we fall at your lotus feet and utter a rosary of thanks that you are the person you are. With love, we beg you to always accept us as humble disciples. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servants at New Tālavana-dhāma, ISKCON Mississippi, USA.

(written by Yogīndravandana Dāsa)

New Vrindaban

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You are extremely kind to the residents of New Vrindaban. During your four visits here and in your numerous letters, you have laid out a great vision for us to follow.

Previously, before you arrived in the Western world, we were enamored by the forest of illusion and the glittering trinkets it held out to us. Lifetime after lifetime, we were beaten and bewildered and betrayed by Māyā. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we had no good qualities, but it is our great fortune that we met Your Divine Grace. You mercifully picked us up and set us on the right path. You kindly gave us a mission in which to absorb ourselves. You once told a devotee who asked for your mercy that your mercy was to be found in following your instructions and working to fulfill the mission you had put forth.

And what a mission you've given us here in New Vrindaban! Practically speaking, the mission is to follow in the footsteps of the Six Gosvāmīs, to establish a new Vṛndāvana in the West.

We must never forget all of the various elements of New Vrindaban. We have a big project on our hands. To develop it fully will require a multitude of services over a span of many generations. Everyone here is part of the transcendental team: cooks and *pūjārīs*, gardeners and administrators, cleaners and

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pot-washers, cowherds and builders, preachers and fundraisers, children’s teachers and artists and craftspeople, the young and the old, the advanced and the neophyte.

Here in New Vrindaban we have a full-fledged community. Everyone is praying and thinking and working to serve you, to glorify your great achievement in coming to the West and, in some way, to simply be an insignificant part of the team to fulfill your vision: developing a sacred place of pilgrimage, a place of cow protection, a place of self-sufficiency, and a living example of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *varṇāśrama-dharma*. You want New Vrindaban to “show the world how the ideal God-conscious community is working.”

We pray that we may have the proper perspective to achieve that task, to faithfully and humbly serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Vrindaban-chandra day after day, along with serving Their temple, Their cows, Their land, Their visitors and pilgrims, and Their Lordships’ devotees. This is what it means to serve the holy *dhāma*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were always keen to remind us that devotees should be honored and cared for properly. Just as the Palace of Gold and the Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Vrindaban-chandra Temple need constant maintenance, so too the devotees who serve here require proper attention and maintenance.

During your last visit here in 1976, devotees from the construction crew and the *gośālā* had scheduled a *darśana* with you. When they arrived at the appointed time at the house where you were staying, your servant met them at the door and told them you weren’t feeling well enough to have a meeting. And so they turned around and began walking back down the driveway. You saw them from the window and immediately told your servant to call them back. And you had a leisurely meeting with them. You spoke about the glories of devotional service and the effects of Kali-yuga, and you patiently answered all their questions. You showed us that love means to go out of our way. You showed us that no one should be neglected.

Our only prayer is that we may realize the magnitude of your wonderful kindness and mercy upon us and that we may reflect that same kindness and mercy upon everyone we meet. In this way, please allow us to fulfill your desire to “show the world how the ideal God-conscious community is working.”

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

Noida

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. Happy Vyāsa-pūjā, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu willed that the holy name of Kṛṣṇa be chanted in every town and village throughout the world. So here we are in Noida, a so-called modern city with its many Kali-yuga products, chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa and propagating that chanting. Your ISKCON center here was established in 1998, but by your blessings we formally inaugurated a new temple in 2014. Noida is an industrialized computer-career–

oriented town, and over the years ISKCON has made successful inroads in preaching here. Regardless of the difficulties, your devoted followers have ensured that your mission to fulfill Caitanya Mahāprabhu's desire, a mission given to you by your own Guru Mahārāja, has continued.

Despite the usual hindrances, we have managed to establish a solid congregation and youth wing. Our *nagara-saṅkīrtana* goes on nicely every Saturday morning, with our solid *harināma* party grows bigger every week. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class in the morning and *Bhagavad-gītā* class in the evening are consistent, daily features, happening without fail and following the “sandwich” recipe Your Divine Grace gave us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your grace we have our own bullock cart. We seat Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and Your Divine Grace on this cart and each year take it on *padayātrā* to Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma just before Kārttika. It takes us fifteen days to reach Vṛndāvana from Noida, arriving in Vṛndāvana on the auspicious Śarad Pūrṇimā. Our devotees enthusiastically perform *kīrtana*, share *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, and distribute both *prasādam* and your books in each and every village along the way. We started this *yātrā* three years ago, and it is now a permanent feature on ISKCON Noida's calendar, along with other popular annual preaching events created to appeal to people of different ages and stages—programs that include the Vedic Wisdom Contest, Rejuvenation, Tarang, Umang, Madhuram, Summer Camp, and others.

Even though these programs are insignificant compared to what you were able to achieve in such a short time, the devotees at ISKCON Noida are committed to ensuring that the people of this city can take advantage of Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mercy. Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year you will witness the inauguration of our state-of-the-art Light & Sound Diorama Museum, the latest feature of your Noida project.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your Greater Noida center, which is a branch of the Noida temple, has shifted to a bigger and better rental property. We are looking for land in the direction of Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma for the Greater Noida temple. We are insignificant and incompetent, but Your Divine Grace has transformed many unqualified devotees into qualified devotees, so we look to your mercy and have hope.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will be happy to hear that many of your disciples visit the Noida temple both to preach and to attend management meetings. Recently, under the guidance of your beloved disciple His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, we organized a meeting for ISKCON India's leaders. These leaders included some of your senior disciples, such as His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami, His Holiness Rādhānāth Swami, His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami, His Grace Mahāmān Prabhu, and His Grace Bhakta-rūpa Prabhu. They were pleased with the arrangements and hospitality offered by your granddisciples. Also, throughout the year we receive other senior Vaiṣṇavas to speak in depth on your books, such as His Holiness Devāmrita Swami, His Holiness Guru Prasād Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Vighna-vināśa Narasimha Mahārāja, Her Grace Ūrmilā Mātājī, and His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami, who came with his trained drama troupe to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness through art, drama, and acting workshops.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the best thing that has happened in our lives. By your grace, we enjoy *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, Deity worship, chanting śāstric verses, *kīrtana*, visits to the holy *dhāma*, and wonderful association with other Vaiṣṇavas. ISKCON is opening many new temples in India, and this brings joy to our hearts. More and more sincere people are taking to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and they will influence others, who will also promote Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Lord Caitanya is the greatest gift you gave to the world. If you had not taken your Guru Mahārāja's order as your life and soul, we in the northern part of India would have simply wasted our lives. No one here was familiar with the extraordinary mercy of Lord Caitanya. Presenting Lord Caitanya's teachings and pastimes has made your movement a historic spiritual revolution. Lord Nityānanda's mercy is limitless and available to all. The inhabitants of this world will have a chance to go back home, back to Godhead, by that mercy.

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

Our lives were exactly as you described: we were trapped in the desert of this material world. We were chasing drops of happiness in the form of family, friends, and various other forms of materialism.

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None of us had developed any taste for Lord Kṛṣṇa's instructions. How futile were our attempts to make a permanent, happy home in this *anityam asukham lokam*! Our condition resembled fools trying to build castles in the sky. We knew no better. And that is why, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came to save us.

Please have mercy on us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we may continue to work together to expand your International Society for Krishna Consciousness and take full shelter of the oasis you established—these miniature Vaikuṇṭhalokas in the desert of the material world.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. *Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā mahotsava kī jaya!*

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Noida, Govinda Dhām, and Bhaktivedanta Academy, India.

Ottawa

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

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

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa 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,

On this most auspicious and glorious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the order of your divine spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, which you accepted as your life and soul, you came to the West to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness, especially as taught by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His intimate associates, to the entire world. And you were successful.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you expressed your heart in unparalleled humility in your Bengali poem *Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma* ("Teaching Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in America"), which you wrote aboard the *Jaladuta* after it had docked at Commonwealth Pier in Boston Harbor on September 17, 1965: "My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the same manner, although I am truly a most useless soul, you have brought me and kept me sheltered at your lotus feet and the lotus feet of your Lords, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, for the past forty-three years.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you can do whatever you like with me, but I beg you to please keep me sheltered at your lotus feet. I do not know what would happen to me if I lose the shelter of your lotus feet and the lotus feet of your most merciful Lords, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

(1)

*gurudeva kṛpā-bindu diyā
koro' ei dāse, tṛṇāpekhā ati hīna
sakala sahane, bala diyā koro'
nija-māne sprhā-hīna*

(2)

*sakale sammāna korite śakati
deho' nātha! jathājatha
tabe to' gāibo, hari-nāma-sukhe
aparādha ha'be hata*

(3)

*kabe heno kṛpā, labhiyā e jana
kṛtārtha hoibe, nātha!
śakti-buddhi-hīna, āmi ati dīna
koro' more ātma-sātha*

(4)

*jogyatā-vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi
tomāra karuṇā-sāra
karuṇā nā hoile, kāndiyā kāndiyā
prāṇa nā rākhibo āra*

(1) Gurudeva, O spiritual master! Give to this servant just one drop of mercy. I am lower than a blade of grass. Give me all help. Give me strength. Let me be as you are, without material desires or aspirations.

(2) I offer you all respects, for thus I may have the energy to know you correctly. Then, by chanting the holy name in great ecstasy, all my offenses will cease.

(3) When will such mercy fall to this soul, who is weak and devoid of intelligence? Allow me to be with you.

(4) If you examine me, you will find no good qualities. Your mercy is all that I am made of. If you are not merciful to me, I can only weep, and I will not be able to maintain my life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mercy is all I and my family and your extended ISKCON Ottawa family are made of. We beg for your causeless mercy and for the opportunity for continued shelter and service at your lotus feet.

Your servants at ISKCON Ottawa, Canada.

(written by Śaṅkara Dāsa)

Pandharpur

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The ISKCON center in Pandharpur, the holy land of Lord Viṭṭhala, has completed the construction of a *ghāṭa* on the bank of the river Candrabhāgā. We feel great pleasure in offering this magnificent construction to you, and have named it Prabhupāda Ghāṭa. Every year, *lakhs* of pilgrims arrive in Pandharpur to bathe in the Candrabhāgā and take *darśana* of Lord Viṭṭhala. We constructed the *ghāṭa* to facilitate their bathing, and now pilgrims are able to take advantage of it. At this *ghāṭa* there is a beautiful Candrabhāgā temple, which is situated near the bank of the river.

This year, on the auspicious Devaśayanī Ekādaśī, we distributed 70,000 plates of Ekādaśī *prasādam*, 7,000 *mahā*-big books, and 7,000 BTGs. We have also constructed a few more rooms in the guesthouse to facilitate the increasing number of devotees visiting Pandharpur *dhāma*.

Another significant activity this year: we started a Maharashtra *padayātrā* program in order to take Lord Caitanya's message, as taught by Your Divine Grace, to every town and village of Maharashtra, land of the saint Tukārāma. We hope this will please you.

ISKCON Pandharpur's *gośālā* is flourishing. Beautiful, healthy cows are giving abundant milk, which we use in our service to the presiding Deities, Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Paṇḍharīnātha, and Their devotees. Cow dung and cow urine are used as organic manure on the farm, where we cultivate various vegetables, grains, and grasses. We also produce a variety of fruits, such as papayas, bananas, and coconuts, as well as many types of flowers to offer to Their Lordships.

We hope that all these activities are pleasing to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we beg your mercy for further successes.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us an opportunity to serve this divine mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Pandharpur-dhāma, Maharashtra, India.M

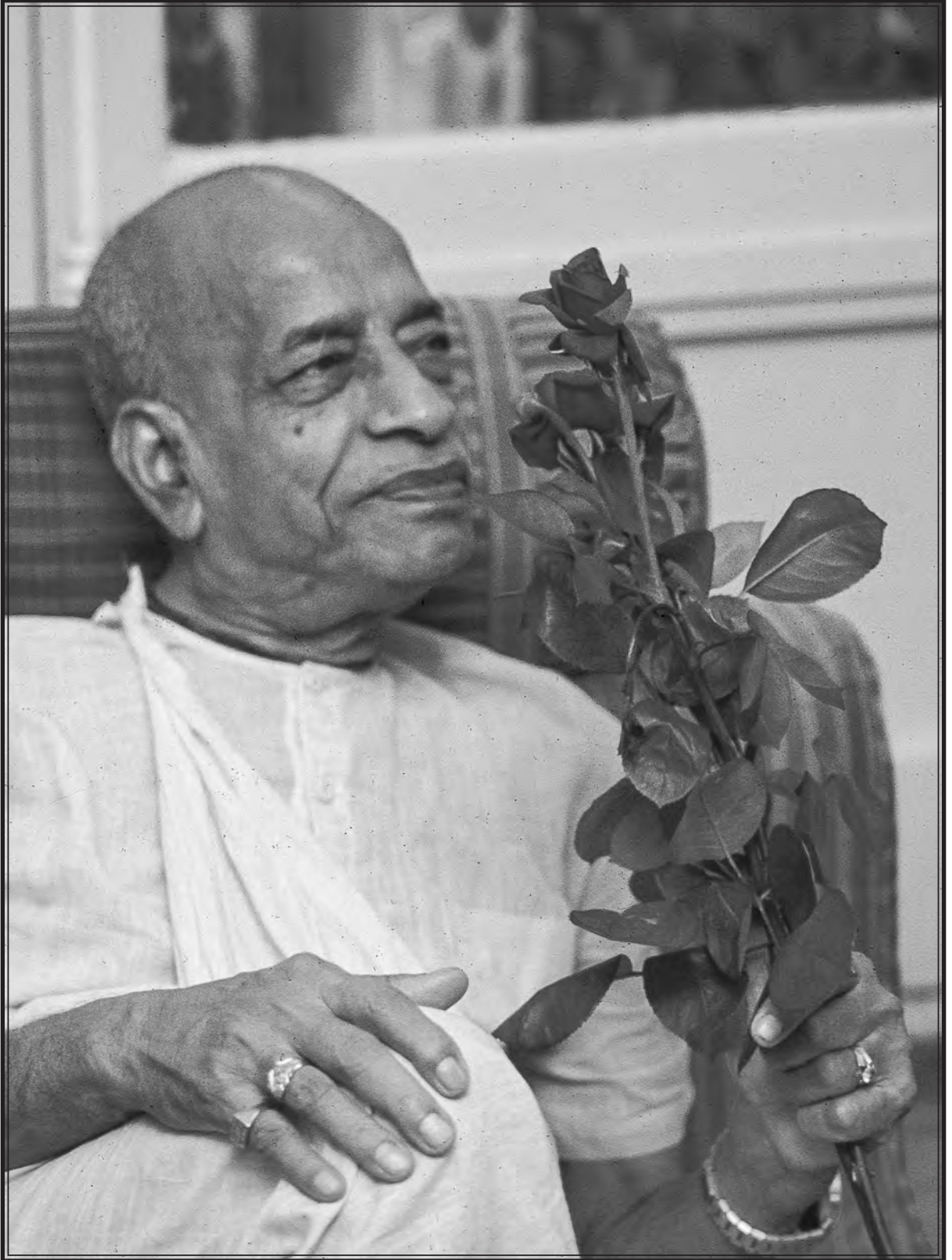
Paris

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, Your Divine Grace,

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

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

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



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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.”

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your transcendental loving service at the lotus feet of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. All glories to the Śrī Brahma-Madhva-Gauḍīya-sampradāya.

You created ISKCON as an organization to help devotees practice pure *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Your ISKCON—our ISKCON—is a unique global institution that saves many fallen conditioned souls from the waves of the ocean of Kali.

Our temple in Paris has a long history in ISKCON. It began with a few sincere North American students helping young French boys and girls establish the *saṅkīrtana* movement here. That was in 1968—only two years after you established ISKCON in New York. New Māyāpur was founded five years later. Now, Kṛṣṇa consciousness has been present in France for fifty years.

After your physical departure from this world, the Paris temple experienced many ups and downs. Time has passed, but Kṛṣṇa consciousness has survived here in France. Despite appearances, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is alive and well in Paris. This may be due to the tenacity of the local devotees, who are preaching to give Lord Kṛṣṇa pleasure, and no doubt it is also due to the extraordinary solidarity within ISKCON.

Generosity is not an empty word in ISKCON. Just as you are infinitely magnanimous, so is ISKCON, as experienced through the actions of its wonderful servants. Despite their enormous responsibilities in their respective fields or countries—the United Kingdom, Belgium, Italy, Hungary, India—a number of ISKCON leaders have given the French *yātrā*, and ISKCON Paris specifically, decisive help. To all of them, we devotees of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parīśvara, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śacī-suta are eternally grateful.

All these senior Vaiṣṇava leaders and their younger followers are your authentic representatives. Your spiritual children are your transcendental pride, Śrīla Prabhupāda. They serve the Lord and the other devotees out of love for you. You are the heart and soul of ISKCON, and ISKCON is the heart and soul of Kṛṣṇa.

Day after day, year after year, Śrī Kṛṣṇa is glorified in Paris by chanting His holy names, honoring the temple ceremonies, and distributing *bhāgavata-prasādam*. The distribution of your books, which was almost at a standstill for years in Paris, is again being carried out for your pleasure and for the benefit of the conditioned souls. Now, for a second year, under the supervision of our national secretary, we had a successful winter book distribution marathon. Newcomers are again being attracted to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and many more will surely come.

A group of dedicated *kṛṣṇa-bhaktas* from France and other countries is now working hard to find a more suitable and permanent place for Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parīśvara, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śacī-suta. It is in Kṛṣṇa's lotus hands. However, we are also fully convinced that such service activities are due to your causeless mercy and the extraordinary inspiration you put in our hearts.

We have done some service for Kṛṣṇa in Paris, but there is still much to do. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* states that devotional service must be uninterrupted and unmotivated to completely satisfy the self. Let us serve you without motivation and without interruption. Your satisfaction is our satisfaction, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Let us pray to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa that we always remain your loyal servants and serve you eternally in the spiritual realm.

All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga! Hare Kṛṣṇa.

The devotees at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parīśvara temple, Paris, France.

(written by Bhavasindhu Dāsa)

Pattaya

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Pattaya is known as a sinful city. The people here are thickly covered by *māyā* and engage fully in materialistic activities. They try to enjoy nightlife but have no idea of the purpose of life.

We would like to thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for coming into our lives and teaching us the purpose of life. We were so lost in this material world that we were not able to see what misery we were living in. But you came into our lives and pulled us out of our materialistic well full of dark ignorance. You taught us how to be real human beings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and how to strive to achieve the real purpose of life, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which is enlightening us and the whole world.

Although we were not able to be with Your Devine Grace physically, we feel very, very close to you through your books, your audio and video recordings, your pictures, and your representatives. We have no words to describe our gratitude for what you have done for us. Now what we have to do is thoroughly learn the knowledge you have made available to us and strictly follow the path of *bhakti-yoga* as you taught it.

Please bless us so that we can all work together to distribute love of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your desire that the world become Kṛṣṇa conscious will be fulfilled, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because ISKCON devotees all over the world are continuing your mission with great enthusiasm. We are a small part of that effort but are eager to make your mission successful here in Pattaya by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Pattaya, Thailand.

Perth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious 123rd anniversary of your appearance.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, when Haridāsa Ṭhākura says “One can easily attain liberation simply by glimpsing the awakening of the Lord’s holy name,” Gopāla Cakravartī became angry because he didn’t have faith in the power of the holy name.

Similarly, when you say “Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy,” like Gopāla Cakravartī we doubt, wondering how this can be. But then you say to have faith in your words. Yes, that’s true, because that’s what the scriptures, the *sādhus*, and you as our *parama-guru* say we should do: have faith in your words and follow your instructions. Your instructions are powerful and enlivening. Associating with you through your books, lectures, conversations, and faithful disciples is powerful. We simply have to have faith and follow them. Then everything will fall into place.

We need your mercy to develop that faith.

We don’t know much about Kṛṣṇa and His transcendental qualities or how to reach Him, but you said you have the key to the back door. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please have mercy on us and take us on that

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path you know so well. We will simply hold on to your *dhotī*. Please do not deprive us of your compassion.

Perth is a place far from any other Australian city or any other part of the world, but you placed your lotus feet here and purified it by spending ten glorious days here. Now we are making a tiny attempt to please you by spreading Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's message in Perth. One of those attempts has been to secure property for a new home for Their Lordships Śrī Sri Gaura-Nitāi. As you know, this process has taken us years and continues to take time. After a long negotiation with the seller and his agent, finally, on Nityānanda Trayodaśī this year, we signed the offer contract. As we write this, we are carrying out our due diligence. So far the results are promising, and we will soon have to pay the deposit.

We are also working on plans for the new building. We are hoping that by today, your Vyāsa-pūjā day, we will have lodged the DA application. This process is not smooth and sometimes not encouraging, but when we remember your efforts to secure places like the Juhu land in Mumbai and others, the troubles we are going through become insignificant. Please keep reminding us that we simply have to focus on our attempt to please you in order to become good instruments. Failure or success is immaterial.

We have made progress in areas like the *bhakti-ṛkṣa* programs, and there are now eleven groups where devotees meet regularly to chant, discuss *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, and learn how to apply the philosophy in their lives. It's encouraging to see more devotees coming forward to take initiation into Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *bhakti* cult.

We are trying our best to distribute *prasādam* from our restaurant and at various festivals. The stall at the local farmers market has been steady, and many residents of Perth and its suburbs come and relish *prasādam*.

We go out regularly on street *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, which attracts the interest of onlookers. We also have a Sunday school, where children learn *śloka*s and stories, learn how to play musical instruments, and take part in devotional plays.

The above is not enough, and we have for increase to your satisfaction. We know well that we are very weak in book distribution—the service that is most pleasing to you and to our *parama-guru*. We need your mercy to devise newer methods by which we can involve the congregation in book distribution.

Also, we admit that our Deity standards can be improved and our preaching programs need more attention. We can improve by your mercy.

So on this special day, please bless us to increase our preaching efforts and thus introduce more and more people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which is the only solace in the blazing fire of material existence.

Your aspiring servants in Perth, Australia.

Philadelphia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

*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*

It is only by the divine mercy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, that we are blessed to have had your merciful presence in the formation of ISKCON, starting with your arrival in 1965.

You continue to bless us through your books and through the association of your sincere followers worldwide. In every important city in the world, devotees are endeavoring to push on the mission you so bravely started on the order of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Prabhupāda.

One such important city is Philadelphia, which you described as “your great city of Philadelphia” during your lecture at the Philadelphia Ratha-yātrā in 1975.

The devotees here are sincerely working together to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in as many ways as possible, including opening a new temple for the service of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śaradbihārī, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. The purpose of completing this project is to attract the local residents of this great city as well as to provide a more suitable facility for the devotees to enhance and improve their devotional service. Śrīla Prabhupāda, the community here also hosts one of the most beautiful and well-attended Ratha-yātrās in the U.S.

We began 2019 with a renewed commitment to fulfilling the seven purposes of ISKCON, which you personally established for all of your followers. We are convinced that if we adhere to these purposes, all our endeavors to serve you will be successful. We especially made note of the third purpose: “To bring the members of the Society together with each other and nearer to Kṛṣṇa, 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 (Kṛṣṇa).”

Your statement about “developing the idea within the members, and humanity at large, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Kṛṣṇa)” is so important, especially at the present time when there is so much misunderstanding, distrust, and lack of leadership on all levels of society. If we can focus on this message and consistently practice and share this idea with the general mass of people, especially here in the great city of Philadelphia, then I am sure that we will have a measurable and meaningful impact on the lives of the devotees and the residents of this city and other cities as well.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, bless us so that we can carry on with your mission and work together as you desired us to do. You stated that the test of our love for you would be how well we cooperate after your departure from our vision. We pray that we may pass this test and continue to engage in devotional service and strive to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness as you envisioned.

It is only by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we can hope to one day please you and thereby receive the unlimited mercy of Kṛṣṇa, the prime entity.

Please continue to watch over us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as we strive to deliver the holy names and distribute your transcendental books to the suffering *jīvas* here in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas.

Your humble servants and congregational members of ISKCON Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

(written by Balabhadra Bhaṭṭācārya Dāsa)

Phoenix

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

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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you. All glories to the saṅkīrtana movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu!

It is with our deepest love and humility that your servants here in Phoenix offer these simple words to you and beg forgiveness for any mistakes we may have committed, not only while writing this offering but in the course of our service.

We are forever thankful for your love and mercy. Following the instructions of your spiritual master, you brought Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West and shared it with everyone, whether deserving or not. You did not see our qualifications or backgrounds; your merciful eyes saw only the suffering and devastation caused by Kali, and like a spiritual warrior you set the plan in motion to rescue as many souls as possible. You became the captain of the ship that navigates the turbulent waters of material existence, stopping at every possible port to rescue fallen souls.

Your love and mercy have no bounds. You were ready to listen to every person, to answer every question, whether it was silly or complex. Your caring disposition was so noticeable that even today those who were close to you even for a moment remember your love and care.

Please bless your spiritual sons, daughters, grandchildren, well-wishers, and all those who in one way or another try to carry on your mission. The task is not easy, but you said that going back home, back to Godhead, was possible in this lifetime, so we are resolved to follow your teachings and principles. Please guide and bless us so that we may always keep Vaiṣṇava values in mind. Bless us so that we may have humble, tolerant, loving, and caring dispositions toward others. In this way, and by cooperating with one another, we can hold hands and come closer to you and closer to Kṛṣṇa.

Please bless us so that we always remember Kṛṣṇa and never forget Him. We pray that we never forget that it is thanks to you that we are here today.

Begging to remain your aspiring servants at ISKCON Phoenix, Chandler, Arizona, USA.

Pomadze

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you.

We, the members of the Pomadze, Ghana, congregation, write this humble offering to you on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

We are located in the southern part of Ghana, in a little village close to the Atlantic Ocean. You wouldn't find us on a world map. However, by your kind mercy you have encouraged and inspired us to be participants in your humble, kind, and singular mission to propagate Lord Caitanya's movement throughout the world. In this way you have enlightened and saved us with your powerful preaching and guidance.

You have painstakingly translated the essence of the *Vedas*, taught us, and made "human beings" out of us, fallen souls though we are. You have made it possible for us to be able to read, understand, and study the Vedic scriptures so that we can, in our own small way, also teach Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others. For this, O *jagat-guru*, we are most indebted.

At an advanced stage in your life on this earth and, at risk to your life, you took the trouble to travel out of your comfort zone to save souls. Your loyalty to your guru's instructions was more important to you than your own life. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are most thankful to you.

We are happy and most fortunate to be able to assist you in this mission. We kindly ask for your continued blessings so that we can continue participating and creating a platform for other fallen souls to join and help propagate the noble mission of spreading Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement to all corners of the earth.

Your books have enlightened millions of souls and continue to be distributed to all the hidden corners on earth. Indeed, you are the savior of the world.

Using your teachings, we humbly attempt to train and groom our youth to become ISKCON's next leaders, and also to develop farm projects.

On this occasion, we write to thank you for your kind generosity and mercy. We further ask that you keep us glued to the shade of your lotus feet, even though we are weak and stubborn.

Jaya Gurudeva! We take shelter at your lotus feet.

Your devotees at Śrī Jagannātha-dhāma, Pomadze, Ghana.

(written by Prahāda Bhakta Dāsa)

Prague

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

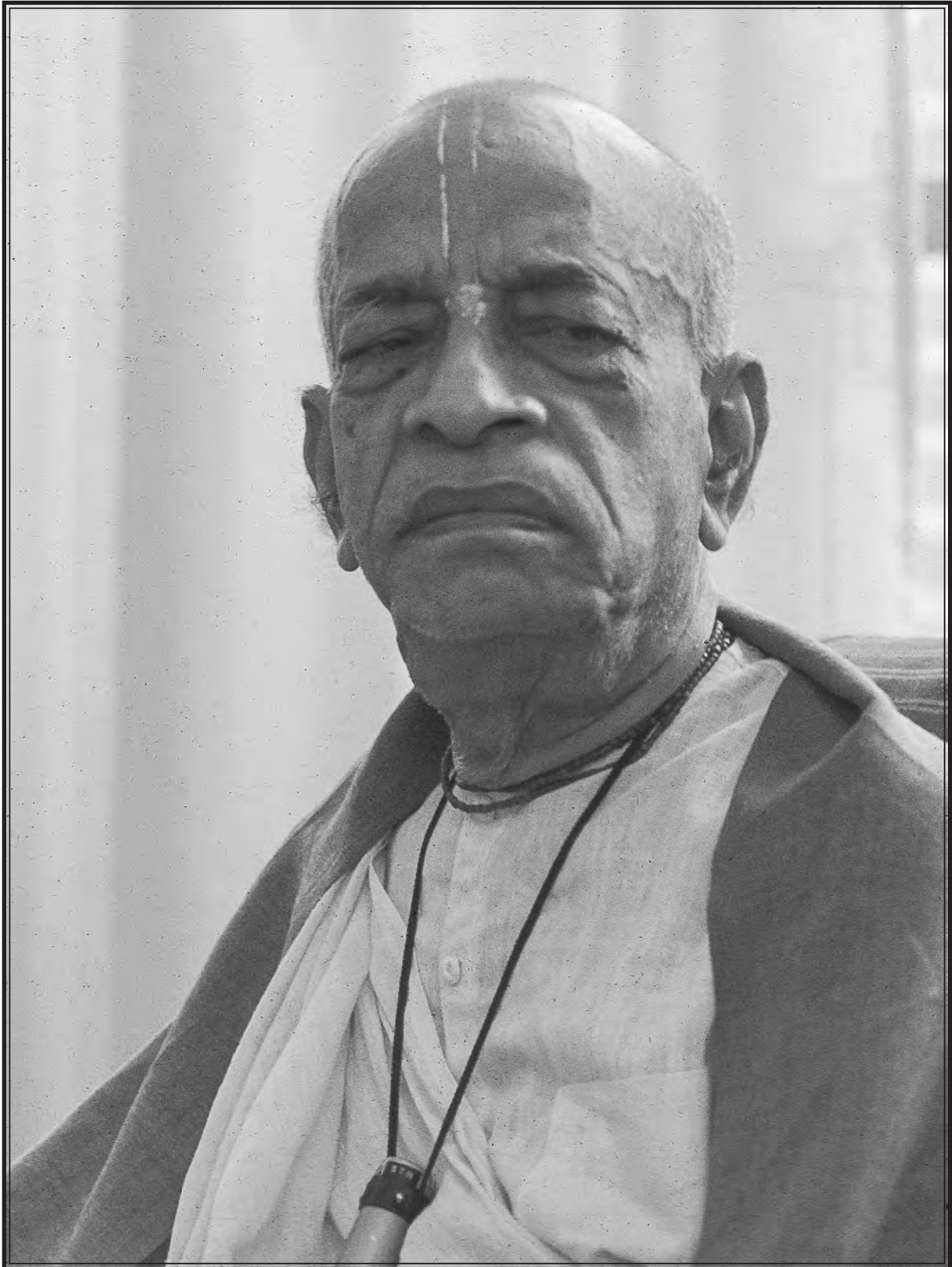
*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmine*

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

It is a great honor for us to write this homage to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration.

Although it is not possible anymore to meet you physically here on this planet, anyone who sincerely

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reads your books, hears your lectures or *bhajans*, watches a video in which you appear, does some service for you, or associates with your faithful followers can immediately feel a relationship with you, the well-wisher of all. All over the world, people still feel your spiritual presence, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are here for everyone, freely giving your teachings, the holy name, your pastimes, and your International Society for Krishna consciousness, in which you are always present as the foremost leader and founder-*ācārya*. When one renders service to your ISKCON movement, this realization deepens and broadens and is protected by you.

Present generations of your followers, as well as future ones over the next ten thousand years, will all be nourished by your teachings, experiencing the same feeling of your constant presence. This is not something that can be experienced on the material plane. But on the spiritual plane it is common and natural, and you have given this to the world to experience.

As Kṛṣṇa is never alone, so neither are you, for you are always surrounded by your faithful followers, who try to fulfill your desires as best they can. May we always stay connected with you in their association.

May your ISKCON movement flourish and expand unlimitedly.

May we take active part in this expansion.

May we understand your message and live and spread it to your satisfaction.

Yes, it is upon us now. You have given everything.

May we be conscious of how you are present in the various ways we think, speak, and work only for your cause.

May we become Prabhupādānugas, leaving aside all other considerations, and work for your satisfaction only.

We are all products of your great transcendental desire to bring all conditioned souls back to Kṛṣṇa. May we be always conscious of that fact and never leave the shade of your lotus feet.

Please give us the ability to bring more and more people to your lotus feet.

You have revealed Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, to this world, and since then the whole planet—nay, the whole universe—has changed and is still changing for the better, giving everybody a chance to leave this jail and return back home, back to Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please consider us your aspiring servants. Even though we are greatly unqualified, we vow to keep on trying until we meet your expectations, never mind how many lifetimes it takes, provided that we can always be part of your movement.

Your unworthy servants at Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Navadvīpacandra Mandir, Prague, Czech Republic.

Radhadesh

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On behalf of the Radhadesh-vāsīs, we beg to offer our prostrated obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. On this 123rd anniversary of your appearance in this world, we want to try to honor and glorify you by sharing some of our insights and realizations in relation to Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura's *Śrī Gurv-aṣṭaka*. You have so mercifully and strategically engaged your disciples and followers in singing this prayer at the beginning of each day, and it is a perfect medium for expressing our appreciation for your unfathomable glories.

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Śrī Śrī Gurv-aṣṭaka

(1)

*saṁsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka-
trāṇāya kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvam
prāptasya kalyāṇa-guṇārṇavasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire to extinguish it, so the spiritual master delivers the materially afflicted world by extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities.”

The first time I was blessed to be in your presence, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I was one member of a huge congregation of ecstatic devotees welcoming you with resounding *kīrtana*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you walked through the throng of dancing devotees, whose eyes were all on you, and your eyes were lowered, your hands held in *praṇāma*. As a devotee approached you with a garland, it seemed that you retreated into an ocean of humility. This vision was confirmed later when I read that the spiritual master is an ocean of auspicious qualities.

Also, once, when huge crowds of people in New Delhi were exuberantly adoring you, you asked your assistants, “Do you know why they are worshiping me? It is because I am free from sex desire.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, this was your simple awareness of the glorification that was being showered upon you because of your being fully surrendered to the desires of guru and Kṛṣṇa. You never tried to take credit for your indescribable success in spreading Lord Caitanya’s mission—you always gave the credit to your Guru Mahārāja, to the previous *ācāryas*, and to us, your aspiring disciples and followers. Śrīla Prabhupāda, all obeisances unto you!

(2)

*mahāprabhoḥ kīrtana-nṛtya-gīta-
vāditra-mādyan-manaso rasena
romāñca-kampāśru-taraṅga-bhājo
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“Chanting the holy name, dancing in ecstasy, singing, and playing musical instruments, the spiritual master is always gladdened by the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Because he is relishing the mellows of pure devotion within his mind, sometimes his hair stands on end, he feels quivering in his body, and tears flow from his eyes like waves. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, at the age of seventy-plus your ecstatic dancing lifted your young disciples high off the ground. Some of us here at Radhadesh can hardly comprehend how you were able to do that. As we experience the vicissitudes of old age, we increasingly realize how your perfect *bhakti* made you the ultimate *yogī*. The *yogīs* who meditate in solitude in the Himalayas could never achieve the level of tolerance, mercy, regulation, and countless other mystical achievements that derived from your jubilant devotion for Lord Caitanya and His *saṅkīrtana* movement. Śrīla Prabhupāda, all obeisances unto you!

(3)

*śrī-vigrahārādhana-nitya-nānā-
śṛṅgāra-tan-mandira-mārjanātau*

*yuktasya bhaktāṁś ca niyuñjato 'pi
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is always engaged in the temple worship of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. He also engages his disciples in such worship. They dress the Deities in beautiful clothes and ornaments, clean Their temple, and perform other, similar worship of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is only out of your deep compassion that you are allowing us to assist you in worshipping Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha. Once, after an evening feast, I took rest, anxious that I might not be able to get up in time to wake the Deities the following morning. I very sincerely paid my obeisances to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, begging, “Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, wake me up in time to wake the Deities.” In the early morning hours I heard the sound of your slippers walking up each step of the stairs and entering my room. You knelt beside me, put your hand on my shoulder, and told me, “It is time to wake up—you have to wake the Deities.” I woke, sat straight up, and said “*Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*” Then I realized that you were no longer there. I looked at the clock—it was almost three, just seconds before my alarm was to go off. I then realized that in fact it is you who so mercifully allow us to assist you in serving Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha. Śrīla Prabhupāda, all obeisances unto you!

(4)
*catur-vidha-śrī-bhagavat-prasāda-
svādv-anna-tṛptān hari-bhakta-saṅghān
kṛtvaiṣva tṛptiṁ bhajataḥ sadaiva
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is always offering Kṛṣṇa four kinds of delicious food [analyzed as that which is licked, chewed, drunk, and sucked]. When the spiritual master sees that the devotees are satisfied by eating *bhagavat-prasāda*, he is satisfied. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.”

In 1976, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were at New Māyāpur, in France, where you initiated many devotees. After the initiation there was a big feast on the lawn in front of the castle. The window to your room faced the lawn, and at one point some devotees looked up and saw you standing there. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were so happy to see all the devotees honoring *prasādam* that you raised your arms high. All the devotees then raised their arms, calling, “*Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!*” We love to meditate on these kinds of pastimes when we chant the fourth verse of the *Gurv-aṣṭaka*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, all obeisances unto you!

(5)
*śrī-rādhikā-mādhavayor apāra-
mādhurya-līlā guṇa-rūpa-nāmnām
prati-kṣaṇāsvādāna-lolupasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited conjugal pastimes of Rādhikā and Mādhava, and Their qualities, names, and forms. The spiritual master aspires to relish these at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, at the 1972 Janmāṣṭamī festival at New Vrindavan, you had the devotees read *Kṛṣṇa* book well into the night. While your disciples (even the *sannyāsīs*) struggled to stay awake, hoping that

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at the end of each chapter the reading would conclude, you had the devotees read chapter after chapter until midnight, clearly relishing every word. This helps us to realize how exalted you are, how deeply realized your devotion is, and how you are relishing love for Śrī Śrī Rādhikā and Mādhava at every step. We beg to be allowed to follow in your lotus footprints. Śrīla Prabhupāda, all obeisances unto you!

(6)

*nikuñja-yūno rati-keli-siddhyai
yā yālibhir yuktir apekṣaṇīyā
tatrāti-dākṣyād ati-vallabhasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is very dear because he is expert in assisting the *gopīs*, who at different times make different tasteful arrangements for the perfection of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa’s conjugal loving affairs within the groves of Vṛndāvana. I offer my most humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.”

In the early seventies, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Rāmeśvara Prabhu, who was overseeing the burgeoning book distribution in Los Angeles, claimed that dedicated book distributors were serving in the mood of the *gopīs*. Many devotees felt he was making a rather risky comparison, perhaps bordering on the *sahajiyā*, but you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, said that Rāmeśvara Prabhu had the correct understanding. At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.31.9 this view is corroborated in the *gopīs*’ songs to Lord Kṛṣṇa:

*tava kathāmrtaṁ tapta-jīvanam
kavibhir īditaṁ kalmaṣāpaham
śravaṇa-maṅgalaṁ śrīmad ātataṁ
bhūvi grṇanti ye bhūri-dā janāḥ*

“The nectar of Your words and the descriptions of Your activities are the life and soul of those suffering in this material world. These narrations, transmitted by learned sages, eradicate one’s sinful reactions and bestow good fortune on whoever hears them. These narrations are broadcast all over the world and are filled with spiritual power. Certainly those who spread the message of Godhead are most munificent.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are that most munificent soul spreading the message of Godhead. Fortunate are those great souls who enthusiastically assist you in this most sublime and intimate service. Śrīla Prabhupāda, all obeisances unto you!

(7)

*sākṣād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair
uktas tathā bhāvyata eva sadbhīḥ
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and followed by all authorities. Therefore I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is a bona fide representative of Śrī Hari [Kṛṣṇa].”

In 1976, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I saw you as the most confidential servant of the Supreme Lord when you performed the installation of Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma at New Māyāpur. First you bathed Lord Balarāma, holding the conch above His head, and then you offered the same water to Lord Kṛṣṇa. But in order to reach Kṛṣṇa while standing to the side so that the assembled devotees could still take *darśana* of Their

Lordships, you rested your hand on Lord Balarāma’s shoulder and bent over to bathe Kṛṣṇa. We were all witnessing this wonderful pastime—all three of You were the same height, and Balarāma had His hand on Kṛṣṇa’s shoulder while you had yours on Balarāma’s. You all appeared to us as an intimate circle of friends. This glimpse into your eternal *līlā* with the Lord confirmed our understanding that the knowledge of *bhakti* being passed down to us by you is coming directly from Kṛṣṇa. We therefore honor you as much as the Supreme Lord. Śrīla Prabhupāda, all obeisances unto you!

(8)

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the *Śrīla Prabhupāda Memories* series, one of your women disciples recalls that when you gave her the Gāyatrī *mantra* you asked her several times and in a concerned voice, “Will you chant three times daily?” While speaking of this pastime, she said she was surprised that you were so concerned as to ask her to confirm her vow several times. And she said that she has never let a day go by without religiously chanting Gāyatrī three times. This is what it means to remember you “at least three times a day.” Because of our conditioned nature, the mind so easily strays from the one to whom we owe everything. This Gāyatrī *mantra* is such a blessing, enabling us to withdraw the mind from everything except the exquisite essence of all that you have and continue to bless us with, as long as we faithfully obey your instructions and sincerely endeavor to serve you with words, body, mind, and soul. Śrīla Prabhupāda, all obeisances unto you!

The aspiring servants of your servants’ servants at Radhadesh, Belgium.

Rome

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this sublime occasion of your divine appearance and forever.

In one of your letters, dated December 8, 1975, you wrote, “The mercy of the spiritual master is always there, but we have to take it. Just like the sun, it is there for everyone, but we at least have to stand in a receptive place to get the benefit.”

Homages from ISKCON Centers

We are like *morituri* (“those who are about to die”) in a desert—the desert of materialism—a congregation of useless and discredited seekers of the water of perfect happiness in a land of perfect imperfection (*kaler doṣa-nidhe rājan*). We are seekers who do not find, seekers who sooner or later forget that we have never tried so hard to deny what we have always yearned for. You give us water. That water is precious, vital, but totally useless without the mercy of someone who decides to walk into the desert to bring it to those who would otherwise have no hope or prospect of salvation. This is why the pure devotee is considered even more merciful than the infinitely merciful Lord Kṛṣṇa. You always reminded us of this by signing your correspondence to your followers “Your ever well-wisher, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami.”

Our unique duty consists of simply accepting your redeeming directions, crystalline and pure and able to completely satisfy our thirst. I pray that Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śacīnandana, the supreme worshipable Deities in Rome, transform my impulse to simply be grateful to you into a willing and unstoppable desire to show my appreciation by acting, as long as you deem it appropriate, as an authorized servant of your trustworthy servant, His Grace Madhusevita Prabhu, my spiritual master and the most precious and essential guide and GBC representative for the devotees of ISKCON Rome at the Domus Hare Krishna, the new temple that, Śrī Kṛṣṇa willing and with your blessings, will soon appear at Rome’s city gates.

The following extraordinary statement, found in a letter you wrote to Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa on December 31, 1972, serves as inspiration and acts as a catalyst for our spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness through our new Roman outpost: “The highest development of Kṛṣṇa consciousness understanding will be when you are able to give anyone the truth but in such a manner that they will respond in a positive way.”

Thank you infinitely, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for saving us from the jaws of the *monstrum horrendum* of panic and pain that is this material world, and at the same time allowing us to experience the amazing and enchanting miracle of gradually awakening sincere souls to the life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your insignificant, aspiring servants at the ISKCON’s temple in Rome, Italy.

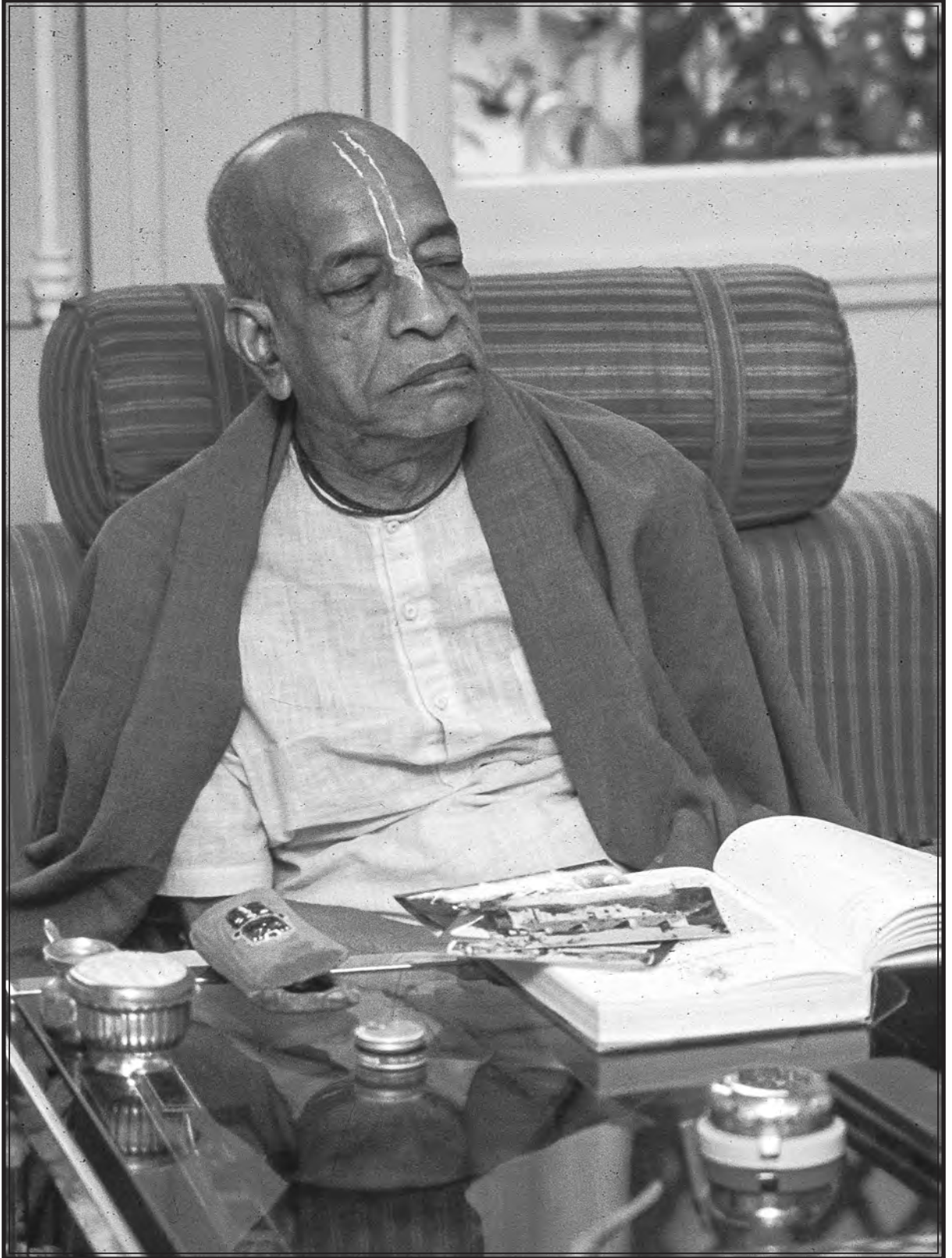
(written by Harikīrtana Dāsa)

Saltillo

We offer our *daṇḍavats* to *nitya-līlā-praviṣṭa* His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, ISKCON’s founder-*ācārya*, on this transcendental Vyāsa-pūjā day.

Dear Param Guru Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to you! We are helpless, with no other refuge than Kṛṣṇa. In the most urgent, supplicating way we implore you to send many souls to the programs of our temple so that they may approach Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Please let us carry out your order:

The expert devotees also can discover novel ways and means to convert the nondevotees in terms of particular time and circumstance. Devotional service is dynamic activity, and the expert devotees can find out competent means to inject it into the dull brains of the materialistic population. Such transcendental activities of the devotees for the service of the Lord can bring a new order of life to the foolish society of materialistic men. Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His subsequent followers exhibited expert dexterity in this connection. By following the same method, one can bring the materialistic men of this age of quarrel into order for peaceful life and transcendental realization. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.16, purport]



Homages from ISKCON Centers

Because the sleeping souls of Saltillo are so caught up in the dreams of *māyā*, we have distributed thousands and thousands—well, almost one million—books here. We organize Kṛṣṇa’s festivals, *harināmas*, public lectures, college lectures, and cultural preaching programs, but only a few of the sleeping souls of Saltillo come to our Rādhā-Govinda Mandir. Please, we beg you, share with us your *śakti* so we can turn more of these souls into *kṛṣṇa-bhaktas*. That is the only way for them to become happy, break free of *saṁsāra*, and go back to Godhead.

Please, we beg you, out of your unlimited mercy give us the determination to be your bona fide followers and to never, ever be separated from ISKCON, your sacred *vaiṣṇava-saṅga*, with its hierarchical system of GBCs, temple presidents, etc. May we never commit offenses to any Vaiṣṇava, and may we always remain under the wings of your bona fide *paramparā*.

Please grant that all your Vaiṣṇava followers may cooperate without hate or envy in our mandir and in the entire country; may we all serve according to your desire. The test of our love for you is how well we can work together within ISKCON, your sacred *vaiṣṇava-saṅga*, and to do so in love and truth and without quarrels. Please empower us to pass this test. That is our humble request to you on this sacred day.

Your servants at ISKCON’s Rādhā-Govinda Mandir in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico.

Scarborough

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

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

Dear grand—spiritual-master,

Lord Kṛṣṇa’s divine purpose in spreading His message and delivering fallen souls manifested through your appearance on this planet earth. We were not fortunate enough to take birth in this world in time to witness you performing your golden pastimes. You showed the most effective path of God realization and helped conditioned souls cross the ocean of nescience, easily leading us back to Godhead. Your giant step toward humankind not only created a favorable environment for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness but also inspired millions to dedicate their lives to realizing your eternal mission. You gave birth to two types of offspring: your ardent disciples, who live all over the world, and your priceless books, available in over eighty languages.

If you hadn’t left your offspring to guide us, we would have continued in the strong flow of *māyā* under the concept of trying for material enjoyment, where there is no scope for self-realization. Your teachings are like life jackets on a dark night out on a perilous ocean filled with unlimited hazards—material desires. While these material desires allure us to forget our constitutional position, your teachings enable us to remember Kṛṣṇa in the midst of life’s struggles. You teach us how to stand strong against the powerful current of *māyā*. Your causeless mercy is the only hope as you guide us to embrace the path of *bhakti-yoga*, which you precisely laid down for our benefit. The whole world witnessed how perfectly you implemented Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu’s eternal message: “I declare that My name will be preached in every town and

village on this earth.” (*Caitanya-bhāgavata*, *Antya* 4.126). The strong wave of your preaching mission has reached every nook and cranny from East to West.

Dear spiritual grandfather, to fulfill the desire of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you left your comfortable life at the Rādhā-Dāmodara *mandira* in Vṛndāvana and, on August 13, 1965, at age sixty-nine, you sailed alone for the United States of America with only forty rupees (about seven US dollars). Because of your immeasurable spiritual courage, you embraced the pain it took to deliver Western society from impersonalism and voidism. Our eyes shed tears when we learn that even two heart attacks aboard the *Jaladuta* could not stop you from realizing your divine mission. You didn’t expect anything in return; you were impelled by your oceanic compassion to distribute love for Kṛṣṇa to one and all. Your mercy glows all over the world like twinkling stars in a vast, dark night sky. We and all of human society will always be indebted to you for the mercy you showered on us. You are our beloved spiritual master in the past, present, and future because you compassionately gave us the torch of knowledge so that we could overcome *māyā* and go back to Kṛṣṇa through your simplified process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In 1977 you returned to Goloka Vṛndāvana. But we feel your presence vividly in your priceless books, your International Society for Krishna Consciousness, and your innumerable fervent disciples. Every day you attract all kind of seekers to the path of *bhakti-yoga*. Through your teachings we realize our constitutional position and find peace in the turmoil of this human life.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the society we live in allures us to so-called material happiness in order to satisfy the incessant flow of desires that are impossible to satisfy. While the majority of the population was unconsciously running after material happiness, in 2009 about twenty-five core devotees established a temple in an immigrant-rich area of Toronto. The center is known as ISKCON Scarborough. Since its inception, this small center has been spreading Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s message by following your example and guidance. About seventy devotees attend the Sunday program and offer you gratitude, perform *harināma kīrtanas*, honor *prasādam*, and enjoy quality association with other Vaiṣṇavas.

You mentioned in a letter to Satsvarūpa Dāsa written on June 27, 1968, that to cure the disease of *māyā*, chanting is the medicine and *prasādam* is the diet. Following your prescription, we chant the holy name and distribute *prasādam* during every Sunday program to inspire newcomers to also chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and read your books.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have generously given us translations to books like the *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, along your wonderful and illuminating purports. It will take many lifetimes to scrutinizingly study all these books and understand all the wisdom they contain. By systematically presenting Kṛṣṇa’s core message in your books, you have made the essence of Vedic philosophy easily attainable and understandable for all people, regardless of language or background. Your purports help us understand the hidden jewels of the Vedic scriptures. From your commentated translation of the *Bhāgavatam*, a senior devotee of this center prepares interactive multimedia presentations every month on the various pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa and His incarnations. More than fifty devotees from far and wide attend the program and relish your *Bhāgavatam* translations and purports. After attending one such *Bhāgavatam* presentation, a businessman transformed his nonvegetarian restaurant into a pure vegetarian one.

By your mercy, the neophytes, advanced devotees, and people from various faiths are attracted to the programs at this temple. Some Bangladeshi temples in Toronto, which mainly worship demigods, host ISKCON-organized shows and programs. In the summer of 2018, more than six hundred people attended an ISKCON program named The Shakti Show, organized and directed by one of your direct disciples, His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami. Your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* is so popular that we distributed about five hundred copies in 2018 and 2019 to Toronto’s Bangladeshi community. Devotees give classes on the *Bhagavad-gītā* monthly at various Bangladeshi temples. Many newcomers arrange home programs in order to hear *bhāgavata-kathā*, and many people attend who are too busy to go to temples.

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you were only small child, your father, Gour Mohan De, bought you a miniature Ratha-yātrā chariot so you could put on your own Ratha-yātrā in imitation of the huge festival in Purī. That childhood Ratha-yātrā tells us how much you liked this special festival. As your insignificant servants, each summer for the past six years we have arranged a Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā

Homages from ISKCON Centers

here in Scarborough. People from all walks of life, including community leaders and dignitaries, attend this public event. In the summer of 2018, about five thousand people from diverse communities honored *prasādam* and received the blessings and causeless mercy of Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā. Many of those visitors didn't even know the names of the Lord, but still they danced with the rhythm of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and spent a quality day with your devotees. Observing the spontaneous participation of so many members of the local community at the Ratha-yātrā, we realized your foresight in establishing this festival so that everyone, regardless of race, creed, color, nationality, or cultural background, could be delivered.

In your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 3.11 you state that performing *yajña* ultimately leads to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and liberation from material bondage. Inspired by your teachings, the ISKCON Scarborough *yajña* team has been performing various *yajñas*, such as the Puruṣa-sūkta, Sudarśana-cakra, marriage, house-warming, and others. This service is unique in the greater Toronto area. These *yajñas* are so popular that the team is now performing *yajñas* outside the province and is booked months ahead of time.

O divine teacher, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as your eternally indebted souls, we perform other programs as part of our humble efforts to spread your mission of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. For example, we have a live radio program in Tamil every Saturday, listened to by people around the world. Every year on Canada Day, which falls on a long weekend, about fifty devotees chant sixty-four rounds of *japa* at the temple, starting in the morning and going until evening. This is also a unique program in the greater Toronto area. In the evening of the Gītā Advent day, devotees read all seven hundred verses of your *Bhagavad-gītā* *As It Is* in one sitting. About sixty people attend this program. During the Janmāṣṭamī and Gaura-Pūrṇimā celebrations, we find ways to accommodate the huge number of devotees who attend. We strongly believe that all good things happen by your causeless mercy.

The purpose of all our humble efforts is to please you so that we can receive your continued blessings to spread your most effective mission to those who desperately need it in order to overcome their attraction to matter. This auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā inspires us to take your message far and wide despite our limited capacity. We beg for your special mercy so that we can become your tiny instruments in spreading Lord Caitanya's mercy, beginning with the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*:

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

Your servants in Scarborough, Canada.

Seattle

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you on your divine appearance anniversary!

Without your purity of purpose, we—the hippies and counterculture generation of the cultural revolution—would never have had access to the sublime philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. So-called swamis and bogus yogis turned us off, tainting any taste we had for metaphysical inquiry. Without the causeless mercy of a genuine guru such as yourself, we would have given up our search for higher consciousness. Our gratitude is unfathomable. My heart is forever beholden to you, and not a day goes by that I am not grateful for your eternal guiding presence. You ventured into unknown territory, and through your peerless faith and sanctity you entrusted the sublime mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu

to boys and girls like us. How fortunate we are to have received this priceless opportunity to begin the practice of *bhakti-yoga*!

* * *

We saw Śrīla Prabhupāda every day in Māyāpur during the 1977 Gaura-Pūrṇimā festival. My two-year-old son, Śrīdhāma, was running back and forth to Śrīla Prabhupāda on his *vyāsāsana*, grabbing flowers from his lotus feet and throwing them at the devotees. I tried to catch Śrīdhāma but couldn't reach him through the crowd. Eleven *sannyāsīs* surrounded Śrīla Prabhupāda, reading from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* about Prahlāda and Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva—how the Lord was roaring so loudly that all the demigods were frightened and no one could calm Him down. Śrīla Prabhupāda was listening intently. At the point in the story where Prahlāda walks up to Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva and offers Him a garland, and the Lord then pats Prahlāda on the head, Prabhupāda opened his eyes wide and looked around the temple room, saying, “This is perfect Kṛṣṇa consciousness: the devotee is offering prayers, and the Lord is patting the devotee on the head. Why do you make it so difficult?” Then he closed his eyes and spoke no more words.

Later, Śrīla Prabhupāda watched *The Age of Kali* play, with Śatarūpā and other devotees acting. He loved that play. Goddess Kālī was lying on a velvet-covered lounge couch wearing a sexy black velvet outfit. Her servants came when she called them. When she asked, “Where’s Madness?” the personality of Madness, played by Prajāpati, hopped up behind her couch and did something really silly. Prabhupāda broke out laughing, but quietly, to himself, not out loud. After the play he left, and we didn’t see him again during the festival.

* * *

Śrīla Prabhupāda told Bahūdak Prabhu, Dīnabandhu Prabhu, and Śukadeva Prabhu that they should take care of their temples for the rest of their lives. Sometime around 1972, Śukadeva was sent to manage the Seattle temple. He was such a good representative of Śrīla Prabhupāda, always glorifying Prabhupāda, giving scholarly classes, and cooking, deeply absorbed in pleasing Prabhupāda. Without Śukadeva I would not be a devotee—he tricked us into surrendering. Śukadeva left his body in November 2018, and we feel great separation not only from a dear friend and spiritual teacher but from the immense love for Prabhupāda that he nurtured in his heart.

* * *

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came to Seattle only once, in October 1968, in order to open the temple. We begged you to return, but you were often ill and could not. We were pioneers in your new movement. Without the devotional fire given by Kṛṣṇa’s pure devotee, so many souls fell away after you left this world. However, your lessons and transcendental personality are ever manifest if we carefully tune ourselves into your media archives, read your books, and associate with your sincere disciples and true followers.

I know that you see how wonderfully our temple has grown and how nicely the worship of our many gorgeous Deities is going on. It’s all due to your causeless mercy and love, without which we would still be lost. Thank you, my beloved Guru Mahārāja, for saving our lives in this most fallen Age of Kali! Please bless the Seattle *yātrā* with increased love and enthusiasm for your legacy so that we may carry on your spiritual revolution for decades to come.

Your servants in Seattle, Washington, USA.

(written by Kānti Matī Devī Dāsī)

Tabanan

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Thank you your powerful spiritual preaching, following cent per cent in the line of all the previous *ācāryas* in the *guru-paramparā* and carried on by your bona fide disciples. How great was your struggle to preach the message of Lord Caitanyadeva all over world! In that preaching, you didn't consider ethnicity, race, religion, or social class. Without you, I would never have known the glorious Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, Vedic knowledge, my *dīkṣā-guru*, or the path leading to liberation from *māyā*.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, I believe that your preaching will guide me from my awful mundane bondage, although I am still trapped in this awful *māyā* in the form of dullness, laziness, false ego, and so on. Your preaching is eternal and incomparable in this world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

Your servants in Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia.

(written by Bhakta I Gede Made Agus Sugiarta)

Taichung

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We, the devotees in Taichung, Taiwan, feel extremely grateful for the wonderful spiritual gifts you have offered us for many years. Even though you were unable to visit Taiwan in person, we strongly feel your presence through your books, your recorded teachings, your ISKCON Society, and your followers themselves.

Taiwan is very much influenced by Taoist and Buddhist traditions, but by your mercy, the devotees have been slowly introducing Vaiṣṇava culture, philosophy, and practice through outreach efforts such as home programs, *harināma*, and book distribution. Though humble in size, our preaching programs

attract a good number of people. Some have become steady in their practices and received initiation, while others are sincerely preparing themselves for the same.

By your merciful arrangement, a kind person recently gave us a nice piece of land in the mountains. We plan to use this land to build a retreat center, which we pray will attract many souls to Lord Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand our sharing of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the people of Taiwan. At the same time it has created challenges. We need to learn to cooperate better in order to please you and thus guarantee the success of this project.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, bless us with the necessary confidence and determination. Only by working unitedly will we be strong enough to overcome the negative influences of Kali-yuga and be able to offer you significant service through this project.

During the regular home programs we hold, we sing in the prayers glorifying the spiritual master that it is only by receiving the guru's mercy that we can achieve Kṛṣṇa's mercy. May this prayer remain forever engraved on our hearts as we endeavor to please you.

You well know our shortcomings, but still you encourage us to engage in the service of our dear Lord Kṛṣṇa. You want us to realize how Kṛṣṇa loves us and how we can try to reciprocate that love.

On our own we are devoid of devotion and are powerless to approach Kṛṣṇa or receive His mercy. However, when a pure devotee like you appeals to Kṛṣṇa on our behalf, then we have hope. Thus we cannot but endeavor to try to please you, because that is the real substance of our spiritual lives and the only way we can attract Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy.

All glories to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your servants in Taichung City, Taiwan.

(written by Kṛṣṇa Baladeva Dāsa)

Taipei

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

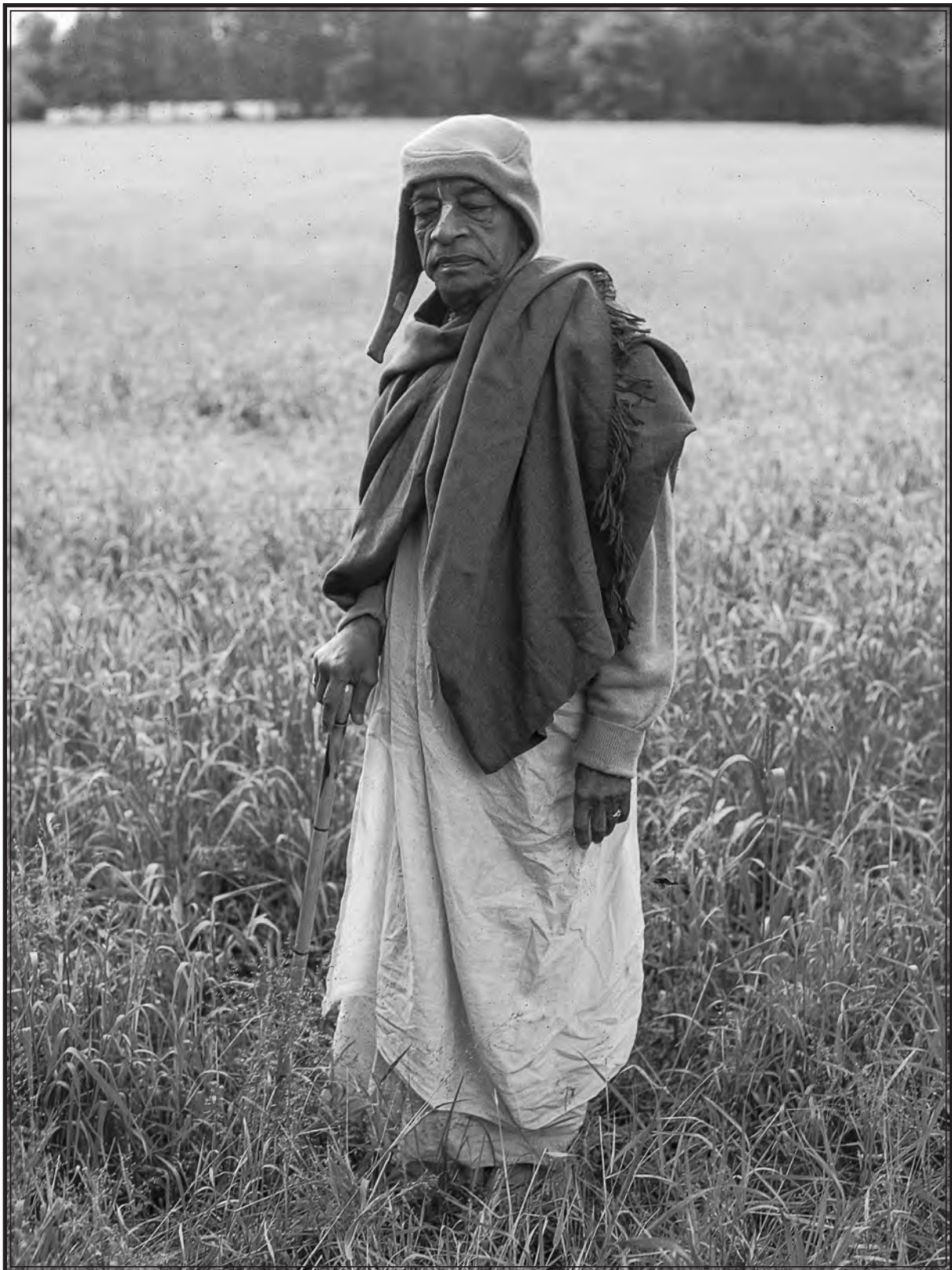
*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It is both exciting and exhilarating to know how your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is spreading everywhere, with new devotees joining every day and new centers being opened in various places around the world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your own example you showed the world how one can live a life free of anxiety. You showed compassion and mercy to the most fallen souls and distributed love of Godhead to everyone who came in touch with you. Your teachings are becoming more and more relevant in this increasingly disturbed world, where so much hate and envy is being spread in the name of religion and spirituality.

Homages from ISKCON Centers



Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy and blessings the Taipei *yātrā* is slowly but surely moving forward. Taiwan is considered one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world, but the majority of people here are unhappy. Despite their material advancement and all the latest entertainment devices at their fingertips, people's lives are empty. This is evident by the increasing number of divorces and suicides in this country. You warned time and again in your talks and books that material advancement will not make people happy. The Taipei center is making all possible efforts with limited resources to spread your message of love and compassion to the general population here. Gradually, more young people are becoming interested in the philosophy and *kīrtana*. This is a good sign, and by your mercy and blessings we hope they can become more serious in their practice of the Kṛṣṇa conscious philosophy and way of life.

Gradually, more and more people are becoming interested in reading your books. This year there was good response to your books at the Taipei International Book Fair. With the blessings and encouragement of one of your dear disciples, His Holiness Keśava Bhāratī dāsa Goswami, several reading groups have been set up. They meet once a week and systematically read and discuss your books. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have said many times that all your instructions are in your books. Recently, His Grace Śrūta-kīrti Prabhu recalled one of your instructions to him about reading your books:

You don't even have to read the whole page. Just one line. Just one line of this book, if you read it you can be Kṛṣṇa conscious. You don't even have to read the whole line. Just one word. If you pick up this book and read just one word, you can be Kṛṣṇa conscious. Because Kṛṣṇa is in every word.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your books are so potent and relevant.

We hope you will be kindly pleased with our steady contributions to your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement on this small island through our yearly Ratha-yātrā, *kīrtana* festivals, and other collaborative programs.

Another highlight of this year was a visit to the Taipei center by His Grace Jananivāsa Prabhu and Vraja Vilāsa Prabhu from Śrī Māyāpur-dhāma, along with the *pādukās* of Lord Nityānanda. Devotees were enlightened and inspired by this visit, which was especially focused on the TOVP, your dream project in Māyāpur. Many of the devotees from Taiwan contributed generously, and we encourage them to continue to do so in coming years. This is one way the devotees can show gratitude for your efforts to spread the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and touch their hearts.

On this divine day of your appearance, we all pray to remain fixed in this best process of spiritual perfection and make rapid advancement in our spiritual lives. This, we believe, is the best way to glorify you.

Your servants in Taipei, Taiwan.

(written by Mukunda-aṅghri Dāsa)

Teluk Intan

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances and my heartiest Vyāsa-pūjā wishes. We are so fortunate to live in this home called ISKCON, which you perfectly built out of your purest love and which is the outcome of your devotion to Kṛṣṇa.

We can never thank you enough for the infinite blessings you have showered upon us. We love you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Kindly bless us fallen souls so that we may serve your lotus feet, our gurus, and the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa Himself.

Bless us so that we may go back to Godhead just by holding on to your *dhotī*. We have heard that we should hold on to your *dhotī*, for you have the key to the back door of Kṛṣṇa’s abode.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants in Teluk Intan, Malaysia.

(written by Muralī Vādāna Govinda Dāsa)

Temple of the Holy Name

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

There is no more life-changing event than coming in touch with a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa. Just a fraction of a second’s association is all that is needed to alter one’s destiny. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came into our

lives between forty and fifty years ago. If we do some elementary math we can understand that virtually all your disciples who are still with us have entered old age.

Generally, people don't have much to look forward to in their old age, but by associating with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, even approaching old age can be a blessing. Most of us here are going through this final phase of life and are gradually realizing some of its unlimited benefits—for example, there is hope that our prison term in the material world will soon be over. Only devotees of Kṛṣṇa can happily embrace old age, because by rendering service to Vāsudeva we automatically develop causeless knowledge as well as detachment from this world.

Individually and collectively we have gone through many trials and tribulations. These have given us the strength to face the ongoing challenges the material nature is perpetually throwing at us. There is a saying here in America: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." The virtue of steadiness in spiritual life is that it helps us avoid being distracted from the goal, loving service to Kṛṣṇa, for which you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, taught us to aspire.

Old age has a tendency to creep up on us. It is certainly a test before the final exam called death and inspires us to increase our sincerity in our spiritual lives. The school of the human form of life is an opportunity to get free from the jail of material existence, an escape made possible by taking shelter of Kṛṣṇa under the guidance of a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa like you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. There are no impediments to making progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness if we are sincere in our spiritual practice. The time factor, one of Kṛṣṇa's energies, takes everything away from materialists but gives everything to spiritualists, for it teaches them the futility of material life. This creates the impetus to deposit our energy into the bank account of devotional service, an account not touched by the time factor. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you led us to the bank of devotional service, taught us to open an account, and then guided us how to increase our balance. Without you, we would be repeatedly cheated by the expert thief, the time factor.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your exemplary deeds were unprecedented, and so many of them were performed in your old age. To start and cultivate something as expansive as ISKCON at the age of seventy sets a high bar for us to follow. We can see this high bar being honored at your ISKCON world headquarters in Māyāpur, which is increasing in popularity. Many times during the year, *maṅgala-ārati* is crowded, and often devotees have to spend half an hour in line in order to offer flowers to your lotus feet at *guru-pūjā*, to get Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva's crown placed on their heads, to honor *caraṇāmṛta*, and to take *prasādam*. Pilgrims and devotees from all over the world come to Māyāpur and enthusiastically engage in the spiritual practices you personally taught us by word and example. You are the great personality all are inspired to follow. You never retired from practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness or lost your determination to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others. Your example will, we hope, encourage us to continue according to our individual capacities to enthusiastically practice and teach Kṛṣṇa consciousness until we breathe our last.

It would be a blessing to be empowered to assist you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, in somehow increasing the popularity of ISKCON on this planet during the present time and within this Age of Kali, in a country called America, in a small, rural place in the state of North Carolina, near a small town called Sandy Ridge, home to the farm project we call Prabhupāda Village. Please, therefore, empower us in this insignificant corner of this universe by petitioning Kṛṣṇa to inspire your disciples here to think and act in various ways so that ISKCON becomes increasingly popular and influences people from all walks of life.

Begging to become and remain eternally your humble servants,

The devotees at the Temple of the Holy Name, Prabhupāda Village, Sandy Ridge, North Carolina, USA.

Tokyo

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. All glories to your mercy and your divine presence in your disciples.

Since the day in 1969 when you planted the seed of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Japan, “The Land of the Rising Sun,” your spiritual grandchildren have been keeping the movement going with full energy and enthusiasm.

It was your wish to start Lord Caitanya’s worldwide movement from Japan. You also mentioned that ISKCON should have temples in all the major cities in every country. By your mercy, ISKCON New Gaya Dhāma, Tokyo, is presided over by Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurasundara, and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā. In this city full of material opulence, the ISKCON temple stands out from everything else as a place of worship, knowledge, and service. The temple is a base used to spread the holy names and transcendental literature in Japan. We are fortunate to be able to participate in your pastimes in Tokyo.

Tokyo faces challenges in spreading the mission, but when we read of the hardships you suffered in the initial days of establishing ISKCON, we find our own challenges quite small. We beg at your lotus feet for the strength to overcome the obstacles in our preaching.

You gave us complete information and a process by which anyone can achieve perfection in one lifetime. Your books provide a complete guide by which we can proceed on the path of pure *bhakti*. Simply by reading your books and following the principles of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you taught, one can attain the highest goal of human life. In Japan, the *Bhagavad-gītā* (currently being retranslated), *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, and other books are being translated into Japanese. This is a huge task, but one that will provide an asset for generations to come.

As we struggle to manage the temple in this most expensive city in the world, we are amazed to read how you single-handedly managed so many temples and your worldwide movement. All was perfect, and preaching increased exponentially. Your pure desire to please your spiritual master made the movement sustainable over time. Please use us in your mission as you wish.

You were always filled with love, loyalty, and service for your spiritual master. We, the devotees at ISKCON New Gaya, are trying to render service in whatever little way we can, by your mercy, in order to spread the holy names and your transcendental literature.

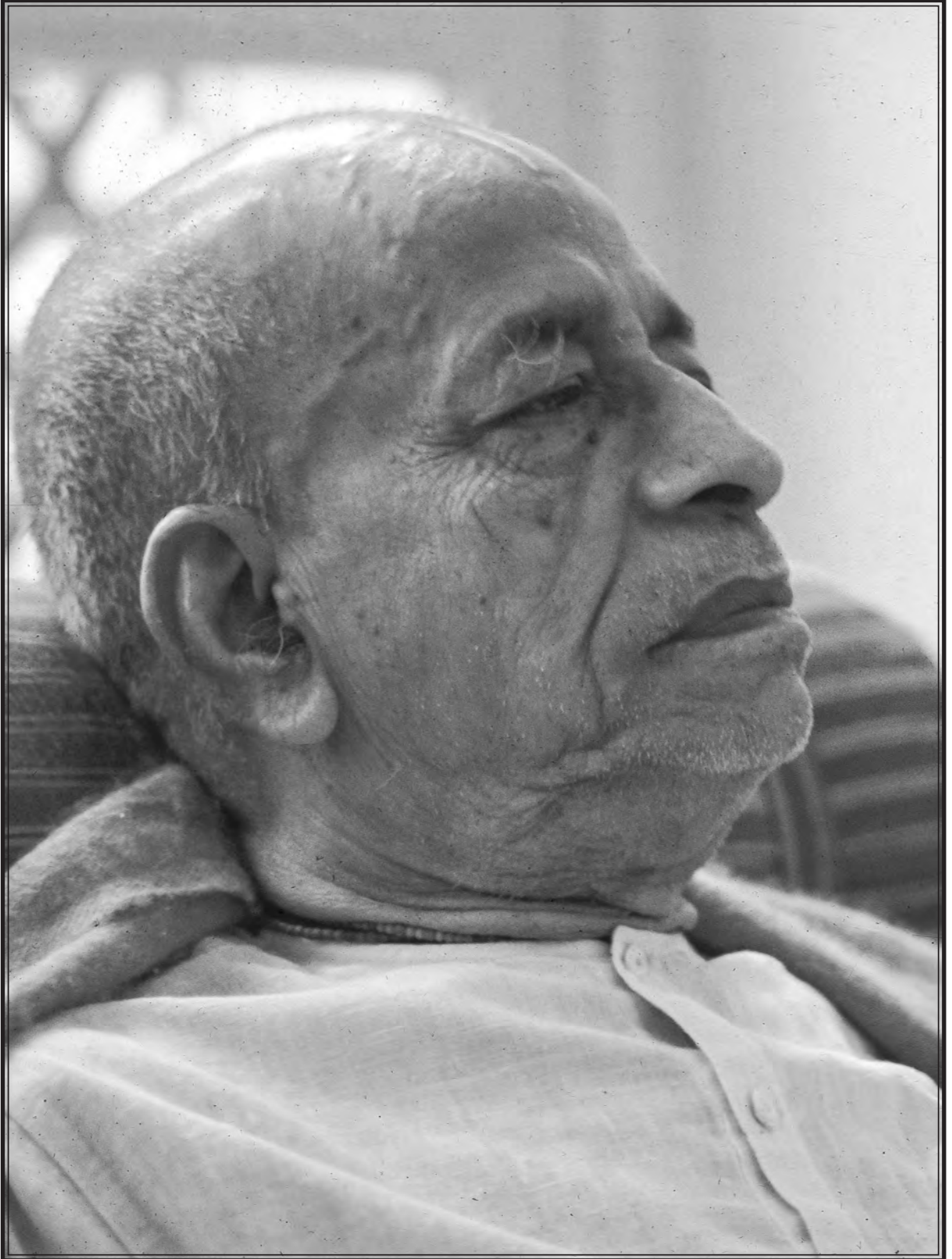
We feel your continued divine presence through your disciples, who mercifully visit us regularly. Their visits give us the inspiration and renewed energy to stick to the core principles of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Today, on the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, please allow us to share with you some of the challenges we face here in Japan.

With the passage of time, the aspiring devotees entrusted with the responsibilities of temple management find it increasingly difficult to focus on the core principles you laid down. It is a daily challenge to balance work, family, and temple, as this is a *grhastha* community.

As we are now in the maintenance phase of our development, our enthusiasm may be dynamic, but we need to make a constant push. Your books and lectures and the holy name are our only hope.

You mentioned multiple times that the temple should exist for preaching and that other *sevā* should



Homages from ISKCON Centers

support this core service. We are trying to engage in more and more preaching activities, but we have not been able to do so as per your expectations. Please give us the strength to prioritize the mission of Kṛṣṇa consciousness over our personal priorities and desires.

Harināma and book distribution go on regularly, but not with the same enthusiasm or at the same pace as in the earlier days of preaching in Japan.

Your books are being translated, but we wish we could work faster. A new translation of the *Bhagavad-gītā* is near completion. We wish to distribute these books to the suffering souls in Japan as soon as possible, and hope to transform at least some of the souls who receive them into devotees who will engage in your service.

We do Food for Life service here, where we distribute *prasādam* to homeless people. But although this service should be done every day, it's currently possible for us to do it only on Sundays. We need your continued blessings and mercy to carry on with these services with renewed enthusiasm.

We do understand that the Kṛṣṇa conscious path is challenging, especially in Japan, a materially progressive and materially advanced country. The people in general are ignorant of the Supreme Lord and the purpose of human life. This ignorance is deeply rooted in society, and the urge to ape the modern Western culture is one of the major reasons for that ignorance.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray at your lotus feet that you shower us with everlasting mercy so that we ourselves can stand firm in the service of the Supreme Lord and carry forward the mission in which you have engaged us.

There is some encouraging news as well, which we would like to share for your pleasure.

You instructed that devotees visit the holy *dhāma* each year, so every year several Japanese devotees and newcomers go to Śrīdhām Māyāpur and Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma. The visits have inspired them, and we feel their increased enthusiasm in their services. Please bless them to be your instruments for preaching in Japan.

By your divine mercy and love, the devotees carry on with the daily *sevā* of Their Lordships and celebrate Vaiṣṇava festivals, spreading the holy names. We also arrange regular programs in more and more cities in Japan. Yearly festivals at the temple attract more and more guests, who give contributions. We hold quarterly *kīrtana-melās* at the temple, increasing the enthusiasm of the devotees. These events are very well attended by newcomers. *Kīrtana* and lecture sessions are also held each week as part of our Sunday Feast program, and participation by devotees and guests, especially local Japanese guests, is quite significant.

Your wish to make the whole world Kṛṣṇa conscious is dear to our hearts, and we will make the maximum effort possible in order to fulfill your dream. Please continue to bless us, as you always have, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We continue to strive to make this lifetime meaningful by spreading the holy names in Japan and glorifying the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

At your service,

Your devotees at New Gaya Dhāma, ISKCON's temple in Tokyo, Japan.

Tucson

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

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

With You in the Center

Four decades have passed since present you were;
Disunity does your displeasure incur.
We strive to regain you sharply in focus;
Our splintered vision quite nearly broke us.

Decisions were made, not always the best—
False pride and ego created a mess.
Māyā allured and we took the bait—
With you in the center we won't deviate.

Founder-*ācārya*, your true position;
You are the core, the heart of our mission.
Following you is where we belong;
With you in the center, we stay very strong.

Growing older, we see more clearly:
Follow you nicely or suffer severely.
The obvious truth continues to show:
With you in the center, the best way to grow.

Putting aside all ill motivations,
Instead to create harmonious relations,
Keeping all our priorities straight,
With you in the center, we cooperate.

Serving each other in mood of joy,
Humble acts please, never annoy,
Supporting each other, fanning the flames—
With you in the center, chant Kṛṣṇa's names.

We follow you without hesitation,
Your smile the cause of our elation.
To please you is our strong fixation,
Serving Lord Kṛṣṇa without cessation.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

“Just love Kṛṣṇa!” you implored us to try,
With you leading us to the spiritual sky.
True meaning of life now totally clear.
We see you’re not gone—Oh yes: you’re right here!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we feel your presence more than ever in all the miracles, big and small, that are happening at Tucson ISKCON. May we continue to strive to please you in all our activities and never deviate from your instructions, example, and mission.

Your devotees at ISKCON’s yātrā in Tucson, Arizona.

(written by Sandāminī Devī Dāsī)

Ujjain

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances unto the dust of your divine lotus feet on this most auspicious occasion of your divine appearance. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Out of your causeless mercy you appeared on this planet to dispel the darkness of this material world. Therefore, when ignorance clouds our vision, it is natural that everything becomes dark again. You imparted transcendental knowledge unto us and made us realize that we are not these material bodies but pure spirit souls; therefore, we will continue to exist even after death. However, so often we forget this teaching and think that since your physical form has disappeared from our vision, you are not here anymore. That illusion is the worst enemy of our consciousness. This mentality confines our consciousness to our sense perceptions and ties us down to material nature. We humbly pray to your lotus feet to always protect us and keep us safe from this snare of *māyā*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly seek your divine blessings so that we may always remember your transcendental teachings and always serve you by following your instructions.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we, the devotees in Ujjain, are humbly trying our best to serve Your Divine Grace under the wonderful and able guidance of His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami, your very dear son. We humbly seek your kind permission to present a brief report of several significant events that happened in the temple last year by your causeless mercy.

Last year we tried to celebrate some festivals on a larger scale.

For the pleasure of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Mahārāṇī, we organized a gorgeous nine-day celebration of their twelfth Ratha-yātrā festival. There was a grand Ratha-yātrā procession, with elephants, horses, bullock carts, a band, a *kīrtana* party, a dance party, lots of *prasādam*, book distribution, etc. With more than 15,000 people participating, the event was magnificent. The festival also featured a seven-day seminar on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* by His Grace Ramākānta Dāsa (ISKCON Vṛndāvana), and ended with a return Ratha-yātrā procession.

For the pleasure of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana Jīu, we celebrated Their Janmāṣṭamī festival very elegantly. For the first time ever, we organized a celebration that lasted for three days and that included many activities, such as *kīrtanas*, dramas, cultural programs, and seminars. Our special attraction was the *prasādam* festival, for which devotees had set up many stalls for *prasādam* distribution.

We received a very encouraging response. Apart from those who took part in the *prasādam* festival, we also fed more than 25,000 visitors with sumptuous *prasādam*. More than a hundred thousand people visited the entire festival and were benefited.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we also celebrated your disappearance festival, which happened to coincide with His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami's Vyasa-puja. About three thousand devotees from all over the world assembled in Ujjain to attend this occasion and glorify Your Divine Grace.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Dāmodara month was celebrated very wonderfully. During the whole month, more than 30,000 people visited the temple and offered ghee lamps to Their Lordships, and more than 3,000 visitors chanted one round of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. All visitors were given *prasādam*. There were also special arrangements for distributing your books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, since it was your great desire that intelligent people should join your movement, you gave many instructions on how to spread your movement among college students. For your pleasure, devotees in Ujjain organized the first Mega Youth Festival, in which more than 1,500 youth participated. His Grace Gaura Gopāl Dāsa (ISKCON Chowpatty, Mumbai) addressed all the participants. By your mercy it was a huge success.

To distribute your books, devotees are constantly traveling to many places in *saṅkīrtana* bus parties. They are carrying on your most sublime program with ever-new enthusiasm. This year, we are pleased to inform you that devotees in Ujjain have performed much better than last year. With more than 3,000 book points, His Grace Karuṇāmaya Dāsa has secured the eighth position in the category of individual book distributors worldwide.

Many people who have accepted your books have begun chanting and following the four regulative principles. They also visit our temple during various camps and festivals, and thus they are gradually coming under your shelter.

Seeing the wonderful response to this preaching, we have opened a dedicated center at Ratlam. A couple of *brahmacārīs* are staying there, and many local people are becoming devotees as a result of their preaching.

Also, we are very happy to report that we have started a book reading circle in the *brahmacārī* ashram. In the evenings, many full-time devotees assemble to read your books for one hour.

Your Divine Grace emphatically told us to cooperate and develop loving relationships among ourselves. With this intention, over the year we have invited many devotees from different centers to give us their valuable association and inspire our devotees. Some of these learned guests include His Grace Bāsughosh Dāsa, His Holiness Bhakti Prābhava Swami, His Grace Rukmiṇī-Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, His Grace Rādheśyāma Dasa, His Grace Śikṣāṣṭakam Dāsa, His Grace Veṇu Mādhava Dāsa (Dr. Vivek Bindra), and many others.

As for congregational preaching, your Sunday Love Feast program is helping us inspire more and more people. We have observed an increase in the participation of local people in our grand celebrations and festivals, such as Janmāṣṭamī, Ratha-yātrā, Gaura-pūrṇimā, etc.

Many times Your Divine Grace empathically spoke about the importance of cow protection. With this in mind, and with the wonderful guidance and inspiration of His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami, we now run two *gośālās* in Ujjain, where devotees are serving more than ninety cows. These *gośālās* are being developed and undergo regular renovations to better serve our cows.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have the wonderful opportunity to serve and have the association of some of your beloved servants who come to our Arogya Niketan Ayurvedic Clinic for treatment. Some of the devotees who have graced this facility last year were His Holiness Jayādvaita Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Vaibhava Swami, His Grace Bhūrījāna Dāsa, Her Grace Jagattārīṇī Dāsī, and His Holiness Bhakti Prābhava Swami.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your transcendental pleasure, we list some significant happenings:

Last year, fifteen devotees joined full time to serve Your Divine Grace.

Every day there is *prasādam* distribution to visitors: *halavā* in the morning and *kicharī* in the evening.

Homages from ISKCON Centers

To keep devotees in good health, we have started a naturopathy *prasādam* facility in the kitchen for those who are interested.

To better facilitate the devotees' *japa* chanting, we have increased the *japa* period in the morning by twenty minutes.

To attract more and more people to take up the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, devotees perform wonderful dramas during almost every festival.

With the advancement of technology, our opportunity to preach online has also increased. Therefore, devotees have programmed a mobile application—"The Gītā Study Program"—for the systematic study of your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. More than three thousand people have registered and are benefited by reading your *Bhagavad-gītā* on their mobile phones.

To support the temple finances, we have started "Serve Krishna Yourself," a formal fund-raising program. By your mercy, the response has been good.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg for your kind blessings so that we may benefit more and more people with your most precious gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We also completely depend on your causeless mercy to be able to take good care of our existing devotees and projects. May we all increase our appreciation for Kṛṣṇa consciousness, this most cherished gift you have so magnanimously given us without considering our disqualifications.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg at the dust of your divine lotus feet to allow us to become your humble instruments in your service to the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Thank you very much. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Ujjain, India.

Villaggio Hare Krishna

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

My eternal father and master, please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Today, in the middle of April, I walk from my house to the temple at Villaggio Hare Krishna and see spring arriving. The trees are newly dressed with fresh leaves and small flowers, the birds are chirping loudly, and the bees are humming frantically. For a moment the atmosphere looks like Vṛndāvana as described in *Kṛṣṇa* book, but I realize immediately that I am still in this material world, with a quickly aging material body and a heavy burden of disease.

The warm sun that reawakens nature from its cold winter slumber reminds me of the warm rays of your mercy, which awakened me from the thick layers of cold lethargy to my real life. Your rays nourished a skinny dried-up plant, a sad soul lost and at the mercy of ruthless material laws. Now, even though this plant is still fragile, it's determined to grow, like the seedlings you see pushing through rock and then growing into tall, vigorous trunks.

But I still have a long way to go!

Growing spiritually is a conquest. Moment after moment, day after day, year after year, I have to push against the material energy that opposes me and does not want to let me go. Māyā never tires of setting traps for me, ensnaring me through fleeting emotions, superficial excitements, and useless discourage-

ments. I know that the path is rough and fraught with difficulties, but if I keep walking without concern, somehow or other I will progress.

But I still have a long way to go!

I read over and over again about the beautiful sentiments and devotional ecstasies expressed by our great *ācāryas*, but everything they write is still unfathomable, unachievable, ineffable, and each time I think I have grasped one of their emotions or have entered into their pleas for devotion, those sentiments flee from me like so many beautiful butterflies. I know, however, that if I keep reading, chanting, and serving your teachings, sooner or later the doors of real understanding will open. Then the personalities described on the pages of your books will come alive to me and reveal a fraction of their sublime secrets, setting aside for me, in their great kindness, a small assistant's place in the infinitely variegated universe of services to the Divine Couple.

But I still have a long way to go!

The austerities and fatigue of everyday services are mitigated when those services blend into the sweet pleasure of offering you a little help in the distribution of your endless mercy. I ask myself whether I will ever be able to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to assist your mission through my efforts. Even though I am unsteady, by your grace you still benevolently accept my service. Will I ever be able to repay all the love you have given me by keeping me engaged in your service? Will I ever be able to understand a speck of such causeless mercy on this poor soul?

I still have a long way to go!

Time is running out and my life is slipping away like sand through my fingers. I pray on this most auspicious day that you allow me to approach my final moment with strength and wisdom. O my dear master, please make me ready to come to you with a clear mind and head held high so that when life vanishes like the light at sunset, I can reach you without hesitation or shame. However, to see such an ambitious dream come true, I still have a long way to go!

Your servants at Villaggio Hare Krishna, Bergamo, Italy.

(written by Āli Kṛṣṇa Devī Dāsi)

Vṛndāvana

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, how amazing your activities were while you lived in Vṛndāvana! We are grateful to see and learn from your wonderful example how to live in Vṛndāvana.

When you came to Vṛndāvana in the 1960s, you wrote the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which you hoped would create a revolution in the hearts of today's misguided civilization. And the revolution began here. It was these books which were blessed by the *vraja-vāsīs* and which were the only luggage

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you carried with you on the boat to America. And one astrologer said, “Ink will not flow from your pen; fire will flow from it.” May we always relish reading and hearing your books and keep them as our dearest possessions. We pray that they will make a revolution in our hearts and that we may also write our realizations to please you.

In Vṛndāvana you said:

At least, as we get information of Vṛndāvana from the *śāstras*, from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, how spontaneously the inhabitants of Vṛndāvana—the *gopīs* and the cowherd boys and the birds, beasts, the calves, the animals, the trees—everyone, even the flies, the bees, the insects, even the dust, the grass—everyone is . . . they are all *cinmaya*, spiritual. They are not material. But they are attracted to Kṛṣṇa in different varieties. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.7.10, Vṛndāvana, 9 September 1976]

When you lived in Vṛndāvana, you showed us how to respect even the insects. Hṛdayānanda Bābājī recounted:

One day, I clearly remember I was cleaning his room, and I saw some cobwebs hanging from the ceiling. With the broom I swept them down. Then I saw the spiders crawling on the floor. When Śrīla Prabhupāda came inside, he saw the spiders and said, “Why have you disturbed?” He said that we are actually newcomers and that they have been residing here for countless generations and must be respected.

May we learn from your example how to respect all creatures living in Vṛndāvana.
You taught us to respect even the dust of Vṛndāvana:

If you want something from [ordinary] dust, you cannot get it. That is material. But in Vṛndāvana, even from the dust if you want any . . . he will deliver immediately. [Morning Walk, Māyāpur, 17 April 1975]

Just like we are in Vṛndāvana-dhāma. So why Vṛndāvana-dhāma is worshiped? Because the Vṛndāvana-dhāma is not different from Kṛṣṇa. When you take little dust of Vṛndāvana-dhāma and take it, that means you are taking the dust of Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet, and you take it. Vṛndāvana-dhāma, so important. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.2.14, Vṛndāvana, 17 September 1975]

Hṛdayānanda Bābājī remembers you sweeping the dust of Vṛndāvana:

Many times in the middle of the night, I would hear a voice crying from inside the courtyard of Rūpa Gosvāmī’s *samādhi*. Once I climbed on my roof next-door and saw Śrīla Prabhupāda sweeping the ground and crying out “Hey Rūpa! Hey Sanātana! Hey Gurudeva! Please give me your mercy. Without your mercy I cannot do anything. Give me the strength that I may fulfill your orders.”

May we also beg for the mercy of the dust from Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet in Vṛndāvana, so we may have the strength to do our service for your pleasure.

In the early 1970s you brought your disciples to Vṛndāvana and took them on *parikramā*. Guru Dāsa remembers this exchange with you:

Guru Dāsa: I think it is better to have you as a spiritual master than to be born in Vṛndāvana.
Śrīla Prabhupāda: That is a Vaiṣṇava attitude. I remember that wherever my Guru Mahārāja went, Vṛndāvana was there also. Since the bona fide spiritual master carries the Vṛndāvana atmosphere with him, then it’s better to be with him.

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May we always remain with you in Vṛndāvana by following your instructions.

In 1972, you gave classes on *The Nectar of Devotion* here, and you warned us not to offend Vṛndāvana-dhāma:

So similarly, those who are executing devotional service, but at the same time cheating—cheating means outwardly very devotional, inwardly doing all sinful activities—such living entity is given the chance to become a hog and dog in Vṛndāvana so that the reaction of the sinful activities, they get this body; at the same time, due to their touch with the dust of Vṛndāvana, they become eliminated of all sinful activities and liberated.” [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.17, Vṛndāvana, 28 October 1972]

May we give up our doggish mentality and be careful not to offend Vṛndāvana-dhāma.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, sometimes you were hard like a thunderbolt. In 1975, during the temple opening, one disciple praised Surabhi Swami as having done a great job in building the temple. You commented:

Yes, everyone is saying, “Surabhi has done a very nice job,” but me, [laughing] I am simply criticizing, saying, “Why are you doing such a slow job? Why are you working so badly?” Everyone is complimenting him but me. My job is to instruct him. Therefore, all the time I am criticizing him. That is my duty. I am his spiritual master. Therefore, I must guide.

May you chastise us when necessary, so we may continue on the right path.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were also soft like a rose. During the opening of the temple, Urvaśī gave you some guava jam made by her mother. Urvaśī recalls:

Śrīla Prabhupāda really loved the jam, and he wanted my mother’s name and address, because Śrīla Prabhupāda wanted to write her a thank-you letter. There it was, all these devotees, huge event, the opening of the temple, the installation of the Deities, and Śrīla Prabhupāda was so concerned to write a thank-you letter. So my parents received the letter from Śrīla Prabhupāda, and he was thanking my mom so nicely for this guava jam, and he told her that it was his favorite jam and that his own mother used to make guava jam for him. Then he went on to say, “Do not worry about your daughter. I am taking care of her. She is nicely engaged in the Lord’s service.” It was just a really sweet letter. It’s so amazing that Śrīla Prabhupāda took that time to recognize that little gift from my mother amongst so much activity going on and so many devotees.

We pray that we may also please you by our service here in Vṛndāvana.

On Rādhāṣṭamī 1971, in London, you said:

In Vṛndāvana you’ll find all the devotees, they’re chanting more Rādhārāṇī’s name than Kṛṣṇa’s. Wherever you’ll go, you’ll find the devotees are addressing, “*Jaya Rādhē!*” . . . They are glorifying Rādhārāṇī. They’re more interested worshiping Rādhārāṇī. Because however fallen I may be, if some way or other I can please Rādhārāṇī, then it is very easy for me to understand Kṛṣṇa.

May we also pray to Rādhārāṇī and please Her by your mercy, so we may someday please Kṛṣṇa.

Although Vṛndāvana was your home, you rarely stayed here. You said, as recorded in Hayagrīva Prabhu’s *Vrindaban Days*:

I’m simply Vṛndāvana’s messenger. Vṛndāvana is revealed in the heart of the sincere devotee. In reality, it is not on any map, nor is it part of any country.

As your humble servants in Vṛndāvana, we cannot imitate your wonderful activities, but we can aspire

to follow in your footsteps. We pray that we may become messengers of Vṛndāvana, to give Vṛndāvana to everyone we meet and bring everyone back to his or her real home at your lotus feet in Vṛndāvana.

Your servants in Vṛndāvana, India.

(written by Nārāyaṇī Devī Dāsī)

Warri

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Forgive us for not living up to your expectations, especially in terms of distributing books profusely, performing *harināma*, cultivating new members, opening new centers, and improving our care for your devotees. Please forgive us for not growing our own food or distributing enough *prasādam* to the public. Please forgive us our lapses in *sādhana*, and kindly, out of your unlimited mercy, grant us the grace and blessings to be able to please you and the *paramparā*. Thank you for tolerating us and affording us this unique opportunity to participate in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The lowly servants of your servants at ISKCON's temple in Warri, Nigeria.

Washington, D.C.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Today we celebrate your appearance in this world. This is a joyful day for all your disciples and other followers. We are all joyful because you are our savior. You came to the West despite all difficulties, simply looking to deliver Kṛṣṇa consciousness to anyone who would listen to you.

You were uncompromising with your message, as you told us on a morning walk in Bombay on March 23, 1974:

I don't make any compromise with these rascals. . . . I'll never make that. Even if I don't get any disciple, I will be satisfied. But I cannot make any compromise, as these rascals do. I cannot make. If I create one moon, that is sufficient. I don't want many stars. That was my Guru Mahārāja's principle, and that is my principle. What is the use of having a number of fools and rascals? If one man understands rightly, he can deliver the whole world.

Again, you tell us in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.22.6:

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A common man cannot rise to the topmost stage of spiritual perfection simply by following the rituals and religious principles. He has to take shelter of a bona fide spiritual master and work under his direction faithfully and sincerely; then he becomes perfect, without a doubt.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are that bona fide spiritual master, the pure devotee. You have come to show us God, Kṛṣṇa, and how we can obtain him.

On another occasion, here at our Potomac Temple, near Washington, D.C., at the evening *darśana* on July 8, 1976, you had this exchange with a guest:

Guest: Is Kṛṣṇa right here in the room?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. Don't you see Kṛṣṇa here? . . . He is within your heart. He is within the atom. But you have no eyes to see Him. Otherwise, Kṛṣṇa is everywhere. Therefore, those who are on the first-class platform of devotional service, they see everywhere Kṛṣṇa. [A first-class devotee] is seeing a tree, but he's not seeing the tree—he's seeing Kṛṣṇa. That is the difference.

You only visited us once here at the Potomac temple, in July 1976, and on that visit we celebrated with you the tenth anniversary of the founding of ISKCON.

It has been forty-three years since your visit, and I am happy to inform you that our temple is flourishing and this year we are beginning the construction of a new temple building on the same property. The new temple is very much needed to provide the shade of your compassion to attract so many people who are looking for Kṛṣṇa but do not know how to begin. Here at ISKCON Potomac, you have showered your blessings on us in so many ways.

Every weekend a *harināma-saṅkīrtana* party goes out on the streets for the benefit of the conditioned souls. The party gives them your message of hope based on developing their love for Kṛṣṇa. Our Sunday festival is always packed to capacity. The guests are gradually turning into surrendered, dedicated devotees. They are taking up the chanting of *japa*, following the four regulative principles, and seriously studying your books. The temple also has special classes to train people to have a full understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and how to practice *bhakti-yoga* to achieve perfection in this very life. The second- and third-generation followers of yours, whose *kīrtanas* and offerings are always uplifting, are carrying on your legacy. By your mercy, the youth of our temple have started taking a keen interest in your divine message. Nowadays many intelligent youth are attending our programs, and many are sincerely taking up the practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In closing, I will quote you again, Śrīla Prabhupāda, this time citing your answer to the most important question a devotee can ask the guru:

Devotee: What is the thing that will please you most, Śrīla Prabhupāda?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa.

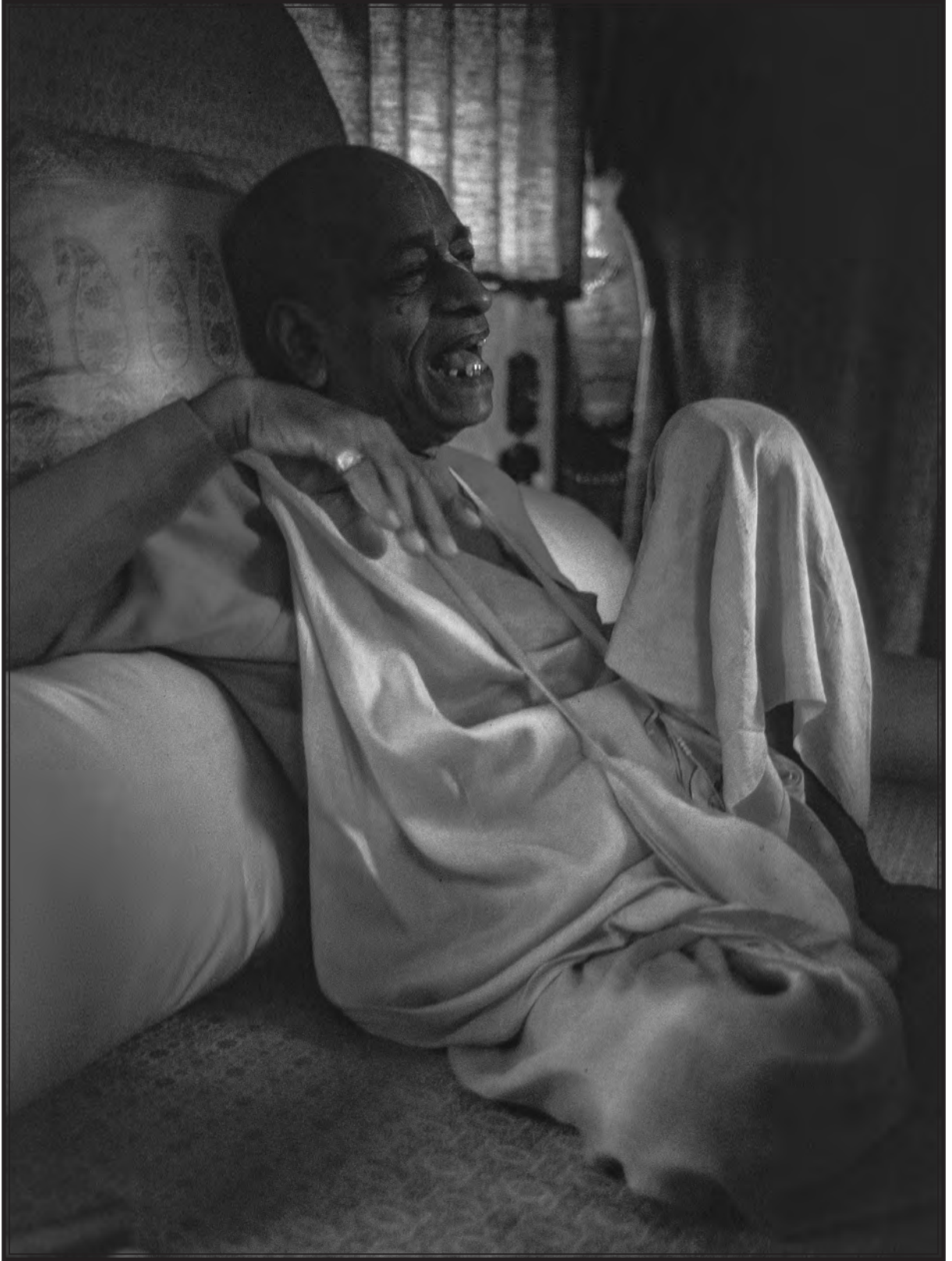
Devotees: Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Śrīla Prabhupāda: That is the simple thing. You are chanting, I am very much pleased. That's all. I came to your country to chant, [asking] "You chant along with me." So you are helping me by chanting. So I am pleased. But this tendency is very nice—that you want to please me. That is very good. And to please me is not very difficult. [Lecture in Detroit, 16 July 1971]

So, on this blessed day, the best offering we can make is to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and bow at your lotus feet with love and surrender.

Your servants in New Hastināpura Dhāma, ISKCON's temple in Potomac, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.

(written by Anuttama Dāsa and Rāma-tulasī Devī Dāsī)



Wiesbaden

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

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

śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu-nityānanda śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvasādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda

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

Please, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will be ever grateful to you for accepting our humble offerings. Thank you!

Śrī Caitanya showed us by His example how to become devotees: we have to be as submissive as straw in the street and as tolerant as trees. Without pride, we will continue even if our false ego is hurt. It's quite amazing that the channel to the nectar of pure love of Kṛṣṇa for the whole world flows through you and your disciples, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

As the years go by, we are increasingly thankful that you gave us Kṛṣṇa consciousness and allowed the creeper of love of God to blossom in our hearts. Total spiritual life, yes! Material life, no!

We feel the responsibility for spreading your teachings as widely as possible, although perhaps we are not capable of spreading them as far as you would like us to. Please protect and sustain what we have gained in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and let us grow as much as we can so that we can give your love and blessings to others.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for coming to the West to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness and for coming into our lives. We cannot imagine what would have happened to us in this material world if you had not brought to the West the torch of knowledge in the form of the holy scriptures and the holy name. Every day your books give us the strength to see the material world with spiritual eyes. May we offer you our lives, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Thank you for all your efforts on our behalf and the knowledge contained in your books. Thank you! You guide us through the pains and pleasures of this material world and purify our hearts. By chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa regularly, we can somehow remain above the modes of material nature and understand more and more. Again and again your words, Śrīla Prabhupāda, touch us profoundly and anew.

We bow down to your lotus feet and thank you for the association of your wonderful devotees. We thank you so much for the friendships with those devotees, which gives us much strength and does so much to help us through bad times.

We thank you for your knowledge. We thank you for coming West at the age of seventy, with no money and no temples. With the fire of love of God burning in your heart you started a worldwide conflagration. Thank you! Through your teachings we now know that Kṛṣṇa loves us.

Thank you for bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West. We can now see the wonderful and right path we have not so far been able to follow but that still invites us.

As newcomers, we do not know how to properly express our thanks to you, but just seeing your disciples motivates us to express those thanks nevertheless.

At home we feel weak and lost. Association with your devotees reenergizes us with inspiration drawn from their Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We feel comfortable in their association, and the purifying effects of

prasādam also last until we can return. Thank you! Hare Kṛṣṇa! Seeing the programs and the happiness of the devotees and their families makes us grateful for their association, and we want to join! Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please make us members of this great movement!

We are speechless. Thank you for making us feel this way. Yes, we feel good in your presence and the presence of your devotees, and we thank you for the wonderful Society you created.

At the age of seventy, with just a small suitcase containing a few copies of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, you conquered the world. Thank you for allowing us to witness that! Thank you also for allowing us to experience such a wonderful and beautiful way of becoming God conscious, Kṛṣṇa conscious. Thank you! Only through you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, could Kṛṣṇa consciousness be spread, become known, and maintain itself over time. We thank you for that!

We thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for showing all of us, especially me, the right way. Please, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will always be grateful to you for accepting our humble offerings. We thank you!

As the years go by, we are increasingly thankful that you gave us Kṛṣṇa consciousness and allowed this creeper of love of God to blossom in our hearts.

Your insignificant, aspiring servants at ISKCON Wiesbaden, Hari Nāma Desh, Germany.

Zambia

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble, prostrated obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet on the auspicious 123rd anniversary of your appearance in this world.

All glories to you, *parama-* and *jagat-guru*, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*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*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your ISKCON Zambia center is now four years old, having been registered on February 3, 2015. But Kṛṣṇa conscious activities in Zambia date to as early as the 1970s, when Brahmānanda Prabhu came to Lusaka and filled the whole of Lusaka with the sound vibration of *harināma*. Few of the old residents of Lusaka will ever forget the event. Many pure devotees have visited Zambia since then and bestowed their mercy on Lusaka's residents, who are becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious and taking the movement seriously. The devotees are chanting regularly, reading the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and attending the temple programs. At least fifteen or twenty devotees are now ready for first initiation.

After we welcomed Śrī Śrī Gaurahari Dayāl-Nitāi Deities, the services and activities in the Lusaka center have become almost full-time, starting at *maṅgala-ārati* and going to *gaura-ārati*, with daily offerings, dressing of the Deities, a Sunday love feast, regular book distribution, Food for Life *prasādam* distribution, and festivals, including Ratha-yātrā, *padayātrā*, and others.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us a wonderful gift in the form of ISKCON. Many lives are being trans-

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formed by it as people realize the value of the human form of life. Devotees attending various programs at the temple are always appreciative and thankful to you for saving their souls from the contamination of a materialistic life. Kṛṣṇa conscious realization is gradually spreading in Zambia. The seeds of love of Kṛṣṇa have been planted and *bhakti* creepers are now growing. These creepers are under the protection of your mercy and the mercy of Lord Gaurāṅga. We shall always be grateful to you for engaging us in the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Please continue to bestow your unlimited mercy on us so that we can serve this movement for our welfare and the welfare of others.

Although we never had an opportunity to be with Your Divine Grace physically, we feel close to you through your *vāṇī*. On last year's Vyāsa-pūjā day we welcomed your *mūrti* and have been serving you daily in that form since. We have a long way to go to show you our gratitude. We shall continue making our best efforts to serve you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

In our offering to you last year, we envisaged two projects: opening a Govinda's restaurant and applying for a piece of land from the government of Zambia. We are proud to announce that on Lord Balarāma's appearance day last year, on August 26, 2018, we opened the doors of our Govinda's restaurant. We are still pursuing our application for the land.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our contribution is very insignificant compared to what you have done for us. The above is our menial offering at your lotus feet. Please bestow your blessings and mercy on all the devotees in Zambia so that we can continue serving your mission with dedication and determination.

Yours insignificant servants at ISKCON's temple in Lusaka, Zambia.

