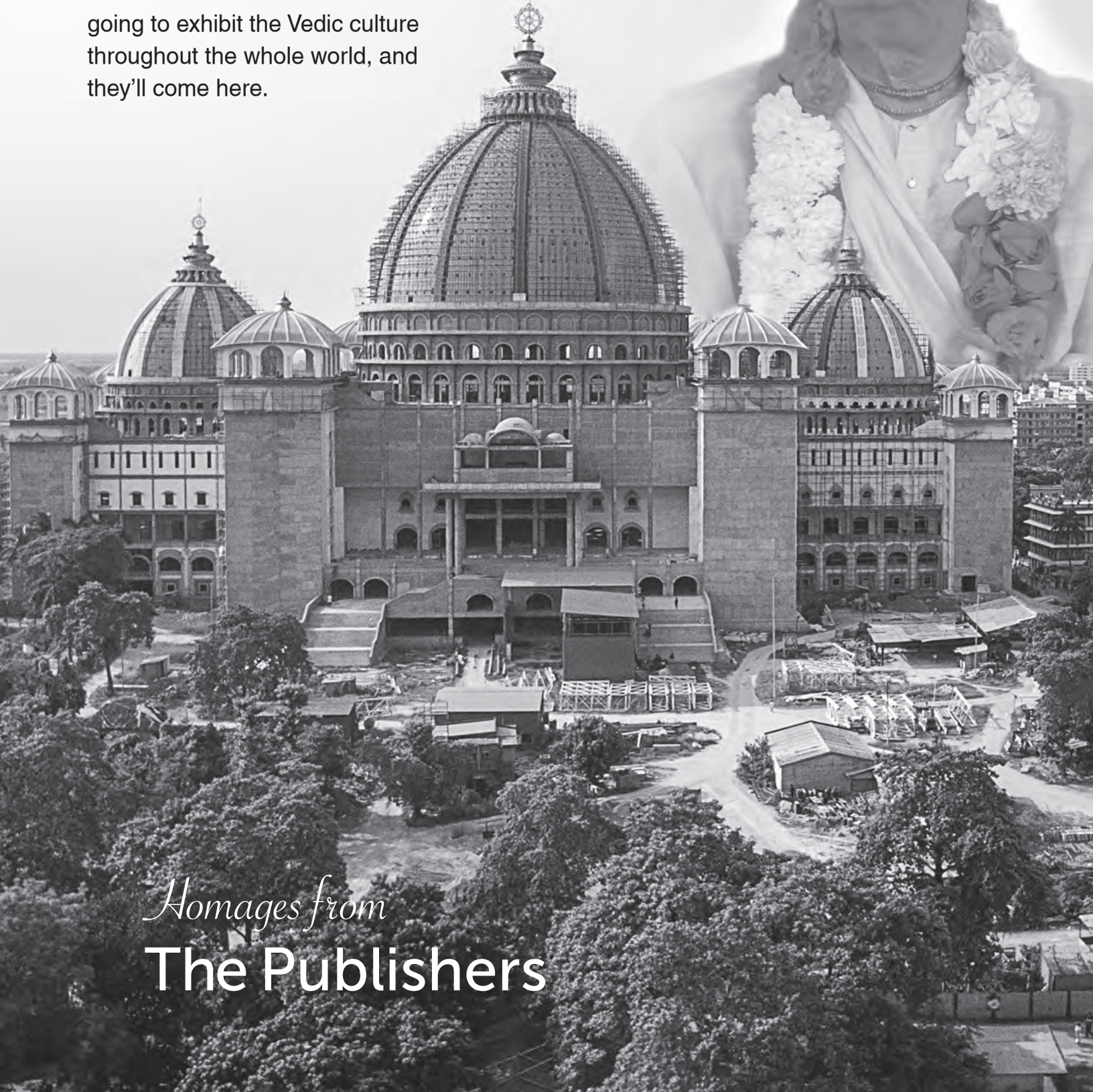
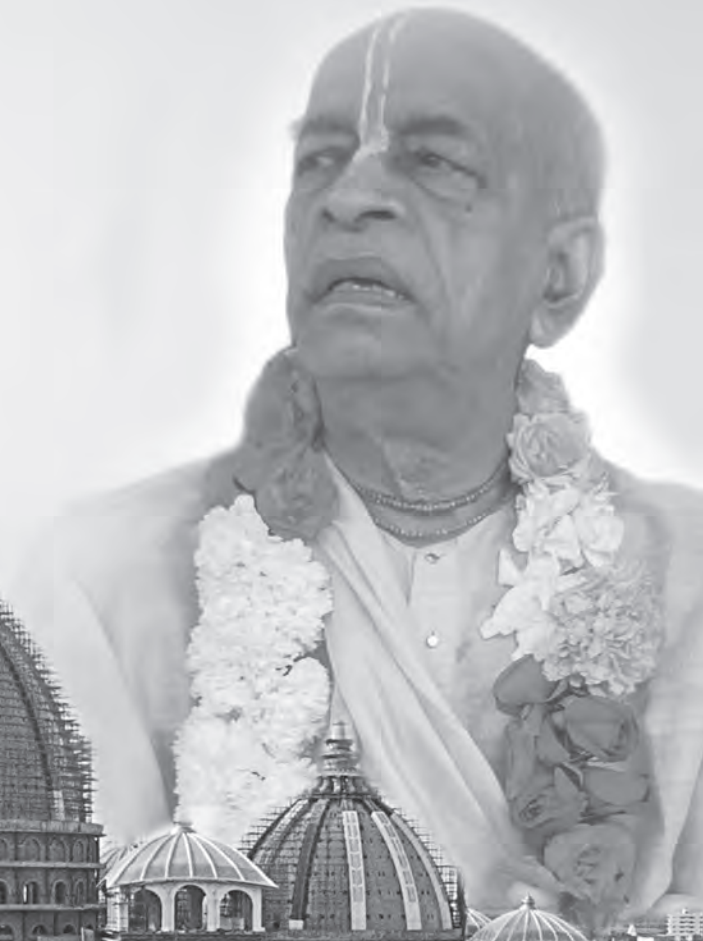


No “Understanding,” simply Vedic—
“Temple of Vedic Planetarium.” That’s all.
We shall show the Vedic conception of
planetary system within this material world
and above the material world. . . . We are
going to exhibit the Vedic culture
throughout the whole world, and
they’ll come here.



Homages from
The Publishers

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Far East / Middle East)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances beneath the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories forever unto you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

As we ready your Farsi (Persian) translation of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* for printing, which we pray will happen soon by the grace of the Lord, the extent of your eternal glories is revealed at every moment.

Just as we began writing this offering, I was led to discover that today is the birthday of the twelfth-century Persian poet-astronomer Omar Khayyam. One of the oft-quoted quatrains from his famous *Rubaiyat* reads as follows, in Edward FitzGerald's translation:

To wisely live your life, you don't need to know much
Just remember two main rules for the beginning:
You better starve, than eat whatever
And better be alone, than with whoever.

When I first read this, immediately my thoughts ran to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. And how immeasurably and inconceivably fortunate we were to have met you, by your divine grace. For while Omar offers general and (self-acclaimed) wise advice with his two rules, he leaves out the most important points. Specifically, what we *should* eat, and who we *should* be with! Nor could we find any positive advice about this elsewhere in his presentation, nor from the recorded history of his own life.

In absolute contradistinction to this, Śrīla Prabhupāda, not only did you never leave out the most important points, but you always imbued your advice and direction with the eternal Absolute Truth of every matter, something that was clearly unobtainable by the poet.

Specifically in this case, you instructed us exactly what to eat and what not to eat and taught us how to turn those acceptable foodstuffs into transcendent nourishment able to liberate us from the bonds of material existence, eternally. This if we truly wish to live our lives wisely.

And regarding who we should be with, you did not leave us with "be alone" and avoid "whoever." You precisely defined whose association we must seek out and whose we must avoid. To, again, live this life wisely so that the next one will be eternally wise and blissful.

Most wonderfully, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you personally exemplified the ideal manifestations of everything that you personally taught us to do, and that you are still teaching everyone to do through your transcendental literature.

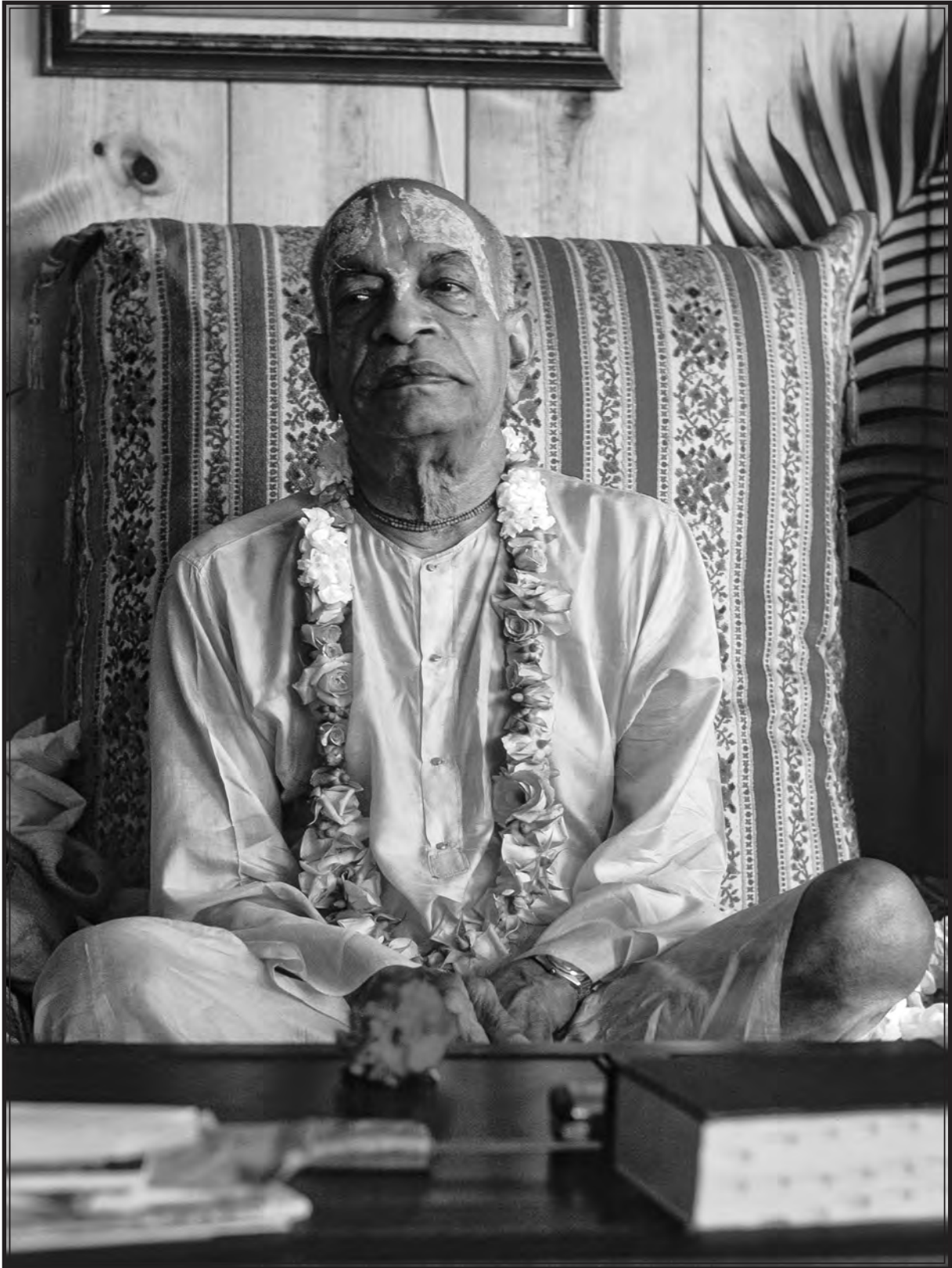
Therefore, we humbly pray that your Farsi *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* will be printed as quickly as possible (and that the needed funds for same may appear soon by the Lord's grace), so that the Iranian people who are living, studying, and visiting everywhere in this world will have the great fortune to be able to obtain this *true, eternal wisdom*. And in their native, mother tongue so they may take it into the deepest part of their hearts.

Eternal wisdom that you and only you have given us, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

How can we possibly thank you for saving our eternal lives, other than to give those lives for your service? All glories are forever unto you, Your Divine Grace!

Your eternal servants at the offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, Far East / Middle East.

(written by Satyanārāyaṇa dāsa)



Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North America)

*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you stated that the book sales figures are your only solace, so here are the North American BBT figures for 2018 for your pleasure:

In the last ten years, book sales remittances at NABBT have increased by 227%, culminating in remittances for 2018 totaling \$2,102,215.

A total of 1,214,833 books were distributed in 2018, including: 159,458 hard, 399,365 medium, and 614,159 small. These include a total of 192,156 softbound *Bhagavad-gītās* and 40,162 hardbound *Bhagavad-gītās*.

In 2018 a total of 1,910 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets and 542 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets were distributed, keeping up with the temple pledges.

An outstanding effort was made by the ISV temple, under the outstanding leadership of your stalwart servant Vaiśeṣika Prabhu. Other temples that stood out were, of course, Los Angeles, under the eternally devoted leadership of Svavāsa Prabhu; Denver; Baltimore; Laguna Beach; Toronto; Chicago; and Yuga Dharma—all meeting or exceeding their 10% increase pledge.

In North America, the exciting, ongoing, very close relationship between the BBT and ISKCON's GBCs and temple presidents is the main reason for the substantial increase in sales. Under the expert guidance of Badrinārāyaṇ Swami, there is great trust and reciprocation between the two entities, and this Kṛṣṇa conscious cooperation is forged in a deep desire to please you in the most intimate way.

Significant also this year were the outstanding performances by our new temples that have graduated from little preaching centers to part of the zonal *saṅkīrtana* movement. These included the Mantra Lounge (Philadelphia), the Austin Krishnas (Texas), Team Yamunā Māyī (Sacramento), Naperville (Illinois), and Yuga Dharma (New York). Amazingly, these new temples accounted for about 10% of the total NABBT book sales.

At the BBT we are working with a whole new set of individuals and preaching centers that hope to graduate into zonal temples soon. Some of these include Plainfield, New Jersey; South Richmond Hill, New York; Durham, North Carolina; Folsom, California; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. These Future Temples of America (FTA) accounted for \$50,000 in book sales in 2018. *Prthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma!* In every town and village! All glories to the *saṅkīrtana* devotees! All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!!

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

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Northern Europe)

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The new Swedish edition of *The Science of Self-Realization* has just arrived from the printer, coming from Haryana to Stockholm. It has always been a popular book, and several Swedish devotees joined because of it. The text was revised and completed, the cover redesigned, and we gave the book a better title than we used on the previous Swedish printing. This new edition is absolutely beautiful! The devotees here are enthusiastic about distributing it, and a special campaign—the “Atma Campaign”—has been launched for that purpose.

Another popular title here in Sweden is the small book *Chant and Be Happy*. The devotees love distributing it during the weekly *harināmas* in downtown Stockholm, despite the fact that so far it has been available only in English. Later this year we will publish the first Swedish edition; I finally managed to translate it.

It was such a pleasure to do this translation. Your amazing conversations with George Harrison, John Lennon, and Yoko Ono, Mukunda Mahārāja’s talks with George Harrison, the section that describes how you brought the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra to the West, the parts that outline the life of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and how the prostitute was changed by meeting Haridāsa Ṭhākura—all these make for riveting reading.

I am very inspired by the book, and it made me remember how I came across the first Swedish *Back to Godhead* in the early summer of 1977. As in *Chant and Be Happy*, there was a description and a drawing illustrating how to chant and how to string your own chanting beads. The next day I bought 108 beautiful, glossy, dark-blue beads, a single larger bead, and some white string. After making my *mālā*, I started chanting sixteen rounds from that day on, although I didn’t understand that I was supposed to *chant*—the Swedish word used in the BTG was *sing* (as there is really no suitable Swedish translation for *chant*). This chanting/singing took me four hours every day—two hours before work and two hours after!

This was the most ecstatic time of my life. I was working at the parks in my hometown and could chant and sing all day throughout the summer. I couldn’t believe how wonderful the mantra was: I felt like I was walking on air and my mouth and ears were filled with nectar. I had never been so happy, and everybody around me noticed the change. When autumn came, I joined ISKCON at Korsnas Gard, the newly acquired temple south of Stockholm that you named “New Rādhā-kuṇḍa.” Two years later I became involved in producing your books in Swedish. Faultfinding is generally not a nice trait, but while proofreading I was allowed to use this characteristic in Kṛṣṇa’s service.

Forty-two years have passed since then, and I have been coming and going a lot, but by your mercy and the mercy of your sincere followers, somehow or other I still have the opportunity to serve your BBT.

Now we are hoping that lots of Swedes will read *The Science of Self-Realization* and discover you and hear your instructions. And when *Chant and Be Happy* is printed, we pray that people will do precisely that: chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and become happy. We hope that they will buy and read your books and support or even join the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. As your servants at the North European BBT, we especially pray that new devotees will come and continue what we are doing here—we are not exactly the youngest bunch!

Homages from the Publishers



Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā 2019

Due to your incomparable compassion, dedication, and mercy, everything is already here for anyone who wants to take up spiritual life—not only here but anywhere in the world. We don't want to even think about where we would be or what we would be doing had you not come to the West and saved us. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you!

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

(written by Īśvara Purī Dāsa)