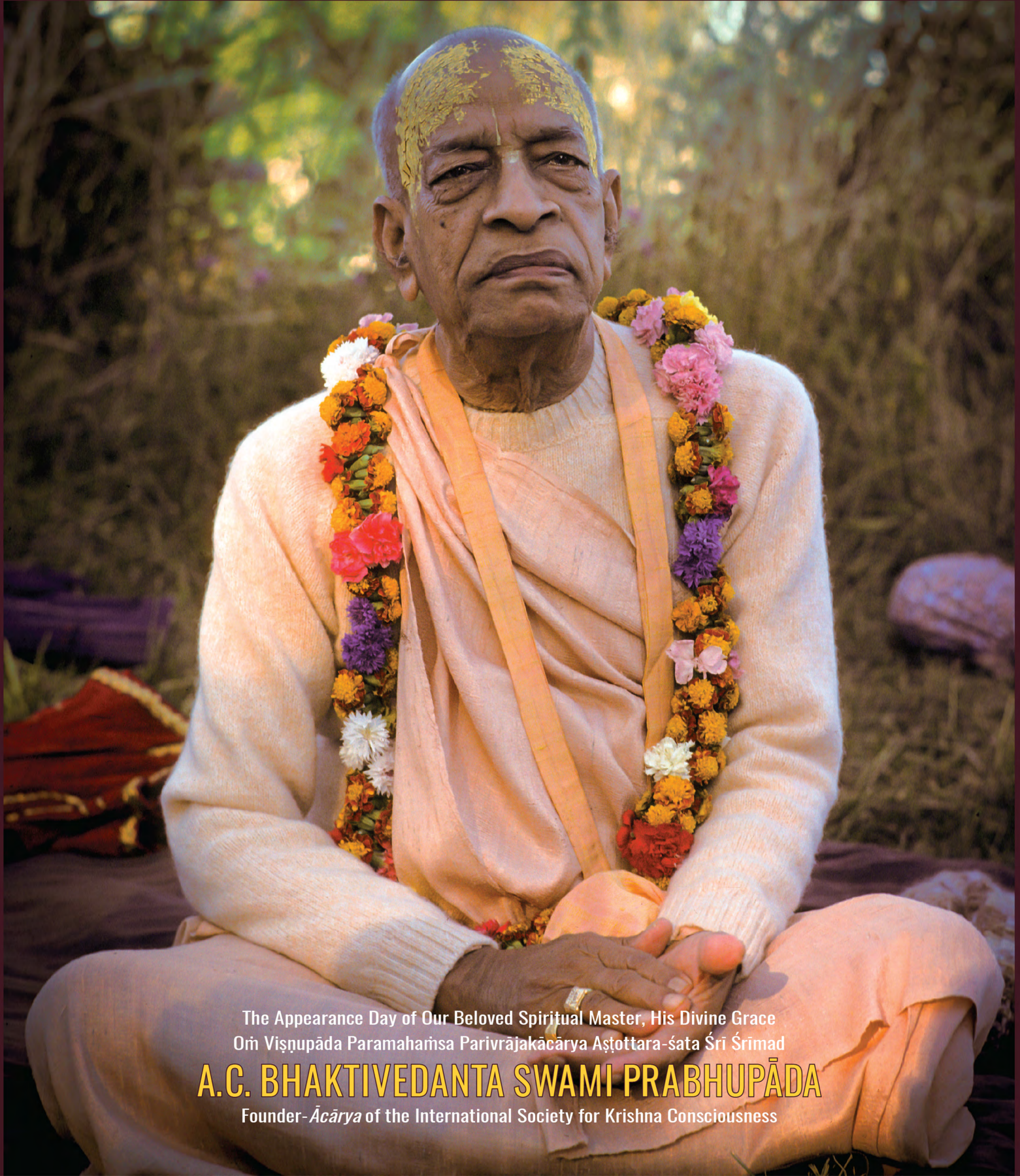


Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā

THE MOST BLESSED EVENT • AUGUST 20, 2022



The Appearance Day of Our Beloved Spiritual Master, His Divine Grace
Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad

A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPĀDA

Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā
August 20, 2022

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Introduction

As in the fifty-three Vyāsa-pūjā books that preceded it, in this year's book you'll find a selection of leading and rank-and-file devotees expressing their gratitude to Śrīla Prabhupāda, along with glorification, remembrances, and prayers. One remarkable thing about this year's book is that, despite the two-year-long-and-counting deadly COVID-19 pandemic, an ongoing war in Ukraine that has impacted not only the many devotees in that country and in Russia who are directly affected but also devotees all over the world, and severe heat waves, droughts, storms, and other effects of unchecked climate change, many offerings in this year's book reveal an increasingly strong and sustained faith in Śrīla Prabhupāda's shelter and instructions, along with confidence in the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the ultimate victory of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement. *Param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam!*

Several offerings note the important 50th anniversaries and a 100th anniversary celebrated this year. The fiftieth anniversaries include those of ISKCON's first Gaura-pūrṇimā festival in Māyāpur, the installation there of Choṭa Rādhā-Mādhava, and Śrīla Prabhupāda's laying of the cornerstone of what is now known as the TOVP. The 100th anniversary is of Śrīla Prabhupāda's first meeting with Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, at the first Gauḍīya Maṭha building, on Ultadanga Rd., in Calcutta, at which the Ṭhākura momentarily said to Abhay Charan and his friend Naren, "You are educated young men. Why don't you preach Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's message throughout the whole world?"

Badrinārāyaṇ Swami's offering is a moving meditation on the power of a pure devotee's tears. Here's an excerpt, in which Śrīla Prabhupāda reveals the essential importance to him of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's order noted above, his order given over forty years earlier to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness abroad:

The *sevait* of Advaita Ācārya's house in Śāntipura, Santa Sakha Goswami, narrated how in August of 1965, a few days before boarding the *Jaladuta*, Śrīla Prabhupāda visited Śāntipura. The Goswami had known Śrīla Prabhupāda from long before and was surprised to see him sitting in the back of the temple, in saffron cloth, chanting intensely on his beads. As the Goswami looked closer, he could see that Śrīla Prabhupāda was crying while chanting.

After some time, the Goswami greeted Śrīla Prabhupāda. Later he shared what Śrīla Prabhupāda told him at that time: "I am the unworthy disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and he has given me an impossible mission. I am coming here because Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda used to meet here to plan the *saṅkīrtana* movement. I am praying that They will give me Their mercy, empower me, and guide me. I want to satisfy my *guru-mahārāja's* desire, but I am feeling very unqualified to do this."

Another remarkable offering, written by Mañjulā-maṇi Devī Dāsī on behalf of the devotees in Abentheuer, Germany, relates how Śrīla Prabhupāda, in a lecture given fifty years ago, revealed why his love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa impelled him to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. Mañjulā-maṇi writes:

You recently stopped me in my tracks with a stunning yet simple definition of love. While listening to one of your recorded lectures, given at New Vrindavan on September 4, 1972, I heard you say, "One who is engaged in the devotional service of the Lord in love and devotion—what is the symptom of love? The symptom, the prime symptom, the most important symptom of love is that the devotee wants to see that his Lord's name, fame, etc., become widespread. He wants to see that 'My Lord's name be known everywhere.' This is love. If I love somebody, I want to see that his glories are spread all over the world."

. . . [W]ith this simple point about the prime symptom of love, you told us so much about yourself. The point you made is like a special jewel you gifted to us—you so rarely spoke about



yourself. From this definition of love we can understand how all the hardships that you took upon yourself, all the feasts you cooked, all the *kīrtanas* you sang, all the *āratis* you so gracefully conducted, all the travel around the world, all the opening of temples, all the classes you gave, all the letters you wrote, and all the books you wrote—all of these activities were clearly manifestations of this prime symptom of love for your Lord: to see His fame and glory spread all over the world. And you did it! And it was done with your most divine personal touch.

We want your glories to be known just as widely as the glories of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and His holy name. Because of you, the holy name is reaching all corners of this world and the chanting can be heard even in a small insignificant village like Abentheuer, in Germany. Our desire here at the Goloka Dhāma temple is that wherever the holy name is chanted and served by being brought to the people, there also your glories should be known. As you said, if you love someone, you want their personality to be known to everyone. Therefore we do not want to keep your greatness to ourselves; we want everyone to know about you. Your love for Kṛṣṇa was proven by that—you wanted to share and make your personal friend and beloved Śrī Kṛṣṇa known and available to all. Your personal life story, your books, your determination, your devotion, and your mission are the very backbone and the big *why* behind all that we do all day long, and we want others to know and experience that sense of purpose too!

Again I would like to express my deep appreciation for the invaluable help that Her Grace Kaiśorī Devī Dāsī gave me by editing the majority of the offerings this year. The book would not have been possible without her sincere and professional contribution.

Draviḍa Dāsa
Vyāsa-pūjā book editor

The Meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā

Vyāsa-pūjā is a festival of gratitude. While the word *gratitude* feels insufficient when we talk about the level of indebtedness we feel toward Śrīla Prabhupāda, it may be the best the English language has to offer. In common parlance, people say they're grateful for so many inconsequential acts of kindness. In comparison, the gift Śrīla Prabhupāda has given us is unfathomable, and we strive to honor that gift with our deepest gratitude—every day, but especially on the day of Vyāsa-pūjā.

In the world today, gratitude is understood to be a greatly desirable mindset. The Harvard Medical School writes, "Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships."

But the Harvard Medical School misses one key point when it comes to the gratitude we feel toward Śrīla Prabhupāda: The pain in the heart we feel, especially on Vyāsa-pūjā day, since we know that no amount of gratitude is adequate to reciprocate the absolute mercy he has shown us. An excerpt from a poem by Kalakaṇṭha Prabhu that appeared in the February 1996 issue of *Back to Godhead* magazine gives some glimpse into what Śrīla Prabhupāda did for us:

You could have stayed in Vṛndāvan,
Where chanting is most sweet,
Or moved to holy Navadvīp,
In spiritual retreat.

Your godbrothers had temples there
With room enough for you
To sit and preach each Gaura Pūrṇimā
To a guest or two.

You could have said, "It's Kṛṣṇa's will—
My visa was denied;
I may have failed, but now I know,
At least, that I have tried."

Your patron said you'd die abroad;
Your godbrother just scoffed;
You could have said, "Who'll meet the boat
And guide me safely off?"

You could have had one look at us
And said, "What have I done?!"
And caught the next boat heading home,
Unblamed by anyone.

"The Westerners," you could have said,
"Can go to hell and stay."
Who would have disagreed with you?
We were well on our way.



Instead you laid your final years
 Like flowers at Kṛṣṇa's feet,
 Your guru's smile your hidden guide,
 The Ṭhākura's vision in reach.

How eternally grateful we are that Śrīla Prabhupāda tolerated such unimaginable difficulties to give us the opportunity of devotional service!

Another word that is frequently used on Vyāsa-pūjā day is *indebted* or *indebtedness*. According to the Vedabase, the word *indebted* or *indebtedness* is used 157 times by Śrīla Prabhupāda in his writings and talks. This mood of indebtedness is in our *sampradāya*'s DNA, and it starts with Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself: "When I was away from Draupadī, she cried with the words '*He govinda!*' This call for Me has put Me in her debt, and that indebtedness is gradually increasing in My heart." (*The Nectar of Devotion*, Chapter 21, "Qualities of Kṛṣṇa")

Often the word is used to express a devotee's indebtedness to Kṛṣṇa: Uddhava says to Him, "O my Lord! Transcendental poets and experts in spiritual science could not fully express their indebtedness to You, even if they were endowed with the prolonged lifetime of Brahmā." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.29.6) And, of course, the word is used to describe the disciples' relationship with their spiritual master. Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote to Mantriṇī Devī Dāśī in July of 1976: "It is not possible for the disciple to repay the debt to the spiritual master. Therefore, the disciple remains eternally indebted to the spiritual master and continually works in such a way that the spiritual master may become pleased upon him for such sincere services rendered."

The offerings found in this book are an expression of the various writers' attempts to express this mood of gratitude and indebtedness. Writing a Vyāsa-pūjā offering is not easy. We are forced to slow down and focus on the essential nature of who we are in relationship with our guru and Kṛṣṇa. It is a challenge. We likely come up with some initial thoughts of what to write and then decide we are not satisfied with them. We may discard them as superficial or **cliché**. We challenge ourselves to meditate more deeply. Some of us reflect on what our life would have been like had we not come in contact with Śrīla Prabhupāda—a meditation he himself suggests in his purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.2.34: "[We] should always consider what our position was before we came and what it is now. We had fallen into abominable lives, . . . but now we have been given the opportunity to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. Therefore we should always appreciate this opportunity." We are pushed toward feelings of gratitude and indebtedness. By Kṛṣṇa's grace we finally are able to express something, albeit falling short of what we wish we could more thoroughly express.

While the offerings in this book are written months before Vyāsa-pūjā day, we again get the opportunity to focus on our gratitude and indebtedness today, the actual day of Vyāsa-pūjā. We may be exhausted from the Janmāṣṭamī celebration the day (and night) before, but we push ourselves to attend and be fully present, as Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā day is a must celebration for all his followers. Naturally we will do our best to bring out the sincerest side of ourselves this day.

Since Śrīla Prabhupāda had to teach us everything from scratch, that naturally included how to properly honor him on this day. In Japan in 1970, Śrīla Prabhupāda arrived at noon in the temple for his Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, but the standard preparations had not been done. There were no flowers or offering of *prasādam*, and while there were several *sannyāsīs* present, a junior *grhastha* was offering *ārati*. Śrīla Prabhupāda reprimanded the devotees present and then instructed them on the proper way to observe Vyāsa-pūjā, including offering flowers three times, a senior devotee's offering *ārati*, and a special feast. He allowed the devotees to rectify their mistake by re-doing Vyāsa-pūjā the next day.

On another Vyāsa-pūjā, Śrīla Prabhupāda noticed three of his senior disciples leaving the room during the offering of flowers (*puṣpāñjali*). He was displeased and said so. In contrast, when Vyāsa-pūjā was done nicely, Prabhupāda expressed satisfaction: "I am so glad to hear how Janmāṣṭamī and Vyāsa-pūjā were celebrated so successfully there in New Vrindaban."

Clearly, it is important to perform the Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony properly—with full attention and devotion.

Finally, and most importantly, we recall the famous line in Śrīla Prabhupāda’s 1961 offering at his Guru Mahārāja’s Vyāsa-pūjā: “A festival of flowers and fruits is not the real worship: One who serves the guru’s message really worships him.” This, then, is the ultimate meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā—to serve Śrīla Prabhupāda’s message on Vyāsa-pūjā day, as well as every other day of the year, with sincere surrender and love.

Vraja-vihāri Dāsa
Co-Director, ISKCONResolve



“Adore, Adore Ye All The Happy Day”

Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote the following poem in February 1935, on the occasion of the Vyāsa-pūjā celebration of his spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. It delighted Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta, especially the sixth stanza, which he felt captured the essence of his preaching against the Māyāvādīs. After reading this poem, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī was especially keen that Śrīla Prabhupāda preach and write in English.

The following version of the poem was prepared from two sources: the version Śrīla Prabhupāda included in the March 1952 edition of his *Back to Godhead* magazine, and the version he wrote by hand on the back of a letter he sent Rāyarāma Dāsa on March 20, 1969.

1.
Adore, adore ye all
The happy day,
Blessed than heaven,
Sweeter than May,
When He appeared at Puri,
The holy place,
My lord and master,
His Divine Grace.

2.
Oh my Master,
The evangelic angel,
Give us thy light,
Light up thy candle.
Struggle for existence
A human race.
The only hope,
Your Divine Grace.

3.
Misled we are,
All going astray.
Save us, lord,
Our fervent pray.
Wonder thy ways
To turn our face.
Adore thy feet,
Your Divine Grace.

4.
Forgotten Krishna,
We fallen souls

Paying most heavy
The illusion's toll.
Darkness around,
All distress.
The only hope,
Your Divine Grace.

5.
Message of service
Thou hast brought,
A meaningful life
As Chaitanya wrought.
Unknown to all,
It's full of brace.
That's your gift,
Your Divine Grace.

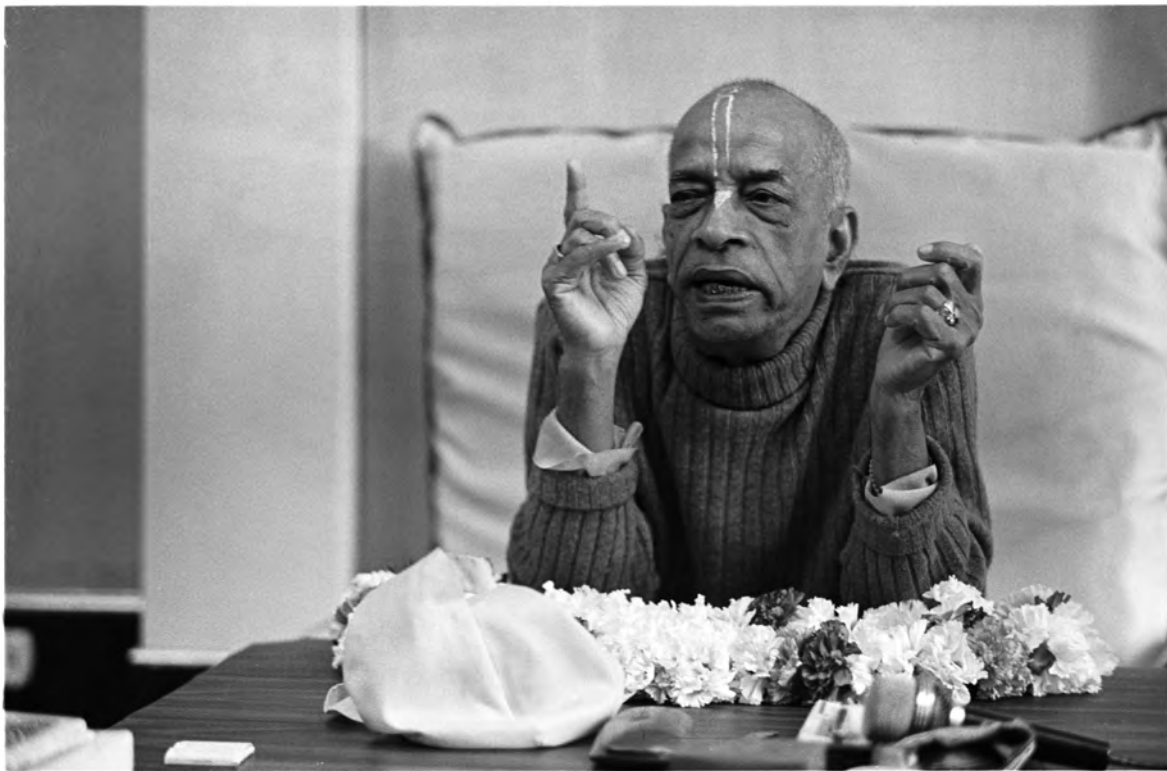
6.
Absolute is sentient
Thou hast proved.
Impersonal calamity
Thou hast removed.
This gives a life
Anew and fresh.
Worship thy feet,
Your Divine Grace.

7.
Had you not come,
who had told
The message of Krishna,
Forceful and bold.
That's your right,

You have the mace.
Save me, a fallen,
Your Divine Grace.

8.
The line of service
As drawn by you
Is pleasing and healthy
Like morning dew.
The oldest of all,
But in new dress.
Miracle done,
Your Divine Grace.

Homages from
The GBC



Anuttama dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

On the back cover of your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, we find these words of Mahatma Gandhi: “When doubts haunt me, when disappointments stare me in the face, and I see not one ray of hope on the horizon, I turn to *Bhagavad-gītā* and find a verse to comfort me.”

Such is the impact of spiritual knowledge and inspiration. It can turn darkness into light, and sorrow into joy.

I have a similar experience, Śrīla Prabhupāda, whenever I read about your life from the many biographies about you, especially *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*. You give me light, and hope, amidst the darkness.

Through these books I learn many lessons for my life. I learn to see a bit more like you see, and to connect with you more deeply as the single person who has molded my life more than any other. I learn of the challenges you faced, the heartbreaks and losses you overcame, the determination you manifested, and the humility and love that drove you forward.

I also learn that, as Gandhi faced disappointments, you too faced disappointments. Most trying, perhaps, was when the mission of your beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, splintered. It seemed then that the greatest tool for spreading Lord Caitanya’s movement had been beaten down and lost. How painful that must have been!

But that didn’t stop you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Instead, it instilled in you even more deeply the desire to write, and to preach, and to publish. And it instilled in you a resounding conviction of the paramount need for cooperation amongst the Vaiṣṇavas, the *rūpānugas*, the Prabhupāda-ānugas, and all the disciples and granddisciples of the *ācārya*.

Studying your life further, we learn that years later, as you built your International Society for Krishna Consciousness to continue the mission of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you carried that message of cooperation forward, and you implanted it throughout your society.

As stated within your “Seven Purposes of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness,” your society would propagate the values that would “achieve real unity and peace in the world.” Twice therein you stated that your society would “bring the members together.” Yours would be a society to “teach and encourage the *saṅkīrtana* movement, congregational chanting of the holy name of God.” That is, by definition, cooperative chanting.

Even your leadership model was based on cooperation. Refraining from empowering one man, or *ācārya*, to lead your burgeoning institution, you created the Governing Body Commission and carefully crafted this structure of collective leadership to be “the ultimate managing authority” of ISKCON in perpetuity. And you instructed the GBC and other leaders of your society to *come together every year* in Māyāpur to discuss “unity in diversity.”

Those who pray to make whatever is dear to you most dear to them are always reminded of your prediction that “your love for me will be shown by how much you cooperate together after I am gone.”

That cooperation is being sorely tested today, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Driven by the different ethnic, cultural, and social conceptions we bring with us into Kṛṣṇa consciousness; impacted by whatever bizarre astrological or karmic influences are driving the entire globe into warring camps and oppositional social

identities; and perhaps suffering from a collective loss of memory of your urging us to set aside sectarian differences, we struggle to stay together, unified under your leadership and the banner of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Some in ISKCON today rail against the idea of global guidance, standards, and principles. Some promote their allegiance to individual *dīkṣā-gurus* as foremost. Some even speak of creating two GBCs, one east and one west.

But if we read of the pain you felt upon the splintering of the Gauḍīya Maṭha; if we humble ourselves at your lotus feet and ask what service we can render you; if we bring your desires into our hearts to replace the urge for power and prestige that may rot there today; we cannot help but see that fulfilling your desire for a cooperative global society to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness must be our primary goal and most pressing mission.

Please bless us to study, remember, and drink more deeply of your example, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Bless us to see how you struggled *for decades* to bring the full opportunity of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the Africans, Europeans, Indians, and others across the world. Bless us to see how—and why—you struggled to bring the full opportunity of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the rich and famous, the poor and destitute, the black and white and brown, and the women as well as the men, regardless of race, religion, gender, or nation.

If we keep your life’s practical example in our hearts, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will find that the love for one and all that you felt can be awakened in our hearts, too.

Guide us to serve humbly, as instruments of your vision—and your demand—for a cooperative, global society of servants. Let us be bound together by a desire to serve one another, and the world, and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Let us do so in remembrance of your example, your sacrifices, and your deep desire to please your *guru-mahārāja* by building an international society pledged to cooperation, and unity in diversity.

Your servant,

Anuttama dāsa

Badrinārāyaṇ Swami

*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*

The Power of a Vaiṣṇava’s Tears

Śrīla Prabhupāda arrived in Boston Harbor in September of 1965. After disembarking from the *Jaladuta* for a short walk in the city, he returned to the ship and, having seen firsthand the challenge that lay before him, expressed his heart in a poem, “*Mārkine Bhāgavata-Dharma*” (“Teaching Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in America”).

He began by writing “My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda then presented his appeal: “How will I make them understand this message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness? I am very unfortunate, unqualified, and the most fallen. Therefore I am seeking

Your benediction so that I can convince them, for I am powerless to do so on my own.”

He concluded the poem: “I have no devotion, nor do I have any knowledge, . . .” and he signed it: “the most unfortunate, insignificant beggar.”

Let me state right here that in so many ways the theme of this offering, Śrīla Prabhupāda crying out to Kṛṣṇa, is far beyond my “pay grade”—far above my level of realization. It is said that “A bird flies in the sky according to its own strength.” My strength is certainly limited. Still, in an attempt to glorify the depth of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s surrender and compassion, let me try.

The Oxford dictionary defines crying as “to shed tears in distress, pain, or sorrow / an expression of a powerful feeling or emotion / an urgent appeal—a call for help.”

This state is experienced by both the materialists and the Vaiṣṇavas, but there is a world of difference between the two. One experience is like iron, while the other is like gold. One type of crying binds one to suffering, while the other type liberates. How is this contradiction, the same apparent state producing opposite results, reconciled in a Vaiṣṇava?

We find this explained by Prahlāda Mahārāja: “I am not at all afraid of material existence, for wherever I stay I am fully absorbed in thoughts of Your glories and activities. My concern is only for the fools and rascals who are making elaborate plans for material happiness. . . . I am simply concerned with love for them.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.9.43)

The great sage Nārada Muni explains the process of transforming the mundane into the sublime: “O good soul, does not a thing applied therapeutically cure a disease which was caused by that very same thing?” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.33)

What is that “therapeutic application” which made Śrīla Prabhupāda’s crying sublime? The answer is that it was in his intense concern for the suffering of the conditioned souls. He was not crying due to his own condition but due to the suffering of others. This profound compassion is a core element found in an advanced Vaiṣṇava’s heart. We see this same mood of compassion woven throughout the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava line. It is an essential element of our tradition.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* this spirit is expressed in the meditation of Śrīla Advaita Ācārya:

Seeing the condition of the world, Advaita Ācārya began to think seriously of how all these people could be delivered from the clutches of *māyā*. Śrīla Advaita Ācārya Prabhu thought, “If Kṛṣṇa Himself appears in order to distribute the cult of devotional service, then only will liberation be possible for all people.” With this consideration, Advaita Ācārya Prabhu, promising to cause Lord Kṛṣṇa to descend, began to worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa, with Tulasī leaves and water of the Ganges. By loud cries He invited Kṛṣṇa to appear, and this repeated invitation attracted Lord Kṛṣṇa to descend. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 13.68–71]

Śrīla Advaita Ācārya Prabhu’s heartfelt appeal, His crying on behalf of those suffering in this world, was so powerful that Lord Kṛṣṇa was compelled to descend. The Lord could not resist Advaita Ācārya’s appeal.

We find this mood of compassion expressed by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself:

“My name is Viśvambhara, ‘One who maintains the entire universe.’ Its meaning will be actualized if I can fill the whole universe with love of Godhead.” [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 9.7]

Thus the Lord brought the desire tree of devotional service to this earth and became its gardener. He sowed the seed and sprinkled upon it the water of His will. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 9.9]

“I am the only gardener. If I do not distribute these fruits, what shall I do with them? How many fruits can I alone eat?” [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 9.35]

“Therefore, distribute this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement all over the world. Let people eat



these fruits and ultimately become free from old age and death.” [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 9.39]

In the *Ṣaḍ-gosvāmy-aṣṭaka*, by Śrīla Śrīnivāsa Ācārya, we find the same thread in his description of the mood and activities of the Six Gosvāmīs:

They are engaged in missionary activities meant to deliver all the conditioned souls in the material universe. [excerpt from verse 1]

In order to deliver the poor conditioned souls, they accepted loincloths, treating themselves as mendicants. [excerpt from verse 4]

In this same mood, in 1958, sitting alone in Vṛndāvana and meditating on the mission Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura had given him, Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote his poem “Vṛndāvana Bhajana.” Here is an excerpt:

The *madhyama-adhikārī*, therefore, being compassionate, gives mercy to the innocent souls by awakening devotion in them. The Supreme Lord acts according to the will of the Vaiṣṇavas. Therefore, by the mercy of the Vaiṣṇavas the bewildered can be awakened. The Vaiṣṇavas can awaken the sleeping world. By their mercy, the sinful can all become devotees. Therefore they do not perform *nirjana-bhajana* [solitary worship]. That is the world-cheating process of the *kaniṣṭha-adhikārī* [neophyte devotee].” [Verses 19–20]

By the performance of such *saṅkīrtana* there will come remembrance automatically. Then there will be *nirjana-bhajana* manifested in the heart spontaneously. [Verse 27]

It is not proper for the Vaiṣṇavas to remain so uncompassionate. Śrīla [Viśvanātha] Cakravartī Ṭhākura wrote the *Mādhurya-kādambinī*. Look at his conclusion and see what is his judgment. [Verses 18–19]

The *Mādhurya-kādambinī* describes the process for attaining the highest levels of pure love for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. The conclusion and judgment of Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura that Śrīla Prabhupāda underscores in his “Vṛndāvana Bhajana” is that Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa have combined as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. By being fully and purely absorbed in Mahāprabhu’s *līlā* of delivering the conditioned souls, one will naturally achieve the desired result of *nirjana-bhajana*: the highest perfection of meditation on Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. In other words, meditation on Lord Caitanya equals meditation on Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda and Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura make the point that being absorbed in Mahāprabhu’s *līlā* of delivering the conditioned souls is the equivalent of being absorbed in the *līlās* of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. Such fixed meditation and absorption in executing the will of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu yields the goal of *nirjana-bhajana*—pure *kṛṣṇa-prema*.

In addition to the conviction that this was the best means of meditation, Śrīla Prabhupāda found encouragement in Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura’s commentary on *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41, the verse beginning *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana*: “Those who are on this path are resolute in purpose, and their aim is one.” In his purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.24.15, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes this about the Ṭhākura’s commentary:

This is also the verdict of Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura, who, while explaining a verse of *Bhagavad-gītā* (*vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana*), points out that the order of the spiritual master is the life substance of the disciple. The disciple should not consider whether he is going back home, back to Godhead; his first business should be to execute the order of his spiritual master. Thus a disciple should always meditate on the order of the spiritual master, and that is perfectional meditation.

Śrīla Prabhupāda reflected further on this “perfectional meditation”:

Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura said, “That is my life. Whether I will be successful or not successful, it doesn’t matter. I must take the words of my *guru-mahārāja* as my life and soul.”
[Lecture in Mumbai, 15 April 1976]

By such determined and focused surrender, Śrīla Prabhupāda knew that he would achieve the perfection of meditation. “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)

Again, it was with this conviction—that executing the order of his spiritual master was the perfection of meditation and the means to achieve the goal of *nirjana-bhajana*—that gave Śrīla Prabhupāda the courage and confidence to leave Vṛndāvana and board the *Jaladuta*, bound for America.

Śrīla Prabhupāda’s execution of the order from his spiritual master that he “go to the West” was the fulfillment of the cherished desire of the previous *ācāryas*. Indeed, it was the desire of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself: “In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard.” (*Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata*, *Antya* 4.126)

But Śrīla Prabhupāda knew the risks of his old age and an unwelcoming foreign land. The *sevait* of Advaita Ācārya’s house in Śāntipura, Santa Sakha Goswami, narrated how in August of 1965, a few days before boarding the *Jaladuta*, Śrīla Prabhupāda visited Śāntipura. The Goswami had known Śrīla Prabhupāda from long before and was surprised to see him sitting in the back of the temple, in saffron cloth, chanting intensely on his beads. As the Goswami looked closer, he could see that Śrīla Prabhupāda was crying while chanting.

After some time, the Goswami greeted Śrīla Prabhupāda. Later he shared what Śrīla Prabhupāda told him at that time:

“I am the unworthy disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and he has given me an impossible mission. I am coming here because Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda used to meet here to plan the *saṅkīrtana* movement. I am praying that They will give me Their mercy, empower me, and guide me. I want to satisfy my *guru-mahārāja*’s desire, but I am feeling very unqualified to do this.”

Much later, having arrived and succeeded in America, Śrīla Prabhupāda was asked by a reporter, “Why did you decide to come to America?”

Śrīla Prabhupāda humbly replied, “Some of my godbrothers went to England, but they failed. Another went to Sweden, but he failed. A third went to Germany, but he also failed. I thought, ‘If I am going to fail, at least let me fail in a new place.’”

The truth is that Śrīla Prabhupāda was the *sena-pati bhakta*, the great devotional general predicted by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in the *Caitanya-maṅgala*. Śrīla Prabhupāda strategized that the whole world was following America (at least in the mid-60s). Thus, he found that people in India would not hear Mahāprabhu’s message. Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda concluded that if he could turn some Americans into pure Vaiṣṇavas, he could then use them to turn the world. And it worked.

But again, that does not mean it was easy. Gopal Chand Goswami, of the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple, told how sometimes late at night he would hear Śrīla Prabhupāda crying for mercy while sweeping in front of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī’s *samādhi*.

The fact is that Śrīla Prabhupāda’s humble mood was the embodiment of Lord Caitanya’s instruction that “One should feel oneself lower than a straw in the street, more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige, and ready to offer all respect to others.”

Different materials have different degrees of electrical conductivity. Rubber blocks transmission. Steel is better. Copper is better still. Silver is the best. Each material allows progressively more current to flow through it. What makes the difference between these materials? It is the degree of resistance. The less the resistance, the more current can flow.

In the concluding verses of his Boston Harbor poem, Śrīla Prabhupāda perfectly embodies this mood of full surrender, his freedom from personal desire that would cause any resistance:

Somehow or other, O Lord, You have brought me here to speak about You. Now, my Lord, it is up to You to make me a success or failure, as You like.

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.

Śrīla Prabhupāda arrived in New York City with only forty rupees and no contacts. In view of such humble beginnings, who could have predicted the implausible story of Śrīla Prabhupāda's success? It was against all odds. Śrīla Prabhupāda himself said, "When I stepped off the boat, I did not know whether to turn left or right."

Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī confirms the principle of empowerment due to full surrender:

By remembering the lotus feet of the Pañca-tattva, a dumb man can become a poet, a lame man can cross mountains, and a blind man can see the stars in the sky. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 8.5]

In the purport to this verse, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes, "Kavirāja Gosvāmī here stresses *kṛpā-siddhi*, perfection by the mercy of superior authorities."

We see the proof of the potency of this formula manifest in Śrīla Prabhupāda's unlikely success. Kṛṣṇa reciprocates proportionately with the mood and surrender of His devotees: *ye yathā māṁ prapadyante tāṁs tathaiva bhajāmy aham*. "As all surrender unto Me, I reward them accordingly." (*Bhagavad-gītā* 4.21)

We find this reciprocation between the Lord and His devotees exquisitely expressed in the exchange between Lord Caitanya and Vāsudeva Datta:

"My Lord, my heart breaks to see the sufferings of all the conditioned souls; therefore I request You to transfer the *karma* of their sinful lives upon my head. My dear Lord, let me suffer perpetually in a hellish condition, accepting all the sinful reactions of all living entities. Please finish their diseased material life."

When Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu heard Vāsudeva Datta's statement, His heart became very soft. Tears flowed from His eyes, and He began to tremble. In a faltering voice He spoke as follows. Accepting Vāsudeva Datta as a great devotee, the Lord said, "Such a statement is not at all astonishing because you are the incarnation of Prahāda Mahārāja. It appears that Lord Kṛṣṇa has bestowed complete mercy upon you. There is no doubt about it." [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 15.162–65]

In the execution of his transcendental strategy to turn the West and then turn India, Śrīla Prabhupāda went back to Vṛndāvana in November of 1971. He brought with him some of his young Western disciples. When one thinks of Śrīla Prabhupāda speaking to those disciples on Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu*, in front of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's *samādhi*, in the very same courtyard where Śrīla Prabhupāda had swept and cried and begged for mercy, one can only imagine the sublime sweetness of that moment. What was considered "an impossible mission" by anyone and everyone had borne fruit beyond all expectations. Due to the dynamic of Śrīla Prabhupāda's pure surrender and the reciprocal empowerment from the previous *ācāryas* and Kṛṣṇa, the impossible had become a reality, manifest in the form of Śrīla Prabhupāda's worldwide society, ISKCON.

On one hand, Kṛṣṇa is *svarāt*, "fully independent":

"O Dhanañjaya, all this work cannot bind Me. I am ever detached from all these material activities, seated as though neutral." [*Bhagavad-gītā* 9.9]

Śrīla Prabhupāda comments in his purport to this verse:

The Lord is always neutral in the material activities of the created world. This neutrality is mentioned here with the word *udāsīna-vat*. Although He has control over every minute detail of material activities, He is sitting as if neutral.

And yet, while writing on the prayers of Queen Kuntī, Śrīla Prabhupāda states:

In the *Bhagavad-gītā* Lord Kṛṣṇa says, *kaunteya pratijānīhi na me bhaktaḥ praṇaśyati*: “My dear Arjuna, you may declare to the world that My devotee is never vanquished.” Now, one may ask, Why did Kṛṣṇa advise Arjuna to declare this? Why did He not declare it Himself? The answer is that if Kṛṣṇa Himself made this declaration, it might be suspect, because Kṛṣṇa sometimes violates His own promise. But the promise of a devotee will never be violated. This is Kṛṣṇa’s concern. “Oh, My devotee has declared this. I must see that his word is kept.” This is Kṛṣṇa’s position because of His affection for His devotee. Therefore Lord Kṛṣṇa said, “You declare it. If I declare it, people may not believe it, but if you declare it, they will believe you because you are a devotee.” Even though Kṛṣṇa may break His own promise, He wants to see that the promises of His devotees are fulfilled. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.8.25, purport]

To underscore, let me repeat:

This is Kṛṣṇa’s concern. “Oh, My devotee has declared this. I must see that his word is kept.” This is Kṛṣṇa’s position because of His affection for His devotee. . . . Even though Kṛṣṇa may break His own promise, He wants to see that the promises of His devotees are fulfilled.

Śrīla Prabhupāda had taken the order of his *guru-mahārāja* as a promise to be fulfilled. Thus, reciprocating with Śrīla Prabhupāda’s heartfelt appeals, being moved by his cries for help, Kṛṣṇa was obliged to act. Therefore, the unconquerable Kṛṣṇa was conquered. Such is the power of a pure devotee’s prayers, of a pure devotee’s tears.

The *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* explains this reciprocal relationship in these words spoken by Prahlaḍa Mahārāja to his teachers:

O *brāhmaṇas*, as iron attracted by a magnetic stone moves automatically toward the magnet, my consciousness, having been changed by His will, is attracted by Lord Viṣṇu. . . . Thus I have no independence. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.5.14]

The inverse of this principle of “magnetic attraction” is also true.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: “I am completely under the control of My devotees. Indeed, I am not at all independent. . . . As chaste women bring their gentle husbands under control by service, the pure devotees, who are equal to everyone and completely attached to Me in the core of the heart, bring Me under their full control.” [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 9.4.63, 66]

In this meditation, I have tried to offer a glimpse into the heart of a pure devotee. I have tried to show the power of such a Vaiṣṇava’s tears. The proof is found in Śrīla Prabhupāda’s life—how his full surrender resulted in his full empowerment, so much so that Śrīla Prabhupāda was able to turn America and then turn the world.

This offering is intended to offer hope. Here we find an open secret, available to everyone. If we can but muster the courage, compassion, and surrender, then, by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa and the previous *ācāryas*,

“a dumb man can become a poet, a lame man can cross mountains, and a blind man can see the stars in the sky”—in the service of Kṛṣṇa.

My prayer is that I may soon find such strength. May I someday be able to shed the tears of a pure Vaiṣṇava. Then I will be able to attract the mercy of Kṛṣṇa and the previous *ācāryas*. Then the current of empowerment will flow. And then I will be able to fully serve Śrīla Prabhupāda and his “impossible” mission.

Badrinārāyaṇ Swami

Bhakti Caitanya Swami

My dear lord and master Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to your mercy on even the most fallen, like myself.

We are seeing in different ways how we are deep in the material world, and how Kali-yuga is overwhelming the whole material situation. There can be a tendency to think that things here may get better, but by the grace of Lord Kṛṣṇa it is becoming more and more clear that optimism on the mundane level is simply a waste of time. The situation is hopeless, and rapidly becoming even worse.

I remember the first time I saw you, at Auckland University, in New Zealand, in April 1972. You were the first devotee I ever saw, walking regally through the university grounds with a small group of disciples. As you walked, two young female devotees danced gracefully next to you and threw rose petals under your lotus feet. A thought spontaneously entered my mind: “This must be like heaven!” It was completely amazing.

I was studying philosophy in the hope of finding some direction and meaning in my life, but all my study was doing was making things worse. One of the people I was studying—I think Descartes—developed the philosophy of doubt. Initially it sounded interesting to my hippie-type mind—“Don’t be taken in by misleaders; stick to the truth”—but then I found out that after some time he had told his followers to stop following him, since, he said, “I doubt my own philosophy.” In my confused way I understood there was no future in material life, but I could not see a clear alternative.

When you spoke to the students at the university, you pointed out the predicaments I and so many other youngsters were facing. You said,

Why younger section are feeling such frustration and confused in spite of so much educational institution? In your Western country there is no question of poverty. You are all well-to-do. . . . I have extensively traveled over America and Europe, especially America. They are very opulent. I have traveled in Australia and come to your country, New Zealand. So far material necessities are concerned, you are all well-to-do. So why this question of frustration?

It did not really sink in at the time, Śrīla Prabhupāda, but gradually the depth of your words has become increasingly apparent to me. You are that unique person of our time who gave us, and continue to give us, hope, and a practical process for manifesting that hope.

At the end of your class at the university you said,

So our request is that younger section may not feel confused and frustration. There is very nice hope. Those who are taking to this Kṛṣṇa consciousness, mostly they are younger section. Now ask them how much hopeful they are, how much jubilant they are. So my request is that—you are all young boys and girls, flowers of your country: don't feel frustration and confused. There is nice hope in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. My only request is that—you are all learned boys and girls—try to understand this philosophy and science, and you will be happy. That is my request.

There is no doubt at all in my heart that you literally saved me from a most hellish future. Thank you again and again, Śrīla Prabhupāda. I give my life to you absolutely, and pledge that I will always be willing to do whatever I can to serve you. Without your mercy, my life is meaningless.

On this sacred day I pray to you to please keep me engaged in any type of service you feel you want. That is the be-all and end-all of my existence.

Begging for your mercy eternally,

Your lowly servant,

Bhakti Caitanya Swami

Bhaktimārga Swami

*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*

?!

In these last two years
We felt a build-up of fears.
In a battle of usual peers,
We witnessed a shedding of tears.

With large-scale character erosion,
Sadly there's community implosion.
Sunk in a lake of irrational emotion,
Is it all a lack of devotion?

Even saints seem to be hating.
Satan's presence—intimidating
And highly incriminating,
Seeing viruses and prices inflating.

Misappropriation of finances—
 These are Kali-yuga's advances.
 Is Śiva doing his destructive dances?
 In such chaos, what are our chances?

Does the solution lie in activism,
 Or in peace-driven pacifism?
 Certainly not in capitalism.
 How to address narcissism?

Where does all this take us?
 Do our leaders forsake us?
 Is there anyone to wake us?
 Is there anyone so gracious?

All fingers point to you,
 Prabhupāda, it's true.
 In analysis and review,
 Whom else can we pursue?

Do we just step right back
 And see our own personal lack?
 Why do we give others flack?
 Isn't it better to self-attack?

You have given us everything—
 Wisdom, music, food for a king,
 How to serve, how to sing,
 All that involves a healing.

We follow or we fall;
 It makes no sense to stall.
 When we started it was a crawl;
 Now we move, sit, and stand tall.

We clutch onto your lotus feet,
 We utter the name and we repeat,
 We read, teach, know how to treat,
 We start this project, we complete.

We must end our messing,
 Look hard at our possessing,
 Detach and do that assessing—
 We continue to receive your blessing!

Bhaktivaibhava Swami

*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*

The other day I was looking at a photograph of Śrīla Prabhupāda. He was walking alone in the rain without any umbrella. How much inconvenience His Divine Grace accepted for delivering Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the world!

So far I am concerned I always take risk for Krishna. I came here in your country risking my life. And still although I am physically unfit, I am trying to execute the orders of my Guru Maharaja as far as possible. So, to take risk for Krishna is very good. You know the history of my starting the society in 1966, it was all risky, and I was alone, but I took it depending on Kṛṣṇa. [Letter to Gargamuni, 12 February 1968]

This mood of taking risks for Kṛṣṇa in order to benefit mankind was brought by Śrīla Prabhupāda to the Western World. His writings and classes further reflected that mood, and his disciples felt inspired and empowered to assist him in also taking some humble risks to spread the message of Godhead to distant, sometimes very risky places.

I have come here to fight with these atheists, you see, and we go everywhere. We are fighting with atheists all over the world. So, we are meeting so many opposing elements. You see? [Room Conversation, Indore, 13 December 1970]

Fighting atheism and establishing Lord Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead was Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission. He would not be satisfied with anything less. He did not compromise. He delivered Kṛṣṇa consciousness for the maximum benefit of everyone. This is true compassion. A doctor administers the medicine as it is prescribed. He does not dilute the medicine in any way, in order to preserve its full potency.

[My] Guru Maharaja never compromised in his preaching, nor will I nor should any of my students. We are firmly convinced that Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and all others are His part and parcel servants. This we must declare boldly to the whole world, that they should not foolishly dream of world peace unless they are prepared to surrender fully to Krishna as Supreme Lord. [Letter to Girirāj, 3 January 1972]

Another feature of Śrīla Prabhupāda's uncompromising presentation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness was that he always stressed the point that the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa is the most effective process to attain liberation.

Our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement stresses the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra* only, whereas those who do not know the secret of success for this Age of Kali unnecessarily indulge in the cultivation of knowledge, the practice of mystic *yoga*, or the performance of fruitive activities or useless austerities. They are simply wasting their time and misleading their followers. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 17.24, purport]



There might be many obstacles and setbacks in pushing on Śrīla Prabhupāda's movement, but as long as we don't compromise, strictly follow the principles of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and keep Śrīla Prabhupāda in the center as founder-*ācārya*, there will be success.

Devotee: Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said yesterday, or a few days ago, that this movement will go on unimpeded for ten thousand years, so . . .

Prabhupāda: Yes, provided we keep it uncontaminated. You should take this opportunity. [Morning Walk conversation, 10 June 1976, Los Angeles]

Dāsānudāsa,

Bhaktivaibhava Swami

Bīr Krishna dās Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

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

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

The following verse translation from chapter 18 of your *Nectar of Devotion* continues to resonate with me:

“I have no love for Kṛṣṇa, nor for the causes of developing love of Kṛṣṇa—namely, hearing and chanting. And the process of *bhakti-yoga*, by which one is always thinking of Kṛṣṇa and fixing His lotus feet in the heart, is also lacking in me. As far as philosophical knowledge or pious works are concerned, I don’t see any opportunity for me to execute such activities. But above all, I am not even born of a nice family. Therefore I must simply pray to You, Gopījana-vallabha [Kṛṣṇa, maintainer and beloved of the *gopīs*]. I simply wish and hope that some way or other I may be able to approach Your lotus feet, and this hope is giving me pain, because I think myself quite incompetent to approach that transcendental goal of life.”

In the previous paragraph you explain:

The strong conviction that one will certainly receive the favor of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is called in Sanskrit *āśā-bandha*. *Āśā-bandha* means to continue to think, “Because I’m trying my best to follow the routine principles of devotional service, I am sure that I will go back to Godhead, back to home.”

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.1, Kṛṣṇa’s quality of independence is stated by the use of the word *svarāt*. It is up to His independent will as to whether one achieves spiritual perfection or remains immersed in His illusory energy. I can understand that I am undeserving of His awarding me pure devotional service.

However, Bhakti is the property of pure devotees and has been given Her independence by Kṛṣṇa to manifest Herself when the pure devotee wishes. You are such a repository of Bhakti.

My great hope, trust, and faith is based upon my relationship with you. In *The Nectar of Devotion*, we find that one quality of pure devotion is that it is the only means for attracting and controlling Kṛṣṇa. Therefore, by your will I will certainly attain perfection.

Following Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura, one should aspire to be a servant of the Lord’s servant, life after life. Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura also sings, *tumi ta’ ṭhākura, tomāra kukkura, baliyā jānaha more*: “O my Lord, O Vaiṣṇava, please consider me your dog.” One must become the dog of a Vaiṣṇava, a pure devotee, for a pure devotee can deliver Kṛṣṇa without difficulty. *Kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāra*. Kṛṣṇa is the property of His pure devotee, and if we take shelter of a pure devotee, he can deliver Kṛṣṇa very easily. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.9.42, purport]

My one-pointed dedication is to please you. Your mood in relationship to your spiritual master is the guiding light of my life:

Personally, I have no hope for any direct service for the coming crores of births of the sojourn of my life, but I am confident that someday or other I shall be delivered from this mire of delusion in which I am at present so deeply sunk. Therefore let me with all my earnestness pray at the lotus feet of my divine master to allow me to suffer the lot for which I am destined due to my past misdoings, but to let me have this power of recollection: that I am nothing but a tiny servant of the Almighty Absolute Godhead, realized through the unflinching mercy of my divine master. Let me therefore bow down at his lotus feet with all the humility at my command. [From “The Universal Teacher,” Śrīla Prabhupāda’s Vyāsa-pūjā offering read to members of the Gauḍīya Maṭha in Bombay, February 1936]

Please let me always remain in that consciousness, always serving you in your association. That is my spiritual perfection—to serve you eternally.

Your servant,

Bir Krishna dās Goswami

Devāmrita Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my deeply considered obeisances at your lotus feet, the treasury of boundless *bhakti*.

For my offering this year, I would like to focus upon your breathtaking devotion to Kṛṣṇa’s service and pleasure.

Finally I have started to more profoundly see that your spiritual attributes—such as intelligence, strategizing, determination, and tolerance—all spontaneously manifest from your dedication to pleasing Kṛṣṇa’s senses. Therefore whatever you do and however you do it is always mesmerizing.

How much you love Kṛṣṇa—through the *paramparā*—I can’t, of course, ever fathom. As written in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya* 2.49):

Unalloyed love of Kṛṣṇa is like an ocean of happiness. If someone gets one drop of it, the whole world can drown in that drop. It is not befitting to express such love of Godhead, yet a madman must speak. But even though he speaks, no one believes him.

As I endeavor to grasp the fullness of your every word and action, I must confess that at some point—maybe far along in the analysis—I will hit an “in-built” epistemological limitation. As both the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* and *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu* declare:

Even the most learned man cannot understand the words, activities, and symptoms of a person situated in love of Godhead. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 23.39]

Like a child seeking to touch the moon, I desire to understand as much about loving Kṛṣṇa as the transcendental system allows. I am sure that by my humbly and selflessly serving your lotus feet, a glimpse of that real love will be mine, to share with others.

But, my dear sir, I am obliged to you because now I can understand that this material manifestation is without substance although it appears real. I am confident that by serving your feet I will be able to give up the false idea. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.7.18]

What's more, though:

By serving the feet of the spiritual master, one is able to develop transcendental ecstasy in the service of the Personality of Godhead, who is the unchangeable enemy of the Madhu demon and whose service vanquishes one's material distresses. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.7.19]

Aspiring to plumb the depths of your divine service,

Your insignificant servitor,

Devāmrita Swami

Gaurāṅga Dāsa

Most respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, dear Paraṁ Gurudeva! All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga!

It is my greatest fortune that I can offer this Vyāsa-pūjā offering unto your lotus feet. This is a golden opportunity that I receive annually to express my gratitude to you, a chance to contemplate and learn from the rich legacy you have left behind. You are the beacon of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava *sampradāya* in the modern era, and your torch of knowledge is what I follow as I meander through the material world.

Most people around the world know you as a spiritual leader because of the unadulterated, vast knowledge you presented, and as a mass leader because of the millions of people you attracted to the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. But in this offering I would like to focus on how you were also a thought leader, one who presented an idea ahead of your time, an idea that even today, forty-five years after your disappearance, continues to remain a globally unattained aspiration for many world leaders. You succeeded in making this idea a reality simply because your every word and action was founded on the supreme truth of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and the divine instructions of your *guru-mahārāja*, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda.

Today, the boardrooms of leading multinational corporations reverberate with discussions on how to establish diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in their companies. Diversity is the harmonious presence of different personalities within a given setting; equity is the process of ensuring that an institution's programs are fair and that they provide equal possible outcomes for every individual; inclusion is the practice of ensuring that people feel a sense of belonging in the workplace. Creating such a workplace is an organizational mandate, and CEOs appoint seasoned executives to take baby steps toward building a diverse workplace equitable to one and all, while at the same time making employees feel included in the scheme of things.

The result of all the efforts that multinational companies are making is something you effortlessly achieved as “a one-man show.” As Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami puts it in his book *Prabhupāda: He Built a*

House in Which the Whole World Can Live, no matter what family or faith one was born into, what country one hailed from, what race or caste one belonged to, you accepted everyone with open arms. And then you trained every one of your students to adopt your broad-minded thinking based on the principles of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. That you successfully established universal brotherhood in its purest form in your ISKCON society is your lasting legacy. By contrast, cultivating universal brotherhood in their countries is something world leaders grapple with every day.

It's noteworthy that some national leaders have derived inspiration from your inimitable success and have attempted to contextualize it for their pursuits. Last year India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, released a special commemorative coin to mark the 125th anniversary of your birth. At the launch event, he said he often gives the example of ISKCON's success while speaking of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, a program launched by his government to popularize made-in-India products. "How we feel a sense of belonging and pride when we are greeted with 'Hare Kṛṣṇa' in foreign countries," Mr. Modi said. "Imagine how we will feel when we find the same international familiarity for 'made-in-India' products."

The universal brotherhood you successfully cultivated was made possible by your successful propagation of the universal language—the chanting of the holy name, Hare Kṛṣṇa, as Mr. Modi cites above.

Before I further delve into this aspect of how you made Kṛṣṇa consciousness accessible to all sections of society, let me share a relevant excerpt from a letter of yours:

You have got to convince all sections of human society and induce them to come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. London is a great city, perhaps the most important metropolis in the world. Many people visit every year. So, combined together, Englishman and Indian should erect such a nice institution there that people from all parts of the world may take advantage of this. [Letter to Kṣīrodakaśāyī, 10 January 1970]

Let me structure the presentation under the three pillars—diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)—as mentioned above, and fondly recall how you are a pioneer in nurturing a diverse society that is equitable to all and that makes all members feel that they belong, yet that never compromises on spiritual purity and standards.

Diversity

You founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in New York City in the summer of 1966, thousands of miles away from Vṛndāvana, and the first members of the society belonged to a class known throughout the world as “hippies.” But to your *jñāna-caṅku*, wise vision, they were all children of Kṛṣṇa, and you lovingly invited them to inaugurate the Kṛṣṇa consciousness society for the welfare of the world.

Women as a class have been discriminated against for centuries now. But you wholeheartedly gave them a role in your fledgling society and empowered them in multiple ways. Women were encouraged to lead *kīrtanas*. Even today, Yamunā Dāsī's “Govindam Prayers” welcomes the Deities in the morning every single day in thousands of ISKCON centers globally. Women also sit on the *vyāsāsana* and give classes and public lectures. The most renowned in the early days was Jadurāṇī Dāsī, endowed with great erudition. Women have been in charge of the Deities and performed public *āratīs*. Yamunā, Śīlāvatī, Rukmiṇī, and Mandākinī Dāsīs were the most famous.

You also fondly welcomed children into the ISKCON society. Time and again you said that they are not ordinary but are “Vaikuṇṭha children” and that we should give them a chance to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You stressed that training the children in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is a very great responsibility that we should not neglect. Likewise, you engaged artisans, businesspersons, painters, scholars, writers, and performing artists in the service of Kṛṣṇa. You viewed every skill and talent as a gift from Kṛṣṇa that its possessor could joyfully engage in the service of His society. One of the most famous popular singers of that time, George Harrison of the Beatles, whom you fondly called “Hari's son,” contributed enormously to the spread of Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the world.

Equity

Let me begin this section with a letter of yours in which you assert the great importance of equity in the ISKCON society:

Regarding lecturing by women devotees: I have informed you that in the service of the Lord there is no distinction of caste or creed, color, or sex. . . . We require a person who is in knowledge of Krishna, that is the only qualification of a person speaking. It does not matter what he is. Materially a woman may be less intelligent than a man, but spiritually there is no such distinction. Because spiritually everyone is pure soul. In the absolute plane there is no gradation of higher and lower. If a woman can lecture nicely and to the point, we should hear her carefully. That is our philosophy. But if a man can speak better than a woman, the man should be given the first preference. [Letter to Jaya Govinda, 8 February 1968]

As a matter of fact, women wrote articles in ISKCON's magazine, "Back to Godhead." You had personally asked Bibhāvati Dāśī (a journalist previously) to do so. You always saw the spark in the *jīva* and dovetailed it in the service of Kṛṣṇa. Even when it came to leadership roles, you gave women access to important responsibilities: Jadurāṇī Dāśī was in charge of the BBT painting department, Kauśalyā Dāśī organized pandals, and Jyotirmayī Dāśī was a chief BBT translator.

There were numerous instances when you defended your awarding *brāhmaṇa* initiation to your Western disciples from criticism of some of your godbrothers in India. As per the instructions of Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the *Bhagavad-gītā*, it was the brahminical qualities that mattered to you and not the heredity. Your disciples who possessed the brahminical standards of purity and behavior were given brahminical initiation, and you invested in their spiritual development.

Inclusion

When it came to building an inclusive society, you not only personally strove for that end but also empowered your disciples to steer the movement in that direction. A fine example is how your disciples took the sublime message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the citizens of Africa. Bhaktitīrtha Swami, along with Puṣṭa Kṛṣṇa Prabhu and Brahmānanda Prabhu, successfully preached there in an unprecedented way. Bhaktitīrtha Swami stayed there, on and off, for sixteen years, meeting and working with some of the most distinguished dignitaries, celebrities, and leaders, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nelson Mandela. Mahārāja was such an influential personality that in 1990 he was honored by being given the position of a high chief in Warri, Nigeria, in recognition of his outstanding work in Africa. He was widely accepted as an authentic religious leader throughout the African continent. This is momentous in an age when people of this continent were discriminated against due to the color of their skin. And here was Mahārāja, leading by example and driving the spiritual reformation in the African continent.

Likewise, when Ambarīṣa Prabhu, a prominent heir in the renowned Ford family, decided to dedicate his life to your mission, you ensured that he was given space, felt included in the society, and never had to face any uncomfortable requests for donations. You well understood the psyche of people across all strata of society and took the matter into your own hands.

Not Compromising on Standards

While you invited people from all sections of society into the movement and gave them space, you ensured that the highest standards of devotional practices were maintained at all times. If it meant that you needed to chastise devotees who fell out of line or keep them outside the society to prevent them from influencing fellow devotees, you did so.

The same applies to your presentation of the highest philosophy on a global scale. Your conversation

with Cardinal Danielou, a Catholic priest, in Paris in 1975 is a classic example of how you were always open to engaging with people from diverse faiths and backgrounds but never compromised your principles. You patiently listened to his views while compassionately explaining the Vedic philosophy and imparting the supreme knowledge for his spiritual elevation. But you never once compromised in your presentation of the philosophy, especially in your stand on the issue of meat-eating.

Also, you always presented the philosophy and principles in context. When it came to children, you were emphatic in the focus being on love and protection without any practices being forced on them. Let me cite one of your letters from 1972:

Regarding your question should force be used on children, no, there shall be no forcing the children to do anything. Child should not be forced. This is all nonsense. Who has devised these things? If we want them to become great devotees, then *we must educate the children with love, not in a negative way*. [Letter to Brahmaṇya Tīrtha, 10 December 1972; emphasis added]

Before I conclude my offering of gratitude, I would like to recall your words from a class you gave in the winter of 1966 at 26 Second Avenue. These words perfectly encapsulate how you gave Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all sections of society—newcomers as well as practitioners, well-wishers, and supporters.

Nobody is foreigner. Everyone is under the sunshine. It is our misunderstanding. It is our misunderstanding. In God's kingdom nobody is foreigner. Everyone is brother. The ultimate father is the Supreme Lord. That is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Even the animals. Why should we think animals different from us and we shall kill them? No. You have no right. He is also your brother. So this is universal brotherhood. When you come to the open sunshine, we can see, oh, everyone is eligible to take advantage of the sunshine. And so long we are in the darkness, we say, "Oh, this is my room; this is your room." [Lecture on *Bhagavad-gītā* 9.22–23, 9 December 1966, New York City]

The profundity of these words stuns me and pierces my heart with wonder. In his poem known as "Bhaja Govindam," Śrīpāda Śaṅkarācārya asserts:

*punar api jananaṁ punar api maranaṁ punar api jananī jaṭhare śayanam
iha saṁsāre bahudustāre kṛpayāpāre pāhi murāre*

"Birth again, death again, another stay in a mother's womb! It's very hard to cross this boundless ocean of *saṁsāra*. O Murāri! Have mercy on me and save me!"

Since time immemorial I have been stuck in this boundless ocean of *saṁsāra*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are my savior, for your sublime process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness has mercifully given me access to the holy names of Śrī Murāri. But you have given this benediction to countless others as well, for as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's empowered *seṇa-pati*, commander in chief, you have made it accessible to *jīvas* in every town and village of the world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am ever grateful and shall remain eternally indebted to you.

I seek your blessings on this most auspicious occasion of the 126th anniversary of your birth. *Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda! Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your ever-humble servant,

Gaurāṅga Dāsa

Giridhārī Swami

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

At this juncture, it appears that Covid-19 is beginning to subside. Globally, the number of new cases has reduced to a fraction of what it was at the height of the pandemic. People are returning to the workplace, engaging in social, civic, and religious activities, traveling, and desperately trying to return to prepandemic normalcy. In its wake, the pandemic has claimed the lives of millions of people, while leaving countless others with long-term physical and psychological health challenges, loss of livelihood, and financial ruin.

Over the past two years, along with the pandemic mankind has also had to endure catastrophic earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, typhoons, floods, draughts, wildfires, famine, and war. These disasters were certainly not coincidental but the result of humanity's blatantly disobeying the laws of God.

Your prophetic words remain a warning to us all:

Material advancement of civilization means advancement of the reactions of the threefold miseries due to celestial influence, earthly reactions, and bodily or mental pains. By the celestial influence of the stars there are many calamities like excessive heat, cold, rain, or lack of rain, and the aftereffects are famine, disease, and epidemic. The aggregate result is agony of the body and the mind. Man-made material science cannot do anything to counteract these threefold miseries. They are all punishments from the superior energy of *māyā* under the direction of the Supreme Lord. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.14.10, purport]

This is the law of nature. If you become disobedient to God, then *prakṛti*, or nature, will give you trouble in so many ways. And as soon as you become submissive, surrender to Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, there will be no more natural disturbances. [Lecture, Māyāpur, 20 June 1973]

The Archbishop of Canterbury in his recent broadcast in London said, "In every quarter of earth men long to be delivered from the curse of War and to find in a world which has regained its peace, respite from the harshness and bitterness of the world they have known till now. But so often they want the kingdom of Heaven without its King. The kingdom of God without God. And they cannot have it." [First issue of *Back to Godhead* magazine, 1944]

For many people around the world, the past two years have been a strong wakeup call. Consequently, your books are being purchased in profuse quantities. The soothing balm of your Bhaktivedanta translations and purports are offering the solution to all suffering, and thus providing the relief and solace so badly needed in these troubled times.

Due to lockdowns and quarantines during the height of the pandemic, face-to-face association was replaced with Zoom meetings. Amazingly, these virtual gatherings were held more frequently than the in-person prepandemic gatherings, with increased attendance. I personally experienced that when I read your books out loud in these gatherings, old and new devotees alike gained deeper faith, became more serious in their *sādhana*, increased their service, and became more enlivened.

There is no doubt that anyone who seriously studies your books daily and applies the teachings in their lives will experience a total transformation of consciousness and become blissful.

Perhaps the most profound experience I've had this year is the response we've gotten from reading out loud your biography, *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*, to a group of devotees online. Several devotees, some recently introduced to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, were moved to tears by hearing of your struggles to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West. They would often reflect that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, pos-

sessed profound compassion, selflessness, and determination to be able to gift us and the world Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Just by hearing your life story, many people in our region and indeed around the world have become committed devotees.

Therefore you said, “I will never die. I shall live forever in my books, and you will utilize.” (Press Conference, San Francisco, 16 July 1975)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please empower all of us to deeply study your books, distribute them, and teach them to others. In this way you will continue to inundate the world with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

May your glories be spread far and wide.

Your aspiring servant,

Giridhārī Swami

Gopāl Krishna Goswami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

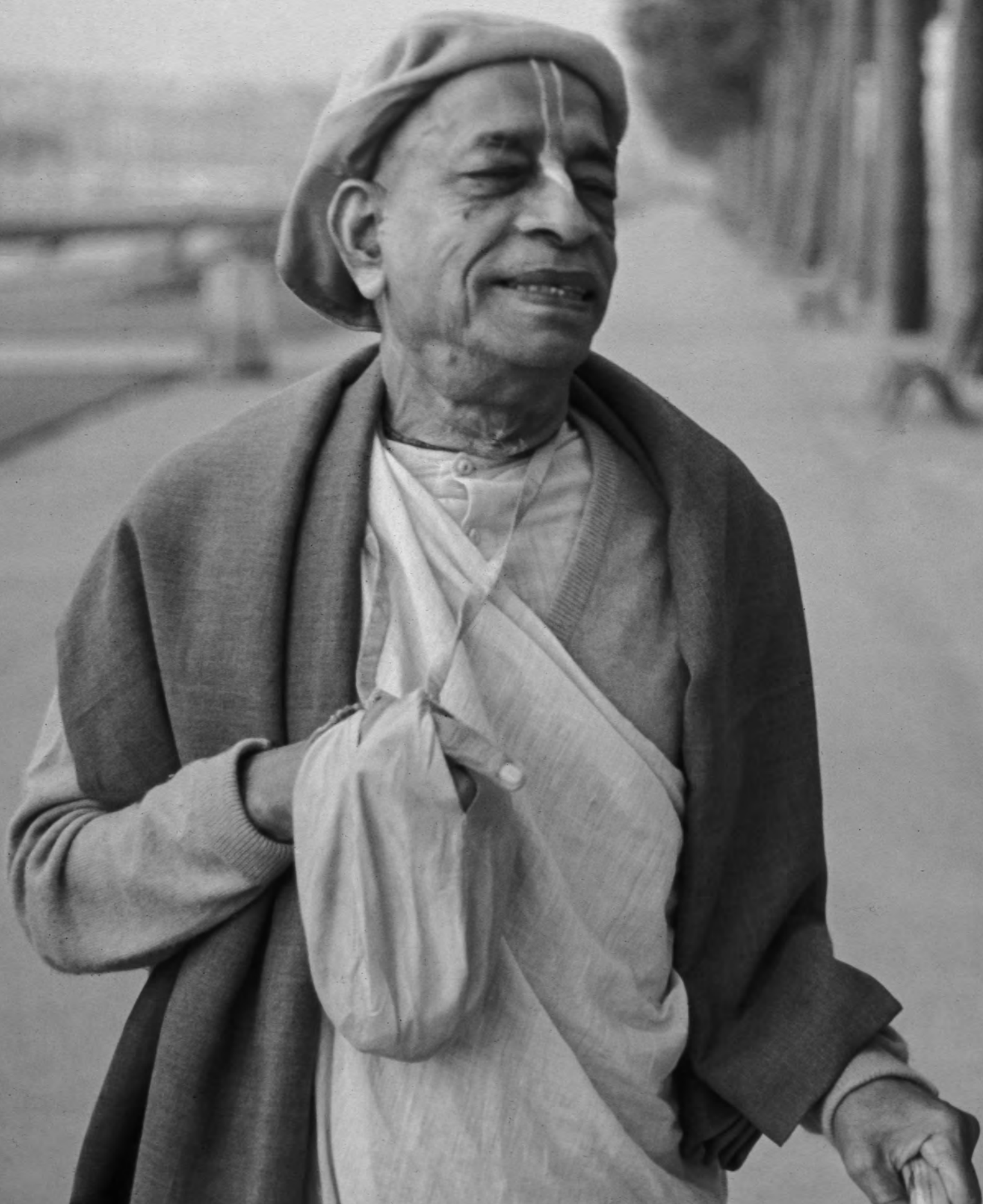
Please accept my most fallen obeisances unto your divine lotus feet.

Every year when I try to recount your transcendental glories for the Vyāsa-pūjā book, I realize how unqualified I am to do so. On a few occasions you stated that your spiritual master was a Vaikuṇṭha man and so it was not easy to glorify him. I feel the same about you. You are definitely a Vaikuṇṭha man who appeared on this planet to save humanity. In your first meeting with Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, he recognized that you were that transcendental personality who could take Lord Caitanya’s message to the Western world. You were determined to execute your spiritual master’s order. After struggling for nearly forty years, you finally reached New York City in 1965.

Last year several preaching programs were organized to celebrate the 125th anniversary of your birth. On that auspicious occasion, the prime minister of India released a silver commemorative coin. This was acclaimed to be very prestigious, and the event was covered by the international media. He praised ISKCON for presenting the true Vedic philosophy, and he praised you for being a true ambassador of Vedic culture. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we could not celebrate your 125th birth anniversary as elaborately as we wanted; our temples were closed for nearly two years. Necessity is the mother of invention, and devotees worldwide have started using online platforms for preaching.

In a brief span of twelve years, you wrote over eighty transcendental books, which have been translated into most of the major world languages. You often stated that ISKCON is your body and the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust is your heart. You wanted your temples to be well managed and book distribution to be expanded. Everything we need to know is available in your books. Your Bhaktivedanta purports were personally inspired by the Supreme Lord. You will be pleased to know that we have a nice team for translating and publishing your books in Urdu (the language spoken in Pakistan). Presently the Urdu team has published up to the Fourth Canto, and their goal is to complete the entire *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in the next two to three years. In your letter dated 24th Jan 1977, you stated that every respectable person should have full sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* in his home. ISKCON leaders in India have taken this instruction of yours as a goal.

Due to the power of your books, people all over the world are taking to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As your devotees, we regard studying and distributing your books as our most important services. In the



Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja states that tasks that are very difficult to do become easy by remembering Lord Caitanya, but that if we forget Him, then easy things become very difficult. Lord Caitanya instructed Rūpa and Sanātana Gosvāmīs to go to Vṛndāvana and establish temples and write books. Following in their footsteps, you wrote many books and built so many beautiful temples. Your disciples have also taken this mission to heart, and several temples have been built and are being built for your pleasure. You had a strong desire that a beautiful Kṛṣṇa-Arjuna temple be built at Jyotisar, Kurukṣetra, the place where the *Bhagavad-gītā* was spoken. We sincerely hope to complete this project in twelve to eighteen months. Important dignitaries are expected to attend the inauguration.

On this auspicious day, I beg you for spiritual strength so I can go on serving enthusiastically in your great movement.

Your fallen servant,

Gopāl Krishna Goswami

Govardhana Dāsa

*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 my respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most blessed occasion of the 126th anniversary of your appearance in this world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you fulfilled a prophecy. The topmost devotees, the *gopīs*, predicted that the nectar of Lord Kṛṣṇa's words would spread all over the world (*bhuvī ḡṇantī*), and that the one who would do this would be *bhūri-dāḥ janāḥ*, the most munificent person. You are the most munificent person. You have sprinkled from your lotus hands the seeds of devotion across the world. Some fifty-six years after you founded ISKCON, these seeds have grown into strong, tall trees bearing sweet fruits in the form of sweet *saṅga*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for building a Safe House in the form of ISKCON. Its doors remain open twenty-four hours a day. Lord Caitanya is the supreme capitalist, the owner of the touchstone of love of God. You are His special envoy. You have created countless agents of divine mercy. On your order they traverse the world, walk the streets, and knock on doors, distributing pots of nectar in the form of your books. From your hands to theirs, the seeds of devotion are being planted. Your books are the real vaccine, and your devotees are the expert deliverers of such life-saving medicine. Your ISKCON is the nerve center where the *saṅkīrtana* operations are planned and executed.

We have just celebrated the 536th appearance anniversary of the most munificent Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Lord Gaurāṅga had remained largely unknown to the world until you personally introduced Him through your English translation of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.

You gave up sleep and stopped your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* translation to give us the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. This you did in record time—seventeen volumes in eighteen months. Yesterday we celebrated the launch of the distribution of the Malayalam *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. Your servants at the Kerala BBT distributed 1,200 sets within a few hours. This year, on the 100th anniversary of your receiving from Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura the instruction to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the English-speaking world, the African BBT will publish the Isizulu *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, which will include a commendation by the King of the Zulu Nation.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, upon concluding His manifest pastimes, transferred His *prema* to Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura, a next-generation carrier and transmitter of *bhakti*. That very same love and compassion have been shared by you, the perfect recipient, and will forever be shared with all of mankind for generations to come, through the pages of your books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the real friend to all because you have pointed out the ravages of time and the madness of man's pursuit of small things that have zero ultimate value. Man's epic quest for space, position, and power is nothing more than an empty, futile pursuit. You pierced the veil of illusion through your Bhaktivedanta purports. Your characterization of the so-called modern world is a developing photograph of our times. What you have given the world is priceless. As the future unfolds, your books will bring countless souls to the doors of the Safe House you have built. Your ISKCON is not a lonely hermitage but a vibrant community of song and service. We can see how your devotees look upon death with composure and confidence as they depart one by one to return to your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, for my insignificant part, I continue to serve, trying my best every day to fulfill your order. Together with your stalwart servants, we have financially stabilized your "Back to Godhead" magazine, advanced a global plan to further protect your 1,100+ properties across the globe, and, under the guidance of my spiritual master, your glorious son, I am attempting to assist with the management of the southern African countries. Your African BBT continues to grow and will reach new frontiers this year.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, for whatever time I may have left in this body and with whatever strength I can muster, I am trying to serve you. I am in all respects a fallen person. I have daily skirmishes with my restless mind. I am a trespasser and an offender, a pretender and a counterfeit. However, I do desire to serve you. You have saved me. If you so desire, please direct me in any way you wish. Please help me become a devotee and keep me within the sanctity of your ISKCON.

With my head at your lotus feet, I pray for your guidance and blessings. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Your struggling grandson,

Govardhana dāsa

Guru Prasād Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your infinite wisdom, which is guiding us to spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement all over the world.

Devotees have often asked me what is the most important aspect of your instructions. I find your example of continuous sacrifice to carry on the ISKCON movement, even to the point of not being able

to finish your translation of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, to be the shining example of what we should be able to relinquish to follow in your footsteps. Without a strong Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, it will be impossible to systematically spread the *saṅkīrtana* initiative to every home in every town and village. We all personally have some service that we especially cherish, as you cherished your translation work. You repeatedly requested all of us to take up more responsibility so that you could spend all your time providing transcendental guidance for us and for future generations. We weren't able to do so to the degree that you requested. However, it is never too late to fulfill your most treasured desire, that all devotees, and the entire world, fully imbibe the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness from your glorious books. Therefore, I have accepted the request that I participate this year as a member of your GBC Executive Committee, in the spirit of acting as a tiny cog in an effort to offer ISKCON members a greater feeling of inspiration coming from the GBC Body.

I was especially inspired to do so after reading the instructions you gave to one member of your GBC team in 1972:

You mention you like to speak now very often, but the first business should be to preach to the devotees. It is better to maintain a devotee than to try to convince others to become devotees. It is the duty of the GBC to *maintain* the devotees, keep them in the highest standard of Krishna consciousness, and give them all good instruction, and let them go out and preach for making more devotees. Your first job should be to make sure that every one of the devotees in your zone of management is reading regularly our literatures and discussing the subject matter seriously from different angles of seeing, and that they are somehow or other absorbing the knowledge of Krishna Consciousness philosophy. If they are fully educated in our philosophy and if they can get all of the knowledge and study it from every viewpoint, then very easily they will perform tapasya, or renunciation, and that will be their advancement in Krishna Consciousness. [Letter to Satsvarūpa, 16 June 1972]

I humbly beg you to give me the intelligence and ability to fulfill these instructions you painstakingly gave us, to both maintain our spiritual lives and give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others. Without your blessings, there is no hope, as you stated in the following letter to another one of your stalwarts from the early days:

I am successful only because I am following strictly the orders of my Guru Maharaja, and I do not deviate. Therefore people respect what I am saying, and they listen because I do not say one thing and do another. So now you are doing my work and you shall be like me and be yourselves the worthy representatives of our disciplic succession. [Letter to Madhudviṣa, 16 June 1972]

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all your blessings.

Your unworthy servant and beggar,

Guru Prasād Swami

Hṛdaya Caitanya dāsa

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you on your auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day.

Every year my debt to you increases because every year I understand you a bit better. Understanding you better means understanding that you are Kṛṣṇa's direct and pure representative. Indeed, what you have done proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are Kṛṣṇa's pure devotee.

I am simply amazed by the following facts:

- You are always able to think of Kṛṣṇa first and yourself second.
- The holy name is always with you in your heart
- Due to your purity, Kṛṣṇa directs you what to say and what to do,
- You are empowered to spread the holy name all over the globe,
- ISKCON devotees are made by you now, were made by you in the past, and will be made by you in the future.
- You have all the beautiful qualities of a Vaiṣṇava, such as fearlessness, renunciation, compassion for all living entities, steady determination, and freedom from envy and from the passion for honor, to name just a few.
- Your false ego is nonexistent.

All the above points make me understand every year more deeply that I have such a long way to go, and that only by your mercy, the mercy of my spiritual master, and the blessings of the Vaiṣṇavas can I come closer to you.

In Māyāpur we are trying to implement a master plan that was accepted in 2016 by the Māyāpur Executive Board (MEB). For Māyāpur to present the TOVP to the world, the TOVP should follow a wonderful master plan that unfolds just like a lotus flower opening by the first sunlight, with the TOVP as the whorl and the different aspects of the master plan as the lotus petals.

The Śrīla Prabhupāda Gaṅgā Ghāṭa is one such petal that has been recently approved by the Indian Government. Thus the Ministry of Waterways and the Namami Gange Clean Ganga (NMCG) have granted two million USD to build a beautiful *ghāṭa* for all the devotees and Māyāpur pilgrims to take bath.

Once the work is finished, within a period of two years we plan to build a beautiful small temple for the worship of Mother Ganges.

We hope that with the help of the Māyāpur Heritage City Committee (MHCC), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), private development, and generous donations we will be able to develop the Māyāpur master plan so that your vision and the vision of the previous *ācāryas* for Māyāpur will be realized.

Recently, under the guidance of Jananivāsa Prabhu, we have found the place where the Prauddha-māyā temple was situated at the time of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. According to Jananivāsa Prabhu, if we reestablish this temple then Prauddha-māyā Devī will personally look after the development of Māyāpur-dhāma.

As the years pass by I realize that you have given the world a wonderful strategy. Your vision and the vision of the previous *ācāryas* is to build an astounding temple surrounded by beautiful gardens and parks to facilitate the preaching of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to deepen the understanding of the importance of taking up the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, centered on the chanting of the holy names.

Once we have understood this message, the very best way to prepare ourselves to go back to Godhead is to live a simple life and dedicate as much of our energy as possible to advancing in spiritual life. You want the whole society to transition, gradually but with determination, to an economy based on cow protection and agriculture, with Kṛṣṇa in the center.

This will take care of all economic problems, pollution problems, carbon problems, climate problems, etc., and give all those who so desire it the time to put Kṛṣṇa in the center of their lives and thus prepare themselves to go back to Godhead.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servant,

Hṛdaya Caitanya dāsa

Kavicandra Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

*śrī-caitanya-mano-'bhīṣṭaṁ sthāpitaṁ yena bhū-tale
svayaṁ rūpaḥ kadā mahyaṁ dadāti sva-padāntikam*

“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. When will Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī Prabhupāda, who has established within this material world the mission to fulfill the desire of Lord Caitanya, give me shelter under his lotus feet?”

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

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

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

I recite these verses many times daily and am waiting for realization. As Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura sang, *kabe habe*, “When will that day be mine?”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the full manifestation of Lord Caitanya’s mission because you are the perfect *rūpānuga*.

*ācāryere ājñā dila kariyā sammāna
'ā-caṇḍāla ādi kṛṣṇa-bhakti dio dāna'*

With great respect, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu requested Advaita Ācārya, “Give Kṛṣṇa consciousness, devotion to Kṛṣṇa, even to the lowest of men [*caṇḍālas*].”

[Purport:] This is Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s order to all His devotees. *Kṛṣṇa-bhakti*, devotion to Kṛṣṇa, is open to everyone, even low-class men like *caṇḍālas*. One should follow this order in the disciplic succession stemming from Śrī Advaita Prabhu and Nityānanda Prabhu and distribute Kṛṣṇa consciousness without discrimination throughout the world. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 15.41]

The fact that you have reached out and tolerated me for so many years is proof that you are following Lord Caitanya’s order perfectly.

My dear Guru Mahārāja, you have given us so many sublime instructions, two of which are currently dominating my mind. The first is that Lord Kṛṣṇa is *acintya-bhedābheda-tattva*, which means that He is inconceivably simultaneously one with and different from everything. Material scientists cannot accept that, but it perfectly explains Kṛṣṇa. He is “inconceivable,” beyond our ability to understand.

The second instruction of yours that is dominating my mind is your order that we always maintain the principle of “unity in diversity” in ISKCON. As we expand globally and attract more souls from many different backgrounds, and as there are more and more varieties of spiritual seekers, we see more and more the need to understand how to apply this seemingly simple principle of “unity in diversity.” I pray that I can represent you and imbibe this.

The influence of the Age of Kali is increasing, as is the Golden Age of Lord Caitanya. Your books and lectures are spread far and wide. Naturally demons do not like that and are pushing their agendas aggressively. So we are faced with the task of teaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness properly and widely. We feel about you the same way Paramānanda Purī felt about Lord Caitanya:

*loka-hita lāgi’ tomāra saba vyavahāra
āmi saba nā jāni gambhīra hṛdaya tomāra*

“All Your activities are for the benefit of people in general. We cannot understand them, for Your intentions are deep and grave.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya* 2.137)

Indeed, in His teachings to Sanātana Gosvāmī, Lord Caitanya perfectly described how impossible it is for us to fully understand you, Śrīla Prabhupāda:

*yāñra citte kṛṣṇa-premā karaye udaya
tāñra vākya, kriyā, mudrā vijñeha nā bujhaya*

“Even the most learned man cannot understand the words, activities, and symptoms of a person situated in love of Godhead.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 23.40)

Of course, so many are relishing your writings and taking up *bhakti* and the *saṅkīrtana* mission with great zeal.

I pray that I will be able to imbibe your mission.

*kabe jībe doyā, hoibe udaya,
nija-sukha bhuli’ sudīna-hṛdoya
bhakativinoda, koriyā binoya,
śrī-ājñā-ṭahala koribe pracār*

“When will compassion for all fallen souls awaken within this Bhaktivinoda, and when will he thus forget his own happiness and with a meek heart set out to propagate by humble entreaty the sacred order of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu?” (*Kabe Ha’be Bolo*, Verse 8)

When will I feel as Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura does, as he reveals in this verse of Song 5 of *Prārthanā*?

*mo-baḍa adhama jane kara kṛpā nirīkṣaṇe
dāsa kari rākha vṛndābane*

*śrī-kṛṣṇa caitanya nāma prabhu mora gaura-dhāma
narottama laila śaraṇe*

“Narottama dāsa prays to his golden-complexioned Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, ‘Please cast Your merciful glance upon this most fallen soul and keep me as Your servant in Vṛndāvana. You are my only shelter.’”
When will I be able to pray like Sanātana Gosvāmī?

*tabe tāra diśā sphure mo-nīcera hṛdaya
īśvara tumi,—ye karāha, sei siddha haya*

“O Lord Caitanya, if You would please manifest Yourself within my heart and personally direct me in writing this book [*Haribhakti-vilāsa*], then, although I am lowborn, I may hope to be able to write it. You can do this because You Yourself are the Supreme Personality of Godhead and whatever You direct is perfect.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 24.328)

For me, even writing this short note is difficult. But you have kindly given us the Pañca-tattva. So:

*mūka kavīva kare yān-sabāra smaraṇe
paṅgu giri laṅghe, andha dekhe tārā-gaṇe*

“By remembering the lotus feet of the Pañca-tattva, a dumb man can become a poet, a lame man can cross mountains, and a blind man can see the stars in the sky.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi* 8.5)

Your still-aspiring servant, praying to accept your causeless mercy,

Kavicandra Swami

Madhusevita dās

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to your divine appearance day.

While I am writing this offering, the world is burdened with many catastrophes: a viral plague, droughts, floods, and a cruel war that threatens to spread everywhere.

Everyone is looking for shelter and protection, but all they find is an army of fallible soldiers and cruel death threatening to come and take them away; this is because they lack *ātma-tattva* and Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Even though I have been part of your transcendental family for nearly fifty years, I still haven’t fully realized how to become really deserving of your protection.

There is a hidden meaning in these words of the *Gurv-aṣṭaka* we sing every morning:

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi*

“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.”

That hidden meaning is twofold: Firstly, if the spiritual master does not protect you, then Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Rādhārāṇī, Gaurāṅga, Nityānanda, the previous *ācāryas*—none of them will protect you. Secondly, no utterance of the *mahā-mantra*, no reading and preaching of *śāstra*, no prayer, no service, and no sacrifice will have any real effect if it is not permeated and energized by your factual presence.

A small child depends on his father for protection, but the child is ignorant because his dependence is just based on needs and fears and not on a mature realization of how his very existence rests on that of his father, and on his father's love for him.

Still, the father will protect the child, waiting for him to grow and reciprocate.

Only when attachment to you based on full realization of your immense love will manifest in my heart will I be protected at all times, in all places, and under all circumstances from the real enemy: my own polluted consciousness and desires.

Then Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Rādhārāṇī, Gaurāṅga, Nityānanda, and the previous *ācāryas* will all protect my attachment to you, and I'll be safe at your lotus feet and on my way back home, back to Godhead, to join in Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa's ever-blissful, all-cognizant dance of love.

This illusory world, with its illusory catastrophes, will one day vanish. No one will be saved, no one can be protected—save and except those who are attached to you.

Your attempting servant,

Madhusevita dās

Mālatī Devī Dāsī

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

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

I offer my respectful obeisances to the lotus feet of my spiritual master, who is an ocean of mercy and a conduit for a perfect life by his own example, having taken shelter at the lotus feet of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and fearlessly delivered His message all over the world, accomplishing what no other *ācārya* had ever done before or will ever do in the future.

Fait accompli. By spreading the glories of the holy names of the Lord, as predicted by the Lord himself, Śrīla Prabhupāda set a permanent victory in place that can never be rivaled, conquered, or equaled. Yet he has left much for his followers to do to insure that the victory of the holy name perpetuates throughout all future ages. "I want you, boys and girls, to push on this movement." (July 1967, San Francisco) A glorious standing order for all generations to come, from the perfect person, a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra*, Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājākācārya A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

O most worthy master, a fateful comment from your divine mouth, spoken forty-five years ago, appeared before me today:

The Russian philosophy is that periodically a revolution is required. That is also true to some extent, and people will follow, and then it is failure, and again another revolution. But why revolution? Take to the standard! They do not know what is the standard. *That we can give. That will be our contribution.* [Conversation with Yogi Amrit Desai, January 1977]



How did you know all of these things in advance? Now the world is witnessing the truth of your comment play out in real time. You generally replied, “I know only what Kṛṣṇa wants me to know,” when asked. It still amazes me when I read your incredibly accurate purports from the First Canto, written prior to your arrival in the West, yet masterfully and accurately detailing everything up to the present time and, I suspect, into future times to come, for the next ten thousand years.

In great awe and reverence, in jubilation, falling at your lotus feet, always begging for their shelter, hoping to eternally remain as one of your spiritual daughters,

Mālātī Devī Dāsī

Nirañjana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Devotees in the former Soviet Union are taking advantage of a unique opportunity today. They are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of your one and only visit to the former Soviet Union. They have designated your Vyāsa-pūjā day as the day they will commemorate this event.

Although I was not yet engaged in your service at that time, still I’ve heard enough from those who were so engaged to know that this one visit was the momentous occasion when the seed of Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* movement was planted in the (till then) barren soil of the communist countries.

To take advantage of this opportunity, I would like to say a few words about the profound potency that has been discovered in the devotional seeds you planted within the hearts of those who were fortunate to have come in contact with you, both during and after that visit.

In the *Brahma-vaivarta Purāṇa*, Canto 4, Chapter 20, Text 41, it is said:

*śaktiśaṁ śakti-bījaṁ ca śakti-rūpa-dharaṁ param
śakti-yuktam ayuktam ca staumi svecchamayaṁ vibhum*

“I glorify the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is the master of all potencies, the seed of all potencies, and the resting place of all potencies, who is simultaneously one and different from His potencies, who is all-powerful, and all of whose desires are fulfilled.”

A little more than five hundred years ago, that same Supreme Personality of Godhead appeared in this world as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Before His appearance, Lord Caitanya thought:

My name is Viśvambhara, “one who maintains the entire universe.” Its meaning will be actualized if I can fill the whole universe with love of Godhead. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 9.7]

Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī continues this theme in the following two verses:

Thinking in this way, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu accepted the duty of a planter and began to grow a garden in Navadvīpa. Thus the Lord brought the desire tree of devotional service to this earth and became its gardener. He sowed the seed and sprinkled upon it the water of His will. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 9.8–9]

In a similar way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came to this world to sow Lord Caitanya’s potent seeds of pure *bhakti* in the hearts of the lost, forgetful souls, not only in Navadvīpa but in places where no pure Vaiṣṇava had ever ventured before. Wherever you planted a seed, when it was sufficiently watered by faith in your words, then through Lord Caitanya’s inconceivable potencies, His will was manifest through you.

You have written in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 19.152, purport:

The *bhakti-latā-bīja* [the seed of devotional service] can be received only through the mercy of the spiritual master. Therefore one has to satisfy the spiritual master to get the *bhakti-latā-bīja*. . . . The *bhakti-latā-bīja* is the origin of devotional service.

Once you addressed some guests who had assembled in an art gallery to hear you speak. In that lecture, delivered in Auckland, New Zealand, in April 1972, you compared the Lord’s potencies to those found in varieties of seeds:

In the garden you see different flowers are coming out. The same ground, the same water, but different flowers are coming out—different fragrances, different colors, all different varieties. So the answer is *bījaṁ māṁ sarva-bhūtānām*. Kṛṣṇa is the seed. He is the seed. You have seen the banyan tree, how it produces so many small seeds? But each small seed has got so much potency that if you sow it in a nice place and water it, one day it will become a big banyan tree. Now, what are the potencies, what are the artistic arrangements, scientific arrangements, within that small seed that it grows into a big banyan tree? Not only a big banyan tree, but also many millions of big fruits, and within each fruit there are millions of seeds, and each seed contains the potency of another tree.

In a similar way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, from just one person’s faith in your words during that one visit to the former Soviet Union, the seed of Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* mission was planted and firmly took root in that most desolate place.

Soon, through your words and through other faithful servants carrying your words, servants impregnated with the potent seeds of your divine instructions, this seed continued to be watered. In time, through all these devotees, empowered by your pure desire and nourished from your books, armed with your books, more and more seeds were gradually sown.

In the *Padma Purāṇa* the Supreme Lord says, “Just as the fish, the tortoise, and the bird maintain their offspring by vision, meditation, and touch, respectively, so do I maintain My devotees, O lotus-born Brahmā!”

The tortoise lays her eggs on land and meditates on them while in the water. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that in a similar way your meditation will remain fixed on the healthy germination of all these seeds that have come from the garden you planted. Your unflinching faith in Lord Caitanya’s divine will is the catalyst that has brought His mission to where it is today.

On this most auspicious anniversary of your divine appearance in this world, we also pray that, with your blessings, the fully ripened fruits of pure love of Godhead will manifest from those seeds. Such pure love can be realized only by the continual watering of hearing and chanting the glories of pure devotional service, the exclusive message you came to deliver to everyone in this material world.

In the dust of your lotus feet,

Your unworthy servant,

Nirañjana Swami

Praghoṣa dāsa

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

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

You taught us “*padarṇ padarṇ yad vipadām.*”
If ever there was any doubt in my oh-so-hesitant mind,
We now see, in all its gory glory, the full grand-slam program
Due to the evilness of those who cannot see they’re wholly blind.

You taught us “*Always keep death in front of you.*”
If ever there was any doubt in my oh-so-resistant mind,
I now see death as ever-present, no matter how I try
To convince myself otherwise and leave it all behind.

You taught us “*One side wants to check death; other side they kill in the womb.*”
When I first read this I was curiously delighted and excited,
As that very dynamic always struck me as a bizarre foredoom—
Millions to save an OAP,* yet a quick snip to snuff a life unsighted.

You taught us “*Our philosophy does not allow self-realization by our own endeavor.*”
When I first read this, my relief was downright palpable,
As on my own it would all be the useless effort of a cheap poser.
Any thoughts to the contrary are dyed-in-the-wool irrational.

You warned us of “*the philosophy of those who are blind to the truth of the soul.*”
I was someone once guilty of that self-imposed sightlessness,
But you extracted my cataracts, lifting me out of my black hole
And freeing me to live, but still to achieve, a life of pure kindness.

You taught us “*One should be very serious that death is waiting.*”
Somehow I understand this very well, but cannot just
Turn that understanding into the action it’s demanding.
My only conclusion is—to beg you to kindly keep teaching us.

Your servant,

Praghoṣa dāsa

*old-age pensioner

Prahlādānanda Swami

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

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

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu is currently preparing the world to transition from Kali's Iron Age of disagreement and hypocrisy to a Golden Age of harmony and goodness. In Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, the Iron Age of Kali is epitomized by a false king named Kali, who dressed as a ruler but was beating a defenseless cow and bull, both valuable material assets.

Even if the soul is different from its material coverings and is endeavoring for spiritual enlightenment in the human form of life, it still needs to maintain its material existence. According to the Bhagavad-gītā (3.14), the basis of material life is food, which material nature supplies under the direction of the Supreme Lord. However, when people violate God's laws, material nature restricts the food supply. This was the case when Mother Earth refused to supply food to the sinful people living during King Vena's rule.

It may not be apparent to many, but the root cause of the degradation of the populace in Kali-yuga is the exploitation of cows and bulls, which were previously valued as essential for economic prosperity. Everything necessary for happy and healthy living could be produced with the assistance of cows and bulls. Bulls would plow the soil, help harvest, process the crops, and perform other valuable work, while the cow would supply milk and ingredients for medicines. Both the cow and bull gave ample fertilizer in the form of their manure. In this way, there was no need for industry to manufacture tractors to produce food or other machines to process it, nor was there a need for heavy industrialization to manufacture ships, planes, trucks, and cars and fuel them with petrol to deliver food. When people produced their own basic necessities, there was no need for large military complexes for protection or exploitation.

When industrialization and technology replaced human endeavor and food became more scarce, children were seen as expensive hobbies rather than as assets to the family. Previously, large extended families were helpful in agrarian societies. Hence, contraception and illicit sex were not very prominent. Moreover, when spiritual goals were emphasized, people suffered less from depression and anxiety; hence, intoxication was less prominent. Satisfied with healthy, fresh food and clean air and water, as well as a higher spiritual consciousness, people in general were not so interested in unmerited gain from gambling or from lying and cheating.

Like Kali the pretender, modern educators and leaders have lost their true spiritual intelligence and have become degraded and incapable of helping their dependents. With the degradation of the intelligent and administrative classes, society has become misdirected. Instead of refraining from sinful activities, most people are being encouraged to indulge in them. Thus, by the propagation of ignorance instead of real knowledge, godlessness is rampant in society. Most people are unaware of the true purposes of life and are clueless about how to obtain even material success, what to speak of spiritual advancement.

Unfortunately, it seems likely that many people will soon be reduced to varying degrees of poverty. The Bhāgavatam's emphasis on economic self-sufficiency and happiness based on Kṛṣṇa conscious spiritual values should therefore garner more appreciation. A reduction in fever is to be welcomed, especially if it concerns reducing the fever of material society for unrestricted sense gratification based on material exploitation. If Lord Kṛṣṇa's devotees take this opportunity to become more serious about their own personal spiritual development, show practical examples of how to live according to Vedic directions, and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness with better organization and intelligence, Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's Golden Age can soon arrive.

Rādhānāth Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my sincerest obeisances. I pray to forever offer my body, mind, and soul in your service.

As I reflect upon my life over the past fifty-one years since I first met you, my heart fills with gratitude and joy. Through both the pleasant and the stormy times, your teachings and example have remained a constant shelter.

Bitter conflicts, heartbreaking disappointments, and ideological disputes are everywhere in the world. Dreadful diseases, mental anguish, and natural disasters are filling people's lives with uncertainty. The influence of Kali-yuga seems to leave no stone unturned, even within a society of devotees.

In this turbulent sea of material perplexities, your words and example give us shelter and provide a perfect compass to lead us always toward Kṛṣṇa, the Absolute Truth and the goal of life.

As the years pass, the limitations of old age and the nearness of death are right before our eyes. The increasing occurrences of our most beloved Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavis disappearing from the physical world are now inseparable from the experience of living.

Yet, you have given us the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, wherein we can know that Kṛṣṇa's ever-loving hand is reaching out to us in all situations. We need only to recognize His mercy and surrender to receiving it. As we grow on the path of *bhakti*, we are gaining deeper realizations of the glorious place that you are taking us.

You have entrusted to us the eternal message that the happiness of hearing and chanting Kṛṣṇa's names and glories while engaging in devotional service with sincere devotees is the highest reality. The rules and regulations that you mercifully gave are to protect us from the implications and distractions that draw our minds away from the joys of devotional service. You have given us a day-to-day way of living wherein our immortal souls may pass through this mortal world on a journey into Kṛṣṇa's pure loving service.

I am forever grateful.

This year, 2022, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of a historic moment that would forever change the world.

In 1922 in Kolkata you first met His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda at his residence on a rooftop at the first Gauḍīya Maṭha, on Ultadanga Junction Road. One century ago, at this meeting, you were given the instruction to take the teachings of Lord Caitanya to the whole world in the English language. You accepted this order as your life and soul.

Years later, while residing in Vṛndāvana in a small rented room, you prepared for your mission by beginning your English translations and purports to the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. This was a humble beginning for your legacy of circulating the most Vedic literatures in history. Here in Vṛndāvana, you daily prayed at the *samādhī* of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī for his blessings to fulfill the impossible order that you had been given.

The miracle of your dedication, sacrifice, and compassion has fulfilled a prophecy that has been cultivated through the ages by the greatest of Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas*. You have fulfilled a dream cherished by all of the *ācāryas* of our *paramparā*.

This year, for your pleasure, Śrīla Prabhupāda, this original temple at Ultadanga in Kolkata, where you first met with your Guru Mahārāja and received his order, has been procured and renovated. It was inaugurated on the Vyāsa-pūjā day of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura by the devotees of ISKCON Kolkata.

The building has been restored, as far as possible, to its original design, materials, and atmosphere. We are hoping that it will be an intimate place of pilgrimage for all of your followers to come and meditate upon Your Divine Grace. It is our hope that this sacred place may also help unite the greater Vaiṣṇava community.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the past year ISKCON Kolkata has inaugurated a memorial and pilgrimage site

at the exact place you took birth in 1896 under the historic jackfruit tree. We will be striving in the days to come to develop this memorial in a way that devotees and sincere people of all backgrounds throughout the world will come to celebrate your glorious appearance and your pastimes of pure devotion and compassion.

In this way Kolkata will truly become a “gateway to Māyāpur” and to the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, according to your desire.

I pray for the sincerity to wholeheartedly beg for your mercy and to assist you in your glorious service to the *paramparā* of Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga.

Your servant,

Rādhānāth Swami

Rāmāi Swami

*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*

Today, as I write, we are honoring the forty-fifth anniversary of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s disappearance. Over the years I’ve had mixed thoughts about his departure. How should a disciple feel about the loss of the physical presence of their guru?

One famous explanation was given by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura upon the departure of his father and spiritual guide, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura:

Today is a day of great happiness and not the slightest grief. Today our master has re-entered the eternal pastimes of the Lord. Now it is our duty to remember his eternal position, name, qualities, form, and pastimes. Henceforth we will follow in his footsteps with even greater concentration.
[Śrī Bhaktisiddhānta Vaibhava]

This statement reveals the exalted position and realization of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī: he was fully immersed in full transcendental Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Otherwise, how could he have “not the slightest grief” on the passing of his father, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura?

Someone who is attached to this material world, a nondevotee, is always in grief about a loss like that—but not the great *ācāryas*. They are actually happy because they know the factual reality of where great devotees go—that is, back home, back to Godhead, to be with Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta said with conviction and certainty, “Today our master has re-entered the eternal pastimes of the Lord.” And lastly, he states the duty of a disciple regarding their departed guru: “To remember his eternal position, name, qualities, form, and pastimes.”

Why must a disciple do this? “Henceforth we will follow in his footsteps with even greater concentration.” In other words, by always remembering Śrīla Prabhupāda in this way, we will be able to follow his example and instructions even more than we did in his personal presence. That is quite a statement! Perhaps I will someday come near to that platform.

We honored him with worthy meed,*
 Rejoicing in each glorious deed.
 His task achieved, the foe removed,
 He triumphed and the Lord approved.

The Golden Age had come again
 To bless the days of Prabhupāda's reign.
 And when his life on earth had passed,
 To Kṛṣṇa's world he returned at last.

As long as on this earthly land
 The streams shall flow, the mountains stand,
 So long throughout the world, be sure,
 The great Prabhupāda shall endure.

Misguided fools may search around
 To see if fuller knowledge might be found,
 But no greater words could anyone present—
 Surely by Kṛṣṇa was he sent.

We too shall now at length recite
 While good men listen with delight.
 Well skilled he was to sing and dance
 Like Lord Caitanya, with smile and glance.

So who throughout this world did go
 To teach *bhakti*, that all may know?
 None for the task could be more fit,
 For skilled was he in Holy Writ.

He spoke those verses sweet and clear,
 Delightful to the listening ear,
 That told of Kṛṣṇa's noble life
 And demons felled in battle strife.

Great joy to all who hear they bring,
 Sweet to recite and sweet to sing,
 Which laid so clear before the eye
 The glorious deeds of days gone by.

Ever firm and just and true,
 He kept love, duty, vows in view.
 Never for anger, lust, or gain
 Would he his lips with falsehood stain.

Imbued with mercy, he could scan
 The weakness and the strength of man.
 He looked alike, with equal eye,
 On every caste, on low and high.

*reward or recompense

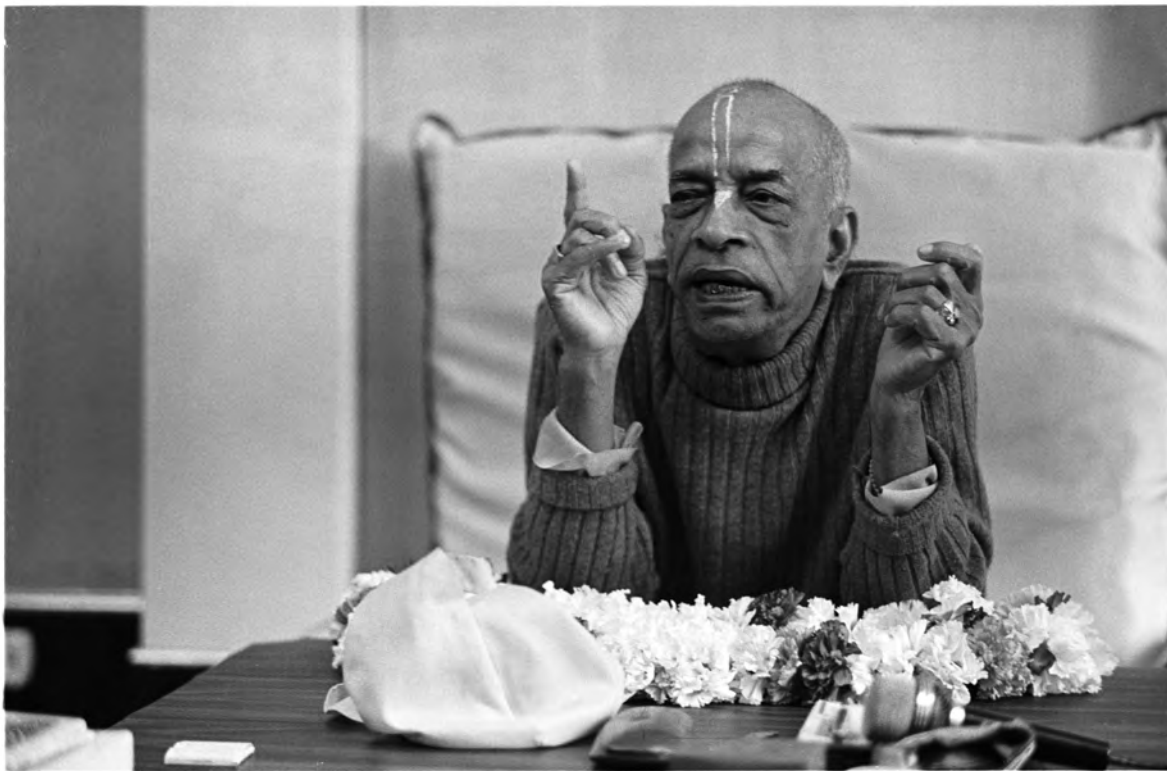
The students of that saintly man,
Moved by their love for him, began
To follow in his wondrous footsteps,
Trying to spread his lofty precepts.

One last thing I'd like to say:
There's none like him to this very day.
So there's never need to be afraid
When we take shelter of his merciful shade.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's insignificant disciple,

Rāmāi Swami

Homages from
GBC Emeritii



Bhūrijana dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you spent Janmāṣṭamī in 1970 in Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan. On that day you and some of your disciples simply heard *Kṛṣṇa* book throughout the day and night. The unachieved goal, as I remember, in service to full absorption in Kṛṣṇa's pastimes, was to complete the entire book on that one day.

The day following Janmāṣṭamī was Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā. A mishap occurred, and you allowed us to observe it properly the next day, the morning after the proper day commemorating your appearance.

We few disciples sat on *tatami* mats at your feet and read our written offerings, and you, grave and peaceful, sat on the *vyāsāsana* and simply listened.

The *one* part of the *one* offering that I still remember was spoken by Kīrtanānanda Swami, who read his offering from the 1969 Vyāsa-pūjā book:

All that I have I owe to you,
All that I know I learned from you;
All that I want I see in you,
Prabhupāda, my worshipful lord.

I remembered these words today as I meditated on a great gift of yours that continues to astound me, *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.

The *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* is a guidebook for Kṛṣṇa conscious advancement, the most authoritative book of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's pastimes, and a multi-tiered philosophy book summarizing Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava *siddhānta*. And it is also a deep ocean of sweetness.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta's* *Antya-līlā*, I read of Rāmānanda Raya's and Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī's intimate association with Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. I could not fail to notice that both were qualified to the extreme. Both were exempt from bodily consciousness. Both were fully absorbed in Kṛṣṇa's pastimes.

All the other associates of Mahāprabhu that I read of also awed me—including Śrī Svarūpa Dāmodara Gosvāmī, Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī, Śrī Sanātana Gosvāmī, and Śrī Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī—for all possessed complete detachment from sensual allurements and fully blossomed attachment to the lotus feet of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Although I read the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* purposefully, to taste both the sweetness of the *līlās* and for direct instructions and hints from you and Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī on how to advance in my

own Kṛṣṇa consciousness, that same sweetness and those same instructions that were my hope contrasted so clearly with my actual ability and powdered into insignificance my false sense of capacity and importance. Humiliation again had preceded humility.

But then I thought of you. I remembered my fortune in your accepting me as your disciple. I remembered what it was like in your sparkling presence. I remembered your qualities—your chastity, your gentility, your human-ness, your tolerance, your strength, your full surrender, your expansive vision, your complete detachment from sensuality, and your boundless pleasure in hearing about Kṛṣṇa. I remembered you being qualified as the associates of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu were qualified, and I remembered the power of your mercy and your blessing. In your service, I regained hope.

Those written words Kīrtanānanda Swami read aloud to you in 1970 then again appeared in my mind:

All that I have I owe to you,
All that I know I learned from you;
All that I want I see in you,
Prabhupāda, my worshipful lord.

Your hopeful servant,

Bhūrījana dāsa

Girirāj Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble, prostrated obeisances at your all-merciful lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

When an interviewer once asked you, “What is the goal of life?” you replied, “The goal of life is to enjoy.” The effort to enjoy materially, through the mind and senses, leads only to frustration and misery. But spiritually one can enjoy in relation to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and that pleasure, unlike the temporary so-called happiness of the material world, is eternal, and that eternal happiness can be realized through the mercy of Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu and you. *Nitya* means “eternal,” and *ānanda* means “bliss.” So if we can come in touch with Lord Nityānanda—through you—we can realize that eternal bliss for which we are hankering.

How do we become eligible for your and Lord Nityānanda’s mercy? We can learn how from the description of His qualities and pastimes in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā*, Chapter Seventeen: “The Pastimes of Lord Caitanya in His Youth”:

TEXT 17

tabe śacī dekhila, rāma-kṛṣṇa—dui bhāi
tabe nistārila prabhu jagāi-mādhāi

TRANSLATION

Thereafter Mother Śacidevī saw the brothers Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma in Their manifestation of Lord Caitanya and Nityānanda. Then the Lord delivered the two brothers Jagāi and Mādhāi.

In your purport, you write:

Jagāi and Mādhāi were two brothers born in Navadvīpa in a respectable *brāhmaṇa* family who later became addicted to all kinds of sinful activities. By the order of Lord Caitanya, both Nityānanda Prabhu and Haridāsa Ṭhākura used to preach the cult of Kṛṣṇa consciousness door to door. In the course of such preaching they found Jagāi and Mādhāi, two maddened drunken brothers, who, upon seeing them, began to chase them. The next day, Mādhāi struck Nityānanda Prabhu on the head with a piece of earthen pot, thus drawing blood. When Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu heard of this, He immediately came to the spot, ready to punish both brothers, but when the all-merciful Lord Gaurāṅga saw Jagāi's repentant behavior, He immediately embraced him. By seeing the Supreme Personality of Godhead face to face and embracing Him, both the sinful brothers were at once cleansed. Thus they received initiation into the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* from the Lord and were delivered.

Caitanya Mahāprabhu ordered Nityānanda Prabhu and Haridāsa Ṭhākura to go into Navadvīpa to approach whomever they met on the way and to go door-to-door and request people to chant the name of Kṛṣṇa, to worship Kṛṣṇa, to follow Kṛṣṇa's instructions (*bolo kṛṣṇa, bhajo kṛṣṇa, koro kṛṣṇa-śikṣā*)—and not to distinguish between who was qualified and who was not. And you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, preached in that mood.

When Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was ready to kill Jagāi and Mādhāi because the latter had physically injured Nityānanda, the all-merciful Nityānanda Prabhu said, “No, Lord, don't do that. Don't harm them. In Kali-yuga Our mission is not to kill the demons but to deliver them. And in Kali-yuga almost everyone is like Jagāi and Mādhāi.”

In a conversation on June 11, 1975, in Honolulu, you said, “This is a good certificate we have got from some very authoritative person, that we are turning these drug-addicted hippies into servants of Kṛṣṇa and humanity. Is it not a good certificate?”

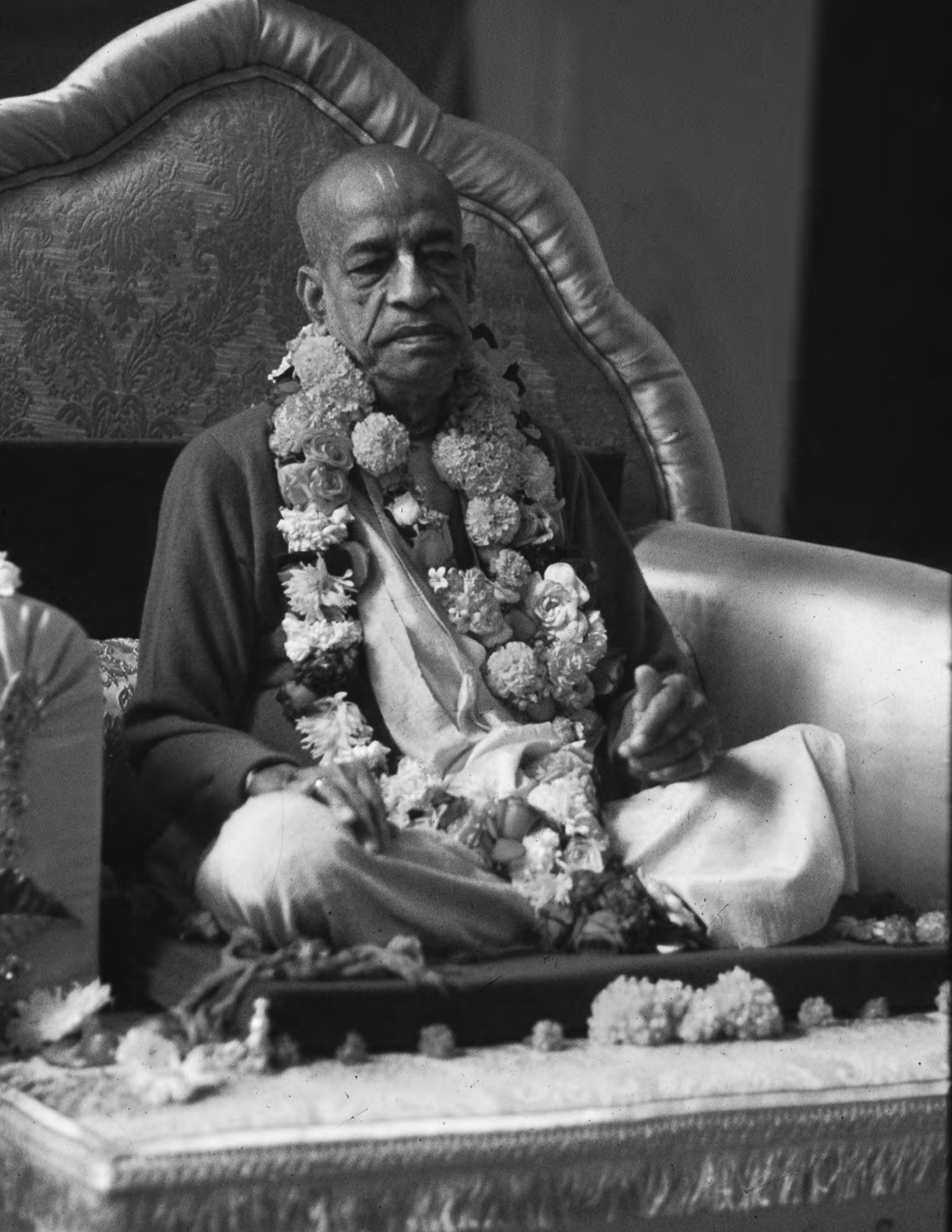
“Yes. It's true. We were all hippies,” Govinda Dāsī responded.

And you replied, chuckling:

This is the fact. And I came to America for this purpose. *Pāpī tāpī jata chilo, hari-nāme uddhārilo, tāra sākṣī jagāi mādhai. Hari-nāme uddhārilo*, simply by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, Caitanya Mahāprabhu delivered all sinful men, suffering humanity. Is it true? What is the evidence? *Tāra sākṣī jagāi mādhai*. Just see, Jagāi and Mādhāi was drunkard. So, I thought, ‘Why one Jagāi and Mādhāi? Why not hundreds and thousands of them, if *hari-nāma* has got so much power?’ So, actually it has done so. Now you also take it very seriously. *Pāpī tāpī jata chilo, hari-nāme uddhārilo*. *Pāpī* means sinful, and *tāpī* means suffering. So, these two classes of men are there all over the world: sinful and suffering. As soon as one becomes sinful, he will suffer. So, all these sinful and suffering beings were delivered simply by the method of *saṅkīrtana: hari-nāme uddhārilo. Tāra sākṣī jagāi mādhai*. People would actually see Jagāi and Mādhāi, what they were and what they have become. Try to administer this.

In your purport to *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 16.65, you write:

Jagāi and Mādhāi were delivered solely by Nityānanda Prabhu's mercy. When they injured Nityānanda Prabhu, Lord Caitanya became angry and decided to kill them with His Sudarśana *cakra*,



but Nityānanda Prabhu saved them from the Lord's wrath and delivered them. In the incarnation of Gaura-Nitāi, the Lord is not supposed to kill demons but is supposed to deliver them by preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In the case of Jagāi and Mādhāi, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was so angry that He would have immediately killed them, but Nityānanda Prabhu was so kind that He not only saved them from death but elevated them to the transcendental position. Thus what was not possible for Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was carried out by Nityānanda Prabhu.

Similarly, if one is true to Gaura-Nitāi's service in the disciplic succession, he can even excel Nityānanda Prabhu's service. This is the process of disciplic succession. Nityānanda Prabhu delivered Jagāi and Mādhāi, but a servant of Nityānanda Prabhu, by His grace, can deliver many thousands of Jagāis and Mādhāis. That is the special benediction of the disciplic succession. One who is situated in the disciplic succession can be understood by the result of his activities. This is always true as far as the activities of the Lord and His devotees are concerned. Therefore Lord Śiva says:

*ārādhanaṁ sarveṣāṁ viṣṇor ārādhanaṁ param
tasmāt parataraṁ devī tadīyānāṁ samarcanam*

“Of all types of worship, worship of Lord Viṣṇu is best, and better than the worship of Lord Viṣṇu is the worship of His devotee, the Vaiṣṇava.” (*Padma Purāṇa*)

By the grace of Viṣṇu, a Vaiṣṇava can render better service than Viṣṇu; that is the special prerogative of a Vaiṣṇava. The Lord actually wants to see His servants work more gloriously than Himself. . . . If we simply follow Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's instructions and follow in the footsteps of Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu, this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement can advance, and even more difficult tasks can be performed by the preachers remaining faithful to the service of the Lord.

You took up the same mood of approaching anyone and everyone—pious or sinful, qualified or unqualified—without discrimination. As Nityānanda Prabhu said, in Kali-yuga practically everyone is like Jagāi and Mādhāi. That may be more apparent in America and Europe than in India—though I did hear a talk in which you were discussing how demonic Western civilization is and how the leaders, and pretty much everyone, are demons, but then added, “Actually in my country also, 80 percent are demons.” But still, what you encountered in 1965 when you came to America was something that people now, especially people in India, can hardly imagine.

Kṛṣṇa Candra Prabhu (Hrishikesh Mafatlal) from Mumbai used to say that people cannot imagine who you encountered when you went to America. He recommended that everyone see the DVDs of you when you came to America, first at 26 Second Avenue in New York, then at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. People can't believe, can't imagine, the type of people you were approaching. And they didn't always receive you well. To get some idea of what you experienced, everyone should read *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* and watch the DVD series *Following Śrīla Prabhupāda*.

One of the most dramatic incidents occurred in the summer of 1966, when you were living in a loft in New York's Bowery, which was the most degraded part of the city, its “Skid Row,” and was inhabited mostly by drunks. But even they had a little respect. They would be sprawled out on the sidewalk and on the stairs leading up to your apartment, but somehow they sensed that you were a saintly person, and so they would try to move over and make room for you to pass.

You were staying with a young man who seemed interested in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In fact, you thought, “I'll train him as a Vaiṣṇava.” But one day the young man went crazy, probably from taking LSD, the 1960s equivalent of the strong liquor Jagāi and Mādhāi were taking five hundred years ago. In his crazed state he threatened to attack you. Indeed, he seemed ready to kill you, just as Mādhāi was ready to kill Nityānanda Prabhu. You bolted out of the room and ran down the stairs, much as Haridāsa Ṭhākura and Nityānanda Prabhu had fled from Jagāi and Mādhāi.

It's quite a history. In fact, how you endured so much hardship for the sake of delivering the mercy

of Gaura-Nitāi is inconceivable. On the boat to America you had suffered two heart attacks, and even in America you had a lot of physical problems. But you endured everything—all these “attacks of *māyā*”—for the sake of delivering Gaura-Nitāi’s mercy to us. And what Nityānanda Prabhu wanted in India has been fulfilled by you outside India. What Nityānanda Prabhu wanted was fulfilled in Bengal, but through you it’s been fulfilled throughout the world. So, you are really the embodiment of the mercy of Nityānanda Prabhu. There had not been anyone in the history of our *sampradāya*, no one after Nityānanda Prabhu, who had taken up that mood of approaching anyone and everyone without discrimination, without considering who is qualified and who is not.

And you gave the same message: chant Kṛṣṇa’s name, worship Kṛṣṇa, accept Kṛṣṇa as your life and soul—but not in so many words, because the people that you were approaching didn’t even know who Kṛṣṇa was. When Nityānanda approached people in Navadvīpa and told them, “Chant Kṛṣṇa’s name, worship Kṛṣṇa, follow Kṛṣṇa’s instructions,” they knew who Kṛṣṇa was, they knew what Nityānanda was saying, but in America and Europe nobody knew who Kṛṣṇa was. So “Chant Kṛṣṇa’s name, worship Kṛṣṇa” had to be explained in books, and thus you wrote so many books to explain who is Kṛṣṇa, what is Kṛṣṇa’s name, how to chant Kṛṣṇa’s name, how to worship Kṛṣṇa, why we should accept Kṛṣṇa as our life and soul, why we should surrender to Kṛṣṇa—the same message that Caitanya Mahāprabhu asked Nityānanda Prabhu to deliver to everyone, but in an expanded form, because the people you were approaching had no idea of Kṛṣṇa’s identity or instructions.

When we go out with your books, it is like when Mahāprabhu sent Nityānanda and Haridāsa to approach people with that message. Sometimes devotees are not well received, but even Nityānanda and Haridāsa were not always well received. Caitanya Mahāprabhu would have nocturnal *kīrtanas* in Śrīvāsa Ṭhākura’s house, and if anyone was proud, he was not allowed to enter. Only humble, pure devotees were allowed. So all the proud people in Navadvīpa were upset that they weren’t allowed to join the *kīrtana*, and when Nityānanda and Haridāsa came to their doors, they were angry with them—“Oh, you’ve come from that Nimāi Paṇḍita and Śrīvāsa Ṭhākura”—and they spread rumors about Nityānanda and Haridāsa: “They are thieves. They come to your door and say to chant Kṛṣṇa’s name and worship Kṛṣṇa, but really what they’re doing is looking in your house to see what you have so that they can come back at night and steal it.” They were spreading a lot of false propaganda. So, we have to accept that—expect it and accept it—without being deterred. It didn’t stop Nityānanda and Haridāsa, and it didn’t stop you, and it shouldn’t stop any of us.

ISKCON is the continuation of Nityānanda Prabhu’s mission, and you really had His magnanimous mood. When one of your early disciples came to India and the Calcutta temple president phoned you in Bombay to tell you that the devotee was smoking *gāñjā* (marijuana) and asked what to do, you told your secretary to relay your response: “Tell him that if he doesn’t stop smoking *gāñjā* I will reject him.” Afterwards, Tamāl Krishna Goswami asked you, “Is it true that if he doesn’t stop smoking *gāñjā* you will reject him?”

And you said, “No—I cannot reject anyone.”

Tamāl Krishna Goswami asked, “But don’t you have to draw the line somewhere?”

And you replied, “The mercy of Lord Nityānanda is unlimited.”

So that was your mood: you were in the mood of Nityānanda Prabhu.

We are the recipients of Gaura-Nitāi’s mercy through you. By your mercy we are chanting Kṛṣṇa’s name, worshiping Kṛṣṇa, and following Kṛṣṇa’s instructions, accepting Kṛṣṇa as the goal of our lives. And it is also by your mercy and order that we preach the same message to others. We can speak to our capacity, and whatever our capacity to speak may or may not be, we can give people your books, which convey the same message of Mahāprabhu. We just elaborate on it and present it in a way that people without any background in Vedic knowledge can understand.

So, on this most sacred and blessed occasion, we pray to you to inspire and empower us with your mood of humble persuasion. I saw that mood in you. You often instructed us, but I saw it personally. When we first came to Bombay, there was a program on the terrace of the house where we were staying—Seksaria Bhavan, on Marine Drive. It was very nice, very glamorous, near the sea, and our host,

Kailash Seksaria, had invited all the elite, affluent, aristocratic people he knew in Bombay. And you, with the same humility as Nityānanda Prabhu, implored them, “I am taking the straw in my mouth and begging you, Please chant Hare Kṛṣṇa.”

You often quoted a verse by Prabodhānanda Sarasvatī about how we should approach people. The verse is, *dante nidhāya ṭṇakarṇ padayor nipatya*: “Taking a straw in my mouth [a sign of utter humility], I bow at your feet.” *Kṛtvā ca kāku-śatam etad ahaṁ bravīmi*: “And I flatter you a hundred times.” *He sādhaḥ*: “O greatly learned man.” *Sakalam eva vihāya dūrād*: “Whatever you have learned, you keep it far away from you.” And *gaurāṅga-candra-caraṇe kurutānurāgam*: “Just accept the mercy of Lord Gaurāṅga, just surrender to Lord Gaurāṅga, become attached to Lord Gaurāṅga’s lotus feet.” You approached people in that mood.

One of my favorite statements of yours is “To approach Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, you need the mercy of Lord Caitanya; to get the mercy of Lord Caitanya, you need the mercy of Lord Nityānanda; and to get the mercy of Lord Nityānanda, you have to approach people like Jagāi and Mādhāi.” If we ever feel, “Oh, I’m too high, I’m too holy, I can’t approach these people,” we should think of that instruction and your example and really pray, beg, to be humble instruments of your love and mercy and compassion. As your *guru-mahārāja* told you, “That will be good for you, and good for the people who hear you.”

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all you have done for us—for the world. Kindly engage me as your servants’ servants’ servant.

Your eternal, grateful servant,

Girirāj Swami

Hridayānanda dās Goswami

*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,

By your mercy, we again celebrate your blessed appearance in this world. Our material and spiritual health is a gift of God, Lord Kṛṣṇa. You taught and showed us how to receive that mercy. You taught us to see the wonders and the tribulations of this world as a gift of God. With endless patience, you guided us on our path, awarded us service, trained us, inspired us, corrected us. In short, you created for all who would hear and follow you a genuine, eternal, unlimited spiritual life.

It is said that by Kṛṣṇa’s mercy one attains a guru, and that by the guru’s mercy one attains Kṛṣṇa. In your physical absence, when your presence in this world is not manifest to mundane eyes, once again we are receiving you by Kṛṣṇa’s mercy. By Kṛṣṇa’s mercy, your faithful, devoted followers increasingly discover your glories by faithfully serving your mission.

As we do our best to serve you, we can only pray that our efforts will please you and Kṛṣṇa and

bring the empowerment you boldly offered to us, if we would give ourselves heart and soul to the Lord's mission. Let us do that now.

Your servant,

Hridayānanda dās Goswami

Mukunda Goswami

*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*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, camaraderie between devotees is what you expected when you formed ISKCON. A *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* verse you would often quote goes like this:

*īṣvare tad-adhīneṣu bālīṣeṣu dviṣatsu ca
prema-maitrī-kṛpopekṣā yaḥ karoti sa madhyamaḥ*

“An intermediate or second-class devotee, called a *madhyama-adhikārī*, offers his love to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is a sincere friend to all the devotees of the Lord, shows mercy to ignorant people who are innocent, and disregards those who are envious of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.2.46)

Moreover, the *Upadeśāmṛta* states:

*dadāti pratigrhṇāti guhyam ākhyāti prcchati
bhuñkte bhojayate caiva ṣaḍ-vidhaṁ prīti-lakṣaṇam*

“Offering gifts in charity, accepting charitable gifts, revealing one's mind in confidence, inquiring confidentially, accepting *prasādam*, and offering *prasādam* are the six symptoms of love shared by one devotee and another.” Here the word *guhyam* is translated as “confidential topics” in the word-by-word meanings. Elsewhere, *guhyam* is translated as “secret” and “the most confidential.”

Once, when lecturing, you said that one who is worshipping the Deity may suspend one's worship if a devotee suddenly appears on the scene—in order to greet and accommodate the devotee.

From all this one can extract the meaning that association with devotees, especially with those whom we consider more advanced than we are, is essential and often the most important part of devotional service.

Your servant,

Mukunda Goswami

Ravindra Svarūpa dāsa

*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*

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the embodiment of the Lord’s intervention to salvage our world’s headlong rush toward desolation and destruction on all sides—a ruination encompassing all civilized peoples and all tribal and aboriginal humans as well; all animals, all fish and fowl; all crawling, creeping, and flying insects; all vegetation, from the giant sequoia to the algae in ditches and ponds. Even the lifeless minerals are ravaged.

This world is a dangerous and precarious place, and it is burdened with a huge and ever-growing accumulation of evil deeds and wicked schemes that your faithful servants will, above all, be directed and guided to overcome—servants who will even sacrifice their own futures for that of the overwhelmed earth and its afflicted residents.

Like so many others, I myself am ever in need of constant repair, refurbishing, and revival by the ever vital and robust potency of your own work, your precious legacy to the world.

We have been blessed to see what you could do in a very short time, in countries not your own, among people very different from you, even while you were hampered by the adversities of old age and disease.

On one occasion you said, “I am one person and see what I have done. Now each of you become just like me and see what can be done.”

If we can receive your legacy, we will find we have all that we need. Even in difficulty.

Or especially in difficulty:

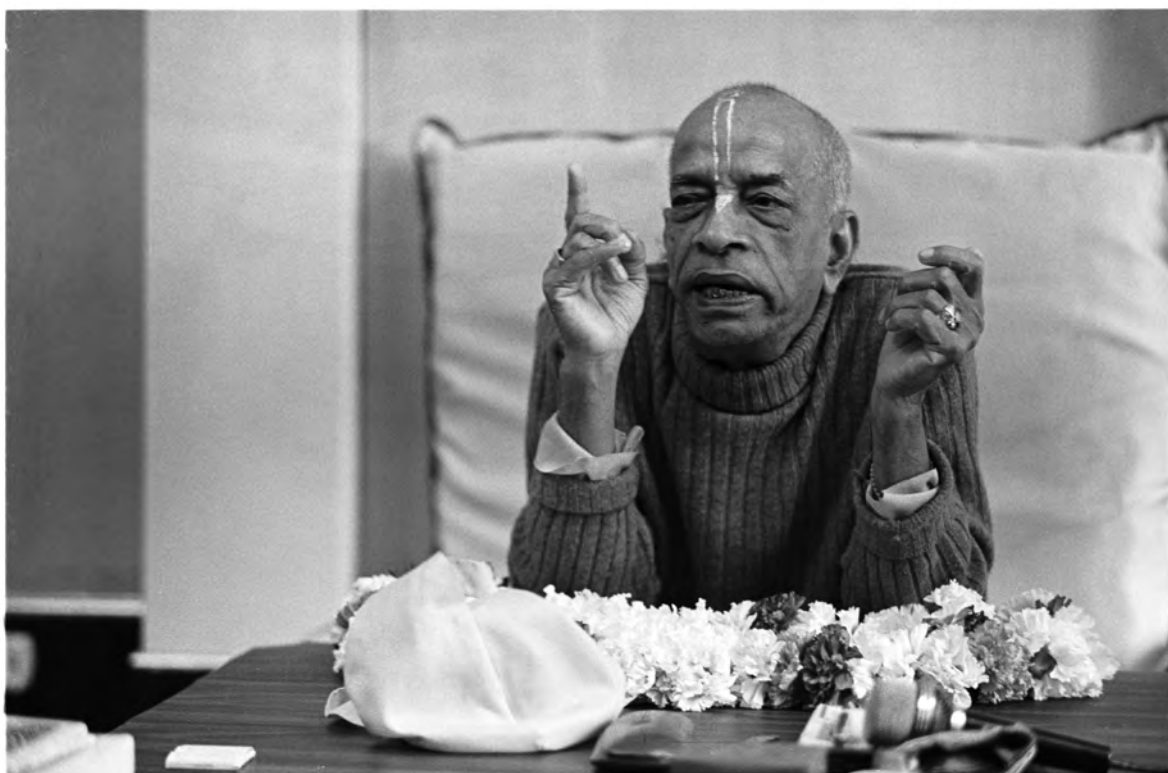
In December, a serious fall introduced several fractures near the top of the humerus bone of my right arm, and I spent two months with that afflicted arm immobilized in a sling. Now I have been undergoing physical therapy twice a week, therapy that is gradually but steadily restoring my afflicted limb to full function. It requires steady practice, patience, and determination, along with careful following of the physical therapist’s expertise. This steady, persevering, and determined application works.

And, of course, I have realized that my own badly fallen spiritual self requires a similar dedication to a parallel expert treatment: the steady practice, with patience and determination, of the expert spiritual therapy you have graciously given to us—and to the world.

With endless gratitude, your patient,

Ravindra Svarūpa dāsa

Homages from
Non-GBC Sannyāsis



Amala-bhakta Swami

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

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

I offer my humble obeisances unto my spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter of his lotus feet. My respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva through your books and recordings, and spiritually liberating the imprisoned souls of all countries, which are filled with impersonalism, voidism, materialism, and atheism.

Your servant,

Amala-bhakta Swami

Ambarish Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept my humble obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet!

It is said in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.15.30):

*gītāṁ bhagavatā jñānaṁ yat tat saṅgrāma-mūrdhani
kāla-karma-tamo-ruddhaṁ punar adhyagamat prabhuḥ*

[Translation:] Because of the Lord's pastimes and activities and Arjuna's feelings of separation from Him, it appeared that Arjuna forgot the instructions left by the Personality of Godhead. But factually this was not the case, and again he became lord of his senses.

[Purport:] A conditioned soul is enwrapped in his fruitive activities by the force of eternal time. But the Supreme Lord, when He incarnates on the earth, is not influenced by *kāla*, or the material conception of past, present, and future. The activities of the Lord are eternal, and they are manifestations of His *ātma-māyā*, or internal potency. All pastimes or activities of the Lord are spiritual in nature, but to the laymen they appear to be on the same level with material activities. Thus it appeared that Arjuna and the Lord were engaged in the Battle of Kurukṣetra as the other party was also engaged, but factually the Lord was executing His mission of incarnation in association with His eternal friend Arjuna. Therefore such apparently material activities of Arjuna did not drive him away from his transcendental position, but on the contrary revived

his consciousness of the songs of the Lord, as He had sung them personally. This revival of consciousness is assured by the Lord in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (18.65) as follows:

*man-manā bhava mad-bhakto mad-yājī māṁ namaskuru
mām evaiṣyasi satyaṁ te pratijāne priyo 'si me*

One should think of the Lord always; the mind should not forget Him. One should become a devotee of the Lord and offer obeisances unto Him. One who lives in that fashion becomes undoubtedly endowed with the blessing of the Lord by achieving the shelter of His lotus feet. There is nothing to doubt about this eternal truth. Because Arjuna was His confidential friend, the secret was disclosed to him.

Arjuna had no desire to fight with his relatives, but he fought for the mission of the Lord. He was always engaged in the execution of His mission only, and therefore after the Lord's departure he remained in the same transcendental position, even though it appeared that he forgot all the instructions of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. One should therefore adjust the activities of life in pace with the mission of the Lord, and by doing this one is sure to return back home, back to Godhead. This is the highest perfection of life.

Last year we tried to inspire as many devotees as possible to participate in book distribution. More than a hundred new devotees took the course in book distribution and actively participated in the Prabhupāda Marathon throughout Russia. This year we are planning new courses for the beginners and an advanced course for the veterans. It is by the efforts of all the devotees in the CIS countries that we surpassed our goal for 2021 by distributing 1,027,000 books for your satisfaction! A new *saṅkīrtana* magazine was produced recently, and we hope it will help inspire more devotees to take up this wonderful service. Devotees are meeting more and more people who have been very inspired by reading one of your books. Also, with a group of twenty devotees I read all twelve cantos of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* last year.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! We are praying for your mercy so that we can always be absorbed in reading and distributing your books until the end of our life and share this taste with as many devotees as possible.

A servant of your servants,

B.R. Ambarish Swami

Bhakti Ananta Krishna Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

On this wonderful day, please let me offer you my humble obeisances.

You appeared during the most terrible age, Kali-yuga, when human civilization is destroying itself. It is the most inauspicious time for spiritual practice.

But, fulfilling your spiritual master's will, at the age of 69 you went to America, the most awful place on the planet.

You translated and wrote commentaries on the Vedic literatures and the *bhakti-śāstras*. You distributed

the teachings of Lord Caitanya on six continents and established more than a hundred temples, centers, and agricultural communities all over the world. In the Soviet Union you stayed less than a week, leaving behind only one disciple. And he, in his turn, distributed Lord Kṛṣṇa's message throughout the country. Due to your kind will, to date more than half a billion of your transcendental literatures have been distributed all over the world. It is impossible to count all your achievements and transcendental characteristics.

Thank you very much for giving me and many thousands of other devotees a chance to take part in Lord Caitanya's mission!

Bhakti Ananta Krishna Goswami

Bhakti Cārudeṣṇa Swami

Dear ISKCON founder-*ācārya* A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

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

Uttering your name is a festival for my mouth and my tongue, for it's the most sublime name to speak in one's life.

Sometimes my mind pushes me to think how I can try to please you and show some gratitude to Your Divine Grace in so many ways.

Trying to do so, I get lost in mental speculation and involve myself very enthusiastically in different kinds of services in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Then by your mercy, and by the mercy of my spiritual master and the mercy of other senior devotees, I simply remember what you love the most: distribution of your books and nice cooperation among devotees.

My two favorite quotes of yours are:

1. "I am so much pleased upon all of the boys and girls in Los Angeles and all over the world who are understanding and appreciating this unique quality of our transcendental literature and voluntarily they are going out to distribute despite all circumstances of difficulty. By this effort alone they are assured to go back to home, back to Godhead." [Letter to Rāmeśvara Dāsa, 9 January 1973]
2. "Your love for me will be shown by how much you cooperate to keep this institution together after I am gone." ["Prabhupāda Appreciation," Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami, Ch. 13]

So there is no doubt that book distribution and nice cooperation among your disciples and grand-disciples are your most cherished desires.

My meditation now is to make the best use of these two things.

As a traveling preacher, how can I be successful without book distribution?

And without nice cooperation with devotees, which attracts your mercy, how can I do any tangible book distribution?

The best way to remember your divine personality and expand your glories all over the world is to give your books to people and in that way give them Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura said in one of his songs: *kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāro, tomāra śakati āche*: "Kṛṣṇa is yours; you have the power to give Him to me." O Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have Kṛṣṇa, and



if you give Him to me then I can try to give Him to others and thus accomplish my mission as a normal and intelligent human being in this material world.

Your mercy is always needed.

The servant of your servants,

Bhakti Cāruḍeṣṇa Swami

Bhakti Dhīra Dāmodara Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories unto you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, with love and compassion you built a house where all living entities would have a room in which to live. To show our appreciation for the love and compassion you have shown us, we want to expand that love by establishing a farm community in which we would have suitable housing and cottage industries for devotees as well as nondevotees. We envision it as a simple place for training both devotees and nondevotees, where they can live peacefully, cultivate the land, chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, and serve Lord Kṛṣṇa from the heart.

It is you who taught the whole world what real life is and how to find peace and harmony. You said that people will never be happy and peaceful if they continue to kill cows. We want to have a place where people could be trained in a practical manner how to be peaceful and happy. Therefore, we are begging Your Divine Grace to kindly empower us with all necessary strength, intelligence, knowledge, facilities, resources, manpower, and everything else needed to manifest this project in a living reality for all people.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, if I have love for you and appreciation for what you have given me, I will not only maintain it but also expand it, which will help many more people to come in. This will indeed increase our numbers in both quantity and quality. One way I can appreciate your love is that, by the abovementioned farm project, I want to make secure arrangements, both materially and spiritually, for all devotees who have given their lives for this mission, and also for those who will join later. I am begging your divine mercy and blessings to make this project a success. There are so many challenges that I am facing, but because I have complete confidence in you and I know that you are pleased with this project, you are directing, guiding, and protecting me in all directions and helping me by all means to make it a success.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your love and compassion are transforming the whole world. Recently many people in distress due to the war in Ukraine have found shelter in your movement. *Prasādam* is being distributed to the refugees, and *prasādam* distribution is taking place on a huge scale in other parts of the world. You are really saving the whole world by *prasādam* distribution, chanting of the holy names, book distribution, and the opening of many new temples, where thousands of people are taking shelter of Kṛṣṇa.

Please forgive my unlimited mistakes, offenses, dullness, weakness, and other nondevotional qualities and activities. Please forgive me and help me to become a devotee fully devoted to you and Śrīla Gurudeva.

Your mercy is my shelter.

Your grandson,

Bhakti Dhīra Dāmodara Swami

Bhakti Gauravāṇī Goswami

*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 my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī states, “The ocean of the pastimes of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu is immeasurable and unfathomable. Who can have the courage to measure that great ocean?”

Similarly, for me, the ocean of your activities is immeasurable and unfathomable. I don’t have the capacity to measure that great ocean. Simply standing on the shore, I am but touching the water and can only try to convey a glimpse of its nectarean and life-giving waves.

Before I met you I was walking among the living dead. Bewildered by the powerful influence of the illusory energy, I thought of myself as full of life and vigor although spiritually unconscious and agonizing under the unbearable burden of material existence. My position was very much like that described by Prahāda Mahārāja: “Because of my association with material desires, one after another, I was gradually falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the general populace.”

Living in a fool’s paradise, I did not realize that “a person who has not at any time received the dust of the feet of the Lord’s pure devotee upon his head is certainly a dead body. And the person who has never experienced the aroma of the *tulasī* leaves from the lotus feet of the Lord is also a dead body, although breathing.” That was my unfortunate situation: spiritually dead in the water although materially alive and imagining I was going strong.

Oblivious of the spiritual dimension of existence, the living dead ignore the flickering nature of the material world and believe that the path to a fulfilled life and true happiness lies in the pursuit of fleeting pleasures and enjoying life to the fullest because, as the ignorant conditioned soul believes, life happens only once. “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we may die,” is their credo. By your causeless mercy, you lifted me out of that snake-infested pit and opened my eyes with life-giving instructions.

Following the example of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, you brought the potent medicine of the holy name, distributing it freely even among the lowest of creatures, thus bringing the living dead back to life: *enechi auṣadhi māyā nāśibāra lāgi* / *hari-nāma-mahā-mantra lao tumi māgi*. You are the true *saṅjīvana-vaidya*, the transcendental physician who can revive the spiritually dead by infusing them with the invigorating nectar of *kṛṣṇa-kathā*.

On account of some inconceivable good fortune, I accepted your offer, and gradually I am regaining my spiritual health. All the fortunate souls who have come in contact with you and followed your treatment have been healed and refreshed. As you explain in Chapter Twenty of *Kṛṣṇa* book, “*Description of Autumn*”:

We have practical experience of this with our students in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Before becoming students, they were dirty-looking, although they had naturally beautiful personal features; due to having no information of Kṛṣṇa consciousness they appeared very dirty and wretched. Since they have taken to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, their health has improved, and by their following the rules and regulations, their bodily luster has increased. When they are dressed with saffron-colored cloth, with *tilaka* on their foreheads and beads in their hands and on their necks, they look exactly as if they have come directly from Vaikuṇṭha. . . . [Many] of our students were dry and morose previous to their coming to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but having

come into contact with devotees, they are now dancing like jubilant peacocks.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, let me be counted among such fortunate Vaikuṇṭha residents, or among the jubilant peacocks. I am hopeful that, simply by following the path chalked out by you, I may be able to become eligible and, when the time comes, rise from the “living dead,” put my feet on the head of death, and go to the land of true and everlasting beauty, where all the fortunate “living alive” will reunite with you to serve the all-attractive flute-player and His entourage.

In eternal gratitude—risen from the dead—

Your aspiring servant,

Bhakti Gauravāṇī Goswami

Bhakti Narasimha Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Time will tell the world that there will never be one who gave us as much mercy as you did. Time will carve your image in the hearts of many generations yet to come. It was you who gave the answers to the world about how to free ourselves from death. By the efforts of those who understand your heart, time will place your writings into the hands of all mankind. As always, you are close to those whose service to you does not lapse. Time will tell a story of those who have taken to heart the task you have left for us: to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness everywhere. Very soon time will give the world a very special blessing of yours: the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium.

Lord Kṛṣṇa in His form of time reveals to the world that no one has given us mercy as freely as you have, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You remain present in sound and in your books for all eternity. Time will tell the world that never has there been and never will there be one who has given us as much as Your Divine Grace has, to set us free. I pray that I remain at your lotus feet always.

A servant of your servants,

Bhakti Narasimha Swami

Bhakti Rāghava Swami

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

“I was born in the darkness of ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torchlight of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto him.”

om śrī surabhyai namaḥ! om śrī gurave namaḥ!

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I remain forever indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for having shown me and countless other conditioned souls the path back home, back to Godhead.

I continue to listen to your classes daily, these days the lecture series on the *Nectar of Devotion* that you delivered in Vṛndāvana in the year 1972. *The Nectar of Devotion* was one of the first books I read as a new devotee, and I recall seeing your photo on the back cover, shining within an attractive circular frame.

As I continue to hear that series of lectures, I continue to relish the deep insights you give in your commentaries on the original text of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī. You stress the importance of reading this book again and again.

You also stress the importance of two other books, first the *Bhagavad-gītā* and then the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. More recently I have added the reading of a fourth book, the culmination of all knowledge, the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* of Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja. I feel more closely connected with you in this way.

I pray to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to give me a taste for chanting the holy names. Lord Caitanya prays in His *Śikṣāṣṭaka*, “O My Lord, Your holy name alone can render all benediction upon the living beings, and therefore You have hundreds and millions of names like Kṛṣṇa, Govinda, etc. In these transcendental names You have invested all Your transcendental energies, and there is no hard and fast rule for chanting these holy names. O My Lord, you have so kindly made approach to You easy by Your holy names, but unfortunate as I am, I have no attraction for them.”

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for sending more devotees to help push on your mission of establishing *varṇāśrama-dharma*. This remains my focus. By next year I hope to have something more concretely established here in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur.

I first came to Śrīdhāma Māyāpur at the beginning of my first visit to India, in 1976. It seems that Lord Caitanya is giving me the opportunity to again come to His holy land of Navadvīpa to help establish what a group of devotees have registered as the Varṇāśrama College Foundation. By your kind mercy, may this help fulfill the desires of our previous *ācāryas*, and of you as well.

Thank you again and again, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please forgive my many shortcomings and allow me to remain a humble servant in your ever-expanding mission. Without your causeless mercy, nothing is possible.

Always praying to remain a speck of dust at your lotus feet,

Your humble servant,

RP Bhakti Rāghava Swami

Bhakti Sundar Goswami

*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*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Our Eternal Spiritual Master

Before meeting Śrīla Prabhupāda personally, I saw a picture of him. It touched me very much. It was on the back cover of the first *Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, with Lord Viṣṇu on the front cover. In the picture Śrīla Prabhupāda was wearing a chaddar and a hat. He looked so humble, so genuine, so compassionate. That picture touched my heart as soon as I saw it. I thought, “This is a bona fide spiritual master, a real guru.” I was immediately affected so much just by looking at that picture, what to speak of reading the book. I was completely convinced. I had been influenced by impersonalistic ideas due to my practice of yoga. But in his *Śrī Īsopaniṣad* Śrīla Prabhupāda defeated all my impersonalistic ideas. Totally, completely. And at that moment, after reading the *Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, I accepted him in my heart as my eternal guru.

Śrīla Prabhupāda’s demeanor was so simple, so straightforward, so humble, and so compassionate—all those wonderful qualities. Being with Prabhupāda meant being surrounded by his aura, feeling protected from *māyā*—just by being in his presence. He touched the hearts of everyone who came in touch with him.

One day, as I and several other devotees walked with Prabhupāda in a park in Caracas, Venezuela, a lady greeted him: “*Buenos días!*” Prabhupāda asked us, “What does that mean?” We explained, “It means ‘good morning.’” As we continued the walk, whenever other people passed Prabhupāda he greeted them in Spanish: “*Buenos días!*” We were surprised.

Prabhupāda was a perfect gentleman. He always treated everyone so gently, so nicely. He liked people—that’s why. Prabhupāda said, “Unless you like people, you can’t help them.” So Prabhupāda liked people, and he treated them nicely. He was always the perfect gentleman with them. So when a person greeted him with “*Buenos días!*” he wanted to answer them properly. That’s why he asked what it meant. And after we told him, whenever another passerby greeted him, he answered in Spanish. That was a unique thing about Prabhupāda: he was so attentive to everything around him. That’s perfect Kṛṣṇa consciousness. He didn’t miss a thing: he always looked at all the details around him. He knew how to act perfectly in relation to other people—what to say to them, etc. His expressions were so gentle and compassionate, always. So that’s a wonderful thing about Prabhupāda.

Prabhupāda stayed seven days in the temple, and the days flew by. And then came the last day—Prabhupāda had to leave for Miami. And some devotees had to stay back at the temple to serve the Deities. And before he left he gave us a short lecture at the temple. The sun was rising already, and some sunrays came through the window. Prabhupāda gave us a few minutes’ lecture. He quoted from the *Upadeśāmṛta*, by Rūpa Gosvāmī—the verse beginning *utsāhān niścayād dhairyāt tat-tat-karma-pravartanāt*. He said, “*Utsāhān*, enthusiasm, is very important.” And he said, “Enthusiasm means ‘I must see Kṛṣṇa in this very life.’ That means enthusiasm. So follow the rules and regulations, don’t deviate, and everything is possible.”

Wonderful lecture he gave.

And then he departed for the airport. The devotees who had to stay back ran after the car—downhill at great speed—and Prabhupāda looked back at them, and he was happy they were doing it. He commented, “That’s very good. When the guru leaves, the disciples must accompany him as far as they can.”

Of course, those of us who didn’t have to stay back took various cars and followed Prabhupāda to

the airport. And at the airport Havi led the *kīrtana*, playing *mṛdaṅga*. And since Prabhupāda hadn't had breakfast, the devotees offered him a silver plate full of cut fruit. So Prabhupāda ate a few pieces of fruit and then asked some lady devotees to distribute the rest as *prasādam*. So the lady devotees distributed the fruit not only to other devotees but also to the passersby. There were no cups or anything—they just put the fruit directly into their hands. And people accepted it and ate the *prasādam*.

Two men stood nearby, watching everything. I heard one say, “Oh, just see how nicely they treat this old man.” And the other replied, “Oh, he is the leader of the Hare Kṛṣṇas. That's why they treat him so nicely.”

Prabhupāda noticed that Havi hadn't gotten any of the *prasādam* because he was playing the *mṛdaṅga*. So Prabhupāda called one of the ladies over and told her, “Keep some fruit for him.” Just see! Prabhupāda was so aware of everything around him. He noticed that Havi hadn't gotten any *prasādam*. So he told a lady devotee, “Save some fruit for him.” That was so nice and touching. Prabhupāda was aware of everything around him. That means he cared for his disciples, he loved his disciples.

I remember that once a devotee asked, “Prabhupāda, how can I please you?” And Prabhupāda replied, “Your desire to please me, pleases me.” So, this is very important: the intention, the attitude, is the most important thing in devotional service. The desire to please the spiritual master is the foundation of our spiritual life.

I hope that one day I can please Śrīla Prabhupāda by remaining always his humble and insignificant servant.

Bhakti Sundar Goswami

Bhakti Vighna Vināśa Narasimha Mahārāja

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace, and all glories to *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana*. Thank you for engaging me in the service of the *saṅkīrtana* movement, which is a manifestation of the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

During the past year I have continued to be a resident of Śrī Māyāpur-dhāma. The pandemic situation has not changed, and there are restrictions on travel to other countries. I have not been able to travel, but I have been continuing to contact many devotees in other countries using a satellite connection. In addition, I continue to present seminars on your books relating to the Bhakti-śāstrī and Bhakti-vaibhava courses. These courses attract devotees from all over the world, all eager to join in the study of your transcendental literature.

For many years I have been participating in the annual Navadvīpa-parikramā, during which we have an opportunity to visit the nine islands of Navadvīpa and hear the *līlā* of Lord Caitanya and His devotees. This year I also had the opportunity to join a *parikramā* of some of the other holy places in Gaura-maṇḍala-bhūmi. We went to Katwa and saw the place where Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu accepted the renounced order. Then we went to Śrī Kaṇḍa and saw the Deity who ate the food offered to Him by Raghunandana Ṭhākura when he was only a boy. We then went to Jajigram and saw the temple recently renovated by your Bhaktivedanta Charity Trust. This had been the home of the maternal family of Śrīnivāsa Ācārya and was often frequented by such great souls as Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura and Rāmacandra Kavirāja, who

were intimate friends of Śrīnivāsa. Another place we visited was Phuliyā, where Śrīla Haridāsa Ṭhākura chanted in a cave despite the presence of a poisonous snake. The temple in Phuliyā has also benefited from the assistance of your Charity Trust. We went to Denur and saw the original manuscript of the *Caitanya-bhāgavata*, composed by Śrīla Vṛndāvana dāsa Ṭhākura, and then to Śāntipura, where you offered prayers before going to the West.

Just a few days ago I had the opportunity to visit Kānāi Nāṭaśālā, where we have a temple on the bank of the Gaṅgā. It is situated on a hill, so we do not have to worry about flooding. On our land there is a sacred *tamāla* tree, and it is said that under the shade of this tree Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu was embraced by Lord Kṛṣṇa. The village of Rāmakeli is not far away, on the other side of Mother Ganges. It is a very beautiful and peaceful village, with many cows and mango trees. Five hundred years ago Sanātana Gosvāmī resided there when he was in the service of Nawab Hussain Shah. At that time Sanātana desired to make Rāmakeli into a replica of Vṛndāvana-dhāma. Devotees recently acquired land there and plan to begin construction soon. From Rāmakeli it is only a distance of 14 km. to the district capital of Maldah, and there we have two wonderful centers in the busy section of town and a large congregation of devotees, all eager to hear and chant the glories of the Lord.

In Kolkata we have been fortunate to acquire the land where you took birth, as well as the building on Ultadanga Road where you first met with your spiritual master, Oṃ Viṣṇupāda Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Certainly these two properties are of great value for the future generations of devotees.

Some important imminent events are the start of the construction of a temple at Ganga Sagar, where Kapila Muni had his *āśrama*, and, on the auspicious day of Akṣaya Tritiyā, the opening of an 80-crore temple in Putna, Bihar.

I feel very fortunate to be part of this wonderful preaching movement and cannot thank Your Divine Grace enough for all the mercy. My prayer is that I may continue to use whatever time I have left in this body in the service of Your Divine Grace so that I can be of some tiny assistance in your great mission.

Your most unworthy servant,

Tridaṇḍi-bhikṣu Bhakti Vighna Vināśa Narasimha

Bhakti Vikāsa Swami

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate 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.”

Most dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, captain of my life, lord of my heart! Please accept my prostrated

obeisances in the dust of your most precious, divine, beautiful lotus feet.

My Vyāsa-pūjā offering this year is modeled on one made to me earlier this year, in which a disciple perfectly captured what I feel about you. I take it that he sees you in me—which is the perfection of my guruship, a service that I dare undertake simply on your order and desire.

I am very happy to report to you that many of my disciples far exceed me in purity, dedication, taste for chanting, distributing your transcendental books, sense control, austerity, scriptural knowledge, realization, and every other quality. I am learning so much from them about how to serve you better. It is all your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, which you kindly bestow on them, making me your instrument.

You are perfect. I have met many persons during my life. Out of all these persons, you stand out in my mind as being most perfect and ideal. To think that the spiritual master is an ordinary person is an offense. But it is not for this reason, just to follow a rule, that I see you as perfect. Factually, in each aspect of your personality I see only perfection. Among the multiple facets of your perfection, your knowledge stands out for me as the portal to service, devotion, commitment, and all else that follows.

You humbly said about yourself, “We are not very big scholar. We have no such qualification that we can compose very nice literature. There may be so many mistakes . . . whatever it may be.”* Nevertheless, I conclude that your knowledge is perfect. We repeatedly read your books and hear your lectures, and you perfectly fulfill the role of guru as being primarily a giver of knowledge. As I realized when I started to read your books, your knowledge is truly unique: it is life-giving and the only actual knowledge there is. You want to give not only to your disciples but to the whole world the knowledge you received from your Guru Mahārāja.

Although you vigorously and resolutely preach the Absolute Truth as it is, you remain so personal and personable. You mercifully dragged me to your lotus feet just two-and-a-half years before your disappearance from our mortal vision, and I got very little of your direct personal association. Nevertheless, by your mercy, by the knowledge in your books, you make yourself available to all your disciples and to all the world. I am very happy that I can daily relish your association in your teachings.

You are mercifully present in your books, in your instructions. You continuously draw enthusiasm from the ocean of mercy, and you share that mercy just as a cloud pours rain without discrimination on the fields, rocks, lakes, and seas. Your mercy pours especially profusely on those who undertake the *yajña* for Kali-yuga by day after day accepting the austerities required to distribute your books. You told us to distribute your books, and you mercifully pressure us to keep on distributing far and wide.

For us conditioned souls, the perverted tastes of this material world seem very attractive. But by your divine grace you give us the knowledge by which we can understand that there is something far superior to the bitter taste of this material world full of suffering. By your instructions you are bringing us to Kṛṣṇa. You promise to personally bring us to Kṛṣṇa via the *paramparā* system. You introduced us to your Guru Mahārāja and to his Guru Mahārāja, and on all the way up to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Kṛṣṇa.

You confidently carry the flag of pure devotional service in this world of darkness. You are an unparalleled general in the movement of Lord Caitanya. You are the best follower of your Guru Mahārāja, and thus you are a great general of a great general. By your life and your instructions you embody your Guru Mahārāja’s teachings. You are fighting for us fallen souls on many fronts. You are not only our general; you are our father, guide, friend, shelter, and our very life. You are the only good thing that came to us in this miserable world. You are pure and you purify us. Your lotus feet are the only relief from the intense suffering that is this material world. You shine like the sun in the morning sky, dissipating all shadows and doubts. You worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead and all His followers. Your heart is full of compassion and understanding. Your heart is determined to give real help. You don’t care about your personal comfort, but you are very sad to see others suffer. Your compassion knows no limits.

Your true followers magnificently continue the succession of great generals, attacking from all directions the daunting fortresses of the illusory energy. They transform wretched souls into shining devotees, returning them to their glorious position as spiritual souls. By taking all risks simply to benefit others, your true followers perform the topmost welfare activity. They inspire many thousands to fall at your lotus feet. With the strength gained from the *kṛṣṇa-śakti* you invest in them, they perform miracles. Untiringly,



day after day, you, Abhaya Carāṇa, fearlessly lead your troops into the battle with the forces of illusion.

It is difficult to find proper words to describe your personality. I'm sorry for my poor attempt to glorify you. All my verbiage comes to nothing in the face of your actual glories. If I were to take all the superlatives that I know and multiply them by thousands, still I would hardly approach even the beginning of your glory. Kṛṣṇa asks Arjuna and Uddhava, "How far should I continue describing My own glory? Not even I know its limits." Similarly with you; I hardly know where to start in describing your perfection, and there is no question of reaching its end.

Wherever I look I see your glory. With the eye of knowledge you gifted me, I can see everything, everywhere—humans, animals, immovable objects—in relation to the Absolute Truth. I marvel at your wisdom and glory in possessing such rare and precious knowledge and your munificence and compassion in sharing it. You are the Supreme Lord's very dear servant who, on His order, came to give us this knowledge.

Practically also, you teach us how to serve the Lord. You kick far away everything that is not in line with pure devotional service. You show us the true path, and as we run toward Kṛṣṇa you cheer us on, tugging and cajoling us along the way, and warning about sloughs, potholes, and false turns. When we fall, you pick us up, dust us off, point us back in the right direction, and help us get going again. You give us the strength, intelligence, and courage to continue.

I fall down in the dust of your lotus feet, and I never want to go anywhere else.

*kadāham aikāntika-nitya-kiṅkaraḥ
praharṣayiṣyāmi sanātha-jīvitam*

Desiring to be accepted as your permanent eternal servant and to always feel joyful to have such a fitting master,

a fallen,

Bhakti Vikāsa Swami

*Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.8.20, Māyāpur, 30 September 1974

Candramauli Swami

*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 His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda, my eternal spiritual guide and the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have often told your disciples that reading your books is the best way of knowing you:

“If you want to know me, read my books.” “I may come or go, but in my books I will live forever.”

“The more you distribute books, history will change.” “Whatever I wanted to say I have said in my books.”

During the recent “lockdown” due to the pandemic, reading *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* was a daily affair that I could finally dedicate ample time to. I read more and absorbed more, appreciating how much time and energy you spent and how many sacrifices you endured to give us, your devotees, and the whole world the knowledge of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the practice of devotional service to Him.

If you are strong in your position by reading books, Vedic literature, then you become very, very favorite of Kṛṣṇa. [Arrival lecture, San Francisco, 15 July 1975]

You gave the world Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, through your words and your pure love for Him. And your books, especially *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, contain the essence of transcendental knowledge, made sweeter and more understandable and applicable by your Bhaktivedanta Purports. Many lifetimes of knowledge yet to be revealed and relished.

May we always remain cognizant of the eternal life-giving value of this gift of transcendental knowledge.

One who acts in devotional service, renouncing the fruits of his actions, and whose doubts have been destroyed by transcendental knowledge, is situated factually in the self. Thus he is not bound by the reactions of work, O conqueror of riches. Therefore the doubts which have arisen in your heart out of ignorance should be slashed by the weapon of knowledge. Armed with yoga, O Bhārata, stand and fight. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 4.41–42, translation]

Candramauli Swami

Candraśekhara Swami

*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,

Sometimes it seems like I am being overwhelmed by various projects and services that I have either volunteered for or that have been given to me, added to my roster. Although none of these are overwhelming individually, the aggregate gets to be daunting.

This has caused me to reflect on my services and responsibilities on numerous occasions. Just recently I have run across a section of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* where this particular topic is mentioned. In Chapter 9 of the Third Canto Lord Brahmā prays to the Supreme Lord for the mercy and knowledge needed to oversee the creation of the universe.

There it says that Lord Brahmā was anxious because of the fearsome waters of devastation, and he was overcome with uncertainty as to how to proceed with creation. As I thought about these two items—Brahmā’s anxiety and uncertainty—it occurred to me that many of us find ourselves in a similar situation. Of course, Brahmā is in a unique position, and yet he faces a situation that many devotees also face—that of being anxious about dangers in performing one’s service, wondering how to actually execute the service, and being apprehensive that one may fail.

Adding to those concerns, Brahmā also fears that he will become entangled in false ego when he acts in his role as engineer of the universe. Brahmā knows that the Supreme Lord is there, but he is unable to communicate with Him directly, at least at first.

Things look foreboding, lonely, and difficult for Brahmā. He knows that what he needs to do is pray. First he had tried to crawl down the stem of the lotus flower upon which his seat was perched, but that hadn’t helped him in any way. The empirical approach is too crude and the universe too large for one to have any success from that approach. All that will occur is that one will either become bewildered or falsely think he has acquired some final knowledge, when in fact he has only acquired a single mostly useless perspective out of countless perspectives.

That is the nature of our current human society, where people think that they are situated atop a grand mountain of knowledge that has been carefully established by the best minds in the history of mankind. Even this one material universe is virtually infinite, what to speak of the rest of creation. The universe is complex and constantly shifting as trends and shapes come into being and phase out later. Our society is so proud of its imagined knowledge, without noticing the fact that scientific knowledge of our human race is constantly being thrown onto the scrap heap as newer ideas push the older ideas down. There is no such thing as final knowledge in our modern worldview, just an endless striving for so-called “more complete, more accurate” knowledge.

Brahmā knows this and gives up on the empirical approach. He sits back down on the lotus and hears “*tapa*” and engages in meditation. There is only darkness, and there are the fearful winds of devastation. There is no one to ask and no books to read. Brahmā is, however, not an atheist but has the basic faith that there must be some order behind everything. This good attitude earns Brahmā the opportunity to have *darśana* of the Supreme Lord.

Later Brahmā worries that his intelligence is insufficient to create the universe, or that he might be infected by the mode of passion and become proud when he sets his hand to create. To assure His servant, Lord Kṛṣṇa speaks to Brahmā (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.9.29):

O Brahmā, O depth of Vedic wisdom, be neither depressed nor anxious about the execution of creation. What you are begging from Me has already been granted before. Situate yourself in penance and meditation and follow the principles of knowledge to receive My favor. By these actions you will be able to understand everything from within your heart.

Later, Kṛṣṇa assures Brahmā that Brahmā will see Him when Kṛṣṇa performs His pastimes on Earth. To work in the mood of pleasing Kṛṣṇa will allow a person to never be overcome with the ego of material expertise. After all, it is the energy of the Supreme which causes success in any endeavor.

So empires can come and go, time can move to the last point of universal existence, the people of the world can come together in service or burn the earth to a cinder, all manner of speeches can be made about our purpose and goal, we may be wise or ignorant, we may be young or old, we may be advanced in our spiritual practice or just beginning, our circumstance may be favorable or deplorable, but one thing remains: our service to guru and Kṛṣṇa in this mysterious world. If we just try to execute it, while remembering the Lord, everything will work out for us.

That is all I need to remember, and that will be sufficient for me.

Your servant,

Candraśekhara Swami

Dānavīr Goswami

*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*

To our beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya 108 Śrī Śrīmad A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have taught us that this material world is a place of danger at every step:

*samāśritā ye pada-pallava-plavarīṇ
mahat-padaṇṇaṁ puṇya-yaśo murāreḥ
bhavāmbudhir vatsa-padaṇṇaṁ paraṇṇaṁ padaṇṇaṁ
padaṇṇaṁ paraṇṇaṁ yad vipadāṇṇaṁ na teṣāṁ*

“For one who has accepted the boat of the lotus feet of the Lord, who is the shelter of the cosmic manifestation and is famous as Mukunda, or the giver of *mukti*, the ocean of the material world is like the water contained in a calf’s hoofprint. *Paraṇṇaṁ padam*, or the place where there are no material miseries, or *Vai-kunṭha*, is his goal, not the place where there is danger in every step of life.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.14.58)

The spiritual master plays an instrumental role in reuniting the devotee with the Lord. On behalf of the devotee, the guru petitions the Lord to kindly consider the qualifications of the aspiring devotee. The

guru is like a very trusted secretary who schedules the director's appointments. When the secretary tells a man that the director will meet him at an appointed time, that assurance is solid. In the same way, Your Divine Grace has given a full guarantee that those who follow the formula of devotional service offered within the International Society for Krishna Consciousness will meet Kṛṣṇa soon in the spiritual world. At this moment, some of Your Divine Grace's dear disciples and granddisciples face imminent death. Yet because they have sincerely applied themselves to carrying out the orders of guru and Kṛṣṇa, their future is bright. Your Divine Grace wrote to a new initiate as follows:

Now you must agree to very rigidly follow the rules and regulations, i.e., chanting sixteen rounds of beads daily, rising early and attending Mangala Arati, observing the four principles, attending the classes, eating only bhagavata prasadam, as well as working under the instruction of my representatives, such as your GBC representative and Temple President; and if you follow this procedure very strictly, then your life will be glorious and you will go back to Home, back to Godhead. This I can guarantee. [Letter to Ghanaśyāma dāsa, 16 February 1973]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have demonstrated many times how one should be fearless in the presence of danger. For example, when the Naxalites in Kolkata sent multiple notes to Your Divine Grace demanding "Fly or Die," you told the devotees, "What better way for a Vaiṣṇava to leave his body than while preaching the glories of the Lord?" While you were staying in California, the threat of earthquakes frightened the devotees, who expressed great concern for your well-being. But you carried on preaching. And in New Delhi, when a reporter spoke of enemy bombs as an ugly reality, you said a Kṛṣṇa conscious person sees bombs as Kṛṣṇa coming to take him back to Godhead.

Therefore, we are all very fortunate to have been rescued by Your Divine Grace from the ugly material repetition of birth and death. Kindly bless us so that we may be strongly engaged in devotional service (*tīvrena bhakti-yogena*) despite all obstacles and, like Dhruva Mahārāja, board the Vaikuṅṭha airplane. Thank you.

Your most unfortunate beggar,

Dānavīr Goswami

Janānanda Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

I offer my respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

As always, I am faced with the perplexity as to what to write for my Vyāsa-pūjā homage to you. This type of perplexity is, however, the best, since it brings meditation on you and pure devotional service. Glorifying Kṛṣṇa's devotees is more pleasing to Kṛṣṇa than glorifying Him.

*ārāadhanānām sarveṣām viṣṇor ārāadhanam param
tasmāt parataram devi tadīyānām samarcanam*

[Lord Śiva told Goddess Durgā:] “My dear Devī, although the *Vedas* mention worship of demigods, the worship of Lord Viṣṇu is topmost and is ultimately recommended. However, above the worship of Lord Viṣṇu is the rendering of service to Vaiṣṇavas, who are related to Lord Viṣṇu.” (*Padma Purāṇa*, quoted in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 11.31)

Your Vyāsa-pūjā day—the most important day of the year—is a measure of the past year and whatever is to come. A time for opening the heart unpretentiously. What can we hide from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda? A time of genuine repentance, of humility and self-surrender. A time to appreciate others, of gratefulness, of respect, reflection, prayer, and submission. A time to realize a drop of the unlimited glories that emanate from you. To see the glorious manifestation of unity in diversity. A time when I cry in a repentant mood for all my foolish behavior and the offenses continually emanating from my pitlike heart. A time to look deep into the heart and measure the actual degree of faith and devotion. A time of heart-breaking pain for the many, many, souls who are struggling in the separation of ignorance, or who have drifted away from the divine path you have laid before us. Your divine mercy enables all these purifying emotions to become manifest. I hope the tears purify the mirror of my heart.

Each year that passes by illustrates my ineptitude in obeying your will with sincerity. How long will it take before I awaken, let go of the fallible soldiers of this world, and cling firmly to your lotus feet as my only shelter?

In all honesty, I would say that among my innumerable faults and offenses, my lack of sincere devotion to you is the primary cause of my failings. You personally demonstrated the single most important quality of a devotee—absolute *guru-niṣṭhā*—in your every breath, word, thought, and action. It is this *guru-niṣṭhā* that I clearly lack. *Guru-niṣṭhā* and your impeccable ability to see into the hearts of others and prescribe the exact tonic—these two qualities of yours stand out incomparably.

Śrīla Gaura Govinda Mahārāja quotes a beautiful poem emphasizing the imperative need of *guru-niṣṭhā*:

*guru pāda-padme rahe yāra niṣṭhā-bhakti
jagat tārīte sei dhare mahā-śakti*

Whoever maintains unflinching devotion to Śrī Guru's lotus feet is possessed of the great power with which he can deliver the entire world.

*hena guru pāda-padma karaha vandanā
yāhā haite ghuce bhai sakala yantraṇā*

Just bow down to the lotus feet of such a guru, for by doing so, O brother, all afflictions are terminated.

This year marks one hundred years since you met your spiritual master in Ultadanga, Calcutta, and received the most profound history-changing instruction: “Preach the message of Lord Caitanya in the English language.” An instruction which remained your life and soul throughout.

This year also marks fifty years since I entered your room in Bury Place for the first time. I was alone and nervous. I did not know what to expect. You could read my heart and see how helpless I was, and still am. After I'd bowed before you, you gently instructed me to offer my obeisances correctly, with both hands on the floor. You handed me my initiation beads, which you had chanted on. Beads which I

had chanted on for many, many, months before—not even made entirely of wood: some were made of dough. There were no knots between them. Somehow or other you tolerated. You gave me my name and explained its meaning. I paid obeisances with the beads in my hand, and you again gently instructed me to pay obeisances properly, with both hands on the floor. As I was about to leave, with nothing to say, you handed me a simply wonderful from your tiffin. Again I offered obeisances, and again you gently instructed me to put the sweet aside and then offer obeisances.

This simply wonderful experience remains ever fresh in my heart, small as it may seem. But small incidents like this sustain my life. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for accepting me and making everything so simply wonderful. Unfortunately, over the decades I have not been so simple, and thus things have not been so wonderful.

I am sitting at this moment in the very same temple of Rādhā-Londonīśvara, although in a different building, writing this short remembrance, appeal, and offering. How simple the divine Lord, Londonīśvara, and His consort appear, smiling on all who come! You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the same. Still smiling on all who come, in whatever state or form. Despite my duplicity and insincerity, you appear smiling from your picture in front of me and are again instructing me to pay my obeisances properly, with both hands on the floor.

I do not know if I will ever follow this simple instruction, what to speak of others. For the last fifty years you have tolerated me and somehow given me the chance to render some kind of service, be it fraught with faults and offenses, and to continue paying obeisances, be they imperfect.

Thank you for allowing this complex fool to associate with your simply wonderful mission—the simply wonderful *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Repentant tears fall from my eyes as I gaze at your sublime picture. I wish this moment could last forever—sitting in front of you with my heart open, begging your merciful surgical incision to remove the disease within, with your simply wonderful words contained in your books, which sit next to me—just pick them up and hear. “If you want to know me, read my books.” “My purports are my emotional ecstasies.”

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for tolerating this errant and hopeless son, who has failed again and again in spite of the gifts you have offered. And I am still not falling at your lotus feet with my very being—and with both hands on the floor.

Selfish as it may sound, please allow me, however, to continue forever falling in the dust of your lotus feet, on the paths of world *saṅkīrtana*. I am not fit for anything else. Another of the inconceivable gifts you have given us. You are my only hope. I am sorry I am not much use in fulfilling the name you gave me. When will *guru-niṣṭhā* be all that I am made of?

Thank you for being “simply wonderful.”

Your lowly servant,

Janānanda Goswami

Kadamba Kānana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Some devotees saw that when you were present the spiritual world was also present. You have made us all aware of Kṛṣṇa's presence.

You gave reality as it is.

We had no idea we were living in a world of dreams and desires in relation to the material world. Gradually you changed our desires, and now we want to serve Kṛṣṇa. We want to go back to Godhead. Now we love Vṛndāvana, we trust in the *Bhagavad-gītā*, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. We learned that every one of our actions must be based on scripture. We learned about selflessness, we learned about giving, about a life dedicated to distributing transcendental mercy freely to everyone. We learned that an attitude of humility and giving all respects to others attracts Kṛṣṇa. Then one can chant Kṛṣṇa's name incessantly.

Sanātana Gosvāmī received all the instructions of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who asked him to write a book about Vaiṣṇava behavior, and then Sanātana prayed that the Lord would manifest in his heart so that he would be able to fulfill the Lord's desire.

I am one who hears it all, but still falls short.

However, my good fortune is that I have been allowed to do some service. I cannot count all the blessings you have brought into my life.

Now I am praying that all your teachings may manifest in my heart and that I may render some useful service for the remainder of my life.

Your servant,

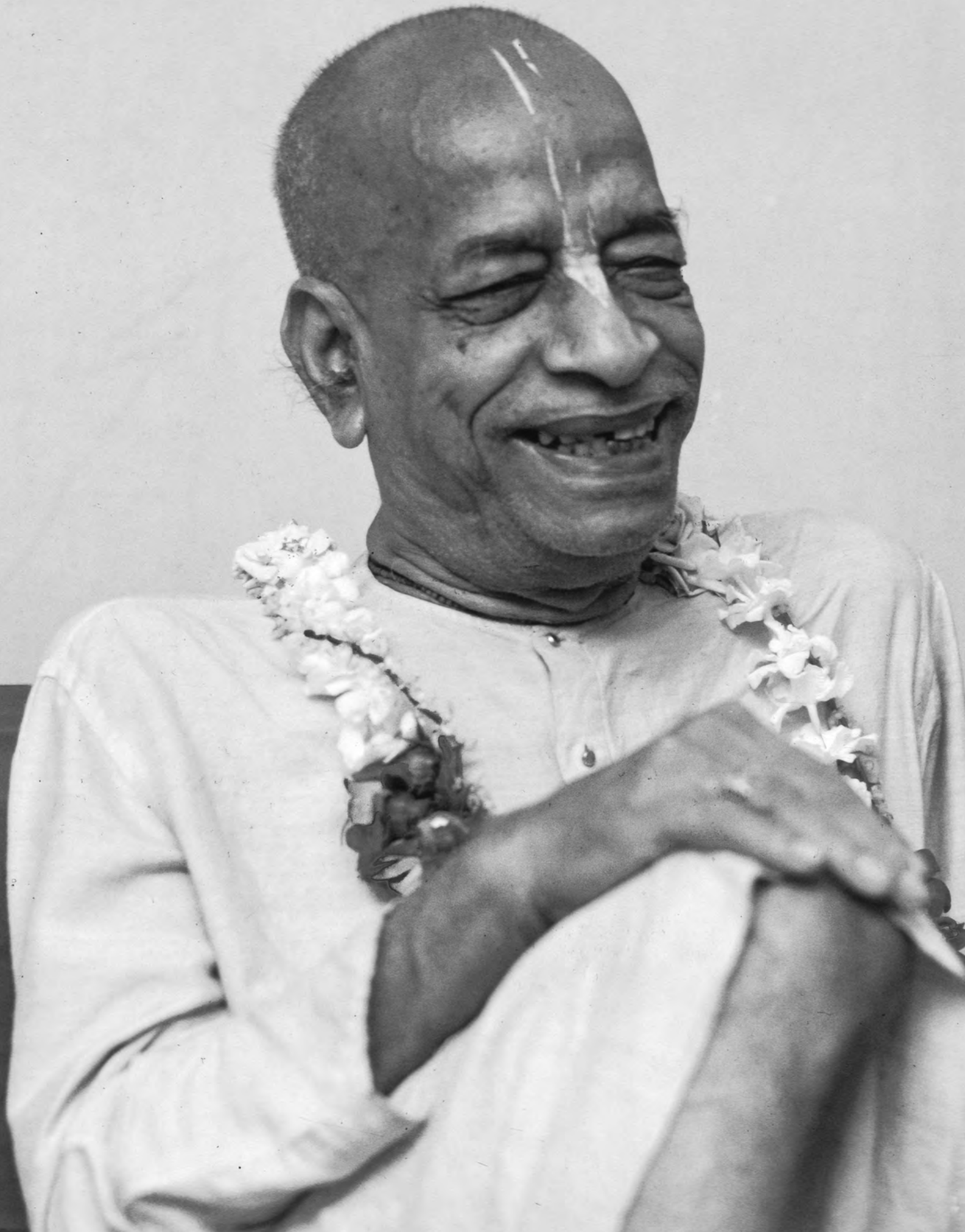
Kadamba Kānana Swami

Keśava Bhāratī Dāsa Goswami

Letting Śrīla Prabhupāda Speak for Himself
Part Four

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept millions of my heartfelt obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda, throughout the world you spread knowledge of the supreme goal of life—pure love for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. You also gave the world the only means for attaining that goal, chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* without offense. After you had attained seventy years of age, you circled the globe fourteen times to spread the chanting of the *mahā-mantra* and the spiritual science supporting the chanting through your Bhaktivedanta purports—to anyone and everyone willing to hear.



Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, of all the wonderful things you gave to the world, your books stand out as the most consequential. Your books are written in a language and style that allow an honest person to easily understand the essence of the profound philosophical thoughts of Vedic knowledge.

In past offerings I've also tried to express my wholehearted gratitude to you for opening my eyes with spiritual knowledge through your translations of and Bhaktivedanta purports to the most essential of the Vedic literatures, especially *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.

For your pleasure, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I've spent the past three years recording *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* and polishing the sound with the help of Rasika-śiromaṇi Prabhu and Bhakta Bland Mahdi. Now the BBT audiobook is finally available on bbtmedia.com and Audible. As the world hurtles towards self-destruction, may this audiobook help give relief to suffering humanity and stimulate its urge for self-realization. You are personally present in your purports, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and so anything is possible.

Today is the fourth anniversary of the day I began live-streaming my daily readings of your books. I read your books out loud while live-streaming them on Facebook. Then Māyāpur-śaśi Prabhu uploads them onto a YouTube channel named "Daily Readings of Śrīla Prabhupāda's Books." As of today, 1,170 videos have been posted: *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* twice, cover to cover; *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* once, cover to cover, plus a current reading up to the sixth chapter of the Second Canto; *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* once, cover to cover; your *Kṛṣṇa* book once, cover to cover; and the BBT's publication of *Bṛhad-bhāgavatāmṛta*, translated by your faithful disciple Gopīparāṇadhana Prabhu. This is the first English translation of Sanātana Gosvāmī's *Dig-darśinī* commentary on *Bṛhad-bhāgavatāmṛta*. About this book you write, "*Bṛhad-bhāgavatāmṛta* is very famous; anyone who wants to know about the subject matter of devotees, devotional service, and Kṛṣṇa must read this book." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 5.103, purport)

The format of the daily readings is that I read verbatim for forty minutes or so, followed by a reflection session, in which online viewers and devotees physically present at the live reading share their reflections on what we've read, and then we discuss. The results have been marvelous. I've received many comments from devotees who have reawakened a taste for hearing your books, finding them more easily understandable when received through the ear. This is all Your Divine Grace's mercy.

One need look no further than your purports, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the factual solutions to the problems of the world, individually and collectively. Your purports speak for themselves:

Coming again to the point of pure devotional service, the Lord is describing the transcendental qualifications of a pure devotee in these two verses. A pure devotee is never disturbed in any circumstances. Nor is he envious of anyone. Nor does a devotee become his enemy's enemy; he thinks, "This person is acting as my enemy due to my own past misdeeds. So it is better to suffer than to protest." In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.14.8) it is stated: *tat te 'nukampāṁ su-samīkṣamāṇo bhuñjāna evātma-kṛtāṁ vipākam*. Whenever a devotee is in distress or has fallen into difficulty, he thinks that it is the Lord's mercy upon him. He thinks, "Thanks to my past misdeeds I should suffer far, far greater than I am suffering now. So it is by the mercy of the Supreme Lord that I am not getting all the punishment I am due. I am just getting a little, by the mercy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead." Therefore he is always calm, quiet, and patient, despite many distressful conditions. A devotee is also always kind to everyone, even to his enemy. *Nirmama* means that a devotee does not attach much importance to the pains and trouble pertaining to the body because he knows perfectly well that he is not the material body. He does not identify with the body; therefore he is freed from the conception of false ego and is equipoised in happiness and distress. He is tolerant, and he is satisfied with whatever comes by the grace of the Supreme Lord. He does not endeavor much to achieve something with great difficulty; therefore he is always joyful. He is a completely perfect mystic because he is fixed in the instructions received from the spiritual master, and because his senses are controlled he is determined. He is not swayed by false arguments, because no one can lead him from the fixed determination of devotional service. He is fully conscious that Kṛṣṇa is the eternal Lord, so no one can disturb him. All these qualifications enable him to fix his mind and intelligence entirely on the Supreme Lord. Such a

standard of devotional service is undoubtedly very rare, but a devotee becomes situated in that stage by following the regulative principles of devotional service. Furthermore, the Lord says that such a devotee is very dear to Him, for the Lord is always pleased with all his activities in full Kṛṣṇa consciousness. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 12.13–14, purport]

A few of a devotee's qualifications are further being described. No one is put into difficulty, anxiety, fearfulness, or dissatisfaction by such a devotee. Since a devotee is kind to everyone, he does not act in such a way as to put others into anxiety. At the same time, if others try to put a devotee into anxiety, he is not disturbed. It is by the grace of the Lord that he is so practiced that he is not disturbed by any outward disturbance. Actually because a devotee is always engrossed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and engaged in devotional service, such material circumstances cannot move him. Generally a materialistic person becomes very happy when there is something for his sense gratification and his body, but when he sees that others have something for their sense gratification and he hasn't, he is sorry and envious. When he is expecting some retaliation from an enemy, he is in a state of fear, and when he cannot successfully execute something he becomes dejected. A devotee who is always transcendental to all these disturbances is very dear to Kṛṣṇa. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 12.15, purport]

Money may be offered to a devotee, but he should not struggle to acquire it. If automatically, by the grace of the Supreme, money comes to him, he is not agitated. Naturally a devotee takes a bath at least twice in a day and rises early in the morning for devotional service. Thus he is naturally clean both inwardly and outwardly. A devotee is always expert because he fully knows the essence of all activities of life and he is convinced of the authoritative scriptures. A devotee never takes the part of a particular party; therefore he is carefree. He is never pained, because he is free from all designations; he knows that his body is a designation, so if there are some bodily pains, he is free. The pure devotee does not endeavor for anything which is against the principles of devotional service. For example, constructing a big building requires great energy, and a devotee does not take to such business if it does not benefit him by advancing his devotional service. He may construct a temple for the Lord, and for that he may take all kinds of anxiety, but he does not construct a big house for his personal relations. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 12.16, purport]

A pure devotee is neither happy nor distressed over material gain and loss, nor is he very much anxious to get a son or disciple, nor is he distressed by not getting them. If he loses anything which is very dear to him, he does not lament. Similarly, if he does not get what he desires, he is not distressed. He is transcendental in the face of all kinds of auspicious, inauspicious and sinful activities. He is prepared to accept all kinds of risks for the satisfaction of the Supreme Lord. Nothing is an impediment in the discharge of his devotional service. Such a devotee is very dear to Kṛṣṇa. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 12.17, purport]

A devotee is always free from all bad association. Sometimes one is praised and sometimes one is defamed; that is the nature of human society. But a devotee is always transcendental to artificial fame and infamy, distress, or happiness. He is very patient. He does not speak of anything but the topics about Kṛṣṇa; therefore he is called silent. Silent does not mean that one should not speak; silent means that one should not speak nonsense. One should speak only of essentials, and the most essential speech for the devotee is to speak for the sake of the Supreme Lord. A devotee is happy in all conditions; sometimes he may get very palatable foodstuffs, sometimes not, but he is satisfied. Nor does he care for any residential facility. He may sometimes live underneath a tree, and he may sometimes live in a very palatial building; he is attracted to neither. He is called fixed because he is fixed in his determination and knowledge. We may find some repetition in the descriptions of the qualifications of a devotee, but this is just to emphasize the fact that a

devotee must acquire all these qualifications. Without good qualifications, one cannot be a pure devotee. *Harāv abhaktasya kuto mahad-guṇāḥ*: one who is not a devotee has no good qualification. One who wants to be recognized as a devotee should develop the good qualifications. Of course, he does not extraneously endeavor to acquire these qualifications, but engagement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and devotional service automatically helps him develop them. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 12.18–19, purport]

The words *bhadra karāṇā* are significant in this verse. Due to his long hair, mustache, and beard, Sanātana Gosvāmī looked like a *daraveśa*, or hippie. Since Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu did not like Sanātana Gosvāmī’s hippie features, he immediately asked Candrasekhara to get him shaved clean. If anyone with long hair or a beard wants to join this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and live with us, he must similarly shave himself clean. The followers of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu consider long hair objectionable. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 20.70, purport]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the world situation has degraded to such an extent that the urgent need for your followers to take their hearing to another level has reached a fever pitch. By “another level” I mean that we must apply your teachings to ourselves and not just to others. You yourself make this point throughout your Bhaktivedanta purports. Unless we assimilate your teachings into our own thinking, feeling, willing, and action, how will we be able to change the hearts of others, as you did, not to mention work together in the co-operative spirit you taught by example?

I can only imagine how the world would change if all of us, your sincere followers, were to think, feel, will, and act strictly according to the profound instructions you have given us, Śrīla Prabhupada!

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your eternal servant,

Keśava Bhārati Dāsa Goswami

Lokanāth Swami

My dearest master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this occasion of the 126th anniversary of your birth, Your Divine Grace will be pleased to hear that it has been a phenomenal year for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. We celebrated several golden anniversaries, headed by the anniversary of the installation of Choṭa Rādhā Mādhava in Māyāpur, the first Gaura Pūrṇimā festival there, and Your Divine Grace’s laying of the TOVP’s cornerstone. In addition, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Your Divine Grace’s receiving Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura’s first instructions to you.

While commemorating the anniversary of ISKCON Māyāpur’s first Gaura Pūrṇimā festival, I reflected on that festival, which was held in your divine presence in 1972. Even though you had been actively involved in acquiring the property in Māyāpur, it would be the first time Your Divine Grace would be visiting

ISKCON's property. It was on the auspicious day of Gaura Pūrṇimā that the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Temple (later known as the TOVP) was held.

After this festival you went to Vṛndāvana to hold another cornerstone-laying ceremony. You wanted to feature Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma because the area of Ramaṇa-reti, where the temple was to be established, was the spot where Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma played as cowherd boys with Their friends. Your Divine Grace held the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Temple with one hundred people in attendance, and as in Māyāpur, you descended into the ceremonial pit and placed the Deity of Ananta Śeṣa there.

Then on March 22 you held yet another cornerstone-laying ceremony, this time for the Rādhā-Rāsabihārī Temple in Bombay. This was the third cornerstone-laying ceremony in the space of a month. Your many letters to your disciples around the world bear testimony to your deep interest in temple construction. I was just a brand-new *bhakta* who had dropped out of college to join the devotees at Hare Krishna Land in Bombay, so I missed the 1972 Māyāpur festival. But your mercy and compassion know no bounds, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because immediately thereafter you came to Bombay and held the festival at Hare Krishna Land. For me it was no different from attending the festival in Māyāpur. I might have missed the 1972 Māyāpur festival, but in one sense I did not, because you brought the festival to Bombay.

So in 1972 the Māyāpur festival was born, and in 1973 it began to gather momentum, and in 1974 it blossomed in an unprecedented way. Encouraged by the success of the first Gaura Pūrṇimā festival, you invited all your disciples to attend the second one in 1973. Since 1973, I have attended all the Māyāpur festivals because I had made a promise to myself that I would never miss another Māyāpur festival.

Throughout 1973 I had the wonderful opportunity to serve as head *pūjārī* for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī in Bombay. When Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava were installed in Māyāpur 1972, I began nurturing a desire to do Deity worship in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur. Jananivāsa Prabhu, the head *pūjārī* in Māyāpur, was gracious and allowed me to bathe, dress, and garland the golden form of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. While I served the louts feet of the Deities, my thoughts would be fixed on the lotus feet of Your Divine Grace as you took your morning walk on Bhaktisiddhānta Road. Śrīla Prabhupāda, I was so conscious of your presence that even while serving Rādhārāṇī I would listen to the *kīrtana* in Rādhā-Mādhava's temple in front of the Lotus Building. I knew all the devotees would be greeting you as Your Divine Grace returned from your morning walk. I would hastily add the final touches to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava for Their beloved *senā-pati bhakta* to greet Them. I remember this so vividly. As soon as the curtains opened, Your Divine Grace would offer prostrated obeisances and stand with folded hands. The praise emanating from your mouth and the beaming smile on your face were your reward to us for our worship of Rādhā-Mādhava.

Kolkata will continue to be exceptional in many ways, Śrīla Prabhupāda. This year we celebrated the inauguration of the restored historical building at 1 Ultadanga Junction in Kolkata. This is the very same building and place where your Guru Mahārāja started his preaching movement and stayed for fourteen years. This is also the place where you met your Guru Mahārāja for the very first time, in 1922, and no sooner had you and your friend prepared to sit down that Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura said, "You are educated young men. Why don't you preach Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's message throughout the whole world." Although Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura gave the instruction, in essence this meeting and instruction were orchestrated by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who engaged your Guru Mahārāja as the medium through which to convey the instruction. Caitanya Mahāprabhu knew that Abhay Charan De was *mora senā-pati bhakta*, "the commander-in-chief of My *saṅkīrtana* army." It was as if Caitanya Mahāprabhu were whispering to Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, "He has come to you. He is right here. Convey the instruction." Śrīla Prabhupāda, this building is the birthplace of the Gauḍīya Maṭha and ISKCON, and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has declared it a Heritage Site now.

We are now concluding the celebrations of the 125th anniversary of Your Divine Grace's birth. After performing a herculean task and jumping through many administrative hoops, ISKCON Kolkata has finally managed to acquire the very property where you appeared under the jackfruit tree in Tollygunge Road—yet another significant place to be revered and remembered.

Your Divine Grace expressed a strong desire to preserve the ancient manuscripts of our previous

ācāryas' writings. This was the inspiration for the creation of the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC) in Kolkata.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the original Rādhā Govind temple at 3C Albert Road was the first ISKCON temple in India that was established, in early 1971. In the last few years the dedicated team of devotees of ISKCON Kolkata have successfully renovated it, ensuring that this temple will be well preserved.

These holy places will become pilgrimage sites for visiting devotees from around the world who go on *parikramā* in Kolkata. Through the endeavors of many devotees, Kolkata has become the gateway to Śrīdhāma Māyāpur.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I fall at your lotus feet to seek your blessings on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. The numerous festivals and commemorations have become pivotal opportunities to deeply remember Your Divine Grace, your instructions, your mercy, your love for your devotees, and your *līlās*.

Your eternal servant,

Lokanāth Swami

Mahādyuti Swami

*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 my obeisances. All glories to you!

In *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 1.106), Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja states, “Essential truth spoken concisely is true eloquence.”

Here are only a few examples of the heaps of transcendently eloquent gems of wisdom you have mercifully injected into this world of darkness and sorrow—a world that you assured us can become just like Satya-yuga, the age of goodness, simply by our spreading the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

The highest truth is reality distinguished from illusion for the welfare of all. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.2, translation]

Our motto is simple living, high thinking. [Letter to Mukunda Dāsa, 18 February 1968]

The purpose [of life] is *ānanda*, pleasure.” [Conversation with a Sanskrit professor in Mexico City, 13 February 1975]

Our process is to show Krishna Consciousness as it is, not as others want to see it. [Letter to Yogeshvara Dāsa, 28 December 1971]

It is not that we should change to accommodate the public, but that we should change the public to accommodate us. [*ibid.*]

Better you devote your full time to one thing only, not many things. That way your enthusiasm and talents will have big effect by being concentrated. [*ibid.*]

These books are the best advertising; they are better than advertising. [*ibid.*]

If we simply present Krishna consciousness in a serious and attractive way, without need to resort to fashionable slogans or tricks, that is sufficient. [*ibid.*]

Our unique asset is our purity. No one anywhere can match it. [*ibid.*]

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is simple for the simple and difficult for the crooked. [paraphrased from your initiation lecture in Boston, 26 December 1969]

From hippies they are becoming happies. . . . [Room conversation, Los Angeles, 24 June 1972]

Every endeavor is covered by some fault. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 18.48, translation]

[If] a living being has no anxiety, that means he is dead. That is not the ideal. The anxiety should be purified from material contamination, and it should be only for Kṛṣṇa. Then it is perfect. [Morning walk conversation, Melbourne, 26 April 1976]

This place is for misery. So how you can say, in miserable condition, how you can say that “This is good” or “This is bad”? Everything is bad. [lecture on the disappearance anniversary of your Guru Mahārāja, Los Angeles, 9 December 1968; you repeated the same point several times]

It is sometimes misunderstood that a *gṛhastha*, a householder, is permitted to indulge in sex at any time. This is a wrong conception of *gṛhastha* life. . . . The *gṛhastha* is allowed to indulge in sex life during the period favorable for procreation and in accordance with the spiritual master’s order. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.12.11, purport]

The spirit soul is equal in either a man or woman. One who is actually engaged in service of Krishna, there is no such distinction as man or woman. [Letter to Āditya Dāsī, 4 February 1976]

Kṛṣṇa is not a stereotyped, stagnant block. . . . Therefore, everything can be dovetailed in the service of Kṛṣṇa.” [Lecture on *Bhagavad-gītā* 1.4–5, London, 10 July 1973]

[C]hant and be happy. [Lecture, London, 1 December 1969]

Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa’s name nondifferent. As soon as you chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, that means Kṛṣṇa is dancing on your tongue. [Initiation lecture, Seattle, 20 October 1968]

In Kali-yuga, you cannot strictly follow, neither I can strictly follow. If I criticize you, if you criticize me, then we go far away from our real life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. [Morning walk conversation, Māyāpur, 10 March 1976]

[A] person free from all attachment and aversion and able to control his senses through regulative principles of freedom can obtain the complete mercy of the Lord. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 2.64, translation]

(Your phrase “regulative principles of freedom” is particularly brilliant because freedom, to most people, means to be *without* any regulation.)]

These are our two great contributions to the world: book distribution and Deity worship. [from my admittedly faulty memory]

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is 95% common sense. [not verbatim; based on a comment by Gargamuni Prabhu]

Morning is the best time to hold spiritual services. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.5, purport]

Those who listen to the *Bhāgavatam* may put questions to the speaker in order to elicit the clear meaning, but this should not be done in a challenging spirit. [*ibid.*]

In the Kali-yuga the whole atmosphere is surcharged with faithlessness. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.10, purport]

[P]unishment by the Lord through material nature is necessary in human society, for without it men forget the supremacy of the Lord due to their dull, blunt intelligence. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 9.10.14, purport]

If one cannot complete the fixed number of rounds he is assigned, he should be considered to be in a diseased condition of spiritual life. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya* 11.23 purport]

Only Kṛṣṇa can give you protection. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.15.20, Los Angeles, 30 November 1973]

Life should be molded in such a way that not for a single moment you are without Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That is real life. That is perfection.” [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.14, Los Angeles, 17 August 1972]

The secret of success in spiritual life is in satisfying the spiritual master and thereby getting his sincere blessings. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.8, purport]

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for saving the world—regardless of whether the world knows it’s being saved.

All glories to you!

Your servant and faithful disciple,

Mahādyuti Swami

Pārtha Sārathi Dās Goswami

My dearest worshipable and revered spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Thank you for spreading the sacred message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. Of the many disciples of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you are the only one who brought Vṛndāvana to the West.

You write in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (Canto 4, Chapter 28, Text 31, purport),

The disciples of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja are all godbrothers, and although there are some differences of opinion, and although we are not acting conjointly, every one of us is spreading this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement according to his own capacity and producing many disciples to spread it all over the world.

Without any institution or financial support, you left Vṛndāvana near the end of your life to fulfill the divine order of your holy master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda.

By the arrangement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, He had planted many Vaiṣṇavas in America, and in contact with you they helped start Kṛṣṇa consciousness in New York, and it spread like wildfire. You were the transparent medium for the potency of *bhakti* to spread. The *hlādinī-śakti*, which is the supreme giving potency, gave you “power of attorney,” and the *bhakti* potency began to sprout in the hearts of your disciples. Quickly this *bhakti-latā-bīja* spread through you to your sincere disciples and empowered them to preach all over the world. Endeavoring while undergoing great hardship, you also constantly traveled to nourish this mission and give us your disciples’ personal association.

Your most important contribution is your Bhaktivedānta purports. Thank you for this gift. I humbly ask that you allow me to continue to associate with you through your books, your sincere disciples and granddisciples, and your other followers. Without their guidance, support, and well-wishes, I would be lost and in illusion.

I hope one day to have your continued association again and serve you while you are assisting Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava in Their pastimes. This is my only objective and the ultimate sum of all my aspirations.

In the meantime, with the few years I have left in this mortal frame, I will follow the example of Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja and offer my respects (*vandori*) to the lotus feet (*śrī-caraṇa*) of all (*sabāra*) the Vaiṣṇavas (*bhakta-gaṇa*), both advanced (*baḍa*) and neophyte (*choṭa*). (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya-līlā* 2.93).

Praying to eternally remain in your divine association and that of your sincere followers,

Your servant,

Pārtha Sārathi Dās Goswami, South Africa

Rāma Govinda Swami

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

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

prātaḥ smaraṇīya parama-pūjyā paraṁ-guru-devjī

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble, prostrated obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Paraṁ-gurudeva! At present most of the people mistakenly consider material sense gratification the ultimate reward of life. They do not understand that material happiness is actually another type of punishment, since it entices one to continue rotating in the cycle of birth and death. In the prison houses, the violent prisoners are placed in solitary confinement, whereas well-behaved prisoners are sometimes allowed to work in the garden or library or offices as a reward. But any position in prison is ultimately a punishment because it is still prison.

The same situation prevails in this material world of higher and lower categories of material sense gratification. The actual reward people are hankering for is an eternal life of bliss and knowledge in the kingdom of God, the spiritual world, where there is no punishment, i.e., birth, old age, disease and death. The kingdom of God is Vaikuṇṭha, or the place of unconditional pleasure. There is no punishment in the spiritual world; it is a place of ever-increasing pleasure. But one who wants to enter that realm has to take guidance from a genuine spiritual master, and by serving him one can learn this transcendental subject matter.

A spiritual master is one who is expert in all of these subject matters, not by his personal imagination or speculation but by mature understanding of the authorized Vedic literatures, which are the literary manifestation of the causeless mercy of God.

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.20.17, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa says to Uddhava:

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

Here the Lord says that the human body is like a boat perfectly constructed to cross the ocean of material existence. If one takes shelter of a spiritual master, a member of a genuine *guru-paramparā*, then he acts as the captain of the boat and Lord Kṛṣṇa gives His blessings by providing favorable winds in the form of His instructions that help the living entity cross this ocean of material existence (*mayānukūlena nabhasvateritaṁ*). Therefore, if one wants to avoid committing spiritual suicide, it is essential that one take shelter of a genuine spiritual master. The *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* repeatedly stresses this point, as at 11.3.21:

*tasmād guruṁ prapadyeta jijñāsuḥ śreya uttamam
śābde pare ca niṣṇātaṁ brahmaṇy upaśamāśrayam*

Therefore any person who seriously desires real happiness must seek a bona fide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation. The qualification of the bona fide guru is that he has realized the conclusions of the scriptures by deliberation and is able to convince others of these conclusions. Such great personalities, who have taken shelter of the Supreme Godhead, leaving aside all material considerations, should be understood to be bona fide spiritual masters.

Param-gurudeva! You always stressed the need for taking shelter of a bona fide spiritual master and learning from him the process and secrets of devotional service in order to please the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. In many of your lectures you quoted the śāstric injunction that the spiritual master must be given respect equal to that given the Supreme Lord, though the real spiritual master never thinks he is God but knows he is a servant of the Lord. At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.17.27, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa says to Śrī Uddhava that one must respect the guru as one would respect the Supreme Lord:

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

One should know the *ācārya* as Myself and never disrespect him in any way. One should not envy him, thinking him an ordinary man, for he is the representative of all the demigods. The duty of the bona fide guru is to connect the disciple to Kṛṣṇa.

Punishment implies reward also; a powerful man who can punish is also able to reward. Therefore, the existence of punishment for the living being, who is forced to take a miserable material body subject to birth, old age, disease and death, also logically implies the existence of a reward for him. And that reward is that a living being in a human body, under the guidance of a spiritual master, can engage the body in loving devotional service to the Supreme Lord, become freed from the bondage of material existence, and get elevated to the spiritual world, where the soul can engage in eternal service to the lotus feet of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

I feel supremely fortunate to be part of your ISKCON mission because it is only this organization that teaches the necessity and principles of pure devotional service and engages the devotees in that loving devotional service. It is through your purports and lectures that I learned the purpose and greatness of this human form of life. As you stress in *The Nectar of Instruction*, the human form of life is meant for reaching perfection by performing devotional service.

Param-gurudeva! Please give me your blessings so that I can understand the intent of your teachings and can preach to others. I have directly experienced that without your mercy we cannot understand the teachings of the Supreme Lord and our *ācāryas*. Only with your causeless mercy can I justify my present *āśrama*, i.e., the *sannyāsa-āśrama*.

Paying obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet, I humbly beg for your blessings so that I can continue to serve your wonderful Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

In the service of Guru and Gaurāṅga,

A servant of your servants,

Rāma Govinda Swami (Botswana/South Africa)



Śacīnandana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Who can ever glorify you sufficiently? Your gifts, vision, and instructions are not time-bound but are effective right now, and will be for hundreds and thousands of years after you walked the planet.

When we read your transcendental books, we associate with you. You said this yourself. And that association immediately lifts us out of the mud of material consciousness.

Recently I had such an experience when I was reading *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.22.16:

[Mahārāja Pṛthu says to the four Kumāras:] The Supreme Personality of Godhead is always anxious to elevate the living entities, who are His parts and parcels, and for their special benefit the Lord travels all over the world in the form of self-realized persons like you.

In your purport to this verse, you write:

The devotees are representatives of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and to elevate the conditioned souls to their original consciousness, they travel all over the universes to enlighten the conditioned souls about Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The best devotees are *ātmavat*, or those who have fully realized the Supreme Soul. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, as Paramātmā, is sitting within everyone's heart, trying to elevate everyone to the platform of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Therefore He is called *ātma-bhāvana*. The Supreme Personality of Godhead is always trying to give the individual soul the intelligence to understand about Himself.

As I read this text, I immediately remembered my encounters with you, when I could always feel this “elevation” that was as instant as the experience of stepping into an elevator that transports one swiftly to higher floors.

Elsewhere it is stated that once a conditioned soul meets such a pure devotee, his “rotational journey” in the cycle of birth and death is stopped. Provided, of course, that such a fortunate person is holding fast to the spiritual master's instructions—at least *desiring* to live up to these words of spiritual direction. Then, by and by, as he sincerely attempts to control his senses and act only on the spiritual platform of devotional service, he is supplied with the strength required to walk on that platform without faltering.

A few days ago I received a letter from a new devotee who is waiting for a new heart in the heart transplant center in Berlin. At any moment a nurse or doctor could come to her room in the hospital and tell her to get ready for the surgery. Her body has been prepared already for the last three and a half weeks so that it is in the best condition to accept the new heart and then function with it. But one never knows how such a complicated surgery will end. She regularly reads your books and has gotten the inner strength to accept the uncertainty and unpredictability of her situation. Should she survive, she only has one desire: to associate with devotees, read more of your books, visit the temples, and use her hands in active service.

Hearing about her situation was an important reminder for me. A few decades ago I actually had a “heart transplant,” by your mercy.

I recall that right after meeting you—first in the form of your books, and later during a life-changing *darśana*—I received a kind of total reset. A new lease on life. It was not just an enthusiastic projection—but I actually saw that by your mercy and strength I was able to do things that were clearly outside the range of my own strength and intelligence. The operation was a success! Like so many of my godbrothers and godsisters, I could understand that it was your strength that carried us. Like a lion who may transport some ants crawling in his mane, you took us with you to levels of consciousness and experiences in *sevā* that were previously unimaginable!

This memory lives on in me fifty years later and inspires me to continue trying to walk in your footsteps by following your instructions. Yes, I am not on the high levels of consciousness that you exemplified. But just like that person in the heart center who is making a plan to live on with an increased focus on Kṛṣṇa consciousness, I pray that all possible distractions from your pure service will naturally fall away as I continue to serve you with ever-increasing gratitude and enthusiasm.

As always, in need of your mercy,

Your humble servant,

Śacīnandana Swami

Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami

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

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

1

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept this or it’s worse than useless.
You have given me spiritual life
and so my time is yours.
You want me to be happy in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
You want me to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness,
working with my brothers and sisters
in the society for Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
Please accept these lines
made so I can recollect you,
made in separation from you.

2

We live here until we die, and
 we can always remember those eleven years.
 Think of you sitting in a rocking chair
 in backyard of Dallas,
 one of many places
 you traveled,
 eighty years old, Mississippi farm,
 walking through the grass.

Your servant,

Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami

Śivarāma Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Seems like one aspect of old age is reminiscing. When I listen to recordings of you in 1977, you really enjoyed reminiscing about the “good old days.” It is now 2022, I am old, and I find myself doing the same.

I reminisce about the days in the Montreal bowling alley when I lived in a cave made from longish *Kṛṣṇa*-trilogy boxes, when warm bathwater was heresy, when life was the temple program and book distribution, when we wore lengths of cloth for *dhotīs* and saris, and when *tilaka* was fuller’s earth.

There are other, similar memories from Winnipeg, Minneapolis, and Chicago, even though there the *Kṛṣṇa* book boxes were shaped differently, showers had hot-water taps, and we sourced our clothes and *gopī-candana* from India.

Yet during those times and places, Kṛṣṇa consciousness and our lives were sweet and simple; most devotees were innocent and fully trusting in your spiritual formula; and yes, for better or worse—probably better—we saw things in black and white: Kṛṣṇa and Māyā.

Most important of all, you were with us.

Sanātana Gosvāmī says the limbs of *bhakti* all have their unique tastes, and so some devotees may be attracted to one limb more than to another. Thus some prefer chanting, others hearing, and yet others Deity worship. That is individuality.

I guess the influence of time on ISKCON is like that: Kṛṣṇa consciousness has a taste at the beginning, when you are here, a taste when you leave—bitter—a taste every decade later, a taste now—forty-five years later.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I have tasted it all. I prefer the good old days best. I prefer when you were here; I prefer when our mission was just selling your books; I prefer when we were sweet, innocent, simple, trusting; I prefer when we saw only in black and white.

Of course, that’s just me. My taste. But we are individuals, and even though Kṛṣṇa consciousness

and ISKCON are the tastiest of things anytime, anywhere, I have a right to my own preference: the good old days.

I miss those days. I miss you.

Your servant,

Śivarāma Swami

Śrī Krishna Chaitanya Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of the one-hundred-and-twenty-sixth anniversary of your birth.

You are the munificent representative of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu who traveled to the Western countries to distribute love of Godhead. Through your divine books and spoken instructions, the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, nectarean *prasādam*, beautiful temples, and merciful devotees, your mercy has been continuously flowing.

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

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

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

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

On Gaura Pūrṇimā 2022, I celebrated my first anniversary of taking *sannyāsa*. Pandemic restrictions had lifted, and we hosted more than a thousand guests here in rural ISKCON Pandharpur, Maharashtra, India. I was delighted to participate in the festival as a *sannyāsī*. I gave the lecture, chanted in *kīrtana*, and joined the devotees on the altar of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharināth to perform the *abhiṣeka*.

His Holiness Lokanāth Swami Mahārāja, your dear son, had kindly initiated me into the *sannyāsa-āśrama* the year before. He has nurtured me and mentored me for more than thirty years. I am indeed grateful to him for all his love and affection.

My initial inspiration to become a *sannyāsī* occurred when I read *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*, by His Holiness Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami. As I read the book, Your Divine Grace became my hero. I had joined ISKCON only two months earlier and had moved into Bhaktivedanta Manor, just outside London. I was washing pots, scrubbing kitchen floors, peeling potatoes, cutting cauliflower, and cleaning staircases, bathrooms, and even the temple room. In the afternoons there were often *harināma-saṅkīrtana* outings in

which we chanted Hare Kṛṣṇa and danced on the shopping streets of nearby towns. I crammed *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* every chance I got. I wrote the verses on little recipe cards and kept them next to me while washing the pots and cutting vegetables. I repeatedly chanted the verses until they were embedded in my thick skull, glad at last to have something of value in there. I'm grateful to Your Divine Grace that now there is something more than just cow dung between my ears.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, reflecting on my life in ISKCON, I remember the moment when I had the epiphany that I should take *sannyāsa* and fully dedicate my life to your mission.

I read about your transcendental journey on the *Jaladuta*, and how when you reached Boston you briefly explored Commonwealth Pier and the surrounding areas. I remembered also visiting Commonwealth Pier as a college student. When you returned to the vessel, you penned a beautiful heartfelt poem called *Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma*. The poem contained the following stanza:

*rajas tamo guṇe erā sabāi ācchanna
vāsudeva-kathā ruci nahe se prasanna*

Most of the population here is covered by the material modes of ignorance and passion. Absorbed in material life, they think themselves very happy and satisfied, and therefore they have no taste for the transcendental message of Vāsudeva. I do not know how they will be able to understand it.

At one point I heard that you were eager to make many *brahmacārī brāhmaṇas*. After hearing that I began meditating on your desire. Once I was chanting on my *japa* beads in the early morning hours in Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda's temple room. I thought, "If Śrīla Prabhupāda wanted *brahmacārī brāhmaṇas*, why don't I try to become one? Perhaps Śrīla Prabhupāda will be pleased."

As this thought passed across my consciousness, a strong feeling of being attuned with Your Divine Grace and Lord Kṛṣṇa arose in my heart. I knew that this would be the future I would strive for. I felt a confirmation in my heart—"Yes! This is the path I must take!"

There have been many tests throughout the years, and I know there will be more tests. But I will continue to strive to serve your mission as a *sannyāsī*. With your mercy and the mercy of your followers, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and the blessings of Lord Kṛṣṇa, I may be successful.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly bless me so that I can be successful in my endeavor and remain a *sannyāsī* till my last breath on this planet, blissfully rendering service unto the lotus feet of your devotees.

Gratefully yours,

A servant of the servant of your servants,

Śrī Krishna Chaitanya Swami

Śukadeva Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your divine lotus feet. *Patita-pāvana* Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

Another year gone and we gather at your lotus feet, continuing our devotional service. I followed the

regulative principles of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. But you have taught us that it isn't just gross falldown we have to avoid but also subtle falldown, which, though not immediately visible, will over time inevitably lead to gross falldown.

Similarly, chanting sixteen rounds and following the four regulative principles and attending the temple programs and reading your books—all these are good but they aren't everything. They are only the beginning; they have to culminate in love of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Otherwise we will not be able to escape the trap of *māyā*.

You have also said that one should work for Kṛṣṇa all day, and any leniency can lead to falldown. One may distribute many books, build many, many temples, and collect lots of *lakṣmī* for the service of the Lord. But these things are also not all. They provide no immunity from *māyā*. One may have served many years in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That is good, and whatever service one has done for the pleasure of the Lord will not be lost at any point in time—it will be credited into the account in our next birth. Whatever service one has done for Kṛṣṇa is an eternal credit. But even after many years of service in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, a person may wander away from Kṛṣṇa.

This world is a place of distractions and temptations. How long can one withstand the bombardments of *māyā*? Real *bhakti* awards knowledge and renunciation. *That bhakti* is what is pleasing to guru and Kṛṣṇa. This means, however, that in the guise of *bhakti* one can still be devoted to sense gratification. Then how can one make progress in *bhakti*? One should make Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission one's life and soul. One who forgets the guru cannot advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is a parallel track that takes the train to its destination. We chant sixteen rounds because it is your instruction. You want us to be strict with our *sādhana* and service. When the guru is pleased, then Kṛṣṇa is pleased.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, O savior of the most fallen, please bless me so that I don't waste this opportunity of chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa that you have given me. Please protect me from my insincerity, offenses, familiarity, and enviousness. Please save me in spite of myself.

An aspiring servant of your servants,

Śukadeva Swami

Trivikrama Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, savior of the most fallen!

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Thank you so much for giving your personal association so liberally to so many of us. Of course, you are still giving your association through your books, disciples, recorded lectures, etc. However, I was so fallen that I do not think these things alone would have been enough to bring me to your lotus feet, to turn my face away from the glitter of the material world. I needed the authoritative, vibrant, strong sound of your voice aimed directly at my nonsense self. And of course the gentle, sweet, encouraging voice so full of compassion. By the combination of these two voices, I became trapped, totally trapped, and remain so, hopefully throughout eternity.

I am just now finishing up a book recounting my exchanges with you. It should be ready for printing this year. I think you will like it. For me, writing it has been a wonderful meditation. Now I have turned eighty years old. Please bless me that with my remaining years, or months, I can do something to bring a smile to your face.

Your insignificant servant,

Trivikrama Swami

Varśāṇā Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

How appropriate is Śrī Kṛṣṇa's arrangement for your appearance on the most holy occasion of Nandotsava, when news of Kṛṣṇa's birth invigorated all the Vrajavāsīs. All glories to your Vyāsa-pūjā, foretelling the day when Lord Caitanya's message would inevitably cast its unfailing luster upon the entire world.

Your appearance in the Western world was the answer to our prayer that the Lord send someone fashioned after His loving heart to lead us back to Him. In you we discovered the treasure of divine wisdom. You were a trustworthy, true, and faithful guide—an ambassador of the spiritual world who descended to direct our hearts back to home. Finding confidence and respect in you and for the Lord whom you represent, we came to know and love Kṛṣṇa, who extended His loving hand in you, who spoke to you, who revealed the beauty, sweetness, charm, and splendor of Vṛndāvana through you.

Recently, a photo was given to me of a most meaningful experience with you. In it, you are pictured on a New Vrindavan path following a single cow. The devotees trail behind you in the frame. Upon my viewing this image, the surge of memories, emotions, and insights all clamoring for attention and acceptance testify to the potency of *smaraṇam*. How touching, powerful, and influential are remembrances of you savored over time! I therefore submit this recollection unto you.

The picture captures a moment from your final visit to New Vrindavan, when you returned to the community's original farmhouse temple for *guru-pūjā*, class, and *darśana*. That day in 1976, we had followed in your physical footsteps on the last stretch of the Aghāsura Trail, which forms a portion of the Govardhana Parikramā *mārga* here in New Vrindavan. As the path transitioned from forest to the pasturing grounds, Kālīya—the first cow in ISKCON, who you called your “old friend”—left her sisters in the meadow below and hastened up the slope to greet you. From there, she led the devotees the rest of the way to the doorstep of the farmhouse temple where Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vrindavanath had been awaiting your return.

It was in that same farmhouse temple in 1969 that you first tasted Kālīya's rich milk, further sweetened with New Vrindavan honey. Upon drinking, you proclaimed New Vrindavan to be a land of milk and honey. These simple words convey vast symbolism to me, as if acknowledging, articulating, and echoing the hopes and dreams of our ancient Biblical forefathers. Leaving the world of bondage in Egypt, they ventured across the vast desert searching for the land said to flow with milk and honey. An entire generation perished in the wilderness, due to their disobedience of God's commandments, but with time and faithfulness, their descendants finally reached that promised land.

After our journey up the path following you, you entered Rādhā-Vrindavanath's temple. Kālīya stood at the gateway as if to grant us entry. I realized at that moment that I was experiencing déjà vu, transported

back to my childhood days when I was irresistibly drawn to herding and serving cows by a mysterious sense that the cowherd path would lead me closer to God. And now, finally, seeing you as the central figure in this scene and the rest of us following in your lotus footprints as you follow the cow, it dawned on me that the missing element had always been the most crucial component in the search for God: the embodiment of the Lord's divine grace—you.

With this realization, the wisdom of the astrologer in Lord Caitanya's parable rang true: if you simply turn to the east and dig below the surface, you will find the treasure bequeathed to you. With your appearance on the Eastern horizon, this dark and dreary world awakened to a new dawn cast by the treasure of a Vedic perspective, granted to so many lost souls by your causeless mercy.

Here in New Vrindavan, the embassy of our eternal motherland offered a sweet foretaste of spiritual fulfillment, a promise of the fruit of our maturing along the path. You granted us a sampling of the nectar for which we ever hanker, yet still had no qualification to experience. As any earthly mother nurses her infants to strengthen and equip them before they must be weaned to become accustomed to a more substantial diet of grains, you too cared for us attentively with providential grace.

You drew our hearts onto the path of *bhakti*, thereby weaning us from material pursuits. Later, you provided bread to sustain us during the journey through the challenging and prolonged stretches of our own spiritual deserts. Traversing such terrain, we are given the opportunity to acknowledge and come to terms with our neophyte condition. You patiently prepared us for such times with the assurance that *vānī-sevā* is eternal, containing and expanding everything that had been nourishing us during your mortal presence.

We find that bread of life truly by returning to your books and memories of you. Therein we discover universal truths presented as deeply personal messages. Your words uncover the aspects of thinking, feeling, and willing that both perpetuate our dark bondage to pain, as well as reveal our vast potential for joy and satisfaction—found perfected in a world beyond our most creative imaginings.

The symbols and figures within scripture, which you dedicated yourself to making accessible to us, continue speaking to the range of hidden potentials concealed in our souls. Although we may deny the possibility of our ever becoming as depraved as Kāṁsa, vindictive as Duryodhana, or envious as Śiśupāla, can we truly deny the spark of recognition that, at times, we have all experienced such *anarthas*?

If we can humble ourselves to recognize such a reality, then the subtler and deeper voices of the divine become audible and inspire us to embody even a hint of Dhruva's determination, Bhiṣmadeva's fearlessness, Haridāsa Ṭhākura's forgiveness, Queen Kuntī's forbearance, and Draupadī's total dependence, expressed in her crying out Kṛṣṇa's holy name. We have found the inspiration offered by all these great souls to be coalesced in you.

Such emotions, though neophyte feelings at first, give strength and illumination by touching our hearts with the many voices who talk to us through *śāstra*. And although they may speak in languages and cultures unfamiliar to our modern condition, their unified voices and hearts all resonate in your pastimes and precepts.

In you we find the empowerment of the original guru, Lord Nityānanda, who directed his disciple Kṛṣṇadāsa to proceed in the direction of Vṛndāvana, with the promise "There you will attain all things." *Sambandha*, *abhidheya*, and *prayojana* awaited Kṛṣṇadāsa in Vraja through the pastimes and precepts of the Six Gosvāmīs residing there. You embody the essence of their teachings, rendering deep philosophical truths into a language that can be understood, embraced, and practiced by all. This is a mark of your exceptional empowerment.

The promised land, which Western civilization has pursued for ages—unachievable through the best efforts of the ascending process—has appeared at last by divine descent. You planted the seed for Vraja-dhāma, the true land of milk and honey, to bestow her nurturing support and influence upon all. This benediction equips and prepares us for our final journey back to Godhead. In time, we have seen here, above and beyond symbolic or figurative imagery, actual milk flowing from the cows' udders onto the path as they approach the barn, as well as honey literally overflowing from local beehives due to an abundance of wildflowers.

After countless lifetimes of wandering in the desert of material existence, allured by fleeting mirages promising relief, parched and depleted of all hope and joy, we have finally arrived at an oasis of immortal nectar—Śrī Dhāma, our motherland, overflowing with milk and honey. Vraja-śakti, who you carry within your heart, emerged and expanded to reveal her divine nature here in Appalachia by the power of your *bhakti*.

Contemplating our inconceivable good fortune in receiving the treasure of service to Śrī Dhāma, which



nourishes Kṛṣṇa-nāma and leads to Kṛṣṇa-prema, we find that the only explanation is your causeless mercy. Such beauty, sweetness, and charm as revealed in Śrī Dhāma convey the depths of affection in the heart of her creator. It is a love so dynamic that Kṛṣṇa cannot contain it within Himself, so it has to manifest outwardly as well, assuming form and features worthy to serve as the abode of His confidential relationships.

Kṛṣṇa's love can be tangibly experienced as the compassion of His pure devotee, which provides the impetus for the Lord's original abode to expand and replicate wherever He desires for the spiritual welfare of lost souls throughout various regions of the earth. Your Divine Grace has invoked that same Vraja-dhāma here in New Vrindavan, unveiling yet another face, character, and aspect of the same divine essence.

Memories of your pastimes abound throughout this sacred landscape. If we attune our spiritual senses to the deeper resonance, we can feel your heartbeat, the taproot from which New Vrindavan emerged, here at the original farmhouse. From this root of communion, a vibrant community has grown, where devotees are immersed in the terrestrial manifestation of your spiritual vision.

You have bequeathed to us a legacy of love capable of softening and opening the hardest of hearts. Bless us, we pray, that our souls blossom in the sunlike nature of your wisdom, blending with the moonlike rays of your compassion, to illumine the passages of *śāstra* and the confirmation found in nature, reminding us to always serve in love. Guard our hearts, lest offenses and *anarthas* lead us astray.

Today I return to the path Kālīya tread on that eventful day so many decades ago. Visions of bygone

times blend with memories of the future. Daylight is now fading, shadows fall, the return path is calling me back to the pasture and the meadow beyond. In the background, the world as it is continues its chaotic course. I walk again with you, Kālīya, and the devotees in the picture. From where I am now, I cannot see you physically, though I still hear your voice and hold onto the blessings you bestowed.

Returning to the present moment, I see a monsoonlike cloudbank slowly moving westward. While a curtain of rain falls, the setting sun casts a golden aura tinged with saffron across the sky. Sacred texts of my childhood resurface, describing the vision of God within a shower of golden light. This scene is followed, confirmed, and concluded by the appearance of a spectacular rainbow, the symbol of God's covenant, reminding us to be steadfast in following His Divine Grace. And then, within this vast archway, subtle pastel colors begin to form into a second rainbow. This display blends the eastern and western reading of the symbol as well as contributing a more esoteric perspective. To the Vrajavāsīs, this image serves as an invitation for Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa to meet in the forest beyond the pasturing grounds.

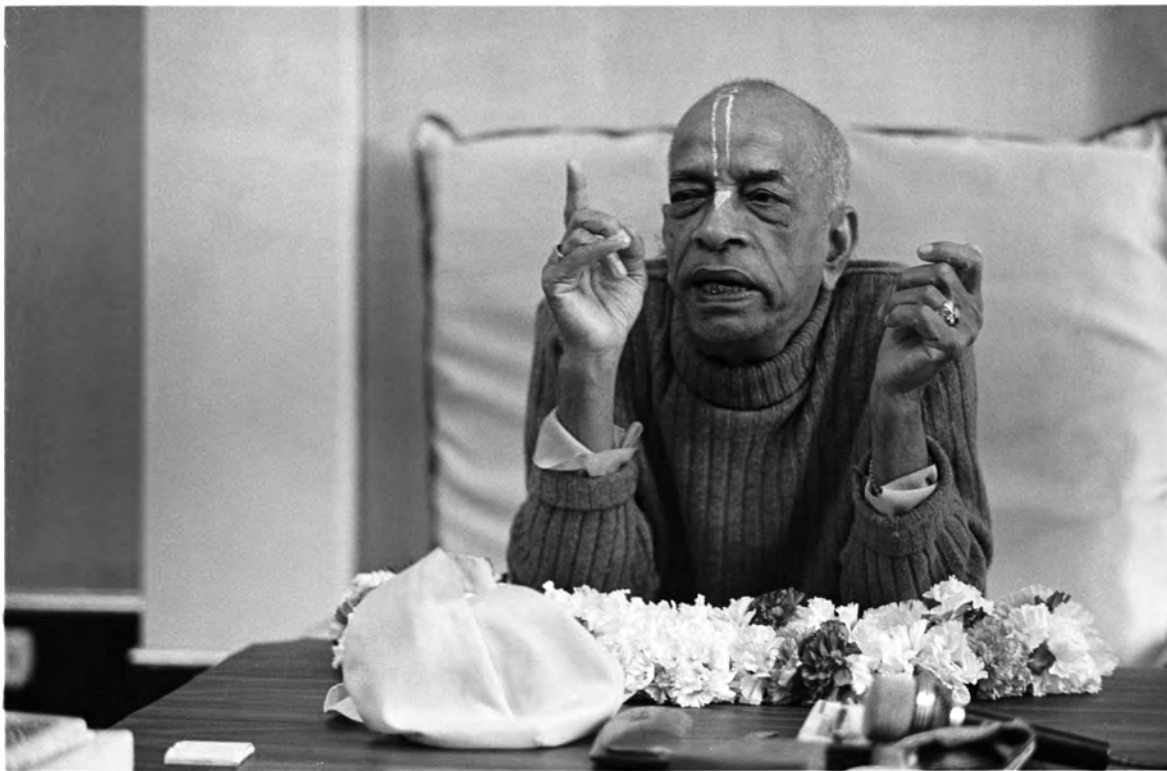
All these scriptural images integrate during the sunset, enhancing my memories and appreciations of you, the person *bhāgavata*, living embodiment of the cream of all Vedic scriptures. Your presence endures in the Bhaktivedanta purports, which unify and harmonize other sacred texts into a higher synthesis.

As I begin the return journey down the slopes of the Aghāsura trail, I meditate upon the festival of Nanda, when you appeared within our mortal world. Bless us, we pray, to become worthy servants of the Vrajavāsīs by following in your footsteps. Let us forever assist you in serving Lord Caitanya's mood by expanding the glories of Kṛṣṇa to every town and village. May His holy name, intertwined with Vraja-prema, continue to encircle the earth like a vibrant garland of divine fortune.

Your servant,

Varṣāṇā Swami

Homages from
ISKCON Centers



Abentheuer

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our most humble obeisances.

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

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

You recently stopped me in my tracks with a stunning yet simple definition of love. While listening to one of your recorded lectures, given at New Vrindavan on September 4, 1972, I heard you say, “One who is engaged in the devotional service of the Lord in love and devotion—what is the symptom of love? The symptom, the prime symptom, the most important symptom of love is that the devotee wants to see that his Lord’s name, fame, etc., become widespread. He wants to see that ‘My Lord’s name be known everywhere.’ This is love. If I love somebody, I want to see that his glories are spread all over the world.”

The rest of the class is filled to the brim with other equally important points one could take notes on and think deeply about. Still, with this simple point about the prime symptom of love, you told us so much about yourself. The point you made is like a special jewel you gifted to us—you so rarely spoke about yourself. From this definition of love we can understand how all the hardships that you took upon yourself, all the feasts you cooked, all the *kīrtanas* you sang, all the *āratis* you so gracefully conducted, all the travel around the world, all the opening of temples, all the classes you gave, all the letters you wrote, and all the books you wrote—all of these activities were clearly manifestations of this prime symptom of love for your Lord: to see His fame and glory spread all over the world. And you did it! And it was done with your most divine personal touch.

We want your glories to be known just as widely as the glories of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and His holy name. Because of you, the holy name is reaching all corners of this world and the chanting can be heard even in a small insignificant village like Abentheuer, in Germany. Our desire here at the Goloka Dhāma temple is that wherever the holy name is chanted and served by being brought to the people, there also your glories should be known. As you said, if you love someone, you want their personality to be known to everyone. Therefore we do not want to keep your greatness to ourselves; we want everyone to know about you. Your love for Kṛṣṇa was proven by that—you wanted to share and make your personal friend and beloved Śrī Kṛṣṇa known and available to all. Your personal life story, your books, your determination, your devotion, and your mission are the very backbone and the big *why* behind all that we do all day long, and we want others to know and experience that sense of purpose too!

Because you were the greatest of cooks in the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, the movement is known as the “kitchen religion,” and Śrī Kṛṣṇa, in the form of *prasādam*, is known and loved all over the world. The same goes for all the other aspects of ISKCON as it stands today. Your devotional *bhajan*s are still the standard that all attempts at worship with “*kohl* and *karatālas*” try to emulate. Your management, your scholarship, your vision, and the way you worshiped your Lord are the prime sources of inspiration for all devotees. And if ever we feel, “Oh, we want to be like you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because you are the perfectly pure devotee,” we know that we will never ultimately be able to fulfill that aspiration. Therefore we simply want to be worthy of being engaged in your service. That is our main aspiration.

As a community of devotees, we find that you are always there when we come together and serve in unity. This is the strength of the movement you so meticulously built—our unity. We feel we can still please you very much when we come together and strategize and work in a joint effort to fulfill your mis-

sion. Then we feel your presence—that you are personally there with us. To serve you in a joint effort is so fun-filled and blissful that even guests and newcomers are drawn to come to know you.

Like me, most of the devotees in the Goloka Dhāma community are your granddisciples. Besides your books and the services they do for you personally, their main links to you are all the wonderful devotees that were just “young boys and girls” when you, after only a few years of training them, left your mission and the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in their hands. You left these young devotees almost forty-five years ago now, after they had had only a short time in your personal association and under your training. The miracle is that so many of your direct disciples are strong and beautiful Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavīs now, who give *you* and the path of *bhakti-yoga* with vibrant enthusiasm to both us and the generation that is following us. Thank you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for caring and loving your disciples so much that they have kept you living in their hearts, guiding them for all to see.

Thank you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. May we be worthy of carrying on your mission and one day come to know and understand your full glory.

Your humble servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana temple, Goloka Dhāma, in Abentheuer, Germany.

(written by Mañjulā-maṇi Devī Dāsī)

Abidjan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at your holy feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Sometimes we ask ourselves if it is really possible to glorify and please you. You lived such a selfless life full of austerities, compassion, and complete detachment from all kinds of worldly affairs. You had one fixed goal assigned to you by your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura: to print books and preach in the Western countries. You were so focused on that mission that you really didn't have time to see who appreciated you and who did not. You were just busy giving your mercy to the whole world.

A father you are,
A mentor you are,
A well-wisher you are,
An eye-opener you are,
You yourself are the sole guarantee
That our *saṁsāra* in this material world will end.
Having you
Means having everything in life.

We are begging that you always remember us and strengthen our desire to serve and love Kṛṣṇa unconditionally through the service of all the sincere Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavīs.

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

Amravati

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to this 126th anniversary of your divine appearance day! All glories to the 100th anniversary of your divine historic meeting with your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda! *Ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana*: may your divine glories vibrate in all the three worlds!

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

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

O Śrīla Prabhupāda! To increase your glorification more and more, the GBC has extended the 125th-anniversary celebration for one more year. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of your divine historical meeting with your most revered spiritual master, the ray of Viṣṇu, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda. Exactly one hundred years ago, a historic conversation between two divine personalities took place on this planet that turned out to be the turning point of Kali-yuga: the impartation of the seedlike instruction for the beginning of a global golden era. The worldwide expansion of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement was predicted throughout the Vedic scriptures, and also by many saintly personalities. And the seed of that global spiritual explosion was planted when you met your spiritual master a hundred years ago. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that if Kṛṣṇa's divine arrangement of your meeting with your Guru Mahārāja had not taken place, none of us would have had the good fortune to be part of this *saṅkīrtana* movement.

This year is also the 50th Golden Jubilee celebration for the Māyāpur-Vṛndāvana festivals, which you inaugurated in Māyāpur-dhāma in 1972 with your first batch of worldwide disciples and followers. In the past fifty years it has taken volcanic shape and is increasing every year more and more. Also, fifty years ago you installed Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava in Māyāpur-dhāma.

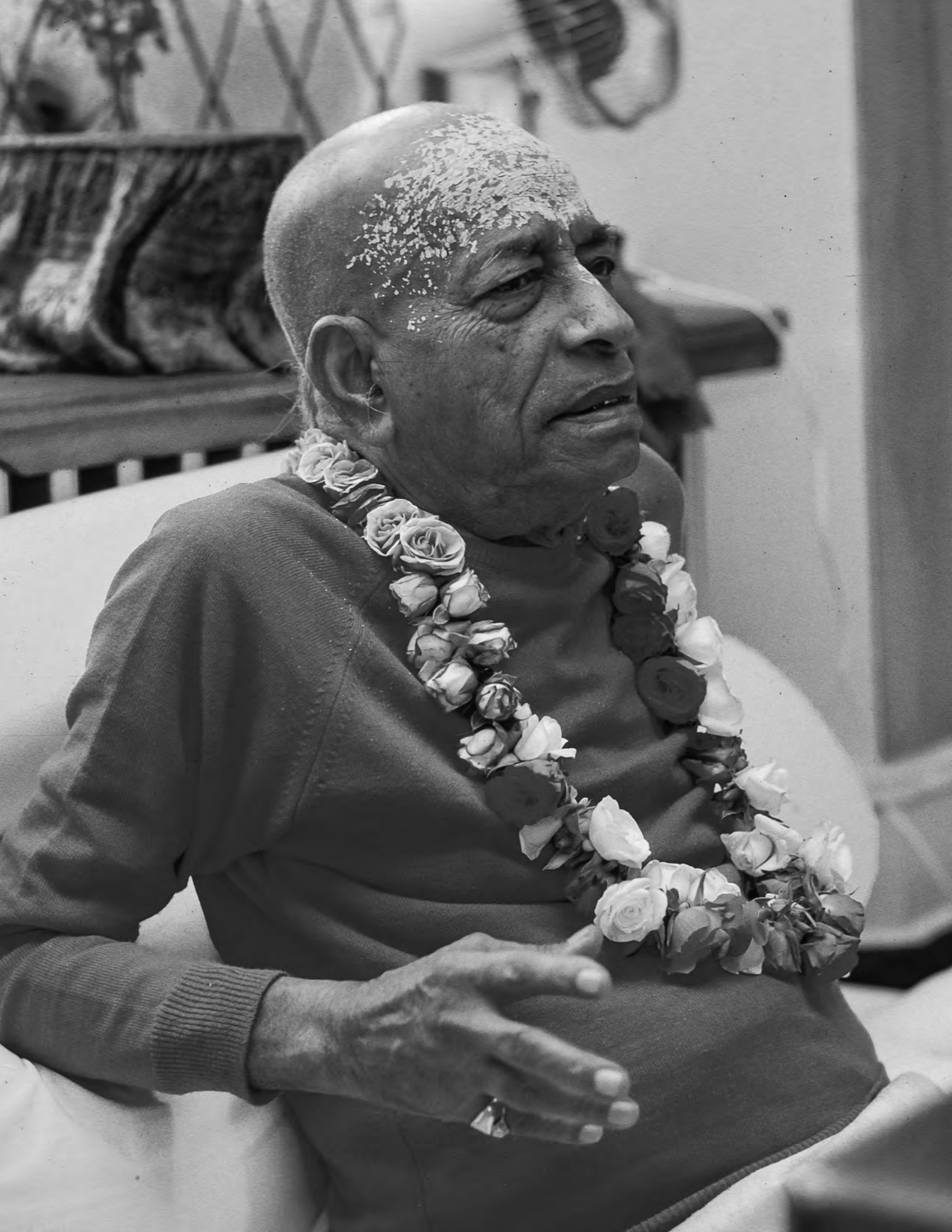
It is such a boundlessly joyous occasion to have so many festivities this year, intensifying our remembrance of and unlimited gratitude toward you. Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you gave.

Now is a time to express our deep gratitude to you through increased surrender and dedication, and through our commitment to serve, protect, and expand your divine Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Let this life's every breath become full of your service.

We get enthused with divine energy and a strong desire to serve just by contemplating you. You are our perfect example for everything in spiritual life, whether it be *sādhana*, *sadācāra*, *siddhānta*, standards, Vaiṣṇava qualities, or more. When your direct disciples glorify you, we, as your spiritual grandchildren, feel proud to be part of this community; we feel great confidence in having such a strong captain as you helping us to cross this horrible ocean of Kali-yuga.

Here, at ISKCON Amravati, as your servants and devotees we are trying our level best to please you by helping your mission grow. We need your blessings so we can continue to serve you forever. We are struggling hard to see a little smile on your face through our propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

After a long struggle over the past few years, at last we are happy to declare that ISKCON Amravati now owns two new acres of land. We are now launching a new mega temple construction project: the Rukmiṇī Vedic Cultural Center (RVCC). Please accept this as our first offering. On the preaching front, we are planning to flood the whole city with youth preaching, congregational preaching, and public outreach



programs. In the field of youth preaching, for the first time ever in the history of our zone, we organized a greatly successful “Mega Youth Festival,” which was attended by more than two thousand students in Amravati. The response to Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s mercy was beyond our imagination. Also, to increase our outreach, this year we are holding many *bhāgavata-kathās* at different locations around the city and in nearby villages. From these *kathās* we will start weekly congregational cultivation and preaching programs all over the city. The children’s and girls’ preaching is also becoming more organized now.

As far as your dearmost service, book distribution, is concerned, last year we were able to distribute around five thousand books. As you said whenever you heard distribution scores, “Now double it!” So we will try our best during this historic year to double our book distribution. Please bless and empower us in all these services. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, it’s our causeless great fortune to be a part of your mission. Please give us the strength to serve you more and more and to never leave ISKCON or your lotus feet.

Desiring to serve you with love and trust,

Your humble servants at ISKCON Amravati, Maharashtra, India.

Athens

Dearmost Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the very source of my life, and I bow down flat in the dust of your divine lotus feet with deep respect and love! Each day when I come before you, I feel my appreciation and love for you increasing more and more! The more I study you, the more I know you, the more I respect you, and the more I love you. *Bando mui sāvadhāna mate.*

For the past two years I have engaged in serving your mission in Athens, Greece. Although I am definitely not qualified for the privilege of following in your divine footsteps and pioneering your movement in a foreign country like Greece, I depend on your mercy, as you depended on the mercy of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and your divine spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. I feel practically that every little achievement brings me closer to you. I feel your determination in the midst of the enormous difficulties you faced. I’m more and more amazed by your dedication to the order of your spiritual master. Your very life itself was less important to you than following his order to preach in the Western world. Such exemplary behavior is rarely seen. *Yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau.* This is real *parā bhakti*. Your life is the *parā bhakti*, the supreme devotion, supreme love of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Guru, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Your life-and-death struggle is now our lifeblood and our permanent mediation. No one preached Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the planet as you did. No one received the power to do it as you received it! *Kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana.* Only very, very special souls receive such mercy from Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa! Therefore you are the preeminent *ācārya*, the spiritual master of whole planet earth! You are the real hope for this planet, oppressed as it is by war, economic crises, and pandemics. I beg to remain forever at your lotus feet and at the lotus feet of those who seriously and sincerely serve your sacred mission.

Your servants in Athens, Greece.

(written by your aspiring servant, Dayānidhi Dāsa)

Auckland

*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*

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious 126th anniversary of your appearance day, please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories, all glories, all glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, once again it's time to glorify all the sacrifices you made to bring thousands of fallen souls like us in contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your holy appearance day is without doubt the most glorious day of the year for all devotees in ISKCON.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, there is no one in the three worlds who can give anyone something more valuable than what you gave us. Indeed, you are our *eternal, true well-wisher*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came to Auckland, New Zealand, in 1972, 1974, and 1976 and made this fallen place a holy *tīrtha*. Your Divine Grace personally installed Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, along with Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and thus here at New Varṣāṇā reside these three holy *dhāmas*—Śrī Vṛndāvana Dhāma, Śrī Jagannātha Purī Dhāma, and Śrī Māyāpur-Navadvīpa Dhāma. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for gifting us this invaluable spiritual treasure.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in April of this year we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī. For fifty years the radiant beauty of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī has captured the hearts and blessed all those who took Their *darśana*. For the past fifty years, due to the mercy of Their Lordships, the Auckland congregation has expanded exponentially.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, since 2019, when the pandemic hit, we were limited in our ability to hold *harināmas*, outreach programs, and festivals. However, this did not hamper the enthusiasm of the devotees to reach out and continue their preaching service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said, "ISKCON is my body and the BBT is my heart." Śrīla Prabhupāda, during the last Prabhupāda marathon we distributed 1,692 books, including *Bhagavad-gītās* and sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. During the lockdown we managed to distribute *prasādam* to the public, including to hospitals and through door-to-door home delivery. The Bhakti-śāstrī students continued their studies online, and the second batch is ready to graduate. The Sunday school (Krishnakul) teachers kept the children enthusiastically engaged via online classes. While in lockdown, the congregation took advantage of absorbing continuous *kṛṣṇa-kathā* every day; it was being conducted by various senior devotees both internationally and locally via Zoom. Whenever there was an opportunity, devotees continued to hold weekly *harināmas* in the city and in various suburbs. During the month of Kārttika we conducted 177 home programs via Zoom. Moreover, our congregational devotees came forward and offered a gold-plated altar to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gīrīdhārī.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this day, we, the devotees at ISKCON Auckland, have gathered together to express the gratitude we feel toward you for your phenomenal preaching efforts, your tolerance, your patience, your dedication, and, most of all, your unfathomable compassion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this holy day we also express the great debt of gratitude we owe to the devotees who have served tirelessly to establish this temple as an offering to Your Divine Grace and to those who continue to serve.

What is left for us to accomplish is to utilize every inch of this facility for Kṛṣṇa's service. In that spirit we pledge to embark on the next fifty years. Kindly bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Our final and foremost prayer at your lotus feet: Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, always keep us as instruments in spreading your mission. Please empower each and every devotee to share the bliss of Kṛṣṇa consciousness so that more and more people can be saved by coming in contact with your mercy. This is what will please you the most. Thank you so much for continuing to save us by keeping us engaged in your service—which keeps us going in this precarious material world. You are our *only savior*. Please help us to continue to please you so that we are always under your secure shelter.

Praying and begging to always remain at your lotus feet,

Your servants at New Varṣāṇā, ISKCON Auckland, New Zealand.

Bhaktivedanta Manor

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Every day we immerse ourselves in your transcendental association—your presence in every corner of Bhaktivedanta Manor is palpable. In the temple room we remember you ecstatically dancing before Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda. On the front lawn we remember your loving interactions with disciples and their children. In your personal quarters we remember your daytime meetings with distinguished guests and your nighttime meetings with the divine *śāstra*. At the goshala we remember you emphasizing cow protection, sustainability, and simple living long before these were trends in the world. You live here still, and we can see you, providing we have the purity to perceive and the spiritual eyes with which to experience your presence.

The pure devotee descends from the transcendental Vṛndāvana, reveals the earthly Vṛndāvana, and transforms a regular place into Vṛndāvana by the potency of his devotion. You gifted us New Māyāpur, New Vrindavan, New Dvārakā, New Pāṇihāṭi Dhāma . . . and Bhaktivedanta Manor, New Gokula. It's inconceivable, but each of us has the opportunity to live in the spiritual world, here and now.

Because the holy *dhāma* can never be contained within material boundaries, there is the potential of ever-increasing expansion—more devotees, more service, more devotion, and more transcendental pastimes. We witness this at Bhaktivedanta Manor, where the devotees, empowered by Your Divine Grace, continue to achieve amazing feats in their devotional service. The Manor estate has expanded beyond imagination, and the snowballing number of visitors challenges us to find new ways to serve them. The congregation of dedicated devotees, practicing *sādhana* and serving regularly, is healthier than ever before. The children and youth have broadened their horizons and amplified their programs; the kitchens are running practically every hour of the waking day; and education through systematic coursework and retreats has become a part of our spiritual culture.

Bhaktivedanta Manor has also expanded beyond the property we see. Devotees venture into local areas through multiple *harināmas* each week, record numbers of books are being distributed by both adults and children, and festivals and *nāma-haṭṭas* are popping up in towns and cities in the vicinity. Many dynamic outreach programs and affiliate initiatives are generously supported by Bhaktivedanta Manor, each of which is finding dynamic ways to introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness into the world.

Yet enough is never enough. We realize there are many more areas that can, should, and will surely be developed in the coming year. We'd like to open our doors wider, inviting newer and more diverse audiences to attend Bhaktivedanta Manor, everyone's Kṛṣṇa temple. We'd like to encourage and facilitate

the cooperation and synergy among all the amazing initiatives at the Manor. We desire to nurture the spiritual depth of the community and showcase pure devotion in its living manifestation.

Devotees are the vital force—the life breath—of Bhaktivedanta Manor, and we are blessed with hundreds of dedicated, dynamic, and deeply devoted individuals. May the effective and tireless organizers connect with the insightful and thoughtful visionaries. May the young and dynamic connect with the senior and wise, many of whom were directly trained by you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. May the members with their varied cultural backgrounds find unity in their diversity within the big family of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. May all our vibrant departments, projects, and initiatives generate a synergy that will multiply all the efforts. May we create a community of love based on cooperation and trust so we can see you smile at your most beloved Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Your servants at Bhaktivedanta Manor, UK.

(written by Sutapā Dāsa)

Brahmapur

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our crores of humble obeisances at your lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your unreserved mercy we would like to take this opportunity to glorify you on your most divine appearance day and to also present you with an offering updating you about our ISKCON Brahmapur, Odisha, temple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's order and with His assurance of protection, you left India and expanded His name and fame all over this planet. When you had accomplished this feat, which is unparalleled in the history of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, Kṛṣṇa made you famous throughout the three worlds. *Ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana*: “Your fame is spread all over the three worlds.”

O liberator of innumerable fallen souls, we all wholeheartedly pray to you for the opportunity to serve you and your mission life after life.

This year the construction of our temple is going on even more rapidly. The interior of the main temple hall is being decorated very opulently. Some woodwork is still being done, and the marble and roof grading work is yet to be done.

By your mercy the regional youth and congregation preaching are also going well. At the same time, school, college, and hostel preaching are also happening very well. This year we have started a new BACE near our temple. The number of *nāma-haṭṭa* centers is also growing day by day. All the devotees are participating enthusiastically in the book distribution and village preaching programs.

Lastly, your mercy is our wealth and allows us to be even more patient despite the rapid currents and intense waves of *māyā*.

Your thousand-times servants of the servants at ISKCON Brahmapur, India.

Brampton

*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 humble obeisances. All glories to you. We aspire to get shelter at your lotus feet eternally. We have no qualification to glorify your life, qualities, or pastimes, but we believe that glorifying an exalted Vaiṣṇava like you is a way to purify our heart and existence. We beg for your mercy that you empower us so we can present our offering to you with the right words and in the right spirit. Any limitation to our ability to glorify you enough is probably a reflection of our own imperfections in our devotional service or our failings in following your instructions as you gave them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, since you are truly our ever well-wisher, you have given humanity the greatest gift in the form of ISKCON. Your words and deeds continue to inspire thousands of people from all sections of life to join the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement every day. The ISKCON community continues to grow despite many societal challenges because the purpose of ISKCON is genuine and the process sublime. It will be quite appropriate to state that human society at large is deriving much-needed spiritual nourishment from the ISKCON movement; it is not an exaggeration to say that ISKCON is serving as the modern transformational institution for many ordinary souls, who are solaced by following your simple instructions on the devotional path and by taking shelter of your books. You are the touchstone magician who remolded many ordinary human hearts and reformed them into pure gold ones. After your departure, your institution continues to be the change agent in society. We continue to see a significant spread of this movement through various traditional preaching methods, such as home congregations, outreach preaching, temple programs, as well as the creative means by which devotees, following the dictum “utility is the principle,” use technology for virtual outreach to thousands of ordinary souls all over the world who are waiting to follow your instructions.

Sometimes we wonder how it is possible that the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is thriving in the face of growing materialism in a culture of sense gratification. How can transcendental happiness and devotional ecstasy continue to be on the rise when there is such abysmal suffering in the world in the form of war, pandemic, hunger, and other such crises? The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement was started by none other than Kṛṣṇa Himself in the form of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Lord Caitanya made a predication that in every town and village the chanting of His name would be heard (*prthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma / sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*). You took the fulfillment of Lord Caitanya’s prediction as your personal responsibility. Being empowered by Lord Caitanya as His warrior devotee (*senāpati-bhakta*), at a very advanced age you left your spiritually accomplished life in Vṛndāvana to come to America to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We all know that it was not an easy venture by any means for you to spread Lord Caitanya’s mood and mission in the West and to establish ISKCON. In that process you endured personal health issues, physical discomfort, anxiety, and uncountable risks, but still you were fearless and relentless in the face of every adversity you faced. You were under no compulsion, yet you undertook this great spiritual endeavor to make Lord Caitanya’s prediction a reality and to immerse the whole world in the ocean of the *saṅkīrtana* movement. Above all, you did so out of your compassion for ordinary conditioned souls like us. You united the whole world in the glorious path of devotional service. We owe you an unrepayable debt of gratitude.

The devotee community of ISKCON Brampton is no exception in terms of our feeling of deep indebtedness

for the spiritual wealth you have given us. Under the blessings, guidance, and encouragement of His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami, there are many sincere devotees in the ISKCON Brampton community who have dedicated themselves to wonderful services. You will be pleased to know that the ISKCON Brampton community conducts thirteen home congregation programs in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). These programs add many new members to our growing community. Empowered by your kind mercy, ISKCON Brampton has been able to double our transcendental book distribution year after year. The year 2021 was a special one as far as book distribution is concerned. With the sincere effort of many devotees, we passed the milestone of 10,000 books distributed, including 52 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets.

With your encouragement, with great enthusiasm we were also able to organize Ratha-yātrās in various places around Ontario, even during the thick of the pandemic. The Ratha-yātrā festival has also served magnificently as an outreach program. As a result, congregational preaching is now being spread through various small towns in Ontario.

Inspired by your principle “books are the basis,” ISKCON Brampton has established the Bhaktivedanta Academy of Education Canada (BAEC), a center for systematic study of Vaiṣṇava scripture for devotees of all ages. You will be pleased to know that nine devotees from ISKCON Brampton have completed the Bhakti-śāstrī course, and twenty-five more are on their way to complete it. Eleven other devotees from ISKCON Brampton have taken their *śāstra* studies another step further by taking advanced courses such as the Bhakti-vaibhava. It is also quite heartening to see the ISKCON Brampton Sunday School program flourishing, with seventy students ages 5 through 14. This accomplishment could not be possible without the sincere and selfless effort of the teaching faculty. Our Vaikuṇṭha Yuva Youth Group is also growing well, and they have started assuming various *sevā* responsibilities, such as the closing *kīrtana-sevā*, MC *sevā*, etc. ISKCON Brampton also introduced a Food-for-Life program last year to bring much-needed *prasādam* to those desperately in need during the pandemic. The pandemic had its ill effects on our community, too. COVID-19 has sickened many of us physically, but we never lost faith in you or Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.6 you define a living being’s dharma like this: “A living being’s sustenance of existence is to coordinate his activities with his eternal relation with the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa.” While we try to live our lives to the best of our ability according to your definition of dharma, at time we find ourselves falling short of the standard you want us to adhere to. Although we try to keep up with everything you have given us, we also feel challenged by our limited ability to expand your movement. Sometimes we take shelter in our comfort zone with a complement of excuses why we can’t challenge ourselves to do more. We understand that our ISKCON movement cannot be more relevant than it is today; it is meant to revive a degrading society from its nadir, to give people hope—the hope of going back home, back to Godhead—and to free them from worldly despair.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the sufferings and pain inflicted by the pandemic and the various world conflicts and wars impact the people in harm’s way, in this difficult time we beg for your special mercy so we can stay deeply rooted in our Kṛṣṇa conscious way of life. Please save us from all the evils that can deviate us from the path of devotional service. Give us the strong ethos and missionary spirit to collectively transform this world into a better version of its current self. Please bless us with the conviction that Kṛṣṇa will protect us (*avaśya rakṣibe kṛṣṇa viśvāsa pālana*) in all circumstances. In summary, please allow us to live on your remnants and spread the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in our humble way.

Your insignificant, menial servants,

The ISKCON Brampton community, Canada.

Budapest

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to you!

*om̐ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmilitam̐ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

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

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

About six weeks ago, in early March, on a beautiful spring day, we had just finished our nice morning program. The Vaiṣṇavas living in the temple, together with a few kind members of the congregation, were in a blissful mood from the wonderful *sādhana* program you kindly gave us, which is guaranteed to immediately uplift the consciousness of the participants and purify their hearts. Honoring *prasādam* was drawing to a close, and the devotees were ready to start their daily services in a spiritually heightened mood. Everything was ideal—a real Vaikuṇṭha mood! Recharged with such positive energies, I was preparing to go to my office so I could also start performing my duties.

Suddenly, a loud knocking could be heard from the back door of the temple, close to the office section. I heard a *mātājī* opening the door and talking to some strangers in English. A few seconds later, she came to me and told me that some Ukrainian devotees had arrived and that she would like me to come and help her talk to them.

I went there at once and found a devotee couple with their little son and their suitcases, tired but with a hopeful twinkle in their eyes. We greeted one another with folded hands and introduced ourselves. Then they told me that they had arrived from war-stricken Ukraine and were seeking shelter at our temple.

What a contrast! These dear Vaiṣṇavas had arrived from a life-threatening, hopeless, and uncertain situation. They now stood on our threshold, the threshold of Vaikuṇṭha, to ask for shelter at a temple that affords total security and asylum. It was a very special feeling. All I had to do was to receive them with words of reassurance and compassion and a smile.

“Hare Kṛṣṇa! Please come inside! Welcome!” I said.

I told them we would certainly help, so they should just come inside, refresh themselves by honoring *prasādam*, take some rest, and then we would discuss. Their faces lit up as they heard my words of welcome: they had found shelter at our temple with their small boy after a long and arduous journey.

“Thank you very much, thank you very much!” they repeated.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for the amazing feeling I experienced in this difficult situation. Thank you for this feeling also in the name of all the Budapest devotees who since then have given help to many other Ukrainian devotees in despair. It is your ISKCON that provides the framework for us to help and shelter one another in case of trouble—like a global family.

When we received the kind Vaiṣṇavas, I got an even deeper realization that in addition to being able to give them support, it is so special that we “speak the same language,” that we all belong to the same family despite the distances of sometimes thousands of kilometers. Even though we were brought up in different nations, still, Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Gaura-Nitāi are our worshipable Deities, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are our primary *śikṣā-guru*, and our life and soul is preaching as well as rendering service to the Vaiṣṇavas.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for founding ISKCON fifty-six years ago. Thank you for bringing

the science and culture of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the Western world!

I find it wonderful that wherever devotees travel in the world, they find the very same principles and values in the temples of your movement—the same principles and values that were there fifty years ago when you founded your temples. Serving others, offering them help, is always an uplifting experience. However, serving Vaiṣṇavas can actually purify our heart and also satisfy Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

In this regard, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (4.21.39) says:

*yat-sevayāśeṣa-guhāśayaḥ sva-rāḍ
vipra-priyas tuṣyati kāmam īśvaraḥ
tad eva tad-dharma-parair vinītaiḥ
sarvātmanā brahma-kulaṁ niṣevyatām*

[Translation:] The Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is everlastingly independent and who exists in everyone's heart, is very pleased with those who follow in His footsteps and engage without reservation in the service of the descendants of *brāhmaṇas* and Vaiṣṇavas, for He is always dear to *brāhmaṇas* and Vaiṣṇavas and they are always dear to Him.

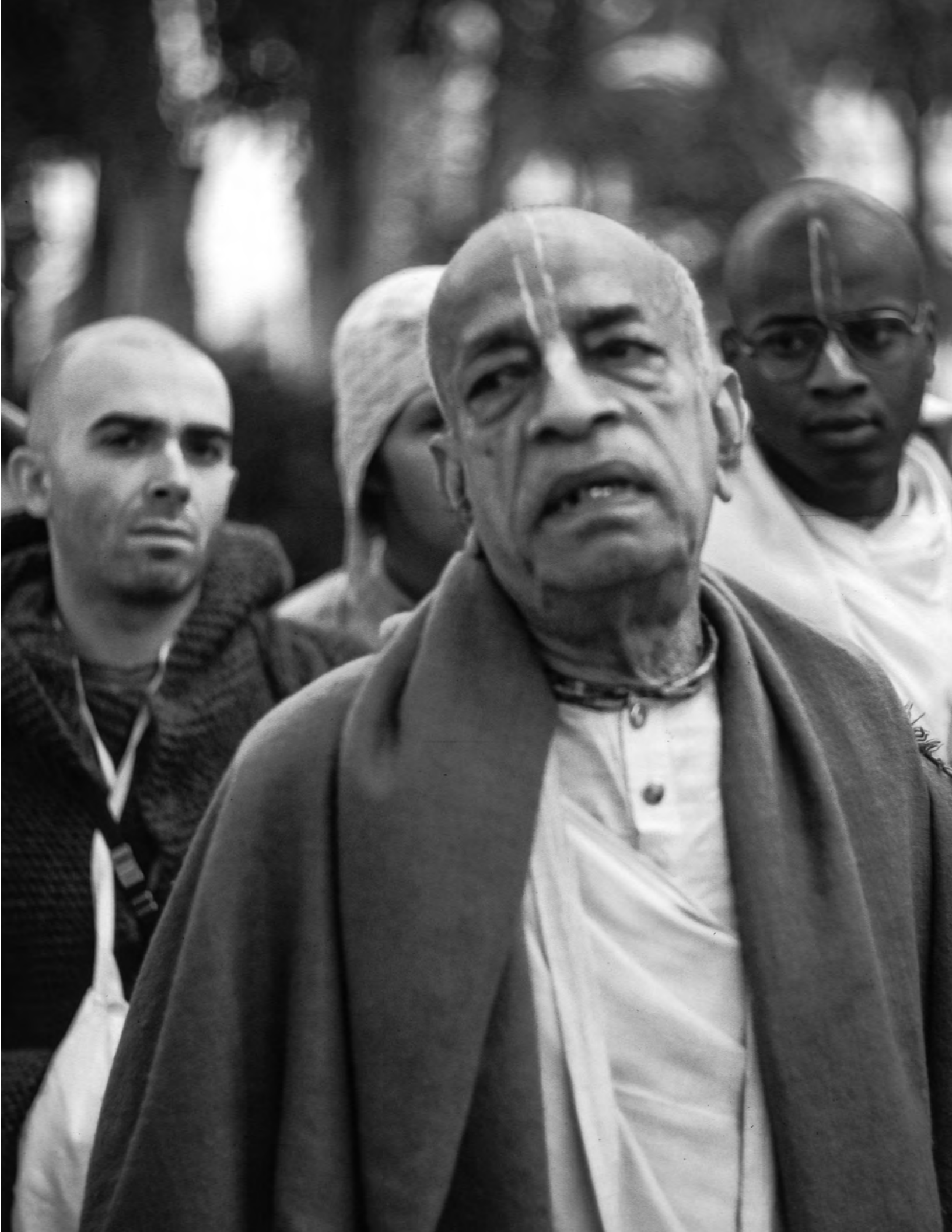
[Purport:] It is said that the Lord is most pleased when He sees one engage in the service of His devotee. He does not need any service from anyone because He is complete, but it is in our own interest to offer all kinds of services to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. These services can be offered to the Supreme Person not directly but through the service of *brāhmaṇas* and Vaiṣṇavas.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are very grateful to you for the opportunity to serve the Vaiṣṇavas. Fortunately, after the arrival of the first Ukrainian devotees, we have been able to help many more at the Hungarian *yātrā*, including those arriving at the Budapest temple. The world of ISKCON is seeing huge cooperation now, and I am sure you will receive many similar offerings this year from Vaiṣṇavas seeking and providing shelter in connection with the war crisis.

Dear master, please bless us so we can place service to Vaiṣṇavas at the center of our lives and successfully carry on our preaching mission in this temporary world, which is full of suffering. Please bless us so that we can provide shelter for more and more souls here in Budapest at the temple of Śrī Śrī Dayāl-Nitāi Vijaya Gaurāṅga!

Your loving servants at the ISKCON temple in Budapest, Hungary.

(written by Gauramaṇi Dāsa)



Calgary

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On behalf of all the Calgary devotees, please accept our humble obeisances! All glories to you!

Today, as we celebrate your holy appearance day, we feel so fortunate and blessed to be a part of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. On contemplating how the effects of Kali-yuga are exponentially increasing every day, and seeing the difficulties devotees face all over the world, we can simply remember the prayer of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura:

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

“When I examine myself, I find nothing of value. Your mercy is therefore essential to me. If you are not merciful, I will constantly weep, and I shall not maintain my life any longer.”

Once, a devotee asked you what our qualification was that enabled us to receive this topmost gift of *bhakti*, and you said that we had no qualification and, in fact, that it was you who made us qualified to be able to practice devotional service. Because of your causeless mercy, we could get the valuable jewel of the association of devotees. No matter where we go in this country, there’s always some kind of association available to keep us motivated on the path of *bhakti*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, by carrying out the orders of your spiritual master you not only ignited the fire of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in every town and village, but you also gave us the strength and ability to practice these sublime teachings of Lord Caitanya. If it were not for your causeless mercy, many devotees like us would have been rotting in this material world without any goal or purpose to our lives.

Today, when we look back at the wonderful preaching and the wave of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that has spread throughout the world, we feel overwhelmed by wonder and gratitude. Here at ISKCON Calgary, we are making our humble attempts to preach this message to the people outside by doing regular *saṅkīrtana* and holding temple programs to spread this message to more and more people.

In a letter, you once wrote, “*Saṅkīrtana*, or street chanting, must go on; it is our most important program. Lord Caitanya’s movement means the *saṅkīrtana* movement. . . . We must do both, reading books and distributing books, but distributing books is the main propaganda.” Accepting your instruction as our life and soul, we here at ISKCON Calgary are glad to report to you that we started holding a *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class every weekend in the temple in addition to the regular daily lecture program. Many devotees and new young people have started attending this special class. We have also increased our street *harināma saṅkīrtana* events and our book distribution programs in various parts of Calgary. We aspire to extend our *saṅkīrtana* movement outside Calgary. We placed *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in the Calgary Correctional Center, Remand Center, and at hospitals, yoga centers, LFLs, etc. We increased our book distribution score significantly in 2021, and we aim to have a steady increase of ten percent each year. However, we feel incompetent and dependent on your mercy. We beg for your blessings so we can multiply our preaching efforts and attract more and more souls to the path of *bhakti*.

Just a few days ago, on reading about the immense suffering the devotees of Ukraine are undergoing, both physically and mentally, we were unable to hold back our tears. Yet despite such an ordeal, those devotees are so grateful and spiritually blissful. One devotee wrote this:

Shortly before the start of the war, I had a dream about Śrīla Prabhupāda. Many devotees were standing in a semidark room opposite Śrīla Prabhupāda’s *mūrti* when suddenly I saw steam coming

out of his mouth. He breathed, got up, and went into the crowd. All the people rushed after him. A stampede began. Prabhupada turned around with a very sad and worried look, looking into the distance. I thought it was the end of life—that we would leave the body and Śrīla Prabhupāda had come to pick us up. But when we didn't get a single scratch from the bombings, I realized that Kṛṣṇa, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and all the devotees are protecting us.

It is true that Kali-yuga is an ocean of faults and that the only good quality is *kīrtanād eva kṛṣṇasya mukta-saṅgaḥ param vrajet*. However, this good quality can be manifested only by your mercy and the mercy of your devotees. It gives us so much faith and determination to follow this path, knowing very well that you are always there for us. No matter how bad the situation is in this material world, we always have the supreme shelter of your lotus feet, which will protect us from the most dangerous calamities.

On this auspicious day, we offer our humble prayers that we may become instruments in propagating the message of Lord Caitanya. May we be able to put aside our personal agendas and become one in the service of the Lord and His devotees. May we get the strength to say no to the tribulations of this material world, and may our only desire be to render unmotivated and uninterrupted service unto your lotus feet.

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Calgary, Canada.

Chandigarh and Panchkula

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. Kindly accept this humble offering on this most auspicious occasion of your appearance day.

Lord Caitanya appeared on this planet to deliver the countless fallen souls, and He made a prediction that in all villages and towns of the world His holy name would be propagated. Once you told your disciples that this task of preaching in the Western world had been left to Your Divine Grace. You took all the pains and faced many struggles to fulfill this desire of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and your beloved spiritual master.

Being an *ācārya*, you exemplified the various aspects of Kṛṣṇa consciousness perfectly. You showed by your good example how one should preach, cook, manage, worship, deal with devotees, deal with the outside world, and safeguard and nourish Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a very simple and sublime way. Once you said that *impossible* is a word in a fool's dictionary. This truly fits with your personality; during your physical presence you made *impossible* into *possible* by transforming the lives of thousands of people from lives of materialism to lives of spiritualism. Millions more have been transformed in your physical absence. Everything you did was for all of humanity. About the topmost devotees, Lord Kṛṣṇa says that they are always engaged in welfare activities for the general populace: *sarva-bhūta-hite ratāḥ*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an embodiment of Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy, which you distribute freely as a cloud distributes rain without discrimination.

You took all the struggles and criticisms and pioneered this ISKCON society, and you established a strong foundation for the propagation of Lord Caitanya's mercy for countless generations to come.

Once, in Vṛndāvana, you mentioned that you wanted to go to Chandigarh to preach, as this is a beautiful place for preaching. You came here on October 13, 1976, and did a pandal program for five days,

which was attended and liked by thousands of people. Very soon afterward, we got a large piece of land for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava and the Vedic Institute.

The message you have given us is so deep, absorbing, and penetrating that it appeals to each and every one of us. During the last *Bhagavad-gītā* marathon, by your divine grace our community distributed 54,000 *Bhagavad-gītās*. *Sanikīrtana* devotees traveled to different cities, towns, and villages in the Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh areas and distributed your mercy in the form of your books. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* marathon the Chandigarh temple came in first in the small-temple category in India. Last year we distributed 600 *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* sets as a tribute to your 125th birth anniversary.

You will be glad to know that our preaching is growing day by day. IYF, IGPF, BPS, IGF—these forums are working very hard for your pleasure. About 3,000 devotees attended the Gaura-Pūrṇimā festival—our highest attendance on this occasion to date. A snacks-and-sweets shop (named Govinda's) has been open since Nityānanda-trayodāśī this year, and it has been well received by the people of Chandigarh.

In Panchkula we have a very beautiful temple. The unique specialty of this temple is that it has six altars, which are managed by the very vibrant congregational devotees. Our congregation and youth increase day by day. All festivals are well attended by our local congregation.

Without your mercy, nothing is possible: *kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana*. You are the transparent medium for giving us the mercy of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the *guru-paramparā*. We are very grateful that you gave us one of your most dedicated disciples, His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami, as the GBC of this temple.

We pray unto your lotus feet that we may take this process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with our heart and soul and expand this precious movement far and wide. We pray for our good *sādhana*, *sevā*, and *sambandha*, and to become humble instruments in your hands.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Chandigarh and Panchkula, India.

China

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Nothing can stop the *sanikīrtana* movement. Nothing that is influenced by the modes of material nature can prevent the name of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu from reaching the hearts of all conditioned souls. You knew this even before you came to the West, and when you stepped off the *Jaladuta* it became more obvious, as your movement only grew from strength to strength—first, under your personal guidance and vision, and later with the help of those following your instructions. Despite all the ups and downs we have faced since your departure, your movement has grown in prominence, which also means that Lord Kṛṣṇa has become part of an increasing number of people's lives. We may think and feel that it is all due to our efforts and intelligence, but the truth is that you are the master who pulls the strings and, like an expert puppeteer, makes us move. That is the safest position we can be in—to be moved around by your lotus hands.

In numerous lectures you spoke about human behavior and the demoniac tendency to perform *ugra-karma*, disregarding the rules of *śāstra*. This leads to natural disturbances, animal slaughter, wars, and

disease, including epidemics. Since you are a *tri-kāla-jñā*, your statements are accurate. Hopefully, we are seeing the end of a two-year-long pandemic that has turned the world on its head—forcing people to restrict their movements, locking down countries, and greatly impeding the world economy. It was like taking away everyone’s ability to think and breathe, muzzled by masks like dogs. And so your devotees used every opportunity to reach out to the masses with your books, *prasādam*, and the holy names. The more pressure people found themselves under, the more eager they became to turn to Kṛṣṇa consciousness as soon as they realized that this world is made up of only cheaters and the cheated.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you were with us, there were no emails, no websites, no chatrooms, Facebook, or Zoom. I often wonder how you would personally interact with those cutthroat internet platforms, which act like double-edged swords when not utilized wisely. You forbade devotees to waste time on the phone. In India, you wanted them to ride trains rather than drive everywhere, and sending a telegram was a major consideration. But these online platforms have helped us reach out to thousands of people around the world trapped in their own homes, and here in China this was no exception. During two years of lockdown, the devotees have had access to a plethora of lectures, *kīrtanas*, and *saṅgas* online. And by establishing *Bhagavad-gītā* lectures for the public, we have attracted a large number of new people, who have now taken very seriously to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Although not publicly revealed, the Chinese devotees distributed many thousands of your books during the last Christmas marathon, unbeknownst to other *yātrās* and by far surpassing them. But we have read our scores out to Your Divine Grace. This is all to say that the Chinese *yātrā* may be restricted in so many ways, but it is alive and well, thriving due to your unlimited blessings and support, which you gave from the beginning by stating that “Once they become devotees, they will be strong and dedicated.”

To preach successfully, a devotee must be able to maintain strong daily *sādhana* and never lose enthusiasm. This is a sign of spiritual strength and empowerment from the spiritual master. Lord Caitanya was innovative at every step of his mission. He set the scene, drew the plans, and attracted the right personalities at the right time for the right purpose. And so did you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by strictly adhering to your spiritual master’s instructions. Inheriting such a legacy is the utmost privilege for a devotee. By throwing ourselves onto this *saṅkīrtana* battleground, well equipped with faith, intelligence, and attachment to your lotus feet, we may at some point receive the qualification to enter into the true spirit of Śrī Māyāpur and Śrī Vṛndāvana. By imbibing the mood of being servants of the servants and remaining humble instruments in your divine hands, millions of Chinese souls will fall at your lotus feet to beg entrance into the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya. Only then can we begin to relish the pastimes of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. “First deserve, then desire,” your spiritual master once said.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, here in China, your dear Kashadesha *yātrā*, we have no temples, no farm communities, no *gurukulas*, no Govinda’s restaurants, no street *harināmas*, and no authorized book distribution. What we *do* have is your mercy, and that mercy is allowing us to do the impossible and show that hearing, chanting, and taking *prasādam* require nothing but enthusiastic devotees in all circumstances. The ecstasy is the same and the *saṅga* is pure, especially when it’s short—only once a week—and the passion to remain connected is constantly maintained through the internet. This flood of mercy cannot be stopped. It is only increasing like water rising during a monsoon rain. The Chinese monsoon is your desire to please the disciplic succession and bring everyone back home, back to Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue to guide us and keep your lotus feet on our hearts so we can be with you through all adversities. Narottama Dāsa Thākura sings, “Your fame is spread all over the three worlds.” That is where we want to be—wherever you are. Śrī Kāśīśvara Paṇḍita prays in his *Gauḍīya-vaiṣṇava-dīkṣā-vidhi*: “The guru’s lips are the gates to Vedic knowledge, the guru’s shadow is the disciple’s eternal protection, and the guru’s words are the disciple’s only shelter.” Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. May the Chinese *yātrā* continue to serve and represent you with dignity and confidence.

Your servants in China.

(written by Rādhācaraṇa Dāsa)

Czech Yātrā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my heartfelt obeisances. All glories to you, and to your spiritual predecessors and successors!

Thirty-three years ago, when I first encountered you through a compilation of your teachings called *The Science of Self-Realization*, it struck me how you exposed the weaknesses of the modern materialistic civilization. Thank you for giving us shelter from that. These days I more and more notice that many people are practicing various forms of spirituality—mostly a hazy search for unity and love either with no God or an unknowable God, and with many proposing straight-up Māyāvāḍism. Thank you for painstakingly preparing us to deal with these distracting ideas. You gave us the clear metaphysical picture of the material and spiritual worlds, with Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, present everywhere in distinct ways of His own; you gave us the clear goal of attaining eternally blissful *vraja-bhakti*; and you gave us the clear and detailed path of devotional service leading to it. Moreover, you gave us the power needed to understand and follow this path (*kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāro / tomāra śakati āche*), and your warm personal love as the impetus and inspiration for doing that. As I never met you physically, I can especially perceive this in the temples you personally opened—in Māyāpur, Vṛndāvana, Mumbai, and Hyderabad in India, the Bhaktivedanta Manor in the UK, and New Dvārakā in L.A., California—in the association of your grateful disciples in those places, who continue to share what they witnessed in your kind presence. Please keep helping us to have you and Kṛṣṇa mercifully and dominantly present in our lives forever.

Your humble servants in the Czech yātrā.

(written by Puṇya Pālaka Dāsa)

Delhi

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to you, Your Divine Grace, our savior, on this most auspicious 126th anniversary of your appearance day.

Every year we meet many challenges concerning how we may sincerely endeavor to serve and please you. Equally challenging are our fledgling attempts to glorify you. Still, as the determined sparrow who sought to empty the ocean to find her eggs was able to attract Garuḍadeva's mercy, so we seek to glorify you with our ever-increasing desire to please you so we can also please Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, during the last year we tried to “organize” and “cooperate” and “just double it” and “do the needful” and “hunt for the rhinoceros” and “expend gallons of blood” and “boil the milk” and “study your books from all angles of vision” and be “introspective” and “independently thoughtful.” *Karmaṇy evādhikāras te . . .*

To make devotees, build temples, increase book distribution, and keep inspiring and nourishing the devotees is something only you, our founder-ācārya and our most preeminent *śikṣā-guru*, can make a

reality. So at the end of last year, when the BBT and ISKCON Delhi faced a collective challenge during your marathon—a shortage of *Bhagavad-gītās*—the devotees “made the best use of a bad bargain” and distributed thousands of sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, and *Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*! We engaged nearly three thousand devotees in your marathon last year, and they became your instruments and distributed nearly 400,000 *mahā*-big books during the marathon and more than half a million *mahā*-big books for the year!

The new waves of COVID did not deter our preaching efforts, so the devotees’ enthusiasm resulted in thousands of people connecting to ISKCON Delhi through our online and social media preaching efforts.

The Faridabad preaching center opened its doors to the general public this year after renovations were made, and it was an event of magnificent proportions, with the gorgeous Deities, enthralling *kīrtana-melā*, Vedic perfection in the installation ceremonies, and endless bliss in the *prasādam* distribution, as we reported earlier.

The success of this *yātrā* is that the devotees here are dedicated to your book distribution. The Dvārakā ISKCON center is now engaging thousands of the faithful at all levels, distributing thousands of plates of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, and now it has a thriving congregation of thousands! Their COVID relief efforts are now legendary in the Delhi-NCR region. Your Panchsheel Ashram is now magnificently renovated and available for visiting devotees.

Your 125th-anniversary commemorative silver coin has captured the imagination of thousands, and we continue to get requests from many for “at least one coin”! *Ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tri-bhuvana . . .*

Preaching to the youth, congregation, corporate leaders, VIPs, and the people in general is growing only by a drive to please you.

The three new altars at ISKCON Delhi—of your life and soul, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pārtha-sārathijī, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāijī, and Śrī Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumānjī—are resplendent, attracting many to the fold despite government restrictions.

Google awarded My Ashraya ISKCON Delhi’s YouTube channel with a special felicitation for one *million* Kṛṣṇa conscious family members.

On your Vyāsa-pūjā last year, we offered record-breaking multiple volumes of offerings from the Delhi-NCR devotees. More this year, Śrīla Prabhupāda, only for your transcendental pleasure!

All your temple residents and many other family members are regularly following the morning program. We seek your blessings to always please you with our fledgling efforts to chant attentively, read your books regularly and scrutinizingly, take up responsibilities for the *guru-paramparā*, and, above all, connect millions to “the house in which the whole world can live,” which you built, Śrīla Prabhupāda. This year, we seek to offer you more devotees and happier devotees. Thank you for everything, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We seek your blessings to always please Your Divine Grace, the *guru-paramparā*, and your devotees. Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your servants at ISKCON Delhi, India.

(written by Mohanrūpa Dāsa)

Detroit

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On your most auspicious 126th appearance anniversary, please accept our most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet, obeisances we offer with utmost humility.

You being our ever well-wisher, we always feel protected even in the most challenging times. In these difficult times of distress around the world, two of your dearest Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjabihārījī, have given us the strength to continue to participate in Their loving service, your books have kept us inspired to remain focused and share the knowledge they contain with many people, and many senior members of your loving and caring ISKCON family have given us continued guidance and encouragement through Zoom meetings. As a result, not only did we survive but we increased our preaching in some areas.

You established the *maṅgala-ārati* prayers in our daily lives:

*sarīsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka-
trāṇāya kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvam
prāptasya kalyāṇa-guṇāṇavasya
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.”

These prayers have helped us so much as we experienced the real meaning of *dāvānala* during this time. We also understood how fortunate we are because you gave us shelter at your lotus feet. We have always felt protected, just as a child feels protected when in the lap of his most loving father. All the devotees at your Devasadhan Mandira actually came closer to care for one another; we became a united, caring family to help one another in any way required. Each of us participated so that we were able to continue upgrading different facilities at the temple to make it more visitor-friendly. Now, as things are starting to normalize, we would like to put all our efforts into increasing our preaching in every direction.

We would like to follow in your footsteps by remaining totally surrendered to Lord Kṛṣṇa, as you prayed in your poem *Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma*, written aboard the *Jaladuta*: “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.”

O spiritual master of the whole universe, we continue to beg you to give us the intelligence to remain in your loving service at your lotus feet and the lotus feet of our most merciful Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjabihārījī, as long as we are in these bodies. Please keep holding our hands tightly because we have the tendency to run away from your divine shelter.

Begging for the forgiveness of our unlimited offenses to Vaiṣṇavas,

Your humble servants at Devasadan Mandir, Detroit, Michigan, USA.

(written by Jagad-guru Dāsa)

Durban

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Lord Caitanya descended in the Age of Kali to bestow what no other incarnation had offered before—the resplendent mellow of pure love experienced in devotional service. It’s really quite astonishing: innumerable incarnations had appeared before Lord Caitanya, and yet only with His advent five hundred thirty-six years ago was this most elevated and sublime experience made available, and through the most undemanding process, the blissful singing of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*!

Taking it beyond the confines of Vedic and traditional India was the real challenge. Even the all-powerful Lord desired help:

*ekalā mālākāra āmi kāhāṇi kāhāṇi yāba
ekalā vā kata phala pāḍiyā vilāba*

“I am the only gardener. How many places can I go? How many fruits can I pick and distribute?” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi 9.34)

To complete the endowment of *kṛṣṇa-prema* upon this world, the Lord arranged your appearance in this world, Śrīla Prabhupāda. How else could love of Kṛṣṇa, which the Lord so eagerly and anxiously desired to be spread far and wide without discrimination, be taken beyond the shores of India? Who else could have done it? Who else *did* do it?

For us born in South Africa, this is of special significance. Although for centuries we’ve been so isolated and far from the beaten track, we too have been touched by Your Divine Grace, touched by love of Kṛṣṇa. We cannot separate appreciation of love of Kṛṣṇa from appreciation for its foremost deliverer, Your Divine Grace. Our appreciation would be miserably incomplete. In the spirit of nonsectarian interfacing between Gauḍīya groups, which is important for developing camaraderie, sometimes your singular position as the foremost empowered deliverer of Lord Caitanya’s mission is downplayed. This amounts to the greatest of tragedies—that of separating the gift from its carrier. The Lord is undoubtedly saddened by this, for His greatest pleasure comes from the glorification of His intimate associates.

For the devotees who maintain, with objective enthusiasm, a sublime appreciation of your exceptional role in Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* mission, the Lord blesses them with faith and determination to take up the special role as your assistants.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we thank you unlimitedly for the opportunity to be counted as humble participants in your mission to serve Lord Caitanya. We feel blessed to have generations of your followers nurturing our appreciation of your special role in saving this world in its darkest hour.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your servants at ISKCON Durban, South Africa.



Edmonton

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are very fortunate and privileged to pay homage to a great personality, a great scholar and, most importantly, a most pure devotee such as yourself, who came into this material world as a special ambassador sent by the Supreme Lord Himself. Lord Kṛṣṇa has especially chosen you to deliver us from our mundane lives. You brought us the message of peace and goodwill from the outer world, and it resonated with many people all over the planet. In a short span of about ten years, you accomplished what nobody could have ever accomplished in many more years, and built a worldwide ISKCON family. Your glorious instructions remain forever. Although you have left this material world to go back to the Supreme Father, you live with us and guide us forever through your spiritual books.

Every day hundreds of thousands of babies are born on this planet. However, there can be nobody who can accomplish what you accomplished in such a short time. You are a unique personality. Today, many people are able to read *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and through your purports get Kṛṣṇa's message as He intended it to be heard. You mastered all the *Vedas*, the *Upaniṣads*, the *Vedānta-sūtra*, and other scriptures and shared all that knowledge with us in your wonderful purports. Your books are much more valuable than diamonds.

As the Supreme Lord says in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (7.3):

*manuṣyāṇāṁ sahasreṣu kaścid yatati siddhaye
yatatām api siddhānāṁ kaścin mām vetti tattvataḥ*

“Out of many thousands among men, one may endeavor for perfection, and of those who have achieved perfection, hardly one knows Me in truth.”

You are the rarest person, one who knows Kṛṣṇa in truth. You are that rarest soul, one who dedicated his entire life to the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa and uplifted many fallen souls like us all over this world by giving us transcendental loving devotion to Kṛṣṇa. You came to the Western world to propagate Kṛṣṇa consciousness, as ordered by your Guru Mahārāja, and you worked tirelessly to further Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission. You explained to us the glories of chanting the holy names and taught us how to come out of our materially contaminated mundane lives. You preached to us to focus on devotion to Kṛṣṇa. You took the holy names to every nook and corner of the world. You shared your love for Kṛṣṇa with everybody. Today, countless people are chanting the holy names of the Supreme Lord because of your mercy and magnificent efforts.

We are very fortunate and indebted to you forever because we are able to follow your teachings to become better human beings and devotees and to make our lives meaningful. We should all work to strengthen the movement you started and keep ISKCON forever and for everyone.

Jaya jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servants, the devotees of ISKCON Edmonton, Canada.

(written by Bāla Krishna Dāsa)

Gainesville

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you on this, your auspicious appearance day.

The Sādhū and the Skeptic

One day a certain aged *sādhū*,
armed with orders from his guru,
set out to fulfill his master's words:
“Now take this Kṛṣṇa consciousness
to English speakers in the West
and, from there, every corner of the world.”

He readily took up the task
of bringing this command to pass.
In time he came to publish a few books.
Though English there is spoken widely,
most in India denied him,
scarcely finding time to take a look.

And then a skeptic, very pleased
with all he knew of West and East,
encouraged the great *sādhū* to recant.
“If people here are not impressed,
then what of people in the West?”
“And yet,” the *sādhū* countered, “they can chant.”

“You’ve never sailed,” the skeptic claimed.
“If you go west, you’ll have to change
and give up wearing robes for wearing pants.
And once you reach a Western port
you’ll have to eat with knife and fork.”
“Not I,” replied the *sādhū*, “yet they’ll chant.”

“The people there,” the skeptic claimed,
“are really more or less insane.
Are you aware of how the hippies rant?
They smoke and drink and misbehave.
How can such lowly souls be saved?”
“No matter,” said the *sādhū*, “they can chant.”

“Their sense of truth,” the skeptic cried,
“is microscopic in its size.
Their past and current pious deeds are scant.
Their outlook is most negative.
How can they take what you can give?”
“No matter,” said the *sādhū*, “they can chant.”

“If you expect,” the skeptic roared,
 “such people to observe the four
 essential regulations, they just can’t.
 They’re sinful to their chromosomes.
 Most likely they’ll say, ‘Just go home.’”
 “No matter,” said the *sādhū*, “they can chant.”

“They’re carnivores, and sexually
 they have no sense of decency,
 as they sit idly by and smoke some plant.
 The gamble you propose to take
 is therefore just a huge mistake.”
 “They’ll change,” replied the *sādhū*, “when they chant.”

“Much better that you take your stand
 With people in our sacred land,
 for whom the Vedic culture is extant.”
 “In India,” the *sādhū* smiled,
 “so many mimic Western styles.
 They’ll follow when the Western people chant.”

His next point made the skeptic start.
 “Lord Kṛṣṇa lives within the heart
 Of every person, elephant, and ant.
 He is the friend of everyone,
 regardless of what they have done.
 To reach Him, all one needs to do is chant.

“Gosvāmī Rūpa has decreed,
 and done so quite emphatically,
 that preachers never need be hesitant.
 The Vedic rules and paradigms
 will manifest in course of time
 for one who thinks of Kṛṣṇa and just chants.”

“And finally,” the *sādhū* said,
 “My guru’s promise fills my head.
 He said, ‘Gaurāṅga’s movement will enchant.’
 By his command, those boys and girls
 and all the people of the world
 will gain Gaurāṅga’s blessings as they chant.”

The skeptic sneered and walked away.
 “It’s useless,” he was heard to say,
 “to teach the *Gītā* in a land of sin.
 One’s birth defines one’s purity
 and chance to reach divinity.”
 And no one ever heard from him again.

The *sādhū*, on the other hand,
sailed boldly to the Western lands,
and over time he managed to implant
the seeds of love of Godhead in
communities of lowly men
by somehow just inducing them to chant.

The *sādhū*'s legacy is such
that even now, the lowly, touched
by his ecstatic words and love of God,
can in this dark and dreadful age
attain the sacred Vaishnav stage
and cry out, “*Jaya Śrīla Prabhupād!*”

Your servants at ISKCON Gainesville (Krishna House), Gainesville, Florida, USA.

(written by Kalakanṭha dās)

Gītā-nāgarī

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā day, the 126th anniversary of your appearance in this world.

Here at Gītā-nāgarī we have the good fortune of daily marveling at the strength and perfection of your *mānasa-sevā* to your worshipable Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara. At the courtyard of Their famous temple in Vṛndāvana, you begged Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī daily for the potency to execute the order of your spiritual master to spread the holy name worldwide. By 1972, not only was your *saṅkīrtana* masterpiece in full swing, but you had actually invoked the presence of your Vṛndāvana *iṣṭa-devas*, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara, in the Western world.

The first Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava book distributors—Śrīnivāsa Ācārya, Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura, and Śyāmānanda Prabhu—are glorified for their perfection in *mānasa-sevā*. In particular, they would participate in *vṛndāvana-līlā* in their ontological forms, and show proof of this upon their return to the earthly plane—that is, in the case of Śrī Śrīnivāsa Ācārya his body was covered with Holi dyes, Śrī Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura's hands were burned from overboiled milk, and Śrī Śyāmānanda Prabhu had a tattoo on his chest.

In your case, not only did you show your artistic disciples how to open windows to the spiritual world; not only did you have Kṛṣṇa Himself dictate to you personally the *Kṛṣṇa* book, as you testified; not only did you receive a garland from Him during your League of Devotees *saṅkīrtana* venture in Jhansi, but you actually convinced Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara to help you spread tens of thousands of pieces of literature containing *kṛṣṇa-kathā* throughout North America. Their assistance then gave you sufficient financial resources to establish your three major temples in India—those in Māyāpur, Bombay, and Vṛndāvana—thus permanently establishing ISKCON as a branch of the Caitanya tree. Indeed, the glory of such a feat is spread throughout all the three worlds. As residents of this holy land of Śrī Dāmodara, Gītā-nāgarī, we

remain grateful for the opportunity to live a life like Kṛṣṇa's—a life centered on cows.

Fifty years later, following your introduction of Rādhā-Dāmodara to America, your vision for producing ahimsa milk that is also planet-friendly through maintenance of a forest is still manifest. Several temples have been added as weekly milk subscribers, and the demand for this liquid dharma still significantly exceeds what we can produce and supply. The growing of vegetables for the devotees continues, and last fall we had our first harvest of wheat. The farm-to-city connection you enunciated in your 1956 “Gītā-nāgarī Prophecy” essay continues to grow, particularly through the farm's various student volunteer programs, with some of those university students taking a keen interest in the primary processes of *bhakti-yoga*, hearing and chanting the *mahā-mantra*.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we remain in awe of your mercy potency in manifesting such rare spiritual opulences in this world of Kali—the in-person vision of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara, the production of purified *bhoga* for offering into the *saṅkīrtana-yajña*, and the hearts of the American youth, who were your primary assistants in establishing a multinational organization for spreading the Supreme Gardener's fruits of love of God—Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *prema*-mangoes—to everyone. On this blessed day of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, we humbly resubmit our heads to your lotus feet in order to help us tax our brains to create a wider interest in Kṛṣṇa conscious agriculture, both among the youth of practicing devotees and seekers of the Absolute Cowherd Boy. As Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara continue to personally assist you in your earthly preaching mission, now in its second half, kindly grant us the intelligence to know how we can be instruments of your particular reciprocation with Them in your ongoing loving exchanges.

Your servants at the Gītā-nāgarī farm community, Pennsylvania, USA.

(written by Aghāri Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

Glastonbury

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

Today we are celebrating your 126th appearance anniversary. Your Vyāsa-pūjā day gives us another opportunity to meditate on your spiritual and deeply sublime character. As we meditate on your life and teachings, we can't help but contemplate your inspiring life journey. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your life story is so inspiring, adventurous, and miraculous. It is said that sometimes facts are stranger than fiction, and your life is a shining testament to this statement. Your life story is incredible, almost unbelievable, yet true.

You started for America at the advanced age of sixty-nine aboard a cargo ship, alone and practically penniless. Your mission was spiritual service to your spiritual master, and there was no sense of any

personal gain on your part. This was not mundane service but the highest service possible—that of uplifting souls to a higher consciousness, spiritual consciousness, Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Śrīla Prabhupāda, the magnitude of austerity you took on to fulfill your mission is incomprehensible. You were elderly, alone, practically penniless, in weak health, and traveling to an alien land, and you survived two heart attacks on the way, but you remained resolute in your purpose.

You wrote more than seventy books, and many of your literary works became international spiritual bestsellers. Millions and millions of copies of your books are still being distributed around the globe. You wanted to cover the earth with spiritual literature, which in fact you did. Your books have established simple yet powerful principles and practices for spiritual enrichment around the world. This is just the tip of the iceberg of the magnitude of your spiritual, selfless achievements.

You circumnavigated the globe fourteen times at a very advanced age. During your trips you inspired thousands, maybe millions, to live lives of devotion. In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.12.33, you write: “Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura used to say, ‘If I could perfectly deliver even one soul back home, back to Godhead, I would think my mission—propagating Kṛṣṇa consciousness—to be successful.’”

Through you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta’s desire, which is Kṛṣṇa’s desire, is being fulfilled. Your transcendental books continue to touch and change the lives of multitudes of fortunate souls.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your pure spiritual potency and purity, you picked up the hippies, who were considered outcasts in Western society, and transformed them into happies—emissaries of the holy name who became messengers of the highest caliber. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said that *impossible* is a word in a fool’s dictionary. You made “impossible” not simply “possible” but also easy and repeatable, and your teachings still have the same effect today.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we can go on writing about your glories for days and they will still not be exhausted, so suffice it to say that no words can truly describe all the wonderful things you did out of your compassion for souls like us. Your mercy and compassion continue to be experienced through your books and your followers.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, last year we had the grand opening of our new temple, and our Deities moved in. This has helped us expand our outreach. We observe more people walking into our temple since we moved. Last year’s Ratha-yātrā festival was quite successful, and we plan on improving it even more this year. Our book distribution last year also went very well, and we distributed more books than we did the previous year. We planned to distribute seventy-five *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets as part of the Bhadrā-pūrṇimā campaign, and we are happy to mention that we surpassed our goal, by your blessings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to you and to Kṛṣṇa that you may please continue to bestow your mercy on us so that we can serve your mission faithfully. We pray that you may please make us instruments so we may continue to fulfill your desire of spreading Kṛṣṇa’s glories throughout the world.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servants at ISKCON Glastonbury, Connecticut, USA.

(written by Gaṇapati Govinda Dāsa)

Hong Kong SAR

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. All glories to you. All glories to the Vaiṣṇava devotees.

Hong Kong is an international metropolitan city and a place where Chinese and Western cultures blend. It is considered one of the safest, wealthiest, most prosperous, and high-level cities in the world. Therefore it is a paradise in the hearts of many people and a place they go to in order to pursue their desires. However, people here are full of ignorance and passion and are filled with desires for material sense pleasures. People live in their own dreams and think they are very happy. But when death approaches, they finally realize that they possess nothing. They have no choice but to repeat the cycle of birth, disease, old age, and death in this material world. Their lives are thus wasted in the repeated cycles of birth and death.

You came to give us hope because you are full of unlimited compassion for all beings. You sent, and continue to send, the unlimited mercy of Lord Nityānanda and Lord Gaurāṅga. You brought us transcendental knowledge, gave us a clear and beautiful explanation of *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, which is full of the nectar of the love of Lord Caitanya. You gave us the holy places Śrī Māyāpur, Vṛndāvana, and Jagannātha Purī. You gave us the opportunity to awaken our conditioned souls and learn to practice *bhakti-yoga* for self-realization so that we can achieve the highest and most perfect goal of life, pure love for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and His eternal consort, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī.

The world is devoid of love because of our ignorance of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Under the influence of the three modes of material nature we are constantly reincarnating in the material world, repeatedly suffering the pains of birth, old age, disease, and death. You gave us transcendental knowledge, opened our eyes to the process of self-realization, and engaged us in devotional service. This gives real meaning to our lives. In this way, we can transcend the material world and return to the spiritual world, which is full of eternity, knowledge, and bliss.

Over the last two years, the COVID pandemic has killed millions of people around the world, and many cities were in various degrees of lockdown. As a result, people feel that the world has entered an era of extreme danger from endless calamities, including forest fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, snowstorms, earthquakes, locusts, famines, plagues, global warming, and wars. Darkness is rising and engulfing the whole world. Hong Kong is no exception.

We thus pray to you to give us the wisdom and strength to better share Lord Kṛṣṇa's teachings and mercy with the people of Hong Kong. Please continue to bestow your mercy on all fallen souls so that more of them will realize the priceless treasure of knowledge you taught.

We humbly bow down at your lotus feet and offer our obeisances to Your Divine Grace.

Here is a poem, translated from the Chinese:

Prosperous and passionate is the city of Hong Kong,
Where many, yearning for a heavenly life that's long,
Indulge in varieties of sense gratification and pleasure,
Living as though in a dream without measure.

When one's in a state of *naiveté* and ignorance,
Only death reveals what is void and what is important.
We repeat life after life in the cycle of *samsāra*
And waste each opportunity as if it were just a dream.

You have compassion toward all living beings,
With unlimited mercy showering the world.
Ignorance is driven away by transcendental knowledge,
and only *saṅkīrtana* is able to awaken all souls.

Self-realization is the path of *yoga* to achieve *bhakti*.
No matter how much time passes, your glory lives on forever.

Your unworthy servants at ISKCON Hong Kong SAR.

(written by Suchandra Dāsa)

ISKCON Manitoba

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this 126th anniversary of your appearance, we offer this homage to you on behalf of your disciples, granddisciples, and not-yet-initiated followers of ISKCON Manitoba.

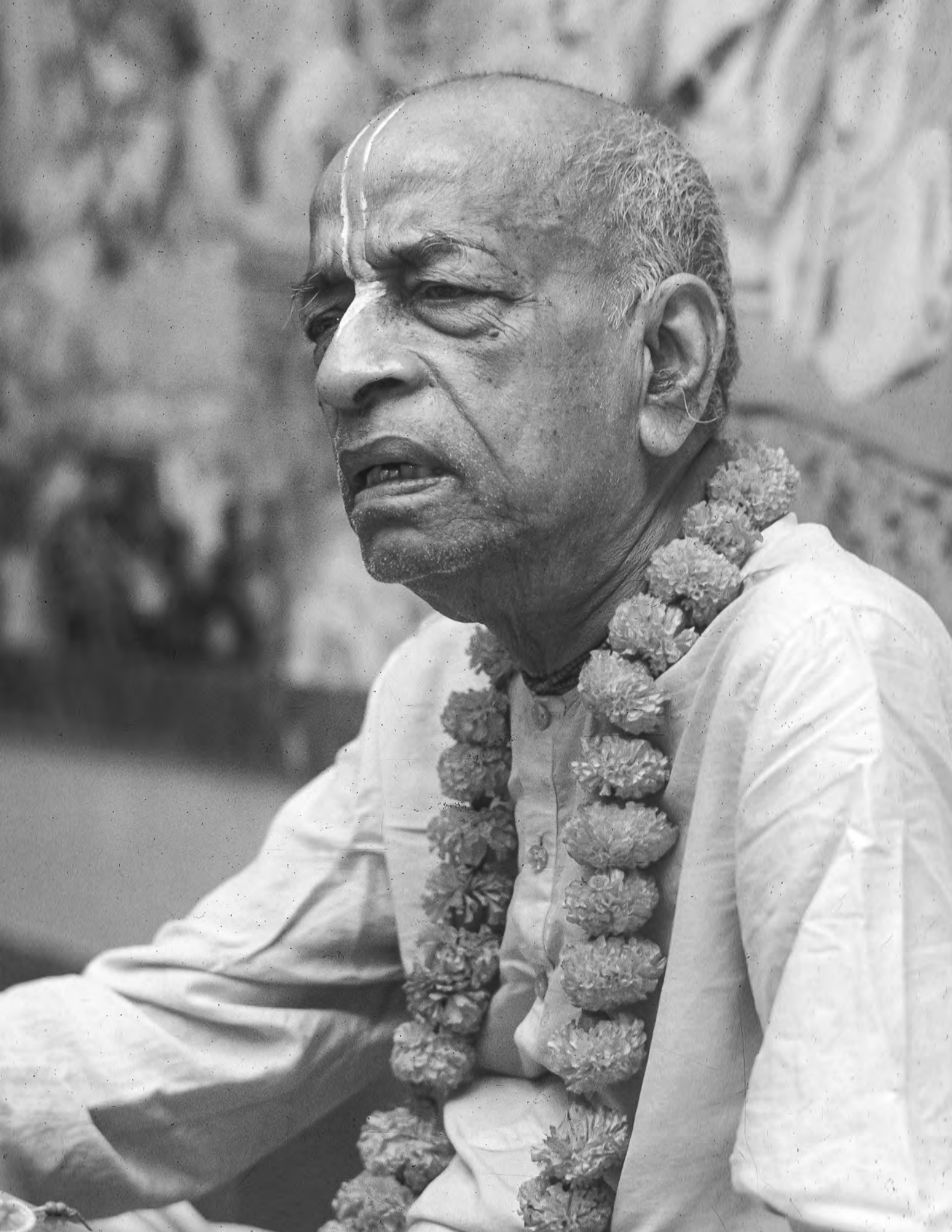
We are unqualified to glorify your qualities, which are unlimited and supremely pure. We are most fallen yet at the same time most fortunate to be part of your body, ISKCON, the house you built where everyone can live in peace and harmony.

In November 2021 we went to Vṛndāvana and met Gopāl Krishna Goswami (Guru Mahārāja), and humbly requested him to give us permission to stay in Vṛndāvana and serve there. He was a little surprised at our words and responded, “Śrīla Prabhupāda left Vṛndāvana for the West to preach the message of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and you want to leave the West to stay in Vṛndāvana.” He mentioned that if we really want to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we must stay here and preach.

In Winnipeg, Manitoba, the winters are very harsh most of the time and our Indian bodies are not used to this kind of cold. It’s very hard for us to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Winnipeg, Canada. Our Guru Mahārāja very softly told us of your pastimes: “Prabhupāda was in Hawaii, speaking with one devotee about his upcoming trip to Moscow. This was in the early ’70s. And that devotee said, ‘Prabhupāda, don’t go to Russia now. It’s snowing in Moscow. You should stay here and rest in Hawaii and enjoy the mangoes.’” Then Prabhupāda famously said, ‘Preaching in the snows of Moscow is sweeter than the sweetest mango.’”

Our Guru Mahārāja blessed us with the knowledge that preaching in the West is more pleasing to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, than staying in Vṛndāvana. This same message we share with our members, and everyone feels inspired by your words, Prabhupāda. Not only your words, but also your actions, which are always aligned with your words. On this, your Vyāsa-pūjā day, we bow down at your lotus feet and beg for your mercy and spiritual strength so that we can perform our *sādhana* sincerely, and so that we can taste the nectar of the holy name and develop eagerness to read the books for which you gave up your sleep. Kindly pull us out of ignorance. Please make us your humble servants in your divine mission.

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



this lesson of cooperation. Thank you for engaging us in the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

Your fallen servants, ISKCON's congregation in Manitoba, Canada.

(written by Viśvambhara Kṛpā Dāsa)

Krishna's Castle

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your wonderful lotus feet. All glories to you, our divine master.

As we reflect on the last two years, when the planet practically closed down as a result of the extraordinary events related to the pandemic, we realize that we've actually experienced some very transcendental moments. As temple doors closed, we at Krishna's Castle found ourselves literally up to our necks in service and wonderful opportunities to spread your mission.

Vegetables and grains came flooding in from food businesses that were no longer able to function. Volunteers came from all walks of life in a mood of camaraderie and with a desire to help the less fortunate. Famous musicians generously contributed eighty percent of our funds. Krishna's Castle became a hub of kindness and love, with an amazing atmosphere of giving freely.

The spiritual energy that was created caused an avalanche of positive publicity for your movement, culminating in Food for All receiving the highest award in this country for voluntary groups: the Queens Award for Volunteering. This is the equivalent of an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you earned this award, not us. This magic happened only because of *you*. And if we *do* manage to talk to the queen when we attend the garden party at Buckingham Palace, that is exactly what we will tell her. All our hard work happened because of *you* and the immense sacrifice you made to take Kṛṣṇa consciousness out of India. You are the inspiration behind everything.

The pandemic effect wasn't just restricted to *prasādam*, either. Our team managed to distribute an amazing 180,000 books—way beyond our expectations. So all things considered, this awful pandemic gave us a great opportunity to preach, as people reevaluated their lifestyles and expectations on a planet thrown into turmoil.

Now, since we began this offering, we find a new disaster hitting the planet: Russia has invaded its neighbor, Ukraine, bringing with it a serious threat of nuclear war. The world holds its breath as it waits to see what will happen next. So, grabbing this opportunity to distribute *prasādam*, chant the holy name, and spread your glories, we are leaving for Ukraine with a sizable team.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us this matchless gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the opportunities to share it.

Your servants at Food For All, Krishna's Castle, City of London, United Kingdom.

(written by Paraśurāma Dāsa and Mokṣa Lakṣmī Devī Dāśī)

London

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrate obeisances again and again at your lotus feet. All glories to you for being the torchbearer of transcendental knowledge who came to rescue the conditioned souls from the darkest realms of ignorance around the world, and especially here in the West.

We are like particles of dust at your lotus feet, and we humbly beg you to allow us to serve in this position as you traverse the universe in your mission to deliver the fallen. Let us always remember that the temples and preaching centers we inhabit and the books we distribute are all but manifestations of your mercy. We therefore present everything we do at your lotus feet on this momentous occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

This past year has been an invigorating year, with many fresh projects inaugurated for your pleasure, with the intention of serving the preaching vision of you and your Guru Mahārāja. We cherish the memory of that first meeting between you and our great-grand-spiritual-master, where the instruction to preach to the Western world took place. Later, during the Rādhā-kunḍa *parikramā*, he further instructed that such preaching should be done via the medium of printing and distributing books. How great is the transcendental vision of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja Prabhupāda to see during your first meeting that Kṛṣṇa consciousness would first need to be exported abroad before it could take over the world! How great is your resolve for taking this seed of *bhakti*, meditating on it, and planting it in everyone's hearts in the form of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, preaching programs, and 108 temples worldwide!

Books are the basis. As pointed out in your purports, every revolutionary movement begins with books as its foundation. When you traveled to America on the *Jaladuta*, the only things you carried with you were forty rupees, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and your unconquerable spirit. Your firm conviction that books can change the hearts of people, combined with your determination to reawaken the people's innate spiritual knowledge, is unprecedented. Therefore following in your footsteps, last year we distributed 46,000 books, 142 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets, and 34 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets. A large portion of these distributed books were *mahā-big*, such as the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.1 and *Bhagavad-gītā*, of which over 2,000 were distributed during your December marathon, smashing the goal we had set. It is a humble offering, but we look to increase this figure year after year for the next five years by 20 percent. Please help us, if you so desire, to bring these transcendental literatures to every corner of the United Kingdom and beyond so that the people who live here may take the association of your Bhaktivedanta purports and attain perfection.

During your time in New York, not only did you entice people through your *harināmas* in Tompkins Square Park, but you gave them a place in the Bowery loft to come together, take *prasādam*, and associate. Matchless Gifts shortly followed. Both were places where the principles of *bhakti* were strictly practiced, but in a way that was palatable to the cohort of disillusioned young Americans of that time. We are so fortunate to have your example. Therefore we humbly offer to you our efforts at Studio108, a bridge preaching program closely following the structure of your successful programs in America. Those who come to the Studio108 programs in Soho face different material problems, but the same lack of spiritual association and instruction persists. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the friend to all and the most compassionate guru, and we pray that we can imbibe your mood in our preaching and string a garland of *jīvas* to hang around the lotus neck of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara, whom you “stole” for our benefit.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, our great *mahājana*, father, teacher, and life and soul. There really is no way for us to repay you for the example you have set for us. We seek only to follow and not imitate your wonderful activities. Again and again we pray that in your mood we may carry out the essence of your movement, which is to preach.

Your humble servants at ISKCON London, UK.

London (South)

We offer our *daṇḍavat-praṇāmas* at your lotus feet, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please accept our sincere, humble obeisances. All glories to you, to our previous *ācāryas*, and to the fearless servants spreading the mission of Lord Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in 2021 we celebrated the 125th anniversary of your holy appearance. We at ISKCON South London were inspired to do something special and to “think big,” as you always encouraged us to do. Thanks to the mercy of our Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and the sweet cooperation of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī’s devotees, we were able to engage ourselves in many services. With your *mandira* still not fully open, COVID-19 gave us the incentive to increase our outreach and take Kṛṣṇa’s name out onto the streets and into people’s homes. Below are some of our activities in 2021, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we dedicate to your lotus feet:

- Friday evening *sat-saṅga* (online), held each week up until the month of Kārttika (Dāmodara).
- During Kārttika, at least one home *sat-saṅga* per night—last year, 42 homes blessed, 996 lamps offered, 159 books distributed, including 129 *Kṛṣṇa* books.
- Two online mentorship groups established.
- 11 devotees completed their Bhakti-śāstrī training (online).
- Weekly study group (online).
- Daily morning *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* reading (online).
- Ratha-yātrā festival in Croydon town center.
- Food-for-Life program—distributed 1,752 packages of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*.
- Weekly children’s *saṅga* (online).
- Weekly youth *saṅga* (online).

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to highlight three particular successes that we hope you will be pleased with:

Kirtana 125: We embarked on offering 125 hours of *kīrtana* for your 125th anniversary year. Our offering was entitled “Kirtan 125 – Keeping the Spirit Alive.” The project was inaugurated (online) on Gaura-Pūrṇimā by your dear disciple His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, ISKCON’s minister for *kīrtana*. Over the past year we engaged over 115 *kīrtanīyās*, including eight of your disciples, some of them senior *sannyāsīs*, and relished 136 hours of *kīrtana*. As you would have liked, we sought the cooperation of many ISKCON devotees, and we can report that we were supported by nine ISKCON *yātrās* in the UK and ISKCON devotees from ten countries, including some from as far away as the USA, Israel, Croatia, UAE, India, Russia, and Hungary.

Initiations: Three couples from our congregation had the special mercy of receiving *dīkṣā* (first initiation) and formally joined your intimate spiritual family. They are Vṛndāvana-dhāma Dāsa and Satyabhāmā Devī Dāsī; Vṛndāvana-nātha Dāsa and Ānanda Vṛndāvana Devī Dāsī; and Santoṣa Dāsa and Mālātī-mālā Devī Dāsī. They have been connected to you through your special ambassadors His Holiness Candramauli Swami and His Holiness Śivarāma Swami. These couples are all doing wonderful service in taking our *yātrā* forward, and we know you would be proud of their commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication to spreading Lord Caitanya’s mission.

Book Marathon: You told us that giving Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa to others in the form of your books is one of the most important services any devotee can do. Śrīla Prabhupāda, our small congregation tried very sincerely again this year. With your blessings, our ISKCON South London temple distributed or obtained sponsorship for 4,453 BBT books. This number included over 3,000 copies of your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. We raised £16,751 to purchase and distribute more books. Most encouraging for us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that our small temple came in fourth in the UK book marathon, behind ISKCON London and the mighty

Manor! There was only one thing that drove us to remain motivated and determined to push ourselves more, and that was your immortal words: “If you want to please me, distribute my books!”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we know that we have many, many shortcomings and are very slow in our progress in spreading your movement. However, please don’t give up on us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Believe that we sincerely do wish to please you. We are taking guidance from your senior leaders, such as His Grace Pragoṣa Dāsa and His Grace Jai Nitāi Dāsa, and trying to turn this ship around. We can see clear waters ahead.

For 2022 some of our aspirations include to:

- open the temple three times a week
- increase our outreach, particularly to the non-Indian community
- embed devotee care into everything we do
- build on the strengths of our engagement with children and young people
- have a full-time *pūjārī*
- increase the number of initiated disciples serving within our congregation
- have regular *harināmas* and *saṅkīrtana*
- rebuild the temple!

Our ambitions may seem modest compared to those of many of your other centers, but we really are trying to build a strong foundation this time around, basing our aspirations and activities on your teachings and putting our own egos and ulterior motives aside. Forgive us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for our baby steps, and hold our hand as the loving father you are, so we can stand up strong and make you proud.

Yes, we seem to be struggling sometimes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, but we take great comfort and strength in the words of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (2.40):

nehābhikrama-nāśo ’sti pratyavāyo na vidyate
sv-alpam apy asya dharmasya trāyate mahato bhayāt

“In this endeavor there is no loss or diminution, and a little advancement on this path can protect one from the most fearful type of danger.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept our small endeavors and continue to guide us by sending your servants to pick us up and protect us. We need your protection. We beg for your protection.

Your fallen but ever-hopeful servants at ISKCON South London, UK.

Maple

*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,

As we mark another year of your appearance,
We sincerely reflect on how you facilitated our deliverance.

You could have stayed in the land of Vṛndāvana,
Absorbing the mood of the Six Gosvāmīs, including Jīva, Rūpa, and Sanātana.

But out of an abundance of mercy and with your spiritual master's instruction,
You made a plan to come to the West and embarked on a journey across the ocean.

Depending on the Lord, you arrived on the shores of Boston,
Carrying with you the most important cause and the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

You came to execute Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī's vision;
To preach in English to people in the West was the mission.

You were destined to fulfill Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura's prediction
That a personality would appear who would flood the world with self-realization.

Without having any resources or knowing anyone, you boldly carried on;
Despite the situation and environment, you rose above like a swan.

You exhibited amazing courage and perseverance in the face of difficulty,
Yet with every success you would express so much humility.

Writing, instructing, teaching, and preaching, you would never waste a moment;
Of Lord Caitanya's message you were the ultimate proponent.

Due to your determination and purity, suddenly a miracle unfolded:
To the *bhakti* movement, disillusioned young men and women became attracted.

People would come in droves, hankering for answers;
You would give them a higher purpose to avoid a life of disasters.

To slay Māyā's trap you fought back with *harināma-saṅkīrtana*;
Kṛṣṇa's words in the *Bhagavad-gītā* were your ultimate weapon.

You made Kṛṣṇa consciousness so very attractive that it was hard to resist;

Indeed, you easily convinced us that from our old karmic ways we must desist.

You attracted everyone with *kīrtana*, dancing, the beautiful Lord, and *prasādam*,
Your magic bullets being cookies and, of course, many a *gulābjāmun*.

The explosion of Kṛṣṇa consciousness was a sight to behold,
With hundreds of temples, restaurants, and communities across the globe.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your books you gave us everything we require,
Repeatedly emphasizing that this knowledge can get us out of Māyā's quagmire.

You led by example—your actions and words were always exemplary;
You would always deal with devotees with compassion and empathy.

Showering your blessings, appreciation, and mercy,
You would create immense feelings of love and harmony.

Correcting any notions that we had previously perceived,
You wanted to make us strong in *sādhana* and philosophy so we could never misconceive.

You pulled us out of the depths of despair
And made us understand that it's the goal of life about which we should care.

Festivities, association, opulent Deity worship, and the dramatic—
You depicted how everything in devotional service can be ecstatic.

You have done the ultimate to save mankind;
Now on practically every continent so many are spiritually inclined.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you kindly awakened us and made us see
That without you and Lord Kṛṣṇa our lives would be empty.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the epitome of a genuine pure guru;
How fortunate we are to be under your shelter and connected with you!

We will never stop worshiping you from our hearts with reverence;
Please allow us to serve you and Lord Kṛṣṇa in any and every circumstance.

Please continue to keep us at your lotus feet;
Only with you can our lives be complete.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

The humble, faithful servants of you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara in Maple, Canada.

(written by Mīnākṣī Devī Dāsī)

Miami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

As we read the pages of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which you so mercifully gifted to the world, we read many histories of personalities who exhibited the exalted qualities of pure devotees of the Lord. A Vaiṣṇava always considers himself small and insignificant and never boasts about his true spiritual qualities. Nonetheless, we see clearly in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*'s descriptions and your purports speaking about such devotees that you also possess these qualities. Below, we would like to present the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*'s descriptions of a few of those exalted souls along with how their extraordinary qualities can easily be seen in your person.

Prahlāda Mahārāja: In the Seventh Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Chapter Ten, text three, after Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva offered Prahlāda Mahārāja any benediction he might desire, Prahlāda Mahārāja replied, “O my worshipable Lord, because the seed of lusty desires, which is the root cause of material existence, is within the core of everyone’s heart, You have sent me to this material world to exhibit the symptoms of a pure devotee.”

You explained in your purport that the Lord knew that Prahlāda Mahārāja was not interested in any kind of material enjoyment, but He offered Prahlāda Mahārāja a material benediction just to induce him to further display his true nature as a pure devotee of the Lord. Prahlāda Mahārāja had already exhibited such a nature by fearlessly preaching to his materialistic classmates, despite retribution from his teachers and his atheistic father, Hiraṇyakaśipu. Even when his father attempted to kill him, Prahlāda Mahārāja never lost even a fragment of his faith in the Lord.

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you fearlessly preached to the materialistic people about the glories of devotional service. You were the *senāpati-bhakta* predicted first by Lord Caitanya, then later by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura. You overcame many obstacles in the course of preaching, like repeated heart attacks while on the *Jaladuta* coming to America and innumerable difficulties and challenges throughout the course of preaching. In spite of those difficulties, you never for a moment lost faith in Lord Kṛṣṇa or became the least bit overwhelmed by having many followers or much wealth as ISKCON expanded. You always preached that we should become pure Vaiṣṇavas, and you demonstrated the process by your own personal example.

Bhīṣmadeva: We learn from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Canto One, Chapter Nine, how Bhīṣmadeva, even while lying on the bed of arrows that had pierced his body during the Battle of Kurukṣetra, was so detached from the bodily concept that even in that condition he expertly encouraged the disheartened Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira to accept his rightful responsibility as the new emperor. Bhīṣmadeva then instructed those present in religious principles and the duties of the four *varṇas* and *āśramas*. Even in a condition of life that would be unbearable for any ordinary person, he gave many perfect instructions. Finally, when he so desired, with his mind fully fixed on the form of the Lord, he quit his material body and returned home, back to Godhead.

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, especially during the last several months of your life, with your body extremely emaciated and in a most difficult condition that would be intolerable for any ordinary person, you remained in sound mind and intelligence and continued to perfectly dictate your Bhaktivedanta purports for the Tenth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. You also encouraged your disciples to continue the *paramparā* in your absence, and overall, you showed by your personal example how we must each try to remain fixed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness when eventually we too approach death. You dedicated your life to teaching the world how to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness during our lives and to continue doing so through the final test—death. The extraordinary behavior you manifested was possible only because you are a pure devotee of the Lord.

Śukadeva Gosvāmī: Śrīla Śukadeva Gosvāmī was best known for wonderfully presenting the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* so sweetly and in poetic language. In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.3, you write, “In Sanskrit the parrot is also known as *śuka*. When a ripened fruit is cut by the red beaks of such birds, its sweet flavor is enhanced. The Vedic fruit which is mature and ripe in knowledge is spoken through the lips of Śrīla Śukadeva Gosvāmī, who is compared to the parrot not for his ability to recite the *Bhāgavatam* exactly as he heard it from his learned father, but for his ability to present the work in a manner that would appeal to all classes of men.”

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have taken the sweet verses of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, spoken by Śrīla Śukadeva Gosvāmī, and made them even more relishable by presenting them through your English translations and explaining them in your elaborate Bhaktivedanta purports. Your ability to do this is not based on any material scholarship, but rather on your intense love for Lord Kṛṣṇa, which is the ultimate conclusion of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Only a pure devotee can write such transcendental literature, and to write it in a way relishable to, and practical for, all kinds of men, and with full purity of message, is no ordinary feat.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the few examples above of great Vaiṣṇavas and their qualities offer an insignificant sampling of the Vaiṣṇavas with which the world has been graced. Although you never presented yourself as an extraordinary devotee of the Lord, and you preferred instead to concentrate on glorifying the Lord and His devotees, it is easy to see that the Vaiṣṇava qualities that many of them displayed are also possessed by you. In fact, it is because you have such pure qualities that you can recognize and appreciate, and thus so nicely glorify, those qualities in the personalities in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, and *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu*. It is also the reason you could see the potential for us conditioned souls of Kali-yuga to develop these qualities by following the path given by Lord Caitanya. Please continue to guide us at ISKCON Miami so that we may gradually become Kṛṣṇa conscious and dutifully guide others to also take up this path.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Miami, Florida, USA.

Monterrey

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

On this very special day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we have so much to thank you for. Here in Monterrey we are trying to carry the message of Lord Caitanya and your teachings with all our hearts to make this world a Kṛṣṇa conscious place and so that peace and love can flood the entire world. It is all thanks to your power and energy, which encourage and keep us enthusiastic in Kṛṣṇa consciousness—which keep us engaged in devotional service.



Through our spiritual masters and your books, videos, and instructions, you manifest yourself to us, and an immense love for you sprouts within us, making us feel inspired to follow you in your mission with all our hearts and with no interest other than to be useful to your mission. Although we never met you in person, your instructions are a precious treasure to us and live in our hearts.

You inspire us every day to perform devotional service and to overcome any difficulty that comes in the way of devotional service, no matter how big or small that difficulty may be.

We are infinitely grateful to you because, thanks to you, we have had the good fortune to find a bona fide spiritual master, were able to meet devotee friends, and have been able to read your books, which are the most precious things we have in our lives because you are with us always through your instructions. You taught us the importance of devotional service and how to serve everyone through *bhakti*.

Here in Monterrey, we try to do our best so that the preaching continues; we work hard to attract more people so that they can spark their own love for Kṛṣṇa. Also, we keep going with the Food-for-Life program and the distribution of your books. You really are a great inspiration to all of us.

You are always in our hearts, and we will do our best to continue this great mission. We thank you very much for everything, dear spiritual grandfather, Śrīla Prabhupāda! We love you very much and will be grateful to you for all eternity.

Your servants at ISKCON Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico.

(written by Draupadī Devī Dāsī)

Montreal

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Exactly one hundred years ago you met your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, for the first time, and he instructed you to carry the beautiful message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu throughout the world. Although you were a *grhastha* then, you took his instruction to heart. While you were in Allahabad you always helped your Guru Mahārāja's mission, the Gauḍīya Maṭha, financially, and you regularly invited devotees to your home for *kīrtana* and *prasādam*.

Everyone at the Gauḍīya Maṭha loved you. Very soon you found a new friend, Dr. O. B. L. Kapoor, who later became your godbrother. Since you were a chemist and sold medicines, and you had your own pharmaceutical shop, one day Dr. Kapoor asked if you could give him the tonic you were secretly using by which you spoke such wonderful *hari-kathā* and sang such melodious *kīrtana*—the tonic of *kṛṣṇa-prema*. You simply smiled and replied that you were working on it and had not yet been able to procure it. Later, you said that although you were not able to manufacture that tonic, you knew its formula:

*tṛṇād api sunīcena taror api sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ*

You told him that by using this formula, someday you would preach it all over the world. This indicated that you kept your Guru Mahārāja's instruction in your heart from the very beginning.

You started publishing *Back to Godhead* magazine, working from your small room at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple in Vṛndāvana and also from a room in Delhi. You personally distributed the magazines in the streets of both Delhi and Vṛndāvana. Your compassion for the fallen conditioned souls and your ardent desire to spread the message of the Lord impelled you to go out into the street even in the scorching Delhi summer heat.

You visited the temple in Śāntipura at Śrī Advaita Ācārya's house just before you embarked on your voyage to the West. You told the *pūjārī* there that you were coming to get the blessings of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda Prabhu, and Advaita Ācārya Prabhu, who used to gather there to make plans for the *saṅkīrtana* movement. Your Guru Mahārāja had given you an impossible mission: to spread the sublime teachings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in the West. Although Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura had already sent some of his scholarly disciples to England, they had had to return without much success. By Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy, you got free passage on a cargo ship bound for America. While on the ship you survived two heart attacks.

When you arrived in Boston on September 17, 1965, feeling great compassion for the conditioned souls, you composed a historic prayer in Bengali. That wonderful poem clearly illustrates your humility and total dependence on the Supreme Lord's mercy:

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

*bhakti nāi beda nāi nāme khub daro
“bhaktivedānta” nām ebe sārthak kor*

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. I have no devotion, nor do I have any knowledge, but I have strong faith in the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. I have been designated as Bhaktivedanta, and now if You like, You can fulfill the real purport of Bhaktivedanta.

Your unflinching faith in your Guru Mahārāja and in Lord Kṛṣṇa's holy name made you successful in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world. The head of one Vaiṣṇava *sampradāya* told the devotees that many of the previous *ācāryas*, such as Rāmānujācārya, Madhvācārya, Mādhavendra Purī, and others, were responsible for spreading Vaiṣṇavism throughout India, but for the first time, Lord Kṛṣṇa's teachings and His holy name were spread beyond the borders of India throughout the world—an accomplishment that will always be remembered in history. How you spread the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in such a short time is itself a miracle. You traveled around the world fourteen times in as eleven years, opened more than one hundred centers, initiated more than five thousand disciples, and met scientists, academics, and religionists with only one desire: to demonstrate how to become free from the real problems of life, namely birth, old age, disease, and death, and go back to our original home, the abode of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

We find a prediction in the *Brahma-vaivarta Purāṇa* (4.129, 49–59), where Lord Kṛṣṇa tells Goddess Gaṅgā that He will send His *mantra-upāsaka* to spread the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa and purify earth, water, sky, and humanity everywhere. “This period of worldwide chanting will continue for 10,000 years.”

In this material world we are all tormented by constant stress, fear, and other forms of suffering caused by forgetting our eternal relationship with the Lord. You were chosen by Caitanya Mahāprabhu to revive our true consciousness and bring us back to Godhead. It is said in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Antya 7.11): *kali-kālera dharma—kṛṣṇa-nāma-saṅkīrtana / kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana*: “The religious system in the Age of Kali is the chanting of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa. Without being empowered by Kṛṣṇa, one cannot propagate the *saṅkīrtana* movement.” Without compromise you established the fact that God is a person, that He is known as Kṛṣṇa, the original form of the Personality of Godhead, and that He has

an eternal form composed of all-perfect knowledge and all-perfect bliss. You were successful in carrying out the desire of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Ṭhākura by spreading the transcendental message of the Lord and fulfilling the prediction of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that His name would spread to every town and village of the world. By your blessings, so many of your disciples and granddisciples have dedicated their lives to carrying out your mission.

We were all in a dark well of ignorance, not knowing the real purpose of life and struggling hard to become happy. You came and rescued us by speaking the truth with compassion and with no ulterior motive. You were uncompromising in telling us the truth about how we can purify ourselves by following the four regulative principles—no meat-eating, no intoxication, no illicit sex, and no gambling—and chanting at least sixteen rounds a day.

Although physically you may not be present, you are always with us in the form of your books and instructions.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day of your appearance, we beg that you please continue to guide us, by your mercy, so we can follow in your footsteps and become able to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone we meet.

Your humble servants at the ISKCON temple in Montreal, Canada.

(written by Samir Roy Choudhury)

Mumbai (Chowpatty)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On behalf of all the devotees of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha temple, ISKCON Chowpatty, Mumbai, I have been requested to prepare our offering for this year's Vyāsa-pūjā book.

The *Mahābhārata* contains an excellent exchange of questions and answers between an invisible Yakṣa (who was really Yamarāja) and Yudhiṣṭhira Mahārāja. The last and most important question the Yakṣa asks is “What is the greatest wonder of the world?” Yudhiṣṭhira Mahārāja replies, “Every day men see all kinds of creatures departing for Yama’s abode, and yet those who remain seek to live forever. This verily is the greatest wonder.” Yet the *Mahābhārata*, though it contains the *Bhagavad-gītā*, does not really supply a practical solution for all mankind in the present age. It is only in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* that the detailed method of deliverance is explained. However, it was only you who could, on the strength of your guru’s blessings and instructions, really demonstrate this method of deliverance, by which all mankind, for all time to come, could solve the most difficult problem, i.e., repeated birth, old age, disease, and death.

You demonstrated the solution to this grave problem and established this wonderful society, ISKCON, to propagate the teachings of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* and the practical, blissful, and sublime method of joyously chanting the *mahā-mantra*—Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare—both on beads (a minimum of sixteen rounds per day) and congregationally, anywhere, everywhere, and anytime. In this way you taught the ultimate solution to the most fundamental problem of everyone. Thus you freely distributed transcendental

knowledge, love of God, *prasādam*, practical advice on simple living and high thinking, and the method of preaching. When devotees follow your example and teachings, Lord Kṛṣṇa recognizes these preachers and arranges for their further progress back to Godhead. We are all eternally very, very grateful to you for having so painstakingly helped millions of men and women all over the world, in over six hundred centers in over one hundred countries. May we serve you eternally by helping you successfully implement your transcendental program.

Your servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha temple, ISKCON Chowpatty, Mumbai.

Mumbai (Juhu)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The most auspicious occasion of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī 2021 was celebrated during COVID restrictions. Most donors who sponsored a *kalaśa* for the *mahā-abhiśeka* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī visited the temple, took *darśana*, performed *abhiśeka*, which was scheduled throughout the day in different time slots, and carried home take-away *prasādam*. There was also a virtual *kalaśa-abhiśeka* online for those donors who could not visit the temple. All donors were very happy and inspired to have participated in the Janmāṣṭamī celebrations.

In your vision to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you desired to have several temples in big cities like Mumbai. ISKCON Juhu's preaching center in Bhiwandi, on the outskirts of Mumbai, installed Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Deities on the last day of Kārttika 2021. Please bless us to establish several more temples in the Mumbai area.

Deeply saddened by the plight of poor, hungry children fighting with the dogs for little remnants of *prasādam* left over on the leaf plates thrown in the garbage, you instructed, "No one should go hungry within a ten-mile radius of any ISKCON center." There are children in the tribal area who are not only poor and hungry but also malnourished. Recent studies indicate that every year about 880,000 children in India die of malnutrition. ISKCON Juhu, in collaboration with the ISKCON Govardhan Eco Village, Wada, has initiated a program called Food for Children and started distributing nutritious *prasādam* to malnourished children in Raysal Gaon, near Wada. Please bless us that we will succeed at this program and expand it.

During the December 2021 book distribution marathon, we scored 495,974 book points, which included 206,118 *mahā*-big books. Our book score for all of 2021 was 636,702 book points, which included 2,118 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and 207 sets of *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. Kindly give us your blessings and inspire us to distribute even more books this year.

In 2003 we celebrated the silver jubilee of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī temple, and in 2018 we celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Many devotees who had served Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī under your shelter and guidance attended these festivals and shared their experiences and realizations. We published a coffee-table book with pictures of Hare Krishna Land pre-1977—forty years of ISKCON Juhu, and up to the present, of various departments and preaching facilities of the temple complex. The book, *Visions Unfold*, also contains excerpts from the speeches of and conversations with senior devotees during the Silver Jubilee and fortieth anniversary celebrations. The book was released on Makara-saṅkrānti 2022. We sincerely pray that this book may give glimpses of your desire and dedication to establish a monumental

marble palace for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī, and inspire many people to take shelter at the lotus feet of Their Lordships.

Not understanding and accepting the fact that Lord Kṛṣṇa is the supreme proprietor of everything has led to the current war in Ukraine. Your devotees are still practicing and preaching in very dangerous conditions in various locations around Ukraine. For their safety and the return of peace, we have performed *harināma-saṅkīrtana* from the Gateway of India to Cross Maidan, where you conducted historical pandal programs and laid the foundation for preaching activities in Mumbai. All ISKCON temples in the Mumbai area participated in the *saṅkīrtana* procession, and onlookers were fortunate to hear the holy names of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

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

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Juhu, Mumbai, India.

Mumbai (Mira Road)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.
At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.2 we find this verse:

sūta uvāca
yaṁ pravrajantam anupetaṁ apeta-kṛtyaṁ
dvaipāyano viraha-kātara ājuhāva
putreti tan-mayataṁ taravo 'bhinedus
taṁ sarva-bhūta-hṛdayaṁ munim ānato 'smi

Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī said: Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto that great sage [Śukadeva Gosvāmī] who can enter the hearts of all. When he went away to take up the renounced order of life [*sannyāsa*], leaving home without undergoing reformation by the sacred thread or the ceremonies observed by the higher castes, his father, Vyāsadeva, fearing separation from him, cried out, “O my son!” Indeed, only the trees, which were absorbed in the same feelings of separation, echoed in response to the grieved father.

Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī glorifies Śrīla Śukadeva Gosvāmī, stating that he entered the hearts of many. After assimilating *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* from his father, Śrīla Vyāsadeva, Śukadeva Gosvāmī left home. At that time Śrīla Vyāsadeva cried in separation and the trees echoed in response because Śrīla Śukadeva Gosvāmī was so loving, good-hearted, and pure that he entered into even the dull hearts of trees and aroused affection in them. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you entered the dull hearts of all of us.

In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* we come to know that Lord Kṛṣṇa used Brahmājī's divine body to effect the creation. For example, Lord Varāha appeared from Brahmājī's nostril. Through this pastime the Lord showed how divine Brahmājī's body is. In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* we see that Lord Caitanya chastised

Sanātana Gosvāmī, stating that the Lord would use his divine body to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness and that Sanātana Gosvāmī had no right to end his body. Similarly, the Lord has used your divine body to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the universe in this most difficult age, Kali-yuga.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are very grateful to you for:

1. Giving us *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which is *akhila-śruti-sāram ekam*, the cream of all the *Vedas*; *adhyātma-dīpam*, a transcendental torchlight; and *purāṇa-guhyam*, the confidential supplement to the *Vedas*.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is full of the transcendental topics of the Personality of Godhead and His pure devotees. There we come to know that we perfect our lives by using our senses to serve the senses of Śrī Hṛṣīkeśa. We also learn that the real way to pray is through the prayers you have given us in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

2. Connecting us to the bona fide disciplic succession of thirty-two *ācāryas*. Although we are not at all qualified, you causelessly bestowed on us the mercy of all these *ācāryas*. By hearing their pastimes we purify ourselves and develop a taste for spiritual activities. The *bhajanās* written by these *ācāryas* constitute the essence of all the *Vedas*. We received these *bhajanās* only because you gave us access to these *ācāryas*' divine writings.

3. Giving us the *mahā-mantra*. By chanting the holy name we get the following benefits, as per the first *śloka* of the *Śikṣāṣṭaka*:

ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam: we become free of all undesirable habits.

bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāpaṇam: the blazing fire of material life is extinguished.

śreyah-kairava-candrikā-vitaraṇam: the white lotus of good fortune expands.

vidyā-vadhū-jīvanam: transcendental knowledge is awakened within the heart.

ānandāmbudhi-vardhanam: the ocean of *ānanda* (happiness) increases.

prati-padam pūrṇāṁṛtāsvādanam: at every step we can fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

sarvātma-snapanam: the soul is purified.

param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam: there is all victory for the chanting of the holy name.

4. Giving us glorious *dhāmas* like Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma, Śrī Māyāpur-dhāma, Śrī Jagannātha Purī, and other *dhāmas* all over the universe, so that wherever we are situated we are able to live a Kṛṣṇa conscious life.

5. Giving us beautiful Deities of Their Lordships so everyone can be engaged according to their propensity in Deity worship, including making garlands, cooking, dressing the Lord, etc.

6. Giving us *mahā-prasādam*, which purifies our consciousness. You taught us to cut vegetables, clean, and cook with love for the pleasure of the Supreme Lord. Then, when we offer that *bhoga*, you very kindly offer it through the thirty-two *ācāryas* to Lord Kṛṣṇa and then give us the remnants of the Lord. For lazy people like us, you gave us the easiest way to become Kṛṣṇa conscious—"Eat your way back to Godhead." By giving us *mahā-prasādam* you send fallen souls like us back to Godhead. Your Food-for-Life program is transforming millions of hearts.

7. Giving us your transcendental books, which have transformed, are transforming, and will transform unlimited souls. You also gave us the book marathon *sevā*, which is not there even in the spiritual world. You give *kṛṣṇa-prema* through book distribution, which is rare to achieve even after performing severe penances and austerities.

Here is the ISKCON Mira Road preaching report for last year, when we celebrated the 125th anniversary of your birth:

- 125 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* were distributed
- 125 sets of *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* were distributed
- 125 sets of *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* were distributed
- 125 sets consisting of twelve small books were distributed. We also held an online book-review contest to encourage everyone to read your books systematically
- 125 *Bhagavad-gītās* were distributed each by 125 devotees
- 125 *bhoga* offerings were made to Lord Jagannātha at Ratha-yātrā and on Janmāṣṭamī
- 125 devotees gave offerings to Your Divine Grace
- 125 devotees, both *brahmacārīs* and *grhasthas*, participated in dramas based on *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* during a *granthotsava*
- 125 rounds of the *mahā-mantra* were offered on Ekādaśīs and Vaiṣṇava festivals by some of the devotees
- 125 lectures on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* were given by devotees
- 125 spiritual videos were made by devotees
- 125 camps for children were conducted
- 125 Vaiṣṇava *bhajanās* were sung by children during an online children's festival
- 125 students from various schools submitted videos for a Bhaktivedanta talent contest
- 125 *kachoris* were offered each month for twelve months by fifty *mātājīs*

A total of 32,000 divine books were distributed by the devotees in the congregation and their families. The Deity department is maintained by all the devotees in the congregation in an organized way. *Āratīs* and dressing *sevās* are done in innovative ways. The *mātājīs* in the flower department very sincerely make garlands every day. The kitchen department is also well organized for cleaning, cooking the *bhoga* with utmost care throughout each day, and fifty-six items are offered each festival day.

The Food-for-Life department has come up with many new sweets for the Jagannātha sweet stall, and Govinda's and the food court are attracting many college students.

Devotee care leaders are conducting weekly programs to cultivate families from a variety of places.

The Bhaktivedanta College has started both online and offline Bhakti-śāstrī and Bhakti-vaibhava courses to educate people in your divine books. The NICE institute has started a weekly teachers training in English and Hindi to train *mātājīs* for preaching to children. RGHS is training students online; the boys youth program is conducted by *brahmacārīs* weekly. We hold twelve-hour *kīrtanas* each Ekādaśī, and the Sunday love feast is attended by 200+ devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, bless us to be *āḍṛta*, those who adore *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, like Vidura, and who become eager to hear *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Please bless us to improve our quality in every service we render so that all of us here at ISKCON Mira Road are able to please the Deities.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Mira Road, Mumbai, India.

Nagpur

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga! All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the instruction of your spiritual master, and having compassion on us, you started this movement to bring about a revolution in people's consciousness. You gave us the worship of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, which is very rarely attained. You taught us, by your instructions and example, how to execute loving devotional service; you gave us the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and a platform on which to practice it. What you did for us is something we can never repay by words or action. Finally, what we can do is follow your instructions to the best of our ability.

For your transcendental pleasure, Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Nagpur is trying to execute the following services:

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you wanted us to make big temples for the Lord, to facilitate the masses in their practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. And, as stated in a conversation you had with your disciples, you desired to have a temple in the middle of India, pointing toward Nagpur. Under the guidance of your loving disciple His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, ISKCON Nagpur has started the construction of the IVCC (the International Vedic Cultural Centre) in Nagpur. After many setbacks we have now acquired all the land we need for the temple, and construction of the guest house has started. By your grace, we will inaugurate the temple on February 10, 2025, on the auspicious occasion of Nityānanda-trayodaśī.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have also started cultivating friends (Life Patrons, Donors, Well-Wishers) in Nagpur to give them the experience of the sublime joy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and this has resulted in our developing many well-wishers for the temple. Under this project we are organizing events and festivals to enrich the congregation. This program also includes nourishing the Life Patrons by sending them *Back to Godhead* magazine and *prasādam* every month and on their main life events (like birthdays and marriages). We are also cultivating leaders in society, including businessmen, in a structured way to raise funds for the new temple. The four main festivals (Janmāṣṭamī, Gaura-Pūrṇimā, Dīpāvalī, and Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā) are being celebrated at the temple with great pomp, and people of all ages from the various communities around the city participate in them. We are also systematically cultivating and preaching to the Life Patrons to make them future Well-wishers and members of the congregation through a variety of programs. As for the future of *bhakti-vṛkṣa* preaching, we are trying to open as many centers as possible. We have also made it a goal to create 5,000 Life Patrons and 3,000 congregational members by 2025.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the youth preaching is also going on through ISKCON Youth Forum, Nagpur. We have started a Youth Center named BACE (Bhaktivedanta Academy of Culture and Education) where students can live and practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness while completing their studies, and there has been a great response from the students. We also have a systematic training program for the youth, to help them grow in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and take on tangible responsibility in the future for the movement. We are also involving the youth in temple services.

It was your spiritual master's instruction to you that you print and distribute books, and you wanted your followers to continue this service enthusiastically. Thus we are trying to engage the new youth in



reading and distributing your books. We have started a book distribution program where devotees of the ISKCON Youth Forum and BACE go out in vans and distribute your books. We then invite people met during book distribution back to the temple, where we encourage them to get involved in the youth programs.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in 2022–2023 we plan to open twenty *bhakti-vṛkṣa* centers and three BACEs, to restructure the ISKCON Girls Forum, to conduct large-scale book distribution, and to make 1,500 Life Patrons. We also hope to make servant leaders and raise our Deity standards to the highest. It is also our plan to make a systematic, organized structure for the temple management through intelligence and organization.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! In closing, we beg for your mercy and depend on it. Please bless us so that we become insignificant instruments in the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Nagpur, India.

New Dvārakā

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances to you again and again on your sublime appearance day. Who could have known, on that most auspicious day of September 1, 1896, that the glorious personality had taken birth who would bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the entire planet and fulfill Lord Caitanya’s prophecy that the holy name would be spread to every town and village?

You have given us so many powerful spiritual gifts, Śrīla Prabhupāda: the holy name, your books with their Bhaktivedanta purports, the Deities, *prasādam*, and wonderful festivals. But we learned during this pandemic that one of the most precious gifts you gave us was the association of devotees. During the early pandemic lockdown, we were abruptly struck with the reality of life without devotee association—for some of us for the first time in almost fifty years. We quickly realized what a priceless gift we had lost: the *sādhū-saṅga* that had been sustaining and motivating us in our devotional service.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya* 8.248), when Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu asked, “Of all kinds of distress, what is the most painful?” Śrī Rāmānanda Raya replied, “Apart from separation from devotees of Kṛṣṇa, I know of no unbearable unhappiness.” In a lecture you gave in Los Angeles on April 30, 1970, you told us that our goal should be “not only to love God, but to make friendship with devotees who are loving God. That is our Society. Our Society is devotees. We should not only practice to love God, but we should make friendship and love the devotees also.” And in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.29.17, you even ordered us, “That is one of the duties of a devotee. He should also make friendship with persons who are on an equal level with himself.”

It is said that you created a house in which the whole world can live. Inhabiting that house were persons of such diverse backgrounds and mentalities that there was little likelihood of them ever becoming friends before joining ISKCON. And yet with you and Kṛṣṇa at the center of our lives, we did become friends, and those friendships have flourished and deepened over the years.

In the purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.8.34, you summarized how to relate to one another in a manner that would create happiness in our Society:

Instead of being envious of a more qualified man, one should be jolly to receive him. Instead of

being oppressive to a less qualified man, one should be compassionate toward him just to raise him to the proper standard. And when one meets an equal, instead of being proud of one's own activities before him, one should treat him as a friend. One should also have compassion for the people in general, who are suffering due to forgetfulness of Kṛṣṇa. These important functions will make one happy within this material world.

Here at New Dvārakā we have tried to follow these instructions. Our temple is very fortunate that so many exalted gurus, *sannyāsīs*, and other senior Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavīs so frequently visit. We very happily give them a jolly reception.

We show compassion to the people in general by our active book distribution, *harināmas*, and *prasādam* distribution through both the restaurant and the free feasts.

Your disciples, granddisciples, and even great-granddisciples have forged wonderful friendships, strengthened by practicing the six loving exchanges that you taught us.

But, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the most important way we have learned how to be kind and loving friends is by your divine example. You told us many times that Kṛṣṇa is the supreme friend. You are Kṛṣṇa's representative. Out of your vast mercy, *karuṇā-sindhu*, you are the dearest friend to all—our ever well-wisher.

You said in a room conversation with Desmond O'Grady on May 23, 1974: "Yes, the best friend is the spiritual master because he saves from the blazing fire of confusion. That is best friend."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are *jagad-guru*, savior of all conditioned souls, and you see Kṛṣṇa at every moment. Nevertheless, we have examples of how you so personally cared for the material bodies of your disciples when they were sick. One striking example was described in volume one of *Yamunā Devī: A Life of Unalloyed Devotion*. You were in India, and Yamunā was not well, so she had been resting in a sleeping bag on the bottom shelf of a closet. You noticed she was missing and inquired many times where she was. Yamunā tells the story:

One day I became aware of the door being opened, and I turned to see Śrīla Prabhupāda's lotus feet walking into that closet room. . . . He placed his hand on my head and inquired, "Yamunā? How are you doing?" . . . I explained my symptoms, and he said, "I think this is jaundice. . . . Now I will take charge of your recovery. You will never get well in these conditions on the floor." Śrīla Prabhupāda had a hospital bed brought in for me and moved me into a room right next to his, with floor-to-ceiling windows, neem trees outside, and a fan. . . . And he came in every day to check on my progress. He also called in an Āyurvedic doctor and gave me a diet for jaundice. He said I had to take something called *petha*—it tasted like the most bitter, horrible thing. Śrīla Prabhupāda would personally stand and watch me eat the *petha*, and he would actually smile and chuckle.

O Gurudeva, you are the most exalted personality, worshiped on the same level as God, yet you acted with such humility, kindness, love, and concern for your disciples. We only hope that we can follow your example and care for one another in the same way.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you were departing this world you gave a very grave instruction: "Your love for me will be shown by how much you cooperate to keep this institution together after I am gone."

You installed Deities at New Dvārakā and set a very high standard for Their worship, which has not diminished during the pandemic despite so many obstacles and so few devotees to serve Them. The timely offerings, gorgeous dressing, and regular *āratis* have continued. The BBT devotees have carried on with their service and devised a new system of book distribution, which consists of hanging many thousands of *Bhagavad-gītās* on doorknobs so that *saṅkīrtana* could go on unabated. The restaurant and gift shop were completely remodeled, and the stunning multimedia *Bhagavad-gītā* diorama museum was brilliantly renovated.

In short, the dedicated devotees in so many departments are working together to see that the standards

at your Western world headquarters are maintained and exceeded.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our dearest spiritual master, we can never fully reciprocate your love for us. But your servants at New Dvārakā hope that by cooperating in a spirit of friendship we have in some way shown our love for you.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servants at New Dvārakā, Los Angeles, California, USA.

(written by Kalpalatikā Devī Dāsī)

New Gokula (Vancouver)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept our prostrated, humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana! All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaura-Nitāi!

It is our great fortune to be able to take birth so close to the time when Your Divine Grace was physically present on this planet. The soul, forgetting its original position due to abusing its free will and wanting to enjoy independently of Kṛṣṇa, experiences a struggle-filled journey through the material cosmos for millions of lifetimes in millions of life forms. We *nitya-baddhas* were eternally lost; we were drowning in the material ocean of birth and death, searching for illusory happiness. In your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.36 you write,

This material world is sometimes regarded as an ocean of nescience and sometimes as a blazing forest fire. In the ocean, however expert a swimmer one may be, the struggle for existence is very severe. If someone comes forward and lifts the struggling swimmer from the ocean, he is the greatest savior.

Śrīla Prabhupāda! You are our greatest savior. Without your Bhaktivedanta purports, where is our hope of being saved, even if one is an expert scholar of the *Vedas*? For example, there are many *Bhagavad-gītā* commentaries by scholars and so-called religionists, yet it is your Bhaktivedanta purports that form the favorable winds that enable us to take the boat of perfect knowledge Kṛṣṇa mentions at *Gītā* 4.36 to its intended destination.

Taking shelter of your divine lotus feet and the lotus feet of your empowered disciples is the only way to get rid of the false ego that covers the living entities with ignorance. The Supreme Lord explains various types of sacrifices, some at the level of the mind, some at the level of the body, and some at the level of the intelligence (*Bhagavad-gītā* 4.24–33). While all sacrifices culminate in knowledge, only sacrifice at the level of the false ego allows one to attain transcendental knowledge. By the process of hearing submissively and offering humble service to you, our preeminent *śikṣā-guru*, as well as to your empowered disciples, one can dissolve the false ego and receive transcendental knowledge, by which one can cross over this miserable material ocean.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the *bhakti* process that you gave us takes us way beyond simply relief from the suffering of material existence to eternal loving devotion, the soul's constitutional position. To cultivate

this *bhakti*, you created an ever-expanding global home called ISKCON, which gives us the opportunity to come together and commune with the Divine. Maintaining and expanding this divine shelter is the only way we can show you our gratitude. Maintaining a spirit of cooperation and tolerance and respect is the only way we can express our love for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Locally, here at New Gokula Dhāma in Vancouver, we are sincerely endeavoring to build a wonderful community, a bouquet of flowers to offer at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda. As our congregation expands, we plan to build a new temple for Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana, our principal Deities, which you named, Prabhupāda. You said, “If you are sincere, Kṛṣṇa will help. Everything belongs to Him and He will provide.” So our humble request to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is to make all of us sincere so that He will help us with whatever is needed to build Their new home, with a vibrant congregation, as soon as possible. Please bless us.

As you envisioned the TOVP to resemble the Capitol building, round in shape, we are also planning to build a round temple with beautiful landscaping to attract lots of tourists. The tourists will be entertained and educated about our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement around the world through a short video in a theater/auditorium. This new temple will have various amenities, such as a Govinda’s restaurant, a gift shop, a book shop, and a multipurpose hall, with the aim of generating *lakṣmī* to run the temple smoothly.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for introducing Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā festivals outside India. We had our first Ratha-yātrā in 1972, and this year celebrates our golden jubilee. Please bless us to attract lots of souls to participate and get the blessings of Their Lordships.

For the first time, we are planning to perform a big fire sacrifice at our temple complex to save our planet and attract people to listen to *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana*. It’s called “Save the Earth: Save the Planet, Save the Future.” Please bless us to make it a grand success.

The war between Russia and Ukraine, with its threat of the use of nuclear weapons, reminds us of your transcendental remarks. Despite all attempts on the material platform to unite the world and bring peace through the UN, the only result is that the number of flags are increasing and the number of wars is on the rise. Our ISKCON is the real United Nations, and it’s on the spiritual platform. ISKCON is a big umbrella under which everyone can take shelter. Thanks for giving us this spiritual shelter, ISKCON, which is the real panacea for peace, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

With *daṇḍavat-praṇāmas* at your lotus feet,

Your servants in New Gokula Dhāma, ISKCON Vancouver, Canada.

New Govardhana (San Diego)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

In the early 1970s you spoke at Balboa Park in San Diego. By the arrangement of Kṛṣṇa (via the COVID-19 pandemic), that’s where I distribute your books now, about two hundred yards from where you spoke. It’s one of the best places I’ve ever distributed. I think your presence there has something to do with it.

So many people are attracted to your books, and when they hear about book distribution they sometimes become attracted to distribute them themselves. In San Diego we now have eight book distributors, who are getting the higher taste of giving the mercy out to others. One of them got one of your books in Balboa Park and is now distributing them in the same park. Once a reporter asked you, “What is the result of chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa?” You replied, “More chanting.” The more we chant, the more

we get purified and want to chant more. Someone may also ask, What is the result of distributing books? I would reply, “More book distributors,” and so much more: people who had not heard of Kṛṣṇa in this life finally getting a chance to hear the absolute truth. The book distributors also benefit by getting purified.

Even when people don’t take a book but simply touch one, you said they get “great benefit.” This is because they’re touching Kṛṣṇa, since the book is nondifferent from Him. When Lord Caitanya was here, so many people went to Mother Śacī’s home and would pick up little Nimāi and get great benefit because they were touching God, holding God. The books are also Kṛṣṇa. You once said, “If they just appreciate the books, saying, ‘This is very nice,’ and don’t even take it, they get a human form in the next life.” Therefore you stressed book distribution so much. You wanted devotees to give their lives to this most important service, and indeed there are some great souls in this movement who are doing just that. Some have been distributing for over fifty years and want to continue until their last breath.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us your books and giving us the service of distributing them.

Your servants at New Govardhana Dhāma, ISKCON’s temple in San Diego, California, USA.

(written by Vijaya Dāsa)

New Māyāpura

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We would like to express our gratefulness for your giving us this wonderful New Māyāpura Dhāma, in the heart of France. All facilities are here to engage fully in devotional service. We feel honored and very fortunate to have a place here at your lotus feet, and to be able to engage ourselves and everyone else in your service.

Over the last few years, we have been trying to take care of the various buildings, renovating them, bringing them up to security standards to get approval for receiving the public and so we can get permission to continue our activities. Recently the government officials visited New Māyāpura and said they will close us completely if they don’t see the security standards respected. We see this as Kṛṣṇa’s hand pushing us to make more effort to improve the facilities for devotees and guests. It is now very urgent, because we need to receive many Ukrainian devotee families who have lost their homes and are going through a lot of suffering. We are in dire need of a large amount of funds, but we have full faith that Kṛṣṇa will provide, as you always taught us.

We have a very nice team of dedicated devotees, some with children. The family you gave us is so wonderful. This year we hope to get new cows, which will be for us a step closer to self-sufficiency.

We try not to compromise our *sādhana* despite our service load. Your dear disciple Janānanda Goswami always advises us in this way, explaining that strict *sādhana* will give us the spiritual strength to do our service nicely.

We are trying to revive the book distribution in France with a dedicated young *brahmacārī* party. Many of the older devotees—some from the ’70s—are joining in this revival with renewed enthusiasm. Surely book distribution and *harināma* constitute an infallible means of success and the best way to bring unity among the Vaiṣṇavas.

We pray daily at your lotus feet to inspire us to be instruments in your hands so we can pacify the hearts and inspire a real Vaiṣṇava culture of care, love, trust, respect, selflessness, humility, tolerance, well-wishing, and compassion. Please inspire the French *yātrā* to become united at your feet and to develop the precious qualities of love and trust in your service.

Aspiring to serve you uninterruptedly and selflessly,

Your servants at New Māyāpura, France.

(written by Nāmācārya Dāsa, Locanānanda Dāsa, and Gāndharvikā Rāi Devī Dāsī)

New Raman Reti

Dearest divine Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We humbly bow down at your lotus feet as your disciples, granddisciples, and servants of New Raman Reti in Alachua, Florida. Being the largest ISKCON temple in North America, and coming through a pandemic that has lasted more than two years, our temple was able to remain fully open and available to all from day one, which is a significant achievement and took the full cooperation of our NRR community, while superexcellent guidance by our temple president, Mukhyā Devī Dāsī, daily charted our way.

Mukhyā Prabhu kept everyone informed and aware of what was required of each of us in order to keep our temple open. Still, a number of community members did contract COVID at their workplaces or elsewhere. All of them quarantined afterward and strictly followed the requirements to return to temple programs.

We are all in great appreciation, Śrīla Prabhupāda, of your dear disciple's careful and responsible labors regarding our health and safety during these crucial times. This was reminiscent of the times we spent with you, Prabhupāda, as you were always attentive and in tune with our needs and safety, and were careful, intelligent, and gentle in your handling of us in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

There are so many examples of your kind advice and concern toward ordinary individuals, as well as your disciples, easily found in your letters and video clips of you talking with visitors, and in the remembrances by your devotees. The disciples who have written their own books about you remind us of your fatherly affection and care, despite our youthful *naïveté*, ignorance, and stubborn carelessness in all things spiritual.

The pandemic forced big adjustments on everyone, including isolation or social separation, cost increases, shortened supplies of things we were used to having daily, more people working from home, less traffic congestion, and so forth. But devotees realized that the daily noise around them had decreased, that we could more easily hear the holy name when chanting *japa*. Our minds were able to focus more clearly on our personal spiritual goals. For many, mental distraction was reduced. In other words, we were going inward more and finding wisdom and joy, by your mercy.

Devotees were able to accomplish much more in their service, from the Eco Farm to the Bhaktivedanta Academy/Montessori school, to the charter school (Alachua Learning Center), as well as in many projects in our community run by devotees in service to others (and you, ultimately), such as our Devotee-to-Devotee Care group, End of Life Care group, the Rādhārāṇī Club, the North American Child Protection Office program, along with the numerous men's and women's support groups, *bhajana* groups, reading

groups, Hare Krishna Social Services, Grihastha Vision Team, New Raman Reti Community Radio, NRR Prayer Circle, online temple newsletter, krishna.com, Temple Volunteer Services, Krishna Lunch food distribution programs, and ISKCON Cow Protection and Save the Cow programs. We are also so grateful to have a team of *pūjārīs* who are so dedicated to our Lordships, so constant and expert in their service, who enliven and enthuse our entire community by their elegant devotion to you and our wonderful Deities at NRR.

We recall one of your last instructions to us was when you stated, “You can show your love for me by how well you cooperate together.” Our NRR community continues to show that spirit of cooperation in every task or service, every festival or project, and in all that we do, think, or say.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us so many gifts. You brought so much knowledge and information about the transcendental world to our young minds, inspiring and igniting our thoughts and imaginings. You touched our hearts deeply and allowed us to feel the sacred energy in which you always kept yourself. Your patience with us was immense and solid. You knew how to talk to each person perfectly, as an individual, because you knew exactly where they were coming from, where their past had led them. You knew their hearts better than they themselves did. And you dovetailed our weaknesses and strengths, channeling them toward Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet and His eternal service.

We learned from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that austerity is a wealth, a richness that, when practiced regularly, prepares us for death. Thinking of Kṛṣṇa, remembering Him, worshiping Him, and chanting His holy name constitute the best practice for our own final exam. As you warned in your final days, “Do not think this won’t happen to you.”

Forty-six years ago you told us that Kṛṣṇa had confided in you that there would be war. The war would begin between India and Pakistan, but later draw in Russia on one side and China on the other. You told us that we should “hang onto our bead bags” and chant the *mahā-mantra* sincerely, and that after the war it would be a very good time for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. However, some weeks later you said, “Kṛṣṇa has changed His mind. There will be no war. However, Kṛṣṇa could change His mind again.” You were earnestly instructing us to take our *sādhana* more seriously.

This year Russia invaded Ukraine, killing many civilians and causing millions of people to flee their homeland. In many cities Russia indiscriminately bombed hospitals, schools, senior citizen apartment buildings, playgrounds, parks, military bases, and other major buildings. They did not allow civilians to leave humanitarian zones set up purposely for free access to other countries. This arrangement was agreed-upon by Russia and NATO. But Russia ignored this agreement and did not honor their promise. Instead they targeted and bombed humanitarian safe zones so that citizens would avoid going there.

NRR has held *kīrtanas* for the Ukrainians, and all the devotees around the world are sending their prayers for protection, safety, and an end to war. Since you had said before that “preaching would be good” after the war, could it also be applicable to this war? Nothing wakes people up like crisis, disaster, near-death experiences, or *war*. Once experiencing these extreme calamities and difficulties, we realize clearly what is of real value and what is not, what goes with us beyond death and what does not.

When we asked you “What will become of us after you depart from this planet, Śrīla Prabhupāda?” you soberly looked at us and said, “Do not worry; Kṛṣṇa will send so many others. Kṛṣṇa will send good-hearted souls and many devotees. So many will come. They will step forward to help you spread Lord Caitanya’s message in every town and village.”

At other times you frequently said that “the demigods are lining up to take birth in this movement.” Now, fifty years later, those demigods are here and living among us. They are the future of ISKCON and are in every part of the world. They are giving wonderful classes based on a higher understanding of your books than any one of us could have realized at their age. Their caliber of devotional service is on a high level.

At NRR, the younger generations are heading up the Holy Name festivals, organizing Janmāṣṭamī’s Vṛndāvana Village re-creation, assisting in all festivals throughout the year, and doing many other projects. The strongest *kīrtanīyā* performances are offered by them, uplifting our entire community with their amazing musicianship and vocal talent.

In Hawaii in 1976 you said that those who come after us would be far more advanced than any of us were. You were so right, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your ISKCON, “the house that the whole world can live in,” is in very good hands. You also said that the children of that next generation would all be pure devotees.

However, the greatest calamity of our lives would be if we fail to adhere to your instructions, if we fail to understand your teachings, if we misunderstand you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by getting confused about “details and principles” or considering details to be more important than the essence of your plans, mission, goals, and all your spiritual training of us.

So many times you emphasized that we should not just sell your books but also read them so we will understand the philosophy as well. You encouraged us to speak the realizations we gathered from reading your books and rendering devotional service faithfully. So this lack of understanding, or not applying ourselves as you instructed, or taking for granted all that you gave us, could be crucially dangerous if we do not attempt to faithfully and sincerely surrender day by day.

Even though Lord Caitanya’s prophecy of five hundred years ago will absolutely be realized, we are honored and glad to be a small part of that unfolding process spreading throughout every town and village on the entire planet. This is due to your devotion to carrying out your spiritual master’s order, to your dedication to spreading Lord Caitanya’s *saṅkīrtana* message, and to your deep, absolute faith in Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. On the strength of your purity, you have succeeded where no one else could have.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for saving our lives, for giving us our real purpose, for instructing us through your books, lectures, letters, conversations, and divine example. We are eternally indebted to you for bringing us to this wonderfully beautiful *bhakti* path. It is now up to us to continue to follow and serve you by adhering to your clear instructions and mission. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who have brought the formula for saving humanity by giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the entire world!

Your humble servants at the New Raman Reti community, Alachua, Florida, USA.

New Tālavana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our respectful obeisance unto your divine lotus feet. O servant of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, you are delivering the message of Lord Caitanya to the people of the Western world, freeing them from the misconceptions of voidism and impersonalism.

Your humble servants at New Tālavana Dhāma continue serving your lotus feet despite any difficult material conditions. They always want your satisfaction and pleasure and ignore their own ambitious desires. Often, they surrender dear and precious items for the benefit of your organization, the Deities, the cows, and other devotees.

The old folks here especially set a good example of *sādhana* practice and selfless service. Yet the young and middle-aged are pushing the wheel of your *saṅkīrtana* movement faster and faster. You’re inspiring us all to dance and sing in *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and serve with purified hearts and minds. If we behave like this 24/7, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will be more and more pleased.

Devotees are growing your temple’s food for Kṛṣṇa and His servants and guests. They’re taking care of your cows and land, making everything productive and profitable. They’re building a new temple and cow barns for you, Nimāi-Nitāi, Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, and Their cows. The new temple was inspired and primarily



financed by one devotee's inspiration, and has gelled into a cooperative effort by all of us. It is being built by your disciple Śrī Rāga Dāsa and company on one of the highest points in any coastal county on the Gulf of Mexico. All of this is being done by the self-surrender of your devotees and supporters—the old, young, and in-between.

Parents here are educating their children and teaching them Kṛṣṇa consciousness. They perform Kṛṣṇa conscious cultural programs for the devotees and temple guests. Hopefully, one day we will bring back a Kṛṣṇa conscious day school.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for making so many people Kṛṣṇa conscious. Those devotees caring for your temple, its kitchen, gardens, flowers, the cows and their pastures, the building maintenance, roads, ditches, landscape, machinery, woodlands, taxes and money, outreach ministry, *prasādam* distribution, social media, website and electronic marketing of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, etc., etc., are all devoted to the spirit of your mission and its profound result of bringing about “a revolution in the impious lives of this world's misdirected civilization.”

Without your well-wishes or the opportunity to serve you, would any of us be Kṛṣṇa conscious, or would Kṛṣṇa remain covered by His *yogamāyā* potency? Honestly, it is by your mercy that we have made advancement on the path of *bhakti-yoga*, and without that mercy there is no possibility of advancement on this path (*Gurv-aṣṭaka* 8). Yes, the blazing fire of material darkness, in the form of lust, anger, and greed, is only extinguished by the mercy of the bona fide spiritual master and his bona fide servants (*Gurv-aṣṭaka* 1).

You are the savior of your devotees, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and under your order they are saving the world by distributing your books, etc., to the fortunate souls who take advantage. In this way you continue to propagate and teach Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for delivering us from the ocean of material existence. May we always remain your humble servants.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, his disciples, their disciples, etc., and all Śrīla Prabhupāda's followers worldwide *kī jaya!*

Your humble servants in New Tālavana Dhāma, Mississippi, USA.

(written by Yogīndravandana Dāsa)

Ottawa

*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 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 very auspicious occasion of the anniversary of your appearance on this earth for the benefit of all humanity, we offer with love and gratitude our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

We know you appeared by the divine will of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu as His *senāpati-bhakta* to propagate the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, the *yuga-dharma* in this Kali-yuga.

What appeared as a humble attempt in ISKCON's early days in New York City became a worldwide movement within little more than a decade and has been spreading ever since to all the cities of the world, and even to the small towns and villages. This is not surprising to your devotees, who know that you are the emissary of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, come to fulfill His prediction made some five hundred years ago that His names and the *mahā-mantra* would be known in every town and village all over the world. However, what is actually surprising is how hard you worked to make it all happen within such a short span of time, beginning all alone in 1965, at an advanced stage of life (almost seventy), with no manpower or financial resources. You had such great faith in the power of *hari-nāma* and in the instructions of your Guru Mahārāja that it all actually happened, as if in a fairytale!

We members of the Ottawa temple congregation are all very, very grateful for your compassion, which pours down on us through your disciples, your words as they come to us in different media, and the *mahā-mantra*. We seek your blessings to remain always faithful, grateful, humble, and inspired in your service through your ISKCON.

We are glad to inform you that our congregation is slowly but steadily growing. We need to think now of how to accommodate this growing congregation at our temple. We have some plans for how to go about it and sincerely pray for the grace of our dear Deities, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and we seek your blessings and those of the devotees serving you so that we will be successful in implementing this plan within two years.

Your disciples, granddisciples, great-granddisciples, and the many other wonderful souls dedicated to this movement are a great inspiration to the people with whom they come in contact. Such solace is very much needed, especially in light of recent world events—the COVID-19 pandemic, political conflicts, environmental fiascos, etc. All we need to do is simply open our hearts to the storehouse of nectar of *hari-nāma* that you so kindly made available to us, relish it ourselves, and bring it to others through public programs, starting with street *harināma* parties.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.28.18 you state: “The devotee is called *puṇya-śloka*. As one becomes purified by chanting the holy name of the Lord, so one can become purified simply by chanting the name of a holy devotee. The pure devotee of the Lord and the Lord Himself are nondifferent.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, *you* are such a pure devotee, and in every *kīrtana* event we all take pleasure in chanting “*Jaya* Prabhupāda! *Jaya* Prabhupāda! *Jaya* Prabhupāda, Śrīla Prabhupāda!”

We humbly pray that we may always keep your instructions and the spirit of service at the forefront of our endeavors and in our meditation. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON and its primary *śikṣā-guru* for the current and future generations. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the well-wisher not just of the devotees but of the entire world!

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Ottawa, Canada.

Pandharpur

*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*

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of the 126th anniversary of your appearance.

Hare Kṛṣṇa. We, the devotees at ISKCON Pandharpur, would like to humbly submit a report of the major activities we performed during 2021.

We celebrated a milestone of the 125th birth anniversary of Your Divine Grace. We planned various activities to commemorate this auspicious occasion. We bathed Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharīnātha and Your Divine Grace with the holy waters of 125 *tīrthas*.

As a part of this celebration, we organized numerous activities in multiples of 125, such as the distribution of 125 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 125 sets of *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*, and 1,250 *japa mālās*, and the chanting of 12,500 rounds by new devotees, to name but a few.

A beautiful Prabhupāda Ghāṭa, with all functionalities, light, and sound, along with a children's park, is attracting thousands of pilgrims daily. It has become a landmark in this area. We are blessed to have the instruction of His Holiness Lokanāth Swami that we should start *prasādam* distribution at Prabhupāda Ghāṭa from the Akṣaya-tṛtīyā festival.

We have expanded the Deity kitchen and backup area by adding a new floor with five rooms to the existing facility. We have also opened a beautiful spiritual shopping market (Vaikuṇṭha Bazaar) behind the temple. To accommodate the influx of visitors who come by car, we have also built a new parking area.

ISKCON Pandharpur has inaugurated an international state-of-the-art studio in the service of all ISKCON devotees. It is fully equipped with all facilities. Our hope is that it will attract many devotee artists, musicians, and singers to come to the beautiful and holy ISKCON Pandharpur and make their recordings in a creative, devotional environment utilizing the latest audio and video technology to create Kṛṣṇa conscious content.

Some major developments we are currently working on are:

- a lift for the Prabhupāda Ashraya building
- a solar electricity-generating system (45 kW) for the campus
- a transformer to solve the light fluctuation problems
- a well for watering our farm

As a part of our devotee training and preaching program, we have started a monthly *Bhagavad-gītā* course. We are organizing a Personality Development Course (PDC) under the New Bhakta department. After a long break during the coronavirus pandemic, we have again started all three BACE centers for youth preaching.

With your mercy, our congregational preaching is flourishing. We have started preaching in a few new places, such as Velapur, Madha, Penur, Kurduwadi, among others. We now have more than a dozen congregational preaching centers. The whole world may be on the verge of a third world war due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. ISKCON has arranged a Chant for Peace program for world peace. ISKCON Pandharpur did *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in various places near Pandharpur for fifteen days as part

of that effort.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as a result of your keen desire and continued efforts and the inspiration of your beloved son His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, we are planning a new temple project to serve the lakhs of pilgrims coming to Śrīdhāma Pandharpur. Our desire is to do the *bhūmi-pūjā* by the upcoming Āṣāḍha Ekādaśī festival. We beg for your blessings in this regard.

After what was an extremely long wait, we have recently achieved NA and building permission for the entire ISKCON Pandharpur campus area. So we request your permission to start and your blessings to complete this great service for the pleasure of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharīnātha and Your Divine Grace!

Thank you very much for giving us this precious gift of the service to Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pandharīnātha, Śrī Pandharpur-dhāma, and the devotees all over the world.

The servants of the servant of your lotus feet, your devotees at ISKCON Pandharpur, India.

Pānihāṭi

*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*

Most respected and worshipable Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Kindly accept our most respectful and humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet on the most auspicious occasion of your appearance day. As the days pass, we are gradually realizing why you put such emphasis on these words of your spiritual master: “This material world is no place for a gentleman.” When the world was desperately trying to strengthen its feeble knees after the onslaught of the coronavirus, the rage of war robbed all hopes for peace. Violence has become the order of the day. As the crestfallen world still hopes desperately to make material arrangements for peace, although those hopes are futile and doomed, we, by the virtue of your causeless mercy, have come to a firm conviction that the root cause of all problems is a lack of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and so we at the ISKCON Pānihāṭi temple are leaving no stone unturned to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to bring about ultimate peace.

With this intention, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we put special emphasis on distributing your eye-opening and life-changing books. This year, our emphasis on book distribution was greater than in previous years. As a result, we ended up distributing 406 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets during the Bhādra Pūrṇimā campaign, along with many other books. It fills our hearts with inexpressible joy to declare that this has enabled us to secure first position among preaching centers in India. Our true reward, however, remains always the same: the broad smile of satisfaction on your face.

We have fifteen *bhakti-urkṣas* at present, and the leaders are thoroughly equipped through their training in the art of preaching and devotee care, and so our *bhakti-urkṣas* are flourishing, with many new members interested in the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Our temple witnessed a series of infrastructure developments last year, which we undertook to better serve the devotees as well as the visitors. However, we consider the devotees and well-wishers the real

infrastructure of our temple, and to bring them into the shelter of quality care and cultivation has now become our primary motto. We try our best to ensure that each of our members is under the guidance of a devotee so that he or she can execute devotional service properly. While we have been holding Sunday feast classes and other classes online to attract new members, we have also arranged for special classes, particularly for our initiated members, so that they never feel neglected and can receive newer and newer encouragement to perform devotional service by following all the rules and regulations with dedication. We have experience of some initiated members leaving the path of devotional service because they felt neglected or deprived of the same care they received when they first joined ISKCON. You considered everyone assisting you in your mission to be special and worthy of the best care whenever required, and we are trying our best to do the same for your pleasure.

With the efficient festival management committee we formed last year, our festivals have become more and more vibrant and enchanting. They are loaded with so many attractions that everyone, devotee and nondevotee alike, feels spontaneously attracted to our festivals and programs. Also, we are conducting *nāgar-saṅkīrtana* every Saturday in various areas, which has caused a massive expansion of our temple outreach. We also have a team of more than twenty-five dedicated youths who are actively participating in various kinds of temple activities, online preaching, spiritual tour management, and book distribution. Last year, on the most auspicious occasion of your 125th birth anniversary, our youth team published a comic book on your life to spread your glories and make all people aware of your astonishing achievements. The book was given as a freebie with every one of your books and acted as a major catalyst in our book distribution.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are able to do all this due to the guidance and blessings of senior Vaiṣṇavas. Please bless us with the one-pointed desire to continue our service to you and your mission and to humanity at large by setting aside our narrow motives. Let us pursue Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously, as well as help others do the same.

Beggars for your mercy at ISKCON Pāṇihāṭī, India.

Perth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most blessed event of the year. Today marks the 126th anniversary of your appearance in this mortal world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, once, when you are talking about Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura on his appearance day, you said, “What can I say about him? He is a Vaikuṇṭha man.” This is so true of you as well. You are a Goloka resident and have appeared in this material world just to reclaim fallen souls like us. This you have done perfectly by exemplifying an *ācārya* who teaches by example. You accepted the order of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, as your life and soul (*guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete kariyā aikya*). You did this yourself and taught the same mood to your disciples, who are carrying out your mission and in turn setting the same example for their disciples. You have repeatedly mentioned that only by following the orders of one’s guru can one be successful in one’s spiritual life.

The last two years have been difficult everywhere in the world, and now, according to some, the world is returning to normal. But you said, quoting your Guru Mahārāja, that “This material world is no place

for a gentleman [or gentlewoman].” This point we have to digest and so take our spiritual lives seriously, but sometimes (all the time) we forget and try to make this world as comfortable as possible with our adjustments. This shows our unfortunate position. Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we need your causeless mercy so we can get real and not live in a dream world.

We are particularly blessed to serve you and your mission here in Perth because this is a *tīrtha*—you kindly set your lotus feet on this second-most isolated city in the world. You spent a precious ten days here and purified this place by going on morning walks to Hyde Park, Kings Park, and City Beach. We feel privileged to serve you here, and we feel your presence when we visit those places.

We are trying to distribute your books in Perth, but we admit that we are a long way from meeting your expectations. Last year was good, and we were able to distribute many sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and many *Bhagavad-gītās*. We will try to improve and distribute many more in the coming years. We are distributing *prasādam* from our Govinda’s restaurant and at the local farmers’ market. People love the *prasādam* and are becoming favorable to the devotees and appreciative of the movement. One of our devotee families distributes *prasādam* to local senior residents, and they are all appreciative of this service.

We regularly go on *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in the streets of Perth, and people are appreciative of the devotees, although occasionally some envious people disturb us. But eventually they too become favorable. Last year we held a Ratha-yātrā in the Perth City Mall, and it was very attractive and well attended. We want to make it a regular event in downtown Perth, with your blessings.

Devotees regularly meet in their homes to discuss the *Bhagavad-gītā* and its application in daily life. These programs are attracting many new devotees, who are taking up the process of *bhakti*. When we could not do these programs physically due to the pandemic, we met regularly on Zoom. Devotees are also doing introductory programs and introducing many sincere people to the basics of *bhakti*.

Our Sunday school programs are going very well, with almost eighty children showing interest in learning devotional songs, stories, and music. The teachers are diligently engaging the children in various activities. Quite often these children perform *bhajan*s and dramas at our major festivals, thus gaining the appreciation of our guests.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you are aware, we are trying to build a nice home for you and Their Lordships, for which we have acquired the needed land and received development approval. Just recently we submitted the amendment application. We hope to finish the next stage and get the building permit so we can start the construction work soon. In pursuance of this goal we are embarking on a mission of collecting the funds required for the project. Recently, we had our first fund-raising dinner. The program was very successful, and we were able to gather pledges to the amount of 1.5 million Australian dollars. As our project is large, we need many more helping hands to finish it, so we beg you to inspire many more to come forward and take part in this once-in-a-lifetime project. As we write this homage, we have a desire to lay the foundation stone around Lord Balarāma’s appearance day. Please bless us so that we can fulfill this mission.

Please always bless us and keep us in the shade of your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servants in Perth, Australia.

Phoenix (Arizona)

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our deeply respectful obeisances offered at your lotus feet. All glories to you! All glories to your eternal service!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are writing this offering in unprecedented times. The more we see the effects of Kali, the more we are indebted to you for having taken the risk of bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone around the world.

The more we read your books, the more we realize the importance of being engaged in devotional service, of taking shelter of the holy name, and of devotee association.

Currently, we can see the practical application of your instructions in the way that many devotees—our brothers and sisters—are living their lives in these troubled times. Their love for Kṛṣṇa, faith in the spiritual master, and faith in and love for Your Divine Grace are extraordinary, and they understand that the ultimate protection is to “*Always remember Kṛṣṇa and never forget Him.*” May your blessings and the protection of the Lord be with them.

The various crises troubling the world now provide a good reminder that we should not take things for granted, that we must pay attention to our *sādhana*, to our chanting, to our service attitude. We need to emphasize the importance of being caring, having the right intention to serve, the right attitude to care and listen, the sincerity and courage to accept when we have erred, and the importance of being grateful. Indeed, if we can write these offerings, we are fortunate because we can count our blessings.

You shared with the world the most wonderful treasure of all, the holy name of the Lord. You engaged us in the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu! You introduced us to our eternal father, our best friend: you gave us Kṛṣṇa!

Because of Your Divine Grace, the most merciful Lord of the universe is casting His mercy over millions of living entities wherever His devotees hold a Ratha-yātrā, giving everyone an opportunity to connect with the Lord.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your example you taught us the meaning of sincere, unmotivated, unconditional service to the Lord, offered for His pleasure, in service of the spiritual master and for the benefit of all. Indeed, your mercy has benefited—and continues to benefit—millions!

Please make us instruments in your service for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and the benefit of all. We pray that one day, by your mercy, our hearts will be free of *anarthas*. Then, in a purified state we will be able to connect with the Lord in the heart. With all sincerity and faith we will chant the holy name of the Lord, which is the most powerful tool given by the Lord Himself to counteract the effects of this Age of Kali.

Just as a father forgives his sons and daughters for their mistakes, so we beg you to please forgive our shortcomings and guide our sincere endeavor to serve.

Begging to remain in your service,

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

Phuket

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We have had a very big struggle to maintain our temple during the COVID-19 pandemic. The devotee population shrank to almost zero, and there were no visitors or tourists. Many devotees returned to their native homes to wait for the situation to change, but Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi are here and not going anywhere, so a few of us decided to remain and serve. Somehow we have maintained the temple and kept up the standard offerings and *pūjā*. Now the situation is gradually improving and people are beginning to return. We pray that we can develop our congregation and help the local people appreciate Lord Kṛṣṇa and His holy name.

With best wishes and all homage we fall at your lotus feet and beg for your mercy. Please continue to engage us in your service.

Your unworthy servants at ISKCON Phuket, Thailand.

Radhadesh

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, the residents of Radhadesh Dhāma, beg to offer our prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

By your unfathomably selfless endeavor and under your merciful gaze, we are residing in this sacred *tīrtha* of Radhadesh, where we may serve Your Divine Grace, Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopinātha, and the divine brother-sister trio, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadra, as well as your devoted followers.

Over the past forty-three years a transcendental village has grown up here, with generations of devotees, the latest being a wave of infant boys receiving the affection and blessings of the entire community. Recently, our own homegrown Bhakta Gopinātha, after extensive training and acceptance of the *brahmacārī āśrama*, has taken up the responsibility of receiving and educating young men who desire to take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Under his loving and determined care, a number of gentle and enthusiastic souls are going out regularly on *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and book distribution, happily making the recently republished Dutch *Nectar of Devotion* available to fortunate souls. Gopinātha's brother is a key manager and *kīrtanīyā* here, and his sister is reaching out through her art to inspire many to look beyond mundane existence.

In fact, many second- and third-generation devotees are finding shelter at Radhadesh, making valuable contributions and enlivening the community's youth. Under the expert and diligent care of Belgium's own Bhakta Thibaut, who is also studying with us in the Bhakti-śāstrī course, the vegetable garden has morphed into a thriving project dubbed "Premaculture," and Rohiṇinandana Dāsa and his assistants are ensuring that the cows are being lovingly cared for in their recently constructed barn. The new *prasādam* hall

construction is now underway, which means we will soon be able to remove the huge, very accommodating but admittedly inelegant tent that has sheltered so many devotees for so many years as they honored the Lord's *prasādam*. And of course, a number of us, while contributing what we can, are praying that as we have been blessed to live at Radhadesh, we may also be privileged to exit our bodies here. The so-called golden years that bitterly disappoint many senior citizens are indeed golden opportunities to realize our dependence on the mercy of the Lord and His beloved devotees "who are deeply attached to His devotional service." Your Divine Grace is the foremost of these beloved devotees.

Who can understand the drive you had, at the age of sixty-nine, to leave the transcendental comfort of Vṛndāvana, board a cargo ship, and risk your life to go to America? There, and later all around the world, you lived among *mlecchas* and *yavanas*, miraculously transforming them into Vaiṣṇava devotees. Many of these great souls are carrying on the leadership of your ISKCON, keeping the devotees afloat even as Kali does everything possible to thwart the advent of Lord Caitanya's golden age.

Now, while it appears that we may be gradually emerging from the medical pandemic that has precipitated so much contention among the world's people, including among the Vaiṣṇavas, Russia is brutally attacking Ukraine, and we are feeling the threat of another global war. We take shelter in recalling how your divine master admonished that the urgency of Kṛṣṇa consciousness far exceeds the limitations of any material situation; indeed, adversity becomes opportunity for those who are fixed in the spirit of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that our endeavors to serve cooperatively in your divine mission afford you some satisfaction and pleasure, and it is our cherished hope and intention to offer ourselves to you for eternity in our attempts to show our gratitude for your making us irrevocably indebted to you. We feel we have been made supremely fortunate by your endless inundation of mercy.

Your truly insignificant servants at Radhadesh, Belgium.

Sandton

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you and your divine mission.

On behalf of our ISKCON Sandton *yātrā*, we would like to offer the sincere services of all the devotees who have contributed to your temple and the preaching mission here over the past year.

Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Ādi-līlā 12.70) says: "A person without Kṛṣṇa consciousness is no better than dry wood or a dead body. He is understood to be dead while living, and after death he is punishable by Yamarāja." It is only by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we have been given the opportunity to become Kṛṣṇa conscious and free of the bondage of material life. Everyone in this material world is scared to face the final test, which is death, but you taught us by your glorious example how to prepare for this test. While we prepare for this test, the process of *sādhana-bhakti* helps us experience real love, which enables us to become genuinely happy—something for which all those in the material world hanker, birth after birth.

We at ISKCON Sandton consider ourselves most fortunate because we have been placed in the richest square mile in Africa in which to preach this glorious Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone we meet. Over the last few years this temple has grown as the congregation has matured nicely in their spiritual

practices. This was evident when the devotees came together in a short space of time to organize the Ratha-yātrā festival in Sandton. Many nondevotees were attracted to the festival as well as to the temple for the Jagannātha Market, held after the procession. This is a testament to your causeless mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, since all these souls were finally given the opportunity to meet Your Divine Grace.

The *saṅkīrtana* mission is predicted to spread all over the world, to every town and village, but this can happen only if the service offerings made by the devotees are pleasing to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. In the past year we had the most amazing opportunity to associate for approximately six months with His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Mahārāja. The association not only helped the devotees develop deeper relationships with one another but also inspired everyone to continue serving enthusiastically throughout the pandemic. Hearing daily about your pastimes from the *Līlāmṛta*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, made everyone appreciate more and more the efforts you made with great difficulty to spread this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. The faith you have in Kṛṣṇa is what we rely on daily, since we cannot become Kṛṣṇa conscious by our own efforts. Our efforts can never compare to what you did in a short space of time, but we can surely be reminded that you have laid the foundation for many generations to come and be grateful for that.

We at ISKCON Sandton would like to take this mission to new heights by increasing book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, and *śrī-harīnāma-saṅkīrtana*. Our humble prayer is that we can continue getting your mercy so that we can grow stronger as a congregation, present Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the best possible way to anyone and everyone we meet, develop a taste to become fixed in our daily practices, and work together with the intention of pleasing you wholeheartedly.

Thank you for allowing us at ISKCON Sandton to get the wonderful association of your disciples and granddisciples over the years. Please kindly forgive us for any shortcomings we may have, but we also beg for the mercy to overcome these shortcomings so that we can one day become good examples as devotees.

As we embark on our new endeavors to spread your movement, please kindly give us the intelligence to do this with the correct attitude. We all hanker for your kind blessings to continue practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness with all our hearts so that we can develop real love for the Supreme Personality of Godhead and preach in the most pleasing way to attract all the fallen souls to your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

With gratitude and sincerity,

Your servants at ISKCON Sandton, South Africa.

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 Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, we, your grandchildren and great-grandchildren of ISKCON Scarborough, Ontario, offer our most heartfelt love and gratitude at your lotus feet.



Your appearance is a very joyful occasion for us all, as it allows us to express our gratitude and to ask for your blessings so that we will be able to continue serving Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement with enthusiasm, dedication, determination, and faith, whereby we can have the opportunity to revive our original spiritual consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, because of the pandemic our temple was closed for many months. We took a chance and opened only for such programs as Gaura-Pūrṇimā and Janmāṣṭamī, and we celebrated the Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā by taking Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā in a van door to door, where groups of devotees gathered for *darśana* and offered *bhoga* accompanied by *kīrtanas* and *prasādam* distribution. These festivals are your gifts to us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we are sharing them on your behalf. We pray that we may be effective instruments in taking these gifts and using them to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others because you taught us over and over that the best way to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is to share what we have.

We had 108 classes held virtually during the period when the temple was closed. On March 17, 2022, we reopened our temple, resuming our Sunday feast program. We will also be resuming our Sunday school—virtually for now, until we find a bigger place to rent or buy. Book distribution has continued throughout the pandemic.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have to go through so many struggles to become Kṛṣṇa conscious, but you taught us we should understand that being in this material world is not a healthy condition. Therefore we should try to get well by continuing to take the medicine you left for us: chanting, dancing, honoring *prasādam*, and reading your books in the association of devotees. We are trying to follow despite the challenges we sometimes face.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to you that we may always unite and bond together to assist you in fanning the spark of Kṛṣṇa consciousness for your pleasure, as your compassion has no bounds.

We would like to express our gratitude to you and ask for your mercy, guidance, and blessings so that we can serve your mission to the best of our ability. We remain eternally indebted to you. We offer our humble obeisance at your lotus feet. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your eternally grateful servants at ISKCON Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.

Simhachalam

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you and your very important mission, to spread the holy name of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, all around the world, to every town and village.

We would like to welcome you to our . . . well, to *your* farm community, named Simhachalam, formerly known as Nava-Jiyaḍa-Nṛsiṁha-Kṣetra, in southeast Germany—right in the middle of Europe.

May we offer you a tour around this property? Let's start with something you were always excited about! We make a turn here, and there is our *saṅkīrtana* book warehouse! Yes, it is still half full, but our *saṅkīrtana* teams are working steadily to empty it—just so the BBT can fill it up again. In all of Europe, Germany has the most devotees going out on book distribution, so we have the best results. Under the guidance of Munindra Gaṇa Dāsa, a young team of enthusiastic *brahmacārīs* regularly goes out in two *saṅkīrtana* vans. Sometimes even your successful YouTuber Ānanda Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, who regularly floods

the internet with your message in German and distributes your books online, also goes out to distribute books on the street.

Next to the book warehouse are our cows. We give shelter to five cows and two bulls, who are nicely fed and cared for by our cow team, led by Hasti Gopāla Dāsa. You can see how happy the cows and bulls look.

Right over there is the garden area. Śrīla Prabhupāda, let's stroll there! Here we have our two greenhouses. The large one is for flowers, early vegetables, and tomatoes, and the small one is for raising seedlings, which will be planted out with love by our gardening team, organized by Tribhaṅga Dāsa. Between these two greenhouses we have the summer residence of Śrīmatī Tulasī Mahārāṇī. The holy Tulasī plants grow nicely into strong minitrees with the dedication and experience of Sucitrā Devī Dāsī.

Moving up the hill, we have our fields! Last year, the garden team introduced a new system of ecological farming. Also, we have these huge plastic tunnels for growing more vegetables—they extend the warm season and help us become more self-sufficient.

Who are we feeding with all this? Well, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will show you later, because this is a very special person who also enjoys the beautiful flowers we grow here in the summers.

Next, here is the house for accommodating guests. The guesthouse is run by Mīnākṣī Svāminī Devī Dāsī. On the top floor of the guesthouse live the *brahmacārīnīs*, single ladies who have dedicated their youth to your mission. On the other side we have apartments for *gṛhastha* couples who directly serve your mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, let's enter the big middle building. Previously it served as a barn. Now, see what your students have done with it! Yes, some of those direct disciples are still around. Some have even become your dedicated, renounced preachers, such as Śācinandana Swami, Bhakti Vaibhava Swami, Bhakti Bhūṣaṇa Swami, and Kṛṣṇa Kṣetra Swami. Akhila Prabhu has dedicated his whole life to this project and still happily and joyfully serves here, giving us youngsters a good example for how to spend a life dedicated and to your mission.

Down here we have a big kitchen. This department is overseen by Narahari Devī Dāsī. She came here forty-two years ago and still cooks with her sister, Nāndīmukhī Devī Dāsī, for their beloved ...

In that kitchen we cook for the community of your devotees, guests, and for festivals—and, of course, for our special person! Who is that person? Well, Śrīla Prabhupāda, please come with us to the heart of our community, the temple room.

Yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have you here already! For forty years we have been holding onto your *vapuḥ* in the form of your *mūrti*, which we worship every day, and your *vāṇī*, which we worship by regularly reading your books, in particular the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in the mornings and the *Bhagavad-gītā* in the evenings.

Oh! A priest is blowing the conchshell! Now the curtain will open! And there He is, the life and soul of our community—Śrī Narasīnhadeva, along with His special devotee, Śrī Prahlāda, who is sitting on His lap, and His consort Śrīmatī Lakṣmīdevī, who is resting on His chest. This most wonderful form of the Supreme Personality of Godhead has been worshiped here for forty years by dedicated devotees. His *brahmacārīs* live above the temple room. These monks have dedicated their youth to the mission of Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are entirely indebted to you! By giving us your divine teachings on the message of God, you gave us each a new way to live and new meaning in our confused existence. In the worship of Narasīnhadeva you gave us the supreme shelter in Kali-yuga! And since Śrī Śrī Prahlāda-Lakṣmī-Narasīnhadeva are so satisfied by the sacrifices of you and your followers, they are very merciful and approachable to everyone who comes with an open and prayerful heart, offering even simple service for Their satisfaction.

Our community of devotees who live on and around this project love this form of the Lord so much that we happily take up the task of keeping Their project going and making it accessible to more and more generations of devotees to come, spreading love of Godhead. May there be shelter and peace for the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the spreading of the holy name of the Lord! May we always hold on tight to your loving guidelines and instructions on how to reach the highest goal of life, love of Godhead. And may we forever remain members of your team, which is giving the chanting of

Hare Kṛṣṇa to as many people as possible so they can become happy!

Your humble and dedicated servants at Simhachalam, ISKCON's farm community in Jandelsbrunn, Germany.

(written by Govindadeva Dāsa and his wife, Amṛta Gopī Devī Dāsī)

Solapur

*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*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I consider myself very unqualified to write this offering on this auspicious 126th anniversary of the appearance day of Your Divine Grace, but this is a great opportunity for me to express my gratitude for the Society you gave us. By your mercy, on the auspicious Utthāna Ekādaśī on November 15, 2021, we installed the Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara. During the installation festival we distributed about 25,000 plates of *prasādam*. By your mercy, on the advent day of the *Bhagavad-gītā* we also distributed about 13,000 books, and we distributed 40,000 for the entire year.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy we opened three new centers, through which about a thousand devotees are now connected. Without your compassion and your sheltering words of wisdom, we cannot do anything.

We are very thankful to you and your disciples, who are showing us a path to come out of the miserable situation of material life. You created this ISKCON society. It has not only given us knowledge but brought a lot of transformation in our lives. We are most indebted to you for the austerities you have undertaken to create this society for us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you had no desire other than to satisfy Kṛṣṇa, and in reciprocation—obvious to us all—He fully empowered you to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world for many generations to come.

When people get to the point of understanding the need to reevaluate their goals and then formulate new ones, and when they become serious about searching for the truth, they meet you, the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, in the form of your books, temples, followers, etc., and you show them the way out of the material world by giving them true knowledge and real guidance.

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.2.31 the demigods and saints, headed by Lord Brahmā and Lord Śiva, offer Kṛṣṇa the following prayer:

*svayam samuttīrya sudustaram dyuman
bhavārṇavam bhīmam adabhra-sauhrdāḥ*

*bhavat-padāmbhoruha-nāvam atra te
nidhāya yātāḥ sad-anugraho bhavan*

O Lord, who resemble the shining sun, You are always ready to fulfill the desire of Your devotee, and therefore You are known as a desire tree [*vañcha-kalpataru*]. When *ācāryas* completely take shelter under Your lotus feet in order to cross the fierce ocean of nescience, they leave behind on earth the method by which they cross, and because You are very merciful to Your other devotees, You accept this method to help them.

This verse expresses the relationship and reciprocation between God and a pure devotee like you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You left behind the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness for our benefit. By our great fortune you enabled us to cross the fierce ocean of nescience. Kṛṣṇa reciprocates with you by fully accepting and certifying the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness as you taught it. For that we are eternally indebted to you.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the present situation, when the whole world is reevaluating itself, when people are thinking about finding a new foundation for their lives, setting new goals, being open to new ways of life and new value systems, we pray that by following in your footsteps we will be able to preach to them successfully, knowing well that it is all your glory and merit. Please allow us to worship you by preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness and making your movement even more successful.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came to this world to fulfill Kṛṣṇa's mission, and because of your glories and compassion you are prepared to bestow mercy freely on all. We pray to Kṛṣṇa that He gives us the strength to continue to serve you and your mission. You said that ISKCON is your body and that one who serves ISKCON serves you. We take your instruction to serve ISKCON as our foremost mission in life, and we pray to you to empower us to serve wholeheartedly with body, mind, and words.

As I pass my days in ISKCON, more and more I see your desire for what ISKCON could become and that fulfilling your desire is a challenge set for all ISKCON leaders. I feel the same challenge in my own service. So I pray at your lotus feet that by your mercy I can overcome these challenges. Please enlighten us through your Kṛṣṇa conscious instructions and give us more and more strength to carry out our tasks. I am trying to surrender to you more and more. Please pull me up. Please always engage me in your service. Your Divine Grace, you are a Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura. Only you can give us Kṛṣṇa. I am a poor fellow, simply running behind you, crying.

Your servants at ISKCON Solapur, India.

Suriname

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to you!

It is only by your causeless mercy that we know about Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the most merciful incarnation of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. On the order of your spiritual master, you chose to travel to the Western world to fulfill the prophecy of Śrī Gaurāṅgadeva that one day the holy names of Kṛṣṇa would be heard in every town and village. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you underwent so many austerities for fallen souls like us. Without your mercy, what would be our fate?

Whereas the whole world is suffering from the influence of this age of quarrel and hypocrisy, we are fortunate to find solace at your two lotus feet, which are as soothing as the rays of a full moon. Indeed, it is our good fortune to be part of this Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, a movement started by predecessor *ācāryas* like Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. This movement is meant to grant the highest benediction to humankind: pure love for the Divine Couple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava! Without your mercy, what would be our fate?

Our lives were without Kṛṣṇa consciousness, revolving around our false ego as we tried to enjoy our senses. Eating, sleeping, mating, and defending were our natural habits. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave perspective and meaning to our lives; now we have the opportunity to serve Kṛṣṇa, to chant the *mahā-mantra*, and to know Him. By your mercy this has become our supremely good fortune!

Your servants at Mārkine Śrī Māyāpur Dhāma, ISKCON Suriname.

(written by Harīndu-priya Dāsa)

Taichung

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

This material world is a temporary place full of misery. At this time in Kali-yuga, the material world is getting worse. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole world has been in great anxiety. Thank you for bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to us. You bring light and hope to the whole world. We can be truly happy when we are with Kṛṣṇa, so this is the most precious gift and teaching you could give the world.

Your biography, *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*, gives us the opportunity to know you and to understand what you have done for us—it highlights the treasures you brought us. Your personal story is very inspirational. No matter the difficulty, you never gave up. You tried so hard to serve your Guru Mahārāja and Lord Kṛṣṇa. You always thought of Lord Kṛṣṇa's will and plan and were prepared to carry it out. You always remembered your Guru Mahārāja's instructions and faithfully served him with your whole life and soul. You had strong faith in Lord Kṛṣṇa and His holy name! It is very striking. For us you are an idea example of how to be proper servants of the servant of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Although we didn't have the good fortune of having your physical association, we have the association of your unalloyed disciples and other sincere followers. I am realizing more and more how fortunate we are to have their association. Hearing their stories of how they came to you and how they served you is amazing. Their strong faith and deep love for you is touching and encouraging!

From reading your hundreds of letters, I have been amazed to see that although you had many services, you were still so caring that you responded to each devotee who wrote you, just like a loving father. You guided, trained, and encouraged your disciples through your letters. By this you show us the importance of devotee care. Such care gives devotees more strength to carry out the preaching mission

of Lord Caitanya. Your disciples didn't feel alone, because you were always with them. You are always our well-wisher.

You never thought small, and even at the beginning, when you first came to New York, you had big plans for the future. You were trying to serve your spiritual predecessors and fulfill the scriptural prediction of a spiritual movement that would flourish for ten thousand years in the midst of the Age of Kali. Thank you for giving us ISKCON. ISKCON gives us shelter, protection, and guidance and helps us learn how to revive our love for Kṛṣṇa! You built a house in which the whole world can live.

In Taichung, the devotees organize many *harināma* outreach programs, during which the holy name, *prasādam*, and your teachings in the form of your books are shared with the public. During the *harināma* programs I see that many people become happy, some so touched that they begin to cry. I realize that this is the power of the holy name! This is what people need. Now I understand why *saṅkīrtana* is so important for the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. There are many people out there looking for Kṛṣṇa. Although I have no intelligence or talent, I sincerely pray that I can offer some little service to the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

You always wanted devotees to stay connected and work together as one family. You once said that "Your love for me will be shown by how you cooperate among yourselves." We all have different natures, so we need to follow your teaching in this regard and learn to appreciate others, serve devotees, and keep Lord Kṛṣṇa in the center. When I read your letter to Jaya Govinda Dāsa dated May 8, 1969, it really touched my heart. You taught him how to face difficulties when we render service. You wrote,

So let us forget our past difficulties in Krishna consciousness. If anyone faces difficulties, it is considered as blessings, because without tapasya, or voluntarily accepting some inconveniences, nobody can realize the Transcendence. So, when we are put into difficulties while discharging Krishna Conscious duties, it is to be understood that Krishna puts us in a field of austerities and penances which help us make progress towards realization of our goal of life.

Please kindly bless us so that we can remain in ISKCON and continue to offer some service. Please shower your mercy on the devotees all over the world, as well as those in Taichung, so we can share your mercy with others.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Taichung, Taiwan.

(written by Cintāmaṇi Rādhā Devī Dāsī)

Taipei

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I feel so fortunate to be writing your Vyāsa-pūjā offering on behalf of the Taipei *yātrā*, glorifying you on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of your appearance day. I don't know how to express the magnitude of our appreciation for everything you have done for us and for the people of the whole world.

You visited Hong Kong a few times to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but you were never able to visit

Taiwan. Although you couldn't come, you shared your mercy with the people of Taiwan by sending excellent devotees, your disciples, to spread the holy name of Lord Kṛṣṇa to the people here. We are all very fortunate to have met your many surrendered disciples and followers who served, and continue to serve, in the Taiwan *yātrā*.

The first time I received knowledge of *bhakti-yoga*, or Kṛṣṇa consciousness, from the devotees, I could not understand its meaning. From your books and the teachings of your disciples I was greatly encouraged to develop more faith and understanding. This led to a greater appreciation of the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and allowed me to derive a little taste in the nectar of *bhakti*. What is true for me is true for others who had the opportunity to meet you through your teachings and followers.

My greatest joy now is reading and distributing your books and spreading the holy names of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Whenever there is discouragement or confusion in my heart, I can always get encouragement from your books. When I distribute a book to strangers, I always pray silently and hope they can accept Lord Kṛṣṇa and, like me, find the true direction of life. I am also very happy to hear from my friends about their deep inner joy when they hear and chant the holy name of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

We deeply thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and your followers for sharing Lord Kṛṣṇa with the people of Taiwan.

Your very thankful servants at ISKCON Taipei, Taiwan.

(written by Tuṅgavidyā Devī Dāsī)

Teluk Intan

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

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

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

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You embraced us and guided us on the path of *bhakti*, devotional service to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Without your mercy, what would have happened to us? You built us a home in which the whole world can live, ISKCON. Despite the sacrifices and hardships you went through, your love for us and your willingness to instruct us as our *jagad-guru* still pulls us near to Kṛṣṇa every day.

On this auspicious day we have nothing to ask from you except your constant blessings upon us to continue Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission to spread the holy names to every town and village. Dear Paraṁ Gurudeva, you are still living with us through your most precious books, which give us the *rasa* of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* daily in our homes.

You'll forever be the commander-in-chief of this Kṛṣṇa conscious army, and we request you to keep guiding and blessing these fallen soldiers of yours.

Now and forever we are unlimitedly indebted to you, for you have showered us with your inconceivable causeless mercy of unlimited profound love of Kṛṣṇa and His dear devotees. Happy Vyāsa-pūjā, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. We love you. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants at ISKCON Teluk Intan, Malaysia.

Thunder Bay ISKCON

*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 my humble obeisances. All glories, all glories, all glories to you!

As in 2021, this is Prema-kiśora Dāsa, a disciple of His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, again thankful for the great honor of writing your Vyāsa-pūjā offering for Thunder Bay ISKCON.

With your divine blessings, we now have a beautiful temple in Thunder Bay, Ontario. This is the biggest ISKCON temple across all 3,000 km of Northwestern Ontario. The temple, built on a one-acre lot, is about 10,000 sq feet. On the altar we have installed the beautiful Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Braja-vatsala, Śrī Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumānī, and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā. Facing the Deities is a beautiful six-foot-high portrait of Your Divine Grace. The temple was inaugurated on August 30, 2021, in the presence of His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami and Canada's Minister of Health, the Honorable Patty Haidju. Some of your senior disciples traveled to Thunder Bay from the United States and other places in Canada to attend the opening ceremony.

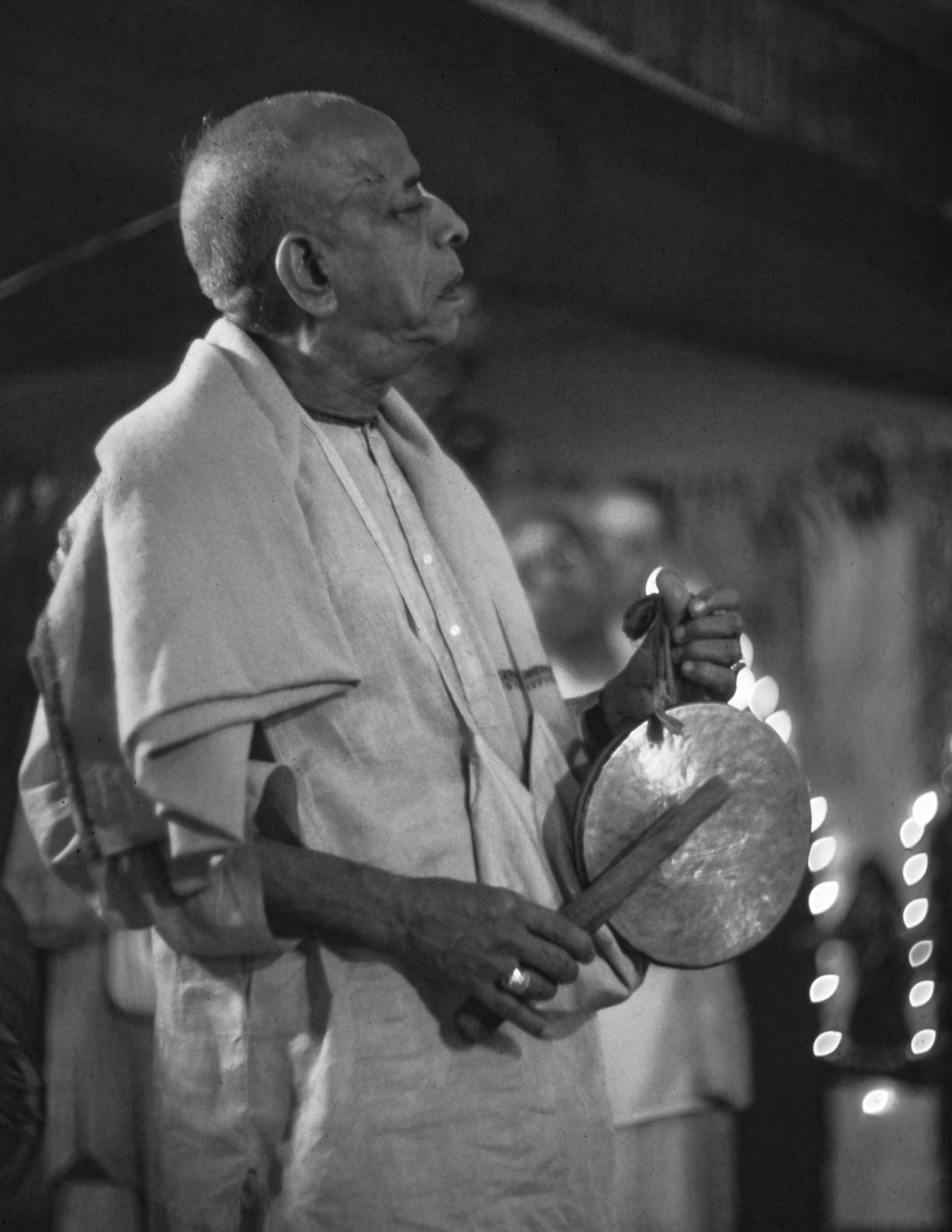
During the pandemic we organized a drive-in Festival of India for our Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā. Now, with the COVID-19 pandemic subsiding and restrictions being lifted, we have begun to organize Kṛṣṇa conscious festivals that devotees can attend in person. Recently we organized outreach events in two of the major cities of Northwestern Ontario.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we need your blessings and mercy so we can continue to serve you and expand ISKCON's activities across the northern communities of Canada. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all your wonderful teachings.

Hare Kṛṣṇa,

Your servants at the ISKCON's Vedic Cultural Centre in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

(written by Prema-kiśora Dāsa and Sunīti Devī Dāsī)



Tokyo

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble *daṇḍavat-praṇāmas*. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

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

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

On this auspicious occasion of Your Divine Grace's Vyāsa-pūjā, Śrīla Prabhupāda, from the Land of the Rising Sun, Japan, we first offer our humble *daṇḍavat-praṇāmas* unto your lotus feet. Your Divine Grace first planned to visit Japan in 1961 to begin spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, and although that visit never materialized, from that aborted visit our good fortune started. Under the expert and vigilant guidance of members of the GBC, we are here practicing and preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over Japan by holding regular *harināmas*, teaching *Bhagavad-gītā* to the Japanese, training Japanese devotees in Deity services, giving lectures, holding *kīrtanas*, and doing book distribution, devotee care, Food-for-Life, and other forms of preaching. Preaching is the life of all the devotees, especially our senior devotees here in Japan. Under their guidance and leadership, Kṛṣṇa conscious preaching, especially to other Japanese, is increasing year by year.

Training courses on the *Bhagavad-gītā* for the Japanese, expertly led by His Grace Madhumaṅgala Prabhuji and Yamunā Mātāji, are spreading all over Tokyo, Kyoto, and Okinawa. With this training the participants, especially yoga teachers, learning for themselves and sharing the message with their students, are becoming vegetarians and *prasādam* lovers and adopting the chanting of the *mahā-mantra*. We are focusing on training new leaders to carry forward this preaching movement, especially among the native Japanese, to fulfill ISKCON's purposes, as they were given by Your Divine Grace.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, devotees in all the centers in Japan kept preaching, doing book distribution, and holding online satsangs and *kīrtana-melās* with increased spirit. Now the situation is getting a little easier and we are extending ourselves to reach out to more people.

We humbly wish to share a few of the milestones we reached last year:

1. Under the expert management of MC, we paid off the full loan on ISKCON New Gaya Dhāma, in Tokyo.
2. Last year, the *saṅkīrtana* team in Japan distributed more than 11,000 Japanese *Bhagavad-gītās* around the country.
3. Deity services are punctually conducted with the help of local temple devotees. We trained some new *pūjārīs* to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda.
4. We made big leaps in preaching to natives and expats through the *Bhagavad-gītā* courses and chanting the holy name at yoga studios, at home programs, on *harināma*, and at temple programs.
5. Under the expert guidance of the GBC for Japan, preaching in other cities in Japan, such as Okinawa, Kyoto, Nagoya, Yokohama, and Tsukuba, is spreading widely. We are conducting monthly programs and festivals in these areas to bring Kṛṣṇa conscious teachings to the people there and to help them understand those teachings through Your Divine Grace's books. We also try to encourage them to adopt the chanting of the holy name and follow the four regulative principles.

6. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the devotees and congregation continued to preach and serve the Deities, and to conduct festivals at the temple with all enthusiasm.

Your Divine Grace said that “This is a great gift—don’t spoil it. That is my request. Increase—that will depend on your character, behavior, and preaching.” (Room conversation, 10 April 1977, Bombay) We pray to your lotus feet that we tolerate the provocations and cooperate to spread the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu in Japan. We seek blessings and empowerment from Your Divine Grace so that we can each continue our devotional practices and preach in the Land of the Rising Sun uninterruptedly and with all enthusiasm, with no personal motives.

Your servants at ISKCON Tokyo, Japan.

(written by Sudāmā Dāsa)

Toronto

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, how do we thank you for doing so much for us conditioned souls, completely selflessly and at a great cost to your health and comfort? How do we thank you for being the *ācārya* you are, for holding our hand and keeping us on the path of devotional service? How do we thank you for showing us, by your example, how to dedicate one’s life to one’s spiritual master and consider the spiritual master’s order one’s life and soul?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, fortunately the scriptures give us the answer in a verse you often quoted: *mahājano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ*. We at New Remuṇā Dhāma are trying to follow the path you traveled and desperately seek your blessings to have a small degree of success. In addition, the scriptures tell us that the only way to thank a spiritual master is to follow his instructions, as confirmed by Arjuna in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (18.73): *karīṣye vacanāṁ tava*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly allow us to submit to you some of the activities going on at New Remuṇā Dhāma despite the interruptions and disturbance caused by the onset of COVID-19.

With the encouragement of the GBC, five new centers have been opened by devotees in Stouffville, Oakville, Milton, Niagara Falls, and Muskoka. This is in addition to the existing satellite centers in Brampton and Scarborough. The Russian-speaking devotees in Toronto are now a registered ISKCON group.

We have been holding outside *kīrtanas* at High Park and Trinity Bell Park, which have attracted a mixed crowd, comprised of a variety of ethnic groups living in Toronto.

Our outreach to the yoga community has been a tremendous success.

While the attendance at our temples has been restricted due to COVID protocols, the Toronto devotees have taken full advantage of the available Zoom technology to start many online classes and discussion groups, which in turn have attracted devotees from across the world. While COVID has significantly reduced the personal association among devotees, it has significantly increased our outreach to communities and people who have never before been reachable.

We are happy to report that the lower attendance at the temple has not negatively impacted donations, and due to reduced expenses it has actually strengthened the temple's financial position to levels never achieved before.

We have taken advantage of the reduced attendance at the temple to start renovation projects that will allow us to meet our growing need for more classrooms and meeting rooms. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you may recall walking on the three-level balcony of the temple. We will renovate it to make it a single level, which will allow us to significantly increase its usefulness.

Our Govinda's restaurant continues to do well, especially with the greatly increased demand for take-out orders. We have also started to distribute *prasādam* at the local YWCA every Friday, with *prasādam* being sponsored by community members.

While the Ratha-yātrā has not been as opulent or elaborate as in previous years due to COVID restrictions, Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā have gone out to parks as well as to the homes of various devotees, where they have been well received with *kīrtana*, *bhoga*, and *ārati*. This has allowed the neighbors to participate, something they would otherwise never have done. Last year, we did our Ratha-yātrā in cooperation with and in a tight connection to three large, prominent temples, namely, the Vishnu temple, the Laxmi-Narayan temple, and the Hindu Mahasabha temple.

Temple devotees have been performing half-hour *kīrtanas* daily as a dedication to the devotees in Bangladesh and Ukraine, as well as to devotees or their relatives who are either seriously ill or have left their bodies. For the most part, these *kīrtanas* have been organized by our V-CARE group, led by an amazingly committed devotee, Her Grace Lalitā Priyā Devī Dāsī.

The V-CARE group has been delivering *prasādam* to the homes of ill devotees and senior citizens, and visiting patients in hospitals and palliative care centers just to give them devotee association and read the *Bhagavad-gītā* to them.

Our head *pūjārīs*, His Grace Brahmā Dāsa and Her Grace Sattvatanu Devī Dāsī, have continued their service despite the COVID protocols and their risk of contracting the disease. For almost two years they have continued to do all activities related to Deity worship with the help of just one other devotee, Her Grace Prema Mañjarī Devī Dāsī.

The quality of our *bhoga* has significantly increased with the expertise and hard work of His Grace Dvārakānātha Prabhu, ably supported by some *grhastha* devotees.

We are so proud to have a dedicated team as temple council members—His Grace Rāmeśvara Dāsa, His Grace Muralīdhara Sevā Dāsa, and His Grace Rudradeva Dāsa—and as board members—His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami, Her Grace Prahāraṇa Devī Dāsī, His Grace Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Dāsa, and His Grace Indreśa Dāsa.

This year we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of our most beautiful Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṣīracora-Gopīnātha.

Most importantly, while we have been busy with all these activities, we have actually increased our book distribution to new levels with the help of a dedicated book distribution team, headed by His Grace Rādhā-Mohana Dāsa and Her Grace Śyāma Mohinī Devī Dāsī, inspired by His Grace Vaiśeṣika Prabhu. We distributed 235 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets during the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign. We also distributed 13,337 *Bhagavad-gītās* and received sponsorship for 12,789 *Bhagavad-gītās* as part of the “Live to Give” marathon.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for looking over us with your loving eyes. Kindly continue to inspire us to serve you more and better each year. We want to do better with our interpersonal skills and serve you better in a mood of cooperation with everyone. Please feel free to chastise or correct us as you see fit. Your chastisements constitute some of the best memories of your disciples. Please keep them coming. We want to be your best servants, but we lack ability and are easily distracted by false ego. Please, Śrīla

Prabhupāda, we desperately need your help and we are begging for it. You are our ultimate hope and our ultimate shelter.

Your eternal servants at ISKCON Toronto (New Remuṇā Dhāma), Canada.

(written by Rūpānuga Dāsa)

Tucson

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

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

Had You Not Come—The Great-Gift Aṣṭakam

Prabhupāda, had you not come,
Wherever would we be,
Bound by Māyā's shackles,
Unable to break free?

Had you not given us *harināma*,
Life would be incomplete.
Forever chewing the chewed,
We'd never taste what's truly sweet.

Had you not awakened us,
We'd have wasted our lives in sleep,
Missing those predawn chanting hours
For a snoozing garbage heap.

Had you not allowed the ladies
To serve inside your temple,
Without your shelter we'd never know
Fine feelings, chaste and gentle.

Had you not given us *prasādam*,
Our sins would simply mount
While eating forbidden food—
Bad reaction tantamount.

You rendered the holy *Bhāgavatam*
In English with exacting grace,
Without which we'd be so lost,
Clueless of time and place.

Had you not given us knowledge,
We'd still be ignorant fools,
Absorbed in darkest nescience,
Braying like besotted mules.

All these gifts you've freely given
To spare us a wretched fate.
We love you, Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Our beautiful Kṛṣṇa saint.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Indeed, had you not come, there would be no Vyāsa-pūjā offerings, no temples, no *prasādam*, no dancing before Deities, no loving exchanges, no books worth reading, no festivals worth celebrating—only the blazing fire of material existence. On this most merciful anniversary of your appearance in this world, we desert dwellers of ISKCON Tucson, Arizona, rededicate ourselves to bringing as many fortunate souls as possible to the oasis of your lotus feet.

Your servants in Tucson, Arizona, USA.

(written by Sandāminī Devī Dāsī)

Ujjain

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this auspicious day of your divine appearance, we remember August 21, 1965, when Your Divine Grace was sailing across the ocean on the *Jaladuta* and were alone for your sixty-ninth Vyāsa-pūjā. The whole world was unaware of your identity and glories. However, today, the entire world is singing your glories many times a day and surrendering to your lotus feet—so much so that last year the Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi Ji, released a special commemorative ₹125 coin in your honor because he realized the importance of your invaluable contributions. Previously you had no money with which to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness; now Kṛṣṇa has spread your glories so much that your picture is on the money.

We at ISKCON Ujjain are trying to serve your mission in our little capacity, hoping that these insignificant contributions may become the cause of your pleasure. Recently, here in Ujjain twelve devotees took *harināma* initiation and two devotees took *brāhmaṇa* initiation from His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami; ten devotees took *brāhmaṇa* initiation from His Holiness Jayapatākā Swami; and six devotees took *brāhmaṇa* initiation from His Holiness Lokanāth Swami. We have been extremely fortunate to have the association of many of your dear disciples and followers at ISKCON Ujjain during the last year, including His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami, His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, His Holiness Subhāg Swami, His Holiness Bhaktividyā Pūrṇa Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Jīvan Vrajānanda Swami, His Holiness Prabodhānanda Sarasvatī Swami, His Holiness Haladhara Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Prābhava Swami, His Grace Basu Ghosh Prabhu, His Grace Devakīnandana Prabhu, His Grace Mahāmana Prabhu, His Grace Śamīka Ṛṣi Prabhu, and many more.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always stressed having proper structure and modern facilities for attracting the conditioned souls to Kṛṣṇa. In accordance with your desire, we made some renovations and purchases to improve the temple facilities. In the auditorium, the walls, ceiling, stage, bathrooms, and floors were renovated. Air conditioners and the latest sound system and chandelier were installed. The guesthouse air conditioners have been replaced with new ones, and there is a plan for future renovation of the guesthouse office and the godown. The structure for the New-Devotee Training Program building received a new ceiling. A new fast-food outlet is now running on the temple premises to attract the public. A new tractor has been purchased for the Nalwa land for farming and to serve the cows.

During the COVID period, ISKCON Ujjain distributed 500 plates of *prasādam* every day to the patients and COVID medical workers. The government of Ujjain recognized this endeavor, and we received an appreciation from them. On the disappearance day of His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami, we fed sumptuous *prasādam* to 200 Ujjain *sādhus* and gave them donations and your transcendental books. On Mahārāja's appearance day we served 111 *brāhmaṇas* in the same way. Recently, the Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Sriman Mohan Bhagawat Ji, visited ISKCON Ujjain. More than 170 RSS men stayed in the temple guesthouse and apartments and organized their meetings in our auditorium. He

met His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami, His Grace Basu Ghosh Prabhu, and several other devotees and discussed issues regarding the ISKCON Ujjain land. This helped us improve your temple's image among the general people.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we know how much you emphasized the importance of book distribution. Following your instructions, your dear follower His Holiness Bhakti Prema Swami became the No. 1 book distributor in the world in the individual category for the month of November 2021 by securing an astounding 11,154 book points. During the book distribution marathon, ISKCON Ujjain distributed a total of 26,980 books, 77 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets, 17 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets, and 28 sets of *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*, for your pleasure. Exceeding the target we set of 250 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets for Bhādra Pūrṇimā, this time we distributed 300 sets. Her Grace Rāṅginī Rādhā Mātāji made ISKCON Ujjain proud by becoming the No. 3 distributor in the whole world and No. 1 in India in the *mātājis* individual category. It may not be our best performance, but we pray to you to kindly accept these scores as a humble offering for the pleasure of Your Divine Grace.

Devotees are also investing a lot of effort to expand the preaching. A *Gītā* Leadership contest was organized in which more than 1,200 students from thirty schools in various cities participated. Each student received a copy of your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. We are sure many of the students will be transformed by your mercy. We are also trying to spread the holy name by doing *nāgar-saṅkīrtana* every Thursday in different locations in Ujjain. One of His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami Maharaja's unique contributions was the *Abhay Charan* television series, which brought your glorious life and pastimes to the world on an unprecedented scale. To make it more accessible, recently we launched an attractive pen-drive version on your the 125th anniversary of your appearance day. Since then, we have distributed more than 1,500 pen drives worldwide to the devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your pleasure, our dear Guru Mahārāja started the Altars & Mūrtis project, which is now selling altars and *mūrtis* around the world, with many advance orders. We have replaced the old barricades in the temple hall with beautiful new barricades. We have installed solar panels at the site, due to which we are now able to reduce the energy consumption in the altar department by 50 percent. The *mūrti* department has made astounding life-size, realistic *mūrtis* of the *guru-paramparā*, and also a walking-pose *mūrti* of Your Divine Grace. Recently, we made majestic, eighteen-foot Jaya-Vijaya *mūrtis* for the Khargone temple. All these amazing achievements by the devotees are due only to your causeless mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are not yet absolved of the legal problems related to the land. We humbly seek your blessings in this regard. We beg at your lotus feet to kindly bestow upon us just a drop of the compassion you have for the fallen living entities of this material world so that we may perform devotional service unwaveringly and unflinchingly for your pleasure.

We beg to remain the humble servants of your servants.

Your devotees at ISKCON Ujjain, India.

Villaggio Hare Krishna

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our divine master and father,

I offer my obeisances at your lotus feet with all the humility and devotion present in my heart, and with the awareness that I will never be able to reciprocate adequately for your precious gifts. Nevertheless, I would like to express my deepest gratitude, hoping that my meditation on your benevolence and magnanimity may help me to each day appreciate my fortune more and save me from being touched, even remotely, by some kind of forgetfulness or ingratitude.

Actually, it is very easy to feel deep gratitude for you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, because I am made of your gifts, and so gratitude is also very natural, like taking a breath of fresh air. Among the innumerable gifts you carried in your suitcase when you came to the West, three very potent items come first to my mind: the holy name, the sacred Vedic texts, and sanctified food. The potency of these three gifts is so extraordinary that a light touch of even one of them can save anyone from living an ignorant life and dying in oblivion. Here I would like to take the opportunity to show, with two examples, their practical and overwhelming effects.

One of our guests at the Sunday feast at Villaggio Hare Krishna regularly takes home *mahā-prasādam* sweets, and once he brought some of these sweets to one of his colleagues at work to benefit the man's wife, who had been in a coma for many months after a serious car accident. Writing on a sheet of paper the words of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, he gave the paper and the *prasādam* to his colleague, advising him to recite the holy names into his wife's ear and put the sweets near her hospital bed for at least seven days (he thought this was how long the sweets would remain fresh). He also told him that the holy names and the sanctified food represent the Supreme Absolute Truth, and so those who take shelter of them receive benedictions and realizations otherwise impossible to attain. The colleague followed his instructions precisely, and his wife woke from her coma about one week later. When she was asked why she had been able to come back to consciousness, she said she had never heard nor smelled anything like what she had been experiencing, and the desire to hear that sound and smell that aroma gave her impetus to awaken.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, will I also one day have, by your grace, a speck of the faith that our Sunday guest had in the *mahā-mantra* and *mahā-prasādam*?

You translated for us with great care, pain, and joy sacred books like *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the *Bhagavad-gītā*, and these essential Vedic texts are waiting to reach the right persons and make their lives meaningful. Here is an example of this: "It was a tranquil morning in a small town in central Italy, with only a few old people walking in the street, when I noticed the town hall and offices and thought it would be a good place to distribute some books. Unfortunately, entrance was permitted only through facial recognition. I put my face in front of the video camera and said 'Hare Kṛṣṇa!' I heard some crackling sounds and a digitalized voice saying 'Access allowed.' It is a good sign, I thought.' Somebody must be waiting for Prabhupāda's books.

"Inside I saw many office doors. I entered one and closed it behind me. I said to the lady sitting at the desk: 'I brought you *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.' I noticed the surprised expression on her face and thought, 'She does not know what I am talking about.' But to my astonishment she said, 'How did you know that I was waiting for this book? Today I was supposed to start my first online lesson on the *Bhagavad-gītā*, but last night my teacher died and the program has been canceled. And now you are here! Incredible! Wonderful! Now I will study your master's *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.'"

Thank you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, for allowing us to serve your mission. Is there anything more joyful, useful, poetic, beautiful, heroic, encouraging, valid, authentic, altruistic, brilliant, perfect, and sublime than being a simple instrument in your hands while you direct the orchestra that is changing the heart of the world?

Hoping to become fully dedicated servants of your lotus feet,

Your servants at Villaggio Hare Krishna, Bergamo, Italy.

(written by Āli Kṛṣṇa Devī Dāsī)

Vṛndāvana

Our dearest and most revered Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Countless devotees are glorifying and offering their homages and obeisances to you today for being the most important emissary from the spiritual world in the recent age, saving the conditioned souls for the next ten thousand years. We are fortunate to have taken birth in time to witness the wonderful activities you performed as you convinced and encouraged tens and thousands and millions of people to take up the process of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission of *saṅkīrtana-yajña*.

As part of our contribution to assisting you fulfill the instructions you received from your Guru Mahārāja, we are distributing thousands of books at the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir every month. We came in third in the large-temple category in last December's book marathon in India, and we are always in the top five temples in the world during the year. We have devotees who regularly visit schools and colleges in Vraja and all over India, distributing full sets of your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in various languages. One of your dearmost disciples, Surabhīr- abhipālayantam Swami, who left his body recently, donated through his will 700 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* for this purpose. We also recently built a new BBT godown on our property for all of your books—a hub from which we can distribute books locally and all over the world.

Our regular Food-for-Life program is distributing free *kicharī prasādam* to the thousands of visitors who come to your Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir every day. Similarly, we have free *prasādam* distribution for the local Vrajavāsīs, *sādhus*, and pilgrims within a ten-mile radius of our temple.

We are also distributing the holy name in every town and village around Vraja, trying to inspire the Vrajavāsīs to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* on a regular basis. Hundreds of them chant with your devotees every day.

Your museum, opposite your *samādhi mandira*, was inaugurated just recently this year. The exhibit comprises life-size dioramas of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa; Lord Caitanya and the members of the Pañca-tattva; and the *guru-paramparā*, including Brahmājī, Nārada Muni, Vyāsa, the Six Gosvāmīs, Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, and Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. Your early history of struggling to write the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple, your journey onboard the *Jaladuta* to the West, and your chanting of the holy name in America for the first time at Tompkins Square Park, etc., are all realistically depicted in your museum.

Thousands of people visit your most wonderful Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir every day, becoming mesmerized by the exquisite beauty of Their Lordships and engaging in the *yuga-dharma*—chanting with our devotees from the twenty-four-hour *kīrtana* department. Now, with the newly added attraction of the museum exhibit, many more visitors will understand your message and the authenticity of your movement.

We are all earnestly trying to follow your simple formula of daily attending the full morning program,

which culminates in hearing nectarean passages from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, your most important contribution to human society in the Age of Kali, along with the daily evening *Bhagavad-gītā* classes in the library section of your quarters. A weekly reading from *Kṛṣṇa* book has also recently been added to attract your followers to dive deeper into the message of Lord Kṛṣṇa's pastimes.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you fulfilled Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's prophecy. Five hundred years ago, Lord Caitanya predicted:

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

"In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard." (*Caitanya-bhāgavata*, *Antya* 4.126) Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu is mercy personified, *patita-pāvana*. But, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are even more merciful. With your surrender to the Supreme Lord Śrī Hari and your selfless service, you successfully preached all over the world, and even now your disciples and granddisciples continue to fulfill Lord Caitanya's prophecy.

You fulfilled Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's desire that the holy name would be chanted all over the world. As Śrīla Bhaktivinoda wrote in 1885:

Alas! When will that day come when all greatly fortunate souls in countries such as England, France, Russia, Germany, and America will take up the banners, kettledrums, *mṛdaṅgas*, and *karatālas* and thus cause the ecstatic waves of *harināma-kīrtana* and the singing of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's holy name to rise in the streets of towns and cities? [*Sajjana-toṣaṇī* 4.3, "Nityadharmā *Suryodoy*," 1885]

Worshiping and serving Your Divine Grace is our life and soul. Through you we can worship Their Lordships, and by serving you all the doors to perfection can be opened. It was you who gave us this knowledge. We exist only because of your mercy. You gave us everything we need to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. You gave us the instruction to preach—to distribute your books and spread the holy name of the Lord in every town and village, which are the easiest ways to attract the eternal couple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāma.

May we imbibe from you the same *guru-niṣṭhā*, faith in the spiritual master, that you had, so we may make advancement in our Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We ardently hope that we may be able to receive your sidelong glance of mercy to follow in your footsteps and be able to also follow in the mood of the Vrajavāsīs, who surrender and offer their love to Śrī Nandanandana.

As long as we have the ability and opportunity to spread your glories, we will consider it our only solace and our main goal, birth after birth. The day will come when the whole world will celebrate your appearance day just as they celebrate the appearance day of Jesus Christ. Moreover, the day will come when you will always be remembered as the one who saved the entire universe.

You gave us Vṛndāvana, and we should value this for the rest of our lives and not take our being here for granted even for a moment. Vṛndāvana is your home, and you have given us the opportunity to take care of it by serving the devotees who live here and the devotees who visit, making them feel at home. We want to appreciate the *dhāma* in every way possible. We truly aspire to preserve and protect whatever you created in Vṛndāvana, and so we continuously try to improve the project according to your original intentions for it—to broadcast the glories of Their Lordships by cooperating with one another. May we be loyal to you and your teachings now and forever by not hearing from speakers outside our Society, however scholarly or knowledgeable they may be.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we all appreciate and are grateful to you for giving us the opportunity to serve in the holiest of holy places, Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma. Our life and success is judged by how much you are pleased by our sincere efforts to serve and surrender to you cooperatively. Please forgive us for all of our offenses, whether committed knowingly or unknowingly, while serving you, the devotees, and Their



Lordships. May you grant us the blessing to serve you eternally.

Praying at the dust of your lotus feet birth after birth that we may become qualified someday,

Your most unworthy servants at the Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira, Vṛndāvana, India.

(written by Bhakti Anugraha Janārdana Swami)

Washington, D.C.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you on this Vyāsa-pūjā day. This is the happiest day, the day when we celebrate your appearance in the world and in our lives.

Sometimes I sit close to the *vyāsāsana* here in your Washington, D.C.-area temple. As I see people approaching you and, as they do in all your temples, respectfully placing their palms together and bowing down to you, some touching your lotus feet, I marvel at the variety of these good souls. They come in all shapes and sizes, nationalities, and colors, and all designations we might imagine. Rich and poor, old and young, all kinds of people, except perhaps those averse to respecting saints—and maybe even some of them—come to honor you because of the heart-changing effects of all the grace (*prasāda*) you have distributed to the world.

It is touching to see those who have no formal obligation to you offering you all respect, and we feel grateful for our connection to Your Divine Grace. Our feelings deepen especially when we hear “outsiders” praise you and your writings in eloquent words. For example, we can remember these words of Dr. J. Stillson Judah, who was Professor of the History of Religions at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, and who met you a number of times:

I certainly honor Śrīla Prabhupāda as one of India’s preeminent scholars. As a translator of many of India’s important religious texts, he gave special attention to the spirit and beauty of the texts. I have seen, of course, many self-consciously literal translations of Indian philosophical and religious classics. These very literal translations are generally very barren—void of the intended religious sense of the text. But Śrīla Prabhupāda, in his translations, really captured their essential spirituality. A literal translation which lacks sympathetic reverence for the text itself can obscure rather than elucidate its profound inner meaning. I find that Śrīla Prabhupāda’s translations bring these works to life.

These “brought-to-life” translations—your books—give life to your readers. They are a literary sanctuary where we come to be with you and with the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. And when asked about what impression he had of you personally, Professor Judah said:

I was also very much impressed, even at that first meeting, and have been subsequently impressed, that he lived his life in the same way that he expected his disciples to. This is quite different from so many other gurus who come to the West and take up drinking a few cocktails and the like. Prabhupāda really lived a strict life. He was the perfect example for his disciples. And I think

this is certainly part of the great power of the man—that he did preach a very severe disciplined life, but he followed it himself, right down to the letter. His popularity among his disciples owes much to the fact that his own life was so truly exemplary, to the highest degree of the holy and disciplined life he demanded of them.

Although he certainly was exalted by his disciples, he did not put himself on a plane above them. He ate what they ate, lived in the same kind of building. He didn't want a palace to live in. He followed the same life as his disciples, strictly. The example he gave was a very good one, one that certainly impressed the devotees. I too was very impressed.

The good professor has described you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as an *ācārya*, a professor of the scriptures who abides by the scriptural teachings, lives a holy life, and teaches by example. We are reminded by Professor Judah's words that we are obliged to live up to the standards you upheld and to honor your ever-well-wishing hopes for our further and further advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We pray Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa fulfills your desires for us by irrevocably binding us to you as your faithful followers.

Your servants at New Hastināpura Dhāma, ISKCON's temple in Potomac, Maryland, near Washington, D.C., USA.

(written by Haridāsa Dāsa)

Wiesbaden

*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*

“One should know the *ācārya* as Myself and never disrespect him in any way. One should not envy him, thinking him an ordinary man, for he is the representative of all the demigods.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.17.27)

Prthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma / sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma: “My holy name will be sung [preached] in every town and village on earth.” (Caitanya Mahāprabhu, quoted in the *Caitanya-bhāgavata*, *Antya* 4.126)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances! All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!

Every time we read this prophecy we remember you and are thankful to Kṛṣṇa for your appearance! We cannot comprehend how the people in the West could have made themselves eligible to receive your mercy. You started your journey on August 13, 1965, and traveled on the *Jaladuta* all the way to us because you were following the instructions of your spiritual master.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, today's world situation confirms how important and valuable your books and the instructions they contain are. They give knowledge that frees humanity from

ignorance and are a bright light in the world. Your teachings help us recognize the false ego in ourselves and others. Your compassion gives sinners the opportunity to come to their senses and provides guidelines for how to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You help us understand that the body is not the self and is therefore not important—it is the soul that is important. By your divine grace we know how to go back to Godhead, to Goloka-dhāma. Because of you we understand who Kṛṣṇa is, who guru is, and where we can serve to achieve the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Even for beginners like us, may the fire of enthusiasm for the service of the Lord rise to its full power.

We are all so thankful that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, did not simply save yourself from the pangs of this material world but out of your infinite compassion undertook great austerities to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, even in such a land as the one in which we live. You gave us in this incredibly dangerous time an oasis of transcendental knowledge and transcendental communication with devotees who themselves are living representations of realized knowledge. What a transcendental oasis of knowledge! For all of us born in the darkness of ignorance, and for our children, you gave us this safe place where war has no place. How secure we feel in the presence of your compassion, experienced by reading books like your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.

From our hearts we thank you for this wonderful opportunity to be allowed to associate with compassionate devotees.

Even though our service is most insignificant, it depends fully on your mercy alone. Fortunately, your mercy is so wonderfully great because you are really compassion personified, representing the original spiritual master, Śrī Nityānanda or Balarāma.

On this holy occasion of the 126th anniversary of your appearance day, we would like to ask Your Divine Grace for your help and blessings so that we may overcome our offensive natures, especially our offenses against the holy name.

Especially for us born and raised in a Christian environment, we sometimes seem to like Jesus Christ more than Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. That is definitely due to our bad karma and our heavy contamination in the modes of passion and ignorance. Now that we have reached the threshold of old age, we desperately need your mercy to finally overcome this degradation demigod and achieve pure *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Please help and guide us! Thank you for the opportunity to serve in your ISKCON society. Kindly always engage us in the service of your servants! We offer this prayer at your divine lotus feet.

You continue to protect us in our service to Kṛṣṇa. Your mercy has no limits, and our minds are unable to comprehend it. We would like to imbibe your mood of being the servant of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and of you, as you served Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. May we become loving, serious, and steadfast. We want to serve you by participating in the mission of Lord Caitanya, in hopes of bringing you joy and satisfaction. We pray that we will remain engaged in devotional service to you and our Guru Mahārāja, and that we stay on this path and inspire others to hold onto your lotus feet.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, in a letter to your spiritual sons and daughters you mentioned an Oxford professor who claimed that the problems in human society are caused by overpopulation, environmental pollution, etc. You explained that the *Bhagavad-gītā* teaches that God is the father of all living beings, and this supreme father is certainly competent to provide for all his children. The actual problem in this world is godlessness! The solution is to study your books and systematically propagate the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always encouraged us in this endeavor, assuring us that by doing so we would change the world!

May we each eternally remain humble servants in your mission,

Your most unworthy and humble servants at Hari Nāma Desh, Wiesbaden, Germany.

Yavatmal

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to you.
I often sing the song beginning with this stanza:

*ohe!
vaiṣṇava ṭhākura, doyāra sāgara,
e dāse karuṇā kori’
diyā pada-chāyā, śodho he āmāya,
tomāra caraṇa dhorī*

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

Whenever I sing this song I feel I have no good qualities or capabilities in me. Whatever little I have learned or been given, it is all by your kind mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us ISKCON—a family—and the holy name, which is like a ship helping us cross the ocean of material nature, where there is every opportunity to slip from the path of spirituality.

You gave us your books: you went to the West, translated the most important of the Vedic texts, and presented them with your unique Bhaktivedanta purports for the ultimate benefit of the world at large.

You gave us so many *bhaktas*. A touchstone is recognized by its ability to transform iron into gold. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you transformed materialistic people into devotees. In general, people like to see miracles. What could be more of a miracle than transforming materialistic people into devotees?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in just twelve years, and despite your advanced age, you circled the globe fourteen times on lecture tours that took you to six continents. In spite of such a vigorous schedule, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you continued to write prolifically. Your writings constitute a veritable library of Vedic philosophy, religion, literature, and culture.

Upon your arrival in New York City in 1965, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you struggled on your own for almost a year to successfully establish ISKCON.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always emphasized writing your books, regarding it as the most important devotional service you performed. You were very conscientious in the translation of Vedic *śāstras*, and remarkably, you also initiated almost five thousand disciples and established 108 ISKCON temples in the span of a decade.

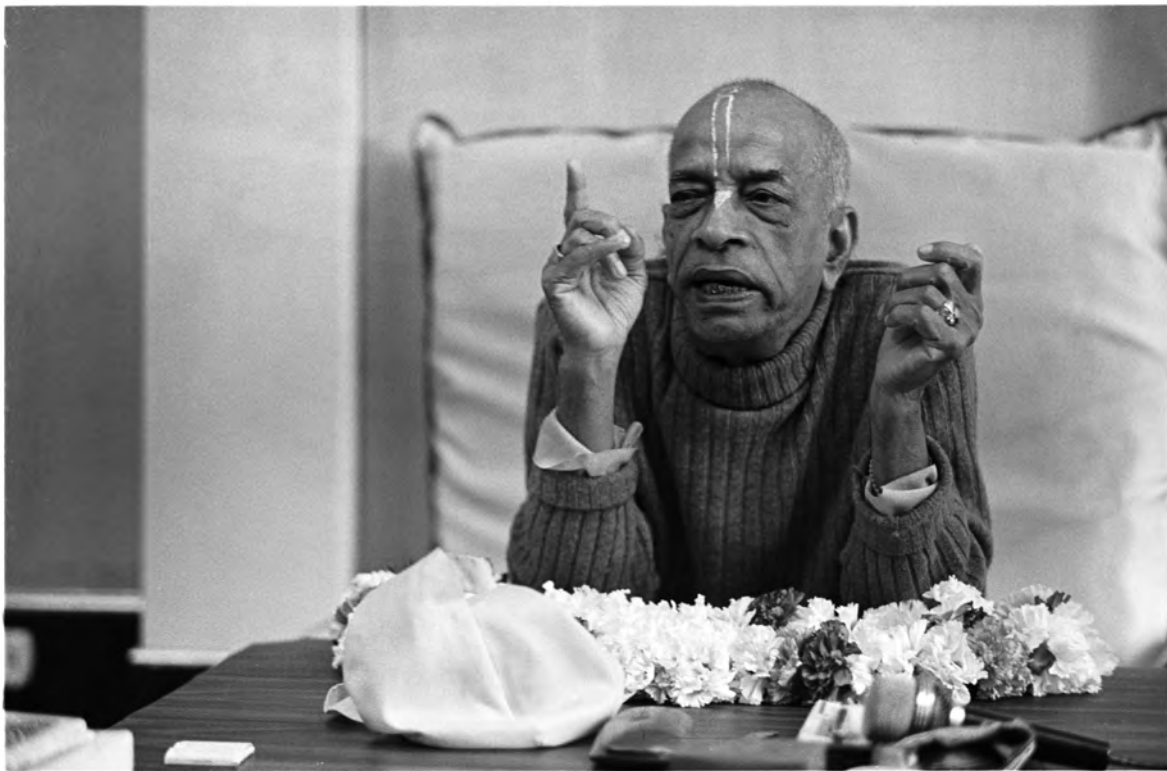
Among many of your scholarly admirers, Harvey Cox, a world-renowned professor of Theology at Harvard University, stated that the herculean task you undertook is “a very important one and will be a lasting one.”

On this auspicious and special occasion, I can only hope and pray to become a more effective instrument of your causeless mercy in spreading your mission, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servants at ISKCON Yavatmal, India.

(written by Abhirāma Nitāi Dāsa)

Homages from
The Publishers



The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Africa)

*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*

Preparing for the Lord's Arrival in Africa

The citizens of Dvārakā said,

Oh, it is our good luck that we have come again today under Your protection by Your presence. Although Your Lordship is rarely visited even by the denizens of heaven, now it is possible for us to look upon Your smiling face, which is full of affectionate glances. We can now see Your transcendental form, full of all auspiciousness. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.11.8]

When Lord Kṛṣṇa finally returned to Dvārakā after a prolonged period away, He announced His arrival by sounding His auspicious conchshell at the borders of the great city and thereby reinvigorating the citizens with His supreme love.

The citizens, old and young, rich and poor, abandoned all their activities and rushed toward the city gates with eagerness to see the merciful smile of their Lord. Others immediately set out to prepare the city to warmly welcome the Lord. The streets were cleansed with fragrant sandalwood water, the doors were decorated with festoons, the musicians prepared their instruments, and the dancers dressed themselves in their best garb and set about preparing to present their rhythmic and joyous celebration of the Lord's arrival in their city and their hearts.

This meditation on the Lord's arrival in Dvārakā is very much akin to devotional service in the BBT. Each book produced and distributed heralds the Lord's arrival in some town, village, bustling metropolis, or rural community. But more importantly, each book produced and distributed marks the arrival of the Lord in someone's life.

The work of the BBT is nothing short of this miraculous celebration. The deepest essence of service in the BBT, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that we are extending this glorious and magnanimous culture of the *Bhāgavatam* to everyone. This "*Bhāgavatam* culture" is nothing short of pure love of God. The meaning of serving in the BBT is that we help you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, extend the direct mercy of the Lord to everyone who touches your books. Serving in the BBT means being deeply absorbed in tasting this love and distributing this love to everyone.

However, it is pivotal to acknowledge a special lesson we learn from the citizens of Dvārakā: If we are to serve in the same mood and spirit as the citizens of Dvārakā, we are compelled to make every effort to prepare to welcome the Lord just as they did. Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, when we go about the work of translating, editing, proofreading, managing finances, recording distribution scores, planning events, etc., we must remember that all such efforts are endeavors to welcome our beloved Lord into the hearts and homes of every citizen in Africa.

Just as the citizens of Dvārakā felt sheltered by the Lord's arrival, so too will every citizen of this vast continent of Africa feel fulfilled, protected, and liberated by looking upon the smiling face of the Lord, which is filled with affection for us all. This is what your books are, Śrīla Prabhupāda—they are the Lord's arrival in our lives.

May the presence of the Lord in the form of transcendental literature ever increase in every language

in Africa, Śrīla Prabhuapāda. May this service in the BBT remind us of our sacred duty to simply be instruments of the mercy of your books. And may we continue humbly preparing for the Lord's arrival in Africa. This is our prayer.

Your servants at the offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust in Africa.

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North America)

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

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

Six months after his departure from this mortal plane of existence we are still sorely missing the association of our dear godbrother, fellow BBT sevaka, and friend Sura Dāsa. To keep his memory alive we have decided to resurrect one of his inimitable poems that was previously offered on behalf of BBT North America.

Life is short, we make it very hard.
It's simple for the pure in heart.
There's a purpose, a reason that we're here,
More than just playing a part.

The mission at hand has been spoken;
That every woman 'n' man in all lands gets a book.
The mission of man has been woven,
In every village and town all around the world.

There's a conquest of cultural concern,
A renaissance of humankind—
East and West in chanting and your books.
The world will note the change in time.

The mission at hand has been spoken;
That every woman 'n' man in all lands gets a book.
The mission of man has been woven,
In every village and town all around the world.

I can't serve my senses anymore.
It's only chewing the chewed.

My life is meant for more than this,
Fulfilling the mission of Kṛṣṇa and you.

The mission at hand has been spoken;
That every woman 'n' man in all lands gets a book.
The mission of man has been woven,
In every village and town all around the world.

There's a place beyond this mundane world,
Free from all lust, anger, and greed.
One engaged in your mission, life and soul,
Will reach that place with certain guarantee.

The mission at hand has been spoken;
That every woman 'n' man in all lands gets a book.
The mission of man has been woven,
In every village and town all around the world.

Your servants at the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, Los Angeles, California.

(Poem written by Sura Dāsa)

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Northern Europe)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our most respectful obeisances unto your merciful lotus feet.

It is April 7, 2022. We are sitting together this morning after reading from your most wonderful work, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and we have just decided to collectively compose an offering of gratitude to you.

Thank you for granting us the experience of the living *Bhāgavatam*. Through your books you allow us to communicate directly with you—with your mind, your heart, your intelligence, and your unlimited Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Everything we hear from you correlates so much with our daily lives and circumstances. The synchronicities are astonishing.

We are now at the Fifth Chapter of the Seventh Canto, in which Prahlāda Mahārāja inspires us to remain tolerant and steadfast in our faith in Kṛṣṇa and our devotional service, in all circumstances, however challenging.

There is no shortage of challenges at this point in time. The world is in turmoil and scary, but when we come to you and listen attentively to every word of your carefully composed translations and purports, all our fears and worries are vanquished. We are so much in need of your presence and support, right now more than ever.

Please guide us through this quagmire of misunderstandings, dissensions, conflicts, and wars that are



unfolding out there in the world and sometimes manifest, to some extent, inside our movement as well.

In a purport we read last week you write, “In the *dhāma* there is no influence from Kali-yuga or any demon. If one takes shelter of such a *dhāma*, worship of the Lord becomes very easy.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.4.22–23) Wherever you are, Śrīla Prabhupāda, wherever you are worshiped, wherever your books are, wherever your Deities are, and wherever your *kīrtana* is performed, that place is Vṛndāvana. It is Vaikuṇṭha, a place without fear. May your movement be that *dhāma*.

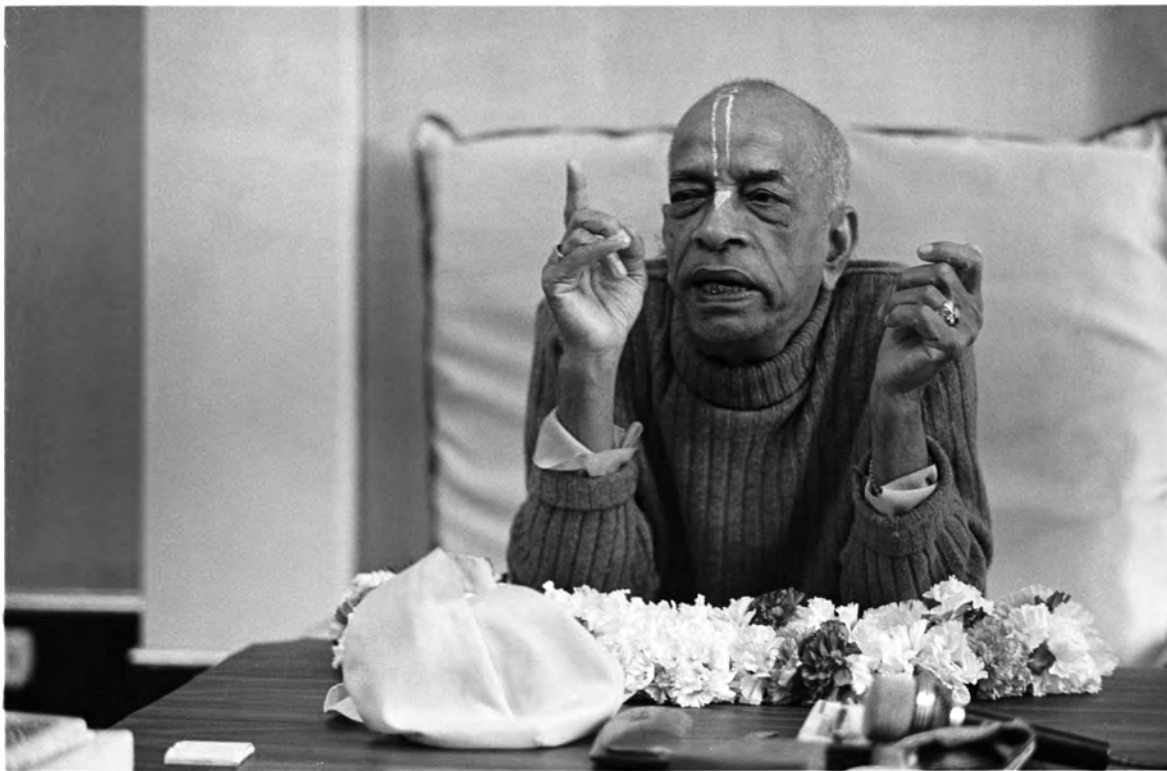
Therefore we should always seek good association, the association of devotees. Then our life will be successful. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.13.53, purport]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please stay with us and let us stay with you. Help us in understanding your desires—how you want your books to be, in regards to content and appearance—for a united worldwide BBT, for a united worldwide ISKCON, for a united worldwide Hare Kṛṣṇa movement.

YouTube’s algorithm chose a video for us earlier today—“Amish Shed Move.” It is remarkable what people can achieve when they decide to humbly work together. This is how we should carry your movement forward—in unison and harmony, with you at the helm. Please let us be your loving servants. Please guide us so that we may continue, under your authority and shelter, to produce and publish your books in all the languages of the world. We desire nothing else. May our love for you grow day by day. May your words be heard by every man, woman, and child. May your words resound around the globe. You are the only hope.

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

Homages from
Other Sources



Back to Godhead Magazine

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

In a 1956 letter to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, president of India, you wrote: “Believe me or not, I have got the clue of going ‘Back to Godhead’ just after leaving my present material body, and in order to take along with me all my contemporary men and women of the world, I have started my paper ‘Back to Godhead’ as one of the means to the way. Please do not think of me as wonderful or a mad man when I say that I shall go ‘Back to Godhead’ after leaving my present material body! It is quite possible for everyone and all of us.”

Fortunately for the people of this world, you provided many “means to the way” back to Godhead, and by your blessings only, *Back to Godhead* magazine continues to be one of those. That is so because your servants who write for, produce, and serve the magazine in other ways are guided by your teachings, which purely present the words of Lord Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava *paramparā*.

Although we have a long way to go to make it back to Godhead, through *Back to Godhead* magazine we can still guide others to Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet because we are committed to not deviating from delivering the perfect science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You wanted *Back to Godhead* to discuss only authoritative spiritual truth, which the people of the world so desperately need, and that will always be the editorial policy of the magazine.

In a meeting with *Back to Godhead* staff in Boston in 1969 you said, “It is a very important thing, *Back to Godhead*. If our movement is going to be recognized as a scientific God-conscious movement, then this *Back to Godhead* will be referred to as authorized scripture. Therefore, we have to prepare it in an authorized way.”

Among the various instructions you gave in regard to BTG over the years, this one is foundational—that the magazine must adhere to the authorized teachings of our *paramparā*. We strive to please you and your worshipable predecessors by giving that principle the utmost importance. We’re confident that by our doing so, BTG will remain a potent instrument for spiritual guidance and transformation for both current devotees and new readers.

Please bless us to continue to have the privilege of serving you by serving your magazine.

Your servants at Back to Godhead magazine.

The Bhaktivedanta Archives

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Our obeisances unto you, divine master.

*tad-vijñānārthan sa gurum evābhigacchet
samt-pāṇiḥ śrotṛyaṁ brahma-niṣṭham*

“In order to learn the transcendental science, one must humbly approach a bona fide spiritual master in disciplic succession who is fixed in the Absolute Truth.” (*Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad* 1.2.12)

Today the ship is plying very smoothly. I feel today better. But I am feeling separation from Sri Vrindaban and my Lords Sri Govinda, Gopinath, Radha-Damodar. The only solace is Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita, in which I am tasting the nectarine of Lord Caitanya’s Leela. I have left Bharat Bhumi just to execute the order of Sri Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati in pursuance of Lord Chaitanya’s order. I have no qualification, but I have taken up the risk just to carry out the order of His Divine Grace. I depend fully on Their mercy so far away from Vrindaban. [*Jaladuta Diary*, Friday, September 10, 1965, the middle of the Atlantic Ocean]

All glories, all glories, all glories to your divine appearance! Before we ever met you, we were most assuredly slowly decaying in this miserable world, not knowing much about anything. We had not the slightest notion what a dangerous predicament we were in. Sense gratification was all we knew, and we focused on it intently, as if our lives depended on it.

Somehow, by good fortune, you miraculously showed up, not realizing you had to endure many hard struggles to deliver this unique message of Godhead to the Western populace.

You appeared regally majestic, full of erudition, with a sublimely magnetic personality that attracted even the lowly fools and atheists. Your mission was, in fact, to smash the atheists, agnostics, scientists, speculators, and bogus gurus. You did and are still doing an excellent job on defeating all of those characters.

You radiated Vedic truth; one moment’s look is all it took for you to perceive our souls.

You taught us about true love—how to attain it and at the same time how to keep a healthy distance from the poisonous Māyāvādīs.

Your everyday example helped us detach ourselves from our false ego while encouraging us to engage wholeheartedly in unmotivated devotional service.

Your Divine Grace came to warn us that chasing after so-called happiness in this material world was not really the optimal idea, but rather that it was implicating us further in more material misery and subsequent death.

You awakened us to the true meaning of life by injecting us with real knowledge from the spiritual world and setting an example throughout your manifest *līlā*.

You shocked many personalities and audiences by your mere presence and the cutting message of your *Bhagavad-gītā*. “We are not these bodies.” “Simply rascal.”

We are forever grateful for two reasons: you introduced us to Kṛṣṇa, and we are getting to assist you in upholding and preserving your sublime teachings.

Your teachings are so vital that one way or another your *vāṇī* must be preserved and endure the tests of time. So it is absolutely compulsory that your spoken word be locked in. To our knowledge the only assured way to achieve this—a method proven over time—is not through dependence on machinery or electricity but in books!

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Your humble servants at the Bhaktivedanta Archives.

Bhaktivedanta College

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet—dust that will perpetually uplift the world through your mission, in which I have been blessed to participate.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I would like to express, on behalf of the faculty and staff of the college that bears your name, our ever-increasing gratitude to you for reminding us again and again of your unparalleled method for distributing pure devotional service. You have munificently given humanity access to confidential knowledge of the Absolute Truth (Kṛṣṇa), the method by which we are able to attain Him (*bhakti*), and the means to express our love for Him so that this love may be solidified and become our being (*prema*). It was predicted by Lord Kṛṣṇa, Lord Caitanya, and various *ācāryas* that you would appear and spread this message all over the world, both directly and through your assistants. We continually pray to you that we will always be able to assist you in spreading this transcendental *vāṇī*.

On several occasions you said that this material civilization is killing the soul. It is killing the soul because there is no possibility of getting knowledge of the soul. And because of this, people of this civilization do not know how to be peaceful or how to be blissful. They try to achieve happiness through the material energy (*bahir-artha-māninaḥ*). However, the material results they achieve through arduous work only increase their suffering and anxiety, not their happiness.

“The modern material civilization is simply based on this mundane knowledge, but there is no arrangement or university for imparting transcendental knowledge. There is no section in the university, practically, that [teaches] *brahma-jijñāsa*, the science of knowing the spirit soul.”

In a conversation, you asked His Holiness Svarūpa Dāmodara Swami, “Where is that university [that teaches ‘You are not this body; you are spirit soul?’]” The current university education is blind (*andha*). The education they offer is darkness (*andhasya*), which is very difficult to cross (*duṣpārasya*) without the preliminary knowledge that Kṛṣṇa offers Arjuna at the beginning of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. This is the beginning of knowledge. In your time, no university taught people this knowledge. And even though we are not yet a university, only a college, by your mercy we have the opportunity to impart this knowledge to our students. Your Divine Grace is the ocean of mercy. You have taken Lord Caitanya’s causeless mercy around the world; otherwise, that mercy would have remained hidden. We treasure what you have taught us in so many ways through your books, your personal example, and your followers.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! I must be selfish for a moment. I have a request to make to you as my spiritual grandfather. Last October I was honored by the College Board with the title of the rector of this institute. Although I suspected that this would be a very difficult task, I had no experience, no realization. Now I am beginning to understand. To be able to carry out my service properly, I need one indispensable thing from you. The mercy of a pure devotee is inconceivable. I have absolute confidence in this fact. With full faith in this reality, I come before you today and offer my *daṇḍavat-praṇāmās*, holding a straw in my mouth (*dante nidhāya ṭṭṇakam padayor nipatya*), and very humbly pray at your lotus feet as an abject beggar: I am pleading for but one drop of your incomparably special mercy. I am fully convinced that only if I can receive but one drop of your very special mercy will I be able to perform the most daunting service I have been entrusted with.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, bless us with your special mercy so we here at the college will be able to assist you in spreading the knowledge that will enable people to free themselves from their worldly miseries and attain the most blissful position in the service of the lotus feet of the Lord.

Your eternal servants at Bhaktivedanta College, Budapest, Hungary.



(written by Gaurasundara Kṛpāmoya Dāsa)

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 7.5.31.

² Class on *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.1–6, Los Angeles, 3 January 1969

³ Morning Walk Conversation, Los Angeles, 13 May 1973

⁴ *Caitanya-candrāmṛta* 90.

Burlington ISKCON

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

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

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

Our dearmost ever well-wisher Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Hare Kṛṣṇa! Please accept our prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration on the 126th anniversary of your appearance.

In the *Caitanya-bhāgavata* (*Madhya-khaṇḍa*, chapter 5), Śrīla Vṛndāvana Dāsa Ṭhākura describes how in 1509 A.D. Lord Caitanya inaugurated the first Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony, through Lord Nityānanda, at Śrīvāsa Aṅgam:

Śrīvāsa Paṇḍita, the head priest for the function, gave Lord Nityānanda a flower garland to offer to a painting of Śrīla Vyāsadeva. Holding the garland in His beautiful lotus hand, Nityānanda Prabhu hesitated and began glancing here and there as if He were looking for someone. Then to everyone's surprise, He offered the garland to Śrī Caitanyadeva instead. At that moment Lord Caitanya immediately manifested His six-armed form (*ṣaḍ-bhūja*).

Lord Nityānanda is the ultimate source of the spiritual function of Vyāsa-pūjā. In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.17.27) Lord Kṛṣṇa tells Uddhava that the *ācārya* is a manifestation of Himself:

*ācāryaṁ mām vijānīyān nāvamanyeta karhicit
na martya-buddhyāśūyeta sarva-deva-mayo guruḥ*

“One should know the *ācārya* as Myself and never disrespect him in any way. One should not envy him, thinking him an ordinary man, for he is the representative of all the demigods.”

Your Divine Grace, on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we humbly beg you to bless all the servants of ISKCON Burlington with this consciousness in every service we do—that Śrī Guru is to be served and respected as nondifferent from the Supreme Lord. Just as you took your Guru Mahārāja's

instructions as your life and soul, so we pray to imbibe your instructions as our life and soul. Spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness was your topmost priority, and we pray that we are able to continue your mission. You built a house in which the whole world can live. In your honor it is our duty to ensure that all the rooms are filled. It is not simply being Kṛṣṇa conscious but spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness that will please you and make our lives successful.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year one of our top priorities is to locate premises for our center. This center will become the outreach hub for connecting with other *jīvas* in the Burlington area. At present, we continue to congregate on the internet. As social restrictions caused by the pandemic ease, we hope to soon move back to in-person sessions at a local temple—currently a rental space.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your causeless mercy, last year ISKCON Burlington witnessed growth in various outreach programs. Your center here held its first Ratha-yātrā, which was well attended. Over 250 plates of *prasādam* and many of your books were distributed. With your inspiration, we smashed our December *Gītā* marathon goal six times over. Further growth occurred in areas of fund-raising, the development of an organized book distribution program, devotee development, the frequency of classes on the *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *The Nectar of Devotion*, and *The Nectar of Instruction*, the establishment of financial independence, and the incorporation of your center.

With a straw between our teeth, we humbly pray for your blessings so that we can assist you in fulfilling the mission of Lord Caitanya. Thank you for the greatest benediction, which is the opportunity to render service to the worldwide ISKCON family. Hare Kṛṣṇa, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The insignificant servants of your servants at ISKCON Burlington, Canada.

The Child Protection Office

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Hare Kṛṣṇa. Please accept our deepest respects. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

You kindly signed your letters with the wish “I hope this meets you in good health.” We have countless examples of your personally attending to the well-being of the devotees. So often, you emphasized your intention for the devotees to be happy. In a class in Boston, given on April 25, 1969, you said, “Without happiness, without being in good mood of mind, you cannot prosecute Kṛṣṇa consciousness.”

Following your example, at ISKCON’s Child Protection Office (CPO) we strive to help care for the devotees. CPO services are in place to prevent and respond to concerns of child maltreatment so that our children may be healthy in body, mind, and spirit, now and in the future. If a child experiences abuse at the hands of a devotee, we aim to make sure that that child experiences care and concern from devotees as well, to help rectify that mistreatment.

In addition to the purposes for which you established ISKCON, the purposes for which the Child Protection Office has been established to serve ISKCON are:

1. To coordinate efforts to investigate and settle claims of past child abuse in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).
2. To coordinate investigation and resolution of current and future abuse cases connected with ISKCON.

3. To keep all records and files for use in screening staff members of ISKCON.
4. To disseminate information to ISKCON temples, schools, and parents on child protection.
5. To organize seminars and training on child protection in ISKCON.
6. To make sure systems for child protection screening in ISKCON are in place.
7. To monitor and train local child protection teams.
8. To coordinate care for confirmed victims of child abuse in ISKCON.
9. To prepare standards and guidelines for childcare in ISKCON.
10. To help coordinate service opportunities and special programs for abuse victims/survivors in ISKCON.

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, we pray that you kindly bless us to have the intelligence and resources to fulfill these purposes for the glorious society you intend ISKCON to be.

Your servants with the Child Protection Office.

(written by Līlāśuka Dāsī)

Festival of India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our obeisances. All glories to you.

It is difficult to properly glorify a *mahā-bhāgavata* such as you, but if one takes help from the scriptures it becomes easier. I'm going to quote a few verses from the 11th Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, from a discussion between King Yadu and an *avadhūta*, in which the qualities of saintly persons are described.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 11.7.37 states: "A sober person, even when harassed by other living beings, should understand that his aggressors are acting helplessly under the control of God, and thus he should never be distracted from progress on his own path. This rule I have learned from the earth."

The purport to this verse explains that the earth always suffers all kinds of harassment—deep oil drilling; atomic explosions, and pollution, and sometimes the earth's surface is soaked by the blood of warriors—but nevertheless, the earth continues to provide all the necessities of the living beings. In this way one may learn the art of tolerance by studying the earth.

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you had to tolerate a lack of cooperation from your godbrothers, the blunders and shortcomings of your young disciples, a number of lawsuits brought by nondevotees, and so forth. Nevertheless, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you never stopped rising early, translating *sāstra*, and writing your Bhaktivedanta purports, writing innumerable letters to your disciples, receiving guests, or traveling all over the world despite your advanced age. You are therefore the embodiment of tolerance.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 11.7.46 explains that a saintly person is just like fire, which is sometimes concealed and sometimes visible. It is explained there that not all saintly persons accept disciples, but if they do, the disciples have the reactions to their sinful lives destroyed by rendering service to their guru. We can all testify to this: by serving you and your mission, we have found that all the obstacles to our devotional life are gradually being removed.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 11.7.44 explains that a saintly person is just like water because he is free from all

contamination and gentle by nature, and his speaking creates a beautiful vibration, like that of flowing water. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your speech was always measured and self-controlled, and you never made enemies through harsh speech. This testifies to your depth of realization.

A historian who was present at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of your arrival in Boston said:

Śrīla Prabhupāda's position as a spiritual leader is unique because whereas Jesus Christ and Mohammed started their movements in their own countries, assisted by their own kinsmen, Śrīla Prabhupāda arrived in the US a complete stranger and unassisted, yet nevertheless succeeded in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world in many different languages.

We, your disciples and followers on the Festival of India Tour, aspire to serve the dust of your lotus feet.

Your servants at the Festival of India.

(written by Gosh Thakor Dāsa)

Fredericton ISKCON

*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*

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisance in the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you went to the Western world to preach the glories of the holy names of the Lord. You are the one who delivered countless fallen conditioned souls by imparting to them the transcendental science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and the one who fulfilled the following prophecy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

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

“In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard.”

Your unlimited glories are appreciated by all those who have been rescued from the ocean of nescience and given an opportunity to make their human lives successful by taking to the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is by your causeless mercy that today numerous devotees are practicing devotional service all over the world. Certainly generations upon generations shall remain forever indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for having bestowed the glorious possibility of going back home, back to Godhead, by reading your transcendental books and following your instructions.

*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.”

At the Krishna Center in Fredericton we are blessed with the association of His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami and other visiting devotees. By their instructions and examples they are teaching us the ways of loving exchanges among temple devotees and the congregation. Their loving guidance is giving us great strength and inspiration for understanding and applying your teachings, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The center has now completed two years, and we have focused on community preaching, book distribution, and *Bhagavad-gītā* study. In 2021 we held our very first Ratha-yātrā in Fredericton. By your mercy the COVID restrictions were lifted, and because of that about four hundred devotees joined the parade. We have also been doing *dīpa-dāna* at the homes of various people as well as home programs with the many families in Fredericton.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you put so much stress on fulfilling the instructions of your Guru Mahārāja. You built a huge house where many devotees of different origins are living and serving together. Wherever we go there is some devotee with whom we can associate. In Fredericton we get calls from people from faraway places who ask about your books. Your preaching is so strong that even today devotees live in remote areas and do *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Kindly bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so we can please your direct servants with our service and thus please you.

Your insignificant servants at the Krishna Center in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Govinda Valley

*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,

“Chant! Chant! Chant!” you said.

“Can’t! Can’t! Can’t!” we feel.

We are enthusiastic, even blown away,
when we hear a good class or even two.

To be steady, though, is
a different thing.

You gave us all;
you gave us everything.
We need to make the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement successful.

Collectively we will get there.
The movement will succeed.
We have many learned scholars,
swamis, and *sannyāsīs*.

World, take heed!
Though Hare Kṛṣṇa is still seen as a bit strange,
the world is changing.
People are changing their hearts and minds.
So much is happening that we cannot control—
COVID, wars, floods, vaccinations . . .
Which side are you on?
There are protests, and
devotees are confused.

A tough time to be alive?
It's Kali-yuga, baby.
More's the reason
to take you seriously.

We need to stick together,
be unified,
diverse as we may be,

to read your books,
to chant our rounds,
to distribute those books,
and let people hear Kṛṣṇa's names.

You came and established all that.
We just need to continue,
catch people with your net
of faith, love, and the holy names.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You have given us everything we need to make the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement successful.

Your servants at Govinda Valley, Sydney, Australia.

(written by Padmanābha Dāsa)

The International Society for Cow Protection

*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 humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our beloved spiritual master. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

After writing to you last year, we experienced some trying and sorrowful times. Three of our most beloved cows passed away. Each of their illnesses and passing were unexpected. We were unprepared emotionally, although you taught us how death can come at any moment and how health and youth are fleeting.

Meenakshi was one of the eight calves we and ISCOWP members saved from slaughter in 2014. She had a large head, disproportionate to the rest of her young calf body. But Lakshmi, our daughter, took pity on her and bought her to take home. Nobody else bid on her; she was unwanted due to her defect. When our vet looked at her, he said her head and body would eventually grow to be proportionate in size. However, he never mentioned that most calves born with water on their brains do not live very long—at best, maybe three years—because the condition cuts off some connections between the brain and the rest of the body. We didn't know this until she became quite sick and we took her to the local large-animal hospital.

At the hospital they did not believe she had been born with water on her brain, since she was already seven years old, but when they tested her for other ailments and she tested negative, the doctors concluded that water on her brain was the cause of her problems, and we now had an explanation for why her behavior had always been a bit odd. Because of her oddness, she was never entirely accepted by the herd. However, one ox, Madhava, graced her with attention regardless of the herd's opinion.

She had a hard time maintaining a healthy weight. Therefore we kept her in our yard and fed her grain and gave her her own hay bale. As the years progressed, she had a more difficult time maintaining a healthy weight, and we became very attached to her, making sure she ate and was happy. Even after visiting the hospital to receive intravenous liquids, Meenakshi lost her ability to drink and eat. It was like her brain couldn't connect with the rest of her body to remember how to do these simple activities. She passed away soon after. We will miss her sweet loving and brave personality very much.

Keshava, brother to Madhava, was older, in his late sixties (in human years), and had been experiencing what looked like some arthritis in his back legs. One day he could not get up. He tried and tried. Madhavi the cow was guarding him and keeping him company. Then, with the help of some of our neighbors, we got him into a sitting position supported by a large hay bale. He drank and ate, but as the days progressed, he became weaker. He progressed quickly to a hospice situation and then passed away.

We remember Keshava for his reserved and gentle personality. He was brahminical by nature, emotionally removed from the herd ruckus, and unwilling to play politics to maintain position in the herd. But above all, his majestic and noble presence will be greatly missed. He stood six feet at the shoulders, and his horns swung upward, giving him another foot or two in height. Weighing in at about 2,500 pounds, he was imposing and noticeable wherever he grazed. People would always watch him in wonder. Because the meat and dairy industries kill male cows before they can grow to maturity, Keshava was an exceptionally rare sight.

Sri Uddharan Datta Thakur sat down the day before Christmas, and on Christmas evening, he passed

away. For fourteen years he had shared love with us and our guests by laying down to encourage massages and pets. His sudden passing was a total shock.

Our vet had looked at him only a week earlier and thought him very healthy. During the day and a half of Sri's sitting, and after he left his body, we noticed there were no signs of thrashing, no signs of pain or discomfort. In human years he was in his late sixties.

We will remember him sharing his love with us for fourteen years, and even with guests he met for the first time. He also liked to leave the herd and sit in the woods to meditate, like a *sādhū*. If life was troublesome, we could go to the woods and sit with him and feel solaced. Not seeing him in the woods meditating saddens our hearts, but may he now have a more heavenly place to meditate on transcendental topics.

When it became apparent with each cow that he or she could not remain with us, we made sure they received blessings from Lord Kṛṣṇa. Holy water from sacred locations in India was sprinkled on them or placed in their mouths. A *pavitra* garland from Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva in Māyāpur was tied on their horns or placed around their necks. A *harināma* chaddar was draped over them or around their horns. And finally, the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, either by ourselves or recorded, was always near them.

Burying them was the most difficult, as sometimes the herd gathered around and watched with mournful eyes. Then, days or even a month later, the herd would gather around the burial site as if to grieve. Watching them increased our yearnings for the presence of these departed souls for just one more moment of their association.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, how much we miss them! Who would have thought we could painfully lament the passing of cows we learned to protect after spending our ignorant youthful years eating them. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, opened our eyes and hearts to the beauty of the soul in the living entities we once ate. The wonder of it! The power and force of your purity!

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! Thank you!

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

ISKCON Student Center (Bangkok)

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you. And all glories to the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Lord Gaurāṅga and the devotees endeavoring to push on this transcendental mission.

On behalf of the ISKCON Student Center in Bangkok, Thailand, we are honored to make this offering to Your Divine Grace for the year 2022. The spiritual activities conducted by the center are as follows:

Online classes/spiritual education: Under the guidance of the senior Vaiṣṇavas, we are endeavoring to fulfill Your Divine Grace's vision of a temple as "a place for spiritual education." His Holiness Bhakti Vighna Vināśa Narasiṃha Swami (a *śikṣā-guru* and main authority and donor for this center, as well as co-GBC for ISKCON Thailand) gives classes on the *Kṛṣṇa* book on Wednesday evenings and *The Nectar of Devotion* on Mondays and Thursdays. Earlier, His Holiness covered the *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, and *The Nectar of Instruction*. These classes are translated into Thai by Her Grace Arcana Mātāji, and several local Thai people join and ask interesting questions. His Holiness Kavicandra Swami (*śikṣā-guru*

and co-GBC for ISKCON Thailand) gives *Caitanya-līlā* classes on Tuesday evenings, which are translated into Thai by Her Grace Arcana Mātājī.

Classes and discussions on the book *The Nectar of Congregational Preaching* are hosted by His Grace Antarāṅga Gopāl Prabhu and other senior disciples, such as His Holiness Jayapatākā Swami (*dīkṣā-guru* and co-GBC for ISKCON Thailand), and devotees from the Māyāpur Congregational Development Office, Malaysia, the Middle East, etc., often come as guest speakers. Their words are translated into Thai by His Grace Yogeśvara Prabhu. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes on Saturday mornings are given by His Grace Antarāṅga Gopāl Prabhu or His Grace Nimāi Śacīsūta Prabhu, and these are translated into Thai by His Grace Yogeśvara Prabhu. The Sunday afternoon classes for *mātājīs* are given by Her Grace Sumādhurī Līlā Devī Dāsī, who also holds a Sunday evening class for children. His Grace Yogeśvara Prabhu holds a class for the youth on Sunday evenings. Devotees and interested people from various parts of Thailand join these spiritual discourses.

Weekly Saturday programs held to cultivate the local Thai people: Members of the congregation rotate speaking at these programs and share their realizations. We are currently reading from the second chapter of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. We also arrange for the classes to be translation into Thai, to cater to the needs of the local Thai people. We always have Thai *prasādam* available to make the local people feel at home. Several Thai people have joined and taken spiritual life seriously. Over the years, about a dozen Thai people have taken initiation from an ISKCON guru. Our congregation is small, with a family atmosphere and good relationships, and this has helped us remain united and move ahead with your spiritual mission.

Sunday harināmas, book distribution, and outreach programs: Most Sundays we do public chanting at nearby places. Rajamangala Stadium Park is a good place for us to chant because there are so many people there. Sometimes we go out on *harināma* and book distribution to different parts of Bangkok, and during these expeditions we also travel to cities in other parts of Thailand (depending on the members' convenience and enthusiasm). We hold home programs (*bhakti-vṛkṣas*) at Bhaktin Nippi's house, and sometimes mantra meditation sessions at yoga studios and the universities where our students study. These are our outreach programs.

Resident devotees and school/university students: Our center is located next to Assumption University and Ramkamheng University, and the ashram (one floor for boys and one floor for girls) is exclusively for the student devotees (as per the instruction of our main authority/donor, His Holiness Bhakti-vighna-vināśa Narasimha Swami). Currently, four boys (Nimāi Śacīsūta Prabhu, who holds a masters degree in IT from Abac University; Yogeśvara Prabhu, a yoga student/instructor; and Bhakta Aum and Bhakta Amrit, high school students), and two girls (Bhaktin Sandya, who holds a masters degree in education at Abac University; and Bhaktin Soniya, an MBA degree from Abac University) stay in these ashrams. They contribute financially for their *prasādam* and use of basic utilities (electricity, water, internet, etc.). A few more boys are expected to join in the fall of 2022, and some come and spend the night on weekends. Student devotees typically stay in the ashram for a few years; most move out after completing their education at the university, and many then get married. To date about twenty student devotees have stayed at our center and benefited from both a material and spiritual education. Most of them continue practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Bangkok or other parts of the country or world. His Grace Nimāi Śacīsūta Prabhu sends monthly reports (financial and a newsletter) to the ISKCON Thailand co-GBCs and our regional secretary, foundation committee, and active members.

We are also happy to have the support of ISKCON's Śrī Rādhā-Govinda temple, Thonburi, Bangkok (headed by His Grace Rahūgaṇa Prabhu, Her Grace Paurṇamāsī Mātājī, and His Grace Sākṣi Gopāla Prabhu).

Trying to serve,

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

(written by Sumādhurī Līlā Devī Dāsī and Antarāṅga Gopāl Dāsa)

Milton ISKCON

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have been very merciful to all of us. It is because of your compassion that we have the good fortune of serving Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. It is because of you that we have access to transcendental Vedic knowledge. It is because of you that we're able to chant and hear the holy names of the Lord,

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

It is because of you that we know about Lord Caitanya and have the opportunity to serve His mission. It is because of you that we're aware of the ultimate goal of life.

You established temples, communities, schools, and institutes throughout the world, and you encouraged countless souls to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the aim of coming closer to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. You have given us the opportunity to progress in our spiritual lives under your guidance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this special day we beg your mercy: we beg you to give us inspiration, intelligence, determination, and strength so that we may be able to become humble instruments in spreading your mission and practicing your instructions to the best of our ability.

It is by your causeless mercy that every day more and more people become part of the ISKCON Milton congregation. All the members of the congregation continue to serve your mission. Our book distribution teams continue to distribute books to more and more people each year. The communications and *saṅkīrtana* team members are doing their best to spread your unique brand of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone in the community through social media, regular events, and activities for society in general.

Your ISKCON Milton's Krishna Fun School is a place where children are learning about Vaiṣṇava culture and where our dedicated instructors teach the children how to apply the foundational philosophical concepts of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Every morning we're engaged in chanting our prescribed rounds together via Zoom, in association with other ISKCON Milton followers. We also study *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* as a congregation each Saturday morning.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we're indebted to you for providing us with your guidance and the guidance of your senior followers. This helps us learn to lead meaningful and purposeful lives.

By your mercy, for the past two years we've worked hard to find a place we hope we can use as a vibrant center to help you spread your mission in some tiny way. By taking up this initiative, we hope to spread your mission to the entire Milton community. Only by your mercy do we hope to succeed on the devotional path and complete this new temple project we've started. Please allow us to remain your servants.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Milton, Canada.



Niagara ISKCON

*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*

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga!

Today, on this most auspicious anniversary of your appearance, we would like to try to glorify the vast impact your invaluable presence has had. While this attempt to glorify you is tiny and insignificant, kindly accept it as a humble offering at your lotus feet.

You are the reason we have so many temples around the world, and in line with that mood we have been able to successfully open an ISKCON center here in Niagara Falls. This place is a tourist magnet and has so much potential for preaching. Opening this temple was possible only because of your divine grace, which flowed to us through the channel of the *sampradāya* and so many of your disciples.

You stated, “Preaching means fighting” and that it is “not easy.” That means we must be intelligent, enthusiastic, and powerful in our attack. Kṛṣṇa promises that he will provide the intelligence (*dadāmi buddhi-yogaṁ tam*) if we engage in Kṛṣṇa conscious activities. We pray that we can, by your mercy, fully immerse ourselves in following your teachings and instructions so we can put up a solid front on the battlefield of preaching.

*‘sādhū-saṅga’, ‘sādhū-saṅga’—sarva-śāstre kaya
lava-mātra sādhū-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya*

Just by a moment’s association with a pure devotee one can attain spiritual perfection. And here, instead of only a moment of your association you have left us with lifetimes through your books, lectures, morning walks, and conversations. You have made transcendental Vedic literature available and accessible to the whole world, and we seek your blessings so that we may be able to participate in your mission of spreading the *gaura-vāṇī* by serving our locality.

Your eternal grandchildren in your service, the devotees at ISKCON Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

Oakville ISKCON

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances from the Oakville ISKCON Centre on this auspicious day of Your Divine Grace’s appearance.

One more year has gone by. The pandemic has slowed but is still very much with us. In addition, there

is now a war between Russia and Ukraine. Devotees in Ukraine are facing unprecedented challenges. We are praying for them and hoping their faith in you and Kṛṣṇa will not get deterred despite these testing times.

We are very happy to report that by your mercy we now have a physical location for our weekly *saṅgas*. We rented a beautiful yoga studio in Oakville, where we meet every Sunday evening for a blissful *kīrtana*, a Vedic discourse, and some delicious *prasādam*. Every week, twenty to twenty-five devotees join us.

Every week, various devotees from the Greater Toronto area provide insightful discourses and blissful *kīrtanas*. Though we were hoping to report a flourishing community, it has not yet happened; however, we do have a steady group of devotees who attend regularly. Slowly but surely, we are expanding.

We also conduct Sunday school for two age groups, with each group led by an experienced devotee teacher. The kids learn about Kṛṣṇa from various books written by Your Divine Grace.

We wish we could report a thriving Sunday program, but at this time we can only offer to you our most sincere efforts. We promise to continue our efforts under the kind support and guidance of your dear son His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami.

Please bless us so we can follow in your footsteps and somehow be instrumental in bringing some more lost children back to Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants at the Oakville ISKCON Centre, Ontario, Canada.

Prabhupāda Village

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to you! We offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Without doubt you are the most magnanimous, enlightened, and loving personality to have descended to earth in human form to spread the glories of God through the unconditional loving reciprocation of God's avatar, Lord Caitanya, the embodiment of the combination of the energy of the Lord and the energetic Lord Himself, Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

You are our supreme father and best friend. Your spotless character and your detachment from all material desires are unique in this world. You have conquered material motivations and exhibited a love for us that is unconditional, despite our shortcomings.

Your voice is so divine—just hearing you speak and chant attracts not only us but also children, animals, and even plants, thus transforming this material planet into a spiritual, eternal, all-knowing, and blissful place to reestablish our lost and forgotten relationship with Lord Kṛṣṇa!

We, the residents and members of Prabhupāda Village, have dedicated our lives to fulfilling your desires and dreams. We have installed the Deity forms of Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda, known as Śrī Śrī Parama Karuṇa Nitāi-Gaurasundara. Our goal is to become a self-sustaining community, complete with growing our own food, raising and protecting cows, and performing Deity worship. We also endeavor to spread the holy names through *saṅkīrtana* and book distribution, the Festival of India, and the Bhaktivedanta Archives.

We have dedicated this land and our bodies, minds, and souls to establishing a place of pilgrimage to honor you and your teachings. We pray for your unending mercy and inspiration that we may be successful in establishing this place not only to honor you but to become a beacon, to set an example for all those entities who wish to escape the bonds of this material world and experience love of God. By

your mercy we can receive the mercy of the exalted gurus and spiritual masters in the line of succession coming from Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself.

May all our activities, desires, motivations, kindness, and service become an expression of love to reciprocate with all you have given us. May we become the great success you would have us be. Even though this is not easily achieved, we appreciate that you accept our attempts.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for coming here against all odds, for risking everything, and especially for loving us with all your heart, unconditionally.

Please pour your blessings and prayers upon us so that our meager attempts here can become the great success you would have us be. And please pour your blessings not only on us but on all the living entities of this world.

In your name and the holy names of Kṛṣṇa we pray for enduring strength, unending compassion, causeless mercy, and increasingly deeper realizations to fulfill and accomplish your desires.

This we offer to you on this holy day of your appearance.

Yours ever,

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

(written by Cakrapāṇi Dāsa)

Radio Krishna Centrale

*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*

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You are truly the one who, in such a paramount mood of surrender, love, and determination, made Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's plan unfold to put an end to the otherwise never-ending suffering of the fallen conditioned souls.

Your achievements are unique and awe-inspiring. We mean no exaggeration when we say that your glories are everlasting and ever-expanding. All the *mahājanas* will forever chant about your exalted character, enumerating your wonders as the pinnacle of such a transcendently superlative pastime of the Lord.

As far as we are concerned, we were literally dead and you brought us back to life. Therefore you are, in all respects, the owner of our lives.

As Your Divine Grace's menial servants, we are forever and unconditionally yours, and just this simple fact makes us utterly ecstatic.

While the *Jaladuta* was nearing the shore of Boston, you got a first-hand impression of the place and its inhabitants. You kindly allowed us to partake in Your Divine Grace's profound feelings by expressing

it in your *Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma*. Your transcendental sentiments of pure devotion are such a great source of inspiration and deep meditation that they cannot fail to make us fully appreciate how eternally indebted we are to Your Divine Grace.

§ § § § § § § §

[Based on Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma]

You've called upon the Lord: "Why have You brought me here?
You're kind upon this soul; therefore I've got no fear.
Now You can do whatever You like with me.
My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, use me, unworthy as I may be.

Still I'm failing to see how they will understand.
They have no sense at all, but You must have it planned.
This dark place is just hell, where everyone ignores
What lies above this world—that Transcendental Shore.

How can they appreciate, engrossed in chewing the chewed,
Lord Vāsudeva's message, such nectarean food?
But one thing I know for sure: Your causeless mercy's strength,
Which makes what's hopeless possible, no matter its extent.

How will they understand the mellows of devotion?
How can I make them feel such pure love and emotion?
How to convey Your message, and my mission fulfill?
I'm simply praying and hoping that by Your mercy, I will.

Your will has let them come within Māyā's kingdom,
And by that very same will they can regain their freedom.
My wish is that You free them from such a heavy toll.
If that's also Your wish, You may release them all.

The *Bhāgavatam*'s words, with every single sentence,
If submissively heard, reveal Your divine presence.
If they regularly hear and serve one who's pure,
All dirt within their hearts will be erased, for sure.

Then true, pure loving service unto You, the glorious Lord,
Who are praised with chosen hymns, will at last be restored.
But how will I enable them Your message to appreciate?
I'm fallen and unlucky and most inadequate.

I seek Your benediction to make your message known,
Because I've got no power to do it on my own.
In one way or another You have brought me here to speak,
And I will speak about You, Lord, even if I'm weak.

It's up to You, my Lord, it's up to You indeed,
To choose to make me fail or to choose that I succeed.

O Lord, O Spiritual Master of all the countless worlds,
All that I can do is faithfully repeat Your words.

If You like, O Lord, who cause all things to come about,
Please empower my speech to free the people from all doubt.
I'm sure that when Your sacred message penetrates their heart,
They will feel englanded and their suff'ring will depart.

O Lord, I'm just a puppet, a puppet in Your hands.
You brought me here to dance, so make me dance and dance!
I lack both pure devotion and deep knowledge, as well,
But in Your holy name my faith eternally dwells.

My name, "Bhaktivedanta," has been allowed by You.
Now if You so desire, let its meaning come true.

§ § § § § § § §

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we bow down at your feet,
Which like the lotus petals are just so soft and sweet.
All the *bhaktivedāntas*, so exalted and so rare—
Because you're "Prabhupāda," they are also sitting there!

After so many years, from your astounding prayer,
Śrī Kṛṣṇa's plan unfolded, piercing through Māyā's layer.
But you're the one who did it, who brought it to this land.
You are the one whose glories will never find their end.

If you'd not come, who could have come to know
The reason for this life—what is our life's real goal?
No matter where or how, from here to yonder skies
Forever you'll remain the owner of our lives.

Dear Supreme Lords Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, even if we are unable to fully understand how much in debt we are to Śrīla Prabhupāda and so don't properly appreciate the real magnitude of the gratitude we owe him, please forgive us. We beg Your Lordships: please do not allow Māyā's power of oblivion to cover our constant perception of His Divine Grace's presence. Please allow us to eternally remember Śrīla Prabhupāda so we can remain eternally in the service of his lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya!*

Hare Kṛṣṇa,

Your Divine Grace's menial servants at Radio Kṛṣṇa Centrale, Terni, Italy.

(written by Narakantaka Dāsa)

Regina ISKCON

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you and to all the Vaiṣṇava devotees of the Lord.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the knowledge and service opportunities you so kindly gave us, and for your valuable time sharing, on such a personal level, your wonderful discourses. We are always in your debt.

I am glad to report that the ISKCON Regina temple is running smoothly thanks to your guidance and Kṛṣṇa's mercy. Further, we are even thinking of organizing a Ratha-yātrā this year. I depend on your blessings.

With deep gratitude,

Your servants at ISKCON Regina, Canada.

(written by Cintāmaṇi Devī Dāsī)

Śaraṇāgati

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious occasion of your appearance, we offer you our most humble obeisances.

As a community of devotees, some your direct disciples, some disciples of your disciples, some children of your disciples, and some children of the children of your disciples, the one bond we have in common is you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the pure devotee representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. As such, we all accept you as our spiritual leader and guide.

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

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

We are very fortunate to have you as our spiritual master and father. To become empowered to take advantage of everything you gave us and left for us to learn from and expand on so that other conditioned souls in the present and in the future will have the same opportunity we have had, we pray for the strength to never deviate from the path you patiently cleared for us. By following the principles and practices you prescribed, we beg to continue forward, unhesitatingly, and attempt to be proper representatives of Your Divine Grace.

We understand there will always be obstacles put in front of us, but by tenacity and dedication to you, we will be able to overcome them and remain always in your service. Individually we are all different

personalities, like different notes being produced from a musical instrument, and if we stay in tune with you, the result will be very melodious and pleasing to you.

Your servants at Śaraṇāgati Dhāma, British Columbia, Canada.

Saskatoon ISKCON

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*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, your dedication and commitment to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West and the rest of the world have benefited so many people, including those here in our small center in Saskatoon. Being in a small city, we (who all have our roots in India) had our doubts. Would the adults be engaged? Would the children? By your mercy and continued blessings, they all are! The children are reading your books! They are reciting *Bhagavad-gītā śloka*s and engaging in very deep discussions during our weekly programs! All glories to you! When we moved to the West, we thought our culture and values would be lost, but because of your divine work and blessings, our children have proudly embraced our culture and values. We cannot thank you enough. Words are truly not enough. We pray that you please continue to bless our Saskatoon *yātrā* to grow and attract more people to the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in the coming years.

Your humble servants, the devotees at ISKCON Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The School of Bhakti

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You put so much emphasis on following in the footsteps of the Six Gosvāmīs. You made it clear that we are *rūpānugas*. You gave credit to the Gosvāmīs for the transcendental knowledge you bestowed upon us. And rightfully so. Yet through your fidelity to the mood and mission of the Gosvāmīs, you showed yourself to be a modern-day Gosvāmī and someone who has truly emulated their example.

Like the Gosvāmīs, you’ve excavated holy sites and revived *dhāmas* like Māyāpur and Vṛndāvana, which had been covered by time. Like the Gosvāmīs, you compiled transcendental literature and used modern-day sensibilities to convey the deepest esoteric truths in a language even a layman in modern times could comprehend—much like how Rūpa Gosvāmī, in his *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu*, used the principles of *Nāṭya-śāstra* to convey the intricate *rasas* a devotee can have with Kṛṣṇa.

Like the Gosvāmīs, you established the principles of Deity worship and Vaiṣṇava etiquette. And like the Gosvāmīs, you perfectly demonstrated what it means to lead a perfectly renounced life and be completely immersed in Kṛṣṇa.

At The School of Bhakti we are in awe of what you did and ever more humbled, knowing that you did it all out of love for us. You sacrificed so much to come to the Bowery when you yourself admitted that the six previous years you had spent at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple were just “too ecstatic”! It was Rūpa Gosvāmī’s call, and of course that of your dear spiritual master, that led you to sacrifice that unadulterated relishing of transcendental ecstasy to give ecstasy to the rest of us.

At The School of Bhakti we now find you calling us to do something—make a sacrifice, share some transcendental ecstasy with others. We have neither your spiritual depth nor your material competence. We live in the West and still find it difficult to tap into the Western zeitgeist. You did it as a *sannyāsī* coming from Vṛndāvana! At The School of Bhakti we are one educational enterprise at a particular *yātrā*, and even among ourselves it takes considerable effort to synergize and develop a unified strategy. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you unified worlds, cultures, and civilizations under Kṛṣṇa’s shelter.

The more we endeavor to build a project for your pleasure, the more we realize what a stupendous task it is and how incredible you are to have done what you did. It’s truly unfathomable. More and more we realize how helpless we actually are despite whatever resources or talents we may have. Only by your empowerment can we do you proud and do something significant for your mission. Please bless us and guide us so that we can build The School of Bhakti into a shining beacon of spiritual education for the Western region and make you smile.

We have so much to do and need to grow in so many ways, internally and externally. We need your constant guidance and shelter to achieve even one iota of what you achieved when you were here with us.

Statistics don’t always cover the full picture of a project; nonetheless, here are some stats and achievements from the past year for your perusal, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Internal nourishment:

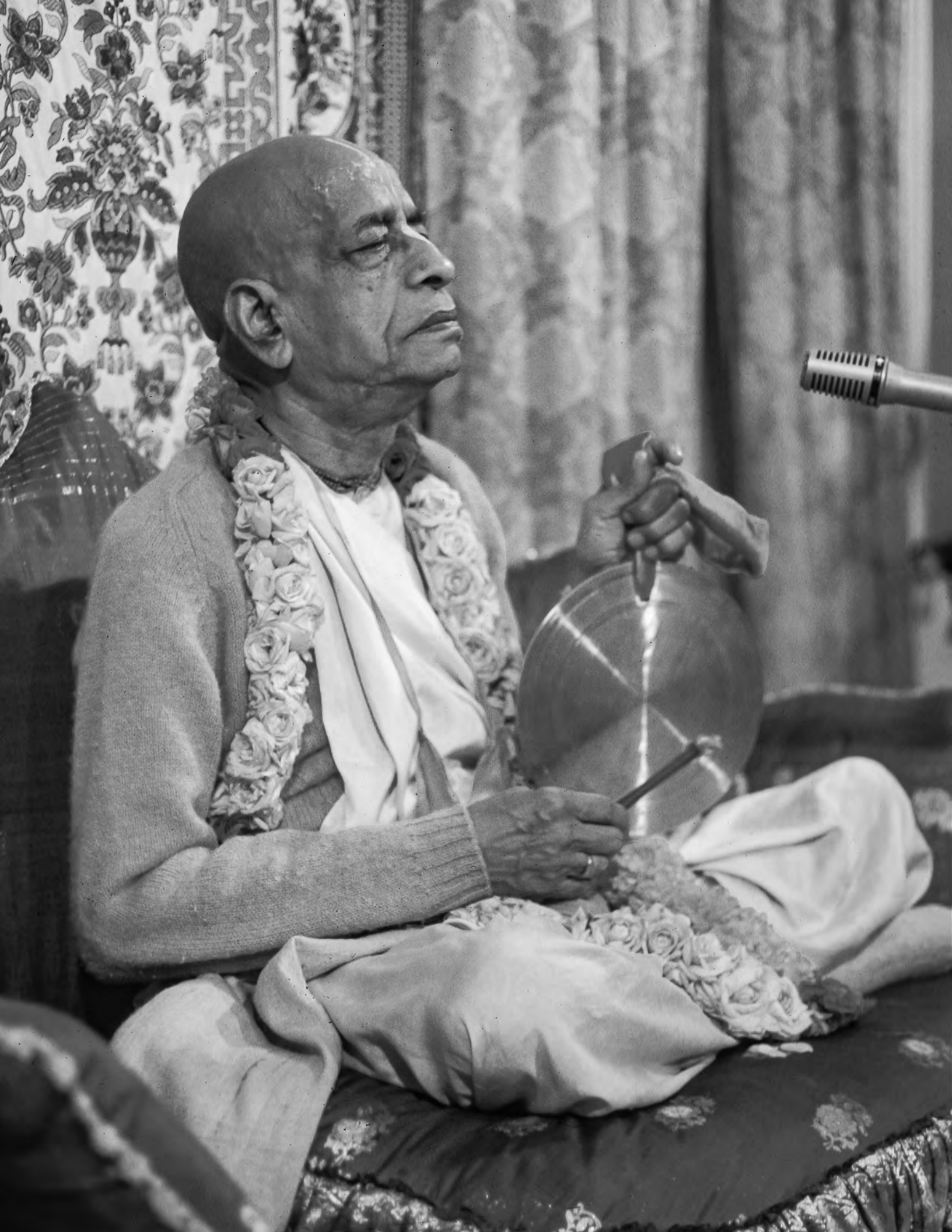
- As in 2020, in 2021 we still had to deal with the limitations COVID put on us. Nonetheless, we made solid progress in our outreach and educational offerings. One of the things we really focused on in 2021, and will continue to focus on during 2022, is not only developing newcomers but also helping more seasoned practitioners, guiding them on their spiritual journey, since *bhakti* is the experience of a lifetime.

Spiritual brand identity:

- After much experimentation, we’ve managed to really develop a visual brand aesthetic that has helped crystallize our identity in the public sphere.

Vital features and achievements:

- As well as a fantastic array of retreats and courses, we launched a series of critically acclaimed talk-show sessions with amazing speakers and facilitators, such as spiritual leader Śivarāma Swamī, distinguished author Krishna Dharma Prabhu, and leadership consultant Bhūta Bhāvana Prabhu. The talk-show sessions tackled a lot of practical subjects, from mental health to social engineering, all from a



Kṛṣṇa conscious perspective. We hope to have more thought-provoking sessions this year.

- One of the most vital aspects behind The School of Bhakti's success is our wonderful volunteer-led team. Our team has a family feel, and we hope The School of Bhakti family will continue to grow. In light of this, we've developed special monthly events for the nourishment of our volunteers. Our last event for them was headlined by meditation expert and spiritual mentor Śacīnandana Swami. There are many more volunteer events to come in 2022. Nourished team members means more inspiration to serve and share with others!
- In 2020, we implemented The School of Bhakti facilitation hub, a forum designed to harness the homegrown talent in our community and empower these persons to teach courses, facilitate *saṅgas*, and so on. From this, three individuals have already delivered courses, another five are facilitating *saṅgas*, and a host of individuals are reaching out to various groups and striving to share a more holistic perspective on life, anchored in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
- In 2021, along with the facilitation hub, we also developed a course development hub. Similar to the facilitation hub, this is designed to develop individuals' ability to design Kṛṣṇa conscious courses.

Educational scope:

- Along with regularly nurturing students, The School of Bhakti also helped develop two new *saṅga* groups. Through these groups, The School of Bhakti is helping to create safe spaces for individuals to share thoughts and opinions and gain practical knowledge they can apply to help them in their lives.

Collaborations:

- We've also made links through our educational offerings with the eco *saṅga* in Central London to facilitate the Stolen Rivers event, looking at the link between spirituality and environmentalism and developing links with the Kṛṣṇa consciousness Society in terms of university outreach and OCHS for in-depth educational offerings. We will also play a key role at Bhaktivedanta Manor's Janmāṣṭamī festival, where we will facilitate lectures, discussions, and talk shows.

Publications:

- We continue to release our monthly online newsletter "Elevate," which contains articles, updates, and the latest courses and events on offer. We've now launched another publication, "Gita3," by our spiritual mentor at The School of Bhakti, His Grace Sutapā Prabhu.

Some stats to consider:

- Last year The School of Bhakti distributed 604 books throughout the year and another 610 during the marathon, totaling 1,214 books in 2021.
- The School of Bhakti published and distributed 283 copies of our Vṛndāvana playground book during Kārttika, to coincide with the Vṛndāvana playground designed by facilitation hub member Reṇu Mātāji.
- In 2021 we achieved a presence in 53 countries.
- We currently have 15 partnerships with ISKCON centers around the world.
- We have about 16,300 followers.
- We have 4,639 signups.

Your insignificant aspiring servants at The School of Bhakti, Bhaktivedanta Manor, UK.

Stouffville ISKCON

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

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

Our dearmost beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet! Please accept our humble Vyāsa-pūjā offering on this glorious day, during which the whole world lovingly celebrates your divine appearance. We at the Stouffville yātrā are making a humble effort to spread the message of Lord Caitanya in this small village in Canada. Our hope to please you depends on our making a cooperative effort to serve you in your mission of giving the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone unconditionally.

At the Stouffville yātrā we are only a handful of devotees and are relatively new, but we desire to please you by reaching out to the local community and distributing your transcendental books and prasādam. We have been functioning here for three years, and by your mercy we are able to continue our activities. The past two years, during the pandemic, were a period of struggle, during which we were not able to reach out to more people. However, we were able to maintain the existing congregation through online programs. We were also able to sustain the children's classes over this tiring period. All these modest and insignificant activities, although colossal to us, were possible only because of your guidance and instructions, which served like a lighthouse sending light into the blackness of our material conditioning.

We beg you to give us the resolve to continue on the path we have begun in your service here in Stouffville. We simply want to live according to your instructions and thereby bring more souls to the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Please give us faith so we don't look for shortcut solutions during whatever predicaments we face, but rather apply Kṛṣṇa consciousness in thought, speech, and deed. Please give us patience so that we can tolerate one another's shortcomings and trust that we will grow under your care. Please bless us and purify our hearts so we can carry on your mission cooperatively while caring for one another.

Your indebted, eternal servants at the ISKCON center in Stouffville, Canada.

Temple of the Vedic Planetarium

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your compassion for the fallen souls of Kali-yuga.

As we entered 2022, it was the third year of the global COVID pandemic, which has affected devotees worldwide, including those working to manifest the TOVP in Śrī Māyāpur Dhāma, where progress on that

project has been slow and difficult due to a series of restrictions and lockdowns. Fortunately, it appears that things are getting back to normal, and work resumed at full force last February. We continue to be blessed by the guru-paramparā and the presiding Deities. This is due to your unlimited mercy, of which we are constantly striving to be worthy.

We are praying for complete release from the pandemic, and the pent-up desire to complete the project is stronger than ever. Please continue to bless us with your causeless mercy so we can fulfill your desire for a significant temple in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur. Despite the impediments, below we present you with a progress report divided into the following categories:

1. Work started in 2021 and the actual or projected finish date
2. Work started in 2022 and the actual or projected finish date
3. Work to begin in 2022 (start date to be determined)

1. Work Started in 2021	Start Date	Finish Date
External East Side—soil waste pipeline installation	2/15/2021	2/10/2022
External—HT cable trench work	3/15/2021	2/28/2022
Main Dome—GRG share connector welding	6/1/2021	3/8/2022
Main Dome—temp. structure for MEP work	7/21/2021	4/15/2022
Main Dome—temp. structure for coffered ceiling	7/21/2021	9/10/2022
Main Dome—bracket fabrication	7/27/2021	4/30/2022
Temple Floor Main Wing—electrical work	8/15/2021	2/15/2022
Utility Building 2 - piling work	8/30/2021	2/24/2022
Main Dome—side middle diamond fabrication	8/31/2021	3/15/2022
Temple Floor North Wing—false ceiling framing work	10/15/2021	2/28/2022
Elevator Shaft—hook/beam Installation	11/15/2021	5/31/2022
NORTH Dome—MEP service works	11/15/2021	2/10/2022
i) pre-action system		
ii) VESDA system		
iii) FA/PA system		
iv) WLD		
v) CCTV		
vi) Services lighting & power		
Elevator Shaft—conduiting, wiring, lighting, installation, and masonry work	11/15/2021	5/31/2022
Main Dome—curved member fabrication	11/25/2021	12/31/2022
2. Work Started in 2022	Start Date	Finish Date
Museum Floor II—hydrochroming plant factory	1/5/2022	2/10/2022
Utility Floor—cable tray & trunking work	1/8/2022	2/28/2022
Utility Floor—emergency lighting & power conduit work	1/8/2022	2/28/2022
Main Altar—HVAC system work	1/10/2022	2/10/2022
Temple Floor North Wing—below ceiling device fix	1/10/2022	2/10/2022
Main Altar—safety & security system work	1/15/2022	2/28/2022
Main Dome—GRG casting	1/15/2022	12/31/2022
Temple Floor North Wing—false-ceiling calcium-silicate-board fix	1/25/2022	2/28/2022
Utility Floor—wall masonry work	1/27/2022	4/15/2022
North Dome—Crown—fabrication & erection works	2/6/2022	2/28/2022
Main Dome—Main SS frame erection	2/15/2022	9/10/2022

1. Work Started in 2022

North Dome—GRG gold painting
 North Dome—final GRG erection
 Main Dome—final GRG erection

Start Date

2/28/2022
 3/5/2022
 9/15/2022

Finish Date

5/15/2022
 5/31/2022
 12/31/2022

3. Work to Begin in 2022 (date to be determined)

Main altar finishing work
 North altar finishing work
 North wing column marble cladding
 North wing floor finishing
 North wall finishing
 Main wing floor finishing
 Main wing column marble cladding
 Main wing wall finishing
 Completion of Śrīla Prabhupāda's *vyāsāsana*
 Completion of Garuḍa's temple
 North wing false ceiling finishing
 Main wing false ceiling finishing

Your servants at the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, Māyāpur, India.

Toronto's Russian-speaking Devotees

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

I am very grateful to be writing you this offering! I cannot fully comprehend your unlimited mercy, which allowed me to become a devotee of your devotee.

You came to give the most confidential, soul-saving knowledge, which was hidden for centuries. You sacrificed your health and life to give us love of God. Your teachings are the first transcendental teachings in the world that present the science of God, the soul, the love between them, and consciousness. These teachings transformed many thousands of hearts, including mine, within a short period of time. You showed the fastest and easiest way to true happiness through *saṅkīrtana* and *harināma*. Your association has made thousands of people happy. Those who knew you in person felt an immediate transformation.

People in the West were in a state of the deepest disappointment in life before you arrived to shower your mercy upon them. The culture of loyalty, parenthood, and responsibility was greatly degraded. There

was tension, frustration, and madness, resulting in massive addiction, divorce, suicide, and corruption. People were looking for happiness in intoxication, illicit sex, and complete forgetfulness when you came to the West to give the life-saving science of self-realization.

You brought the highest taste, and it has helped thousands of people in the world forget illicit sex and intoxication and choose the true, pure happiness of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Statistically, it is almost impossible to save even one person from such calamities. But your pure love of God, your strong spiritual consciousness, your unlimited compassion, faith, and determination made that miracle happen.

We are giving *Kṛṣṇa* consciousness. That is loving, real loving. We are giving him eternal life, eternal bliss. Unless we love them, why are we taking so much trouble? The preacher must love the people. Otherwise why is he taking? He can do it for himself at home. Why he is taking so much trouble? Why in eighty years old I have come here if I do not love? So who can love better than a preacher? He loves even the animals. Therefore [we] are preaching, “Don’t take meat.” Do they love the animals, rascals? They are eating, and they love their country, that’s all. Nobody loves. It is simply sense gratification. If somebody loves, he is *Kṛṣṇa* conscious, that’s all. All rascals. They are after their own sense gratification, and they will put a signboard, “I love everyone.” This is their business. And fools are accepting, “Oh, this man is very philanthropic.” He does not love any man. He loves only senses. That’s all. The servant of the senses, that’s all. [Morning walk, Perth, 17 May 1975]

The world did not know anything about the Supreme Personality of Godhead before you brought this knowledge to us. Previous to your coming, no one knew what the Supreme Personality of Godhead looks like, what He likes, what He does, where to find Him, what His qualities, forms, and pastimes are, or how powerful and unlimited He is. You made tremendous sacrifices to make this vital knowledge available to the entire world. You gave this wisdom as it is, in its pure, original form. This knowledge is perfect for all ages, so all can benefit from it, even in the future.

Our philosophy is to educate people how to love God. That is real religion. *Sa vai puṁsām paro dharmo yato bhaktir adhokṣaje*. That is first-class religion which teaches the follower how to love God. And as soon he becomes a lover of God . . . Just like I am Indian, but I have come to Western countries to teach love of God. It is not that I am satisfied only in myself that I love God, that’s all right. But due to my love to God I love others also, because I am trying to teach them to love God, the same philosophy. So if people take seriously this movement, how to love God, then human society will be first-rate. [Room conversation, London, 5 September 1971]

You showed the path to go back home, back to Godhead, through a very practical and regulated process you thoroughly explain in your books. Your deep compassion and your faith that anyone can awaken love of God in their heart have saved millions of people from suffering degradation and passing that on to further generations.

You showed the best example of dignity, kindness, logic, argumentation, calmness, and confidence. You gave a scientific and spiritual way to connect the soul with its original source, *Kṛṣṇa*, which helps rid us of the false conceptions about ourselves and understand the true purpose of life as servants, parts and parcels of the Lord.

So, self-realization means understanding *Kṛṣṇa* and one’s eternal relationship with Him. The relationship of the living entities with *Kṛṣṇa* is also mentioned in the Fifteenth Chapter of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. The living entities are parts and parcels of *Kṛṣṇa*; therefore, revival of *Kṛṣṇa* consciousness by the individual living entity is the highest perfectional stage of Vedic knowledge. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 2.46, purport]

You taught us of the eternality of the soul. You helped us understand that we are not “men” or “women,” because we are not these bodies. This conception frees us from conditioning and helps us realize our true spiritual identity. This allows us to become ourselves and act according to our spiritual nature. It also allows us to understand that the material should be an instrument of the spiritual.

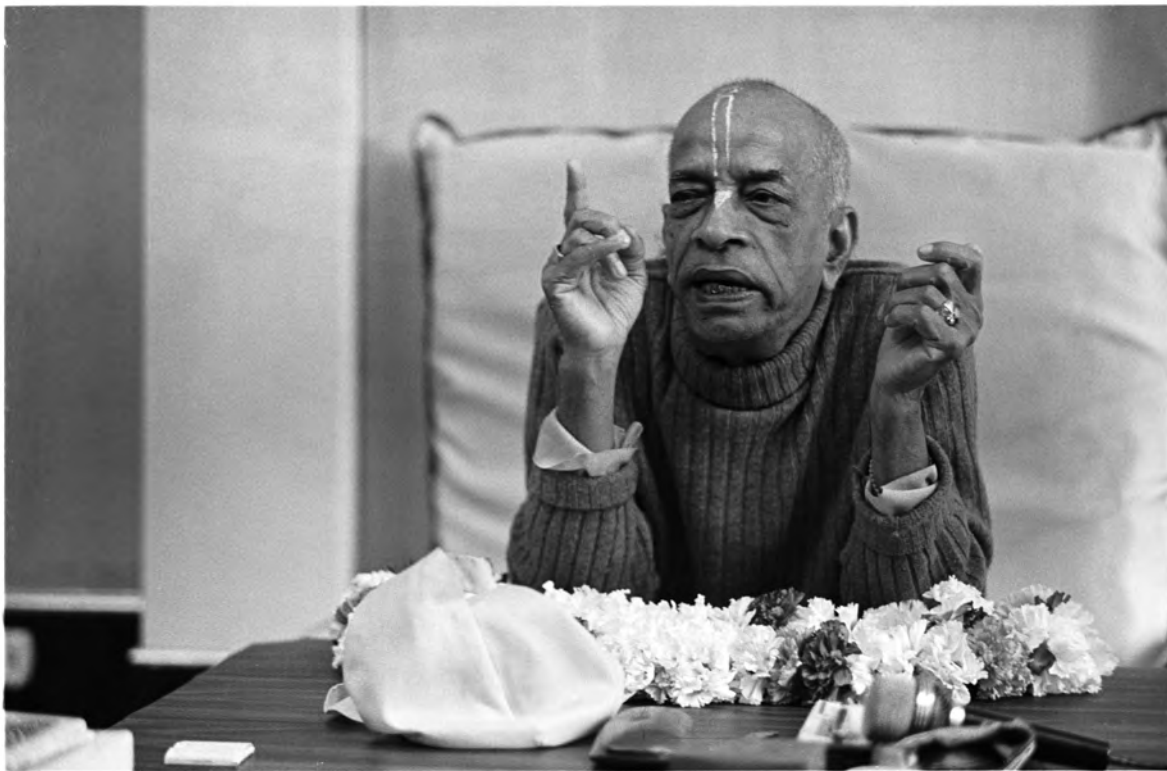
Yes, [this body] is Kṛṣṇa’s. . . . Therefore this body should be engaged for Kṛṣṇa’s service. That is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. [A]s soon as you accept this body as Kṛṣṇa’s, then you cannot employ it for other purposes. But . . . [y]ou are thinking [it is] your body or you are [the] body. [Morning Walk, Paris, 12 June 1974]

Your influence inserted into the life of humanity is inexplicable and cannot be measured in words. I pray for your mercy so that I can stay at your lotus feet by serving my spiritual master to the best of my ability. I pray for your mercy so that I can be Kṛṣṇa’s servant under any circumstances. Thank you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, for saving my soul!

Your Russian-speaking servants in Toronto, Canada.

(written by Vrajalalanā Devī Dāsī)

Our Obeisances to You for
Your Transcendental Instructions



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

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

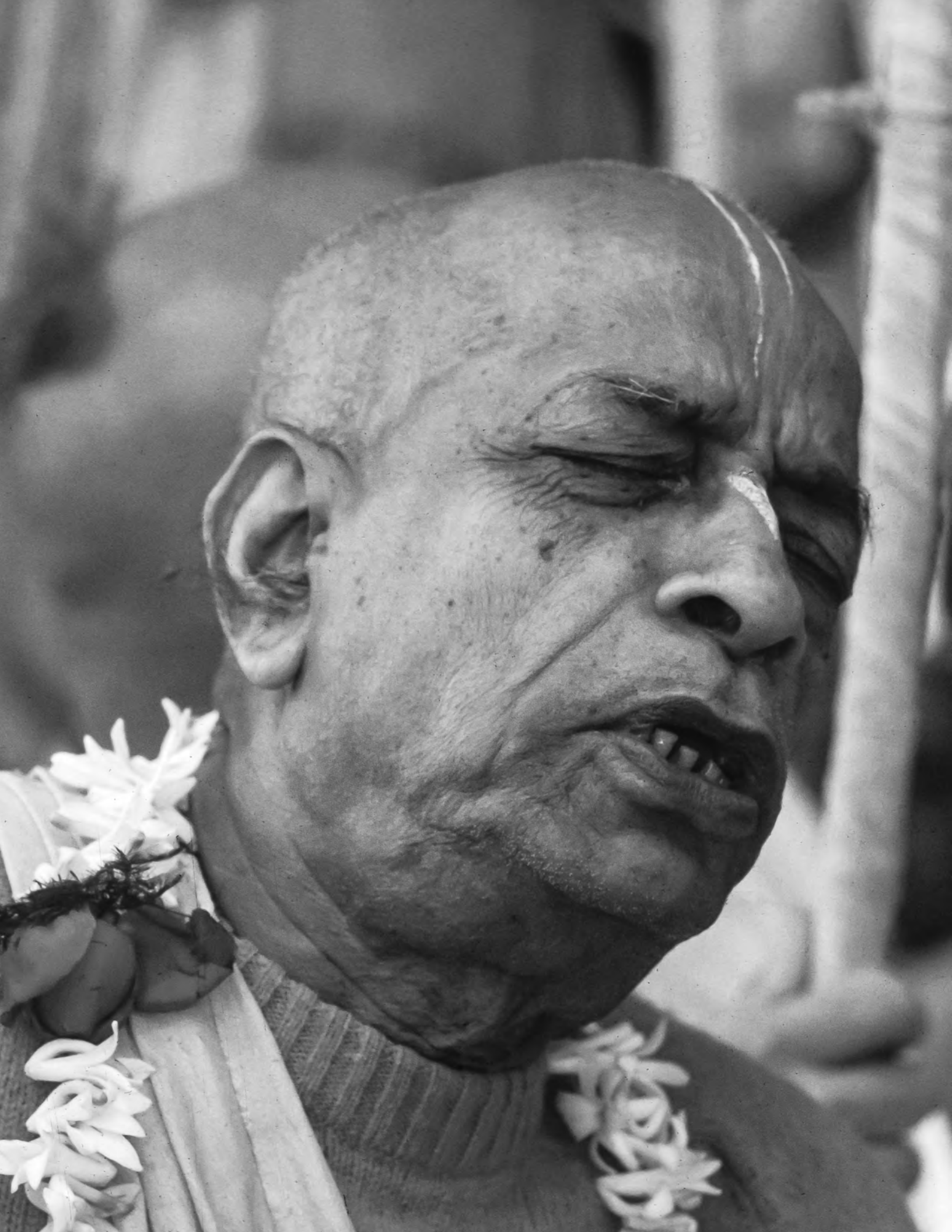
*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādī-pāścātyā-deśa-tāriṇe*

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



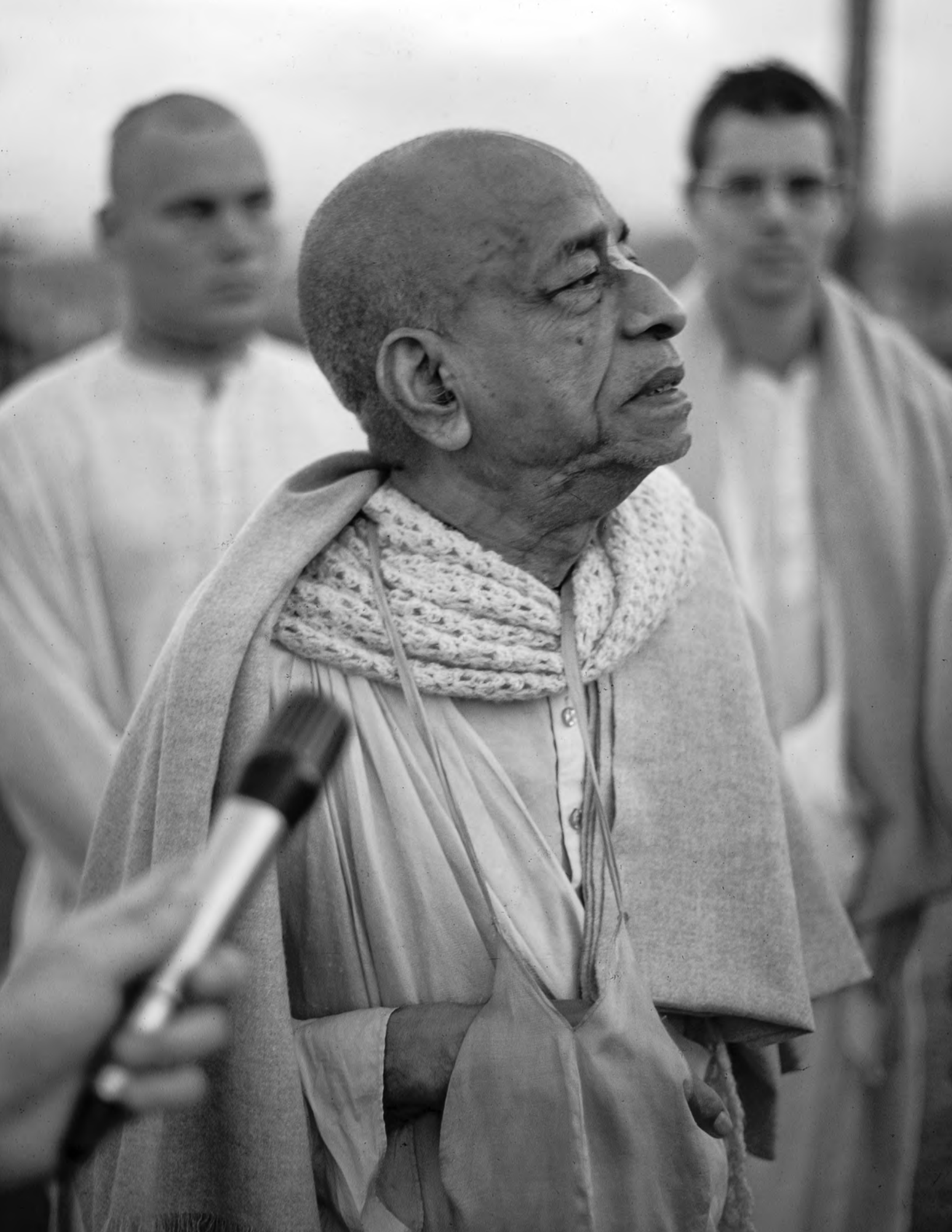
“Because the Lord is all-pervading, it is essential to glorify Him always and everywhere. In the process of glorifying the Lord there should be no restriction of time and space. This is called *sanātana-dharma* or *bhāgavata-dharma*. *Sanātana* means eternal, always, and everywhere. *Bhāgavata* means pertaining to Bhagavān, the Lord. The Lord is the master of all time and all space, and therefore the Lord’s holy name must be heard, glorified, and remembered everywhere in the world. That will bring about the desired peace and prosperity so eagerly awaited by the people of the world.”

— *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.2.36: Purport —



“The need of the spirit soul is that he wants to get out of the limited sphere of material bondage and fulfill his desire for complete freedom. He wants to get out of the covered walls of the greater universe. He wants to see the free light and the spirit. That complete freedom is achieved when he meets the complete spirit, the Personality of Godhead.”

— *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.8: Purport —



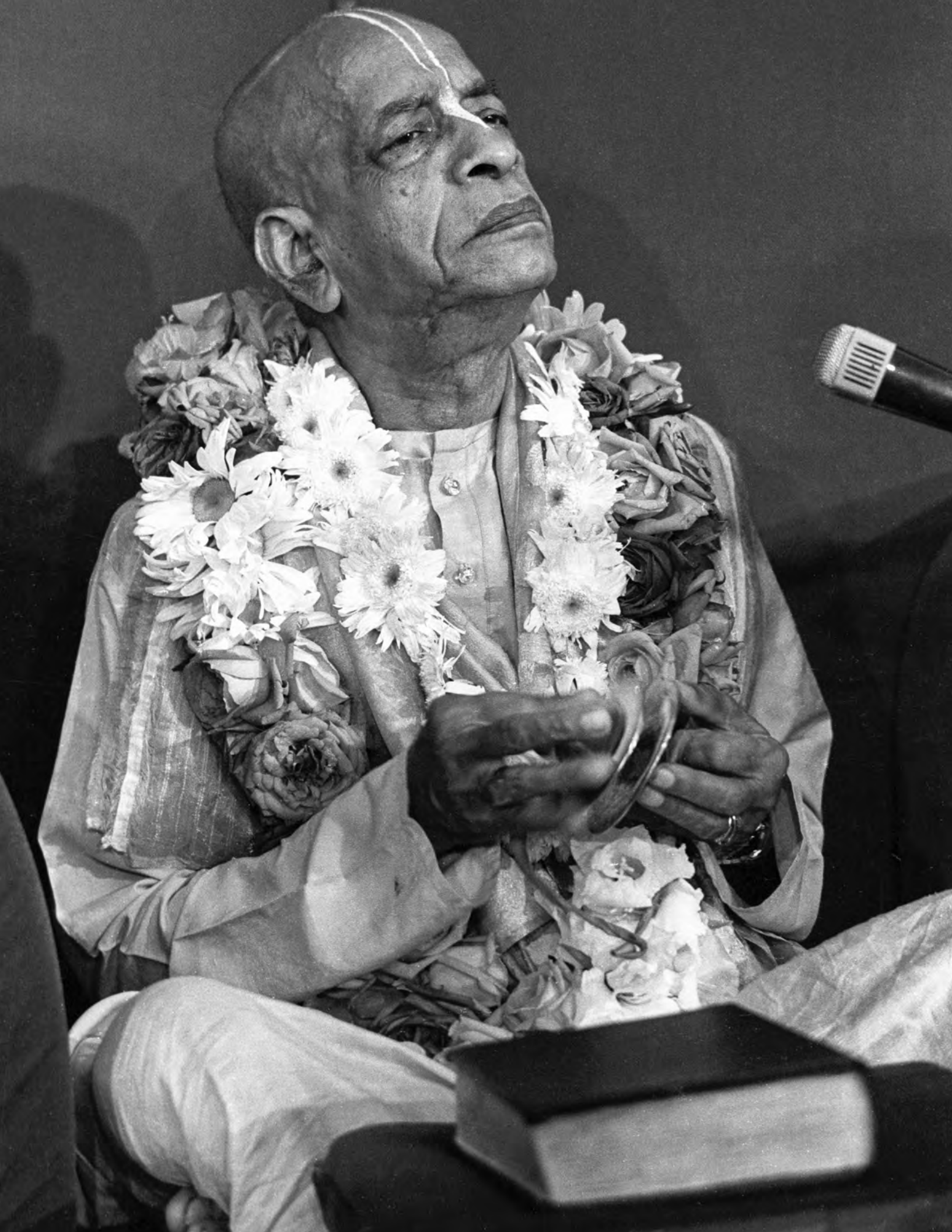
“The Lord is reciprocally respondent to His devotees. When He sees that a devotee is completely sincere in getting admittance to the transcendental service of the Lord and has thus become eager to hear about Him, the Lord acts from within the devotee in such a way that the devotee may easily go back to Him. The Lord is more anxious to take us back into His kingdom than we can desire.”

— *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.17: Purport —



“When a person actually revives his consciousness with thoughts of Kṛṣṇa by the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, he revives his spiritual life and becomes addicted to the service of the Lord. Only then can he act as an *ācārya*. In other words, everyone should engage in preaching, following in the footsteps of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. In this way one will be very much appreciated by Lord Kṛṣṇa and will quickly be recognized by Him. Actually a devotee of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu must engage in preaching in order to increase the followers of the Lord. By thus preaching actual Vedic knowledge all over the world, one will benefit all mankind.”

— *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 7.152: Purport —



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

— *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.2.37: Purport —



“Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu wanted to preach the *saṅkīrtana* movement of love of Kṛṣṇa throughout the entire world, and therefore during His presence He inspired the *saṅkīrtana* movement. Specifically, He sent Rūpa Gosvāmī and Sanātana Gosvāmī to Vṛndāvana and Nityānanda to Bengal and personally went to South India. In this way He kindly left the task of preaching His cult in the rest of the world to the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. The members of this Society must always remember that if they stick to the regulative principles and preach sincerely according to the instructions of the *ācāryas*, surely they will have the profound blessings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and their preaching work will be successful everywhere throughout the world.”

— *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Ādi-līlā 7.171: Purport —



“Lord Kṛṣṇa appears in every millennium for two purposes, namely to deliver the devotees and to kill the nondevotees. His devotees also have two similar purposes — to preach the bhakti cult of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to defeat all kinds of agnostics and atheistic demons. Nityānanda Prabhu carried out the order of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in this way, and those who strictly follow Nityānanda Prabhu perform the same activities. There are two classes of devotees. One is called *goṣṭhy-ānandī*, and the other is called *bhajan-ānandī*. A devotee who does not preach but always engages in devotional activities is called a *bhajanānandī*, whereas a devotee who not only is expert in devotional service but who also preaches the cult of bhakti and defeats all kinds of agnostics is called a *goṣṭhy-ānandī*.”

— *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya-līlā* 3.149: Purport —

Romapāda Swami

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

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

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

*mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī guruṁ dina-tāraṇam*

My dear and most respected spiritual master and eternal father,

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances in the dust of your most merciful lotus feet!
All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Even more than being recognized by Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja as a gifted writer as early as 1935 for your Vyāsa-pūjā homage to him, which was presented both in poetic form as well as an essay, your greatest satisfaction was knowing that you had pleased him *very* much by offering service to him through your God-given gift for writing. “Whatever he writes, publish it,” was the instruction Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī gave to the editor of the *Harmonist*.

Absolute is sentient
Thou hast proved,
Impersonal calamity
Thou hast moved.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta took your words in this stanza as an indication of how well you knew his mind and mission; it captured the essence of your spiritual master’s preaching against the Māyāvādīs. The essay was likewise deeply profound!

Your mature life was replete with such loving expressions of service to His Divine Grace’s mission, in all respects.

When you left household life for *vānaprastha* in 1954 at the age of 58, you endured much hardship and anonymity. Little has been recorded about those testing years. After wandering here and there for two years, striving to assist your *guru mahārāja*, you took up residence for six years—1956 through 1962—at the family-owned Varṇśī-gopālājī temple, near Keśī-ghāṭa. Your room was tiny and barren. Hardly could one even imagine that a world *ācārya* would evolve from such humble beginnings.

A testimony of your unbridled determination, against all odds, manifested in an unexpected manner. By your following up on a notice of an event to be held in Japan in May of 1961, an invitation was extended to you from Japan to personally attend the conference, called “Congress for Cultivation of Human Spirit.” Although your sights had been set by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta upon addressing the English-speaking part of the world, without any assets or assistants you set about the project of writing *Light of the Bhagavat*, based on Chapter 20 of the *Bhāgavatam*’s Tenth Canto, to address this assembly. You prepared a 20,000-word manuscript for the occasion, with an explicit request of the conference organizer to produce one oriental painting to accompany each section of the book.

As it turned out, the book was finally published a full twenty years later, since in 1961 you had no funds, even for the airfare to Tokyo.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the language in this manuscript is so powerful! Brilliant, perfectly suited for the audience, and embodying the same core messages you shared with the world audience over the next two decades. Your fidelity to the strong points repeatedly found in the writings of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta is so apparent, even at this early stage!

One outstanding example I particularly noted was this: “Human beings have two kinds of temperament. Some are introspective, and the others are extravagant.” And “Nature divides human activities into two different spheres, one external and the other introspective. As long as a man is dominated by the modes of ignorance and passion, he is active externally in desire and lust.” The wise are those who look inwardly and can guide the misguided. You repeatedly appeal to the reader to become inwardly directed instead of extravagant and externally oriented.

This language is precisely the same as the primary emphasis and objective of Śrīla Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī’s *Śrī Manaḥ-śikṣā*, which he naturally extends to its ultimate limit—inward cultivation of attachment to the type of *kṛṣṇa-prema* found in Vraja. You beseech your audience to turn away from the contaminating influences acting upon covered souls and instead to embrace purity, as found in great souls such as the Six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana. In this early literature, at least directionally, you clearly advocate and endorse inward cultivation, eloquently found in seedlike form within Chapter 20 of the Tenth Canto.

As introduced in this concise, eloquent book, “Light of the Bhagavat,” gradually you expanded this aspiration further by personally giving Vṛndāvana to us as our real home, along with the lives and writings of the Six Gosvāmīs as the gateway to enter the holy *dhāma*. By your grace, my internal life of devotion to Vṛndāvana-dhāma has been immensely nourished this past year by immersion in the glorious details of the lives and writings of our beloved Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana.

For those of us not yet qualified to live in Vṛndāvana full-time, you, following in the footsteps of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, taught us to cherish Vṛndāvana as our real home, and to covet one day becoming qualified to make the eternal Vṛndāvana our eternal home.

Finally, I want to report to you the current progress of the court case filed in 2004 by the plaintiff GBC to regain full control of the same ISKCON Inc. corporation that you personally established in July 1966. After more than eighteen years of legal battling, a full trial on the merits is looming. I earnestly appeal to you for your full blessings for a favorable decision from the court. With your mercy, together with intelligent guidance by our attorneys and sincere prayers of the Vaiṣṇavas, success will naturally follow.

I am most grateful and indebted to you for all that you have abundantly given to me personally and to all others who are willing to receive true abundance from you. I pray for your empowerment so that I may unceasingly receive these gifts, as well as assist you in this very mission of giving the same to others.

Kindly accept me, despite my error-filled attempts to assist and serve you favorably. Pleasing you is my life and soul, the real meaning and value of my life.

I am at your feet, begging for your continued mercy. Please keep me forever and ever engaged in your service.

Your humble servant,

Romapāda Swami

NOTE: Romapāda Swami’s offering was added as a courtesy after the book was printed. It will appear only in the e-version.



“Therefore having a bona fide spiritual master and serving him and pleasing him and getting his mercy is essential. Otherwise there can be no advancement in Krishna consciousness. And unless the spiritual master is a pure devotee of Krishna, he has no potency to give you Krishna. He is simply a cheating rascal. So in fact above all the rules and regulations and offenses I have mentioned, the most important thing, the essential thing, which is required if you want to come to the stage of purely chanting the Hare Krishna mantra is you must have a bona fide spiritual master who is a pure devotee of Krishna.”

— Letter to London disciples, July 1969