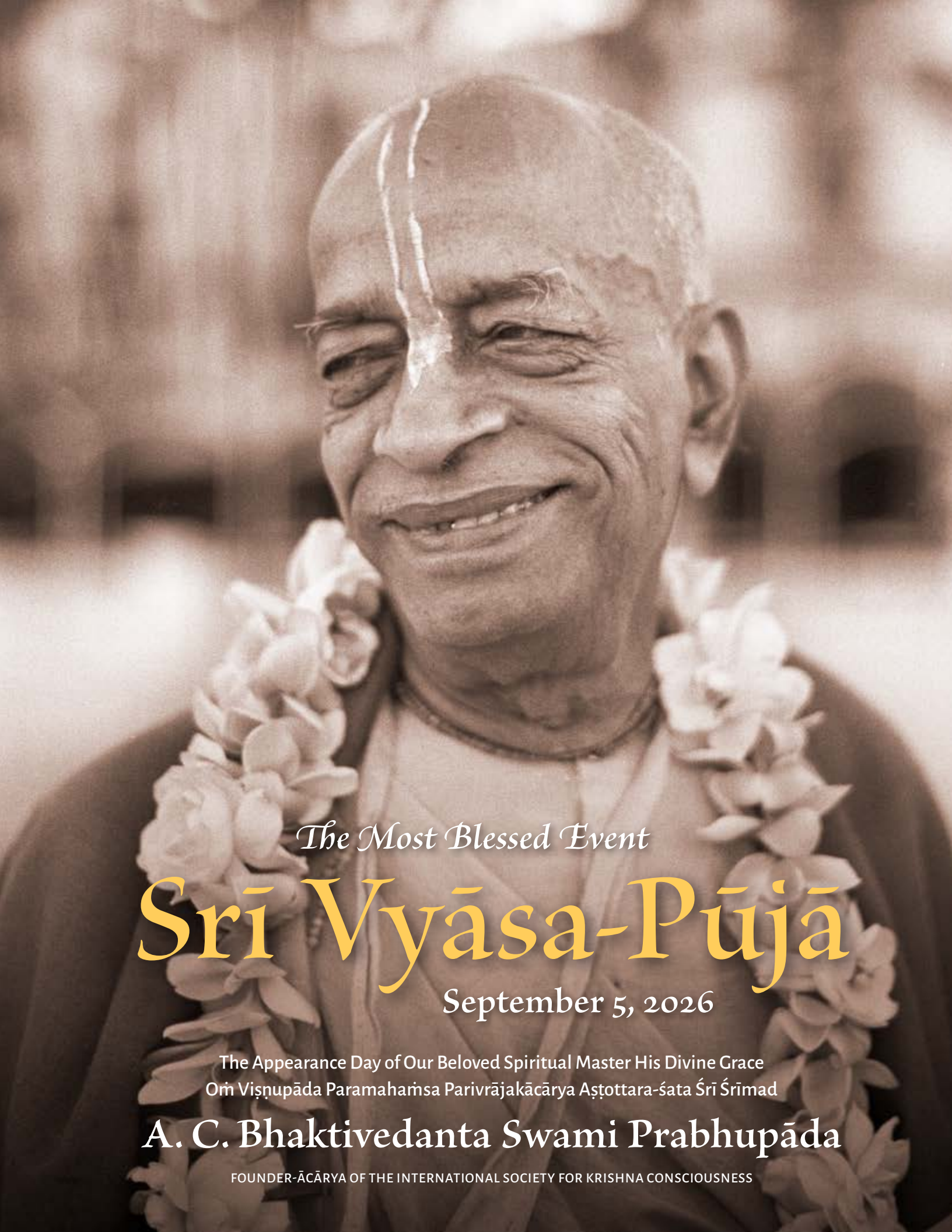


The Most Blessed Event

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā

September 5, 2026

The Appearance Day of Our Beloved Spiritual Master His Divine Grace
Oṁ Viṣṇupāda Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

FOUNDER-ĀCĀRYA OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Srī Vyāsa-Pūjā

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā
September 5, 2026

Published by ISKCON GBC

vyasapuja.com
vphomages@iskcon.net

BOOK DESIGN BY EIGHT EYES
www.eighteyes.com

The Most Blessed Event

Srī Vyāsa-Pūjā

September 5, 2026

The Appearance Day of Our Beloved Spiritual Master
His Divine Grace Oṁ Viṣṇupāda
Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

FOUNDER-ĀCĀRYA OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

ISKCON®

Contents

Introduction, 1; The Meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā, 3; The Universal Teacher, 7

Homages from the GBC, 13

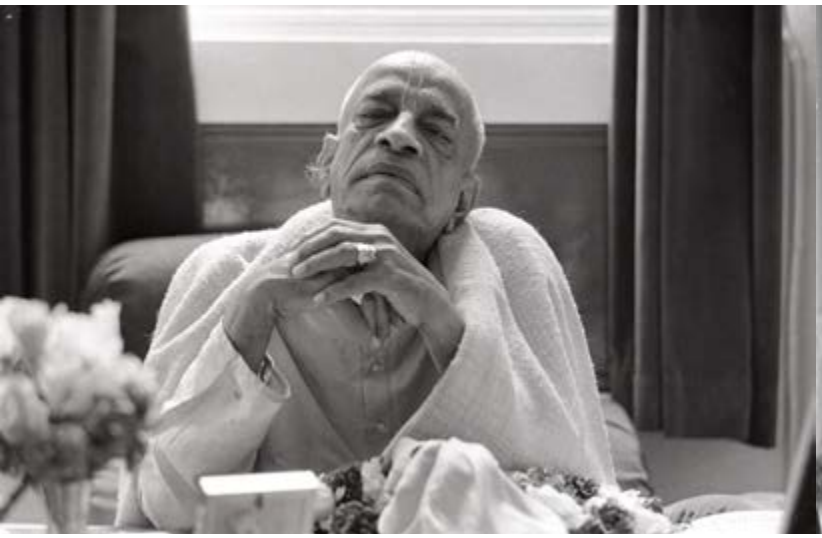
Acyuta Priya Dāsa, 14; Acyutātma Dāsa, 14; Anuttama Dāsa, 16; Bhakti Caitanya Swami, 18; Bhaktivaibhava Swami, 19; Bir Krishna dāsa Goswami, 19; Chandraśekhara Ācārya Dāsa, 21; Devakīnandana Dāsa (Singapore), 22; Devamrita Swami, 24; Gaurāṅga Dāsa, 25; Govardhana Dāsa, 28; Guru Prasad Swami, 29; Hṛdaya Caitanya Dāsa, 30; Indreśa Gaura Dāsa, 31; Jayapatākā Swami, 32; Kavicandra Swami, 34; Kṛṣṇa Premarūpa Dāsa, 37; Madhusevita Dāsa, 38; Praghoṣa Dāsa, 39; Prahlādānanda Swami, 41; Rādhā Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, 46; Ramāi Swami, 47; Romapāda Swami, 48; Tapan Mishra Dāsa, 50; Umāpati Dāsa, 52

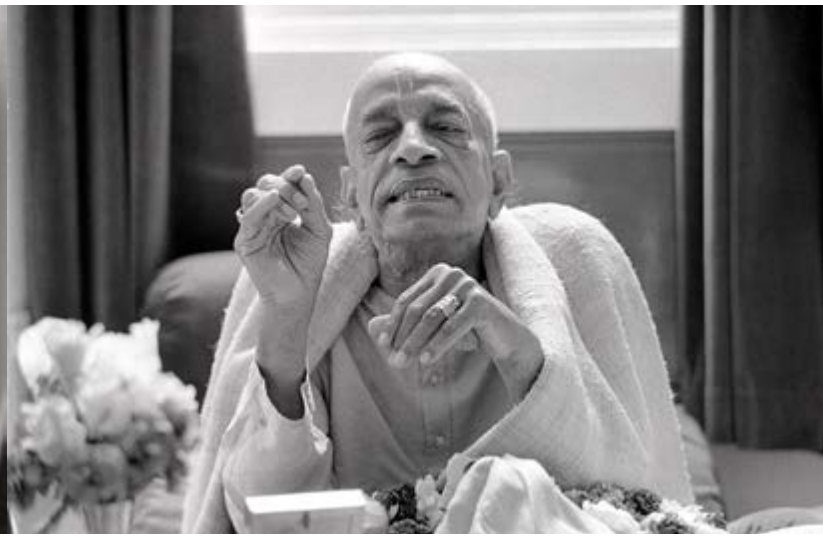
Homages from GBC Emeriti, 53

Bhūrijana Dāsa, 54; Giriraj Swami, 56; Hridayānanda dāsa Goswami, 57; Mālatī Devī Dāsī, 57; Nirañjana Swami, 61; Radhanath Swami, 63; Śeṣa Dāsa, 64

Homages from Non-GBC Sannyāsīs, 65

Bhakti Anugraha Janārdana Swami, 66; Bhakti Ārjava Prīti Vardhana Swami, 68; Bhakti Bhāgavatāmṛta Keśava Swami, 69; Bhakti Cārudeśna Swami, 70; Bhakti Gauravāṇī Goswami, 71; Bhakti Karuṇamaya Vanamālī Swami, 74; Bhaktimārga Swami, 75; Bhakti Prabhāva Swami, 76; Bhakti Prachār Parivrājak Swami, 78; Bhakti Prema Swami, 78; Bhakti Rāghava Swami, 79; Bhakti Rasayāna Sāgara Swami, 81; Bhakti Ratnākara Ambarīśa Swami, 83; Bhakti Sundara Goswami, 84; Bhakti Vighna Vināśana Narasiṁha Swami, 88; Bhakti Vinoda Swami, 89; Bhaktipāda Goswami, 90; Bhaktivedānta Rukmiṇī Kṛṣṇa Goswami, 93; Candramauli Swami, 94; Candramukha Swami, 96; Candraśekhara Swami, 97; Dānavīr Goswami, 98; Dhīraśānta dāsa Goswami, 99; Gaṇapati Swami, 101; Janānanda Goswami, 102; Kṛṣṇa Kṣetra Swami, 107; Lokanāth Swami, 108; Mahādyuti Swami, 113; Mahāprabhu Swami, 114; Mahāviṣṇu Swami, 115; Mukunda Goswami, 118; Pārtha Sārathi dāsa Goswami, 118; Rādhe Śyāmānanda Swami, 119; Rāma Govinda Swami, 120; Śacīnandana Swami, 121; Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami, 123; Śivarāma Swami, 124; Smita Krishna Swami, 127;





Sri Krishna Chaitanya Swami, 128; Subhag Swami, 129; Śukadeva Swami, 130; Svayaṁ Bhagavān Keśava Swami, 131; Varṣāṇa Swami, 133; Vedavyāsapriya Swami, 137; Yadunandana Swami, 137

Homages from ISKCON Centers

Africa, 139

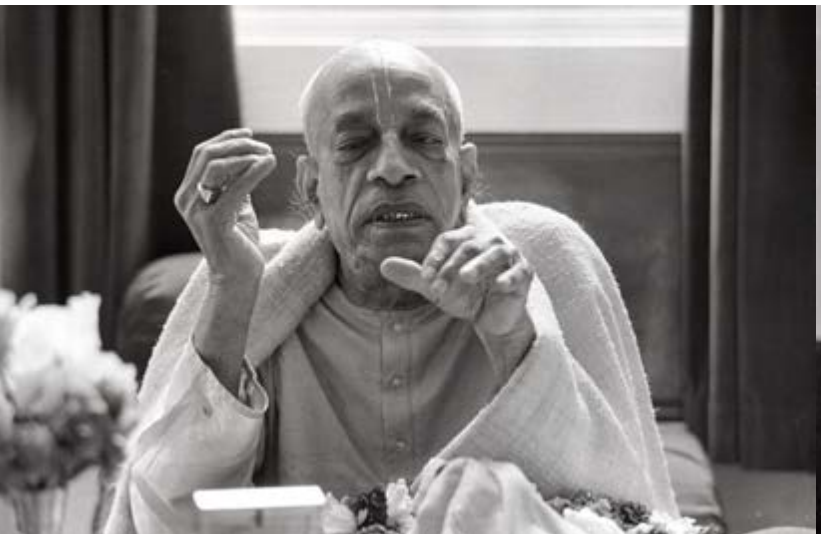
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 140; Botswana, 140; Cotonou, Benin, 143; Durban, South Africa, 144; Mauritius, 146; Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa, 147; Zambia, 149

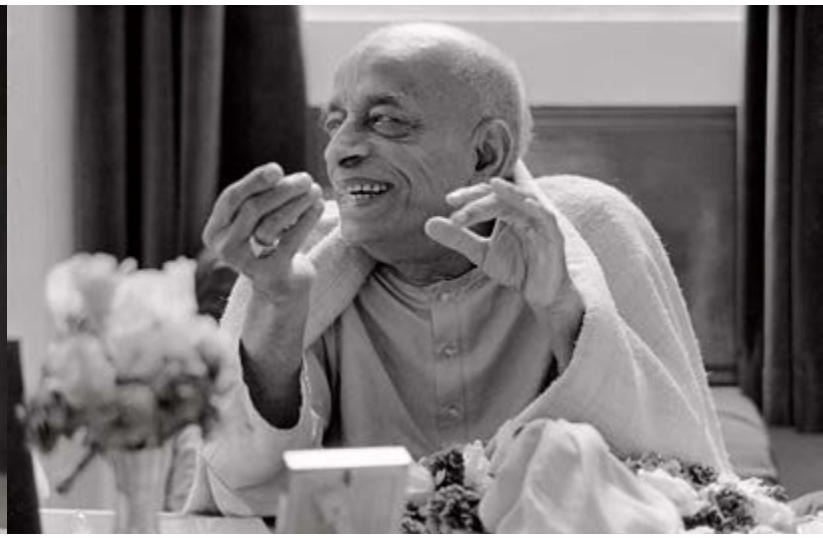
Asia & Eurasia, 151

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 152; Aravade, Maharashtra, India, 153; Attapur, Hyderabad, India, 155; Baku, Azerbaijan, 156; Bangkok, Thailand, 157; Baramati, Maharashtra, India, 158; Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, 160; Brunei, 162; China, 164; Chowpatty, Maharashtra, India, 165; Dubai, 166; Gaya, Bihar, India, 167; Georgia, Central Asia, 168; Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, 169; Govardhan Ecovillage, Maharashtra, India, 170; Hebri, Karnataka, India, 172; Hong Kong, China, 173; Juhu, Mumbai, India, 174; Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India, 176; Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, India, 179; Malaysia, 180; Manikonda, Hyderabad, India, 181; Manila, Philippines, 183; Māyāpur – The Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, 184; Mumbai (Mira Road), Maharashtra, India, 186; New Delhi (East of Kailash), India, 188; Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, 190; Pandharpur, Maharashtra, India, 193; Panihati, West Bengal, India, 194; Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India, 196; Punjabi Bagh, Delhi, India, 198; Qatar, 201; Raichur, Karnataka, India, 202; Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India, 204; Siliguri, West Bengal, India, 206; Solapur, Maharashtra, India, 207; South Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, 210; Sri Rangam, Tamil Nadu, India, 211; Taichung, Taiwan, 212; Taipei, Taiwan, 213; Tsukuba, Japan, 215; Türkiye, 216; Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India, 218; Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat, India, 220; Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, 220; Vrindavan, India, 222; Yokohama, Japan, 223

Europe & Russia, 225

Abentheuer, Germany, 226; Aheloy, Bulgaria, 228; Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 228; Antwerp, Belgium, 230; Ávila, Spain, 231; Barcelona, Spain, 233; Belfast, Northern Ireland, 239; Bergamo, Italy, 240; Bhaktivedanta Manor, 241; Brihuega, Spain, 245;





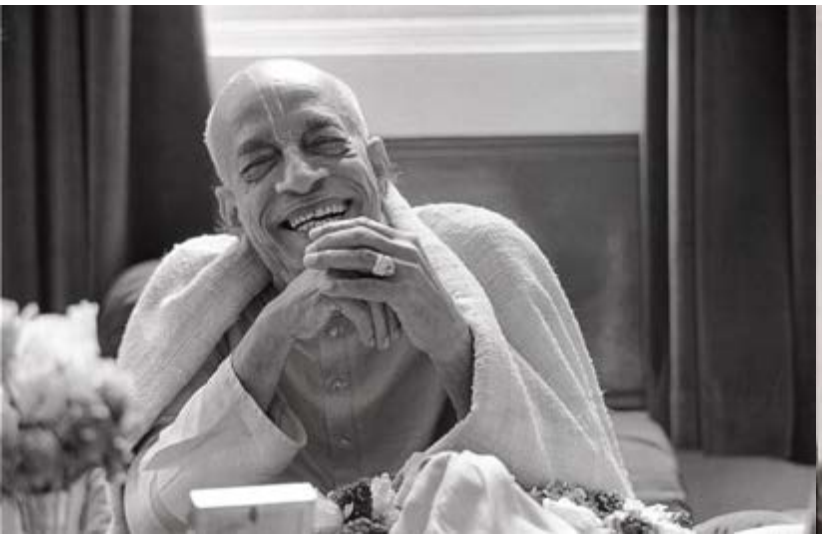
Brussels, Belgium, 246; Bucharest, Romania, 248; Budapest, Hungary, 249; Chelyabinsk, Russia, 250; Cherkasy, Ukraine, 252; Czech yātrā, 254; Czech Republic – Prabhupāda Bhavan and Nava Gokula, 255; Debrecen, Hungary, 259; Dublin, Ireland, 261; Greece, 262; The Hague, The Netherlands, 263; Heidelberg, Germany, 264; Iceland, 266; Izhevsk, Russia, 267; Jandelsbrunn, Germany, 269; Kazan, Russia, 271; Kherson, Ukraine, 272; Kirov, Russia, 274; Krasnodar, Russia, 275; Kursk, Russia, 277; Kyiv, Ukraine, 278; Lipetsk, Russia, 278; London (Soho Street), United Kingdom, 279; Málaga, Spain, 282; Manchester, United Kingdom, 283; Moscow, Russia, 285; Munich, Germany, 286; Nava Vraja-dhāma, Hungary, 287; Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia, 288; Norway, 289; Novorossiysk, Russia, 290; Omsk, Russia, 292; Paris, France, 294; Perm, Russia, 296; Poland, 297; Radhadesh, Belgium, 298; Rome, Italy, 300; Ryazan, Russia, 301; Scotland, 303; Serbia, 304; Sochi, Russia, 305; South London, United Kingdom, 307; St. Petersburg, Russia, 308; Stuttgart, Germany, 309; Ternopil, Ukraine, 310; Timişoara, Romania, 312; Tyumen, Russia, 313; Ufa, Russia, 314; Valençay, France, 314; Vladivostok, Russia, 316; Volgograd, Russia, 317; Voronezh, Russia, 317; Wales, United Kingdom, 318; Yekaterinburg, Russia, 320; Yessentuki, Russia, 320; Zürich, Switzerland, 322

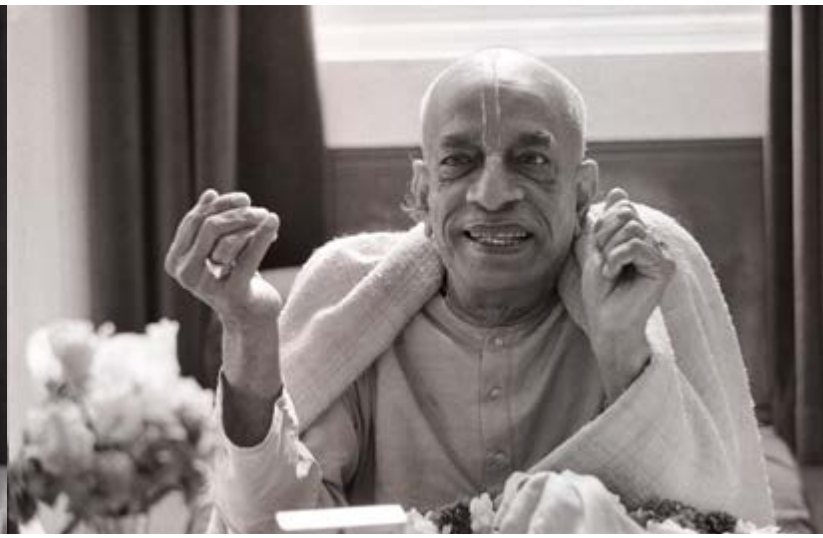
Latin America, 325

El Salvador, Central America, 326; Georgetown, Guyana, 327; Guyana yātrā, 328; Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, 331; Southern Cone, South America, 332; Suriname, 334

Canada & USA, 337

Alachua, Florida, USA, 338; Angus, Ontario, Canada, 339; Athens, Ohio, USA, 339; Austin, Texas, USA, 341; Barrie, Ontario, Canada, 342; Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA, 343; Boise, Idaho, USA, 344; Brampton, Ontario, Canada, 346; Burlington, Ontario, Canada, 348; Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 351; Corcoran, Minnesota, USA, 353; Denver, Colorado, USA, 355; Detroit, Michigan, USA, 356; Durham, Ontario, Canada, 356; East Hartford, Connecticut, USA, 358; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 359; Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, 362; Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, 364; Gainesville, Florida, USA, 365; Gītā-nāgarī Farm, Pennsylvania, USA, 366; Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA, 368; Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada, 369; Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 370; Hillsborough, North Carolina, USA, 372; Houston, Texas, USA, 375; Manitoba, Canada, 377; Miami, Florida, USA, 378;





Milton, Ontario, Canada, 380; Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, 383; Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, 384; Montreal, Québec, Canada, 386; Muskoka, Ontario, Canada, 389; New Tālavana, Carriere, Mississippi, USA, 389; New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA, 390; Niagara, Ontario, Canada, 391; Oakville, Ontario, Canada, 393; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 394; Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, 397; Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, 398; Sandy Ridge, North Carolina, USA, 399; Śaraṇāgati Dhāma, Ashcroft, BC, Canada, 400; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, 401; Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, 403; Seattle, Washington, USA, 404; Silicon Valley, California, USA, 406; Stouffville, Ontario, Canada, 410; Tallahassee, Florida, USA, 412; Tampa, Florida, USA, 413; Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, 414; Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 417; Toronto (Russian-speaking center), Ontario, Canada, 420; Tri-Central Valley, California, USA, 421; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 422; Washington, DC, USA, 426; Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, 427; Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 428

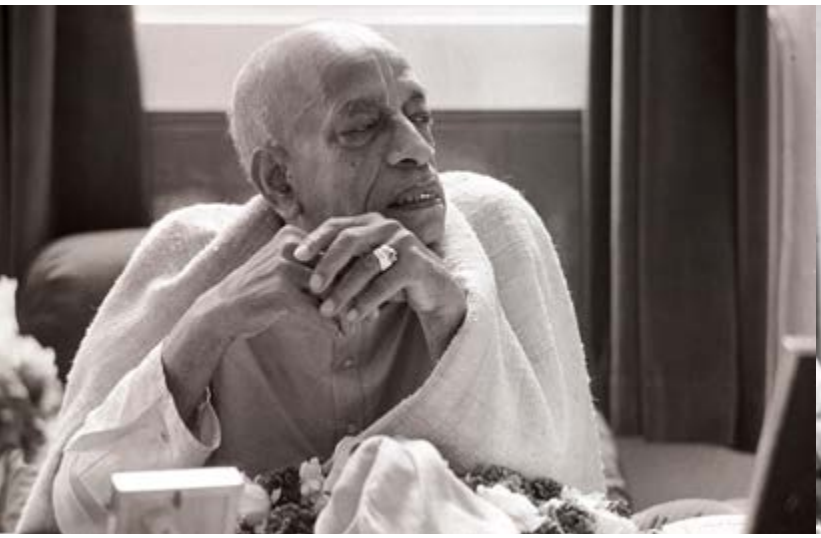
Oceania, 429

Adelaide, Australia, 430; Auckland, New Zealand, 432; Bambra, Australia, 435; Brisbane, Australia, 435; Cessnock, Australia, 437; Lautoka, Fiji, 438; Melbourne, Australia, 439; Perth, Australia, 441; Sydney, Australia, 443

Homages from Other Sources, 445

Back to Godhead magazine, 446; Bhaktivedanta Archives, 447; The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North America), 447; The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North Europe), 448; Bhaktivedanta College (Hungary), 450; Festival of India Tour Team (North America), 452; Food for Life (Hungary), 453; ISKCON Book Distribution Ministry, 454; Indian Continental Committee, 457; ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry, 460; ISKCON Justice Ministry, 461; ISKCON Kirtan Ministry, 463; ISKCON Ministry of Cows and Agriculture, 464; ISKCON Padayātrā Ministry, 465; ISKCONResolve, 467; ISKCON Vaiṣṇavī Ministry, 468; Radio Krishna Centrale, 470; Rūpānuga Vedic College, 472; Spiritual Advisors Bhagavata Assembly (SABHA), 473; Traveling Saṅkīrtana Party (Bhiwandi and Attapur), 474

Our Obeisances to You for Your Transcendental Instructions, 477





Introduction

If my arithmetic is correct, this marks the 57th annual Vyāsa-pūjā book for Śrīla Prabhupāda! If memory serves, the very first edition featured an honorable total of just seventeen temple homages.

This year, we have received almost 300 offerings, including contributions from such diverse locations as Abidjan, Brunei, Kumasi, Ouagadougou, Yerevan, Taichung, and Maputo. Contrast this with 1969, when Hamburg and London were the only centers that sent offerings outside of North America.

This expansion clearly demonstrates the glorious success of Śrīla Prabhupāda's ISKCON. I am confident that as long as we remain faithful to his instructions, ISKCON – and this Vyāsa-pūjā book – will continue to grow exponentially. While that growth brings challenges, it also offers inspiring opportunities. To meet this demand, we are working toward accepting offerings in all major languages and further developing the online edition of the book.

Despite decades of growth, we have still only scratched the surface. We must wonder: When will the day come when all eight billion people on earth present an annual homage to His Divine Grace? Beyond written homages, when will we see monuments to Śrīla Prabhupāda in every city of every country?

As stated in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 10.56):

> *bhakte kṛpā karena prabhu e-tina svarūpe*
> *'sākṣāt,' 'āveśa' āra 'āvirbhāva'-rūpe*
>
> Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu bestows His causeless mercy upon His devotees in three features: His own direct appearance [*sākṣāt*], His prowess within someone He empowers [*āveśa*], and His manifestation [*āvirbhāva*].

We owe our ever-increasing gratitude to Lord Caitanya for empowering Śrīla Prabhupāda (*āveśa*) with His divine prowess to bring about a revolution in the impious life of a misdirected civilization. Serving under our *senāpati bhakta,* we remain dedicated to reaching every soul possible. When we finally succeed, we will gladly face the "problem" of how to share millions – nay, billions – of homages to His Divine Grace.

Your servants on this year's Vyāsa-pūjā book team,
Ānanda Tīrtha Dāsa
Kaiśorī Devī Dāsī
Praghoṣa Dāsa



The Meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā

Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo: "By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa." By celebrating Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā we are remembering, glorifying, and expressing our gratitude to Śrīla Prabhupāda, and by glorifying him, we reaffirm our faith in him, reaffirm our *guru-niṣṭhā*.

This movement was started on faith. When Śrīla Prabhupāda first landed in the USA, he had faith that the people of America would understand Kṛṣṇa consciousness by hearing the knowledge of the *Bhāgavatam*. When he first got off the boat, he didn't know whether to turn right or left. But he had firm faith in the holy name and his guru, *nāma-niṣṭhā* and *guru-niṣṭhā*. By experiencing his words and actions and following his instructions, we were also imbued with that faith.

Once, when His Holiness Tamal Krishna Goswami had an operation and was under anesthesia, he had a vision of Śrīla Prabhupāda reporting to the previous *ācāryas*. Śrīla Prabhupāda was explaining that his disciples did not have much qualification of austerity, purity, or learning, but they had one good quality – they had *guru-niṣṭhā,* firm faith in him.

One time, when Śrīla Prabhupāda was celebrating the Vyāsa-pūjā of his own guru, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja, he gave the following example. Śrīla Vyāsadeva concluded his first prayer in the *Bhāgavatam* with the word *dhīmahi*. In his lecture, Śrīla Prabhupāda also used the word *dhīmahi* and explained that by using this word, Śrīla Vyāsadeva was including all of his followers in his worship of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda said, "And we shall together offer flowers. Actually, the worship is ... that is my duty. But *sagoṣṭhī*. Now I'll have to offer my respect with my spiritual family members, *sagoṣṭhī*. That is called *sagoṣṭhī*. Just like Vyāsadeva says, *dhīmahi*. He's offering prayer *sagoṣṭhī* – with all his followers and disciples. That is the process."

In our Vrindavan temple we often see an Indian woman come for darshan holding one child on her hip, another by hand, and perhaps still another unborn in her abdomen. When she bows down to offer obeisances, all her children bow down also. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda saw all living entities as part of Kṛṣṇa's family and desired to bring them all to surrender at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda's satisfaction was to see everyone happy by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, taking *prasādam,* and reading Kṛṣṇa's books. He did not discriminate as to who was qualified and who was not. He simply brought us all with him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is more merciful than Kṛṣṇa. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* (18.67) Lord Kṛṣṇa says, "This confidential knowledge may never be explained to those who are not austere or devoted or engaged in devotional service, nor to one who is envious of Me." In his purport to *Gītā* 18.71 Śrīla Prabhupāda writes, "In the sixty-seventh verse of this chapter, the Lord explicitly forbade the *Gītā's* being spoken to those who are envious of the Lord. In other words, the *Bhagavad-gītā* is for the devotees only. But it so happens that sometimes a devotee of the Lord will hold open class, and in that class not all the students are expected to be devotees. Why do such persons hold open class? It is explained here that although not everyone is a devotee, still there are many men who are not envious of Kṛṣṇa ... Thus a pure devotee of the Lord gives everyone a chance to become free from all sinful reactions and to become a devotee of the Lord."

Where would we have been if Śrīla Prabhupāda had not opened his class to us?

Śrīla Prabhupāda said that "impossible" is a word in a fool's dictionary. So Śrīla Prabhupāda empowered us to do the impossible. He had us make so many temples full of devotees and empowered us to distribute his books during huge marathons. And amazing Deity worship – who ever thought we would be worshiping Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Deities in India and all over the world?

How did we get this faith? In his purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.23, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes, "Service of the devotee is more valuable than the service of the Lord." We tried to serve him, but we could not keep up with him in any way, especially on his morning walks. He slept less,

traveled more, preached more, and did more austerities than we could. So we just tried to follow him, although we could not keep up with him.

By trying to serve Śrīla Prabhupāda, our faith grew. There was one man in Juhu, Mumbai, who was building rooms for Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciples on top of the tenants' buildings behind the temple construction. His name was Mr. Sethi. One day, he came to see Śrīla Prabhupāda covered in cement and dust. Śrīla Prabhupāda said to him, "Just as you are building these rooms for my disciples here, Kṛṣṇa is building rooms for you in Goloka Vrindavan. Mr. Sethi replied, "But Swamijī, I am so sinful! How can I go?" Śrīla Prabhupāda said, "That I will see!"

We are grateful to Śrīla Prabhupāda for giving us this opportunity to serve him. Gratitude doesn't mean simply saying "thank you." If we are grateful to Śrīla Prabhupāda, we must reciprocate with him by following his instructions. He wanted all of us to preach and share the knowledge we had been given. Lord Caitanya brought the desire tree of devotional service to this world. "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)

Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi 9.18 states, "Thus the branches of the Caitanya tree formed a cluster or society, with great branches covering all the universe." From Śrīla Prabhupāda's purport: "Our International Society for Krishna Consciousness is one of the branches of the Caitanya tree."

"The fruits ripened and became sweet and nectarean. The gardener, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, distributed them without asking any price.… Not considering who asked for it and who did not, nor who was fit and who unfit to receive it, Caitanya Mahāprabhu distributed the fruit of devotional service." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 9.27, 29)

In his purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 9.29, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes: "The only purpose of the preachers of the *saṅkīrtana* movement must be to go on preaching without restriction. That is the way in which Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu introduced this *saṅkīrtana* movement to the world."

"I am the only gardener," Lord Caitanya states. "How many places can I go? How many fruits can I pick and distribute?" (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 9.34)

From Śrīla Prabhupāda's purport: "This indicates that all classes of devotees should combine to distribute the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* without consideration of the time, place, or situation."

Lord Caitanya continues, "Therefore I order every man within this universe to accept this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and distribute it everywhere. "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* 9.36, 39)

Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi 7.20–21 states: "The characteristics of Kṛṣṇa are understood to be a storehouse of transcendental love. Although that storehouse of love certainly came with Kṛṣṇa when He was present, it was sealed. But when Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu came with His associates of the Pañca-tattva, they broke the seal and plundered the storehouse to taste transcendental love of Kṛṣṇa. The more they tasted it, the more their thirst for it grew."

When Kṛṣṇa appeared on this planet, He brought with Him the treasure of love of Godhead, but the treasure box was locked. When Lord Caitanya came, He broke open the box and distributed the treasure all over India. But that treasure was still locked up in India. Then Śrīla Prabhupāda came, again broke open the box, and gave the treasure out freely all over the world. He did not discriminate as to who was qualified and who was not. He taught us that we are not these bodies and don't belong to any *varṇa* or *āśrama*.

As Lord Caitanya states:

nāhaṁ vipro na ca nara-patir nāpi vaiśyo na śūdro
nāhaṁ varṇī na ca gṛha-patir no vanastho yatir vā
kintu prodyan-nikhila-paramānanda-pūrnāmṛtābdher
gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsaḥ

> I am not a *brāhmaṇa,* I am not a *kṣatriya,* I am not a *vaiśya* or a *śūdra*. Nor am I a *brahmacārī,* a householder, a *vānaprastha* or a *sannyāsī*. I identify Myself only as the servant of the servant of the servant of the lotus feet of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the maintainer of the *gopīs*. He is like an ocean of nectar, and He is the cause of universal transcendental bliss. He is always existing with brilliance. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 13.80)

We are all servants of the servant of the *gopīs* eternally. We do not belong to any caste or material designation. For a preacher there is only one qualification:

kibā vipra, kibā nyāsī, śūdra kene naya
yei kṛṣṇa-tattva-vettā, sei 'guru' haya

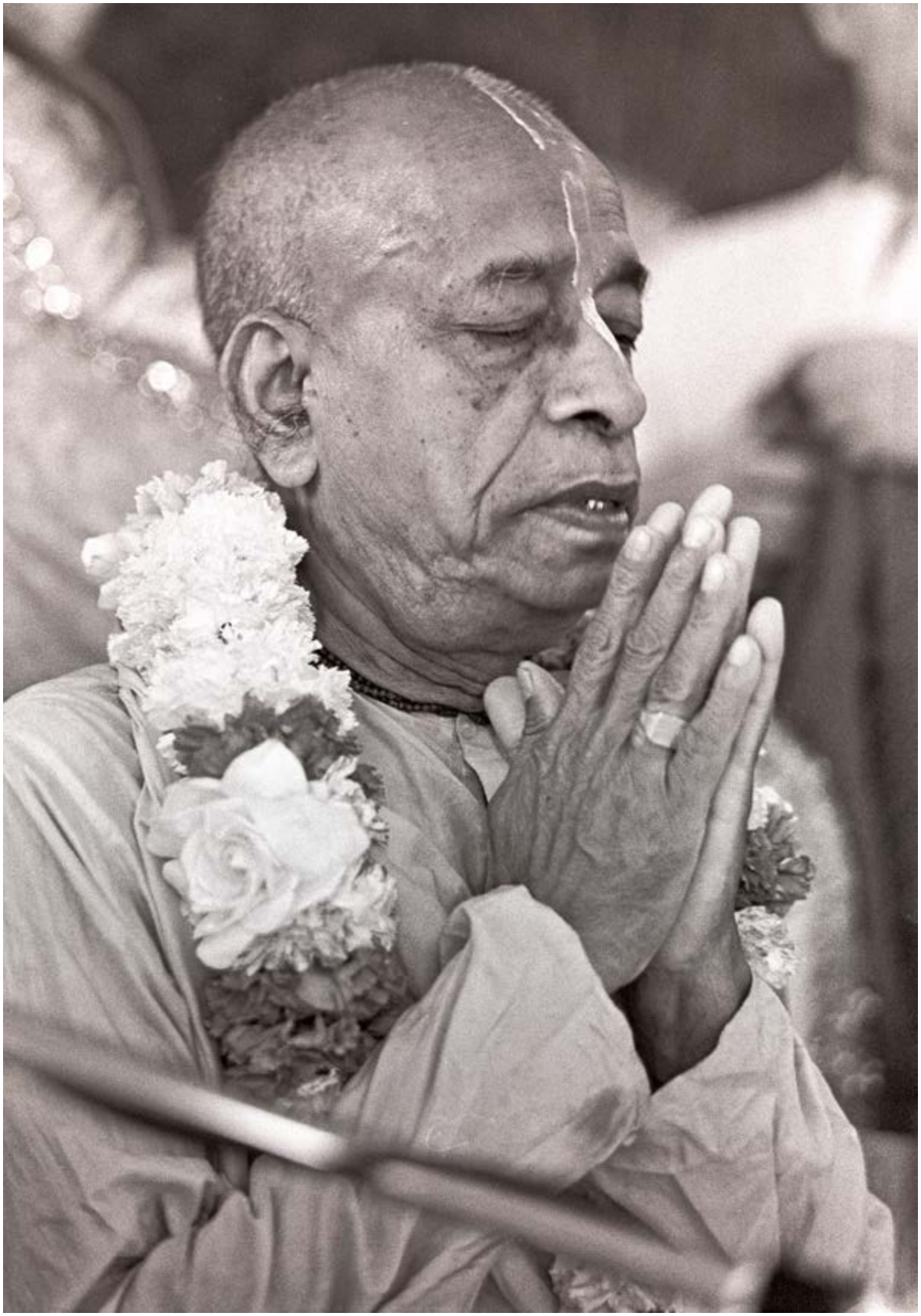
> A person may be a *brāhmaṇa* or a *śūdra* or a *sannyāsī,* but if he happens to be well versed in the science of Kṛṣṇa, then he is fit to become a spiritual master. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 8.128)

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

> Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 7.128)

We have all received the order of Lord Caitanya as well as from Śrīla Prabhupāda to become guru. So let us all reciprocate with Śrīla Prabhupāda by taking up this order and helping Śrīla Prabhupāda spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

– Nārāyaṇī Devī Dāsī



The Universal Teacher

The following speech was given by Abhay Charanaravinda Dāsa (His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda) before the members of the Śrī Gauḍīya Maṭha in Bombay, in February 1936, on the occasion of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's Vyāsa-pūjā celebration.

sākṣād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair
uktas tathā bhāvyata eva sadbhiḥ
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam

"In the revealed scriptures it is declared that the spiritual master should be worshiped like the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and this injunction is obeyed by pure devotees of the Lord. The spiritual master is the most confidential servant of the Lord. Thus let us offer our respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of our spiritual master."

Gentlemen, on behalf of the members of the Bombay branch of the Gauḍīya Maṭha, let me welcome you all because you have so kindly joined us tonight in our congregational offerings of homage to the lotus feet of the world teacher, Ācāryadeva, who is the founder of this Gauḍīya Mission and the president-*ācārya* of Śrī Śrī Viśva-vaiṣṇava Rāja-sabhā—I mean my eternal divine master, Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja.

Sixty-two years ago, on this auspicious day, the Ācāryadeva made his appearance by the call of Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda at Śrī-kṣetra, Jagannātha-dhāma, at Purī.

Gentlemen, the offering of such an homage as has been arranged this evening to the Ācāryadeva is not a sectarian concern, for when we speak of the fundamental principle of *gurudeva,* or *ācāryadeva,* we speak of something that is of universal application. There does not arise any question of discriminating my *guru* from yours or anyone else's. There is only one *guru,* who appears in an infinity of forms to teach you, me, and all others.

The *guru,* or *ācāryadeva,* as we learn from the bona fide scriptures, delivers the message of the absolute world, the transcendental abode of the Absolute Truth. We have heard so many times: *mahā-jano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ* ("Traverse the trail which your previous *ācārya* has passed"), but we have hardly tried to understand the real purport of this *śloka*. If we scrutinizingly study this proposition, we can understand that the *mahā-jana* is one and the royal road to the transcendental world is also one. In the *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad* [1.2.12] it is said:

tad-vijñānārthaṁ sa gurum evābhigacchet
samit-pāṇiḥ śrotriyaṁ brahma-niṣṭham

"In order to learn the transcendental science, one must approach the bona fide spiritual master in disciplic succession, who is fixed in the Absolute Truth."

Thus it has been enjoined herewith that in order to receive that transcendental knowledge, one must approach the *guru*. Therefore, if the Absolute Truth is one, about which we think there is no difference of opinion, the *guru* also cannot be two. The Ācāryadeva to whom we have assembled tonight to offer our humble homage is not the *guru* of a sectarian institution or one out of many differing exponents of the truth. On the contrary, he is the Jagad-guru, the *guru* of all of us; the only difference is that some obey him wholeheartedly, while others do not obey him directly.

In the *Bhāgavatam* [11.17.27] it is said:

ācāryaṁ māṁ vijānīyān nāvamanyeta karhicit
na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-deva-mayo guruḥ

"One should understand the spiritual master to be as good as I am," said the Blessed Lord. "Nobody should be jealous of the spiritual master or think of him as an ordinary man, because the spiritual master is the sum total of all the demigods." That is, the *ācārya* has been identified with God Himself. He has nothing to do with the affairs of this mundane world. He does not descend here to meddle with the affairs of temporary necessities but to deliver the fallen, conditioned souls—the souls, or entities, who have come here to the material world with a motive of enjoyment by the mind and five organs of sense perception. He appears before us to reveal the light of the *Vedas* and to bestow upon us the blessings of full-fledged freedom, after which we should hanker at every step of our life's journey.

The transcendental knowledge of the *Vedas* was first uttered by God to Brahmā, the creator of this particular universe. From Brahmā the knowledge descended to Nārada, from Nārada to Vyāsadeva, and from Vyāsadeva to Madhva, and in this process of disciplic succession the transcendental knowledge was transmitted by one disciple to another till it reached Lord Gaurāṅga, Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, who posed as the disciple and successor of Śrī Īśvara Purī. The present Ācāryadeva is the tenth disciplic representative from Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī, the original representative of Lord Caitanya who preached this transcendental tradition in its fullness. The knowledge that we receive from our Gurudeva is not different from that imparted by God Himself and the succession of the *ācāryas* in the preceptorial line of Brahmā. We adore this auspicious day as Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā-tithi because the *ācārya* is the living representative of Vyāsadeva, the divine compiler of the *Vedas, Purāṇas, Bhagavad-gītā, Mahābhārata,* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

One who interprets the divine sound, or *śabda-brahma,* by his imperfect sense perception cannot be a real spiritual *guru,* because in the absence of proper disciplinary training under the bona fide *ācārya,* the interpreter is sure to differ from Vyāsadeva (as the Māyāvādīs do). Śrīla Vyāsadeva is the prime authority of Vedic revelation, and therefore such an irrelevant interpreter cannot be accepted as the *guru,* or *ācārya,* howsoever equipped he may be with all the acquirements of material knowledge. As it is said in the *Padma Purāṇa, sampradāya-vihīnā ye mantrās te niṣphalā matāḥ:* "Unless you are initiated by a bona fide spiritual master in the disciplic succession, the *mantra* that you might have received is without any effect."

On the other hand, one who has received the transcendental knowledge by aural reception from the bona fide preceptor in the disciplic chain, and who has sincere regard for the real *ācārya,* must needs be enlightened with the revealed knowledge of the *Vedas*. But this knowledge is permanently sealed to the cognitive approach of the empiricists. As it is said in the *Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* [6.23]:

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

"Only unto those great souls who simultaneously have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of Vedic knowledge automatically revealed."

Gentlemen, our knowledge is so poor, our senses are so imperfect, and our sources are so limited that it is not possible for us to have even the slightest knowledge of the absolute region without surrendering ourselves at the lotus feet of Śrī Vyāsadeva or his bona fide representative. Every moment we are being deceived by the knowledge of our direct perception. It is all the creation or concoction of the mind, which is always deceiving, changing, and flickering. We cannot

know anything of the transcendental region by our limited, perverted method of observation and experiment. But all of us can lend our eager ears for the aural reception of the transcendental sound transmitted from that region to this through the unadulterated medium of Śrī Gurudeva or Śrī Vyāsadeva. Therefore, gentlemen, we should surrender ourselves today at the feet of the representative of Śrī Vyāsadeva for the elimination of all our differences bred by our unsubmissive attitude. It is accordingly said in *Śrī Gītā* [4.34]:

tad viddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā
upadekśyanti te jñānaṁ jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ

"Just approach the wise and bona fide spiritual master. Surrender unto him first and try to understand him by inquiries and service. Such a wise spiritual master will enlighten you with transcendental knowledge, for he has already known the Absolute Truth."

To receive the transcendental knowledge we must completely surrender ourselves to the real *ācārya* in a spirit of ardent inquiry and service. Actual performance of service to the Absolute under the guidance of the *ācārya* is the only vehicle by which we can assimilate the transcendental knowledge. Today's meeting for offering our humble services and homage to the feet of the Ācāryadeva will enable us to be favored with the capacity of assimilating the transcendental knowledge so kindly transmitted by him to all persons without distinction.

Gentlemen, we are all more or less proud of our past Indian civilization, but we actually do not know the real nature of that civilization. We cannot be proud of our past material civilization, which is now a thousand times greater than in days gone by. It is said that we are passing through the age of darkness, the Kali-yuga. What is this darkness? The darkness cannot be due to backwardness in material knowledge, because we now have more of it than formerly. If not we ourselves, our neighbors at any rate have plenty of it. Therefore, we must conclude that the darkness of the present age is not due to a lack of material advancement, but that we have lost the clue to our spiritual advancement, which is the prime necessity of human life and the criterion of the highest type of human civilization. Throwing bombs from airplanes is no advancement of civilization from the primitive, uncivilized practice of dropping big stones on the heads of enemies from the tops of hills. Improvement in the art of killing our neighbors by means of machine guns and poisonous gases is certainly no advancement from primitive barbarism, which prided itself on its art of killing by bows and arrows. Nor does the development of a sense of pampered selfishness prove anything more than intellectual animalism. True human civilization is very different from all these states, and therefore in the *Kaṭha Upaniṣad* [1.3.14] there is the emphatic call:

uttiṣṭhata jāgrata prāpya varān nibodhata
kṣurasya dhārā niśitā duratyayā
durgaṁ pathas tat kavayo vadanti

"Please wake up and try to understand the boon which you now have in this human form of life. The path of spiritual realization is very difficult; it is sharp like a razor's edge. That is the opinion of learned, transcendental scholars."

Thus, while others were yet in the womb of historical oblivion, the sages of India had developed a different kind of civilization, which enabled them to know themselves. They had discovered that we are not at all material entities, but that we are all spiritual, permanent, and indestructible servants of the Absolute. But because we have, against our better judgment, chosen to completely identify ourselves with this present material existence, our sufferings have multiplied according to the inexorable law of birth and death, with its consequent diseases and anxieties. These sufferings cannot be really mitigated by any provision of material happiness, because

matter and spirit are completely different elements. It is just as if you took an aquatic animal out of water and put it on the land, supplying all manner of happiness possible on land. The deadly sufferings of the animal are not capable of being relieved at all until it is taken out of its foreign environment. Spirit and matter are completely contradictory things. All of us are spiritual entities. We cannot have perfect happiness, which is our birthright, however much we may meddle with the affairs of the mundane things. Perfect happiness can be ours only when we are restored to our natural state of spiritual existence. This is the distinctive message of our ancient Indian civilization, this is the message of the *Gītā,* this is the message of the *Vedas* and the *Purāṇas,* and this is the message of all the real *ācāryas,* including our present Ācāryadeva, in the line of Lord Caitanya.

Gentlemen, although it is imperfectly that we have been enabled, by his grace, to understand the sublime messages of our Ācāryadeva, Oṁ Viṣṇupāda Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, we must admit that we have realized definitely that the divine message from his holy lips is the congenial thing for suffering humanity. All of us should hear him patiently. If we listen to the transcendental sound without unnecessary opposition, he will surely have mercy upon us. The *ācārya's* message is to take us back to our original home, back to God. Let me repeat, therefore, that we should hear him patiently, follow him in the measure of our conviction, and bow down at his lotus feet for releasing us from our present causeless unwillingness for serving the Absolute and all souls.

From the *Gītā* we learn that even after the destruction of the body, the *ātmā,* or the soul, is not destroyed; he is always the same, always new and fresh. Fire cannot burn him, water cannot dissolve him, the air cannot dry him up, and the sword cannot kill him. He is everlasting and eternal, and this is also confirmed in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* [10.84.13]:

yasyātma-buddhiḥ kuṇape tri-dhātuke
sva-dhiḥ kalatrādiṣu bhauma ijya-dhīḥ
yat-tīrtha-buddhiḥ salile na karhicij
janeṣv abhijñeṣu sa eva go-kharaḥ

"Anyone who accepts this bodily bag of three elements [bile, mucus, and air] as his self, who has an affinity for an intimate relationship with his wife and children, who considers his land as worshipable, who takes bath in the waters of the holy places of pilgrimage but never takes advantage of those persons who are in actual knowledge—he is no better than an ass or a cow."

Unfortunately, in these days we have all been turned foolish by neglecting our real comfort and identifying the material cage with ourselves. We have concentrated all our energies for the meaningless upkeep of the material cage for its own sake, completely neglecting the captive soul within. The cage is meant for the undoing of the bird; the bird is not meant for the welfare of the cage. Let us, therefore, deeply ponder this. All our activities are now turned toward the upkeep of the cage, and the most we do is try to give some food to the mind by art and literature. But we do not know that this mind is also material in a more subtle form. This is stated in the *Gītā* [7.4]:

bhūmir āpo 'nalo vāyuḥ khaṁ mano buddhir eva ca
ahaṅkāra itīyaṁ me bhinnā prakṛtir aṣṭadhā

"Earth, water, fire, air, sky, intelligence, mind, and ego are all My separated energies."

We have scarcely tried to give any food to the soul, which is distinct from the body and mind; therefore we are all committing suicide in the proper sense of the term. The message of the Ācāryadeva is to give us a warning to halt such wrong activities. Let us therefore bow down at his lotus feet for the unalloyed mercy and kindness he has bestowed upon us.

Gentlemen, do not for a moment think that my Gurudeva wants to put a complete brake on the modern civilization – an impossible feat. But let us learn from him the art of making the best use of a bad bargain, and let us understand the importance of this human life, which is fit for the highest development of true consciousness. The best use of this rare human life should not be neglected. As it is said in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* [11.9.29]:

labdhvā sudurlabham idaṁ bahu-sambhavānte
mānuṣyam arthadam anityam apīha dhīraḥ
tūrṇaṁ yateta na pated anumṛtyu yāvan
niḥśreyasāya viṣayaḥ khalu sarvataḥ syāt

"Human life is obtained after many, many births, and though it is temporary, it offers the highest benefits. Thus a sober and intelligent man should immediately try to fulfill his mission and attain the highest profit in life before another death occurs. He should avoid sense gratification, which is available in all circumstances."

Let us not misuse this human life in the vain pursuit of material enjoyment, or, in other words, for the sake of only eating, sleeping, fearing, and sensuous activities. The Ācāryadeva's message is conveyed by the words of Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī:

anāsaktasya viṣayān yathārham upayuñjataḥ
nirbandhaḥ kṛṣṇa-sambandhe yuktaṁ vairāgyam ucyate

prāpañcikatayā buddhyā hari-sambandhi-vastunaḥ
mumukṣubhiḥ parityāgo vairāgyaṁ phalgu kathyate

"One is said to be situated in the fully renounced order of life if he lives in accordance with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. He should be without attachment for sense gratification and should accept only what is necessary for the upkeep of the body. On the other hand, one who renounces things which could be used in the service of Kṛṣṇa, under the pretext that such things are material, does not practice complete renunciation."

The purport of these *ślokas* can only be realized by fully developing the rational portion of our life, not the animal portion. Sitting at the feet of the Ācāryadeva, let us try to understand from this transcendental source of knowledge what we are, what is this universe, what is God, and what is our relationship with Him. The message of Lord Caitanya is the message for the living entities and the message of the living world. Lord Caitanya did not bother Himself for the upliftment of this dead world, which is suitably named Martyaloka, the world where everything is destined to die. He appeared before us four hundred fifty years ago to tell us something of the transcendental universe, where everything is permanent and everything is for the service of the Absolute. But recently Lord Caitanya has been misrepresented by some unscrupulous persons, and the highest philosophy of the Lord has been misinterpreted to be the cult of the lowest type of society. We are glad to announce tonight that our Ācāryadeva, with his unusual kindness, saved us from this horrible type of degradation, and therefore we bow down at his lotus feet with all humility.

Gentlemen, it has been a mania of the cultured (or uncultured) society of the present day to accredit the Personality of Godhead with merely impersonal features and to stultify Him by claiming that He has no senses, no form, no activity, no head, no legs, and no enjoyment. This has also been the pleasure of the modern scholars due to their sheer lack of proper guidance and true introspection in the spiritual realm. All these empiricists think alike: all the enjoyable things should be monopolized by the human society, or by a particular class only, and the impersonal God should be a mere order supplier for their whimsical feats. We are happy that we have been

relieved of this horrible type of malady by the mercy of His Divine Grace Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Bhakti-siddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja. He is our eye-opener, our eternal father, our eternal preceptor, and our eternal guide. Let us therefore bow down at his lotus feet on this auspicious day.

Gentlemen, although we are like ignorant children in the knowledge of the Transcendence, still His Divine Grace, my Gurudeva, has kindled a small fire within us to dissipate the invincible darkness of empirical knowledge. We are now so much on the safe side that no amount of philosophical argument by the empiric schools of thought can deviate us an inch from the position of our eternal dependence on the lotus feet of His Divine Grace. Furthermore, we are prepared to challenge the most erudite scholars of the Māyāvāda school and prove that the personality of Godhead and His transcendental sports in Goloka alone constitute the sublime information of the *Vedas*. There are explicit indications of this in the *Chāndogya Upaniṣad* [8.13.1]: *śyāmāc chavalaṁ prapadye śavalāc chyāmaṁ prapadye*. "For receiving the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, I surrender unto His energy [Rādhā], and for receiving the mercy of His energy, I surrender unto Kṛṣṇa." Also, in the *Ṛg Veda* [1.2.22.20]: *tad viṣṇoḥ paramaṁ padaṁ sadā paśyanti sūrayo divīva cakṣur ātataṁ … viṣṇor yat paramaṁ padam*. "The lotus feet of Lord Viṣṇu are the supreme objective of all the demigods. These lotus feet of the Lord are as enlightening as the sun in the sky."

The plain truth so vividly explained in the *Gītā,* which is the central lesson of the *Vedas*, is not understood or even suspected by the most powerful scholars of the empiric schools. Herein lies the secret of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā. When we meditate on the transcendental pastimes of the Absolute Godhead, we are proud to feel that we are His eternal servitors, and we become jubilant and dance with joy. All glory to my divine master, for it is he who has out of his unceasing flow of mercy stirred up within us such a movement of eternal existence. Let us bow down at his lotus feet.

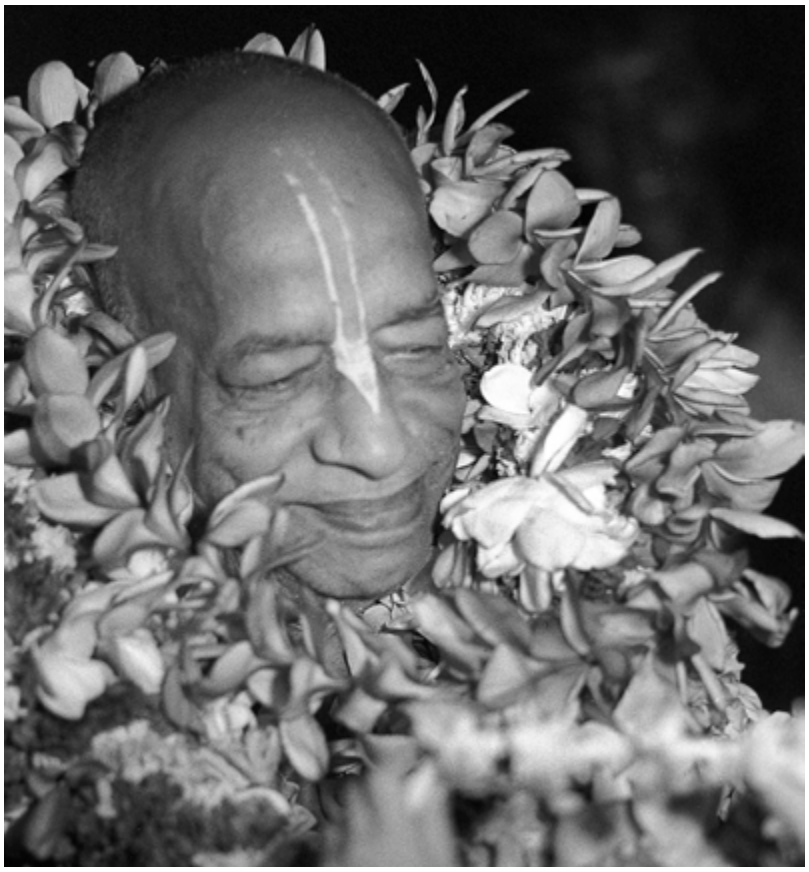
Gentlemen, had he not appeared before us to deliver us from the thralldom of this gross worldly delusion, surely we should have remained for lives and ages in the darkness of helpless captivity. Had he not appeared before us, we would not have been able to understand the eternal truth of the sublime teaching of Lord Caitanya. Had he not appeared before us, we could not have been able to know the significance of the first *śloka* of *Brahma-saṁhitā:*

īśvaraḥ paramaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ sac-cid-ānanda-vigrahaḥ
anādir ādir govindaḥ sarva-kāraṇa-kāraṇam

"Kṛṣṇa, who is known as Govinda, is the Supreme Godhead. He has an eternal, blissful, spiritual body. He is the origin of all, He has no other origin, and He is the prime cause of all causes."

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 some day 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.

ABHAY CHARAN DAS
For Members, Śrī Gauḍīya Maṭha, Bombay



Homages from the GBC

Acyuta Priya Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I want to share with you the feelings I and other devotees have of belonging to you. Most of your followers, including me, never saw you personally. I was born in the very degraded country in the USSR, behind the iron curtain. When I became a devotee in 1980, I had a very bitter feeling. I was suffering just because I missed the opportunity to meet you in person, because by that time you had already gone to the spiritual world. But even if I'd become your devotee earlier, I would not have been able to see you because Soviet people generally did not have the opportunity to travel abroad, and at the time you came to Moscow, I was too small a child to travel to Moscow.

Somehow, despite the feelings of separation, I never felt that you are not present on the planet. Maybe just on your *tirobhāva* festivals that acute feeling of great loss was haunting me. Otherwise, I felt that you are always present in your instructions, books, and *ācāra*. When I meditated on your photos, I felt that you are still really present, you are alive, and that warm feeling in the heart was more real to me than all other people in my life.

Not long ago I had a preaching opportunity at one *nāma-haṭṭa* gathering in Kyiv. Devotees present had never personally met you, but at that meeting they started sharing their personal relationships with you. Some of them were so moved by their feelings of gratitude to you that they started crying. All they have is your books, your biographies, your ISKCON, and your preaching mission to participate in. Due to that, they felt very much connected to you. You changed their lives, and you cared for them without ever seeing them. But they were included in your spiritual vision, and they felt that.

The world is becoming more and more crazy every year. Our foolish sentimental, utopian expectations from the material world are rapidly evaporating under the scorching heat of the fire of war in many corners of this world. You warned us about the uncertainty of the material world, and now we are practically realizing your prediction as scenarios unfold. What would we be, and where would we go without your clear instructions? Which shelter would we take?

Thank you for the guidance in these stormy waters of material existence.

I never saw you personally, but I pray I will become a speck of dust at your lotus feet eternally to assist you in your great mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your insignificant servant,
Acyuta Priya Dāsa

Acyutātma Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This is my small report on my service – my offering to you on the day of your appearance.

This year we are celebrating the fifty-fifth anniversary of your visit to Moscow. Your visit is an example of mercy and great compassion. You always think about the welfare of others.

> *śrī-devā ūcuḥ*
> *kiṁ nu tad dustyajaṁ brahma puṁsāṁ bhūtānukampinām*
> *bhavad-vidhānāṁ mahatāṁ puṇya-ślokeḍya-karmaṇām*
>
> The demigods replied: O exalted *brāhmaṇa,* pious persons like you, whose activities are praiseworthy, are very kind and affectionate to people in general. What can't such pious souls give for the benefit of others? They can give everything, including their bodies. (*Bhāgavatam* 6.10.5)

After this trip to Moscow, you thought about how to make people in the USSR happy. People lacked spiritual knowledge. In 1976, you sent one of your disciples, Gopal Krishna Prabhu, to the USSR. By your mercy, he visited Moscow and Leningrad, where many prominent people ordered your books.

Active and mass book distribution began in the early '90s. Many people, in need of spiritual life, eagerly absorbed streams of transcendental knowledge.

Last December, the Prime Minister of India presented your *Bhagavad-gītā* in Russian to the president of Russia. I am sure that such an event brought you deep satisfaction. You wanted the heads of state to read your books.

In your instructions, you taught leaders to develop strategic vision, identify goals, and make plans. This year, we want to focus on three goals:

1. *Education of leaders:* We built the entire educational process on your instructions. The development of ISKCON depends on the leaders.
2. *Care for devotees:* Once you said that the time had come to "boil the milk." The nature of the material world is such that the spiritual goal – *prema* – always reduces. Devotees begin to dilute the milk of bhakti with water of karma, *jñāna,* and the desire to gain mystical experience. It is important that there are more mature devotees who are bearers of bhakti in their hearts. Therefore, it is important to create an atmosphere so that devotees enthusiastically want to practice bhakti-yoga. And here we rely on your instructions and letters.
3. *Competent management of the organization:* You said that you write books, give lectures, but do not forget to check the bank accounts. Especially in modern times, it is important that all legal affairs of the organization are at the highest standard. Communication is also necessary here.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I really appreciate the opportunity you gave me. Despite the difficulties, I continue to participate in the development of your movement, in the mission of Lord Caitanya.

Also, this year I began to communicate more closely with ISKCON leaders in India. I participate in the educational programs of the Mayapur Institute. Your books are always the basis for us. You created a movement that benefits all humanity.

An insignificant servant of your servants,
Acyutātma Dāsa

Anuttama Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Among the many, many amazing things that you accomplished in your life, perhaps the most amazing for me is that you just got on that boat, the *Jaladuta*.

You were an elderly *sādhu* situated in Vrindavan, the most sacred place in the world for devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa. You knew from *śāstra* how degraded this age was, especially in the West. You knew how difficult it would be to teach *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* to foreigners. You knew that Westerners were proud of their temporary opulence and thus disinclined to hear a message extolling them to surrender to God. You knew that others before you had gone west and failed. You knew that you too might fail.

Yet, you came. Despite the lack of finances, the lack of institutional backing, the lack of welcome, the lack of practically everything any reasonable person would require before undertaking such an arduous journey. Yet, you came.

It's typical for disciples to glorify their gurus on Vyāsa-pūjā day, but today is not a typical Vyāsa-pūjā day. This is the Vyāsa-pūjā day of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON. No other day of glorification of guru comes anywhere near to being this important.

Without you, there would be no Kṛṣṇa movement outside of India. There would be some Hindu temples; a few would have Kṛṣṇa Deities. Other *sādhus* would have come west; some would have written and sold their books. But there would be no *movement*. Only you had the expertise, the wisdom, the compassion, the tolerance, the vision, and the determination to bring the message of bhakti to the modern world. No one could have done what you have done. No one can compare to you and your achievements. No one.

And I, an aging servant who is dutybound to try to understand you, to glorify you, to appreciate you, and to try to amplify your message – I struggle to understand even why you got on that boat. How deep must be your love for the Lord! How much faith you must have in His holy name! How surrendered you must be to His will! How strong a desire you must have to fulfill His mission and deliver the souls lost in this material world!

Reflecting on your astounding success, I am struck by how you inspired millions to give up their materialistic ways and dedicate their lives to the Lord. And I am left wondering, still: How is it you got on that boat? Where would I be if you had not? How can I hope to repay the debt I owe you?

Your servant,
Anuttama Dāsa



Bhakti Caitanya Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, the savior of the whole world and of me.

I have been thinking a lot about your position as founder-*ācārya* of your International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. It is such a profound position, and as we know very well, one that you insisted on being recognized as.

A founder-*ācārya* is, among other things, someone who takes one or some important aspects of the functions and gifts of a *sampradāya* and gives them special emphasis, in this way having a particularly dynamic effect on the line and its place in the world at large. There is absolutely no doubt that you have done this, Śrīla Prabhupāda, in a number of ways.

In a sense, Lord Caitanya was also something like a founder-*ācārya* in that He took such an important activity of the *sampradāya* – the chanting of the holy names, and particularly, the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra itself – and practiced it and emphasized it greatly. What an impact He had, particularly in India!

It is interesting that when Īśvara Purī initiated Lord Caitanya, he specifically emphasized to the Lord the chanting of the holy names as opposed to study of Vedānta philosophy, and after being instructed in this way, Lord Caitanya absorbed Himself in chanting and spreading the chanting, often to the exclusion of other Kṛṣṇa conscious activities. In this way, He had such an unprecedented impact on the world in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Similarly, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for our preaching, emphasized chanting, but then, after some time, focused on the mass distribution of transcendental literature. I remember how, when I joined the temple in Bury Place, London, in January 1973, all we did every day was go on *harināma* up and down Oxford Street, the main street of the city. But then some time in the summer, we received an instruction from you to now focus on book distribution.

This is certainly one of your main contributions to the *sampradāya,* and it has had, and continues to have, such a massive impact on the whole world. How many millions of conditioned souls have now had contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness through the distribution of your books?

So on this basis alone, you are clearly a founder-*ācārya* and not simply another "regular" *ācārya* who was giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to people.

And I was one of those many, many people who first got one of those books and had his life changed irrevocably by you. You saved me from a fate worse than death, and I owe you everything for that, eternally.

Please grant me a place at your lotus feet, forever.

Your ever grateful servant,
Bhakti Caitanya Swami

Bhaktivaibhava Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Due to my serious health condition, this year I am being restricted in so many ways. This reminds me of what Śrīla Prabhupāda must have gone through when he arrived in America. But despite his severe health crisis, he performed his *sādhana,* gave classes, led kirtans, and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide with the utmost personal possible sacrifice. At the same time, he translated and published volumes of books with his invaluable Bhaktivedanta purports. The entire world is indebted to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

I pray that the generations of devotees in ISKCON will keep Śrīla Prabhupāda always strongly in the center. This will make the future of ISKCON bright and successful.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's humble servant,
Bhaktivaibhava Swami

Bir Krishna dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā,* Chapter 7, texts 18–19, we find a profound indication of your exalted identity as an internal devotee and eternal associate of the Lord:

yāṅ-sabā lañā prabhura nitya vihara
yāṅ-sabā lañā prabhura kīrtana-pracāra

yāṅ-sabā lañā karena prema āsvādana
yāṅ-sabā lañā dāna kare prema-dhana

"The internal devotees or potencies are all eternal associates in the pastimes of the Lord. Only in their company does the Lord descend to propagate the *saṅkīrtana* movement; only with them does He relish the mellows of divine love; and only with them does He freely distribute that same love of God to all living beings."

The position of such exalted devotees is further illuminated in subsequent verses of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* where it is revealed that personalities like yourself assist the Pañca-tattva in

breaking open the long-sealed storehouse of love of God. You did not pause to calculate who was qualified or unqualified; nor did you restrict the flow of mercy. Rather, you extended Lord Kṛṣṇa's grace and Śrī Caitanya's boundless compassion without discrimination, without hesitation, and without limit.

You firmly rejected those who sought to obstruct this divine outpouring, declaring: "These foolish arguments are sometimes raised by envious rascals, but Kṛṣṇa conscious devotees do not care about them. We strictly follow the principles set down by the Pañca-tattva." (*Ādi* 7.23, purport)

Your divine ingenuity in devising ever-fresh strategies to distribute the contents of that storehouse of love of Godhead unmistakably establishes you as a great *ācārya* in the line of Lord Caitanya. This is affirmed in *Ādi* 7.31–32, wherein Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu reveals His compassionate resolve:

"Seeing that the Māyāvādīs and others were fleeing, Lord Caitanya thought, 'I wanted everyone to be immersed in this inundation of love of Godhead, but some have escaped. Therefore, I shall devise a trick to drown them also.'"

In the word-for-word meanings to this verse, we perceive Śrī Caitanya's solemn determination – that all living beings be submerged in divine love. Yet, perceiving the possibility that some might evade this mercy, He resolves to employ transcendental "tricks," divine strategies, to fulfill His promise.

In your purport, you reveal that this dynamic adaptability is the very hallmark of a true *ācārya:* "This is the symptom of an *ācārya*. An *ācārya* who comes for the service of the Lord cannot be expected to conform to a stereotype, for he must find the ways and means by which Kṛṣṇa consciousness may be spread."

You further explain that your own presentation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness – perfectly aligned with time, place, and circumstance – faithfully follows in the footsteps of the Pañca-tattva: "Therefore, what we are doing is perfect by the grace of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, for it is He who proposed to invent a way to capture those who strayed from Kṛṣṇa consciousness." (*Ādi* 7.31–32)

Fully cognizant of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's innermost intention, you remained undisturbed by the criticisms of those attached to rigid and stereotyped modes of presentation. Instead, you carried forward His mission with boldness, creativity, and unwavering fidelity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I beg for your causeless mercy – that life after life I may remain engaged as an instrument in your divine mission of delivering the conditioned souls. Kindly allow me to assist, in however small a way, in the ongoing work of opening that storehouse of love of Godhead for the benefit of all.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your eternal servant,
Bir Krishna dāsa Goswami

Chandraśekhara Ācārya Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

nama oṁ 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, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

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

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

As time continues to move inexorably forward in this dark and unfortunate Age of Kali, the verse spoken by the sages of Naimiṣāraṇya becomes more and more revealed:

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

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

In the purport to this verse you expand upon some of the complexities and difficulties manifest in this dark Age of Kali. It is apparent that such complexities and difficulties are increasing manyfold in all sorts of ways. However, as you also write in the same purport. "The devotees of the Lord are always anxious for the spiritual improvement of the general public." You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the epitome of this statement and illustrate it wonderfully. Despite the great personal difficulties you had to undergo in order to help in the spiritual improvement of the general public, you remain steadfastly committed and engaged in this compassionate service. In this and in numerous other ways, you are the guiding light, inspiration, and example for everyone.

This year, 2026, is the sixtieth anniversary of the legal incorporation of your ISKCON Society. ISKCON is the practical manifestation of your commitment to continually help "for the spiritual improvement of the general public." That ISKCON continues to develop, expand, and help in fulfilling this desire of yours is a testament to your continued influence on the ISKCON Society you founded. It is also a testament to the dedication of your followers in wanting to help you in being "anxious for the spiritual improvement of the general public" and to then share your teachings, example and kindness as a means to bring about this spiritual improvement for the general public and for our own selves.

As a result of being situated within this material world – itself a place of inherent difficulty and trouble – ISKCON had and has and will have its own share of difficulties and complexities. Such difficulties and complexities become further accentuated due to the influence of the dark Age of Kali.

By better taking shelter of you, by better following your teachings and example, and by becoming improved mediums for your compassion and wisdom, we can more effectively navigate through these difficulties and complexities, both individually and collectively.

On the occasion of the 130th anniversary of your appearance, may I (and all of us) strive to take better shelter of you, your teachings, and example, and pray to become better mediums for your compassion and wisdom. In this way, may we become more worthy servants of your mission to be "always anxious for the spiritual improvement of the general public" and to then do what needs to be done to see this manifest.

Your humble servant,
Chandraśekhara Ācārya Dāsa

Devakīnandana Dāsa (Singapore)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

I first obtained Your Divine Grace's association by reading *The Science of Self-Realization* in 1983. I was a 13-year-old, curious to understand the purpose of life and how to navigate the challenges of this material world. The moment I set eyes on the book cover, which features a regal photograph of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, walking with stick in hand, my curiosity was piqued. I purchased the book and began reading it. The impact of your transcendental instructions through the book was deep and powerful as you introduced the Supreme Personality of Godhead into my life. The change in my consciousness was akin to what Dhruva Mahārāja describes in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.9.6:

dhruva uvāca
yo 'ntaḥ praviśya mama vācam imāṁ prasuptāṁ
sañjīvayaty akhila-śakti-dharaḥ sva-dhāmnā
anyāṁś ca hasta-caraṇa-śravaṇa-tvag-ādīn
prāṇān namo bhagavate puruṣāya tubhyam

> Dhruva Mahārāja said: My dear Lord, You are all-powerful. After entering within me, You have enlivened all my sleeping senses – my hands, legs, ears, touch sensation, life force, and especially my power of speech. Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto You.

The purity of your instructions are encapsulated in your transcendental literature, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and they can even awaken the greatest of dullards like myself. All glories to your purity, your compassion, and your strict adherence to the *guru-paramparā*.

In reflecting on your unlimited mercy, I am reminded of the essential position of the spiritual master, as described in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.17.27:

ācāryaṁ māṁ vijānīyān nāvamanyeta karhicit
na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-deva-mayo guruḥ

> One should know the *ācārya* to be My very self and never disrespect him in any way. One should not envy him, thinking him an ordinary man, for he is the representative of all the demigods.

And again, the necessity of your mercy is so clearly expressed in the prayers of the *Gurvaṣṭakam:*

yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi

> By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the mercy of Kṛṣṇa; without the mercy of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, these teachings find their fullest meaning in your life and mission. Out of your causeless compassion, you traveled across the world to deliver the message of Kṛṣṇa, giving shelter to countless conditioned souls like myself who had little or no qualification.

Through your books, your instructions, and your personal example, you made the path of devotional service accessible, practical, and filled with hope – even for the most fallen.

In a purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 9.21.12, you describe the heart of a Vaiṣṇava through the prayer of Rantideva:

na kāmaye 'haṁ gatim īśvarāt parām
aṣṭarddhi-yuktām apunar-bhavaṁ vā
ārtiṁ prapadye 'khila-deha-bhājām
antaḥ-sthito yena bhavanty aduḥkhāḥ

> I do not pray to the Supreme Personality of Godhead for the eight perfections of mystic yoga, nor for salvation from repeated birth and death. I want only to stay among all the living entities and suffer all distresses on their behalf, so that they may be freed from suffering.

This mood, so perfectly reflected in your life, stands as an eternal guide for all of us. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you could have merely resided in Vrindavan all your life and returned back home, back to Godhead. Yet as the emblem of deep compassion for the suffering masses afflicted by the onslaught of material energy, you took *sannyāsa,* crossed the oceans at an impossibly challenging time of your life – suffering from advancing age and ill-health – and carried Kṛṣṇa in your heart to the Western world. Then you freely distributed His name, fame, pastimes and activities to the struggling souls. You are *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī,* very much aggrieved by the suffering of others and engaged in activities for the real welfare of human society.

My humble prayer, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is to remain absorbed in your instructions and to follow them with sincerity and steadiness. Please guide me through your books, your teachings, and

the association of your disciples and the devotees, so that one day I may develop even a fraction of that purity and devotion that you so perfectly embodied and continue to serve you and your mission.

I beg for your mercy that I may always remain engaged in your service, life after life.

Your insignificant servant,
Devakīnandana Dāsa (MVG)

Devamrita Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please allow me to offer my prostrated obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Garlanding the world with Śrī Gaurāṅga's mercy, you circled this planet fourteen times in twelve years, gracing every habitable continent. The histories and diaries of your miraculous travels will enthrall devotee-readers for generations far into the future. More striking than even the fascinating details are the transformative impacts.

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta (*Madhya* 9.360) gives a glimpse of the peak possibilities of that transcendent outcome on the devoted heart. Recounting Mahāprabhu's travels, especially Lord Caitanya's movements throughout South India, Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī proclaims: "Whoever hears of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's pilgrimage to various holy places attains the riches of very deep ecstatic love."

As the pure servitor of Śrī Gaurāṅga, you are of the same quality as Him, due to your one-hundred-percent surrender to Him. Therefore, who can calculate the spiritual effect of absorbed, dedicated hearing of your activities? May I always meditate on your ocean of loving devotional service as you unflaggingly traversed the globe at such an advanced age.

> The more one hears the pastimes of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu with faith, analytically studying them, the more one attains the ecstatic riches of love of Godhead. (*Madhya* 9.364)

Let us endlessly analyze your years physically manifest with us as we strive to study your instructions, your goals, your perseverance.

In your books you have presented such an astonishing standard of pure bhakti – a touchstone that you not only advocated but also personally demonstrated: "'My dear Lord, I am fully satisfied with whatever You have given me or not given me. I have nothing to ask from You, for I am fully satisfied to be engaged in Your service.' This is the mentality of a pure devotee, who does not want anything, material or spiritual, from the Personality of Godhead . . . One who is absorbed in *kṛṣṇa-bhāvanāmṛta* has no material benefits to ask from Kṛṣṇa. Instead, such a person prays to the Lord for the benediction of being able to spread His glories all over the world. *Mama janmani janmanīśvare bhavatād bhaktir ahaitukī tvayi.* A Kṛṣṇa conscious person does not even want to stop his cycle of birth and death. He simply prays, 'I may take birth as You like, but my only prayer is that I may be engaged in Your service.'" (*Bhāgavatam* 9.9.45, purport)

In your closing words to chapter 9 of the *Madhya-līlā,* you write: "As usual the author concludes the chapter by reciting the names of Rūpa and Raghunātha and reinstating himself at their lotus feet."

Every year a Vyāsa-pūjā offering to you is an opportunity to reinstate myself at your lotus feet. I beg you to continue accepting my attempts at service.

Aspiring to be your qualified servant,
Devamrita Swami

Gaurāṅga Dāsa

Hare Kṛṣṇa! Most respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I consider myself extremely blessed to write this Vyāsa-pūjā offering, and I request you to accept it at your lotus feet. I see this as an opportunity to think about you sincerely, remember your pearls of wisdom, and feel grateful to be serving you in *paramparā*.

To me, "pearls of wisdom" are those powerful quotes that you have shared on various topics during your pastimes on the planet across multiple room conversations, morning walks, and in your purports. They serve as a life guide for your millions of followers like me. On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I would like to remember a few of your pearls of wisdom, and share my learnings and the deep impact your words have left on me.

> Religion without philosophy is sentiment, or sometimes fanaticism, while philosophy without religion is mental speculation. (*Bhagavad-gītā* 3.3, purport)

We live in a world today where people favor spirituality over religion and usually resist associating with the latter, as it is seen as sectarian and noninclusive. This quote emphatically positions how the two go hand in hand, and presents a balanced portrayal of the same.

> Our only business is to love God, not to ask God for our necessities.
> (*The Science of Self-Realization*)

In the material world, prayer has come to be associated with a series of asks that one has for God in the form of wants: education, intelligence, strength, success, fame, wealth, etc. In such a setting, this quote asserts what real prayer is – what bhakti/devotion to God is. Unalloyed and unconditional love is what you have always emphasized in your talks, and this quote is one such. In fact, in one other instance you talked about how a mother's love for her child is the highest form of love in this material world.

> Don't feel yourself to be alone, because God is always with you.
> (*The Science of Self-Realization*)

This statement is a sign of hope for the materially conditioned souls. Further contemplation on this helps an individual gather strength in tough situations. When we understand and internalize how the Paramātmā is seated next to the *jīvātmā* and watching the *jīva* go through every situation, one truly feels assured that they are in the best company possible – with God Himself. This strong statement from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, also reflects the unflinching faith you had in Kṛṣṇa and the compassion you have for the *jīvas* in this world as you seek to comfort them and make them feel secure.

> Simply by appreciating the dealings of the Lord with His pure devotees, one can attain salvation. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.16.16, purport)

This reflects the importance of taste (*ruci*). Having admiration and appreciation for the Supreme Lord is a step in the direction to attaining perfection in life. This taste comes from mercy in association with pure devotees like you. At the same time, what I learned from this quote is that it gives one reassurance when we have such appreciation. We are able to see such dealings as a yardstick for spiritual behavior.

> Humility means that one should not be anxious to have the satisfaction of being honored by others. (*Bhagavad-gītā* 13.8–12, purport)

Humility can oftentimes be misconstrued as thinking lowly of oneself or being timid. However, in this statement, you uprooted any of those false beliefs and clearly established that it's about building comfort with who one is – accepting oneself as one is without feeling anxious to seek satisfaction from being honored. It's a very deep thought, and I oftentimes return to this quote whenever I think of humility as a trait.

> You should not be carried away by the dictation of the mind, but the mind should be carried by your dictation. (Lecture on the *Bhagavad-gītā* (18.41) to Uppsala University Student Assembly, Stockholm, Sweden)

Mental control is at the core of the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. This quote encapsulates the core of that, where you emphasize the need for the *jīva* to take charge of the mind and not fall prey to its whims and fancies. Oftentimes, when people confuse the mind and the intelligence or sometimes also associate the mind with the soul, this quote delves deeper into that aspect and decodes it well.

> We have established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness to give people an opportunity to associate with those who have not forgotten Kṛṣṇa. (*The Path of Perfection,* chapter 8)

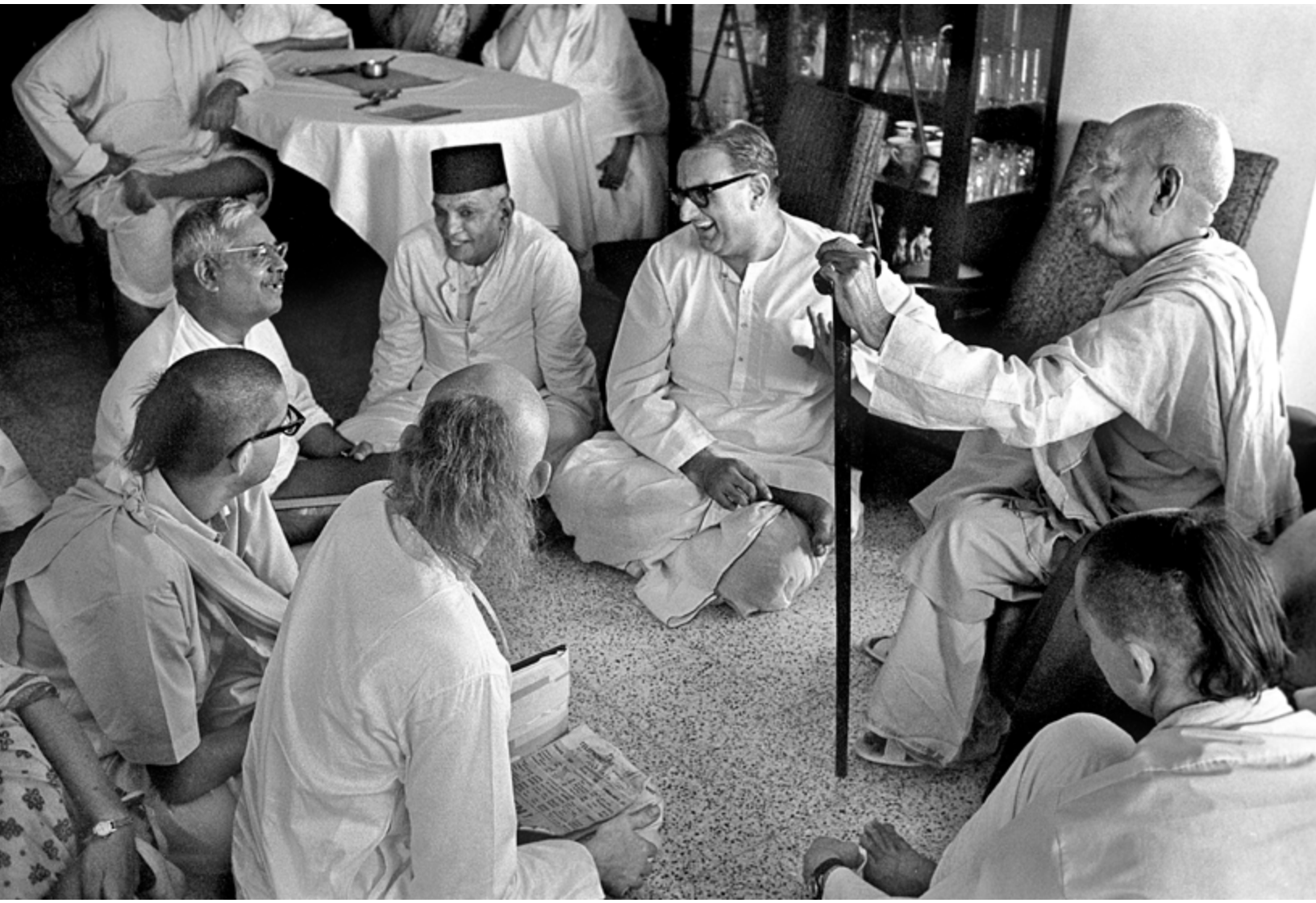
This quote is beautiful because you were instrumental in making the people in the ISKCON society remember Kṛṣṇa, who was previously forgotten. Further, you also ensured that they never forget Kṛṣṇa, as you instilled a nourishing morning program and other practices that allow members of the society to always remember Kṛṣṇa. However, in this quote, you gave all credit to the ISKCON devotees by saying they never forgot Kṛṣṇa. That's your magnanimity, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

> These temples, they are just like oasis in the desert for the conditioned souls to quench the thirst of their desire for real happiness. (Letter to Kṣīrodakaśāyī Dāsa, Calcutta, 29 January 1973)

Truly, if there is one place in this world for the entire world to come together and feel at home, it's the ISKCON temples. And the temples are truly an oasis in a desert where people are engrossed in so many conflicts and engaged in one-upmanship. There are multiple such oases in this vast desert, and you mercifully planted these oases across the globe so that anyone in any part of the world can have easy access to these oases and quench their thirst. *Haribol*!

> As soon as you try to sell a diamond, you cannot expect many customers. Nonetheless, a diamond is a diamond, even if there are no customers. (Interview with *The New York Times,* September 2, 1972, New Vrindaban)

This reflects your firm belief in the power of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and its elevated position. Further, this also reiterates that you never went in search of followers. You traveled far, to the West, to preach the purest message of Godhead, and had the most deserving earn it. You never for once compromised on the message or the practice. You made sure people went through the grind as rigorously as it takes for a diamond to get formed.



And finally, a quote that needs no explanation – the summum bonum.

> Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy!
>
> Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare
> Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma Hare Hare

Today, on the auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I meditate on these pearls of wisdom and seek inspiration for me to continue serving you in the mission. I pray that I always think of you and continue to serve you and the *paramparā*.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! *Daṇḍavat praṇāms* unto your lotus feet, Gurudeva!

Your ever humble servant,
Gaurāṅga Dāsa

Govardhana Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on the holy occasion of your divine descent into this world. All glories to your sincere followers. All glories to your sacred institution, ISKCON, designed and established by your divine hands.

The Gift of Gifts

Today is the appearance day of Lord Narasiṁhadeva. Śrīla Prabhupāda, in May 1967, over Memorial Day weekend, you became very ill with heart palpitations. When a devotee suggested that you go to a doctor, you responded emphatically, "No doctors." But Your Divine Grace asked for three things: (1) a picture of Lord Narasiṁhadeva to be placed before you, (2) the devotees to chant the Narasiṁhadeva prayers, and (3) someone to read to you the prayers of Queen Kuntī. You later explained that there are also three reasons why we worship Lord Narasiṁhadeva: for the protection of the devotees, the spiritual master, and ISKCON.

No doubt, your ISKCON is confronted with multiple complex issues, and we pray to you and Lord Narasiṁhadeva for its protection. Last year, I had a bird's-eye view of your movement at work and realized that your glorious gift to the world is what will sustain and protect ISKCON.

It is the gift of gifts.

Great persons have, over time, given humanity the gifts of medicine, science, and sensory delight. But your gift is a matchless gift. Nothing in this world compares to its value. Even if one were to aggregate the sum of all inventions, discoveries, and innovations, it would be dwarfed by the gift you gave the world. There is no record of anyone doing this, and it is unlikely that such generosity of spirit will ever be replicated.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, from the depths of your pure heart and deep compassion, you gave a gift that bears the names of every person on the planet. It stands as an inheritance for all those yet to be born. By its very nature, your gift will live in the hearts of your followers for generations to come. The seeds within their hearts will sprout and be transplanted into the hearts of others.

You have changed the course of history. As a transformational, transcendental teacher, you have left a lasting impact on humanity. Your contribution is profoundly inspirational and will continue to ignite the spark of greatness in anyone who receives such a gift. You are the architect of a better world. You are the selfless servant who unconditionally gave the most precious of gifts to all of humanity.

The gift of your books and teachings will outlive many a generation and pierce the all-pervasive, gross ignorance that covers each successive generation. You started BTG and the BBT; initiated over 5,000 disciples; established the Sunday Love Feast; brought the ancient worship of Lord Jagannātha to the West; started the world's first chain of pure vegetarian restaurants; delivered 2,200 lectures; gave us 1,300 recorded lectures; wrote over 6,000 letters and 70 books; founded farming communities and primary schools; inaugurated the Bhaktivedanta Institute; established the Bhaktivedanta Charitable Trust; introduced dioramas to explain Vedic philosophy; and guided artists to create paintings – windows to the spiritual world. Your contribution is unmatched.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for giving us the matchless gift of knowledge and service. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this auspicious occasion. We remain forever indebted to you. May Lord Narasiṁhadeva continue to protect your ISKCON. May your inspiration continue to keep us on track and dedicated to your mission's work, without distraction.

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Your struggling grandson,
Govardhana Dāsa

Guru Prasad Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet, which are the maximum shelter for mankind. All glories to your spotless *ananya-bhakti,* the treasure house of Lord Caitanya's mercy and the best hope for the suffering souls in Kali-yuga.

Verses 13–20 from the twelfth chapter of the *Bhagavad-gītā* constitute the qualities found in those who are dearest to Kṛṣṇa. Some of them are understandable, some seem very difficult, and others appear practically impossible. But you personally demonstrated all of them with ease in your actions. Chapter 22, verses 78–80, of the *Madhya-līlā* of *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* list twenty-six qualities of a devotee, which are easily found in your interactions while present with us in this world. You perfectly embody the traits described in the *Upadeśāmṛta,* what to speak of the descriptions attributed to a topmost pure devotee in *The Nectar of Devotion*.

In the prayers of Śrī Prahlāda Mahārāja, he states that one should always be grateful and surrendered to the spiritual master. With such qualities, how can one not surrender? Association with devotees is the major cause of increasing bhakti and acquiring those qualities to some minute degree. That is my prayer to you, along with my acute desire to serve you better and with full consciousness.

Your most unworthy servant,
Guru Prasad Swami

Hṛdaya Caitanya Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Thank you for everything that you gave to this world, your care, love, and compassion. You gave your blood, your life and soul, to save the conditioned living entities. Even today, and every day more and more, people are directly affected by your service and teachings to humanity. This cannot be estimated, because you gave Kṛṣṇa to the world, "as He is," and Kṛṣṇa and His potencies means you gave the citizens of this world everything that is important in life.

A time will come that your movement will have such an influence on the planet that goodness prevails and all inhabitants of this world will understand that we are all brothers and sisters, and that there is one Supreme Personality of Godhead, who loves us, cares for us, and speaks the absolute, spiritual, scientific truth.

At that time, it will be unthinkable that governments of countries spend their citizens' hard-earned money to destroy one another and one another's houses, schools, and hospitals under the influence of passion and ignorance. It will be unthinkable that mothers decide to kill their babies in their own wombs because they are an impediment to their sense gratification. It will be unheard of that people pollute Mother Earth to the point that natural disasters manifest as a reaction, and that the availability of pure air and pure water are major issues in society at large. It will be unheard of that religious people have big gatherings with thousands of people where they stimulate their fellow believers to develop hard-core hatred against other religious faiths. It will be unheard of that the innocent, playful mentality of young boys and girls will be taken away by so much interactive mind-occupying devices, aggressive games, videos, and premature visual lust injecting information into the brain.

Presently, to grow up in this age means to become heart-hardened, to distrust people, to act in mean, egoistic ways toward others, to create physical and mental fences. To grow up for most youth in this world means to become engrossed in the understanding, "Let me enjoy as much as I can, even at the cost of my health or real love, real relationships."

The world is in a precarious state. By Kṛṣṇa's mercy upon you, and by the desire and blessings of the *guru-paramparā* bestowed upon you, you have been empowered to transform the world so that the prediction of ten thousand years may begin to manifest.

At the same time, you began your mission at a moment when the downward spiral was still strong – and in many ways, it remains so. Although, by your mercy, the upward movement toward spiritual life is gradually gaining momentum, the downward tendency still appears vast and overpowering. It may be, therefore, that by the laws of karma, a period of further upheaval is required before people come to their senses – before they turn toward reflection and genuine spiritual aspiration. From that point onward, in time, your teachings and your books will come to serve as guiding principles for the next ten thousand years.

Although the world is in a cloudy and confusing space, the future is very bright because predictions made by the Lord will happen; the words of the Lord and His pure devotee never go in vain.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are explaining that the most dangerous of the dirty things within our hearts, that thing that causes all the problems as mentioned above, is this misidentification of the body as the self. This misconception of the self is the strongest impediment, and it must be removed.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in *The Nectar of Devotion* you explain that the chanting of the holy name is meant to cleanse the dust from the heart. You give us hope by emphasizing that even imperfect chanting, if done sincerely, will purify the heart and awaken devotion.

To cleanse the core of the heart, full with bodily misunderstanding, is possible through

śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana. In *The Nectar of Devotion,* you describe that if one bows down in honor of the Deity, if one has *tilaka* markings and *tulasī* beads around his neck, if one accepts the *mahā* garland of the Lord, if one dances and chants for the Lord, one goes back to Lord Viṣṇu's or Lord Kṛṣṇa's planet.

You also wrote, based on Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's teachings, that just by clapping the hands during kirtan one can cause many birds to fly away; similarly, the birds of all sinful activities that are sitting in the body can be made to fly away simply by chanting, dancing, and clapping in kirtan before the Deity of Kṛṣṇa.

Your teachings are so merciful, logical, truthful, scientific, and heart-fulfilling, and have a healing effect on the hardened hearts of entangled souls. They are so easy to understand for simple persons,

Unfortunately, crooked people cannot understand their value at first, but then you have other ways, such as your other transcendental weapons suitable and merciful for the bewildered souls, such as *harināma, prasādam,* festivals like Ratha-yātrā, and holy name events, where people can get the Lord's association and the association of the devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I try to help you in your mission, but I myself am a product of this world and, as such, full of faults. Please allow me to give the remaining part of my life in your service and the service of my Guru Mahārāja, your disciples and granddisciples.

Your servant,
Hṛdaya Caitanya Dāsa

Indreśa Gaura Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my *daṇḍavats* again and again at the dust of your lotus feet.

As I write my first offering to you as a newly appointed member of the GBC, it feels surreal. When you were physically present, you gave me your personal association and blessings, but I was only a child and could not understand their full value at the time.

I remember how you kindly accepted my piggy bank as an offering, after previously instructing me to fill it and bring it back to you. I remember falling asleep on your lap in Vrindavan while my parents were taking your darshan, and when they came to take me, you told them to let me rest, saying that I was your grandson. Later, you personally held my hand and brought me back to their room. I also remember your walks, your darshan of the Deities, and even the letter you wrote to my sister and me.

When I reflect on this, it is difficult to understand how you gave such personal attention and

affection while at the same time managed so many temples, disciples, books, letters, and challenges. Yet you still made time to extend your mercy in such a personal way.

That mercy has sustained me for over five decades. When your senior disciples asked me to accept the service of GBC, I was hesitant. However, I have accepted it with the hope that, in some small way, I may express my gratitude by serving your mission in this capacity.

You have already given me far more mercy than I deserve, yet I still find myself asking for more.

Please allow me to serve your instructions and your divine will. Please allow me to serve your disciples and the devotee community. Please allow me to help protect children, Vaiṣṇavīs, and all devotees, so they can experience Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a safe and supportive environment. Please help me improve my *sādhana,* my study, and my service, and to do so with humility, tolerance, and compassion.

I remain forever grateful for your mercy.

Your insignificant servant,
Indreśa Gaura Dāsa

Jayapatākā Swami

My dear spiritual father, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

On this most auspicious day of Your Divine Grace's Vyāsa-pūjā, I beg to offer my prostrate obeisances unlimited times.

Recently, I was reading your *Jaladuta Diary* again. Every time I read it, I am amazed. Almost seventy years old, suffering various problems, enduring seasickness and heart attacks – Your Divine Grace sacrificed so much. You went completely out of your comfort zone. At the age of 69 or 70, aboard an Indian cargo vessel, without any money – that is no small feat!

On coming close to the American coast, Your Divine Grace prayed to Lord Kṛṣṇa in a very humble and surrendered mood:

> 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.
>
> 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." (*Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma,* written aboard the *Jaladuta* ship, 18 September 1965)

Your Divine Grace was so surrendered to Kṛṣṇa. Every time I read the *Jaladuta Diary,* I feel more and more indebted to you.

Your Divine Grace said that your books will be the lawbooks for the next ten thousand years. We have sufficient instructions through your books, your personal lectures, and your letters to understand what is required of us to satisfy your desires. Your Divine Grace has done so much for all of us. We should try to finish our business and not compel you to come again. Your instructions are our guiding light. They are our great inspiration.

The desires of Your Divine Grace should be our interest. We should not think about why we cannot do something, but rather how to do it, how to fulfill it. Where we have failed, we should ask how to not fail in the future and how to resolve the issues.

"Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy" – this is what Your Divine Grace told us. Your desire was not only that devotees distribute your books; you also encouraged devotees to study your books and get the degrees. You said that everyone who takes second initiation, including those who have already taken it, should have the Bhakti Śāstrī degree. Everyone who takes *sannyāsa* should have Bhakti Vaibhava: "Anyone wishing to be initiated as a brahmana will have to pass the Bhakti Sastri exam and anyone wishing to take sannyāsa will have to pass the Bhakti Vaibhava examination as well." (Letter to All Governing Body Commissioners, Nellore, South India, 6 January 1976, signed by Tamāl Krishna Goswami and approved by Śrīla Prabhupāda)

And: "Sannyasis will be asked to sit for the Bhakti Vaibhava examination which will include the first six cantos of Bhagavatam." (Letter to Tusta Krishna, Bombay, 9 January 1976, signed by Tamal Krishna Goswami and approved by Śrīla Prabhupāda).

Your Divine Grace also said that all spiritual sons and daughters should become qualified and become gurus. You were saying we should have the Bhaktivedānta degree: "By 1975, all of those who have passed all of the above examinations will be specifically empowered to initiate and increase the number of the Krishna consciousness population." (Letter to Kirtanananda, 12 January 1968)

But Śrīla Prabhupāda, so far we have not instituted your programs. And as a result, we are lagging behind in fulfilling Lord Caitanya's predictions and vision. We have to establish your standards.

There are so many instructions you gave, and we need to see how we can implement them – not how we are not able to follow your order. Because we failed, we are only progressing a little bit. If we could follow all your instructions, we could achieve Lord Caitanya's mission in the shortest possible time.

Romaharṣaṇa Sūta, the father of Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī, was half-*brāhmaṇa* and half-*śūdra*. He got liberation when Balarāma touched him with *kuśa* grass. I am born a pure *mleccha*. Only by your mercy did I become a Vaiṣṇava. My forefathers, my grandparents – every one was a *mleccha*. They believed in God – I can say that. But as *mlecchas* they were habituated to eating meat, taking intoxication, and so on. You graced us. You came to the West and taught us to be Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavīs.

We cannot begin to estimate what you have done, how much we owe you, how much we need your mercy. Meditating on Kṛṣṇa consciousness, I came to realize that unless we follow your instructions, there is no way – no way – we can ever achieve success in this life.

> I want that all of my spiritual sons and daughters will inherit this title of Bhaktivedanta, so that the family transcendental diploma will continue through the generations. Those possessing the title of Bhaktivedanta will be allowed to initiate disciples. Maybe by 1975 all of my disciples will be allowed to initiate and increase the numbers of the generations. That is my program. So we should not simply publish these books for reading by the outsiders, but our students must be well versed in all of our books so that we can be prepared to defeat all opposing parties in the matter of self-realization. (Letter to Hamsaduta, 3 December 1968)

Please have your mercy on us. Please give us this blessing that we can follow your instructions and establish Lord Caitanya's dream and His prediction.

Your insignificant servant,
Jayapatākā Swami

Kavicandra Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

vande 'ham śrī-guroḥ śrī-yuta-pada-kamalaṁ śrī-gurūn vaiṣṇavāṁś ca
śrī -rūpaṁ sāgrajātaṁ saha-gaṇa-raghunāthānvitaṁ taṁ sa-jīvam
sādvaitaṁ sāvadhūtaṁ parijana-sahitaṁ kṛṣṇa-caitanya-devaṁ
śrī-rādhā-kṛṣṇa-pādān saha-gaṇa-lalitā-śrī-viśākhānvitāṁś ca

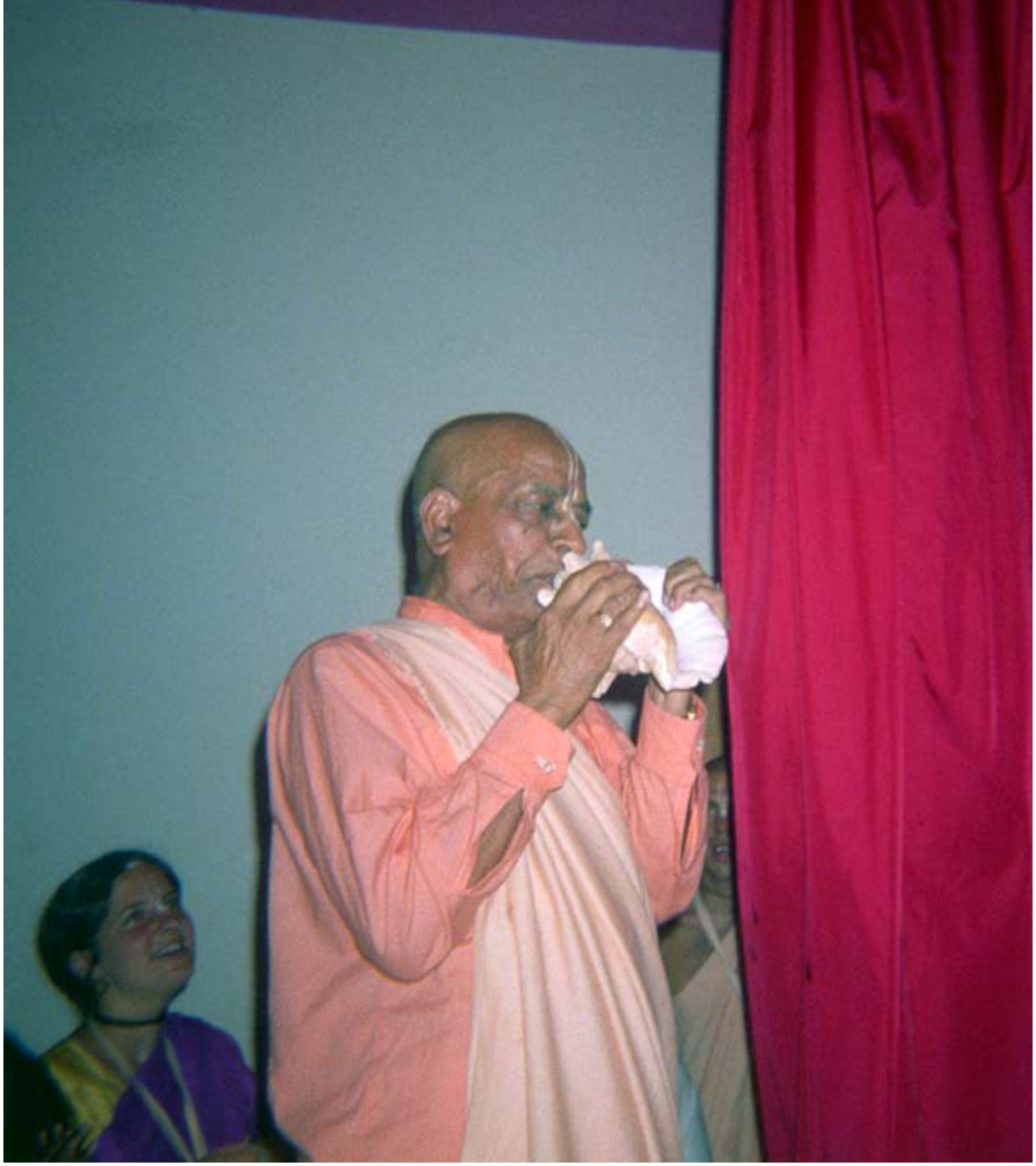
nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine

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

You not only told us what to do, you showed us the perfect example of a Vaiṣṇava.

titikṣavaḥ kāruṇikāḥ suhṛdaḥ sarva-dehinām
ajāta-śatravaḥ śāntāḥ sādhavaḥ sādhu-bhūṣaṇāḥ

The symptoms of a *sādhu* are that he is tolerant, merciful, and friendly to all living entities. He has no enemies, he is peaceful, he abides by the scriptures, and all his characteristics are sublime. (*Bhāgavatam* 3.25.21)



When I first joined your society, we were told not to write to you so as not to disturb your translating work. Now I still hesitate when the time comes around to write an offering for your Vyāsa-pūjā.

In recent times we've been hearing much about the glories of your disciples, since many are leaving this world. Hearing the wonderful services of your disciples says so much about your character and influence. We must thank you for creating and maintaining such a wonderful society of devotees.

Today is Nṛsiṁha Caturdāśi. You embody the mood and spirit of Prahlāda.

prāyeṇa deva munayaḥ sva-vimukti-kāmā
maunaṁ caranti vijane na parārtha-niṣṭhāḥ

naitān vihāya kṛpaṇān vimumukṣa eko
nānyaṁ tvad asya śaraṇaṁ bhramato 'nupaśye

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

In your purport you write: "This is the decision of the Vaiṣṇava, the pure devotee of the Lord. For himself he has no problems, even if he has to stay in this material world, because his only business is to remain in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. (*Bhāgavatam* 7.9.44)

When Hiraṇyakaśipu raised his eyebrows, the demigods would be fearful and take his orders. When you raised your eyebrows, thousands of devotees would rush out to distribute your books and the holy names, and the demons would flee. Due to that, now your granddisciples and great-granddisciples are doing even more amazing things.

Hanumān crossed the ocean to rescue Sītā from Rāvaṇa. He overcame many obstacles in the process. With great endeavor and perseverance, you crossed the ocean. You created a "monkey army" and brought *lakṣmī* to India. When Hanumān pushed his feet down to leap across the ocean, many things popped out from the earth. When he flew off, the suction behind him caused many trees to follow. When you touched your feet to the ground in the USA, a great disturbance started. Your dancing shook the ground and your forceful movement pulled many to follow you. You told us to go in like a needle. You showed us how to do that. No one knew for sure if you were coming. You had no money, no reputation, and did not know anyone. Of course, you knew Lord Kṛṣṇa and were fearless.

I pray that I can become truly grateful and try to repay you for all that you have given. I wish to give up testing your tolerance and forgiveness and to get serious about serving your lotus feet.

pañca-tattva avatīrṇa caitanyera saṅge
pañca-tattva lañā karena saṅkīrtana raṅge

> These five *tattvas* incarnate with Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and thus the Lord executes His *saṅkīrtana* movement with great pleasure. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 7.4)

In your purport to this verse you write:

> In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.5.32) there is the following statement regarding Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu:
>
> *kṛṣṇa-varṇaṁ tviṣā kṛṣṇaṁ sāṅgopāṅgāstra-pārṣadam*
> *yajñaiḥ saṅkīrtana-prāyair yajanti hi su-medhasaḥ*
>
> "In the Age of Kali, people who are endowed with sufficient intelligence will worship the Lord, who is accompanied by His associates, by performance of the *saṅkīrtana-yajña*." Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is always accompanied by His plenary expansion Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu, His incarnation Śrī Advaita Prabhu, His internal potency Śrī Gadādhara Prabhu and His marginal potency Śrīvāsa Prabhu. He is in the midst of them as the Supreme Personality of Godhead. One should know that Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is always accompanied by these other *tattvas*. Therefore our obeisances

to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu are complete when we say *śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu-nityānanda śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*. As preachers of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, we first offer our obeisances to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu by chanting this Pañca-tattva mantra; then we say Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. There are ten offenses in the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* but these are not considered in the chanting of the Pañca-tattva mantra, namely, *śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu-nityānanda śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is known as *mahā-vadānyāvatāra,* the most magnanimous incarnation, for He does not consider the offenses of the fallen souls. Thus to derive the full benefit of the chanting of the *mahā-mantra* (Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare), we must first take shelter of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, learn the Pañca-tattva *mahā-mantra,* and then chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. That will be very effective.

Taking advantage of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, many unscrupulous devotees manufacture a *mahā-mantra* of their own. Sometimes they sing *bhaja nitāi gaura rādhe śyāma hare kṛṣṇa hare rāma* or *śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu-nityānanda hare kṛṣṇa hare rāma śrī -rādhe govinda*. Actually, however, one should chant the names of the full Pañca-tattva (*śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu-nityānanda śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*) and then the sixteen words Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. But these unscrupulous, less intelligent men confuse the entire process. Of course, since they are also devotees they can express their feelings in that way, but the method prescribed by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's pure devotees is to first chant the full Pañca-tattva mantra and then chant the *mahā-mantra* – Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

Aspiring for your service,
Kavicandra Swami

Kṛṣṇa Premarūpa Dāsa

Prayer for a Compassionate Heart

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

While writing this year's offering, I am in Siṁhācalam, Germany, celebrating the auspicious appearance day of Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva with hundreds of devotees. As I meditate on the Lord and His pure devotee, Śrī Prahlāda, it becomes clear how deeply you embodied his mood, especially when we reflect on his prayers: "My dear Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva, I see that there are many saintly persons indeed, but they are interested only in their own deliverance. Not caring for the big cities and towns, they go to the Himalayas or the forest to meditate with vows of silence [*mauna-vrata*]. They are not interested in delivering others. As for me, however, I do not wish to be liberated

alone, leaving aside all these poor fools and rascals. I know that without Kṛṣṇa consciousness, without taking shelter of Your lotus feet, one cannot be happy. Therefore I wish to bring them back to shelter at Your lotus feet." (*Bhāgavatam* 7.9.43)

These are Prahlāda Mahārāja's words, yet they so clearly reveal your heart. Just as Prahlāda was eager to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others, you dedicated your entire life to bringing the message of the *Bhāgavatam* to a world that had largely forgotten Kṛṣṇa. Inspired by the order of your spiritual master and moved by deep compassion, you showed us that the true quality of a Vaiṣṇava is to dedicate one's life to uplifting the fallen souls.

If you had not embodied such compassion, what would be our position today? Reflecting on your example, we are encouraged to cultivate that same spirit. Yet in this world, compassion is often understood simply as empathy or concern for others' suffering. Through your teachings, however, we come to understand its deeper, spiritual meaning.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura explains: "A natural human sentiment, compassion finds its highest expression in the works of devotees of the Lord. The tenderness of the heart experienced toward Kṛṣṇa is known as bhakti. All other *jīvas* are servants of Kṛṣṇa. When one experiences tenderness of heart toward them, it is known as *dayā,* compassion. Therefore, compassion is included within bhakti." (*Jaiva Dharma*)

In this way, true compassion arises from deep love for Kṛṣṇa. The same love directed toward the Lord as *prema* naturally extends to all living beings as *dayā*. You taught us that real compassion is not separate from spiritual realization. Just as a physician must be healthy to heal others, a devotee must first taste Kṛṣṇa consciousness in order to genuinely share it.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are eternally immersed in an ocean of divine love and therefore naturally compassionate toward all living beings. Seeing the suffering of the conditioned souls moved you deeply, and you dedicated your life to helping us rise beyond it. What makes you truly remarkable is that you did not only feel compassion – you also brought the remedy to end all suffering.

Thank you for coming to the West. Thank you for extending your compassion throughout the world. On this most auspicious day of your appearance, I pray for the strength and sincerity to follow in your footsteps by developing a genuine taste for Kṛṣṇa consciousness, cultivating true compassion, and dedicating my life to sharing it with others. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your aspiring servant,
Kṛṣṇa Premarūpa Dāsa

Madhusevita Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your 130th birth celebration. May your appearance day be glorified for the next ten thousand years.

As much as any past, present, or future members of ISKCON may perform glorious service to Lord Caitanya's movement, they will never be comparable to you because of the unfathomable majesty of your surrender to Kṛṣṇa and compassion for the fallen souls.

In the coming centuries the names of hundreds and thousands of devotees serving in the *paramparā* will mostly be forgotten, but you will always shine along with the other devotional

giants, like Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, and the Gosvāmīs. There is a simple and unquestionable proof for the above: the Bhaktivedanta purports. No one will ever give the world such a matchless gift.

You once said that we shouldn't expect to see the results of preaching within our lifetime, and elsewhere you said that we should at least maintain what you had done.

To be honest, I don't know if we were able to maintain the quality of the devotional dedication you infused into your ISKCON and, for sure, because of still struggling to achieve unity in diversity, we can't expect to witness any everlasting results of our preaching.

With so many valiant godbrothers leaving this world – which creates a most painful condition – the possibility that your legacy may be watered down by sentimentalism, bureaucracy, the bodily concept, or overintelligence, to name just a few, is a clear and present danger. We are in the Age of Kali. We should never forget it.

However, if we devote our life to your Bhaktivedanta purports, you will make miracles that we cannot even imagine. Casting away all distorted forms of devotion, you will illumine our hearts with pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness, giving us the strength and intelligence to maintain your legacy intact.

I bow down in all humility and ask you to please perform this miracle, starting with my forgetful heart.

I beg to remain your eternal servant,
Madhusevita Dāsa

Praghoṣa Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Thank you again for allowing me to write a few words in glorification of you and in glorification of all that you have done, including, of course, for this undeserving soul.

When I sit to write your homage, I always feel nervous and even experience physical symptoms in support of that. I then try to analyze why that might be happening and can only conclude two things. The first is quite straightforward – I feel I have been promoted way beyond my station in simply being granted the opportunity to glorify you. You are such an extraordinary personality, so who am I to even have a connection with you? Of course, I understand you came in the mood of Lord Caitanya – as *patita-pāvana* – so no doubt I somewhat qualify in that respect. However, to have the privileged platform to express my appreciation to you directly makes me feel like an imposter, with many thousands, if not more, more deserving than I.

The second thing relates directly to your extraordinariness. Literally everything about you is out of this world. From all the prior predictions about you and what you would do, to the day you appeared on this planet, and then for each day you were physically present. Here is a flavour, a snapshot, of your glorious spiritual achievements:

You spoke daily on the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, delivering thousands of formal lectures. Over 2,200 of those were recorded and archived. You held hundreds of informal conversations on the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with disciples, guests, and friends. Over 1,300 of those were recorded and archived.

You introduced the Sunday Love Feast and other *prasādam* distribution programs, which provided millions of free spiritual meals to the public.

You circled the globe fourteen times, visiting at least twenty-six countries. You recorded more than twenty albums of devotional music, and of course you produced and published the monthly magazine, *Back to Godhead*.

You established the Bhaktivedanta Institute to advance Kṛṣṇa consciousness within the scientific community, engaging serious academics in consideration of the science of self-realization.

In 1967, you started Spiritual Sky Incense to provide financial support for the temples. Within four years, Spiritual Sky was generating an annual revenue of 1 million dollars (equivalent to approximately $10 million in 2026).

You established the Bhaktivedanta Swami Charity Trust to unearth and renovate the holy places of Lord Caitanya's pastimes.

You established FATE Museums, directing some of your followers to learn the art of "doll making" to present Vedic philosophy through dioramas.

You established over a hundred ISKCON centers worldwide.

You initiated many thousands of souls into the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava family.

You established many educational facilities and rural projects.

You established many Govinda's/Hare Krishna Restaurants worldwide (indeed you are responsible for the world's first chain of vegetarian restaurants)!

You also began mass *prasādam* distribution, and now well over 1 billion plates of *prasādam* have been distributed globally since 1966 via your ISKCON. At present, we are distributing over 50 million plates a year.

Last, but not least, everything that happens in ISKCON today is 100 percent due to you. Without your boarding the *Jaladuta* in 1965 and taking that perilous six-week journey across the oceans, ISKCON would never have come into being, and the transformation of millions of lives would never have come to pass.

Now, as my seventieth year is no longer far in the distance but rather rapidly approaching, I find my appreciation of the journey you embarked on in 1965 ever more astounding. As my joints ache a little bit more each day and I take longer to get going each morning, and as my energy reserves seem to dwindle unchecked, I simply think, "Bloody hell! How did you do it, Śrīla Prabhupāda? How did you do it?"

So yes, when in the proximity of such greatness, I feel a certain nervousness. But it is, of course, a nervousness I cherish, because without it, I would probably not know you at all. Perish the thought.

Hoping to be your eternal servant,
Praghoṣa Dāsa

Prahlādānanda Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Since there are many statements and instructions of Śrīla Prabhupāda on *guru-tattva* and not all of them may be seen as consistent, it will take a concerted effort on the part of many senior devotees in ISKCON to assimilate them and arrive at a clear understanding of how to implement them.

Here are some of Śrīla Prabhupāda's statements and instructions about who should be an initiating guru in ISKCON and what their role should be.

In many places, Śrīla Prabhupāda states that one's shelter should be a completely pure devotee. In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (7.5.32) Prahlāda Mahārāja says:

naiṣāṁ matis tāvad urukramāṅghriṁ
spṛśaty anarthāpagamo yad-arthaḥ
mahīyasāṁ pāda-rajo-'bhiṣekaṁ
niṣkiñcanānāṁ na vṛṇīta yāvat

> Unless they smear upon their bodies the dust of the lotus feet of a Vaiṣṇava completely freed from material contamination, persons very much inclined toward materialistic life cannot be attached to the lotus feet of the Lord, who is glorified for His uncommon activities. Only by becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious and taking shelter at the lotus feet of the Lord in this way can one be freed from material contamination.

Also, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (2.8, purport): "Therefore, the conclusion is that a spiritual master who is one hundred percent Kṛṣṇa conscious is the bona fide spiritual master, for he can solve the problems of life."

In his purport to verse 5 of *The Nectar of Instruction,* Śrīla Prabhupāda states that only a *mahā-bhāgavata* devotee should accept and utilize unsupervised contributions:

> Indeed, the advanced *uttama-adhikārī* Vaiṣṇava devotee should be accepted as a spiritual master. Everything one possesses should be offered to him, for it is enjoined that one should deliver whatever he has to the spiritual master. The *brahmacārī* in particular is supposed to beg alms from others and offer them to the spiritual master. However, one should not imitate the behavior of an advanced devotee or *mahā-bhāgavata* without being self-realized, for by such imitation one will eventually become degraded.

In his Declaration of Will (June 1977), Śrīla Prabhupāda grants only his appointed managers, such as temple presidents and the GBC, the authority to manage ISKCON's devotees and followers. He doesn't give such authority to anyone else, including *śikṣā-* or *dīkṣā-gurus:*

> 1. The Governing Body Commission (GBC) will be the ultimate managing authority of the entire International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

2. Each temple will be an ISKCON property and will be managed by three executive directors. The system of management will continue as it is now and there is no need of any change.

Now, we also find that others who are not on the perfectional level of Kṛṣṇa consciousness can also give initiation. Śrīla Prabhupāda writes (Letter to Janardana, New York, 26 April 1968):

> The statements of Thakura Bhaktivinode are as good as scriptures because he is liberated person. Generally the spiritual master comes from the group of such eternal associates of the Lord; but anyone who follows the principles of such ever liberated persons is as good as one in the above mentioned group. The gurus from nature's study are accepted as such on the principle that an elevated person in Krishna Consciousness does not accept anyone as disciple, but he accepts everyone as expansion of his guru. That is very high position, called Maha-bhagavata. Just like Radharani, sometimes thinks a subordinate of hers as her teacher, to understand devotion of Kṛṣṇa. A person who is liberated acharya and guru cannot commit any mistake, but there are persons who are less qualified or not liberated, but still can act as guru and acharya by strictly following the disciplic succession.

In *The Nectar of Devotion* (chapter 3: "Eligibility of the Candidate for Accepting Devotional Service"), Śrīla Prabhupāda states that a devotee on the platform of *niṣṭhā* (liberated) is qualified to become a spiritual master, although he may not have obtained the higher stages of pure devotional service, such as *ruci, āsakti, bhāva,* or *prema:*

> Devotees may be divided into three classes. The devotee in the first or uppermost class is described as follows. He is very expert in the study of relevant scriptures, and he is also expert in putting forward arguments in terms of those scriptures. He can very nicely present conclusions with perfect discretion and can consider the ways of devotional service in a decisive way. He understands perfectly that the ultimate goal of life is to attain to the transcendental loving service of Kṛṣṇa, and he knows that Kṛṣṇa is the only object of worship and love. This first-class devotee is one who has strictly followed the rules and regulations under the training of a bona fide spiritual master and has sincerely obeyed him in accord with revealed scriptures. Thus, being fully trained to preach and become a spiritual master himself, he is considered first class. The first-class devotee never deviates from the principles of higher authority, and he attains firm faith in the scriptures by understanding with all reason and arguments. When we speak of arguments and reason, it means arguments and reason on the basis of revealed scriptures. The first-class devotee is not interested in dry speculative methods meant for wasting time. In other words, one who has attained a mature determination in the matter of devotional service can be accepted as the first-class devotee.

In the following room conversation (Bombay, 22 April 1977), Śrīla Prabhupāda again emphasizes that, to become a spiritual master, one should be a "strict follower" (*niṣṭhā*):

> **Prabhupāda:** What is the use of producing some rascal guru?
>
> **Tamal Krishna:** Well, I have studied myself and all of your disciples, and it's clear fact that we are all conditioned souls, so we cannot be guru. Maybe one day it may be possible ...

Prabhupāda: Hmm.

Tamal Krishna: ... but not now.

Prabhupāda: Yes. I shall choose some guru. I shall say, "Now you become *ācārya*. You become authorized." I am waiting for that. You become all *ācārya*. I retire completely. But the training must be complete.

Tamal Krishna: The process of purification must be there.

Prabhupāda: Oh, yes, must be there. Caitanya Mahāprabhu wants that. *Āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa:* ["Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land."]

"You become guru." [*laughs*] But be qualified. Little thing, strictly follower ...

Tamal Krishna: Not rubber stamp.

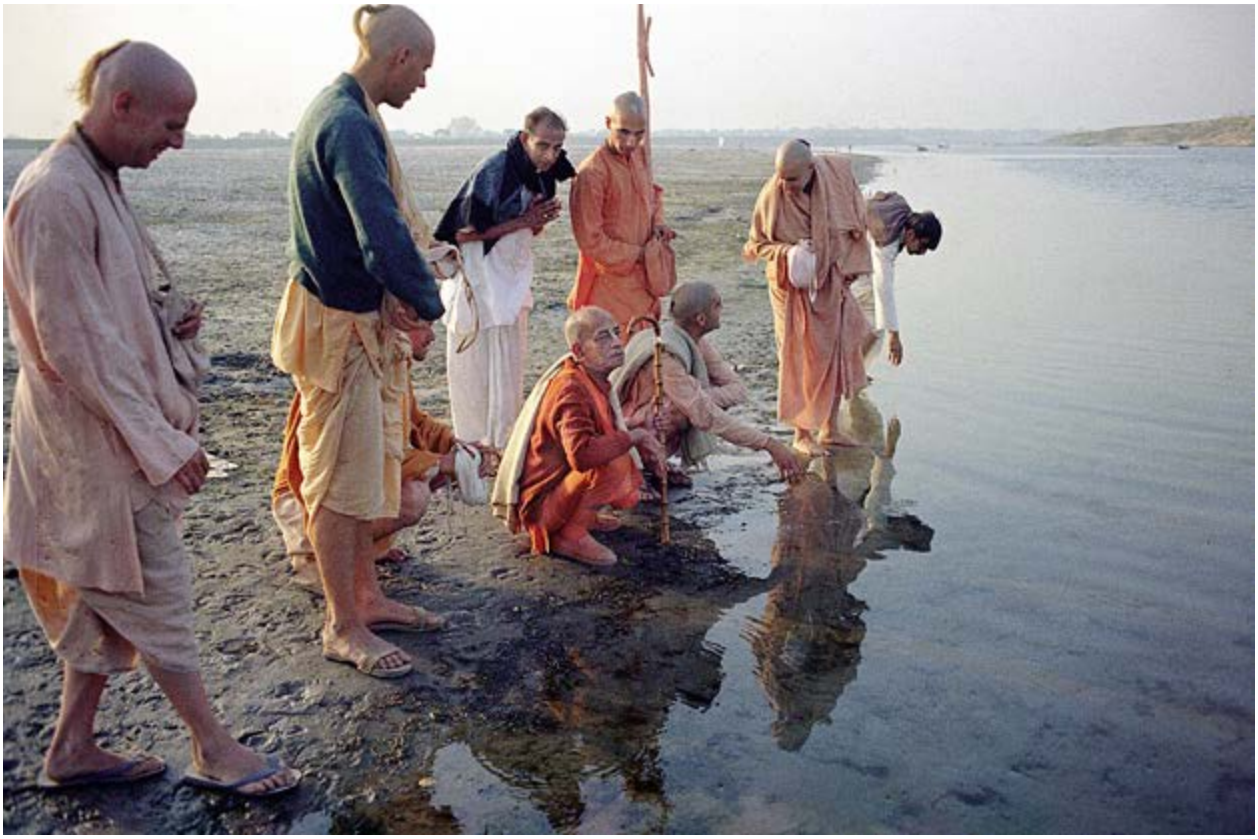
Prabhupāda: Then you'll not be effective. You can cheat, but it will not be effective. Just see our Gauḍīya Maṭha. Everyone wanted to become guru, and a small temple and "guru." What kind of guru? No publication, no preaching, simply bring some foodstuff.

Yet, in some places, Śrīla Prabhupāda also says that even on the neophyte stage, a devotee can give initiation. He further indicates that such a devotee, as well as one on the *madhyama* platform who gives initiation, will not be able to help the disciple advance very well toward the ultimate goal of life, because they are unable to provide sufficient guidance.

> One should not become a spiritual master unless he has attained the platform of *uttama-adhikārī*. A neophyte Vaiṣṇava or a Vaiṣṇava situated on the intermediate platform can also accept disciples, but such disciples must be on the same platform, and it should be understood that they cannot advance very well toward the ultimate goal of life under his insufficient guidance. (*The Nectar of Instruction*, verse 5, purport)

However, Śrīla Prabhupāda also emphasizes that householders, in particular, should be initiated so that they can properly engage in Deity worship. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (2.3.22) states:

> Especially for the householder devotees, the path of Deity worship is strongly recommended. As far as possible, every householder, by the direction of the spiritual master, must install the Deity of Viṣṇu – forms like Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, Lakṣmī-Nārāyaṇa or Sītā-Rāma especially, or any other form of the Lord, like Nṛsiṁha, Varāha, Gaura-Nitāi, Matsya, Kūrma, *śālagrama-śilā* and many other forms of Viṣṇu, like Trivikrama, Keśava, Acyuta, Vāsudeva, Nārāyaṇa and Dāmodara, as They are recommended in the *Vaiṣṇava-tantras* or *Purāṇas* – and one should worship the Deity with one's family, following the directions and regulations of *arcana-vidhi*. Any member of the family who is above twelve years of age should be initiated by a bona fide spiritual master, and all the members of the household should be engaged in the daily service of the Lord, beginning from morning (4 A.M.) till night (10 P.M.), by performing *maṅgala-ārati*, *nīrājana*, *arcana*, *pūjā*, *kīrtana*, *śṛṅgāra*, *bhoga-vaikāli*, *sandhyā-ārati*, *pāṭha*, *bhoga* (at night), *śayana-ārati*, etc. Engagement in such worship of the Deity, under the direction of a bona fide spiritual master, will greatly help the householders to purify their very existence and make rapid progress in spiritual knowledge. Simple theoretical book





> knowledge is not sufficient for a neophyte devotee. Book knowledge is theoretical, whereas the *arcana* process is practical. Spiritual knowledge must be developed by a combination of theoretical and practical knowledge, and that is the guaranteed way for attainment of spiritual perfection.

For ISKCON to function effectively, all its members should have clear roles and shared goals. Understanding the role of a temple president and a GBC member in ISKCON is important. Equally important is understanding the role of a spiritual master in ISKCON.

In his purport to verse 5 of *The Nectar of Instruction*, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes:

> One should not become a spiritual master unless he has attained the platform of *uttama-adhikārī*. A neophyte Vaiṣṇava or a Vaiṣṇava situated on the intermediate platform can also accept disciples, but such disciples must be on the same platform, and it should be understood that they cannot advance very well toward the ultimate goal of life under his insufficient guidance. Therefore a disciple should be careful to accept an *uttama-adhikārī* as a spiritual master.

Still, Śrīla Prabhupāda trained his disciples to become spiritual masters, both initiating and instructing. But the natural conclusion is that, in directing the spiritual lives of disciples, the role of a spiritual master who is not on the highest platform of either *bhāva-bhakti* or *prema-bhakti* (*uttama-adhikārī* Vaiṣṇava) should differ from that of a spiritual master who is an *uttama-adhikārī* Vaiṣṇava.

Whatever that role may be, it should not include acting as the proprietor or controller of ISKCON's assets, whether in terms of manpower or finances.

> Indeed, the advanced *uttama-adhikārī* Vaiṣṇava devotee should be accepted as a spiritual master. Everything one possesses should be offered to him, for it is enjoined that one should deliver whatever he has to the spiritual master. The *brahmacārī* in particular is supposed to beg alms from others and offer them to the spiritual master. However, one should not imitate the behavior of an advanced devotee or *mahā-bhāgavata* without being self-realized, for by such imitation one will eventually become degraded. (*The Nectar of Instruction*, verse 5)

Still, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes that initiation is generally essential for a devotee's spiritual advancement:

> Therefore, mental speculation or dry arguments cannot help lead one to the right path. Nor by independent study of books of knowledge can one progress in spiritual life. One has to approach a bona fide spiritual master to receive the knowledge. Such a spiritual master should be accepted in full surrender, and one should serve the spiritual master like a menial servant, without false prestige. Satisfaction of the self-realized spiritual master is the secret of advancement in spiritual life. (*Gītā* 4.34)

Will Śrīla Prabhupāda, as a self-realized spiritual master, be satisfied if his disciples who are not fully self-realized give initiation?

Your servant,
Prahlādānanda Swami

Rādhā Kṛṣṇa Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances! All glories to Your Divine Grace!

On this very auspicious day of Śrī Nṛsiṁha Caturdāśi, I'm praying so that I am able to write some words worthy of your glorification.

mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam

> By the mercy of the guru, even a dumb man can become the greatest orator, and even a lame man can cross mountains. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 17.80)

Nowadays more often than not, I'm thinking about whether I do enough for your movement, whether I do enough to please you, or whether I do enough to please my spiritual master and my *śikṣā-guru*. Then, as I see my calendar, this initial thought changes and turns into "Am I doing the right things?" It's one thing to be engaged 24/7, and another thing to do the right thing that makes a difference and makes others' lives better and more Kṛṣṇa conscious.

Seeing your life and reading about your wonderful pastimes shows you always worked for the betterment of every human being on earth. Your calendar was full, and it was full with the right things. You did not spend unnecessary time on meetings about the same issues; you did not waste time stalling things to get back to them later. You were decisive and moved forward. There were many obstacles in your way, but your unwavering faith in Kṛṣṇa and your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, helped you overcome all of them with triumph.

That triumph is not a small feat. It is the greatest thing anyone could do. You did not only make devotees, but you also created a worldwide community that sometimes is described as "He created a house in which the whole world can live." I can see that in this house there are many rooms, and devotees in the different rooms might do things slightly differently, but the foundation is the same: your lectures, your books, your letters, your example. There are common rooms in the house where all devotees can come together and chant the holy names of Lord Kṛṣṇa or eat His *prasādam*.

I'm praying so that those common rooms get bigger and bigger and more frequently used. I'm praying so that the many rooms will always have doors to the common areas and will not become locked and stop communicating, their inhabitants no longer coming together with the other inhabitants of the house. I'm praying that by studying your teachings more thoroughly, we will be able to set aside our differences, listen to one another with care and attention, never lock our doors, and always use the common areas of your wonderfully created house.

Please give us strength to serve in cooperation with faith and determination, regardless of the obstacles we face.

Your servant,
Rādhā Kṛṣṇa Dāsa

Ramāi Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

One time you said that to preach to people, there is an art, like karate. You knew how to push on the person's weak point until they died. This was specifically in reference to atheists, material scientists, and Māyāvādīs.

Another time a devotee asked you if the spiritual master is present in the heart of the disciple, and you replied "Yes, if you let me enter."

To get your mercy we must allow you to come fully into our hearts and to follow your instructions and example implicitly. We need to be humble and overcome our stubbornness, pride, and false ego. We must be willing to hear and learn from you every day of our lives. We should be active and not lazy.

In this regard you told a story about two men who applied for a job. One came in and left the door open. Then the second man came in and closed the door. The boss decided to give the second man the job, as even though he was not so expert, he felt he could learn well because he had closed the door. He felt that because the first man had left the door open, he was lazy.

There is so much to do in service to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your disciples don't have many years left in this life. I pray that in my last few years I can do something that is meaningful and worthwhile, although I am not very qualified to do so.

By your presence *māyā* was cast away
And our love for you grew every day
Never before had we met one so divine
Whose glories would be sung till the end of time

You traveled a lot in such a short while
Astounded us all with your courage and style
How could a person so advanced in age
Journey the world to bring a spiritual change

Like the Gaṅgā famous for her purifying effect
You gave everyone a chance to become perfect
One scholar said you were the greatest of gurus
What was the need to accept others to choose

A *jagat-guru* at whose feet all masters should sit
Those who were sincere came forward to commit
Why waste their life struggling with endless sorrow
They realized there was a much brighter tomorrow

We became devotees who chanted and danced
To the Lord's holy names, we became entranced
Your instructions were to spread this everywhere
So, we took the transcendental sound into the air

Many joined in kirtan and you led the way
To show by example the best way to pray
For the Lord's mercy is not easy to attain
Unless one follows a pure devotee to gain

The path to eternity that is a road which is high
While in this world one must endeavor and try
What was formerly foreign and seemed impossible
By Śrīla Prabhupāda's grace it became probable

Perhaps in the future if more people took it up
Yamarāja would have less work and be wonderstruck
Lord Caitanya said take it to every town and village
By your grace we now have got this great privilege

Your insignificant servant,
Ramāi Swami

Romapāda Swami

My dear and most respected spiritual master and eternal father,

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

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate 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 dīna-tāraṇam

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances in the dust of your most merciful lotus feet! All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

To whom shall we express our deepest heartfelt gratitude for your presence in our life? Without your personal sacrifice, bold and fearless risk-taking, with obedience to your Guru Mahārāja's request for service, countless souls like me – wandering aimlessly in abject ignorance in the darkness of material existence – would remain hopelessly lost.

The *bhakti-śakti* and intense love for Kṛṣṇa that you carried and liberally disseminated has captured my heart, irrevocably – both in this life and forever.

As an ideal follower of Rūpa Gosvāmī, the foremost Gauḍīya authority on *bhakti-rasa,* you held profound love for him and his Deity, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda. This was exhibited when the queen of Jaipur, Mahārāṇī Gāyatrī Devī, so moved by your devotion and to show her appreciation, gifted you a pair of large marble Deities of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, similar to the original Rādhā-Govindajī Deities. After shipping Them to New York, you installed Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda as the presiding Deity at the Henry Street temple in Brooklyn.

While the magnitude of your love for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda was not always on public display, at times you could not conceal it.

- In the summer of 1974, you were in New York to give association to disciples and other devotees from all over the East Coast who had assembled to be in your presence. Following the Sunday evening *ārati,* the Henry Street temple room was packed to capacity, awaiting your arrival and your Sunday Feast lecture. Coming in front of the altar, standing before the Deities with hands folded in supplication, you prepared to offer prostrated obeisances to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda. While extending your body before the Deities, a large gush of tears streamed from your eyes like a syringe! Those seated before you, to the right side of the altar, were literally splashed with your profuse stream of tears. Those seated there turned to Rukmiṇī Dāsī, who was standing hidden behind a curtain on the left side of the altar, to see if she had tossed *mahā*-water remnants from the *ārati* that had just been completed. Instantly, Rukmiṇī Dāsī and a dear friend of hers understood what had just happened. She descended from the slightly raised altar and together they quickly gathered the spiritual remnants from your exhibition of loving ecstasy through your eyes. You then glided slowly to the back of the room to deliver your Sunday feast class as if nothing had happened.
- Similar public exhibitions of syringelike ecstatic symptoms, displaying to the public your intense innermost elevated *prema-bhakti,* were exhibited in Atlanta and Mayapur.

While clearly on the platform of *uttama-bhakti,* you came before us with Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's sublime message, teaching your followers by your personal example the standards of a fearless *madhyama* preacher.

All qualified Vaiṣṇavas give full credit for their spiritual attainment to their predecessors, as did you; empowerment comes down to a recipient of mercy by way of the disciplic succession. Naturally, on the occasion of his Vyāsa-pūjā in March 1952, in choice poetry you graciously gave all credit to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī as the champion of the highest stages of *bhakti,* a conclusion echoed by thousands of cheering mouths through the passage of time. In choice poetry, you expressed awe at the erudition of Śrīla Siddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, acknowledging his gift to you, which you so liberally passed on to all of us.

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.

In a similar fashion, like rivers flowing to the sea, abundant mercy descends through our awesome disciplic succession, commencing from Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and descending through His empowered followers.

Yet *you* accepted the specific mandate to flood the world outside of Bhārata-bhūmi, carrying in your heart the simple wish for everyone to be truly transcendentally happy: *sarve sukhino bhavantu*.

Receiving this gift from you with profound gratitude – the very seed of love – your many followers in turn have received the same mandate. May you become pleased with us as we strive to expand, preserve, and protect the purity and integrity of your mood and mission.

Our shortcomings are abundant. Please protect us and cleanse us from *anarthas,* thereby instead allowing us to become your true and faithful followers.

I beg to remain your *eternal* servant!
Romapāda Swami

Tapan Mishra Dāsa

Dearest beloved eternal spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this most sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, whose boundless compassion brought the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness into the darkest corners of this world and into my own life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this day I feel especially aware of my smallness and my dependence on your mercy. Whatever little service I am able to render in your mission is only by your causeless kindness. Yet alongside this gratitude, I also feel a deep sense of concern and responsibility for the condition of the institution you so carefully built for the upliftment of humanity.

You established ISKCON not merely as an organization, but as a spiritual family meant to exemplify unity in diversity, purity in practice, and integrity in leadership. However, at the present time, we are confronted with challenges that test these very foundations. We see strains in relationships among leaders and devotees, differences in vision and execution, concerns about consistency in standards, and the ever-present risk of institutional formalism overshadowing genuine spiritual substance.

As a member of the Governing Body Commission, I feel both the weight of these challenges and my own limitations in addressing them. Too often, the solutions appear external – policies, structures, and strategies – yet the root of the difficulties lies deeper: in our hearts, in our alignment with your instructions, and in our collective sincerity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I humbly and earnestly pray for your blessings upon me, as a member of the GBC, to serve in a way that

- we may act not as controllers but as humble servants of your mission, guided by *śāstra, sādhu,* and your instructions.
- we may develop genuine unity, free from politics, ego, and factionalism, and centered solely on pleasing you.
- we may have the courage to confront difficult truths within the institution while maintaining compassion and respect for all devotees.
- we may protect the purity of your teachings and practices, ensuring that ISKCON remains a faithful representation of your vision.
- we may become instruments of reconciliation, fostering trust and cooperation across all levels of the society.

In my service within the Ministry of Education, I especially seek your blessings that we may strengthen the philosophical and spiritual foundation of ISKCON. Without deep understanding and realization of your teachings, no institutional reform can be lasting. Please empower us to nurture thoughtful, well-trained, and spiritually grounded devotees who can carry your mission forward with conviction and clarity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help me personally to rise above my own shortcomings – my tendency to rush toward immediate solutions, my limited vision, and my lack of full surrender. Let me not become distracted by the external complexities of management, but remain always anchored in the simple and profound process you have given: chanting the holy name and serving with sincerity.

Please bless the entire ISKCON society so that we may navigate this period of challenge with increased humility, cooperation, and dependence on Kṛṣṇa. Let these difficulties become an impetus for purification rather than division.

On this auspicious day, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for everything you gave us – your books, your instructions, your society, and your example. I pray that one day I may serve in a way that truly pleases you.

Begging for a particle of your mercy, your insignificant servant,
Tapan Mishra Dāsa

Umāpati Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

I am an insignificant servant of your dear disciple, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja. By his merciful instructions, I am serving here in Nairobi, Kenya – a place where you personally came three times, installed the beautiful Deities Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Baṅkebihārī with your lotus hands, and predicted that Nairobi would become the jewel of Africa.

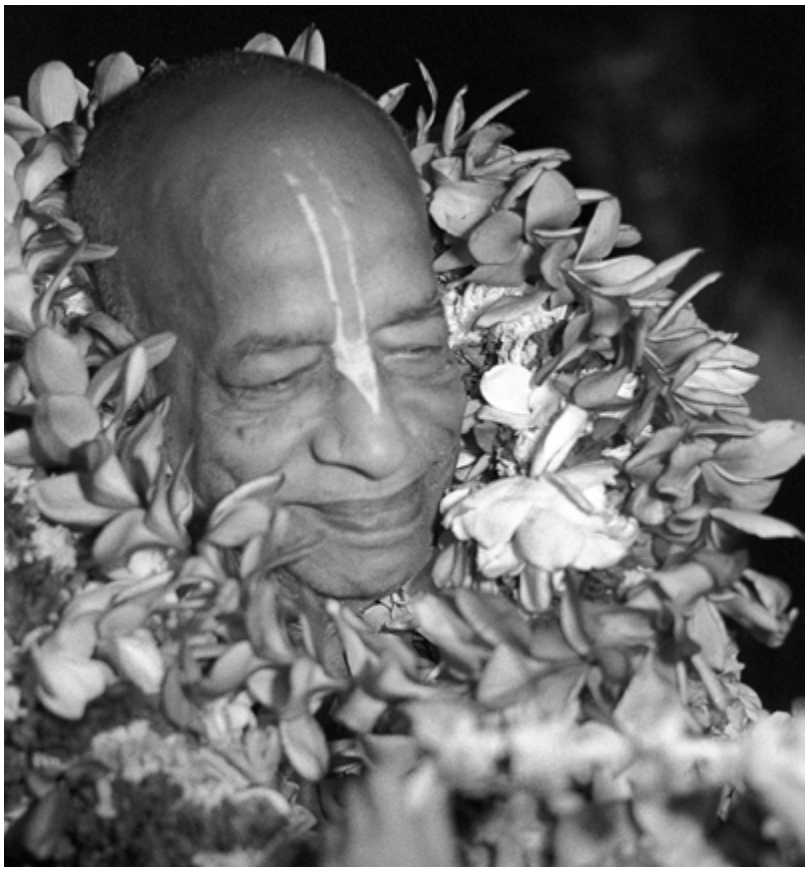
Śrīla Prabhupāda, I have full faith that your divine prediction will be fulfilled when the temple president, leaders, and all devotees are local devotees, firmly rooted in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This will only be possible by your causeless mercy.

By your grace, the Nairobi temple is striving to serve your mission. We are distributing your transcendental books, and in recent years, Nairobi has come first in Africa in book distribution. At our HKTC, sixty students live and practice daily *sādhana,* and through Food for Life we distribute 1,500 plates of *prasādam* every day. We also engage in *harināma-saṅkīrtana* regularly.

By your mercy, we have a 100-acre farm with 150 cows. Recently, we began preaching in Nakuru, and on April 5 we opened a new preaching center there. Inspired by your example of preaching in Eldoret, we are now building a temple there as well.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all this progress is happening only by your mercy. I pray to remain forever the servant of your servant, and to contribute in whatever small way I can to fulfill your divine mission in Africa.

Your insignificant servant of your servant,
Umāpati Dāsa



Homages from GBC Emeriti

Bhūrijana Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ 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-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.

Today I was appreciating the Vedic culture in which you took your birth, for its foundation was knowledge. Even a simple farmer born within it was naturally blessed with wisdom that escapes the current world's intelligentsia. So deep was the embedding of knowledge within the culture that, as I've read in the *Bhāgavatam,* even the *asuras* Hiraṇyakaśipu and Kaṁsa could utter words indicating the self's eternal existence beyond the body, speak of material detachment, and warn that one's current actions affect one's future births.

Yet the words of *asuras,* as well as the wise words of most others graced with a birth in this ancient culture, were far different from yours, for their intentions mostly remained selfish and lacked even a hint of a desire to please Kṛṣṇa. No concept of the soul's inherent nature as loving servant of Kṛṣṇa decorated their words. Nor even a hint of surrender to Kṛṣṇa escaped from their minds through their mouths. Generally speaking, none had a sesame seed's worth of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti,* the land in which you continually reside.

Your words, often quite similar to the infrequently spoken but wise Vedic truths spoken by others born from the same Vedic cultural soil as you, overflow from your bhakti into your actions, which twenty-four hours of each day match your words that stress the soul's only true need as love for Kṛṣṇa.

Your words, your actions, but especially your books reveal your bhakti-filled heart. In following Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's example and guidance, you see Kṛṣṇa in every śāstric verse. They reveal Kṛṣṇa's glory in each pastime you translate, and cause you to boldly condemn every attempt at happiness devoid of Kṛṣṇa's guidance and service.

Your words also speak of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's gift of hidden Vedic truths. They offer in an open yet still secret way the sweetness of eternal life in Goloka Vrindavan. They instruct readers in that narrow path of service to Kṛṣṇa's holy names, of surrender, and of separation, just as Mahāprabhu taught by His ecstatic example of full absorption in love for Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, at great cost and in your superhuman way, your actions and both spoken and written words place before me – and everyone else – an opportunity to have everything, even things of inconceivable value.



What can this servant of yours offer in return, for I am incapable in so many ways? I pray, though, to hold tightly to your feet, offering to you whatever you have blessed your undeserving servant with. I consider your service as my greatest fortune and your greatest gift.

With full respect, affection, and undying appreciation for your tolerance,
Eternally yours,
Bhūrijana Dāsa

Giriraj Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Each year on Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā day, we remember him, hear about him, and talk about him, and by doing so, we keep him present in our lives.

I first saw Śrīla Prabhupāda in the spring of 1969 at Brandeis University, in Boston, where he had just concluded a program. I had come too late to hear him, but the next day I visited the storefront ISKCON temple on Glenville Avenue, where he was scheduled to speak. When I arrived, the room was already packed, and when Śrīla Prabhupāda began speaking I had difficulty understanding him – I wasn't used to his Bengali accent, and the philosophy was new to me. Still, I did hear him say that out of many thousands of men, one would seek perfection. And I thought, "That's *me*!"

When Śrīla Prabhupāda asked for questions, I raised my hand. "There are so many swamis and gurus," I began, "and each one recommends a different method of self-realization and says that his is the best. How do I know which is actually best?"

"What is your goal?" Śrīla Prabhupāda replied. "Do you want to *serve* God, or do you want to *become* God? If you want to *become* God, it means that you are not God now. And how can not-God become God? God is God. The real guru teaches that God is in your heart and that you can become godly – but that you cannot become God."

As Śrīla Prabhupāda spoke, I got the distinct impression that he knew everything about me and was seeing right into my apartment, right to the sign on my wall, on which I had engraved in ornate lettering: "You are God."

"What do you think?" he asked. "Do you want to serve God or do you want to become God?"

I said, "I want to serve God, but I realize that actually, I wanted to become God."

Prabhupāda was emphatic in his affirmation: "Yes!"

I immediately offered my obeisances. I had found my spiritual master.

From that first meeting, my whole life's purpose became bringing people to Śrīla Prabhupāda. I was able to do that for many years, but when Prabhupāda passed away, I wondered, "What will my service be now?"

Now I understand that Śrīla Prabhupāda is always present, and that by speaking of him, hearing about him, remembering him, and most significantly, by studying his books, we can experience his presence. So I can continue doing what I was doing when he was personally present – introducing souls to Śrīla Prabhupāda. That is what I feel natural doing. And I know that somehow or other, if someone comes in touch with Śrīla Prabhupāda, his or her life will be successful.

Praying to continue serving *Śrīla Prabhupāda* perpetually,
Giriraj Swami

Hridayānanda dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

With tireless determination, brilliant arguments, pure devotion to Gaura-Nitāi, and unique spiritual potency, Prabhupāda established a thriving *saṅkīrtana* movement, ISKCON, all around the world. Prabhupāda emphasized that success in the West would lead to acceptance of Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the world. He personally told me this many times.

To rebuild the powerful Western mission that Prabhupāda constructed, we must act as spiritual scientists – both in the content of our teaching and the manner of our presentation. I can only pray that Lord Kṛṣṇa, in the hearts of ISKCON devotees, inspires them to understand and present Kṛṣṇa consciousness as a pure spiritual science.

Your servant,
Hridayānanda dāsa Goswami

Mālatī Devī Dāsī

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my prostrated obeisances to your lotus feet again and again. Each time I see your beautiful form and effulgent face I am reminded of how you miraculously, single-handedly saved us, your errant disciples, from many forms of degraded life and illusions.

This year, many devotees were surprised and hurt by a particularly abrupt decision from the GBC with a potentially grave impact on your female disciples. Many quotes were being put forth from both sides, the interpretation of which appeared to support each side's particular understanding, while often appearing to be conflicting. At the heart of it for most of the ladies in ISKCON was an unhidden attempt to thwart your very instructions and examples. In other words, ladies would be taken as inferior and no longer eligible for a wide range of services, particularly brahminical and administrative services, foremost.

Since our experiences with you as your spiritual daughters were without hindrances from you, it is especially difficult and painful to hear these things. You were very broad-minded and generous in how you approached different situations, and did not give ultimatums that would be sources of division or barriers to our practice of bhakti in female bodies. You avoided black and white situations, although your students were often not so capable of expanding what they would see in narrow dimensions.

From your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 7.128, you wrote: "Every person must get married. Every woman, especially, must get married." That became a misunderstood hammer in

the lives of unmarried female devotees, with forced marriages as a result. However, your actual approach was anything but heavy. Some examples:

> **Prabhupāda:** If one can remain without marriage, that is the first class [referring to *brahmacārīs*].
>
> **Rūpānuga:** Women also?
>
> **Prabhupāda:** Women also. What is the use of this material husband? Make Kṛṣṇa husband. Kṛṣṇa's prepared to become everything – love Him as husband, love Him as son, love Him as friend. (Room conversation, 6 July 1976, Washington, DC)

Here, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you're broad-minded and encompassing, not small-minded and narrow. Your idea was that we become Kṛṣṇa conscious, not that we become married, particularly, and throughout your writings and talks, you left room for individuality in how we achieve Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Another example: "If one becomes Kṛṣṇa conscious, then she doesn't require husband. She knows that 'Kṛṣṇa is my protector. Why shall I artificially seek after father or husband?' And what protection for a few days either the father or the son or the husband may give? Real protection is Kṛṣṇa." (Conversation, 7 January 1977, Bombay)

You gave Nandalal Dāsī a small silver Kṛṣṇa and told her to make Him her husband, and she did that. There are many practical examples in your movement of women who are not protected by a father, husband, or son: myself, Mukhya, Kaiśorī, Praśānta, Viśākhā Priyā, to name but a few. Each of us not only feels fully protected by you, but we also make significant contributions to ISKCON.

You replied to a concerned Śilāvatī: "The actual system is that the husband is Spiritual Master to his wife, but if the wife can bring her husband into practicing this process, then it is all right that the husband accepts wife as Spiritual Master. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has said that anyone who knows the science of Krishna, that person should be accepted as Spiritual Master, regardless of any material so-called qualifications, such as rich or poor, man or woman, or brahmana or sudra." (Letter to Silavati, 14 June 1969)

In this letter, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you affirm the precedent set by the Nāga-patnīs and the wives of the *brāhmaṇas*. We're meant to be personal, to appreciate one another's qualities, and to avoid prejudging others based on gender stereotypes (which can go both ways).

You pointed out that the *brāhmaṇa* husbands noted that their wives, having perfected their transcendental attachment for Kṛṣṇa, did not have even a trace of attachment for home, husband, children, and so forth. Therefore, from that day on, the husbands accepted those women as their worshipable spiritual masters and no longer thought of them as their wives. Clearly, the scriptures, like Kṛṣṇa, direct us past bodily designations to the essence of each individual – toward his or her bhakti.

You pointed out the difference between generalizations or guidelines meant to give us informed direction. Generalizations, by definition, are inferred from specific cases but not meant to be applied indiscriminately, whereas universal statements (such as "We are spirit souls") are true in every circumstance.

A few examples of your magnanimous inclusive nature in engaging your spiritual daughters:

At the cornerstone-laying ceremony in Mayapur, you asked me to speak – in front of your elderly godbrothers and our own budding *sannyāsīs*.

Śrīmatī Dāsī directly assisted you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, during the Juhu cornerstone ceremony when Ananta Śeṣa was being installed.

Here is a conversation you had with Atreya Ṛṣi Dāsa:

> **Prabhupāda:** Both of them are very intelligent. And Nandarāṇī is more intelligent than her husband. (*laughs*) I know that.
>
> **Atreya Ṛṣi:** I find that he is very intelligent, Śrīla Prabhupāda.
>
> **Prabhupāda:** Ah, Dayānanda.
>
> **Atreya Ṛṣi:** Yes.
>
> **Prabhupāda:** He is intelligent, but Nandarāṇī is still more intelligent. (*laughs*) I know that. Both of them are intelligent, but this girl appears to be more intelligent. (Room conversation, 16 July 1976, New York)

One of your servants commented that "Aniruddha is intelligent like his father [Pradyumna]." You replied, "No, intelligent like mother. She is more intelligent."

You showed us that to understand the statement that "women are less intelligent" we need to consider what "intelligence" means in context. In Sanskrit, there are several words translated as "intelligence." One is *buddhi,* which refers to the ability to analyze, judge, or discern. Another is *medhā*. In the tenth chapter of the *Bhagavad-gītā,* Kṛṣṇa lists *medhā* among seven feminine qualities. *Medhā* means "mental vigor, wisdom, prudence."

From your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 10.34: "The ability not only to read many books on different subject matters *but to understand them and apply them when necessary is intelligence* (*medhā*), another opulence." [Emphasis added.] Thus, these are broad classifications – *buddhi:* analytical intelligence; *medhā:* nourishing, practical intelligence.

However, women and men each have both *buddhi* and *medhā;* it's just a matter of the degree of each. You taught us to avoid jumping to conclusions about a person or a group of persons based on what body they are wearing around their intelligence. One of the beauties of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is that it sees past all bodily and mental differences to a higher, spiritual truth. When we become devotees, we transcend all designations. Thus, Kṛṣṇa consciousness can unite all people, whatever their religion, race, nationality, age, or gender. The Hare Kṛṣṇa movement is meant to be at the forefront of implementing equal vision.

Then, there is what many consider a very heavy, incriminating statement: "Never place your faith in a woman or politician." (Cāṇakya Paṇḍita, whom you quote a number of times) Yamunā Devī Dāsī comments: "I was present on four occasions when Śrīla Prabhupāda repeated the Cāṇakya adage, 'Never trust a woman or a politician.' On each occasion, Śrīla Prabhupāda looked me in the eye. On the last occasion, Bombay 1973, he quoted the saying, heartily laughing in front of a small group of men. Then he said: 'What do you think, Yamunā?' Immediately I said: 'Of course it is true, Śrīla Prabhupāda,' whereupon he became grave, looked at me with great feeling, saying, 'But you are not a woman; you are a Vaiṣṇava.'"

(Note: Cāṇakya Paṇḍita was a member of the court in his time. In those days, much like these days, there were many court-related political intrigues. So it was that one party might send in a beautiful young woman who had been trained to take poison and seduce a particular foe, and when they'd become engaged in intimate activities, she would kiss him and transfer her poisonous saliva, killing the fellow. So, this statement about never trusting a woman or a politician was never intended to describe *all* women as untrustworthy.)

Śrīla Prabhupāda's consistent goal was to help us transcend material designations. He wanted to see each of us advance spiritually. Women, *śūdras,* and *vaiśyas* are ordinarily regarded as less intelligent, but if one takes to Kṛṣṇa consciousness one is the most intelligent. "Although Kuntī

had the body of a woman, she was a devotee. Therefore she was not like an ordinary unintelligent woman. Rather, she was the most intelligent, for she recognized Kṛṣṇa to be the Supreme Godhead." (*Teachings of Queen Kuntī,* chapter 3)

From Kṛṣṇa's viewpoint, until we're elevated to spiritual consciousness, we're conditioned and fallen. From that viewpoint, those who are spiritually inclined are more intelligent than those who aren't, and *on the spiritual platform, everyone is equal*. Kṛṣṇa does not discriminate.

According to the teachings of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, as taught by you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, everyone, regardless of his or her material designation, has the potential to attain the highest spiritual position, to become a pure devotee. Pure Vaiṣṇavas are beyond all designations and classifications, and in their purest state, they see everyone else as beyond all designations and classifications as well. The association of such persons is uplifting. You endearingly said about your female disciples: "These women are not ordinary women. They are preachers. They are Vaiṣṇavas. By their association one becomes a Vaiṣṇava." (Calcutta)

Kṛṣṇa consciousness means facilitating all devotees so they remain enthusiastic and determined to grow to their full potential. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you offered us such facility, and we, your followers, are meant to offer the same Kṛṣṇa conscious facility to others.

Protection in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is ultimately meant to help one advance spiritually. "But the protection of Kṛṣṇa is that you are perpetually being protected. *Tyaktvā dehaṁ punar janma naiti*. You don't get any more material body. That is real protection." (Morning walk, 19 September 1972, Los Angeles)

To serve in the association of Kṛṣṇa's sincere devotees is a form of protection. In such an environment, women fully use their talents and proclivities in Kṛṣṇa's devotional service, and that absorption is another form of protection.

You boldly proclaimed: "Women should be always protected. Protection does not mean negligence. Protection means to give her all facilities. That is protection." (Lecture on *Bhāgavatam* 3.28.18, 27 October 1975, Nairobi)

As pointed out by Viśākhā Devī Dāsī, your brilliant spiritual daughter in her astute writings, Śrīla Prabhupāda protected his spiritual daughters by

- educating us about our true identities as spirit souls
- engaging us in devotional service, a process by which we can attain liberation from death and rebirth, the ultimate protection

Today I had the good fortune to meet with several godsisters, and each one of us expressed our gratitude to you for saving us from the material world and introducing us to Kṛṣṇa consciousness through your loving guidance and protection. Thus, we remain always joyfully in your debt.

With all of the sincerity that I have in my heart, I gratefully remain your eternal *dāsī,*
Mālatī Devī Dāsī

Nirañjana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

nama oṁ 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, 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 was recently captivated by a verse and commentary I read while discussing *Śrī Bṛhad-Bhāgavatāmṛta* with a godbrother. Gopa-kumāra said something to the Mathurā *brāhmaṇa* that left a deep impression on me.

atyajaṁś ca japaṁ svīyam akṛtajñatva-śaṅkayā
vismartuṁ naiva śaknomi vraja-bhūmim imāṁ kvacit

> For fear of being ungrateful, I never gave up my *japa,* nor for a moment was I able to forget this Vraja-bhūmi. (*Bṛhad-Bhāgavatāmṛta* 2.2.28)

I believe it was the first time that I reflected deeply on the fear of being ungrateful. Of course, I've not given up my *japa*. But from the commentary on this verse, I've learned that I still have something to be fearful about – the right mentality I should be cultivating while chanting my *japa*.

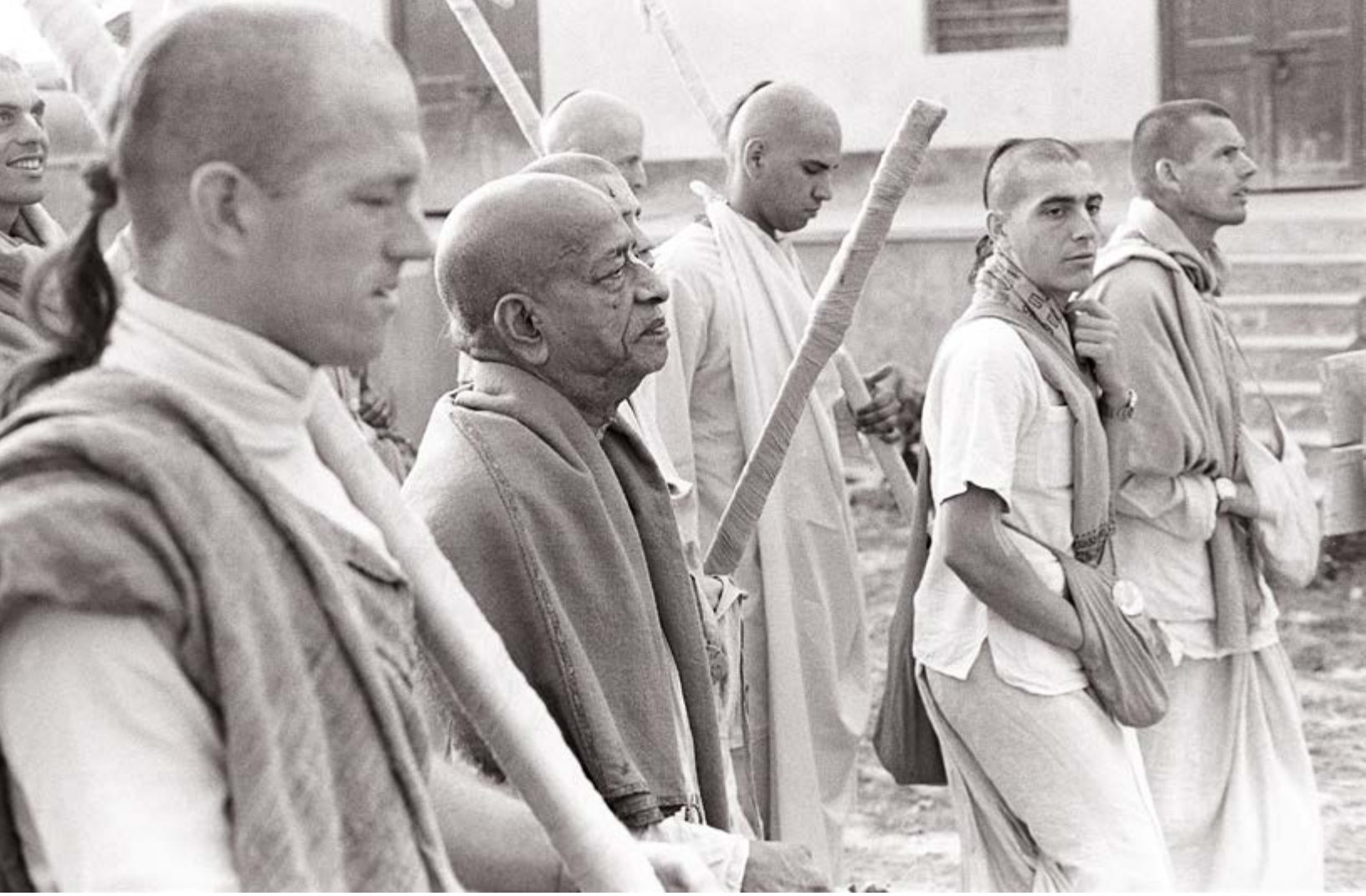
In the commentary to the above *Bṛhad-Bhāgavatāmṛta* verse, Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī elaborates:

> Wanting to avoid being ungrateful, Gopa-kumāra never stopped chanting. He might justify abandoning the mantra only after attaining its final goal. If he were to stop chanting before then, he would not discover the mantra's full benefits. Thus, to stop the chanting prematurely would amount to ingratitude, for without having bothered to receive all the mantra's benefits, how could he properly acknowledge them?

In other words, without realizing the mantra's full benefits, especially since his spiritual master blessed him by saying, "May you develop the right mentality for tasting the mantra's fruit," chanting without this goal in mind would have been tantamount to ingratitude.

Gopa-kumāra, therefore, not only never stopped chanting, but he never stopped meditating on his goal, which manifested in his ever-blossoming desire for a spontaneous and intimate friendship with Śrī Madana-gopāla.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in a Montreal lecture on October 23, 1968, you said: "We should be always fearful that 'Māyā may not catch me.'" I am fearful of *māyā,* but unfortunately, not enough.



However, I now understand that I should also be fearful about being ungrateful, even though you've given us everything we need for pure devotional service.

On May 17, 1977, when you arrived for your last visit to the Krishna-Balaram Mandir, you delivered to your assembled disciples a short but very instructive address:

> So there is nothing to be said new. Whatever I have to speak, I have spoken in my books. Now you try to understand it and continue your endeavor. Whether I am present or not present doesn't matter. As Kṛṣṇa is living eternally, similarly, living being also lives eternally. But *kīrtir yasya sa jīvati:* "One who has done service to the Lord lives forever." So you have been taught to serve Kṛṣṇa, and with Kṛṣṇa we'll live eternally. Our life is eternal. *Na hanyate hanyamāne śarīre*. A temporary disappearance of this body, it doesn't matter. Body is meant for disappearance. *Tathā dehāntara-prāptiḥ*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, from these words I have understood that you taught us and will continue to teach us everything we need to serve Kṛṣṇa. But I need to be purer in my service to learn from you how to live with Kṛṣṇa eternally.

We have your books, the holy names, your temples, your *vāṇī,* and your example, which is so

dear to our hearts. We have everything you left on this side of the vast ocean of material existence – your bhakti movement – the boat for crossing over the material ocean to the other side. Speaking for myself, however, I know I haven't taken full advantage of all that you've given.

Once, during your visit to Dallas, one of your disciples stood up and asked you, "Śrīla Prabhupāda, how can I repay you?" Your response was concise and to the point: "Just remain obliged."

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance in this material world, I therefore fall at your lotus feet and beg you to please bless me to become fearless, with the right mentality for pleasing you.

Please make me your servant eternally,
Nirañjana Swami

Radhanath Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On the sacred day of Vyāsa-pūjā, I offer my body, mind, and life at your lotus feet in heartfelt obeisances.

Your compassion upon all beings is an emanation of your pure, ecstatic love for Kṛṣṇa. The philosophy, practice, and experience of *kṛṣṇa-prema* is the essence of life. On behalf of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the exalted *ācāryas* of our *sampradāya,* you are blessing us with this rarest gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Every soul's search for true happiness can be realized when we come into the spiritual reality of God's personal love. The love of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa in Vrindavan is forever the most inclusive and intimate revelation in the abode of God's love. You have revealed to us the pathway into the eternal service of Their love. It is this treasure that you are entrusting to your sincere followers.

As the years pass, your original disciples are physically aging. More and more we must endure the heartbreak of departing Vaiṣṇavas. In the tears we may shed in separation from your beloved devotees, we may celebrate your love for them and their love for you. This appreciation among devotees is at the heart of our society.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is in your divine grace that we are blessed with the shelter of Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda, in both the brightest and the darkest of times. Your life, teachings, and mission are our supreme fortune. With each coming day is a precious opportunity to reciprocate, to serve you and to please you. I pray that my every breath may become an offering of gratitude in your service.

In 1896, 130 years ago, you appeared in the world under a jackfruit tree in the Tollygunge section of Calcutta. In 1966, sixty years ago, you established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in a small storefront at 26 Second Avenue in New York City. This year, in 2026, your devotees performed the groundbreaking ceremony for a memorial to be built at your birthplace under the jackfruit tree in Calcutta, and this year, along with many celebrations, was the opening of a newly renovated pilgrimage site at 26 Second Avenue, in New York.

In 1881, 145 years ago, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, along with his family, including his seven-year-old son, who later became your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura,

established their family home, temple, preaching center, and printing press at the Bhakti Bhavan in Calcutta. Here, on the rooftop, Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda built a *bhajana-kuṭira* where Śrīla Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja would reside. This year, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as an offering of gratitude to you, the Bhakti Bhavan has been for the first time acquired, renovated, and inaugurated by your devotees and for your devotees.

It is our prayer that you may be pleased with our aspiration to become the servants of the servants of your illustrious legacy of love.

Your servant,
Radhanath Swami

Śeṣa Dāsa

Prabhupāda Sevā

Service to Prabhupāda
in a happy mood

A bright future will be
something he can prove

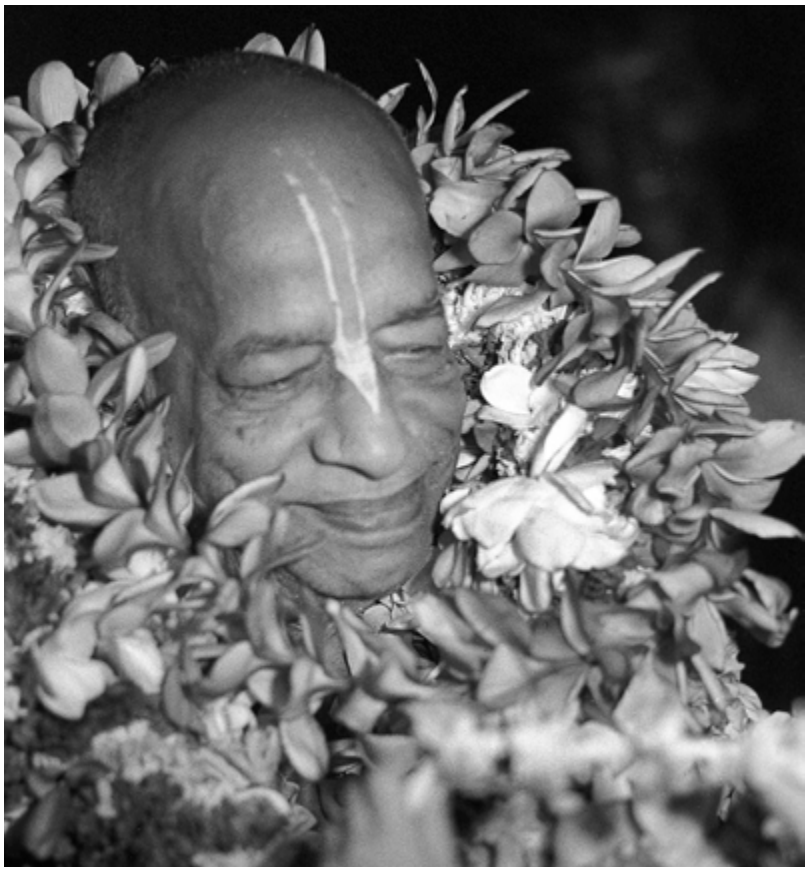
Think of what you would be
oh, someone very crude

When Prabhupāda spreads his mercy
grime of sin removed

Follow him carefully
freedom from sin's rule

One day soon sure to be
oh, someone very good

Your servant,
Śeṣa Dāsa



Homages from Non-GBC Sannyāsīs

Bhakti Anugraha Janārdana Swami

My most beloved eternal master, founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this most sacred Vyāsa-pūjā day, I offer my *koṭi koṭi* prostrated obeisances again and again unto your lotus feet. Whatever little faith I have, whatever little service I attempt, whatever little realization has appeared in my life, whatever capacity I have to chant the holy name, speak *hari-kathā,* worship the Deity, guide disciples, travel, preach, or tolerate the dualities of this world – everything rests upon your causeless mercy.

I stand before you not as one qualified but as one sustained by your mercy. I am not a servant of your stature, nor even a proper servant of your servants; still, by the inconceivable compassion flowing through the *guru-paramparā* you have allowed unqualified souls like me to touch the dust of your mission. This is your greatness: you did not come to seek the qualified – you came to create qualification by devotion to Kṛṣṇa, obedience to guru, and engagement in service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you crossed the ocean not merely to found an institution but to transplant Goloka's message into this world. You carried the order of your spiritual master as your life and soul. You came with no material support, but with complete dependence on Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and your *guru-varga*. In this age of quarrel, chaos, confusion, compromise, and spiritual superficiality, you established the eternal conclusions of the *Vedas* with the courage of a lion and the heart of a mother.

You gave us Kṛṣṇa in sound.
You gave us Kṛṣṇa in books.
You gave us Kṛṣṇa in the holy name.
You gave us Kṛṣṇa in Deity worship.
You gave us Kṛṣṇa in Vaiṣṇava association.
You gave us Kṛṣṇa in a life of disciplined surrender.
You gave us not merely a theology, but a way of living.
You gave us not merely a movement, but a family in service to Lord Caitanya's prophecy.

As your granddisciple, I feel deeply that my life has value only insofar as it is connected to your desire. As a *sannyāsī,* I must belong wholly to your mission. As an initiating spiritual master, I must never think that anyone is "my" disciple independent of you. They are your servants, entrusted temporarily to my care. If I guide them at all, it must only be by faithfully carrying your words, your mood, your standards, your compassion, and your uncompromising commitment to *siddhānta* and *sādhana*.

My own Guru Mahārāja taught me, by instruction and personal example, that loyalty to Śrīla Prabhupāda is not sentiment alone – it is sacrifice, steadiness, humility, purity, practical service, and lifelong obedience. To honor my Guru Mahārāja truly means to bring his offering to completion by serving your mission without selfishness, fatigue, politics, possessiveness, or distraction. To represent him means to represent you. To represent you means to represent the entire disciplic

succession. And to represent the disciplic succession means to remain transparent – to not stand in the way of grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please save me from the hidden enemies within: pride disguised as leadership, possessiveness disguised as care, hardness disguised as strength, diplomacy without purity, scholarship without surrender, renunciation without dependence, preaching without prayer, and external success without inner transformation. Let me never become honored in the world, but hollow before guru and Kṛṣṇa.

Please grant me the intelligence to always remember that the real qualification of a spiritual leader is not position, following, title, or admiration, but fidelity. You wrote, "The spiritual master is the transparent via medium." That is the prayer of my life: let me become transparent, not opaque; representative, not replacement; servant, not enjoyer; instrument, not proprietor.

Let me remember that one who speaks on your behalf must first hear on your behalf. One who guides must first be guided. One who asks surrender from others must live in surrender himself. One who invokes your name must protect your standards. One who wears saffron must burn with responsibility. One who initiates must nourish, protect, correct, encourage, and pray for the souls entrusted to him. One who is called guru must tremble at the word.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may I never reduce your movement to management without mercy, sentiment without structure, scholarship without service, expansion without depth. Let me help build men and women of character, conviction, purity, taste, and lifelong commitment. Let me teach not merely by speech but by conduct; not merely by philosophy but by tears; not merely by standards but by personal example.

Please bless me that I may carry your mission in a way that pleases your lotus heart:

- with strict *sādhana,* because without hearing and chanting I cannot represent you;
- with deep study of *śāstra,* because without *siddhānta,* compassion becomes sentiment;
- with humility, because Kṛṣṇa's message does not descend into a proud heart;
- with courage, because truth must still be spoken in Kali-yuga;
- with compassion, because you came especially for the fallen;
- with cooperation, because your movement thrives on love in service;
- with purity in dealings, because the preacher's life is part of the message;
- with dependence on the holy name, because everything begins and ends there.

If there is any worth in my life, let it be this: that I tried, however imperfectly, to remain faithful to your order. Let my words increase faith in your books. Let my presence increase loyalty to your movement. Let my guidance increase surrender to Kṛṣṇa. Let my example increase respect for the *guru-paramparā*. Let my disciples become your genuine followers, not merely admirers of personality. Let my renunciation nourish preaching. Let my preaching nourish remembrance. Let my remembrance nourish humility. Let my humility nourish dependence on the holy name.

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, I beg not for comfort, recognition, or ease, but I beg for service. I beg for steadiness. I beg for purity of motive. I beg for the strength to continue. I beg for the honesty to see my faults. I beg for the courage to correct those faults. I beg for the heart to love your devotees. I beg for the intelligence to represent my Guru Mahārāja with dignity and loyalty. I beg for the determination to never leave the shelter of your lotus feet in any condition of life.

Please let me become an instrument to bring others to your shelter. Let me teach them by word and example that surrender is practical, determination is nourished daily, and faith becomes real

when translated into obedience. Let me never forget that your mission is not maintained by institutional force alone but by the purity, sacrifice, and prayers of those who sincerely serve.

May I always remain a tiny servant of your servants, birth after birth.

Your insignificant servant, aspiring to remain sheltered at your lotus feet,
Bhakti Anugraha Janārdana Swami

Bhakti Ārjava Prīti Vardhana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

For the past three years, by your mercy, I have been traveling throughout South America. In this vibrant land, I have found a great treasure: people who are naturally warm, deeply personal, and eager for genuine relationships. Seeing their enthusiasm to practice bhakti has been a great source of inspiration for me.

I am deeply grateful for how you have cleared so many misconceptions about the process of bhakti. In your books, you have so carefully explained *sambandha-jñāna,* teaching us not only that God exists, but who He is and how we are related to Him. I often remember your encouragement to study the teachings of Queen Kuntī. Through her example, you reveal that our relationship with the Lord is not only one of awe and reverence, but also one of deep personal and intimate devotion.

Recently, I had an encounter in Paraguay with two Christian priests that confirmed the universal relevance of your message. Though they were initially defensive, by your grace, I was able to present the inclusive nature of Vaiṣṇava philosophy. I explained that God is one but has many names – just as the sun is one, regardless of the language used to describe it – and that the ultimate goal of all genuine spiritual paths is the same: to awaken our dormant love for Him.

When I spoke about the personal nature of our relationship with the Divine, drawing from the prayers of Queen Kuntī, their hearts softened. They were surprised by the vast depth, completeness, and clarity of the Vedic understanding. They admitted that they were accustomed to a more rigid approach, and expressed appreciation for the philosophical completeness of your teachings. They left our discussion not as "opponents," but as thoughtful seekers.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this experience reaffirmed for me that your books are a powerful resource for addressing both intellectual doubt and the deeper needs of the heart. I am grateful for the guidance you have given, which allows me to connect with others in a spirit of understanding rather than conflict.

Please bless me that I may continue to realize and share your message with sincerity, compassion, and clarity.

Your grateful servant,
Bhakti Ārjava Prīti Vardhana Swami

Bhakti Bhāgavatāmṛta Keśava Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

This well-known statement from the *śāstras* directly applies to me, because simply reading your books *Śrī Īśopaniṣad* and *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* completely changed my life. Simply by receiving your association and reading these transcendental books, I gained an understanding of the supreme meaning of human life, and an irresistible desire to spread this knowledge to everyone arose in my heart. Such is the amazing influence of your words. And your desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all people continues to greatly inspire me. Thank you very much for the opportunity to participate in this wonderful movement!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, during these thirty-six years of my involvement with your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, I have always felt your boundless love and care for everyone. You said that ISKCON is your body. Thus, you always remain with us and continue to bestow your divine mercy on everyone. During these years of my involvement with ISKCON I have seen many people whose lives were radically transformed by their contact with this wonderful movement and who became wonderful devotees. All these devotees are eternally grateful to you, as they feel your transcendental presence in their lives. Thank you very much for this opportunity to witness your divine *līlās* and for the opportunity to participate in them.

Perhaps your most astonishing quality is your ability to always see the best in everyone and engage them in your mission. Reading stories from your life, one can see countless examples of how you entrusted so much responsibility to your inexperienced and undertrained disciples. And this trust of yours greatly inspired thousands of devotees to surrender their lives to you. And most astonishingly, this can be observed even today in the lives of thousands of devotees around the world. I also constantly feel this in my spiritual life: although I lack the necessary qualifications, you, acting through the senior members of our society, entrust me with more and more responsibility. Please bless me to be worthy of your trust and to be an instrument of your divine grace.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year in Russia we celebrate fifty-five years since your first and only visit to our country. That brief visit changed the lives of many thousands of people. Every year, the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement grows in our country. The number of devotees is growing, new preaching centers and ISKCON temples are opening, and more and more educated and spiritually mature devotees are taking responsibility for the development of your mission in Russia. There is no doubt that all of this is happening solely by your grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We still have much to do in Russia to put your vision into practice. We still need to work on establishing the systematic training and education of devotees, especially the leaders. We need to create cohesive communities of devotees, including agricultural communities. We need to expand the distribution of your transcendental books and organize educational programs for the general public, continuing to seek new and innovative methods for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please bless us to carry out this service to the best of our ability.

We are now experiencing a crucial period of development, when your direct disciples, who

have been our leaders for many years, are passing on their authority to the next generation of devotees. Please bless us so that we can preserve all that they have taught us and further develop the mission in accordance with your vision and desire.

Your insignificant servant,
Bhakti Bhāgavatāmṛta Keśava Swami

Bhakti Cārudeśna Swami

Dear *jagad-guru* Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine holy feet. All glories to your lotuslike ISKCON movement.

I say "lotuslike ISKCON movement" because some weeks ago, I attended a wonderful seminar on Religious Movements, on the account of a GBC college course. From the seminar, I realized that although the ISKCON movement is much younger and not much spread compared to other spiritual organizations who are far older in terms of their existence, ISKCON's teachings are very unique and more elaborate in terms of essence and conclusion on the Absolute Truth. So you were nominated with the title: A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, the one who revealed the conclusion of the *Vedas*.

You are a special spiritual ambassador who brought a special message at the right time, circumstance, and place (the Western countries). Some other spiritual messages become irrelevant in the modern society with the evolution of time, but your teachings are timeless and very practical to all situations.

Your teachings are practical to every class of person in the society ... rich, poor, scholars, scientists, politicians, businesspeople, etc. There is nothing you didn't teach in your books. Today we are hearing about nuclear and atomic weapons, but these are not new. In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* we know that Aśvatthāmā threw a *brahmāstra* (mystical weapon) at the womb of Uttara.

We see marvellous buildings and astonishing architectural works, like the Egyptian pyramids and others, but these are not new. Viśvakarmā built the marvellous Indraprastha city for the Pāṇḍavas. There are many more examples to mention.

Now the world is amazed by so many discoveries, and we talk about the eight wonders of the world. But in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (10.8) Kṛṣṇa says: "I am the source of all spiritual and material worlds." So Kṛṣṇa is the real wonderful person to whom we need to give all respect and credit.

We know all those things by your mercy. Thank you for being the torchlight for a society in deep darkness.

Begging to remain the servant of your servants,
Bhakti Cārudeśna Swami

Bhakti Gauravāṇī Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

On this sacred day of your appearance, I approach you with a heart full of gratitude. You came into this world to deliver the powerful medicine of *nāma-saṅkīrtana,* and by your inconceivable mercy, the holy name has spread to every corner of the earth. Temples have arisen in cities where once no one had heard the name of Kṛṣṇa. Books carrying the timeless message of *bhāgavat-dharma* are read in languages you never personally spoke. The kirtan you brought across the oceans now echoes in lands that once seemed spiritually barren.

But my heart is also full of uncertainty and concern. You had a dream: you envisioned that America would spearhead a global cultural revolution. During a December 11, 1973, morning walk in Los Angeles, you revealed your plan to your disciples:

> That is my ambition. I want to begin one revolution. Their godless civilization, against godless civilization. That is my ambition. And the America will be the best person to be educated in this line and to lead, to become the leader. They're already leader, but they must be real leader now, so that the whole world may be happy. That I can give direction. If the topmost American gentlemen come to me, I can give them direction how they can become the world leader. Actual leader, not bogus leader. Because God has favored them with so many things. And this movement has been started from America. I started this movement from New York. So it should be taken very seriously by the government.

Today, many decades later, the full realization of that vision still seems distant. The topmost leaders in America appear to be less qualified than ever to be the world leaders you hoped they would become. Many observers have concluded that the former superpower is losing its leading position in the world. We therefore sometimes wonder how the cultural revolution mentioned in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.5.11) will come about? In the purport to this verse, where Nārada Muni encourages Vyāsadeva to compile literature which is full of transcendental words directed toward bringing about a revolution in the impious lives of this world's misdirected civilization, you refer to the Sino-Indian War that took place at the end of 1962:

> While preparing this commentation on this particular stanza of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam we have a crisis before us. Our neighboring friend China has attacked the border of India with a militaristic spirit. We have practically no business in the political field, yet we see that previously there were both China and India, and they both lived peacefully for centuries without ill feeling. The reason is that they lived those days in an atmosphere of God consciousness, and every country, over the surface of the world, was God-fearing, pure-hearted and simple, and there was no question of political diplomacy. There is no cause of quarrel between the two countries China and India over land which is not very suitable for habitation, and certainly there is no cause for fighting on this issue. But due to the age of quarrel, Kali, which we have discussed, there is always a chance of quarrel on slight provocation. This is due not to the issue in question, but to the polluted atmosphere of this age: systematically there is propaganda by a section of people to *stop glorification of the name and fame of the Supreme Lord.* Therefore, there is a great need for disseminating the message of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam all over the world. It is the duty of every responsible Indian to broadcast the transcendental message of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam

throughout the world to do all the supermost good as well as to bring about the desired peace in the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you formed ISKCON sixty years ago, part of your mission was to take up the duty that every responsible Indian was meant to fulfill but did not. As you pointed out later in that same purport, because India had failed in her duty to spread the message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* there was so much quarrel and trouble all over the world. Therefore you entrusted us with this monumental task. You envisioned the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement to fulfill that duty and shine like a beacon of hope – a spiritual family united beyond the temporary designations of gender, race, nationality, and political ideology. And in many ways, it did and still does. Millions of people have heard and chanted and still chant the holy name because of you. Your books continue to transform hearts.

And yet, even within the house you built, there are signs of fissures. Increasing tensions cause many of your followers great concern. During your lifetime, you warned us about the danger of factions. You emphasized again and again that the real principle of unity is cooperation for the satisfaction of Kṛṣṇa. You asked us not to quarrel over temporary differences but to remain united under your instructions and the common purpose of spreading the message of Lord Caitanya to every town and village. You established systems of management not so that power struggles might arise but so that the preaching mission could expand harmoniously.

Still, as time has passed since your physical departure, disagreements have grown sharper. Some of your followers identify themselves as defenders of tradition. They fear that in the attempt to adapt to a rapidly changing world the purity of your teachings may be compromised. They worry that contemporary cultural trends could weaken the philosophical clarity that you fought so hard to establish. To them, fidelity to your instructions means preserving the forms, standards, and interpretations exactly as they understand you to have given them.

Others, however, feel a different urgency. They believe that in order for your mission to reach new generations, it must speak in ways that people can understand and accept. They argue that, just as you made adjustments fifty years ago, a constantly changing environment is calling for further adjustments so that your message may remain relevant and accessible. To them, the spirit of your mission lies in dynamic preaching, not merely in preserving external forms.

Each side sincerely claims loyalty to you. Each side believes it is protecting your legacy. Each side accuses the other of having deviated and contributed to a drift from the mission.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the prospect of a fractured mission causes deep pain in the hearts of many who love you. For you did not come to create another sect competing with other sects. You came to give the universal science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You showed by your own example that the essence of spiritual life is humility, service, and cooperation.

Sometimes I wonder what you would say if you were physically present today. Would you chastise us for our lack of humility? Would you remind us again that cooperation is the real test of love for you? Or would you simply encourage us to chant sincerely and engage ourselves fully in spreading the holy name?

Perhaps you would do all of these things.

The world desperately needs the message you gave. Humanity stands at a crossroads. Material progress has brought extraordinary technological power, yet it has not brought peace. Instead, anxiety is increasing relentlessly, both on an individual and a societal level. Relationships are more fragile than ever, and people struggle to find meaning in their lives.

We may not always agree on every detail of management or interpretation. Diversity of perspective may even be inevitable in a global movement that now spans continents and cultures. Yet if we can remember that we are united in service to you and to Kṛṣṇa, those differences need not become causes of division.



Instead, they can become opportunities for deeper dialogue, deeper reflection, deeper realization, and ultimately deeper cooperation.

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, therefore, I pray at your lotus feet for guidance. Please help us remember the essence of your mission. Please help us see one another not as rivals in ideological battles, but as fellow servants trying, however imperfectly, to carry forward the work you began.

If we can do that, then the fears of division may gradually fade, and the movement you founded will continue to flourish for generations to come. You crossed oceans alone in old age to bring the mercy of Lord Caitanya to the world. Compared to that heroic sacrifice, our present difficulties are small. Yet even small difficulties can grow large if we forget the spiritual vision you taught us.

Therefore, on this sacred day, I renew my prayer to serve your mission to the best of my ability.

May your followers always remember that we belong to you. May we never forget that the real victory is not winning arguments but awakening love for Kṛṣṇa in the hearts of all living beings. And may we always remain, despite our imperfections, united in glorifying your extraordinary life and eternal teachings.

Your insignificant servant, aspiring to follow in your footsteps,
Bhakti Gauravāṇī Goswami

Bhakti Karuṇamaya Vanamālī Swami

Dear Your Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories unto you on this most auspicious appearance day.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the pure representative of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the most merciful spiritual master of this age. In this dark Age of Kali, where people are absorbed in ignorance and material suffering, you brought the brilliant light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. By your causeless mercy, the holy name of Kṛṣṇa is now being chanted all over the world.

In the year 2026, as I reflect on your unlimited contributions, I can only feel deep gratitude and humility. You gave us everything – the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* your transcendental books, the association of devotees, and the practical process of devotional service. Your instructions remain ever fresh and relevant, guiding conditioned souls like me in every moment of life. You continue to guide through your books, your devotees, and your mission.

You wrote that "Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not an artificial imposition on the mind; it is the original energy of the living entity." Kindly help me realize this truth practically. Please bless me so that I may chant the holy name attentively, serve the Vaiṣṇavas with humility, and dedicate my life to fulfilling your desire.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you crossed oceans, faced hardships, and tolerated so much just to deliver fallen souls like me. I have nothing to offer in return except a sincere attempt to follow your instructions. Please engage me in your service, however insignificant that service may be.

Let me become an instrument in your divine mission, free from false ego and selfish motives. Let me always remain under the shelter of your lotus feet and never forget your mercy.

On this sacred Vyāsa-pūjā day, I offer my repeated obeisances unto you again and again. Thank you for giving my life true purpose and direction.

Your insignificant servant,
Bhakti Karuṇamaya Vanamālī Swami

Bhaktimārga Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

I was there in the crowd in Atlanta
You were everything to us
There was that walk in the park
I tried to catch any word of yours
But I just did not succeed
Your assistants surrounded you
It was not at all audible
And I was a shy guy

In Detroit you were very happy
The Fisher Mansion had become ours
The walk was not possible
Rain made it so restrictive
It became a drive through Belle Isle
In those days I drove, so I was behind
The back of your head was visible
For the absolute whole time

Then, there was a morning in Chicago
At a park by Lake Michigan
You trekked the trail gracefully
There was an entourage that followed
Then Viśākhā held up her camera
You posed, devotees fussed with your shawl
I heard you loud and clear
"You cannot satisfy all of the people all of the time"

In my hometown, Toronto
We had acquired that big church
You sent a telegram – "Great triumph!"
Then you came to personally see
Were taken to Taylor Creek Park
Water flowed, all was green – serene
You spoke some words – out of earshot
But I was so glad you came

People are surprised I never spoke to you
I am your student, but no exchange
What would I say? I was a shy guy
But I heard your classes

And I was there to see you walk
I sleep in the room where you slept
My best sleep comes when I hear a recording
I am blessed like anything

Your servant,
Bhaktimārga Swami

Bhakti Prabhāva Swami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance.

During the last months of your presence in this world, Your Divine Grace shared with my spiritual master, His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Mahārāja, that ISKCON exists in the spiritual sky and that all sincere members of ISKCON will go back to that divine ISKCON when their allotted time in the material world is finished. You gave us a Kṛṣṇa conscious society, Kṛṣṇa conscious literature, association with Kṛṣṇa conscious personalities, and everything necessary for elevating the most fallen souls to the highest spiritual platform. Just as the holy name of the Lord is both a means and an end, so ISKCON is also a means and an end.

After fifty years or more of following the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, many of your sincere and dedicated followers have become pure-hearted. This does not mean that all these pure souls are on the same level. Even among pure devotees there are gradations of less and more advanced, as many light bulbs give light, but some give stronger light than others. Even if some ISKCON spiritual masters are not yet on the level of pure devotion, their disciples can advance swiftly toward the goal of life by the complete arrangements Your Divine Grace made in the form of ISKCON. You wrote in your purport to *Upadeśāmṛta* (5): "A neophyte Vaiṣṇava or a Vaiṣṇava situated on the intermediate platform can also accept disciples, but such disciples must be on the same platform, and it should be understood that they cannot advance very well toward the ultimate goal of life under his insufficient guidance." However, you gave us ISKCON, a multiguru institution, in which disciples have the opportunity to receive proper training from many spiritually advanced personalities. Provided disciples, in harmony with their relationship with their own ISKCON guru, identify themselves as a *śikṣā* disciple of Your Divine Grace and simultaneously take shelter of other spiritual masters within ISKCON, they are bound to make advancement and approach the ultimate goal, even if their own *dīkṣā-guru* is not on the highest platform of devotion.

This divine arrangement enables all ISKCON members to easily practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this degraded Kali-yuga. No one has ever made such complete arrangements for spiritual elevation. This makes you the most magnanimous representative of the most magnanimous appearance of Lord Kṛṣṇa as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We can never pay you back for this great gift. However, as core members of our society, it is our duty to use all these assets in your preaching mission, not only for attracting new people but also for ensuring the steady advancement of everyone already serving in ISKCON.

After practicing *vaidhi-sādhana-bhakti* for more than thirty-four years, I realize, as the end of the

body comes nearer, the urgency to attain the mercy of Lord Caitanya. Our hope is that by pushing forward your mission we will get, somehow or other, your mercy, which is followed by the mercy of Lord Caitanya. To give others the opportunity to obtain that same mercy, there is a need not only to preach to make new devotees but also, as you told us, to "boil the milk." This means that our preaching must have a clear purpose: to turn congregational members into committed devotees and prepare them for initiation, and to increase the commitment of the initiated devotees, turning them into core members dedicated to the spreading of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As such, they will become your instruments in the mission and recipients of your mercy.

Your Divine Grace used the metaphor of "boiling the milk" in letters to Rūpānuga (Honolulu, 9 May 1972) and Haṁsadūta (Los Angeles, 22 June 1972):

To Rūpānuga you wrote: "Now I want that we shall concentrate on making our devotees Kṛṣṇa conscious and ourselves becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious and not be so much concerned with expanding ourselves widely but without any spiritual content. Just like boiling the milk, it becomes thicker and sweeter. Now do like that, boil the milk."

And to Haṁsadūta you wrote: "Now we have got so many students and so many temples, but I am fearful that if we expand too much in this way we shall become weakened and gradually the whole thing will become lost. Just like milk. We may thin it more and more with water … but in the end it will cease to be milk. Better to boil the milk very vigorously and make it thick and sweet."

You explained that "boiling the milk" practically means that we should concentrate on training our devotees very thoroughly in the knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness from our books, tapes, through discussions, and in so many ways.

In the 1960s and 1970s Your Divine Grace established a morning program surcharged with the five most potent items of devotional service. At that time most devotees lived in the temples. Today, ISKCON consists of all congregational members and only a minority of them attend the morning programs either in person or online. The morning program you established is essential for devotees to "boil the milk" and make spiritual advancement. Times have changed, and to prevent the milk becoming increasingly thinned with water, we require innovative systems based on the principles of your teachings to keep members regularly involved in activities that help them to make spiritual progress.

For many years I have been serving on a committee of the ISKCON *Sannyāsa* Ministry that is concerned with training *sannyāsa* candidates in organizing and developing such activities. These activities are meant to engage the congregational members by forming groups of like-minded devotees discussing your books on a regular basis and sharing their realizations of the spiritual techniques. The aim of these activities is to cultivate friendship, support one another in their *sādhana,* engage in service, and participate in your mission. In cooperation with temple authorities, *sannyāsa* candidates have started to engage small groups of devotees in many parts of the world. To be successful in this endeavor I pray to Your Divine Grace that you will bless us with a genuine understanding of your desire of how to make this endeavor successful and boil the milk. Our success in life depends on pleasing Your Divine Grace, who is the foremost representative of the previous *ācāryas* and very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Praying for your blessings, your insignificant servant eternally,
Bhakti Prabhāva Swami

Bhakti Prachār Parivrājak Swami

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Your life is the perfect embodiment of complete surrender to the order of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda. You did not merely accept his instruction, you lived for it, prepared for it, and ultimately fulfilled it in a way that has transformed the course of history.

After a lifetime of deep preparation, you began the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and carried the message of Caitanya Mahāprabhu to every corner of the world. Traveling alone to the West, you fearlessly preached in the English language, reaching hearts that had never before heard the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. By your compassion, countless souls have been delivered and given a higher purpose in life.

Your books are the very foundation of this movement. Behind each page lies your sacrifice – your reduced sleep, your tireless service, and your deep realization. Through these transcendental writings, you have given us access to eternal truth and a clear path back to Kṛṣṇa.

We are deeply grateful that you have given us this wonderful society – ISKCON – a spiritual home where we can practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness together. You have given us temples, communities, and sacred *dhāmas* such as Vrindavan, Mayapur, and Jagannatha Puri, making the spiritual world tangible and accessible even in this age of Kali. You have also given us countless services, so that our restless minds can always remain engaged in devotional service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I have no qualification. I am full of faults and shortcomings, yet by your causeless mercy I have been given a place in your mission. This is my only hope and my only wealth.

I humbly pray at your lotus feet: please always keep me under your shelter. Kindly engage me as an instrument in the hands of my spiritual master so that I may serve your mission with sincerity and steadiness. Let me never forget your instructions, and let me always remain connected to your service.

I beg for your blessings that I may one day become a worthy servant in your divine mission.

Your eternal servant,
Bhakti Prachār Parivrājak Swami

Bhakti Prema Swami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances unto the dust of your divine lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your books have now been recognized by the Government of India, and recently, official permission has been given by the Railways to allow their distribution in all railway stations. We hope to soon witness that the entire world recognizes your sublime gift meant for all humanity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are so humble that you compared your own deliverance by your

spiritual master, His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda, to that of Dhṛtarāṣṭra by Vidura.

Although you are the greatest scholar and the greatest devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa, you have humbly said, "*Bhakti nāi, veda nāi*."

You wrote to your Guru Mahārāja, "*Mūrkha muni nīca ati,*" but you are most intelligent and the topmost devotee.

In another place, you wrote to your Guru Mahārāja, "*Mo hena dīna hīna patita pāmare,*" but you are the deliverer of the fallen, the wretched, and the sinful.

The secret of the success of your movement is your firm faith in the holy name combined with profound humility. Kindly shower a drop of your mercy upon this fallen soul, who has no shelter other than you.

The servant of your servant,
Bhakti Prema Swami

Bhakti Rāghava Swami

oṁ 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 torchlight of knowledge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

oṁ Surabhyai namaḥ!

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet on this, your 130th anniversary appearance day in this world.

The year 2026 marks a significant date for your ISKCON society as we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of your ISKCON being incorporated in 1966. The year 2026 is significant for me personally as I commemorate my fiftieth anniversary of my arrival in your Śrīdhāma Mayapur on March 10, 1976. I was 29 years old, having served two years at your ISKCON Ottawa temple in Canada. And this year, as you did in 1976, I will soon reach 80 years of age. How time has passed so quickly.

I count my blessings for having taken shelter at your lotus feet. Every time I listen to your lectures, I marvel at your clarity of thought and your conviction in presenting so brilliantly the science and philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* continues to attract the minds and attention of more and more conditioned souls. Just yesterday here in Phnom Penh, in the Kingdom of Cambodia, as a small group of devotees were gathered by the Mekong riverside, a young man from the Congo by the name Dave happened to notice your *Bhagavad-gītā* on our book table. He was so happy and so spontaneous that without any urging on our part, he began glorifying over our microphone the *Bhagavad-gītā,* which he had only discovered the previous year while visiting India for the first time.

I can only express my gratitude for your causeless mercy bestowed upon me and upon so many other conditioned souls who would have otherwise continued to loiter and suffer in this forsaken material world. Thank you for showing so much compassion and love to the whole of humanity by bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the Western world. Your universal message of peace and love will resonate more and more in the hearts of a people who continue to experience ever increasing despair and anxiety as the world continues on its spiral dive of surging calamities and destruction. Your teachings and the Vedic knowledge are the only solace and remedy for a troubled humanity.

To help establish universal love and brotherhood, you formulated so simply and clearly three illuminating thoughts in your essay on Gītā Nāgarī: (1) the Fatherhood of Godhead, 2) the Motherhood of Nature, and 3) the Childhood of all living entities. Who cannot but fail to accept and endorse these simple, basic truths and concepts?

This year, by your blessings, I will step into a new venture by helping to introduce a global awareness to both devotees and nondevotees, introducing a theme that is dear to you and that is central to reestablishing our forgotten Vedic culture of *daiva varṇāśrama-dharma.* Exactly eleven years ago, in 2015, while I was serving as Minister for the IDVM-India Varnasrama Mission, we inaugurated a twelve-year marathon we called the OM Sri Surabhi Campaign. Since that campaign will end when we will celebrate the last of golden jubilees, your fiftieth disappearance day, in November 2027, which will also mark the shifting of the Deities in Śrīdham Mayapur to the TOVP, in the same spirit, we will launch a global initiative to educate devotees and the general public on the three gifts of nature to humankind: (1) cows, (2) land, and (3) knowledge. The theme will be "Make Vrindavan Villages." You have on occasion commended Gandhi for his teachings on "Village Organization." In that context, on May 7, 2026, a group of devotees will inaugurate a new website called mvv.global, as well as a new app called Divine Shelter.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are my divine shelter. I would be totally lost without that shelter. Please kindly allow me to serve you in whatever humble way I can. My days in this body are limited. Since your Vyāsa-pūjā last year, already so many of your early disciples, my godbrothers and godsisters, have left this material world to join you in your continued pastimes. I pray that I also get that opportunity whenever you call me to join you and my godbrothers in serving your mission, wherever that may be.

I cannot sufficiently nor adequately express my gratitude at this gift of devotional service you have given me. Please kindly forgive my many shortcomings and whatever offenses I may be committing while serving you. Kindly help me to develop meekness and humility in serving your mission. I am ever grateful and obliged to Your Divine Grace for your kindness upon me.

Please keep me sheltered at the dust of your lotus feet. May you continue to allow me to serve in your glorious mission life after life.

Your eternal servant,
Bhakti Rāghava Swami

Bhakti Rasayāna Sāgara Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet on this special day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. All glories to you and your divine mission!

We are living through very turbulent times, when everything horrible and exciting is happening at the same time. Horrible is, of course, the work of the demons, as we can now see in front of our eyes what Lord Kṛṣṇa told us in His *Gītā* (16.9): "Following such conclusions, the demoniac, who are lost to themselves and who have no intelligence, engage in unbeneficial, horrible works meant to destroy the world."

And since it's Kali-yuga, we are hardly surprised by this turn of events, but it's especially enlivening to see against this dark background the amazing development of your wonderful work: how our growth in India, which is your pet project, is accelerating beyond belief! And specifically I am referring to two initiatives coming from the governments of West Bengal and Assam. The Jagannath Dham temple in Digha, which is a coastal city less than 400 kilometers from Jagannath Puri and a 4.5-hour drive from Kolkata, is an amazing and futuristic model of our cooperation with the government structure for the common good, as you wished in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.17.45:

> Without state support, no doctrines of philosophy or religious principles can progressively advance. There should be complete cooperation between the *brāhmaṇas* and the *kṣatriyas* for this common good. Even up to Mahārāja Aśoka, the same spirit was prevailing. Lord Buddha was sufficiently supported by King Aśoka, and thus his particular cult of knowledge was spread all over the world.

So in line with this principle, one of our leaders encouraged Mamata Banerjee to organize creation of an exact replica of the temple in Puri in this new and popular tourist destination. After spending over 500 crores of rupees, or 58 million USD, providing the new temple with full support of about a thousand staff members as well as the government funding, she invited ISKCON devotees to take full charge of worshiping the Lord and preaching there – the model described to me by a local leader as a "normal ISKCON temple, devoid of any headaches in regards to money and management, which the government is fully looking after!" And this temple enjoys more visitors than even the original one in Puri, because people are naturally attracted by the cordial atmosphere and purity of our devotees.


All Glories to Sri Guru & Gauranga

But that seems to be just the beginning of quite a journey in this direction, because the Assamese government started construction of five hundred Jagannath temples defined as community halls and are asking devotees to take as many as they can handle.

It reminds me of the statement of Gour Mohan De about the Supreme Lord having so many hands – that if He gives you, how much can you take? And it seems that the Lord starts giving us more and more opportunities for service, so that the most important thing we need right now is purity of purpose.

Thus, my humble prayer at your feet is to please bless us with the required qualities so that we can serve you selflessly and without any attempt to imitate you instead of following you.

Your aspiring servant,
B. R. Sāgara Swami

Bhakti Ratnākara Ambarīśa Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! Please accept my humble obeisances!

mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-gurum dīna-tāraṇam

> By the mercy of the guru, even a dumb man can become the greatest orator, and even a lame man can cross mountains.

As advised by Lord Brahmā, one should remember this śāstric injunction if one desires success in his life.

It is impossible to glorify a great person like you, but we are trying to do this for our own purification. This year we are the celebrating the fifty-fifth anniversary of your arrival in the Soviet Union. By your causeless mercy, you decided to come to Moscow despite all obstacles and danger. As a result, you met professor Kotovsky and inspired at least one person to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. From this person, so many others started to practice, and by the great effort of your followers we now have hundreds of thousands of devotees in Russia.

This year we want to make you a special offering by distributing 1,055,000 books, and we are praying for your mercy to be able to do this. Please make us an instrument to fulfill your will! Please allow us to inspire more and more people on the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to always remain loyal servants of your servants!

Always desiring your mercy,
Bhakti Ratnākara Ambarīśa Swami

Bhakti Sundara Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Glorifying the spiritual master is fundamental to the practice of bhakti-yoga. In fact, Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the *śāstras* state that without this glorification, spiritual progress is impossible.

Why is it so important?

1. *It is an essential part of the principle of paramparā, disciplic succession: Bhagavad-gītā* 4.2: "This supreme science was thus received through the disciplic succession." The guru is the link that connects us to Lord Kṛṣṇa. If you break the link, the entire chain falls apart. Thus glorifying the guru honors and strengthens that connection.

2. *The guru is Kṛṣṇa's direct representative:* The eighth verse of the *Gurv-aṣṭaka,* by Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura, states, *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo / yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi:* "By the mercy of the spiritual master, one receives Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy. Without the guru's grace, one cannot advance." And in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.17.27 Kṛṣṇa Himself says, *ācāryaṁ māṁ vijānīyān:* "You must know that I Myself am the *ācārya*."

3. *It destroys false pride:* Glorifying the guru puts us in the correct position – that of a servant. The false ego is the greatest obstacle to success in bhakti-yoga. When we appreciate and praise Śrī Gurudeva's qualities, we automatically become humble. *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi* 1.46: "By the mercy of the guru, the treasure chest of love for Kṛṣṇa is opened."

4. *It protects us from committing offenses:* The third offense against the holy name is *guror avajñā,* disobeying or disrespecting the guru (*Padma Purāṇa*). Constantly glorifying him protects us from falling into that grave offense, which blocks bhakti.

5. *Examples of great devotees:* Nārada Muni always glorifies his guru, Lord Brahmā. The Six Gosvāmīs of Vrindavan wrote beautiful verses glorifying Caitanya Mahāprabhu and his teachers. Śrīla Prabhupāda began each class by glorifying his Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

How does one properly glorify the guru? (1) Through speech: chant the *Gurv-āṣṭaka,* offer *praṇāmas* to the guru, speak of his qualities and teachings; (2) Through action: follow his instructions (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 19.167: "True glorification is obedience."); (3) Through thought: remember him, meditate on his mercy, be grateful.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 7.15.25: "Just as one cannot see one's own face without a mirror, without the guru's mercy one cannot see Kṛṣṇa." Glorifying the guru is not fanaticism. It is recognizing who brought us out of ignorance and gave us Kṛṣṇa. That is why every day before *Bhāgavatam* class we chant: *śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma*. The glories of the spiritual master are limitless. In the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition it is said: *yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau* – "Only one who has the same devotion for the guru as for the Lord can understand the meaning of the scriptures." (*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* 6.23).

What are his principal glories?

1. *He is the personification of Kṛṣṇa's mercy: Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 1.45: "The spiritual master is the manifestation of Kṛṣṇa's mercy." Kṛṣṇa is so kind that, since we cannot see Him directly, He presents Himself as the guru to guide us back to Him.

2. *He opens the eyes blinded by ignorance: oṁ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā / cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ:* "I offer obeisances to the spiritual master, who opened my eyes, blinded by the darkness of ignorance, with the torch of knowledge." Without a guru, we live in complete darkness. He kindles the light.

3. *He bestows the holy name upon us:* Caitanya Mahāprabhu gave the order to distribute the holy name throughout the world. The guru fulfills that order by giving us the *mahā-mantra*. Without him, we would have no access to *hari-nāma*. That is his greatest glory.

4. *He bears our karma:* The guru accepts the disciple, knowing that he will have to suffer the reactions of the disciple's past sins. *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa:* "The guru takes the poison from the disciple." That is pure love. That is why Prabhupāda traveled around world in his seventies, despite his weakening health, just to save us.

5. *He is more beloved by Kṛṣṇa than anyone else: Bhāgavatam* 11.17.27 states, "You should know that the *ācārya* is Myself and never disrespect him." And from the *Ādi Purāṇa:* "Kṛṣṇa is more displeased when His devotee is offended than when He Himself is offended." And the guru is the Lord's most beloved devotee.

6. *He connects us to the paramparā:* Thanks to him, we are not alone. We are connected to Nārada Muni, Vyāsadeva, Madhva, the Six Gosvāmīs, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, Śrīla Prabhupāda … It is a river of mercy flowing from Kṛṣṇa. The guru is the current link in that golden chain.

What do the scriptures say? *Śrī Gurv-āṣṭaka* contains eight full verses just to glorify the guru, which is chanted every morning. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.3.21 states: "Therefore, one who desires the truth should approach a reliable spiritual master." And the *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad* (1.2.12) states: "To understand the transcendental science, one must approach a guru who is fixed in the Absolute."

In practice: Śrīla Prabhupāda used to say, "If you love Kṛṣṇa, show that love by obeying the guru." The best way to glorify him is to follow his instructions and assist in his mission. As we sing every day: *śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu, adhama janāra bandhu* – "The spiritual master is an ocean of mercy and the friend of the fallen." The glories of the spiritual master are limitless. In the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition it is said: *yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau* – "Only one who has the same devotion for the guru as for the Lord can understand the meaning of the scriptures." (*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* 6.23).

"Just Trust in Kṛṣṇa" – The Journey of the *Jaladuta*

It is 1965. Śrīla Prabhupāda is 69 years old and has 40 rupees in his pocket. No followers, no temples, no plan. Only the order from his Guru Mahārāja: "Preach in English in the West." He secures a free passage on the freighter *Jaladuta*. A 35-day voyage from Calcutta to New York.

Day 13 at sea: He suffers his second heart attack. Severe. Chest pain; he cannot walk. The captain offers to send him back to India. Prabhupāda refuses. That night he writes in his diary: "How it will happen, I do not know. But I know that Kṛṣṇa sent me, and He will protect me."

Day 30: They're crossing the Atlantic. Terrible storms. The ship shakes like a leaf. The sailors are afraid. Prabhupāda is in his cabin, seasick, in pain, translating *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

On September 17, 1965, the *Jaladuta* landed at Boston's Commonwealth Pier and Śrīla Prabhupāda took a short walk on the Boston streets with the captain. The next day he wrote a prayer to Kṛṣṇa that reveals his heart as a guru:

> My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind to this useless soul, but I don't know why You have brought me here. Now You can do with me whatever You like with me. But I guess You have some business here; otherwise why would You bring me to this terrible place?
>
> 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….

O Lord, I am simply 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 "Bhaktivedānta," and now, if You like, You can fulfill the real purport of Bhaktivedānta.

Signed – the most unfortunate, insignificant beggar
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami,
on board the ship Jaladuta, Commonwealth Pier,
Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.
dated 18th of September, 1965

What is the glory here?

1. *Verse 1 of the Gurv-aṣṭaka: saṁsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka-trāṇāya* – he came only to extinguish the fire of our material life. He risked his life for us.

2. *Verse 8: yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi* – without his sacrifice, what chance would we in the West have of knowing Kṛṣṇa? None.

3. *He bears our karma:* He came sick and penniless to a country where some would call him an "old hippie swami." He accepted ridicule, loneliness, and poverty. Why? Because a true guru takes the poison from the disciple.

4. *Total faith in Kṛṣṇa:* No plan, no guarantee. Solo: *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo* – "Through the mercy of the guru comes the mercy of Kṛṣṇa." He trusted, and Kṛṣṇa delivered.

He arrived in New York on September 19, 1965. Twelve years later, there were 108 temples, thousands of books, and the holy name spread throughout the world. That is why Prabhupāda is *karuṇa-sindhu,* an ocean of mercy. As verse 4 of the *Gurv-aṣṭaka* states: *kṛtvaiva tṛptiṁ bhajataḥ sadaiva* – the guru is satisfied only when his disciples are satisfied, and so he was not satisfied until he saw us satisfied with *prasādam* and *hari-nāma*.

"The Swami in Tompkins Square Park" – July 1966

Prabhupāda arrived in New York with nothing. After a difficult year, he moved to the Lower East Side, the poorest and most dangerous neighborhood in the city. It was full of hippies, drug addicts, and homeless people. He rented a small, empty storefront at 26 Second Avenue for $125 a month. He slept on a mat on the floor.

What did he do? He put up a sign outside: "Bhagavad-gita Classes—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7 p.m."

The first few days, four or five hippies attended – skinny, high, lost. They laughed at him, an old Indian man in a dhoti, singing with a little drum.

Prabhupāda didn't judge them. He saw them as spiritual souls, parts of Kṛṣṇa. Verse 1 of the *Gurvaṣṭaka: kāruṇya-ghanāghanatvam* – he was a rain cloud of mercy.

The miracle: After classes, he had nothing to give them. In India, the guru always gives *prasādam*. But he only had $7. He went to the store, bought apples, cereal, and milk. He boiled it all. That was ISKCON's first "Sunday feast" – boiled cereal with apples served on paper plates.

Those hippies had never eaten food offered to God before. They cried with happiness. One said, "Swamiji, no one has ever cooked for us with love before."

Prabhupāda replied, "Kṛṣṇa is in everyone's heart. I'm just wiping the dust off the mirror. You aren't hippies. You are Kṛṣṇa's eternal servants. You just forgot that."

Six months later, those same "lost souls" shaved their heads, put on dhotis, and went out to

chant Hare Kṛṣṇa for eight hours a day on the street. They gave up LSD, heroin, and illicit sex. Why? Because someone believed in them when no one else did.

Do you see the glories of the guru here?

1. *Verse 3: śrī-vigrahārādhana- . . . yuktasya bhaktāṁś ca niyuñjato 'pi* – He Himself worshiped the Deity and engaged those lost boys in service. He gave them a life.

2. *Verse 4:* He did not eat until he saw them eat *prasādam*. His happiness was seeing them happy with Kṛṣṇa.

3. *Verse 7*: *kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya* – He did not present himself as God. He always said, "I am the servant of the servant of the servant of God." That is why Kṛṣṇa empowered him so much.

Allen Ginsberg, the most famous poet in the US at the time, went to see him. He asked, "Swamiji, how did you turn these drug addicts into saints?"

Prabhupāda smiled: "I didn't do anything. I just gave them the holy name. Kṛṣṇa did the rest."

That is an *ācārya*. *Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo* – by his mercy, thousands of us have received Kṛṣṇa. From an empty little shop in 1966 … to temples all over the world today. All because a 70-year-old man decided to obey his guru and took pity on us.

Kṛtvaiva tṛptiṁ bhajataḥ sadaiva – the guru is only happy when his devotees are happy. And also, he sees Kṛṣṇa in everyone, even in a little girl. This story illustrates verse 3 of the *Gurvaṣṭaka: yuktasya bhaktāṁś ca niyuñjato 'pi* – the guru engages his disciples in service. And also, it illustrates his fatherly love, which abandons no one.

"Can You Sell a Book?" – The Miracle of Book Distribution

December 1972, Los Angeles. Śrīla Prabhupāda is in his room. A new disciple, very shy and with an inferiority complex, comes to see him. His name is Rāmeśvara.

Rāmeśvara is depressed. He says, "Śrīla Prabhupāda, I'm good-for-nothing. All my spiritual brothers go out for *saṅkīrtana* and distribute fifty or a hundred books a day. I go out for six hours and don't sell a single one. People slam the door in my face and insult me. I'm useless. I might as well leave the temple."

Prabhupāda looks at him with those huge eyes, full of compassion. He is *karuṇā-sindhu,* an ocean of mercy. "Can you do one thing for me?"

"Anything, Śrīla Prabhupāda."

"Then tomorrow, take just one book. Only one. Don't take any more. Go to the airport. Stand there and pray to Kṛṣṇa: 'Kṛṣṇa, my Guru Mahārāja asked me to give this book. Please send someone who wants it.' Don't talk to anyone. Just wait. When Kṛṣṇa sends that person to you, give him the book. Then come back. Can you do that?"

Rāmeśvara nods, though without much faith.

The next day he goes to LAX with a *Bhagavad-gītā*. He stands in a corner, mortified. Ten minutes pass … thirty minutes … an hour. Nothing. He thinks, "I'm a failure even at this."

Suddenly, a man in a suit – an executive, in a hurry – approaches him. He says, "Young man, for three weeks I've been dreaming of an Indian book with a blue cover and a man in a chariot. Do you have it?"

Rāmeśvara almost faints. He pulls out the *Bhagavad-gītā*. Blue cover, Arjuna and Kṛṣṇa on the chariot! The man buys it – gives him a $20 donation – and says, "Thank you. You have no idea how much I've been looking for this," and leaves.

Rāmeśvara runs to the temple in tears. He bursts into Prabhupāda's room shouting, "It worked! Kṛṣṇa sent me someone!"

Prabhupāda smiles and says to him, "See? You don't distribute books. Kṛṣṇa distributes books. You just have to be available. Now, can you take two books tomorrow?"

What happened next? That same Rāmeśvara became ISKCON's top book distributor in the

1970s. He went on to organize the distribution of millions of books. Why? Because his guru believed in him when he didn't believe in himself.

The glories of the guru here:

1. *Verse 3: bhaktāṁś ca niyuñjato 'pi* – The expert guru knows how to engage each disciple according to his capacity. Prabhupāda didn't demand that Rāmeśvara distribute a hundred books; he asked him to distribute just one. And with that request, he changed his life.

2. *Verse 1: kāruṇya-ghanāghanatvam* – he is a rain cloud of mercy. Rāmeśvara was burning in the fire of low self-esteem. Prabhupāda poured out mercy and extinguished that fire.

3. *He connects us with Kṛṣṇa:* Prabhupāda didn't say, "I will make you successful." He said, "Pray to Kṛṣṇa." He always places us before Kṛṣṇa, never before himself. *Kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya* – he is the beloved servant of the Lord, not the Lord Himself.

4. *He sees spiritual potential:* We see a hippie, a failure, a fallen soul. The guru sees an eternal servant of Kṛṣṇa with his heart covered with dust. And with patience, he cleans the mirror of the heart.

That is why Śrīla Prabhupāda gave us the order: "Distribute my books." He knew that by giving the *Bhāgavatam* to others, we purify ourselves. It is his mercy to save us.

Rāmeśvara Dāsa himself told this story many times. It shows that the guru never abandons anyone. If you take one step toward Kṛṣṇa, He runs ten steps toward you.

Your servant,
Bhakti Sundara Goswami

Bhakti Vighna Vināśana Narasiṁha Swami

Dear spiritual father,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to your ISKCON society. All glories to your Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. And all glories to all the devotees who faithfully serve you throughout their lives.

It was my great fortune to receive spiritual initiation from Your Divine Grace. I was certainly unworthy, and I doubted if you would accept such an unqualified person as myself. I watched as the first candidate came forward and offered his obeisances, as you sat on the *vyāsāsana,* which we had only recently completed.

First, you told him to say your *praṇāma-mantras* out loud to show that he had memorized them. Then Your Divine Grace asked him what the four regulative principles are, and then you asked, "And how many rounds are you going to chant daily?" The young man answered with confidence, and Your Divine Grace smiled with satisfaction, then looked at him and said, "Your name is Mahā-Viṣṇu Dāsa." You then handed him some *japa* beads.

I was relieved that the guru's questions were not difficult and I could answer them without any trouble. I got ready to take the plunge into serious spiritual practice.

I was next on the roster of twelve young British men all waiting to get the most valuable link with the Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas* and my birth in spiritual life. I had no real appreciation of what was taking place, nor did I consider how much this was going to play a major role in my life. Deep within myself I could sense that this is something very special and rare, and I certainly did not want to miss the opportunity to be accepted as a disciple of an Indian Swami.

Over the years since my initiation, I have come to appreciate the causeless mercy of Your Divine Grace. Your determination, patience, tolerance, and so many other qualities that show your divine nature. I can never hope to display such features in my own self, but I continue to be inspired by your example and pray that one day, in the course of my many births, I will be a worthy child of Your Divine Grace and bring some credit to your mission.

Taking a straw between my teeth and falling at your feet, I am your most unworthy son,
now known as Tridaṇḍi Swami Bhakti Vighna Vināśana Narasiṁha

Bhakti Vinoda Swami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectfully humble obeisances at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to all those who try to follow your instructions strictly and keep the grand legacy you bequeathed to us intact.

You Said It!

Its wartime, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You predicted it would come, and it has. The root cause is fake religion, *kaitava-dharma*. The Jews, Christians, and Muslims who are at war on muddled historical events, fueling hate, are killing one another for puerile reasons, having no value for human life. It is a religious war, no doubt.

A God-centered society is hence indispensable for humankind to march forward toward the goal of life in security, happiness, and a mood of service and sharing. But they will deny it.

It's election time in India. All the politicians have been busy seeking votes on the basis of religion or religious hatred fueled by instances and events. They will stoop to an all-time low to fetch votes. It's religion again. It's pathetic. India and Hinduism is no different, it seems, as we grapple with colonial hangovers.

People are highly stressed, insecure, and confused under these leaders. Countries lack the political, social, and economic will to have a reasonable dialogue to solve issues as they have zero spirituality in their leadership. Its mayhem and more, unleashed by Kali. Again, you said it.

Against this background, I understand how purposeful and meaningful is your mission, Śrīla Prabhupāda. What a great philosopher, visionary, and practical leader you are, while not even mentioning your pure devotion to guru and Kṛṣṇa! You again said it: "In the future they will talk about how I came to change the course of humanity in its dark hour."

We know we have the solution to the problem as clear as crystal, but we also know we have a long way to go to implement it. The world so much needs the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement – like never before. The greatest impediment glaring at us is from inside of ourselves and inside your own ISKCON society. It's the insides! Again, you said it: "Our movement cannot be destroyed from the outside, but can be definitely destroyed, from the inside."

We Should Do It!

Do we also lack intelligence and the organizational will needed to solve our issues and push

forward? Is subtle, personal ambition standing in the way of our elite Vaiṣṇava leadership? Is cooperation lacking utterly? Such thoughts and more often assail my mind and intelligence, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I love your movement, the devotees, and the great opportunities it provides for sharing Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the confused world. You worked so hard to give this to us amidst myriad challenges. We cannot let this go, without using our collective intelligence and organizational skills laid at the altar of sacrifice to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Genuine Vaiṣṇava collegiality, heartfelt dialogues, and a willingness to go the extra mile in understanding and implementing your vision is a burning need if we wish to take your mission forward, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

On this auspicious day of your appearance, I beseech you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to bestow clear intelligence and organizational will on all of us who sincerely want to take this movement forward maturely and help you solve the world's problems through your special vehicle, ISKCON.

From my side, in my area of responsibility, many amazing opportunities our devotees have worked with for many years are reaching fruition. Devotees have acquired precious properties in many towns and cities for ISKCON. These will serve as bases for preaching strategically. More youngsters are able to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness, being attracted to kirtan and *prasādam,* initially. Kindly bless all these sincere devotees who distribute your books, educate from your books, read and understand your books, and cherish pure devotional service with the yearning and hope that they will achieve pure *kṛṣṇa-prema* soon!

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything precious you gave us, and bless us to use it intelligently and cooperatively progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your servant,
Bhakti Vinoda Swami

Bhaktipāda Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet! All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara! All glories unto you!

Please, allow me to express my infinite gratitude to Your Divine Grace. Throughout my life, I increasingly experienced that I did not understand the meaning of human existence nor the goal of human life. Thus, I lived a life that was unhappy, disillusioned, and aimless

The *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya* 19.151) states:

brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja

Once, the smile of great fortune fell upon me: your book, *The Science of Self-Realization,* found its way into my hands. This single book answered every one of my questions. I had truly believed that there was no authentic source capable of providing answers to my inquiries. When I read your words, they had a most extraordinary effect upon my consciousness.

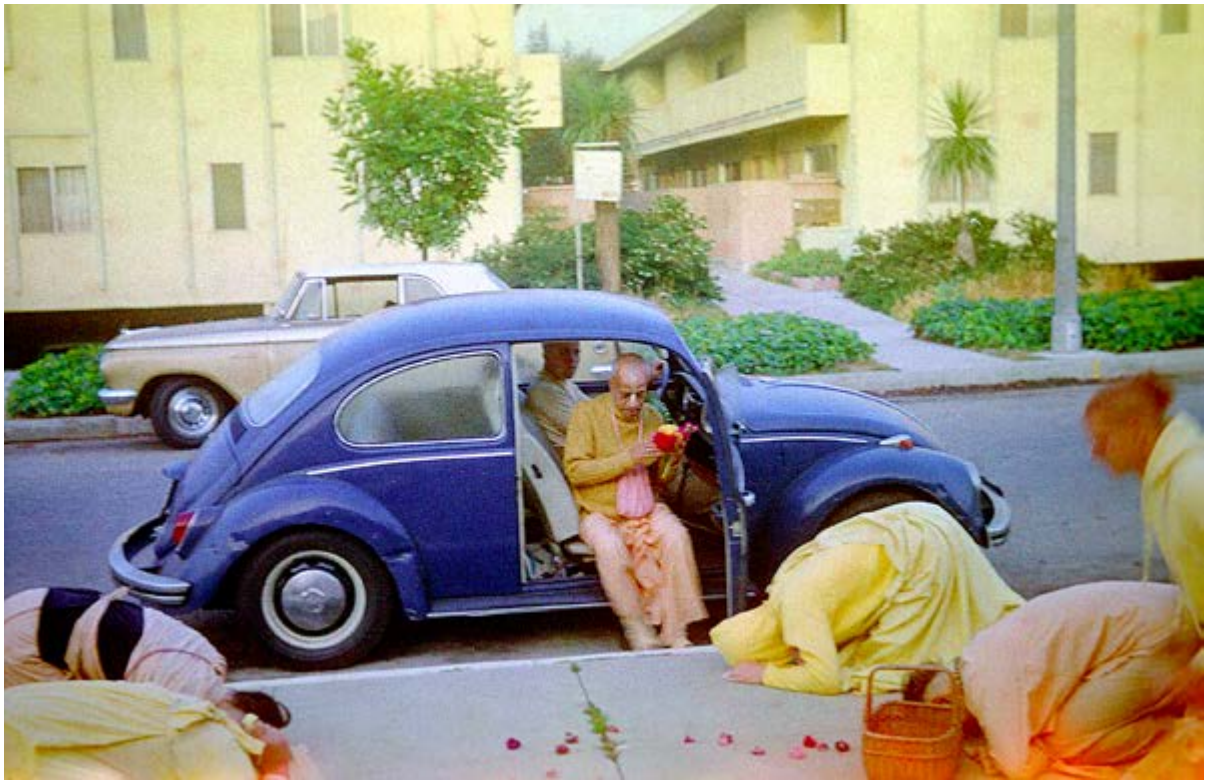
Before this, I had read many books by various authors, but none could provide a complete picture of the world or the nature of the soul. Nor of the Absolute Truth.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, when I read your books, I understood immediately in my heart that you are that authentic person whom I had been seeking. At the same time, you teach us in your books how to distinguish the authentic spiritual master from the charlatan.

The perspective you opened for me hit me with great surprise; it struck me as a total revelation. It came as a surprise because I did not even expect such clarity. Beside you, other authors – many of them very famous, such as Sri Aurobindo and others who sought to convey enlightenment through their writings – seemed as if they were looking at reality through a cataract. But that which Your Divine Grace conveyed was like pure vision. Such was the profound impact I felt when I came in contact with your books.

On one hand, it felt as if I had known this truth and the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* from somewhere long, long ago. On the other hand, I had never heard it from anyone else before. For me, this was a true *mahotsava* occurring in my life.

Now, as I write this offering, I am reliving those wonderful, blissful experiences that arose within me at that time. I remember when I read others' writings on the nature of the soul – why it exists at all and what it seeks in the material world – the authors gave such a blurred image. It was never clear whether the soul is a person or something else. In contrast, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your stunning explanations are so simply understandable, clear, and perfect. In just a few sentences you presented the knowledge of the soul. Everything fell into place.



Since others were incapable of giving a philosophically clear explanation of the nature of the soul and its relationship with the world, what could they possibly say about the nature of God? But you did not stop at sharing knowledge of the soul, for that is only the beginning of knowledge. You shared knowledge of Kṛṣṇa as well. Moreover, you teach that the ultimate goal is *prema pum-artho mahān*.

You broadcast Kṛṣṇa perfectly, exactly as He is! To me, this is all crystal clear. Before I began reading the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* as I mentioned, I first read *The Science of Self-Realization*. In that book you frequently quote *ślokas* from the *Bhagavad-gītā*.

When I read those verses, wonderful and startling emotions ignited within me. I thought with amazement: "This is impossible; this cannot be." The sentences in those verses are so perfect that an ordinary human could not compose such statements. It was so obvious that you brought this knowledge directly from Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, exactly as it is. I was utterly enthralled.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you explained perfectly the soul-*tattva*, *kṛṣṇa-tattva*, and the *tattva* of the relationship between the soul and Kṛṣṇa. And it did not end there. You even gave us the means by which we can build a loving relationship with Rādhā-Śyāma!

For this, I shall never be able to repay you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I still remember when I bought the first six volumes of the *Bhāgavatam* and brought them home. I set them down, sat before them, and just stared at the books for hours, blissfully stunned, feeling that I had just received the greatest prize of my life. This experience was exceptionally wonderful.

When special events occur, such as a birthday, it is customary to give blessings. I too wish to take this opportunity and ask for a small blessing from you. So that I may better please you and properly repay my debt, I ask that you empower me to cleanse the *anarthas* from my heart. I also ask that the fresh, stunning, and wondrous sense of surprise I felt when I first encountered your books remains just as fresh and vivid throughout my entire life. For then I will always be enthusiastic to practice Kṛṣṇa Consciousness! And through that, I will be able to express my gratitude.

Once more, thank you so much for switching on the light in my heart! Now I understand which way to go, what surrounds me, and with whom I should build my relationship. Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your insignificant servant,
Bhaktipāda Goswami

Bhaktivedānta Rukmiṇī Kṛṣṇa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this Vyāsa-pūjā is the most wonderful opportunity bestowed upon a living entity to glorify a dear devotee of the Lord like Your Divine Grace and so perfect his existence. What to speak of any conditioned soul, even Lord Kṛṣṇa loves to glorify His loving devotees. Recently, I came across excerpts from a letter by His Holiness Giriraj Swami to His Holiness Satsvarūpa Mahārāja, dated 20 August 1985:

> I had the realization that Krishna is spreading Krishna consciousness all over the world just to glorify Srila Prabhupada. We are doing so little actually, but by Krishna's grace, that little effort is producing such big results. Why? My realization is that it is only because Krishna wants to glorify Srila Prabhupada, His pure devotee. He is making everything so wonderful and so successful. Krishna is even making us wonderful, us mlecchas and yavanas, just to glorify Srila Prabhupada. And why is Krishna acting only to glorify Srila Prabhupada? Because Srila Prabhupada had no desire other than to glorify Krishna. Reciprocally, at least in terms of the Krishna consciousness movement in this material world (earth) Krishna has no desire other than to glorify Srila Prabhupada – and why? – because Srila Prabhupada had no desire other than to glorify Sri Krishna.

Yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have no other desire than to glorify Kṛṣṇa. This you demonstrated to the whole world by your tireless dedicated efforts. You underwent so many difficulties and tribulations to establish this society single-handedly around the globe, a task unthinkable for any normal living entity. Surely you are an empowered associate of the Lord sent to this material world for fulfilling the mission of Kṛṣṇa.

In your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 22.14–15, you very aptly described the situation of a *nitya-mukta jīva* like Your Divine Grace:

> Sometimes an ever-liberated personal associate of the Supreme Personality of Godhead descends into this universe just as the Lord descends. *Although working for the liberation of conditioned souls, the messenger of the Supreme Lord remains untouched by the material energy.* Generally ever-liberated personalities live in the spiritual world as associates of Lord Kṛṣṇa, and they are known as *kṛṣṇa-pāriṣada,* associates of the Lord. Their only business is enjoying Lord Kṛṣṇa's company, and *even though such eternally liberated persons come within this material world to serve the Lord's purpose, they enjoy Lord Kṛṣṇa's company without stoppage. The ever-liberated person who works on Kṛṣṇa's behalf enjoys Lord Kṛṣṇa's company through his engagement.* [Emphasis added]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are truly the eternal well wisher of conditioned souls. You are like a perfect physician treating the *bhava-roga* of all conditioned souls through your books, lectures, *mūrtis,* disciples, and granddisciples. Sometimes you cried to think how the living entities were suffering in this world. So many people daily visit your temples throughout the world, bow down before you, offer their obeisances to you, pray before you, and receive wonderful reciprocations from Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are so merciful, and I am so fortunate to be having the divine shelter of your lotus feet. Still, due to my impudence and false ego, I maintain all kinds of dirty desires to enjoy in this material world. I sincerely pray that as much attachment as I now have for worldly affairs, a similar degree of attachment may develop for your holy feet. I pray that my love for you may remain undisturbed both in misfortune and in prosperity, and that day after day it may increase by the power and influence of your holy name.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless me so that I can dive deeply into your purports. Kindly reveal these divine purports in my heart so that I can also preach vigorously, selflessly, without being concerned about my little, little comforts.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your very dear disciple, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, mercifully accepted me as his disciple. Two years ago, he departed from this world to join Your Divine Grace in the eternal preaching mission. In his absence, many responsibilities have come upon us. He desired that I accept *sannyāsa* and take on greater service in your mission. Although I am completely unqualified, I followed his instruction and applied. This year, on his second disappearance day, I was awarded the *sannyāsa* order by your dear disciple, His Holiness Guru Prasad Swami. He gave me the name Bhaktivedānta Rukmiṇī Kṛṣṇa Goswami. Śrīla Prabhupāda, I feel deeply fortunate to carry Your Divine Grace's name, though I am entirely unworthy. I am fully dependent on your causeless mercy.

Please always keep me under the shelter of your lotus feet and never reject me. Kindly empower me so that I may boldly preach the mission of Lord Caitanya, strictly following the principles and teachings given by Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, *kī jaya*!

Your insignificant servant,
Bhaktivedānta Rukmiṇī Kṛṣṇa Goswami

Candramauli Swami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my spiritual master, who has opened my eyes, blinded by the darkness of ignorance, with the torchlight of knowledge.

nama oṁ 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-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.

A bright light within the dense darkness of chasing illusionary happiness became the cause of our ultimate good fortune. As the pure devotee representative of the compassionate Supreme Personality of Godhead, you brought hope for a better life along with a halt to our aimless wanderings, which were filled with despair and disappointment. You gave us what we unknowingly were looking for in life: the happiness of service to the Lord of all the Worlds, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Your words about the real purpose of human life carried hope for something better, something sublime, and came in the form of sacred books, spiritual discourses, and instructive lessons on the nature of the Absolute Truth and our eternal relationship with Him. It cut through our ignorance about life's purpose, lifting our hearts up and as refreshing as a discovery of crystal-clear water is to a weary desert traveler. These words nourished our mind and gave life to our soul while cutting away the ignorance accumulated for countless births in a seemingly never ceasing cycle of birth and death.

Those who heard your words, filled with deep realizations of how to achieve the ultimate goal while simultaneously dismissing any idea for happiness and success other than devotional service to the Lord of our life, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, were most fortunate.

Contrarily were those who received your message, yet could not understand or take advantage of these immortal words. These persons are compared to children who, being immersed in play, were unable to take advantage of their loving mother who is calling them to enjoy a nourishing, tasty meal. Most unfortunate. For the doubting soul there is neither happiness in this life nor in the next.

Even more unfortunate are those who rejected your instructions, benevolent guidance, and words of transcendental knowledge and were eager to broadcast their ignorance openly. Like having come across a great treasure and seeing it as broken pieces of glass.

Yet those who continuously hear your words filled with realization of the Absolute Truth and adopt them as the guide in life and their ultimate treasure are most fortunate, for they will receive the full mercy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and qualify to again receive your divine association never ending.

I sincerely pray that every conditioned soul will have the opportunity to come in contact with your immortal teachings filled with love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa and make their lives perfect.

With your mercy what is the use of others'? And without your mercy what is the use of others'? For your mercy enclosed in your divine words is the means to achieve life's ultimate goal, *premā-pum-artho mahān* – love of God.

We are eternally indebted – eager to try to repay the unrepayable gift of eternal life, knowledge, and bliss.

Your eternally grateful disciple,
Candramauli Swami

Candramukha Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

Before you, I did not exist, Prabhupāda! And the more I searched for myself, the more I became lost. The longing to possess myself made me ill. It was necessary, therefore, to give myself up, to flee from myself, in order to find the true cure in you.

Whatever Kṛṣṇa consciousness exists in me is because you are Prabhupāda! In me, no Kṛṣṇa consciousness could exist if you were not Prabhupāda! I, the devotee, might not exist, but you, Prabhupāda, would never cease to be Prabhupāda!

You are an ocean of mercy, while I am only a microscopic island trying to emerge from the ocean of birth and death. From the deep waters of my ignorance, you lifted me, yet I remain afraid, for I am still in danger. If your potency were to cease holding me above the sinister waters of my own ego, then at that very moment I would fall again into the darkest abyss of existence.

Therefore, I think of you today and always, Prabhupāda.

And the more I do so, the more I forget this fictitious and ephemeral character that covers my soul. The closer I come to your immense fullness, the more I divorce myself from myself – from this fragile and petty emptiness that bears my name. For this reason, I think of you today and always, Prabhupāda. And in doing so, I come closer to my true self. To be with you, Prabhupāda, is the only way to glimpse the possibility of being with myself.

Therefore, I think of you today and always, Prabhupāda.

And the more I do so, the more your gigantic and immaculate reality rises before me. Then this microscopic speck that I mistakenly call "I," which lives lost in the mists on the horizon of *māyā*, ceases to torment me.

Therefore, I think of you today and always, Prabhupāda.

And the more I do so, the more I am healed. I understand that revolving around myself – around my small and great grievances – makes me sick, petty, dissatisfied with myself, and therefore with all men. And so I pray to you, Prabhupāda. I pray that your tangential force may seize me ever more, and that, like a rapturous cyclone, it may hurl me into your world – the heroic world of your joyful tempests – where to live, to work, to suffer, to struggle, and to die is sweeter than honey.

Outside of you there is no salvation for me. Therefore I pray: sustain me, strengthen me with your power, illumine me with your light, warm me with your heat, overwhelm me with your infinite happiness, and place me in harmony with the sweet poetry of life. This ineffable poetry is you and your adorable Lord. You are the great dawn after the cold nights of my heart. You are the smiling rainbow above the deluges of my tears. You are the hymn of peace in the midst of the battlefields within me.

Your eternal servant,
Candramukha Swami

Candraśekhara Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

I am not much, but I am all that I've got.
So let me serve you
So let me work with that
As I am now, let me continue …
The more I go forward, the farther back I am revealed to be
The highest goal, is never close
What should anyone expect?
The heart is deep and restricted
Haunted by broken dreams of past images
All in a line they come to look at me
Like onlookers watch a baby monkey in a zoo
Hard to believe I really lived this life
Fleeting whack-a-doodle experiences hung on a wall
Like paintings in a gallery commissioned without an artistic theme
The heart is deep and restricted
It will not change soon
But I will not worry
This ad-hoc life will beat me on rocks
Like clothes slapped on the bank
Just one thing, let me focus on hearing Kṛṣṇa's name
The heart is deep and restricted
Kṛṣṇa, I know now there is nowhere else to go
Even though I am nowhere right now
I have left all the familiar lighthouses
I have no regrets
Though Your lighthouse is dim
It is the only one in sight
The heart is deep and restricted
No use in wondering when it will dance
No use in wondering when it will dance
But dance it will, one fine day
I wanted to be great, but I am surely small
Take that, my dear ego
Just do my duty and walk forward one more day
Everything is scientifically arranged for me
The thorn and the rose
The heart is deep and restricted
I know it is in there somewhere

Though I have no real proof
Look, look, stupid mind!
See there are so many simply serving
Can't you be like them?!
The heart is deep and restricted
If I could find it, I would surely give it to you
One day my heart will find me
And I will give it to you …

Your servant,
Candraśekhara Swami

Dānavīr Goswami

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

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

Today marks the 130th anniversary of the appearance of my beloved Gurudeva, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda. I am honored to write this Vyāsa-pūjā offering for my spiritual master's glorification. It is not possible for a disciple to repay the debt to the spiritual master, yet still the disciple tries by preaching vigorously.

The guru wishes to see that his disciples continue to follow the regulative principles that they promised to keep. In addition to keeping my promises, I am also endeavoring to encourage the worldwide distribution of my Gurudeva's literature.

The most advantageous methods available for preaching are being used, namely writing. In particular, we are focusing on publishing books, and we have now completed a thirty-volume set of *Śrī Garga-saṁhitā,* with commentary, dedicated to His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda.

> The first duty of a person in the renounced order of life is to contribute some literary work for the benefit of the human being in order to give him realized direction toward self-realization. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.2.5, purport)

Though one may ask, "Who is this Danavir and what is he doing writing commentary on the *Śrī Garga-saṁhitā*?" Be that as it may, I have humbly taken up this writing as an opportunity to employ what I have learned from Śrīla Prabhupāda. Why was there a need for a commentary to be written? I certainly agree that the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is the topmost authority on Vedic literature, and what I've written is in no way an attempt to surpass or equal it. Rather – we hope – that what I've written augments and supplements it.

And we are trying to use the internet in a most effective way for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We have a cinematically rich series based on the *Śrī Garga-saṁhitā* that will present the topics in a manner that is believable, attractive, and accurate.

Śrīla Prabhupāda has given me more in every field than I could ever imagine. I could not even think of asking for such mercy, but he has given me every possible thing that I wanted in life. In a way, it is far beyond my imagination. So I thank him on this day and pray to always remain his servant and to associate with his sincere followers so that I can go on serving in whatever capacity he and Lord Caitanya feel is best for me.

In the meantime, I will stay here and continue working – preaching through different methods. All the means are available. And if I am able to assist in any way with the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, I am available for that.

In conclusion, I commit myself to ISKCON and will continue to encourage everyone else to do so as well.

Your eternal servant,
Dānavīr Goswami

Dhīraśānta dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

If Not for You

If not for you, I wouldn't know who I am.
Eternally part of Krishna's plan,
I would still be a number-one fool,
wouldn't know what to do,
not even have a clue,
and not know that God has a blue hue.

If not for you, I would still
be turning on the big wheel
in different species of life,
like a hamster in his cage
trying to get his fill,
with no direction in sight,
putting up an impressive fight,
but with no direction in sight.

You opened my door and gave me the will;
otherwise, I would still be on the mill.

If not for you, the *bhakti* seed would not have sprouted,
with transcendental knowledge forming
the basis of elevation and satisfaction.
From muddy waters to blooming flowers,
I was surprised how quickly I towered.



If not for you, the holy name wouldn't have entered my heart,
allowing me a brand-new start,
independently vibrating my tongue,
and in disbelief, I also sang.

If not for you, I wouldn't have tasted
samosas and *kachoris* cooked in ghee.
The only fee was to chant "Hare Kṛṣṇa,"
be happy, and be free.

If not for you, I wouldn't climb so high,
reaching for the spiritual sky.
You have comforted me to try and try.
I am convinced it is not a lie,
and all I need to do is comply.

Bhakti relationship is based on pure love;
only then will Kṛṣṇa welcome you into his home
with an enchanting smile and a big hug.
Love seems to be the hardest to will;
therefore, please drag me home to Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa
in whichever way you feel.

Your servant,
Dhīraśānta dāsa Goswami

Gaṇapati Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As I am your initiated disciple and you are my (now physically unmanifest) representation of Paramātmā, I have always taken it for granted that you are naturally aware of my intentions and activities. But since my practical service is presently so meager, I have begun to question my ability to draw your attention. I am, however, confident that you will attend to the sincere offerings of your more devoted and productive followers and, in this way, you may kindly also take notice of mine by association.

kāmādīnāṁ kati na katidhā pālitā durnideśās
teṣāṁ jātā mayi na karuṇā na trapā nopaśāntiḥ
utsṛjyaitān atha yadu-pate sāmprataṁ labdha-buddhis
tvām āyātaḥ śaraṇam abhayaṁ māṁ niyuṅkṣvātma-dāsye

> O my Lord, there is no limit to the unwanted orders of lusty desires. Although I have rendered these desires so much service, they have not shown any mercy to me. I have not been ashamed to serve them, nor have I even desired to give them up. O my Lord, O head of the Yadu dynasty, recently, however, my intelligence has been awakened, and now I am giving them up. Due to transcendental intelligence, I now refuse to obey the unwanted orders of these desires, and I now come to You to surrender myself at Your fearless lotus feet. Kindly engage me in Your personal service and save me.

I am very weary of being in a material body that obstructs my every effort to render devotional service, coupled with a stubborn mind stuck in deep ruts from countless lifetimes. I would therefore like to beg a fervent request of Your Divine Grace: please petition our Lord to cleanse my consciousness and fashion me as an instrument in carrying out His mission to redirect this hell-bent society. You have given me so much, and although I am neither an orator nor a scholar, I do have an aptitude and apparent ability as a "reading leader" for *sādhakas,* as well as a distributor of your gifts to the public. Please engage me by your transcendental "power of attorney."

Your servant,
Gaṇapati Swami

Janānanda Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ 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 obeisance in the dust of your lotus feet.

Just now, I listened to a lecture by Nirañjana Swami given at an initiation in Lithuania and reminding us of what initiation meant in the early 1970s. The prominent aspect in those formative years, he so relevantly exposed, is that the mood of "I must do" or "have to do" was not our incentive. Unfortunately, I must say my mood is that I have to write my offering, since today is the deadline. And, it will be the "deadline" anytime soon.

Vyāsa-pūjā day again and again – at every moment you are appearing. But the specific day of your appearance is the most glorious day of our lives and indeed of the whole world, even though it may be unknown to almost everyone. The privilege of writing an offering to you is the greatest good fortune. That privilege is the right of each and every aspiring servant who is following in your footsteps. Writing an offering is an essential act of connection, of association.

In the words of Lord Kapila you so kindly gave us:

prasaṅgam ajaraṁ pāśam
ātmanaḥ kavayo viduḥ
sa eva sādhuṣu kṛto
mokṣa-dvāram apāvṛtam

> "Every learned man knows very well that attachment for the material is the greatest entanglement of the spirit soul. But that same attachment, when applied to the self-realized devotees, opens the door of liberation." (*Bhāgavatam* 3.25.20)

This is one of those foundational verses giving us a constant reminder of the path you walk and implore that we follow.

Absorbed in thinking of you, it is a time to deepen our attachment to you. A time to glorify you. To enter deeply into our relationship with you. To deepen our appreciation of you. To dedicate and rededicate ourselves to you. To remember all that you have done. To ponder your mission. To reflect on the movement since your departure and the amazing achievements of many of your disciples both within and without. A day to cry to you for mercy – to repent, to appreciate others, to let go of our false ego and embrace the transcendental ego of being proud to have the chance to associate with you. A day to realize how little devotion I have. A day of surrender.

These are the most intimate and significant moments of the year, simply thinking of you while attempting to write some words. Words from the heart. A golden opportunity to be honest. Of course, we should be honest at every moment, but this is the special time to truly feel your darshan, which is still as much available now as ever – in fact, it's even more available now through your ever-expanding family, because we can remember you through the many memories and accounts of your interactions and revelations others share with us.

Especially on this day, Kṛṣṇa provided technological methods by which we can absorb

ourselves in hearing and seeing the pure devotee. Above all your books is you, and you are the transparent medium in the books through which we can see Kṛṣṇa on every page. You are so powerful that by all these means you give your association to us, according to our surrender.

As Kṛṣṇa appears in many forms by which we witness the actions of His energies and thereby remember Him, so you also appear in many forms. We can remember you in practically everything, since you are not only a transcendentalist showing us that which is beyond our vision, but you are bringing that transcendence into the external world, to which we relate in every way. In every breath, step, thought, act, interaction, word, and deed. St. Francis of Assisi once said in answer to the question, "When we go out to preach, should we walk?": "It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching." Yes, you taught us to see everything in relationship with Kṛṣṇa and to use it the way He would like.

Today, we can reflect on what causeless good fortune we have to be so close to such an exalted person – the rarest opportunity in this world, what to speak of in Kali-yuga. Associating with you means associating with Kṛṣṇa, since Kṛṣṇa is always with you in your every moment.

Those in the outside world think you have gone, but you have not. You have left the boat of pure devotion on this shore for us to board. The boat is the shelter of your lotus feet, your instructions, and more.

This year, your birthday falls on September 5, at least in France. I look often at the VedaBase to see what you did on that day, what you said, and what was happening around you on that date. This is one way that we can hear and see you during your manifest pastimes every day. Another nice way to feel your presence at every moment.

In his book, *Servant of the Servant,* Tamāl Krishna Goswami mentions some of the drops of mercy you shared with a few disciples in your room on 5 September 1977. You were at Bhaktivedanta Manor on that day and in the last few months of your manifest presence. You were in extremely severe health.

"Oh, you are doing so much. If I live or die, it is all right. Otherwise, I want to see you all a little stronger."

"As a father likes to see his estate nicely managed, so I am like that. Get places and print. The whole world is simply waiting for Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Let us give them something. Let them be happy."

"We were sitting with Prabhupāda in his sitting room after darshan," Tamāl Krishna Mahārāja writes. "Seeing an opportune moment, I presented *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* Tenth Canto, Part One. With great affection he took the *Bhāgavatam,* held it to his head respectfully, and turned from page to page, reading everything carefully. Then he wanted us to read. I said, "You must give us all the chapters of the Tenth Canto." With a look that expressed determination and confidence that Kṛṣṇa would enable him, Prabhupāda agreed. He was then offered the Vyāsa-puja book. Turning each page and looking at all the pictures, he remarked, "Like father, like son."

On September 5, 1974, Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote to Bali Mardana: "My only anxiety is to guide you. Krishna sometimes makes me sick just to examine how much you have learned to conduct the business under my guidance, with a little independence. You should never act independently, because my guidance in my words are always there. The main guidance is all of us should remain spiritually strong by chanting the minimum number of rounds and following the rules and regulations."

Another transcendental way you are always guiding us to Kṛṣṇa through sickness and, finally, death.

And for me, who had little direct association with you, you are fully present in unlimited ways, although I do not fully appreciate it.

Your presence is felt in the annals of time.
To this day it remains fully sublime.
As we ponder your presence in the darkness of night
The memories of you give us light.

What sustains me and others is your life of submission
To your guru's orders and Kṛṣṇa's transmission.
Your *vāṇī* remains for all to embrace
Delivering fully your divine grace.

You have left the boat on this forlorn shore
To ferry us over with the spiritual oar
And bring us safely to the other side,
Free from illusion no more to hide,
To serve your Lord Kṛṣṇa with heart and soul
To realize that He's in control.

Where to begin and never to end
I offer this ode which on this day do send
On your 130th appearance day
Submit to your feet and fervently pray
That the glorification of your family tree
Will mercifully help me to properly see
Exactly what's happening beyond this mind
And open my eyes which are presently blind.

Your books, your temples, your eating, your talks,
Your breathing, your dressing, your movements, your walks,
Your smiling, chastisements, your humor, your love,
Compassion personified, descend from above.

Your chanting and dancing, your writing, dictations,
Your boldness in preaching "form united nations."
'Tis bhakti alone that will save the world,
The love within becoming unfurled.

Your care and attention to every and all,
Your reading and praying you lovingly call
To the Lord of your heart and His consort,
Guru and Vaiṣṇavas who give us support.

Your *śiṣyas,* godbrothers, to preaching the dharma,
Your dealings with others causing no harm
To the children, the public, to women, and old,
Preach no matter in heat and in cold.

Don't drive too fast and turn off the light.
Relish *prasādam* with every bite.
Waste not the *prasādam,* not even a grain.
Turn off the tap lest it pour down the drain

Keep the kitchen clean, it's Rādhā's abode.
The bathrooms, the toilets, spotlessly glowed.

The bedrooms, the storerooms, and all that exists –
To clean them persistently you did insist.

Be careful with *lakṣmī,* to us it belongs not.
Remember that no matter what we have got.
Must be used in his service down to the line
For Kṛṣṇa's pleasure and not for mine.

To all living beings compassion you show
Animals and birds and especially the cow,
To the plants and the trees, the horse and the bees,
To the fish and the insects, the dog or the fly
They are Kṛṣṇa's children – they don't want to die.

Your darshans, your lectures, your letters galore,
The Deities that you installed for all
The farms, the schools, the restaurants too,
Scientific preaching to show us what's true.

And book distribution, your heart and soul,
Showing clearly what is life's ultimate goal.
To us you gave the lawbooks of mankind:
For 10,000 years we can find
Direction, inspiration and every solution.
Push us on with unlimited distribution

On the streets of New York alone you did go.
The perfect example you did mercifully show.
Let's make this *yajña* our life and soul;
To distribute books our primary goal.

Your travels, your dealings with problems galore,
Your patience, humility, and unlimited more.
Your qualities are beyond our scope.
Your mercy stands as our only hope.

I can't forget *prasādam* at least two times a day.
That's 40,000 helpings – around forty tons, I'd say.
And my favorite halava, two tons downed at least –
Where has it gone, I ask myself, the fruit of many a feast.

But for me above all your presence is found
In your followers both gone and those still around
Who have carried your love wherever they go,
No matter how small or if we don't know
Who they are or what they did,
Their service to you is never hid
From the Lord of the heart who sees each act
Recording their good fortune, He keeps a track.

To the lesser known who humbly pursue
The path of devotion and service to you
Not expecting any honor or recognition,
Their devotion unswerving serving the mission.

To those who have temporarily drifted
We know that their service will always be gifted
With your unending mercy to bring them back home
Even though they may have appeared to roam.

To the GBC who relentlessly stay
Sacrificing their lives to maintain your way
With the ongoing challenge of keeping the mission
From breaking apart causing division
Facing challenges galore and criticism
Have stayed together avoiding a schism.

To numerous devotees who give me light
To help me through this darkness of night
Where oftentimes I lose my sight
And often consider to give up the fight

This is your *vāṇī,* which keeps me alive
I pray that your mission will unlimitedly thrive.
Maintaining your gifts and not claiming them mine
But to humbly submit for eternal time.

To hold your hand and never let go
Submit at your feet and remain always low
To be guided by you and never depart
To accept you in the core of my heart
As my life and soul your *vāṇī* I hold
Your living example a drop has been told.

At this time of reflection
Unavoidable dejection
To see so many stalwarts depart
And now when this body is old
And energies are almost sold
Please appear within my heart.

To guide me on the final leg
Your mercy I humbly beg.

I know that some clever or foolish poetry means nothing in and of itself, especially when it is presented with desire for recognition, but I hope that somehow a small drop will benefit someone and maybe please you. At least it has occupied my devious mind in thinking of you for hours on end. For this opportunity I thank you again and again, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for "appearing in this world" and allowing such a rogue as myself the privilege of a drop of your association.

When, as Nirañjana Mahārāja so succinctly pointed out, will that "have to do" become a "want to do" and eventually "all that I do"? I wish that could be my permanent state.

Servant of your servants' servants,
Janānanda Goswami

Kṛṣṇa Kṣetra Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I take this occasion to again celebrate your blessed appearance in our midst as an opportunity to offer prostrated, heartfelt obeisance to your lotuslike feet, and to submit this reflective attempt to offer you praise.

While reading your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.9.36 – the last of the four verses on "the mystery of all inquiries" identified by our *ācāryas* as the *catuḥ-ślokī Bhāgavatam,* or *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in four verses, I appreciate your clarity in identifying the core motivation of worldly life, namely "sense gratification." English language historians tell us that the word "gratify" in earlier times had the positive sense of showing grace or favor on someone, suggesting a spirit of goodwill toward that person, whereas now, since the eighteenth century, it indicates personal satisfaction or indulgence of one's own desires. Your intended meaning of "gratification" is surely associated with the word's later usage, characterized by the "me first" mentality. You have written,

> The whole material existence has sprung up because of sense gratification, desires based principally on the sex desire, and the result is that in spite of all advancement of knowledge, the final goal of all the activities of the living entities is sense gratification.

By this simple analysis you, in effect, deconstruct and dismantle the entire edifice of "modern" and "postmodern" philosophical thought. More strongly put, you have *gutted* the edifice by your encompassing frame of "the whole material existence."

The intellectual world – mainly in the decades following your presence among us – has seen the rise to prominence of ideas bundled as "postmodernity." J. A. J. Storm explains that five themes are typically bundled together under the term "postmodernism":

> (1) Antirealism; (2) an emphasis on endings, which have often included disciplinary autocritique; (3) an extreme version of the linguistic turn that characterizes the world in terms of texts; (4) a broad climate of skepticism; and (5) ethical relativism (sometimes called "ethical nihilism").*

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have anticipated and challenged all five of these features of postmodernism in the course of your writings and talks, but in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.9.36 you hint at addressing the second feature, namely the emphasis on endings, as you note that,

> [A]ll advancement of knowledge in the present context of things is being misused by cats and dogs fighting with one another for sense gratification, and all acquisition of knowledge in science, philosophy, fine arts, nationalism, economic development, religion and great activities are being spoiled by being used as dresses for dead men.

To describe "all acquisition of knowledge" as "being used as dresses for dead men" is an expression in your characteristically rhetorical style of condemnation and dismissal of any and all philosophical ventures as so many dead ends, so long as they fall short of minimally acknowledging the existence of a supreme being.

I find another striking example of your rhetorical style two verses previous (2.9.34). In your purport you use the word "sane" five times: The "sane man" is "enlightened in the disciplic

* J. A. J. Storm, *Metamodernism: The Future of Theory* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021), p. 9.

succession"; "the sane man ... accepts this statement of the Lord [*ahaṁ sarvasya prabhavo* ...]"; "[t]he sane man ... knows [that the "Lord is the original source of all emanations ..."]; "... the sane person knows clearly that the Lord can act, even from far, far beyond our vision ..."; and "... the sane person knows *prakṛti* as the illusory energy of the Lord."

A critic would likely insist that your use of the word *sane* implies censure of all persons who don't fit your criteria of sanity as necessarily "insane." They would accuse you of implying – if not directly making – ad hominem arguments, a type of logical fallacy that works rhetorically by the social force of shaming.

To this I would reply that your aim is not to gain points in the halls of the logicians; rather, your aim is clearly to open minds to a most radical proposition, namely, as you write in your purport to the first of these four essential verses (2.9.33), "... one should aspire for personal realization of the Lord ..." Here is the full context of this last exhortation by you:

> Even in the impersonal existence of the Lord, as it is in the material creation, one should aspire for personal realization of the Lord, and that is the meaning of *paścād ahaṁ yad etac ca yo 'vaśiṣyeta so 'smy aham*.

My prayer to you is that I may fully imbibe this – your thoroughly deconstructive vision of this world as the product of sense gratification, and your striking reconstruction of this world's apparent impersonhood – as an opportunity to have personal realization of the Lord. May I, by the power of your words and the profound care they carry, cherish the vision you offer through apparent rhetorical flourish. And may I thus be able to reach beyond the manifold worldly insanity that passes as "modern" or "postmodern" reasoning to deepen my aspiration for personal realization of the Lord, under your able and challenging guidance.

Always your servant,
Kṛṣṇa Kṣetra Swami

Lokanāth Swami

My Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

During a recent gathering in Pandharpur with my senior disciples, managers, and leaders we reflected deeply on the various instructions you gave me throughout my life, including how I endeavored to execute them, what still remains unfinished, and how many services, departments, projects, and preaching initiatives developed from those instructions. A major focus of our deliberations was the future: how these services and responsibilities would continue after my physical departure, and how they could be preserved, expanded, and carried forward into future generations.

From these reflections emerged a clearer understanding of the legacy projects and initiatives that, by your mercy, have been established and brought to maturity as direct offerings of service to your instructions. This reflection on the legacy created in your service forms the essence of this Vyāsa-pūjā offering. I humbly pray that my followers, particularly those entrusted with leadership

and managerial responsibilities, will protect, nurture, and perpetuate these legacy services, for your continued pleasure.

The single most inspiring instruction of my life began on Rādhāṣṭamī, during a room conversation, on 1 September 1976, at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pārthasārathi Mandir in ISKCON Delhi: "You don't need to travel on the bus in India. You can go by bullock cart." You mercifully instructed me to begin the bullock cart *saṅkīrtana* preaching program (Padayātrā). Later, during the inaugural gathering in Vrindavan on 12 September 1976, you again instructed me, concluding with the words: "*Yāre dekha tāre kaha 'hare kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa*."

I always felt this was a personal and custom-made instruction for me. Ordinarily, the phrase is *kṛṣṇa-upadeśa,* but you specifically said *hare kṛṣṇa-upadeśa.* I understood from this that you were directing me to dedicate my life to propagating the holy name everywhere through Padayātrā.

These instructions, repeated through correspondence and personal encounters, became the sole direction and purpose of my life. You encouraged me: "Yes. Go from village to village. It is a very noble attempt. And if you sincerely preach, Kṛṣṇa will … *buddhi-yogaṁ dadāmi taṁ yena mām upayānti te.* There is no doubt." (Vrindavan, September 12, 1976) What began as a single bullock cart gradually expanded into a worldwide movement of *harināma-saṅkīrtana*. On 16 March 1977 you wrote, "We can introduce many millions of such carts all over the world."



In 1991, the ISKCON GBC formally recognized Padayātrā's global mission: "To bring the congregational chanting of the holy name to every town and village of the world through organized Padayātrā festivals."

Your desire continues to unfold. During your Centennial celebrations, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Padayātrās were conducted in more than one hundred countries. Collectively, they have now traveled over 400,000 kilometers, equivalent to circumambulating the earth sixteen times.

"Prasada distribution and chanting and book distribution is sufficient for your program." (Letter, 23 December 1976)

Eight Indian states now conduct their own Padayātrās, which continues to be a leading contributor to book distribution, just as you instructed. As a service to your instruction, it is my earnest desire to see the Padayātrā movement carried forward for the next ten thousand years, until the chanting of the holy name reaches every town and every village.

For more than forty years, devotees from around the world have participated in the Kārttika Vraja-maṇḍala Parikramā. experiencing spiritual rejuvenation through thirty days of immersion in the holy *dhāma*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you established the great Mayapur and Vrindavan festivals, and *parikramā* has always been an integral part of these sacred festivals. Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself performed this *parikramā,* and your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, organized Vraja *parikramā* in 1932, in which Your Divine Grace participated.

To help pilgrims understand the spiritual significance of each sacred place, I compiled *Vraja-maṇḍala Darśana,* a book that has now been translated into at least seven languages (and counting). Following your example and the tradition you upheld, I strongly feel that every single devotee should perform Vraja-maṇḍala *parikramā* at least once in their lifetime, and I pray that by your mercy, this tradition continues for thousands of years to come.

"The whole of India and specifically your Maharashtra are enthused with Krishna. Now you have to revive their Krishna consciousness … So revive them by the process of the sankirtana movement." (Letter, 30 July 1977)

Inspired by this instruction, I initiated systematic preaching in Maharashtra, establishing temples and overseeing Deity installations so that devotees could have stable centers for *sādhana,* kirtan, preaching, education, festivals, and community life. You wrote: "Organize very solidly and thus increase the number of books distributed, the numbers of devotees made, and develop centers of Krishna consciousness everywhere." (Letter, 30 July 1977)

Centers are flourishing in Maharashtra: Solapur (Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara); Beed (Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda-deva); Latur and Pachora (Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā); Ichalkaranji (Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara); and Amravati (Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārakādhiśa). These are the principal temples, alongside dozens of extension centers and preaching outposts.

In Gautam Buddha Nagar District, now known as Greater Delhi State, we have many temple projects – Noida, Greater Noida, and Jewa, to name a few. The opening of Noida International Airport has brought greater importance to our temple projects in the zone.

You wrote: "You should train the one farmer from your native village so that he can actually become an ISKCON representative there." (Letter, 30 July 1977) The entire region has been spiritually elevated. Aravade, my birthplace, has become enthused with Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla has become a cherished place of pilgrimage and worship.

All these temples, projects, and initiatives have been developed in accordance with your vision – keeping a succession plan and the next generation of devotees in mind. The foundation has now been laid, and I look to the Regional Secretary assistants, leaders, and managers to carry this legacy forward to expand and maintain these efforts and "to revive Krishna consciousness by the process of the sankirtana movement."

In the early 1970s, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you returned to India with your Western disciples.

Looking at the map of India, you began identifying key locations for establishing centers of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You put your finger on the map to indicate Nagpur, marked by the historic Zero Mile of India.

Recognizing its central position, you expressed your desire that a grand temple be established there. This instruction has taken form today as the beautiful lotus-shaped International Vedic Cultural Centre (IVCC), a majestic temple and cultural palace of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha, a living embodiment of your wish and will.

Your affectionate statement, "Our Lokanath Swami is just like Saint Tukaram," deeply connected me with Pandharpur and my traditional spiritual roots. Pandharpur is the spiritual capital of Maharashtra and the abode of Lord Viṭṭhala, and under your encouragement I began my preaching career there.

Pandharpur also has a strong Gauḍīya connection – Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's eleven-day visit there, Lord Nityānanda Prabhu's initiation there by Lakṣmīpati Tīrtha, and Viśvarūpa winding up His pastimes and departing for the spiritual world from there.

The highlights of the new Bhūvaikuṇṭha Temple project include the iconic Prabhupāda Ghat, a magnificent temple, a Prabhupāda museum, exhibition galleries, a goshala, international-standard guesthouses, restaurants, extensive pilgrim services, the Rūpānuga Vidyāpīṭha (educational facilities), Bhaktivedanta Hospital, and a residential devotee community.

I pray that by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the new Bhūvaikuṇṭha in Pandharpur will develop into a grand international spiritual and cultural hub, becoming well known throughout India and worldwide, revealing its spiritual glory to pilgrims and future generations.

Near Nagpur, in Maharashtra, lies Kaundanyapur, the birthplace of Śrīmatī Rukmiṇī Devī, a sacred *dhāma* deserving of global recognition. This holy *dhāma* is directly connected to one of the most beautiful pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa: the "kidnapping" pastime of Lord Kṛṣṇa and His accepting Rukmiṇī Devī as His eternal queen.

Our temple project, currently under development, stands on the site where Lord Kṛṣṇa's chariot stood during the divine pastime. The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava heritage, along with the importance of this holy place, call for it to be properly established, preserved, and revealed, so that it may become a recognized place of pilgrimage for Vaiṣṇavas worldwide. By your mercy and guidance, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and through my humble service, I aspire to see this sacred *dhāma* properly developed and revealed to the world.

In 2018, I established Zoom Harināma Mandir to ensure that devotees, especially initiated disciples, chant their rounds in the morning. Of course, it is open to all your followers and the disciples of my godbrothers, some of whom have been joining. Also, several of my godbrothers give *japa* talks. Now, seven years later, around two thousand devotees from across the world gather daily, and the initiative has been recognized by the *World Book of Records* for three consecutive years of uninterrupted global mantra meditation. I pray this nonsectarian online *mandira* continues long beyond my personal presence.

"There is need of making more Indian devotees. We have to make more men like you." (Room conversation, Bombay, 1975) By your own example, you taught us that spiritual leadership means caring for people, shaping character, and cultivating devotion. You wrote: "Train them according to your needs. Krishna has given you and your companions a very nice responsibility. If you like you can go all over India and make it more and more in that way." (Letter, 14 December 1976)

More than ten thousand of my disciples, and of course they are your granddisciples, in over fifty-five countries are now serving your mission. Initiation was only the beginning. I have endeavored to train, encourage, and gradually prepare them for meaningful service so they become spiritually strong, philosophically grounded, responsible, competent, cooperative gentlemen and capable of serving with maturity and integrity.

"Keep your behavior right to the point, set a very good example and others will follow. Yes,

I want you to concentrate on preaching." (Letter, 23 December 1976) Devotees learn not only through instruction, but through association, conduct, standards, and personal example. I have especially encouraged simplicity, humility, *sādhana,* Vaiṣṇava behavior, preaching spirit, and loyalty to ISKCON. My aim is to cultivate future servants, teachers, leaders, and caretakers of your movement. I am dependent mostly on them to continue, to maintain what has been created and, of course, further expand these programs and projects, Padayātrās and publications.

"Although it may take long to master Sanskrit, once it is learned, the student passes through 'the gateway to education.'" (*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 15.5 purport) Through your books, you carefully preserved Sanskrit Devanāgarī, transliteration, word-by-word meanings, translations, and introduced morning and evening recitations of the *Gītā* and *Bhāgavatam* so that devotees everywhere could gradually hear, read, pronounce, study, and appreciate the language of the Vedic literature. I want to encourage Sanskrit learning within ISKCON – academically, devotionally, and practically – so devotees may develop deeper appreciation and understanding of your books, prayers, mantras, and the original śāstric tradition.

You repeatedly emphasized the importance of proper pronunciation: "Every mantra of the Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam is sabda-brahma ... If the mantra is poorly articulated, then the sound form of the Lord is disfigured." (Letter, 5 April 1970) With this inspiration, I also prepared a Sanskrit pronunciation guide to help devotees properly articulate Sanskrit sounds, chant verses carefully, sing prayers correctly, and gain confidence in approaching Sanskrit study. We humbly seek your blessings for this initiative to promote learning Sanskrit, including its correct pronunciation, so the devotees can better understand scripture. A selected group of learned ISKCON Sanskrit scholars will work with ISKCON's Education Ministry to promote and propagate Sanskrit only to those who are voluntarily willing and competent to learn.

"The business of advanced and empowered devotees is to write books, publish them, and distribute them widely." (*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 19.132) I have authored about a dozen books and have many more writing projects in the pipeline. Śrīla Prabhupāda, only you could simultaneously write and translate books while traveling and managing ISKCON's affairs worldwide. You instructed, "You do as I did," but I am certainly not able to do as you did. Yours was an amazing and almost inconceivable feat. During the last leg of my journey, I am trying to hand over my managerial responsibilities so that I may find time for writing. I have established a publishing house called ISKCON Padayatra Press. I once again beg your blessings for success with this herculean task. Books are a very special significant part of a legacy. The physical body may leave, but one stays behind in the form of one's books.

You had personally witnessed what happened after the departure of your own spiritual master. You clearly wrote: "Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, at the time of his departure, requested all his disciples to form a governing body and conduct missionary activities cooperatively. He did not instruct a particular man to become the next *ācārya*." (*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 12.8, purport)

You did not want individual gurus to assume the position of independent *ācāryas* and ultimate managers, thereby fragmenting the institution into competing factions. You clearly foresaw the dangers of guru groupism, and therefore to fulfill your spiritual master's instruction and protect ISKCON, you established the Governing Body Commission. In your final will, you stated: "The Governing Body Commission (GBC) will be the ultimate managing authority."

I have personally endeavored to take practical and deliberate steps so that guru groupism and the Zonal Ācārya Syndrome may be checked and gradually eradicated, especially within ISKCON in India, where guru groupism still prevails. During the recent ISKCON India Bureau meeting, I put forward a proposal in this regard, which was accepted. It was resolved "that the ISKCON Bureau constitutes ISKCON India Guru and Sannyasa Services Committee to process, coordinate, and monitor the guru/sannyasa candidates and gurus/sannyasa," of which I am a member.

The essential aim is for many gurus, many leaders, and many services, but one heart and one unified mission under the GBC, as you envisaged.

On the occasion of your 130th Vyāsa-pūjā, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I humbly offer this account of my imperfect efforts to serve your instructions. Many of these initiatives are still developing and have not yet matured. I therefore beg your blessings for strength, intelligence, and purity for myself and for those who will carry these efforts forward for your pleasure.

Your servant always,
Lokanāth Swami

Mahādyuti Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Your glories, of course, are unlimited, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Yet for this homage I'll comment briefly on only one outstanding feature of your transcendentally genius vision – a feature that may be unknown to many of your followers.

Śrutakīrti Dāsa told me that you mentioned to him that you were successful because you made "the adjustment" to allow women to live in the temples. What a bold and revolutionary departure from the culture from which you came! And what a startling assertion that this adjustment was integral to your success!

Though certainly you respected Vedic culture and tradition, and though you were keen on establishing *varṇāśrama-dharma,* you were obviously much more concerned with whatever was most effective for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the prime necessity for every human being.

In your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 23.105, you write, "What is possible in one country may not be possible in another. The *ācārya's* duty is to accept the essence of devotional service." That, indeed, is the duty you accepted, Śrīla Prabhupāda – according to time, place, and circumstance – in American, European, Australian, and other societies, where men and women tend to mix freely.

Besides allowing women to live in the temples, you engaged them in the same activities in which you engaged the men – especially in preaching. Sometimes you insisted on their lecturing and leading kirtans, even in the presence of *sannyāsīs,* and even in India, where the audience sometimes numbered in the thousands.

"Women in our movement can also preach very nicely," you wrote to Mālatī Devī Dāsī on 25 December 1974. "Actually male and female bodies, these are just outward designations.... The qualification for leading class is how much one understands about Krsna and surrendering to the process. Not whether one is male or female."

You clearly affirmed that "these women are not ordinary women. They are preachers. They are preachers. They are Vaiṣṇava. By their association, one becomes a Vaiṣṇava." (Morning walk, Bombay, 27 March 1974)

And Mādhavānanda Dāsa recalls that at the end of a morning walk in Calcutta in 1972, when some *brahmacārīs* had been complaining about the presence of women in the temple, you corrected them, saying, "If you associate with these women, you will go back to Godhead."

Your consistent care and respect for these ladies spurred them to perform colossal amounts of high-quality service for your movement. They often endured severe austerities, such as traveling in vans in freezing weather and tolerating the abuse of lusty men, just to distribute your books. They also, most unfortunately, had to endure, contrary to your wishes, disrespect from and marginalizing by many of your male disciples.

As your godbrothers criticized you for allowing ladies to live in the temples, some of my godbrothers will surely criticize me for making this topic the focus of my homage to you. I take solace, however, in your well-known instruction: "Do as I do." I am simply trying to follow in your footsteps, which I am absolutely certain are progressing in the right direction and in the most effective and blissful way.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and all your transcendentally genius preaching "adjustments"!

Your faithful disciple,
Mahādyuti Swami

Mahāprabhu Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to you on the occasion of your divine appearance.

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

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

On this wonderful day, the entire ISKCON community around the world remembers you with gratitude and love, for it is thanks to you that we have received a new life – one that is about true reality. Through your person and teachings, so many people awaken from a confused nightmare – the materialistic life woven with ignorance.

In our age, the entire human society has fallen victim to this diseased condition. Moreover, the suffering masses are further misled by many cheating teachers and pseudospiritualists. As you write in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.26.6, "Currently, in this Kali-yuga, the entire human society has become a society of cheaters and cheated."

The Lord advises Arjuna to approach a bona fide spiritual master who has seen the truth if one

wishes to be freed from the confusion born of ignorance. The position of the spiritual master is described in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.17.27):

ācāryaṁ māṁ vijānīyān nāvamanyeta karhicit
na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-devamayo guruḥ

> "One should understand the spiritual master to be as good as Myself," said the blessed Lord. "No one should be envious of the spiritual master or consider him an ordinary man, for he represents all the demigods."

You, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, are in this position, yet you consider yourself only the humble servant of your beloved spiritual master, and you see all your achievements as the mercy of guru and Kṛṣṇa.

Unfortunately, I could not meet you personally, but your disciples, books, and teachings all testify to your presence – that is, you are still giving your blessings. You are the founder-*ācārya,* not just one teacher among many. You carry the special empowerment of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Rūpa Gosvāmī, and Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī.

With their message in your heart, you set out to help the fallen souls of this dark age. What you accomplished is truly a miracle, was it not? As a perfect instrument, the Lord was able to use you in His divine plan, and He is all-powerful.

Thank you for this inconceivable mercy, and I pray for your causeless blessings so that I too may become a suitable instrument in your hands and in the hands of your devotees.

Your insignificant servant,
Mahāprabhu Swami

Mahāviṣṇu Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, my eternal father,

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

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

Please try and excuse me for not writing my Vyāsa-pūjā offerings the last few years. It is no real excuse, but as my body and mind began to creak more and more in old age (now my body is 81 years old), I couldn't keep up whilst traveling enthusiastically with our version of your World Samkirtan Party, your "long-cherished idea" you wished to see fulfilled (as per your letter to Tamal Krishna 18 October 1969).

In your *Bhāgavatam* purport to 6.5.43, you said that the angry parents of your disciples had cursed you to not stay in one place to do your service of writing books. You said you wanted your

sannyāsīs to relieve you of that curse by traveling worldwide. I have been blessed with that curse, and since 2016 have been traveling around the world annually with the multinational, multiguru, and multigenerational Harināma Ruci party led by His Grace Viṣṇujana Prabhu from Slovakia.

Whichever nation and city we are welcomed into, we stay for a few days, go out with the local devotees into the city centers, and perform *harināma,* trying to actively engage the public in blissfully chanting the holy names and taking your books.

To please you, I have over the years since your departure, also become responsible to help develop the expansion of ISKCON in Nepal, DR Congo, and parts of East Africa.

You closed your own *vapuḥ* pastimes when your body was 81. Mine is now also 81. By Kṛṣṇa's grace, if it pleases you, I may be able to squeeze some more useful years out of this mortal British dress.

Now I want to improve the quality of my slipshod service and somehow please you more. Please give your glance of mercy to this struggling soul who is arriving at the scrap heap of this body. Please bless me to make the best use of my dwindling bad bargain.

How can I – or anyone – find the words to express what incomparable glorious service you have done and are still doing for Lord Caitanya's mission and all spirit souls on this polluted Kali-yuga planet? Let us all therefore cooperate with one another to fulfill your desires as ISKCON's founder-*ācārya* and the *jagat-guru*.

Trailing clouds of Kṛṣṇa's glories – the holy names and your transcendental words and example – you and your beloved messengers came from afar to drag me and countless others, past, present, and future, from the darkness of animal-like ignorance to the light of eternal Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Thank you!

I am always unable to repay your divine gift of a new life when you revealed to me in your introduction to *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In this regard, as you wrote to praise your own Guru Mahārāja, so I praise you: "Absolute is sentient thou hast proved / impersonal calamity thou hast moved." (Vyāsa-pūjā offering to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī)

Please kindly cast a special glance on me to keep me, till my dying breath, always enthusiastic to find nectarean new ways to engage people in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In this regard, I again use the words you used to praise your own Guru Mahārāja:

Wonder thy ways
  To turn our face,
Adore thy feet
  Your Divine Grace.

Śrī kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam kī jaya!

Your fallen, struggling, *sannyāsī* servant,
Mahāviṣṇu Swami



Mukunda Goswami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

In the Ganges River one sees big and small waves. When one first sees this great river, one tends to think *all* the waves are, metaphorically speaking, *all* great holy men, past and present. However, on mature reflection, one sees that you are the truly big wave, the unassailable, faultless big wave, the all-perfect *sādhu,* resident of Lord Kṛṣṇa's house, the worldwide influencer to accept the essence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness philosophy. Many, including Bhakti-bhūṣaṇa Mahārāja and myself, have reached this conclusion.

All glories to you who deserve this position, the biggest of the big waves.

Your servant eternally,
Mukunda Goswami

Pārtha Sārathi dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace and our *guru-varga*.

You write in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi-līlā,* chapter 17, text 1, purport), "Everywhere people express this astonishment, and we take great pride in the transcendental behavior of our students. Such wonders are possible, however, only by the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. They are not ordinary or mundane."

I humbly pray that I can continue to serve you under your guidance and the guidance of the disciplic succession. Please allow me to always remember you in your *sādhaka* form, and one day, if I am so fortunate, in your *siddha* form. I place my head millions of times at the lotus feet of your disciples, granddisciples, and followers.

jagāi mādhāi haite muñi se pāpiṣṭha
purīṣera kīṭa haite muñi se laghiṣṭha

> I am more sinful than Jagāi and Mādhāi and even lower than the worms in the stool. (*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā,* chapter 5, text 205)

The goal is *vraja-bhakti,* and you are distributing this. Please allow me to assist you in this endeavor.

I remain your servant,
Pārtha Sārathi dāsa Goswami

Rādhe Śyāmānanda Swami

O most worshipable founder-*ācārya,* my eternal master and ever well-wisher, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet, again and again.

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, I stand before you with a heart that is both grateful and inadequate – grateful, because whatever little connection I have with Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga is only due to your causeless mercy; inadequate, because words fail to truly express the depth of that gratitude.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you crossed oceans not just of water but of impossibility. At an age when most withdraw from the world, you entered it with divine determination, carrying the order of your spiritual master as your very life and soul. You did not see barriers of language, culture, or geography – you saw only souls suffering in forgetfulness of Kṛṣṇa. And out of compassion, you gave everything.

Today, as a second-generation *sannyāsī* in your mission, initiated in the line descending from your dear disciple His Holiness Lokanath Swami, I can only marvel at how your mercy continues to flow. I am simply a tiny recipient of that current, carried forward through your sincere followers.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in whatever little service I attempt in traveling and preaching, I constantly feel your presence. On the roads, in the villages, in cities and distant lands, I see how your books speak, how your instructions guide, and how your desire to uplift humanity still vibrates strongly. I realize that I am not the doer; I am merely trying to be an instrument in your hands.

You taught us that preaching is the highest compassion. Yet when I try, I see how much purity, surrender, and faith it requires. Often, I find myself lacking, yet your example pushes me forward. When challenges arise, I remember your struggles alone in a foreign land, without support, yet full of unshakable faith in the holy name.

Your life is my compass. Your words are my shelter.

You did not only establish temples; you established hope. You did not only translate scriptures, you revealed Kṛṣṇa to the world. You did not only create an institution; you built a spiritual family where conditioned souls like me could find purpose.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless me that I may never forget that I am your servant. Let me never seek comfort over service, recognition over sincerity, or convenience over commitment. Kindly give me the strength to carry forward your mission with humility and determination, even in the face of my own shortcomings.

Let my travels not be for prestige but for your pleasure. Let my words not be my own but reflections of your teachings. Let my life become, in some small way, an offering at your lotus feet.

I pray that I may always remain under the shelter of your devotees, especially those who are sincerely carrying your mission forward. And I pray that I may develop a fraction of their dedication, their simplicity, and their love for you.

On this sacred Vyāsa-pūjā day, I offer myself again, imperfect, struggling, but hopeful at your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant,
Rādhe Śyāmānanda Swami

Rāma Govinda Swami

Param pūjya param gurudeva,

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

Param gurudeva! While reading *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* especially cantos 3, 4, 5, and 11, where there are a lot of philosophical explanations, sometimes I find it difficult to understand. But when I offer prayers to guru and the *guru-paramparā,* it becomes understandable. Reading your purports again and again helps me understand the philosophy. Reading your purports to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the *Bhagavad-gītā,* I feel I am hearing only from you.

The scriptures also say that one must hear from the spiritual master about the glories of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* Canto 5 (chapter 25, text 8), describing the glories of Lord Anantadeva, Lord Saṅkarṣaṇa says that hearing the glories of the Lord from the spiritual master helps one to get liberated:

> Śrīla Śukadeva Goswāmi says: "If persons who are very serious about being liberated from material life hear the glories of Anantadeva from the mouth of a spiritual master in the chain of disciplic succession, and if they always meditate upon Saṅkarṣaṇa, the Lord enters the cores of their hearts, vanquishes all the dirty contamination of the material modes of nature, and cuts to pieces the hard knot within the heart, which has been tied tightly since time immemorial by the desire to dominate material nature through fruitive activities. Nārada Muni, the son of Lord Brahmā, always glorifies Anantadeva in his father's assembly."

It is further stated, "Even if he be distressed or degraded, any person who chants the holy name of the Lord, having heard it from a bona fide spiritual master, is immediately purified. Even if he chants the Lord's name jokingly or by chance, he and anyone who hears him are freed from all sins. Therefore how can anyone seeking disentanglement from the material clutches avoid chanting the name of Lord Śeṣa? Of whom else should one take shelter?" (*Bhāgavatam* 5.25.11)

Lord Saṅkarṣaṇa, who is one of the quadruple expansions of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Kṛṣṇa, is also *ādi-guru*. With the mercy of Your Divine Grace, the *ādi-guru* of the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, representative of Lord Saṅkarṣaṇa, we can also be situated in real ego and engaged in loving devotional service to the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord. It is my conviction that such a miracle can happen only by understanding your purports in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the *Bhagavad-gītā* and then practicing accordingly.

Param gurudeva! You said in your purport to *Bhāgavatam* 7.9.18, "As soon as a devotee can chant the holy name and glories of the Supreme Lord, he certainly comes to the liberated position. Attachment for glorifying the Lord by hearing and chanting the holy name and activities of the Lord (śravanam *kīrtanaṁ viṣṇoḥ*) certainly brings one to the position where material contamination is absent. One should chant the bona fide songs received from the disciplic succession. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* it is said that the chanting is powerful when one follows the disciplic succession (*evaṁ paramparā-prāptam imaṁ rājarṣayo viduḥ*)."

Param gurudeva! Your Divine Grace has given us all the wonderful facilities for hearing the pastimes of the Supreme Lord, chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* serving the Vaiṣṇavas, and serving the Deities, Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Gaura-Nitāi. No other spiritual organization other than your ISKCON provides such opportunities.

Please bless me to continue to engage in the service of your preaching mission, following your

instructions above. As I am advancing in age, I am facing some difficulties with my body, but with your blessings, which I am sure of, I wish to continue to travel and serve your lotus feet.

In the service of Śrī *guru-paramparā* and Gaurāṅga,
Your servant of the servants,
Rāma Govinda Swami

Śacīnandana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Please allow me to glorify you on your appearance day in two ways: (1) in a general way, and (2) in a personal way.

Your Unexcelled Glories

You are actually the fulfiller of the ancient prophecy made by Nārada Muni. After he had recited the *Bhāgavatam* to the two sons of Bhakti Devī, Jñāna and Vairāgya, and revived them from their life-threatening coma, he encouraged Bhakti Devī herself by making a solemn promise:

kālīnā sadṛśaḥ ko'pi yugo nāsti varānane
tasmins tvaṁ sthāpayiṣyāmi gehe gehe jane jane

> O charming Bhakti Devī! There is no other age that can compare to Kali-yuga. In this age I will personally establish you in each and every home and within each and every heart.

anya dharmāns tiraskṛtya puraskṛtya mahotsavān
tadā nāhaṁ harer dāso loke tvaṁ na pravartaye

> O Bhakti Devī! Neglecting all other paths of religiosity, if I do not propagate you all around the world in Kali-yuga by organizing various devotional festivals, then I shall no longer be known as a servant of Lord Hari. – *Śrīmad-bhāgavata-māhātmyam* 2.13–14

Śrīla Prabhupāda, if you would not have taken this vow to heart and would not have preached far and wide and so vigorously, then Bhakti Devī would not have been established in "*gehe gehe*

jane jane," every home and heart. Clearly it is you who fulfilled Nārada's vow. It is you who took Bhakti out of India and brought her to the most remote places on the planet.

Clearly, the tenets of devotion, including the *yuga-dharma* (*kīrtana* of the holy names), are made widely known by you and your followers, who derive all their strength and knowledge from you. This is what is in plain sight of everyone who is willing to investigate impartially, without envy.

But there is something more I wish to say.

Your Ongoing Mercy in My Life

Were it not for you and your most merciful and continuous investment in our relationship, I would be lost.

In July 1969 you expressed your 100 percent acceptance of all your disciples from the time of initiation to eternity – a relationship that can never be broken. This letter reveals what you feel for each single one of us.

> So far as I am concerned, I have accepted you as my disciple and you have accepted me as your spiritual father. This relationship cannot be ended anymore. It is eternal. So it will be my duty always to pray to Krishna for your further and further improvement in Krishna Consciousness, so you should go on serving this movement to your best capacity. (Letter to Rayarama, Los Angeles, 8 July 1969)

In this world we often hear of relationships that are terminated. Friends become estranged and go their own ways; married people divorce; teachers and students abolish their relationship … A firm, lifelong commitment to a relationship is rarely seen.

You, however, take it as your personal responsibility to help your disciples and get all of them back to Kṛṣṇa. For all time. You do not give up on any of us.

In a very moving letter to Umāpati Prabhu, written on November 3, 1967), you spoke of your firm commitment to this transcendental connection. (By the way, I think your commitment is there for all those who seriously take your shelter – not just your initiated disciples).

> Any good soul who approaches me once for spiritual enlightenment is supposed to be depending on my responsibility to get him back to Krishna, back to home. The disciple may misunderstand a bona fide spiritual master being obliged to do so under pressure of Maya's influence. But a bona fide spiritual master never lets go a devotee once accepted. When a disciple misunderstands a bona fide spiritual master, the master regrets for his inability to protect the disciple and sometimes he cries with tears in the eyes.

Statements such as the above two are greatly inspiring me to keep endeavoring with all I have because I know you will always be with me and will never "let me go." These are not empty words; I can actually feel your presence and how you watch over me as a lioness watches over her young and sometimes foolish cub.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I never want to take your kindness for granted – to see it as a free pass for becoming careless and forgetting my responsibility in our relationship. To sincerely give my best to follow and serve you always is the life breath that helps me to continue living.

On this day of your divine appearance, I fall at your lotus feet in great gratitude. Again and again, please accept my prostrated obeisances.

Your humble servant,
Śacīnandana Swami

Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

I noted that this year will be the historic sixtieth anniversary since you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, founded ISKCON and began your extraordinary mission to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the world.

I am fortunate to take part in glorifying you in your Vyāsa-pūjā book and at the same time have appeared on "the number one podcast of ISKCON – the Namarasa/Vyenkatta Bhatta interview." In my case, I was picked up personally by you some sixty years ago from the gutter (my initiation was on September 23, 1966), a very fallen, sinful, addicted wretch living in bad association on New York City's Lower East Side. The two podcasters invited me to their show at the beginning of 2026, and I was able to speak of my early memories of you, Swamijī, and this was much to the pleasure of thousands of devotees who had never been present or heard about these pastimes of yours, and how you struggled in the beginning, and how you gathered less than ten men (or boys, as you called us), and with compassion, courage, and unwavering devotion, raised us at first as a small family.

To this day I still recall those early days as my favorite, because you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, were so accessible to us. And for myself, personally, I really needed special attention from you – and you gave it freely and saved me. I promise I will never forget your individual attention and kindness toward me, and I will never leave your feet or abandon your mission.

I have an irresistible desire to remember the early days with you, but not at the cost of acknowledging how wonderfully you and your followers have expanded your desires and seen the movement grow, purify itself of its *anarthas,* and become more and more potent and populated with sincere souls over the years and decades.

Now it is sixty years since you began and since I joined. And while I may have a special sentiment for the early days with you when you were so close to us, I don't deny that you actually wanted your movement to grow bigger and bigger. This has come about by your grace and by the potency you placed in the hearts of your initiated disciples.

I personally do not have so many years left to live in this body, since I'm already 86 and in failing health. I don't know what you have in store for me in the next life, but I pray that I may join with you and go back to Godhead, as you have hinted is possible in one lifetime. If I have to come back for many lifetimes, I still pray to be faithful to you. Let me not forget the wonderful early days, and let me not abandon you ever at any point, but let me stay with you and help contribute to making ISKCON a greater and greater institution, an institution with heart and right behavior and love for you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Hoping I may be with you on this earth for many more Vyāsa-pūjās, but when I have to go, I hope I will still be able to take part as your disciple and stay with you, either in this world or eventually making progress back to Godhead.

Yours in service, a fallen, faulty servant,
Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami



Śivarāma Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This year I would like to glorify you by recounting an event from my early days in Montreal.

It was the winter of 1975, and we had moved into the Pie IX temple about six months earlier, just in time to receive Your Divine Grace for a brief, sameday visit of only a few hours before you hastily flew to New Delhi to meet Indira Gandhi.

Like always, the Montreal winter was cold, and newly fallen snow had blanketed the streets. As *saṅkīrtana* leader, I left the temple a little after all the others, carrying three boxes of the *Kṛṣṇa* book trilogy in my arms, each stacked lengthwise upon the other – volume one, two, and three. The *saṅkīrtana* van had broken down, so I walked the 200 meters to the bus stop and rode as far as the next Metro station. The subway was crowded, and I received a few stares – people curious to know what treasures I was hugging to my chest. Little did they know!

I got off at Place Bonaventure, already perspiring from both exertion and my winter wear. From there I walked underground to the CN train station, where I opened a storage locker for twenty-five cents and packed in all the books bar those that fit into my book bag. It was 10 A.M.

The morning rush had passed, so the station was calm. I sat down on the nearest bench to catch my breath and took two sets out of my bag, opening a volume one to the introductory letter by George Harrison. It was the letter that would sell the books. I had to have it ready for customers.

Just then, a well-dressed gentleman sat down on the other end of the bench and nodded to me, "Bonjour."

"Bonjour, Monsieur," I replied.

The man recognized my accent, and so continued in English. "Are you from Montreal?"

I rested my arm on the back of the bench. "Yes, sir! And you?"

"No! I'm from Québec City. I'm just waiting for my train."

I moved a little closer and asked, "Do you know the Beatles?"

He smiled at me. "Who doesn't?"

I put volume one of the *Kṛṣṇa* book in his hand, open at the letter from George. "This is a letter from George Harrison, who sponsored this book on yoga and meditation."

He looked at the letter and turned to the cover. "*Kṛṣṇa, The Supreme Personality of Godhead.*" He paused, then looked straight at me. "So this book is about Kṛṣṇa!"

It was a statement. I hesitated a minute. I didn't know if he was deterred by what he saw. But there was nothing else to do but acknowledge that a book called *Kṛṣṇa* was indeed about Kṛṣṇa.

"It certainly is. It is about His life and teachings."

The man now turned the book to the back cover and the picture of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. "And is this your guru?"

"Yes! His name is A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda."

The gentleman made no move to leave, and he appeared comfortable with our exchange. I moved closer and placed the other two books in his hand. "It's a set, a trilogy."

"Are you selling these books?"

"We pass the books out and ask people for donations. Please give as much as you can."

He put the books down to his right side in an undefined gesture. I couldn't tell if he would take them. He asked, "Have you read the book?"

I wasn't certain whether he was distracting me from a sale, but I felt encouraged; "I have read it multiple times."

He raised his eyebrows, impressed. "Then tell me a little more about it."

At this point, I hesitated. People who wanted to converse were rarely interested in books, and I certainly wasn't keen on getting anchored before I had even started the day. But then he had placed the whole set on his far side, a gesture that may have indicated interest in a purchase. Or did it? Sometimes our phrase "We pass the books out" was taken as a license to take books for free. But he didn't look the type. And he certainly had money. His eyes questioned, "Tell me a little more about it."

At this point, a memory surfaced in my mind. It was the memory of a letter you had written a few years earlier – a letter that still hung on the *saṅkīrtana* bulletin board and which read: "I am convinced that if you simply glorify Krishna and our books in the best descriptive manner, that anyone and everyone, no matter even atheist or otherwise, they can be convinced to purchase. Of course that is a great art and not everyone can do it, but gradually by practice of preaching in this way, striving to so much present a wonderful picture of our books to the people, gradually you will master the trick how to do it." (Letter to Bali Mardana, December 31, 1972)

I listened to your advice!

What followed was a lovely exchange that lasted almost twenty minutes: Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme

Lord who appears in the world to remove burdens created by gross materialists, but more importantly, to reveal His eternal sports in His eternal abode. He is calling us back to our original home – the place of no suffering; the place of unending happiness. This world is full of unavoidable suffering, and yet we continue to attempt to avoid it and seek happiness. It is a fruitless struggle. But if we hear about Kṛṣṇa from these books, and if we chant His names, we can end all that and return to Him. And more!

I took another volume one out of my bag and pointed to the picture of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa in the oval frame. "Wouldn't you like to be there, with them?"

At this question, something moved in my customer, and a few tears gathered in his eyes. He didn't say anything but continued to look and listen. I asked again, "Wouldn't you like to be there?"

He nodded silently. And perhaps I saw a tear roll down his cheek. At least, I thought I did.

Now he placed the stack of three books in his lap and looked away from me and at them. He looked hard and long.

This would be the moment of truth.

Just then, the PA system announced the express train to Québec City. My heart skipped a beat as the gentleman looked toward the escalator that led down to the platform.

There was silence, but it was clear that the message I had left him with had created a bond between us. He still wouldn't look at me, perhaps to hide his tears. Clearing his voice, he said: "How much would you like for the books?"

I was elated, but tried to control myself. It would be another year before I developed the confidence to ask for large donations – at O'Hare Airport. So I gave the standard answer; "The books cost $5 to print, but some people even give $20." Very few people gave that.

He turned a book to the back cover and looked at you. The PA called a second time for the QC Express. He reached inside his coat, took out his wallet, and fingered bills I could not see. Then he handed me $40.

Now *I* was speechless. He said, "I will read these books. They are what I have been looking for."

He stood to leave, replaced his wallet, put the books in his briefcase, and extended his arm. We shook hands and smiled at each other. I said, "Thank you."

He stopped me with a gesture; "No, I thank you. You have given me a wonderful gift."

He turned to leave, and then again turned back. His eyes were still moist. "Your guru is a great man. Continue to serve him by selling these books. It is the best thing you can do."

I was caught off guard and just watched as he stepped on to the escalator, soon to be lost from view. No one had ever told me to keep selling books, never mind that this is the best thing I could be doing. Usually, people told me to get a job. I looked at the $40 in my hand and put the bills in my pocket. It was a good start to the day. But I wasn't ready yet. I sat down again on the bench and looked intently at your picture.

Now tears came to my eyes. I could barely make out your features. I prayed softly under my breath: "Śrīla Prabhupāda, what a wonderful gift you have given me in the form of distributing your books."

I sobbed a little. "Let my life be dedicated to your book distribution."

After a few minutes, I began my service. But that day I was surcharged. It seemed that whoever I approached took a set. I walked around CN until the transport police motioned for me to leave. I followed my usual rounds to Place Ville Marie, then out on to Sainte-Catherine Street. That day, I did not feel the cold; I felt only the bliss of serving my glorious spiritual master, whom even strangers could recognize as a great man. It was a memorable day that is still etched in my memory, over fifty years on.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the exchange at the CN Station was one of many miracles I witnessed while

distributing your books. I can't say that all customers were as positive or that I was equally convincing, but whenever I kept your words in mind, somehow people took and gave.

"I am convinced that if you simply glorify Kṛṣṇa and our books in the best descriptive manner, that anyone and everyone, no matter even atheist or otherwise, they can be convinced to purchase."

That morning I too became convinced. I still am.

Your servant
Śivarāma Swami

Smita Krishna Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Thank you, my dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. This is Smita Krishna Swami calling for grace. My hope or happiness is I am still part of your world, preaching around the world. We are disciples – *sannyāsīs* or not, it does not matter. The essential is to be a living part of your movement, caring for your movement's well-being. It may no longer be in my power to be outspoken, but now I'll just "let the elephant pass by." We are a living part of your movement, and I hope and pray that you are positively aware of my existence.

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

My godbrothers, godsisters, and others are quickly departing – it's not how it was just yesterday. Thank you for smiling with a kind eye on me.

Your servant,
Smita Krishna Swami

Sri Krishna Chaitanya Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this most sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, in this historic year marking the sixtieth anniversary of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, I bow my head with deep gratitude and reverence. By your causeless mercy, what began as a solitary, faith-filled offering has become a worldwide spiritual family – a shelter for countless conditioned souls.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you did not simply establish an institution – you revealed a heart: a heart that cannot tolerate the suffering of others; a heart that continues to move across time, circumstance, and limitation simply so we can come to Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, again and again in your letters and conversations we see this same concern expressed so personally. You do not see your disciples as numbers or followers but as souls entrusted to your care. You guide, correct, encourage, and sometimes firmly protect, always with the intention of bringing each one closer to Kṛṣṇa. Even amid immense global responsibilities, your attention to the individual never diminishes because, for you, each soul matters.

As taught by Prahlāda Mahārāja in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.9.43: *śoce tato vimukha-cetasa indriyārtha-māyā-sukhāya bharam udvahato vimūḍhān* – "I lament for those who are averse to You and are simply struggling for illusory happiness."

This is the mood of a Vaiṣṇava – *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you embody this completely. You did not come for your own liberation but because we are suffering. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (5.5.18) instructs: *pitā na sa syāj jananī na sā syāt na mocayed yaḥ samupeta-mṛtyum* – "One should not become a father, mother, or spiritual master unless one can deliver one's dependents from repeated birth and death."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you accept this responsibility fully. You did not only give us Kṛṣṇa – you created a society meant to nourish, guide, and protect those who take shelter within it.

And yet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, when I reflect upon your standard, I see how far I remain from truly embodying your mood. My attempts at care are inconsistent, my heart is still limited, and my vision is clouded by my conditioning. Still, by your causeless mercy, you engage even the unqualified in your service.

In this connection, I feel a deep and growing responsibility toward the protection of those who depend upon your movement – especially our children. If ISKCON is to function as a spiritual family, then those who are most vulnerable must experience protection not merely as policy, but as culture; not as obligation, but as affection. Without such an environment, the tender creeper of bhakti cannot properly take root and flourish.

In trying to understand how to practically express this responsibility, I am gradually coming to appreciate that care must sometimes take a structured form. Though appearing administrative, such efforts are, in truth, extensions of your compassion – attempts, however imperfect, to reflect your role as a spiritual father who never neglects his dependents. This principle extends to all members of your society.

Recently, while traveling in Australia, I met a Vaiṣṇavī who confided that she was undergoing trauma within her family and was in an abusive situation. By your mercy, I can sit with her, hear her heart, and offer whatever guidance I can. I then connected her with Kṛṣṇarūpa Devī Dāsī, the Vaiṣṇavī Minister for ISKCON Australia, who kindly took responsibility to personally follow up and support this Vaiṣṇavī further.

Later, both the Vaiṣṇavī and Kṛṣṇarūpa Devī Dāsī expressed that it feels encouraging that someone in the renounced order demonstrated personal concern for protecting women. Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever little I can do is simply a reflection – however faint – of your own example. You show us that spiritual leadership is not passive – it is protective, attentive, and responsible.

As the *Bhagavad-gītā* (3.21) teaches: *yad yad ācarati śreṣṭhas tat tad evetaro janaḥ.* If we claim to be your followers, we must embody this principle of *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī* not only in philosophy, but in action – through how we care, how we protect, and how we respond.

As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of your disappearance, a sobering question stands before us: Will we preserve only your structure, or will we embody your heart? Will we repeat your words, or will we carry your burden?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you envision a society where the holy name is heard in every town and village, and where every soul finds shelter in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You envision a spiritual family where devotees do not only chant together, but care for one another as genuine well-wishers. You envision a culture where the vulnerable are protected, where women are respected, where children grow in safety, and where every individual can open their heart without fear.

And yet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we must honestly ask ourselves: How far have we come in embodying that vision?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless me that I may become an instrument of your compassion. Let my kirtan carry not only sound, but shelter. Let my preaching not only instruct, but uplift and heal. Let my leadership reflect not position, but protection; not authority, but responsibility; not distance, but care.

Even if I am unqualified, please engage me in this service of care, for it is your mission, not mine.

Please empower us to become true *para-duḥkha-duḥkhīs,* feeling the suffering of others and responding in a way that pleases you. You are the compassionate spiritual father of this movement, whose heart continues to guide, protect, and uplift us at every step.

I remain forever your insignificant and indebted servant,
Sri Krishna Chaitanya Swami

Subhag Swami

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

This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement that you have given us is meant to spread the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to every town and village. We are trying to expand this movement more and more. Again and again, you have emphasized that if we truly want to please you, we should distribute your books.

You also shared how your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, expressed

this desire when there was quarreling among his disciples over the use of rooms at the Bagh Bazaar Gauḍīya Maṭha. He said it would be better to break the marble from the temple, sell it, and use the money to print and distribute books. In this way, he showed us that the real purpose is not comfortable living but spreading transcendental knowledge. Thus, the spirit of book distribution comes directly from your Guru Mahārāja's instruction.

Therefore, the topmost priority is to print books in as many languages as possible and distribute them profusely. This is truly a book distribution movement, preaching through the *bṛhat-mṛdaṅga,* the printing press. You said, "I will live on forever if you distribute my books." You also said that when you hear encouraging reports of book distribution, you feel like a young man. Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura predicted that this movement will continue for ten thousand years, and you confirmed this.

So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, according to your mood as I have understood it, we are trying to carry out this instruction in different parts of India and around the world. Wherever our devotees are – *gṛhasthas, brahmacārīs, saṅkīrtana* groups, and *mātājīs,* we are trying to ensure that your books are always being distributed.

In various parts of Indonesia, many devotees are actively engaged in book distribution and organizing Ratha-yātrā festivals. In Bangladesh, although conditions are not always favorable, devotees are sincerely endeavoring to distribute your books for your pleasure. We are also receiving a very encouraging response from college and university preaching, especially in India. Many of the best students from top institutions are coming forward. Even PhD students and highly qualified individuals are showing genuine interest in your books and are becoming devotees.

We are encouraging everyone to take part while maintaining strong *sādhana*. As you instructed, attending *maṅgala-ārati* and strictly following the four regulative principles is essential.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I apologize for the challenges that arise as I get older. From time to time, my health creates difficulties, and I can feel danger coming. Still, I am trying my best to do what you asked me to do. As you instructed me, I am trying my best to go to Bangladesh and do whatever I can there to spread your teachings. Please empower and bless me so that I may serve you in a way that is pleasing to you by always following your instructions.

Your servant,
Subhag Swami

Śukadeva Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated *daṇḍavats* at your divine lotus feet.

The Lord is also known as Uttamaśloka, and as His fully surrendered devotee, you embody all the twenty-six qualities of a Vaiṣṇava. Your kindness and compassion are evident in everything you have done. You have presented about Kṛṣṇa consciousness in such a profound, clear, and intellectually compelling way that you have attracted thoughtful and sincere persons from all over the world. Just as Lord Caitanya asked questions and Rāya Rāmānanda responded to them, giving the Lord great pleasure, so Kṛṣṇa has revealed Himself through your writings. While everything ultimately happens by the will of Kṛṣṇa, when a devotee fully surrenders and becomes His

instrument, the Lord works through that devotee and gives him the credit. From the extraordinary accomplishments of Your Divine Grace, it is clear that you are the *senāpati* devotee. Through you the Lord shows that He is approached through His pure devotees.

The world has rarely witnessed such a genuine devotee in modern times. As is true of the Lord, no amount of glorification is ever enough for His pure devotee. The world has been greatly blessed by your appearance. If many have not recognized this, it is their misfortune – like someone sitting in a closed room who cannot see the brilliance of the midday sun. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have clearly established that the Supreme Absolute Truth is Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and that by inoffensively chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* one can see the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. You have also revealed that Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu is nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa and that without His mercy, it is not possible to understand or approach Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

You have shared the timeless message of eternity, love, and bliss, opening the path of divine love to all, regardless of their background or qualification. In fact, the unqualified – those who are materially destitute and *akiñcana* – are the most deserving of Your mercy. Your glories continue to grow even in your physical absence, which speaks to the enduring power of Your mission of propagating the message of Mahāprabhu – *kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ* – with complete conviction. Your followers continue to carry forward your mission with that same spirit, and through this, the Lord's blessings continue to flow. As long as we chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, remaining under the shelter of your ISKCON, there is hope for us to live with peace and joy and ultimately return back home, back to Godhead.

If one thinks it is possible to repay one's debt to you, he is just a fool (*vinoda-pātram*). We are your servants, yet you have engaged us in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa. This is the secret of eternal love and bliss. As an *ācārya*, you did not simply teach the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you lived it fully, and your life stands as a powerful example of pure devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Just as *go-sevā* (*go-rakṣā*), sharing with others the rarest gift, the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra is the highest form of charity a *jīva* can offer.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless me so that I may always remain under the shade of your lotus feet and follow your teachings. That is the only way I can cross this ocean of material existence and attain the mercy of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Aspiring to be the servant of your servants,
Śukadeva Swami

Svayaṁ Bhagavān Keśava Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

The Spirit of '66

Richard Witty caught word that you had landed on the Lower East Side and went to film *Happiness on Second Avenue*. He remembers:

> I was touched by, in a sense, their naïveté. One of the people, I remember asking him how he felt. He said, "Oh, this is the most wonderful thing. I am so moved, I want to devote my entire life to this." I said, "How long have you been involved?" He said, "Since yesterday."

What a spirit! Some may say immature, idealistic, and unsustainable, but it was also undeniably magical. That rebellion, activism, nonconformity, spontaneity, exploration, and restless search for freedom generated an amazing energy. All it required was an infusion of authentic spirituality. Enter A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami.

How does someone from another generation, another country, another civilization look beyond all the differences and meet strangers with such love? You did just that. You didn't lecture from a high seat wielding impersonal sermons. You went down – to the depths of the Lower East Side – lived with them, ate with them, befriended them. No distance, no performance, just complete generosity. Their beautiful spirit and your shining purity ignited something profound – a movement we now dedicate our lives to.

In another forty years, it will be '66 again – though radically different. The world has changed, the movement has changed, the zeitgeist has changed. Here in '26, amid all the changes, we realize that something of the '66 spirit must endure if we are to dynamically catapult this movement into the next millennium. Are we still rebelling against materialism? Still willing to refuse the world's ingrained conventions, to question its assumptions and ideologies? Do we have a progressively disruptive message? Are we prepared – not cautiously, but decisively – to present Śrī Kṛṣṇa to the world, knowing that without Him no philosophy, no practice, can ultimately satisfy? To "fit in" may mean to "fade away."

Joan Suval, who took Misra's classes at Ananda Ashram, recalled you vividly:

> I always felt about him that he was a deeply serious man, serious about life. He never talked about his past, his personal life. I did ask him once or twice a question here and there, and he waved it away. He said, "Not important, that's not important," and then I began to feel it wasn't important. What was important was what he was doing now.

The past is beautiful, and the spirit of '66 makes the hair stand on end. It's neither wholly present nor wholly absent, yet it demands serious recognition. We have inherited books, temples, and a global movement – but also a spirit. Will that spirit remain confined to history, or will it continue to shape it? You have serious work – lots more magic to manifest – and you're looking for those who have the spirit. We have this opportunity, this responsibility – to internalize the spirit of '66 and find our own unique, authentic expression. What we are doing is important, very important – for ourselves, for this crazy world, for the ongoing growth of this glorious movement … and for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. May we become "deeply serious," just as you were.

Begging to remain at your lotus feet,
S. B. Keśava Swami

Varṣāṇa Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The deadline for submitting Vyāsa-pūjā offerings finds us composing our contributions toward the close of winter. This morning, in the early hour of *brāhma-muhūrta,* dark storm clouds block the moonlight while the howling winds of an Arctic vortex pile snow into drifts around my cabin.

Within this sanctuary, as the golden luster of flickering flames dances over glowing embers in the fireplace, I find a perfect opportunity to turn inward before writing to you. The potency of sacred remembrance – *smaraṇam* – gently transports me into another dimension, awakening a range of devotional sentiments. From this interior warmth, a living memory draws me into the embrace of a pleasant afternoon sun bathing a verdant New Vrindavan meadow in comforting rays.

As remembrance deepens, your pastimes and precepts come into focus, assembling themselves into my Vyāsa-pūjā offering, blending past recollections with future expectations. In this convergence, the treasure of your enduring association is revitalized.

It is from this contemplative space that my intention arises – not to remind you of what you already know, but to share the ongoing fruits of a precious lesson you once emphasized to the pioneers of this community. It is a topic worthy of deep consideration in celebrating Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā.

Since that lesson took root, I have returned to it repeatedly as a daily practice. I now see how profoundly it shapes all aspects of my service to you. That sunny afternoon was in June 1976.

Your *vyāsāsana* is being decorated with fragrant flowers gathered from nearby bushes and vines. My youthful godbrothers and godsisters wait in eager anticipation of your blessed darshan.

You emerge from a nearby residence into this idyllic setting. The devotees bow down and make way as you approach the elevated seat of Vyāsa to preside over the assembly. We are unaware that this would be among the last darshans with you during your mortal presence.

The meeting begins with questions from disciples, as is customary. Our godbrother Taru Dāsa, seated at your feet, asks how we should respond when neighboring farmers repeatedly reply to our preaching efforts with, "We, as farmers, have no time for Kṛṣṇa consciousness."

In response, you defer the question to His Holiness Dhṛṣṭadyumna Mahārāja, who is on your right side, fanning you with a *cāmara*. Being very *pukka,* and following the strict protocol you established, he begins to respond by citing scripture.

No sooner have the words, "According to the *Bhagavad-gītā*" left his lips, then you become very animated, thrusting your hand in front of him, gesturing for him to stop. You admonish him with the most unexpected words: "Don't bring the *Bhagavad-gītā* into this conversation!"

The effect is immediate. The devotees, surprised, wonder why you would alter the protocol of verifying every statement with a scriptural citation.

Without pausing, you turn to His Holiness Puṣṭa Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja, who is waving a peacock fan on your other side, and ask: "How would you answer that question?"

Mahārāja begins, "Kṛṣṇa says …"

Again you raise your hand and stop him firmly. "Don't bring Kṛṣṇa into this conversation!"

Now the devotees are utterly perplexed. Sensing that you are on the verge of emphasizing a crucial lesson, we are fully attentive.

Leaning forward toward Taru, you address the skeptical farmers he represents with a sharp and unforgettable chastisement. "Rascal! Can you make the sun rise or the rain fall? As farmers, you are completely dependent on Kṛṣṇa. Could you at least offer Him your gratitude?"

As suddenly as it arose, your spirited intensity softens into a naturally serene and peaceful countenance. You gently ask: "Any further questions?"

The devotees are delighted by the uplifting interaction. It takes years for the deeper effects of the exchange to unfold.

By that time, your dictations of the Bhaktivedanta purports have gone silent, leaving us dependent on your feature as *caitya-guru* for continued guidance.

One morning, recognizing your voice while acknowledging your internal presence as *caitya-guru,* I am drawn to a purport on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.14.35 found in the *Sārārtha-darśinī.* It's commenting on Lord Brahmā's eloquent prayers to Lord Gopāla at the conclusion of the *brahma-vimohana-līlā*. Although Śrī Gopāla remains outwardly silent as He hears Brahmājī's praise, Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura suggests an internal dialogue takes place between them, in which the Lord reveals:

> Others may be grateful for gifts that have already been given, but I am grateful for gifts that will be given in the future, and I reciprocate with these gifts even before they are given.

Here, gratitude is reframed – expanded beyond a gracious response to what has already been granted, evolving into a spiritual orientation toward blessings assured by providential grace. In this way, thanksgiving serves as both the mirror of divine consciousness as well as the portal through which the conditioned soul begins the process of reconditioning.

Through this insight, yet another dimension emerges, revealing a defining aspect of the Lord's inner disposition.

What is unveiled in the Lord's deep and mysterious heart is invited to awaken within His servants. As gratitude echoes in our individual consciousness, a sacred space opens within, unlocking the future by honoring the present.

From this awakening, gratitude draws our attention to even the simplest of occurrences. Included are those most essential necessities often taken for granted precisely because they are so readily available. Every breath, every heartbeat, every sunrise, and most tragically, so many of the utterances of the holy name. Thankfulness counteracts indifference toward the touchstone of Śrī Nāma.

The call to be grateful *in* everything does not imply appreciation *for* anything that displeases Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga. This distinction is essential. Through proper appreciation, our past regrets and future fears dissolve into present service opportunities. As we give Kṛṣṇa our intentional presence, we feel His reciprocation in advance for services yet to be offered.

This includes the way He helps us to unlearn both the patterns forged by conditioned memories and mental projections thrust upon events yet to come. These loops inhibit the development of a renewed mind suitable for devotional life. When Śrī Nāma purifies the mirror of the heart, we are left with a clean slate to contemplate bhakti and rewrite our inner script. Therein we find the ability to fulfill Kṛṣṇa's request that we always think of Him (*Gītā* 18.65) and know Him in truth (*Gītā* 4.9).

Whether in seasons of joy or times of challenge, our God-given free will lets us choose gratitude for experiences that cultivate inner strength, self-acceptance, and eagerness for the long, adventurous journey ahead.

Within a devotional community such as New Vrindavan, expressing thanks for the residents' gifts, talents, and contributions encourages loving relationships. Spiritual camaraderie naturally follows, nourishing the Brajabasi spirit and fortifying your mission in this world.

As your disciples, we are called to serve others selflessly and carry on the responsibilities of your movement. In so doing we often set our own needs aside and forget that we, too, must



receive in order to continue giving. Our inner sense of unworthiness so often becomes an obstacle to completing the sacrament of loving exchange.

Gratitude encourages self-worth, allowing us to humbly accept the support, kindness, and goodness that life offers. When we trust the perfect and wholesome nature of blessings themselves, we are freed from the need to know what will come next.

From such acceptance emerges a feeling of wholeness. The mind no longer chases what it imagines to be lacking as the abundance intrinsically present is revealed. Even when worries attempt to resurface, we need only look to the peace and fullness already within us.

With this clarity, gratitude becomes a feature of spiritual vision. Every experience is welcomed – whether the highest ecstasy or deepest disappointment – as a gift of grace.

We traverse seasons when Kṛṣṇa showers down such undeserved goodness to encourage us. These are complemented by episodes when His reciprocation seems withheld, as if to test our patience. These alternating experiences strengthen our faith, develop our perseverance, forge our character, and fortify our hope.

Whenever darkness gathers and life seems overwhelming, we are invited to rediscover the deep peace within our souls. This inner life is a gift from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Gratitude transforms our inner realm which, in turn, shapes our outer landscape. As we embody it, our consciousness becomes inclined toward bhakti. Tensions melt away as we remember that every morning offers a new beginning, rich with opportunity to commune with you. By reconnecting to the heart and quieting the mind, we enter a reality where life grows brighter each day, revealing a higher truth and deeper perspective.

Though the distance is vast between where we are and where we long to be, a bridge is built with consistent gratitude. This practice connects us to what is not yet ours through an energetic signature which allows us to draw emotionally from, and resonate spiritually with, a divine account, to which we have a claim, even while full access to it depends upon our reaching spiritual maturity.

A perfectly enlightened Kṛṣṇa conscious soul resonates with the pulse of gratitude, harmonizes with the mellows of Vrindavan, and attunes to Kṛṣṇa's heart. Such is the nature of devotees following in your footsteps, leading us back to home, back to Godhead.

When we chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, assured that it will bring perfection, we might initially be surprised to discover that we are, in truth, asking Kṛṣṇa to take away the very attachments we hold so dear. As our false self hides behind the mask of self-deception, the soul comes to realize gradually how Kṛṣṇa answers our prayers by relieving us from the anxiety and labor of defending an artificial facade. We then come to see how heavily we are burdened with pride, pretense, misdirected plans, and excessive comforts. How wonderful are Kṛṣṇa's arrangements to set us free! How perfectly He prepares us to enter our own unique and special role in fulfilling His purpose.

The devotees' joyful praise of the Lord, even as He dismantles their material prospects, serves among the finest testimonials of practicing what one preaches and embodying what one believes. With every loss, disappointment, heartbreak, and betrayal, we are being lovingly tested. Will we choose resentment, which hardens the heart, or gratitude, which softens it? If we truly desire to please and serve the Lord in a substantial manner, we will rejoice in the personal involvement of our most loving Deity as He prepares us to serve as instruments of His mercy.

You so masterfully planted the seed of gratitude within our consciousness during that most exceptional darshan, entrusting the tender creeper to our care. In retrospect, I see your response to the neighboring farmers as a suitable parable for us – a spiritual message cloaked within an agricultural context. What a perfect lesson for your pioneers on the spiritual frontier.

This pastime has helped us develop the proper consciousness required for undergoing the challenging paradigm shift that accompanies a second birth. To navigate such a metamorphosis, we are wholly dependent on the illumination dawning in your darshan, further nourished by the purifying shower of your divine grace.

The innermost lesson of *brahma-vimohana-līlā* has descended intact through the *paramparā* to be personally conveyed to us by you. Whenever I feel the need for additional inspiration, I simply return to that unforgettable darshan.

We have come to see gratitude as greater than thought and more dynamic than feeling. It is, in truth, a sublime potency accessible through personal choice. Its effect is evident in how it opens a space within that invites grace to blossom.

The gratitude that fructified in Brahmā following his internal dialogue with Śrī Gopāla catalyzed his appearance as Haridāsa Ṭhākura. As the *nāmācārya,* he perfectly embodies the ripened fruit of gratefulness, facilitating the will of the Golden Avatar.

With you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Lord Caitanya's *līlā* blooms abundantly, dancing joyfully to the breath of life, the treasure of Vrindavan – the *mahā-mantra* – received through your *saṅkīrtana* mission. Your message has awakened countless sleeping souls with the timeless hymn of the holy names as you sang them to this world.

And so, uplifted by the most confidential hymn of Vṛndā's forest, we experience renewed communion with you every time we chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. In following the sacred path you revealed, while aspiring to reach the final destination where you now await, your darshan grows brighter and clearer with every passing year.

Even while everything in this mortal world fades away, we cherish your enduring, vibrant shelter in the golden warmth of *vāṇī-sevā*.

Through your pastimes and precepts, we become active participants in Lord Caitanya's *līlā,* revealing the supreme abode and goal of life, continuing to expand through your enduring influence – *living still in sound*.

Your eternally grateful servant,
Varṣāṇa Swami

Vedavyāsapriya Swami

My revered spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my heartfelt obeisances hundreds of times. I bow down to Your Divine Grace's lotus feet as my ultimate shelter. At my advanced age, what else can I do except surrender to your desire in a one-pointed service to please you and my godbrothers, who are overseeing me?

Although the progress is relatively slow in fundraising, this is not dampening my resolve to accomplish the manifestation of a magnanimous temple of your glorious preaching of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Thailand. Simply depending on Your Divine Grace, I want to breathe my last after completion of this project. I have been praying to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa to grant my desire.

Meanwhile, I want to follow in your footsteps – how you exhibited your presence and the preaching that I witnessed in 1976 in New York. Who can imitate you, an empowered incarnation? But you did say "Do as I do" and "Repeat after me." This encourages me even though I am disqualified on my own. Will you, my master, kick me out, a blind imitator of yours?

In my childhood I was known as an obstinate boy. Am I sticking to the temple project in Thailand with my childhood obstinacy? Is obstinacy called *resolve*? I want to purify my thoughts by begging for your grace, which is divine! On this auspicious day of your appearance, I beg you to shower your mercy on me so that I offer my life at your lotus feet birth after birth.

Your selfish and last-minute disciple,
Vedavyāsapriya Swami

Yadunandana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I recently heard a recorded answer you gave to someone who asked what would happen to your movement in the United States after your departure. In your usual witty and profound manner, you replied, "I will never die. I shall live in my books, and you will utilize them." In the recording, one can hear how the disciples present erupted in joyful cheers upon hearing your powerful words.

Based on my own personal experience as well as that of many people I know, I can testify that your prediction is manifesting exactly as you said. Many people are utilizing your books and receiving guidance from your living instructions, and as a result, they are undergoing wonderful transformations in their lives.

As you wrote in dedicating your magnum opus – the translation of and Bhaktivedanta purports to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* – to your spiritual master: "He lives forever by his divine instructions, and the follower lives with him." In this connection, you personally shared that during the early days of the movement, while you were on the streets of New York seemingly like a vagabond, you never felt alone – even though externally you were by yourself in a foreign country, without material resources, far from your beloved Vrindavan. You always felt the presence of your spiritual master.

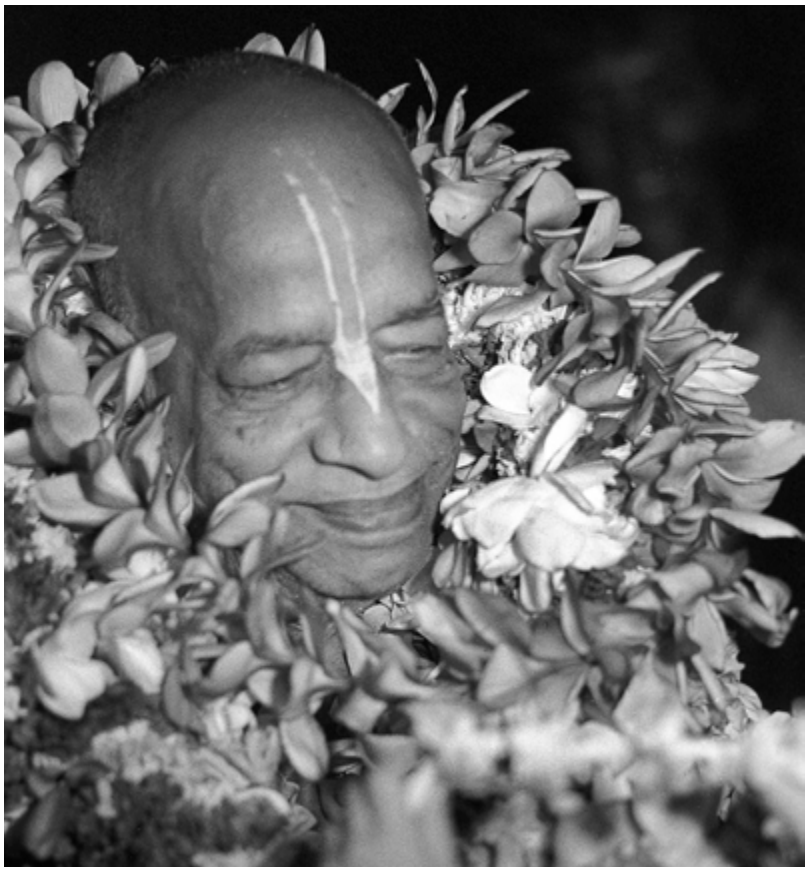
Thus, by your own example, you demonstrated the *guru-paramparā* principle that the disciple always lives with the spiritual master by faithfully, gratefully, and lovingly following his instructions.

As for how your divine instructions are affecting my own small life, the more I read, study, preach, teach, and write about your books – and the more I hear your lectures and read your letters – the more inspired I become to follow the beautiful process of devotional service to Kṛṣṇa that you compassionately gave us. Moreover, I feel inspired to share this gift with others.

I humbly pray at your lotus feet that as you live through your divine instructions, I may always live with you by following them and by helping distribute them wherever I go – especially in the *prabhu datta-deśa* you entrusted to me through your representative.

May I always remain a servant of your followers, who are living with you by faithfully following your instructions.

Eternally your servant,
Yadunandana Swami



HOMAGES FROM ISKCON CENTERS

Africa

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

We are very much delighted to glorify you on this occasion of your divine appearance in this world. We are not at all qualified to glorify you, because you are naturally glorious by your position as the *senāpati-bhakta*, the commander in chief. You are empowered to save humankind from perishing in the ocean of miseries in this material world. At a time when the world was in need of someone to awaken the sleeping souls, you appeared – just as Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura prayed.

You made the previous *ācāryas* proud by honoring and protecting the *paramparā* system as the thirty-second *ācārya*. No one else could have done this job better than you. You were chosen by Kṛṣṇa and blessed by the *sādhus* and your Guru Mahārāja to act like the perfect instrument to preserve and propagate *sanātana-dharma* all over the world – beyond all expectations.

The predictions for Kali-yuga state that this is an age of quarrel, hypocrisy, and irreligion. This can't be changed. But just as the immune are unaffected during an outbreak of a disease, so the effects of Kali-yuga cannot touch the fortunate souls who take shelter at your lotus feet and strictly follow the principles of *sanātana-dharma* revealed in your books.

By constant remembrance of Kṛṣṇa, one is assured of returning to our eternal home, Goloka Vṛndāvana, under your expert guidance as you pilot the transcendental ISKCON Airlines beyond this material world – on a one-way journey, with no desire to return.

All glories to you again and again, O Śrīla Prabhupāda, savior of the whole world!

Your servants at ISKCON Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Botswana

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

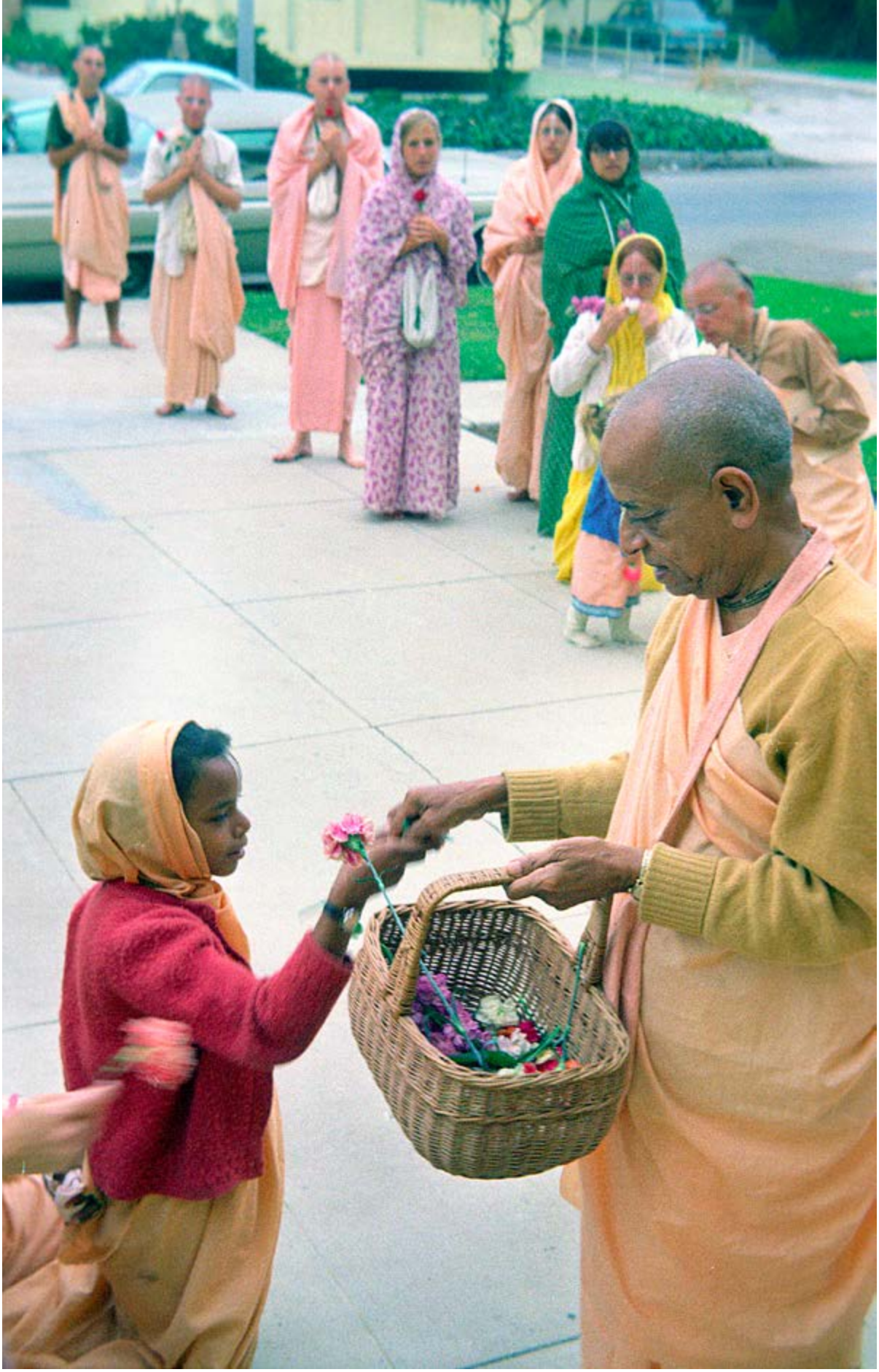
nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine

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

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, who descended into this world as the empowered representative of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa to deliver the fallen souls of this age.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we attempt, however inadequately, to glorify you by reflecting on the memories shared by your dear servant. Śyāmasundara Prabhu, memories that reveal not only your divine personality but also the spirit with which your early disciples served you.

Again and again, one theme shines through: you created pioneers. You did not simply instruct; you inspired, empowered, and transformed ordinary people into fearless instruments of Kṛṣṇa's



will. In those early days, your followers had nothing, materially, yet they possessed everything spiritually. They gave up all comforts – meat-eating, intoxication, illicit connections, and material ambitions – not because they were forced, but because they were attracted to the higher taste you embodied.

Śyāmasundara recalls how he skeptically observed your devotees, waiting for their "armor to crack." It never did. Their conviction, born from your association, was unshakable. And when he finally met you, he experienced something beyond mysticism or spectacle – a deep, peaceful certainty. You did not need to perform miracles to convince anyone. Your presence itself was the miracle.

You engaged everyone practically in Kṛṣṇa's service, often in ways they themselves never could have imagined. You taught bookkeeping to a reluctant treasurer, not merely to balance accounts but to engage a soul. You charmed your disciples into service, sometimes even tricking them, for their ultimate benefit. This reveals your deep compassion – you met each person where they were and gently elevated them.

But perhaps most striking is the mood of boldness and risk that you instilled. Śyāmasundara describes those days as a kind of spiritual adventure, almost like being part of a fearless crew led by a transcendental captain. You told them, "There is nothing to fear when you chant." And they believed you.

They took risks that today might seem unimaginable. With no money, no security, and no guarantees, they spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness across cities and continents. When there was no rent, Kṛṣṇa sent money in mysterious ways. When there were obstacles, they pushed forward anyway. They truly lived your instruction: that if one takes risks for Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa personally helps.

Yet, as Śyāmasundara poignantly reflects, "This spirit has died down. We are too comfortable." Śrīla Prabhupāda, this statement pierces the heart. Today, we have temples, books, systems, and global recognition – all by your mercy. But in having "everything on a plate," we risk losing the very essence that built this movement: dependence on Kṛṣṇa, bold preaching, and willingness to sacrifice.

We hesitate where your disciples leapt. We calculate where they surrendered. We seek comfort where they embraced uncertainty for your pleasure. Your movement was not meant to produce complacent followers; it was meant to create spiritual revolutionaries.

Another aspect of your personality that shines through these memories is your extraordinary tolerance and love. You accepted your disciples not as perfected beings, but as they were – flawed, inexperienced, and often coming from chaotic backgrounds. You overlooked their "glaring outrages" and magnified their smallest service. What kind of spiritual master does this? Only one who truly sees the soul.

You corrected, but with purpose. You guided, but with sensitivity. Whether it was humorously instructing a disciple to stop smoking with a simple gesture of your cane, or compassionately reassuring one who was going to jail – "Kṛṣṇa was born in jail!" – you transformed every situation into an opportunity for spiritual growth. You were never harsh for the sake of control; you were firm for the sake of love.

And how intimate your relationships were! You made each devotee feel personally seen, valued, and connected. You laughed with them, encouraged them, and sometimes even played with them, like with little Saraswati. This human warmth, combined with your divine authority, created an atmosphere where surrender was natural and joyful.

One of the most beautiful pastimes described is how Lord Jagannātha came to you. Through a simple, almost accidental act – a small figurine obtained from a shop – you revealed a profound truth: the Lord desires to be with His devotees. When Mālatī showed you the Jagannātha figure, you immediately recognized Him and offered your obeisances. Where others saw an object, you

saw the Supreme Personality of Godhead. And from that moment, Lord Jagannātha's worship spread throughout your movement.

You engaged Śyāmasundara in carving Jagannātha forms, transforming raw wood into divine manifestations. This pastime perfectly encapsulates your genius: you took something simple, even unconventional, and turned it into a cornerstone of devotional culture.

Only you could establish Lord Jagannātha in the countercultural environment of 1960s San Francisco and have people joyfully accept Him without hesitation. This was your power – to connect the eternal with the contemporary, the absolute with the immediate.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your life is a call to action. Through these memories, we are reminded of what it truly means to be your follower. It is not enough to maintain what you built; we must embody the spirit with which you built it. We must rediscover that pioneering courage. We must be willing to take risks for Kṛṣṇa, to step beyond comfort, to depend fully on His mercy. We must learn to see opportunities where others see obstacles, and to act with faith where others hesitate.

At the same time, we must cultivate your compassion – seeing the potential in others, encouraging them, and engaging them in service with patience and love.

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, we pray for the strength to move beyond complacency and to reconnect with that original spirit of fearless devotion. Please empower us to become instruments of your mission, just as your early disciples were.

May we never forget that everything we have is your mercy, and that the best way to honor that mercy is to use it boldly in Kṛṣṇa's service. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything – for your teachings, your example, your tolerance, your love, and your vision.

Your insignificant servants from the Botswana *yātrā*

Cotonou, Benin

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful homage. All glories to your lotus feet.

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

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine

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

On this special day when we celebrate your Vyāsa-pūjā, we wish to take this opportunity to express our eternal gratitude and appreciation for your mission to save fallen souls throughout the world. In Benin, the desire of all devotees is to have a temple for good preaching. Guided by your disciples and their younger followers, this goal has been achieved. This seems to align with your vision of seeing temples erected in every city.

You have acted in many other areas to change the mindsets of those who join the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. These include:

(1) Publishing books such as *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* the *Bhagavad-gītā,* and other such titles. These form the basis of the movement.

(2) Distributing the chanting of the holy names of God, which gradually cleanses hearts and resonates through the streets.

(3) Establishing ISKCON, the Bhaktivedanta Institute, and the BBT as means to effectively continue the movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we owe you an eternal debt that seems very difficult to repay. Therefore, we pray that you will bless us and give us the strength in this life to feel your presence in your words and make us true instruments in helping to spread Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's movement. We also pray that Your Divine Grace will help our temple, which reopened two years ago, to continue to grow as a center for spiritual education on bhakti culture, love, and sincerity.

Your humble servants,
The devotees from Cotonou, Benin

Durban, South Africa

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, everything we possess, everything we are, and everything we hope to become is solely by your causeless mercy. At the age of seventy, you crossed the ocean with nothing but unflinching faith in the order of your spiritual master and an unshakeable desire to fulfill his instructions. From that single, heroic act of surrender, you gave the world your ISKCON, you revived and expanded Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement, and you bestowed upon us the priceless shelter of the holy names.

Here in Durban, we are simply trying, in our small and imperfect ways, to uphold the standards you set and to serve your mission as you envisioned it.

Toward the latter part of last year, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we had the great fortune of celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha temple. The festival was observed with as much opulence, devotion, and care as we could offer at your lotus feet. Many devotees, especially those who have been part of this temple's history for decades, felt that it was perhaps the most splendid celebration since the temple's opening. What touched our hearts the most, however, was seeing several devotees who had been estranged and away for many years return to your temple and to the association of devotees. Through personal outreach, loving exchanges, and your merciful atmosphere, they felt welcomed, valued, and reconnected. In this, we clearly saw your ongoing mercy, still drawing your spiritual children and grandchildren back home.

We also had the honor of observing the fiftieth anniversary of your coming to South Africa. Throughout the year, your devotees here in Durban worked tirelessly in your service, trying to glorify you and increase people's awareness of your life, teachings, and immeasurable contributions. As an offering to you, we organized fifty different programs around Durban, held in halls, parks, homes, and public spaces, each dedicated to narrating your glories and sharing your message.

Wherever we went, we spoke of your journey, your books, your compassionate vision, and your untiring efforts to uplift humanity through Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In a very special endeavor, we carefully relived the steps connected to your time in Durban and took the devotees on a guided tour of the various locations in this city where you once walked, spoke, or stayed. Outwardly, they may appear as ordinary places, but by your divine presence, we understand them to be holy *tīrthas,* thereby eternally sanctified. Through kirtan, remembrance, and glorification of you at each site, we tried to help the devotees deeply appreciate how you have spiritually transformed this land.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we were also able to host what was practically the largest and possibly the most successful Durban Festival of the Chariots since its inception thirty-eight years ago. Aware of the changing social climate and the needs of modern people, we tried to be innovative and thoughtful in our approach, while carefully striving to remain faithful to your mood and instructions. All the while, we tried to remember your guidance: "We should always try to utilize our intelligence in Krishna's service. Intelligence means to understand Krishna and to serve Him nicely." (Letter to Satsvarupa, 22 February 1968)

Following this instruction to the best of our ability, we were able to bring tens of thousands of people before Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Devī. Through kirtan, *prasādam,* book distribution, dramas, cultural presentations, and personal interactions, we tried to introduce them to you and your mission, praying that some lasting *saṁskāra* of Kṛṣṇa consciousness would enter their hearts.

At the same time, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we find ourselves navigating some of the most challenging and unprecedented times in the history of ISKCON South Africa. There are social, economic, and institutional pressures, and in this age of rapid communication, we sometimes face sharp criticism from "keyboard warriors" who scrutinize and judge our efforts from afar. We know we have many imperfections, and we accept that we must be held accountable to your standards for bona fide reasons. Yet in the midst of these difficulties, we also strongly feel the love and encouragement of hundreds, if not thousands, of your followers, both within South Africa and abroad, who act as our well-wishers, just as you are the ever well-wisher of all living beings.

Your personal example of enduring obstacles, opposition, and discomfort for Kṛṣṇa's sake gives us courage. Simply by remembering how you tolerated everything, illness, misunderstanding, and endless struggles, simply to give us Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we find renewed strength to continue your work here, however small our contribution may be. As a temple community, we are deeply aware of our shortcomings and limitations. Whatever service we offer is tiny and imperfect when compared with your vast vision and spotless standards.

Still, we are convinced that by your deliberate arrangement, the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha temple occupies a significant place in your mission for South Africa. Therefore, we beg you to kindly allow us to become worthy instruments in your hands.

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we place the following prayers at your lotus feet:

- Please allow this temple to become an ever more transparent via medium for your instructions, your mood, and your compassion.
- Please empower the leaders and devotees here to protect, encourage, and inspire all who seek shelter at your temple or come in contact with your movement in Durban.
- Please help us remain steady in upholding your standards of *sādhana,* philosophy, and Vaiṣṇava culture, even as the world around us changes.
- Please let our service bring tangible and lasting spiritual benefit to the devotees and congregation of Durban, to the broader South African *yātrā,* and to all who come in touch with your mission through this temple.

- And above all, please never allow us to lose sight of your vision and mission as our sole goal and guiding purpose in life.

We offer this today not to showcase achievements, but as an offering of our ongoing attempts to serve your desires in this corner of the world. Whatever value or success is found in these efforts belongs entirely to you and your causeless mercy; whatever faults or shortcomings are present are ours alone.

On this sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we again bow our heads and beg for your continued blessings that we may remain fixed in humility, sincerity, and unwavering determination to serve your divine mission at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha temple now and for generations to come.

Your servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha temple

Mauritius

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All Glories to Your Divine Grace, and all glories to your ISKCON movement.

This year marks the 130th year of your transcendental advent in this world for the benefit of humanity. You established ISKCON as an oasis in the desert of the material world. As your granddisciples and followers, it is our duty to maintain and pursue the expansion of ISKCON in our small country, which you mercifully visited twice in 1975.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once told His Holiness Giriraj Swami that for this movement to continue, two things are required: intelligence and organization. Pursuant to that, we organized a managerial training program for our local leaders earlier this year. Thirty-seven managers from nine of your ISKCON centers attended, leaving here inspired to put their heads together to organize preaching initiatives more effectively and to care for the devotees under their supervision.

Book distribution has always been your main focus, and we have strived to keep it at the forefront:

- Massive outreach: In 2025, ISKCON Mauritius distributed 127 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and thirty sets of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.
- Festival success: About 5,000 of your books were distributed over a one-week period during the Mahā-Śiva-rātri festival in March 2026.
- Global standing: Our Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir ranked first among the top ten African temples in January 2026.

To fulfill the first of the seven purposes of ISKCON – the systematic propagation of spiritual knowledge and cultivation of devotees – we have launched the Manjari pilot program. It's currently active in four locations, with seven dedicated preachers. The program has seventy-two registered participants who are all new to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and undergoing a high-level overview of the *Bhagavad-gītā* to begin their spiritual journey.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we hope that you are pleased by the sincere efforts of the devotees working hard to push on your movement in Mauritius. We certainly have our share of challenges, but we pray that we always remain fixed in our determination to serve you in a spirit of cooperation.

Your servant,
Harideva Dāsa
On behalf of ISKCON Mauritius

Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As I write this offering, my mind reverts to something very simple. A young boy is arranging a small Ratha-yātrā in the courtyard of his home – the house of your father, Gour Mohan De, in Calcutta. It's a modest chariot, a few neighbors in attendance, and Lord Jagannātha emerging to meet everyone.

It is difficult for us to fully understand how that moment has now expanded across the world. Today, by your mercy, Lord Jagannātha travels through the streets of major cities on every continent.

People from all walks of life come forward. They pull the ropes, sing, dance, and accept *prasādam*. Many may not understand everything, but they feel something. We believe that what they are truly receiving is your compassion.

You desired this. You carried this wish. You gave this festival to the world.

Here in Sandton, Johannesburg, we are preparing for our fifth Ratha-yātrā. It is still growing. Some days it feels unsteady. There are many moving parts. Devotees are cooking, making samosas, building, calling, inviting – trying to bring everything together. Not everything goes as planned, but the effort is sincere. We are endeavoring to do this for your pleasure.

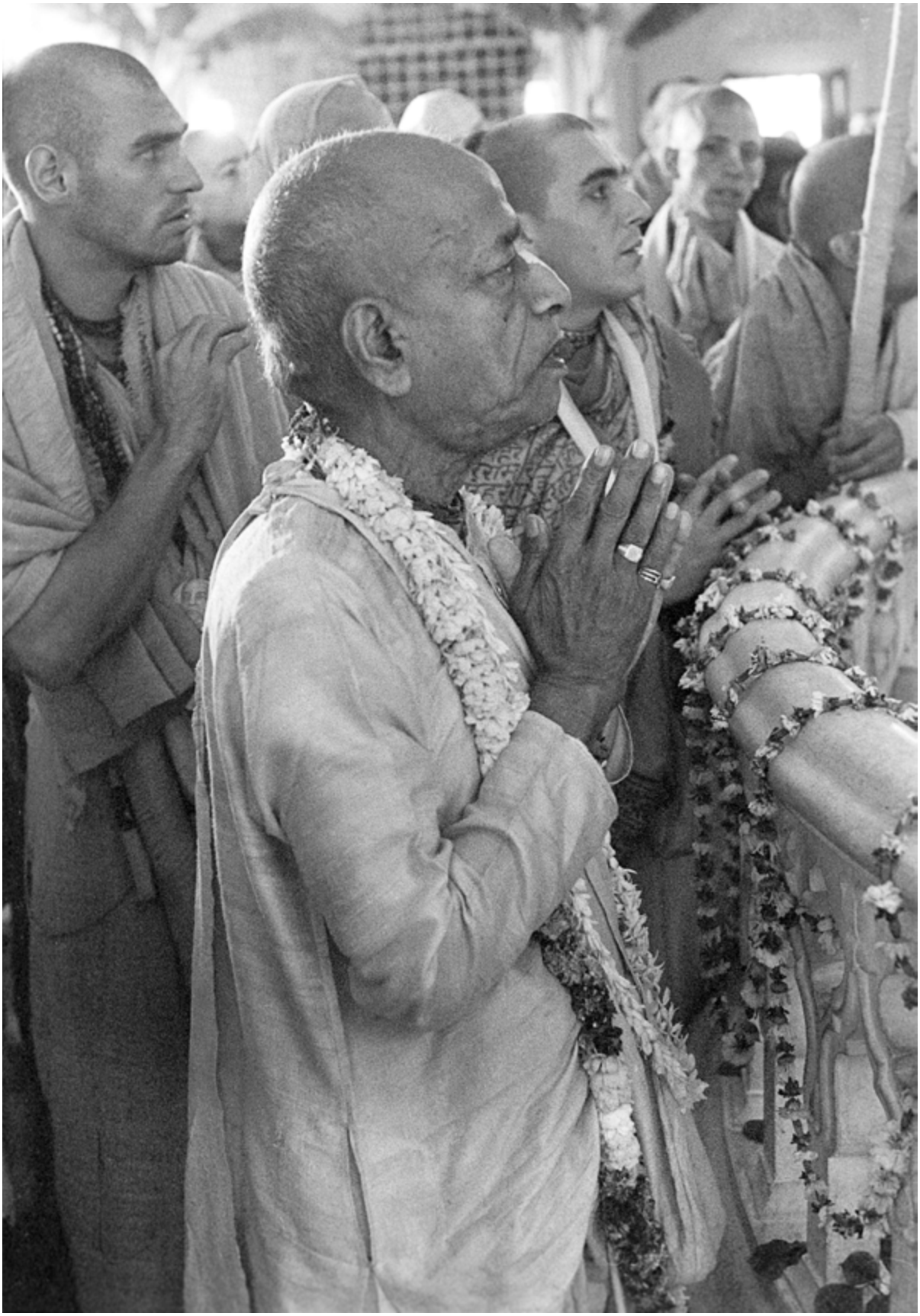
Over the past months and this past year, we have endeavored, in our small way, to continue your mission here in South Africa. The temple remains a place where people can come. Outreach continues in various spaces. Young people gather. Books are distributed. *Prasādam* is served. Slowly, something takes shape.

At the same time, we feel the weight of separation. Many of your followers are leaving this world – senior devotees who carried your mood so strongly. We feel their absence. We understand how much they held. And naturally, a question arises.

How do we serve you now? We do not feel fully qualified, but we do feel responsible.

Thus, we strive to stay engaged. To stay united. To maintain the kirtan. To keep the doors open. To continue inviting others. And in this effort, we pray that we are not alone – that through these small attempts, others can come closer to you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given everything – the holy name, your books, your example, and



a mission that continues to progress even now. We are simply begging for your mercy. Please allow us to serve with sincerity. Please help us remain steady. And if there is any value in what we are doing here in Sandton, please accept it.

This Ratha-yātrā is yours. This temple is yours. Everything we try to do is yours. We strive to be yours.

Your servants,
The ISKCON Sandton community
(written by Vibhu Caitanya Dāsa)

Zambia

Most beloved A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your divine service and boundless compassion upon the conditioned souls.

On the sacred occasion of your 130th Vyāsa-pūjā, the devotees of ISKCON Zambia offer our heartfelt gratitude for the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you have brought into our lives and into this part of the world. You fulfilled the divine prediction of Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma
sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma

That the holy name would be heard in every town and village is no longer a prophecy; it is a living reality due to your sacrifice. Zambia, too, stands as a small but sincere testimony to this. By your mercy, what began as a modest preaching center registered in 2015 has gradually developed into a vibrant devotional community. Whatever growth has come is simply due to your vision and blessings.

We are especially grateful that our *yātrā* was recently blessed as Jagannātha Dhāma by His Holiness Lokanath Swami, affirming the special place Lord Jagannātha's service has taken in Zambia. Our annual Ratha-yātrā has become one of the most visible and popular expressions of devotional culture here, attracting many newcomers and well-wishers.

By following your instructions as best we can, various aspects of your mission are taking root:

- Regular Sunday Love Feast and *satsaṅga* programs
- *Harināma* and book distribution

- Food for Life outreach
- Govinda's *prasādam* distribution
- Annual Śrīmad-Bhāgavata *kathā* and Rāma *kathā* programs
- Kirtan Melā, begun in 2025, received an enthusiastic response
- Boat Festival, begun in 2024, now a cherished annual observance
- A growing community of practicing devotees, with some now initiated in the *guru-paramparā*

These are small offerings, but they are all attempts to serve your mission. We are encouraged that the next aspiration for the *yātrā* is to secure our own site and develop a temple within the city – an offering we pray may become a reality through your blessings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mercy has reached Zambia through many channels. We remember with gratitude the visits and encouragement of many senior Vaiṣṇavas, including Radhanath Swami, Bhakti Narasiṁha Swami, Rāma Govinda Swami, the ongoing blessings of Lokanath Swami, and the pioneering contribution of Brahmānanda Swami, who planted seeds here in earlier years. Many senior devotees continue to nurture this small center through regular visits and guidance. We see all this as extensions of your mercy.

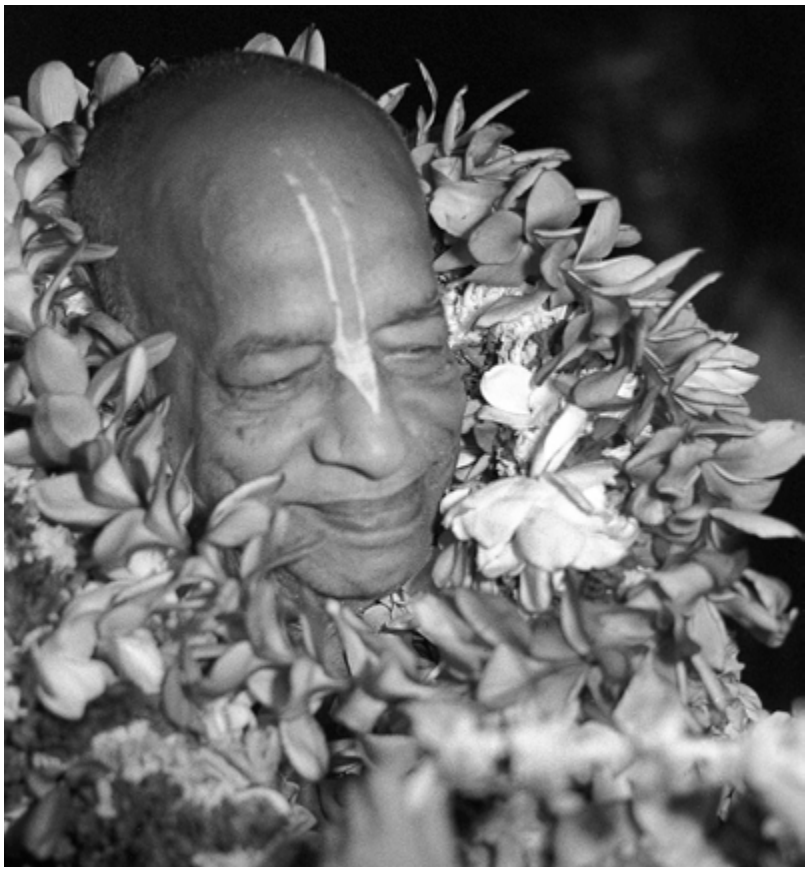
When we reflect that devotees in Zambia are chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, worshiping Lord Jagannātha, studying the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* honoring *prasādam,* and trying to serve the Vaiṣṇavas, we know all of this exists only because of your sacrifice. You crossed oceans alone, accepted enormous hardships, and gave the world Kṛṣṇa. We in Zambia are direct beneficiaries of that compassion. For this we offer our deepest gratitude.

Please bless us to remain faithful to your instructions, deepen our *sādhana* and cooperation, expand your mission in this country, establish a temple worthy of your movement, and to always remain servants of your servants

If there is any success in this *yātrā,* it belongs to you. If there are shortcomings, they are ours. On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, we simply pray that we may continue assisting, however imperfectly, in your mission of spreading Lord Caitanya's mercy.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving Zambia Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*! *Gaura premānande*! *Haribol*!

Your insignificant servants,
Jayagovinda Dāsa and the devotees of ISKCON Zambia



HOMAGES FROM ISKCON CENTERS

Asia & Eurasia

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of Śrī Vrindavan Dhāma Farm, Almaty, Kazakhstan, offer our heartfelt gratitude for your immeasurable mercy. By your compassion, even in this distant land, far from the holy *dhāmas,* a small reflection of Kṛṣṇa's culture is gradually manifesting.

You did not simply establish temples – you gave the world a complete way of life centered on Kṛṣṇa. Inspired by your vision, we are striving to create a place where bhakti is not theoretical but is lived daily through simple living and high thinking. Here, devotees, guests, and other local people come together to chant, serve, and honor *prasādam*. Festivals such as Janmāṣṭamī and Govardhana-pūjā are celebrated not as formal events, but as opportunities for heartfelt participation in devotional service.

By your guidance, we understand that true prosperity is spiritual, and that a sustainable life must be rooted in devotion. We are trying, in our small capacity, to care for the land, protect the cows, and engage everyone – villagers, families, and children – in Kṛṣṇa's service. Step by step, a new generation is growing up hearing the holy name, learning the values of simplicity, humility, and devotion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the modern world pulls society toward complexity, dependency, and forgetfulness of Kṛṣṇa. Yet you have already given the perfect solution: farm communities centered on *daivī-varṇāśrama,* where life supports the natural growth of bhakti. We are trying to follow this path – sometimes we are able to take small steps forward, and sometimes we are not. In truth, we are still very far from your ideals, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda … yet our lives have already become perfect. By your mercy, despite hundreds and thousands of mistakes, we are already living a joyful and meaningful life in the association of devotees.

We humbly pray for your mercy that we may become your instruments – united, sincere, and determined – to serve your mission. Please bless us with the intelligence to accept what is favorable for Kṛṣṇa consciousness and reject what is unfavorable, and to always remember that real success is only in pleasing Śrī Śrī Rādhe-Śyāma.

From the depths of our hearts, we offer ourselves at your lotus feet, praying to remain engaged in your service, life after life.

Your servants,
The inhabitants Śrī Vrindavan Dhāma Farm

Aravade, Maharashtra, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the humble devotees of ISKCON Aravade – nestled in the blessed soil of Maharashtra, the birthplace of our *gurudeva* – bow our heads and hearts at your lotus feet. Words tremble upon our tongues, for how can mere syllables capture the ocean of gratitude we feel toward you? You are the empowered representative of Vyāsadeva, the eternal link between the disciplic succession and the suffering souls of this age.

You are the compassionate captain of the ship of bhakti, guiding us across the turbulent ocean of Kali-yuga. You are the lion-guru who roared the holy name across continents, awakening sleeping souls. You are the gardener who planted the seed of devotion in barren lands, watering it with your tears, your books, your lectures, your kirtans, and your unyielding determination.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the embodiment of humility and boldness combined. With no resources but your faith in Kṛṣṇa and the order of your Guru Mahārāja, you crossed the ocean at an advanced age, enduring heart attacks and uncertainty, simply to give us the priceless gift of bhakti. You did not come to take; you came only to give. You gave us Kṛṣṇa, you gave us meaning, you gave us family, you gave us hope.

Your books are not ink on paper; they are the very voice of the *paramparā*. Each page is a lamp that dispels ignorance. Each purport is a jewel that illuminates the path of devotion. Each word is a seed that blossoms into love of God.

Your temples are not buildings of stone; they are sanctuaries of mercy. They are havens where the weary find solace, where the lost find direction, where the hungry find *prasāda,* and where the soul finds its eternal home.

Your disciples are not merely followers; they are living testaments of your power to transform. From hippies to devotees, from wanderers to servants, from skeptics to lovers of God – your touch turned coal into diamonds.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the sun that rose in the darkest night. You are the flute that carried Kṛṣṇa's song to every corner of the earth. You are the bridge between East and West, between tradition and modernity, between the eternal and the temporary.

We glorify you not only for what you did, but for how you did it – with unwavering faith, with boundless compassion, with fearless preaching, and with the sweetest humility. You never claimed greatness for yourself; you only pointed to Kṛṣṇa. Yet in pointing to Him, you revealed your own greatness, for only the greatest soul can so perfectly efface himself in service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your impact is immeasurable. You did not merely establish temples; you established a revolution of consciousness. You did not merely translate books; you translated eternity into language accessible to all. You did not merely chant; you ignited a worldwide movement of kirtan.

Because of you, the holy name resounds in cities and villages across the globe. Because of you, the *Bhagavad-gītā* is no longer confined to scholars but is embraced by seekers of every background. Because of you, *prasāda* is served in schools, prisons, hospitals, and homes, nourishing bodies and souls alike.

You gave the world a new culture – a culture of purity amid pollution, a culture of devotion amid distraction, a culture of simplicity amid greed. You showed that bhakti is not bound by caste, creed, or nationality. You proved that the soul is universal, and its hunger for Kṛṣṇa is the same in every heart.

In India, you rekindled the flame of devotion that was flickering under the winds of modernity. You reminded us of our heritage, our dharma, our duty. You showed us that our scriptures are not relics of the past but living guides for the present. You gave dignity to the saffron robe, respect to the *tilaka,* and relevance to the temple.

You brought back pride in our spiritual culture, not as nationalism but as universalism. You showed that India's gift to the world is not technology or politics, but bhakti – the science of the soul.

And here, in Aravade, your impact is deeply personal. This village, blessed as the birthplace of our *gurudeva,* has become a vibrant center of devotion because of your vision.

Your movement reached even our humble soil, transforming simple villagers into devotees, turning ordinary homes into centers of kirtan, and making our festivals into grand celebrations of bhakti.

Because of you, ISKCON Aravade stands as a beacon in rural Maharashtra. Thousands gather here for Brahmotsava, Gaura-Pūrṇimā, and Janmāṣṭamī, chanting and dancing in ecstasy. Because of you, book distribution thrives even in dusty lanes, carrying your words into the hands of farmers, students, and seekers. Because of you, *prasāda* is cooked in massive pots and served to thousands, nourishing not only stomachs but hearts.

You gave us the courage to organize, to preach, to distribute, to serve. You gave us the inspiration to overcome rural challenges, to harmonize relationships, to resolve conflicts, and to keep the flame of devotion burning bright.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Aravade's devotees are your children. Every temple bell that rings here, every *abhang* sung in your honor, every book distributed in your name, every devotee who bows before the Deities – all of it is your mercy manifest.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, today we offer you not only words but our collective heart. We offer you the sweat of our festival preparations, the sleepless nights of our coordinators, the tears of our kirtan singers, the smiles of our *prasāda* servers, the determination of our book distributors, and the humility of our *brahmacārīs*.

We offer you the unity we strive for, the transparency we cultivate, the cooperation we nurture. We offer you our struggles, our challenges, our conflicts – transformed into opportunities for growth by your teachings.

We offer you our village itself: the fields that grow grains for *prasāda,* the homes that shelter devotees, the streets that echo with *harināma,* the hearts that beat with devotion.

We offer you our future: the children who learn your teachings, the youth who embrace your mission, the elders who guide with your wisdom.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Aravade's devotees are not perfect, but they are sincere. We stumble, but we rise. We quarrel, but we reconcile. We struggle, but we persevere. And through it all, we hold onto your lotus feet, knowing that they are our only shelter.

On this Vyāsa-pūjā, we pledge anew:

- To distribute your books with greater zeal.
- To organize festivals with greater unity.
- To serve *prasāda* with greater love.

- To chant with greater sincerity.
- To live with greater humility.

We pledge to make ISKCON Aravade not just a temple but a family; not just a center but a sanctuary; not just a place but a movement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may our offering today be not only in words but in deeds. May our lives themselves become offerings at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our eternal father, our eternal guide, our eternal shelter. On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, we bow before you with gratitude that cannot be measured, with love that cannot be contained, and with faith that cannot be shaken.

May ISKCON Aravade's devotees always remain your humble servants. May our village resound with your glories. May our lives reflect your teachings. May our hearts forever chant your name alongside Kṛṣṇa's.

Your insignificant servant,
On behalf of all the devotees in Aravade

Attapur, Hyderabad, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Lord Caitanya said,

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

> If some sinful people escape and, giving up religious principles, go to far-off countries, then my *senāpati-bhakta* (military commander) will come at that time to give them Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

It is clearly evident that you are that *senāpati-bhakta,* the military commander of Lord Caitanya, spreading the Lord's *saṅkīrtana* mission to every nook and corner of the world.

Your purity attracted millions of people. Your love bound them to your lotus feet. Your transcendental teachings purified their hearts and the divine *prasādam* and holy name smashed their illusions. The Kṛṣṇa conscious lifestyle you taught us has actually made us become human and give up our animal way of living.

The greatest blessing on this planet earth is that one is able to know and worship Lord Kṛṣṇa in all parts of the world, just because of your divine compassion on fallen souls.

At ISKCON Attapur we are trying to put forth our best efforts to serve the Deities, care for the devotees' physical, mental, and spiritual health, perform regular *harināmas* and book distribution, preach to the youth and our congregation, and more.

We are trying to cultivate the elite people of Hyderabad, like businessmen, celebrities, government officials, and others, inviting them to temple festivals, involving them in some kind of

service to Their Lordships. It is so happy to see that how they really appreciate ISKCON's efforts to spread peace, love, and devotion, as guided by Your Divine Grace.

It is our pleasure to bring to your kind notice that by your blessings, ISKCON Attapur secured first place in the outpost category for the 2025 book distribution marathon, with 113,342 book points. Also, we distributed more than 7 lakhs packets of *prasādam* over the past one year. Hundreds of youth are attending regular classes and chanting and performing other services. At Sircilla Farm, which is being managed by the devotees of ISKCON Attapur, a beautiful temple and farm project is gradually manifesting and will showcase an ideal Kṛṣṇa conscious lifestyle.

On this auspicious occasion of your divine appearance day, we devotees at ISKCON Attapur would like to beg at your lotus feet to bless us with increased spiritual energy and enthusiasm to do more wonderful services for your great mission.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Attapur

Baku, Azerbaijan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You truly are an ocean of mercy! We bow our heads in gratitude before your causeless and boundless mercy! We implore you to kindly accept our humble obeisances!

It is only by your mercy that the call of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, proclaimed five hundred years ago – "*Jīv jāgo*!" – has pierced through the thick layer of the rust of ignorance and reached our deaf ears. Through your disciples, who are the heralds of your divine mercy, and through other followers inspired by them, the battle that began in the late 1980s on a new front against the ruthless army of ignorance in the Republic of Azerbaijan – then one of the fifteen republics of the former USSR, now an independent state – still continues.

As we try to awaken upon receiving your message, in our struggle against the enchantments of Māyā, along with our successes, our losses have not been few. Many of the leaders of that front, those heroic warriors, unfortunately could not stand to the end before the cruel soldiers of Māyā. Yet their efforts were not in vain, and from their fire many others have been ignited and turned toward your path. Therefore, we also remember with respect those who have left our ranks and pray that they may once again return to their positions.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are grateful to you for your disciples – those generals of the army of devotees – who inspire us on this front and who move forward with determination in your footsteps! It is through them that we have come to know you. Without their shining example, we would not have known how to apply in our lives what we have heard and read.

We are eternally grateful to you for *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, "Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and your countless other books, purports, and lectures! We are grateful to you for Caitanya Mahāprabhu, for little Kāna crawling innocently in the courtyard of Nanda Bābā, and we offer our repeated *daṇḍavats* unto them for giving you to us! You are a truly wonderful team and a perfect family!

We beg you with the *bhajana* of Raghunandana Prabhu:

prabhupāda kṛpā karke, mujhko apanā lenā
maiṅ śaraṇa paḍā terī, caraṇoṅ meṅ jagaha denā

Prabhupāda, please be merciful and accept us into your family! Taking shelter at your lotus feet, we beg: please grant us refuge at your lotus feet!

With our obeisances,
The servants of the servants of the servants at the Baku *yātrā*

Bangkok, Thailand

Hare Kṛṣṇa dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As per Your Divine Grace's desire to train youths in both the material and spiritual spheres and reach out to the local Thai people, we have been running a student center in Bangkok under the guidance of your senior disciples and our *śīkṣā-* and *dīkṣā-gurus,* His Holiness BVV Narasiṁha Mahārāja, His Holiness Kavicandra Mahārāja, and His Holiness Jayapatāka Mahārāja, all GBC secretaries of ISKCON Thailand. What follows is an account of some of our activities and outcomes:

- Resident local Thai youths: Around 10–12 Thai youths stay at the center and perform simple morning/evening Kṛṣṇa conscious programs – *japa* and kirtan, discussion on spiritual topics, cooking and cleaning. During the day, they study at nearby universities: Assumption (ABAC) University, Ramkamheng University, Stamford University, Kasetsart University, and others, and acquire a material education as per their interest and/or parents' sponsorship. In the last twenty years since our center was established, a few dozen local and international students have benefitted from this scheme. Most of them have continued their spiritual life and several are initiated, and assist in spreading the mission of Lord Gaurāṅga in Thailand and other parts of the world.
- Weekly Saturday program: Around 20–30 devotees and others gather and perform kirtan, read and discuss the *Bhagavad-gītā,* which has been translated into Thai, attend Gaura-ārati, and honor *prasādam*. The resident youths help organize the program alongside the senior congregation members who live around the area.
- Outreach programs: We have *bhakti-vṛkṣa* and children's programs in the Sukumvit and Sathorn areas. We've been conducting these programs for around a decade, mostly on Friday evenings or Sunday mornings, as per the convenience of the host and leading devotees. *Harināmas* and other kirtans along with book distribution are held at times in nearby parks or areas such as Ramkamheng, Bangkapi, and Lumphini, and sometimes in trips from Bangkok to nearby cities like Pranburi, Suphanburi and Ayutthaya. We also hold yoga and mantra meditation sessions, organized at universities or other schools by the friends and acquaintances of the resident youth or members of our congregation.

Please continue to bless us, guide us, and give us your shelter through the association of senior Vaiṣṇavas – your disciples and granddisciples. Also, may we be able to assimilate more spiritual knowledge by studying your books deeply and may we relish the nectar of the holy names in the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. May we continue to be an instrument for delivering the message of Lord

Kṛṣṇa and Lord Gaurāṅga to the people of Thailand and worldwide. We hope and wish our endeavors please you and the previous *ācāryas*.

Trying to serve,
Sumādhuri Līlā Devī Dāsī and Antaraṅga Gopāla Dāsa
On behalf of ISKCON Ramkamheng (ABAC), Student Center

Baramati, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, out of causeless mercy upon the people of Kali-yuga, you descended to this earth by the will of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. The prophecy of your appearance is found in the scriptures and in the words of the *ācāryas*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an eternal associate of the Lord. By spreading *sanātana-dharma* across the world, you connected millions of people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This is your greatest compassion upon humanity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, at the time of your appearance, neither India nor the Western world were favorable to the propagation of devotion. India was undergoing a struggle for independence, while the West was experiencing excess freedom. In such difficult circumstances, you accepted the responsibility of spreading *sanātana-dharma* on the order of your guru and fulfilled it successfully through great struggle.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you received Vaiṣṇava *saṁskāras* from your father. Your guru, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, instructed you to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the Western world. Though India was under foreign rule, your guru directed you to free people from the bondage of *māyā*. This instruction became a great blessing for humanity. You liberated countless souls from true bondage.

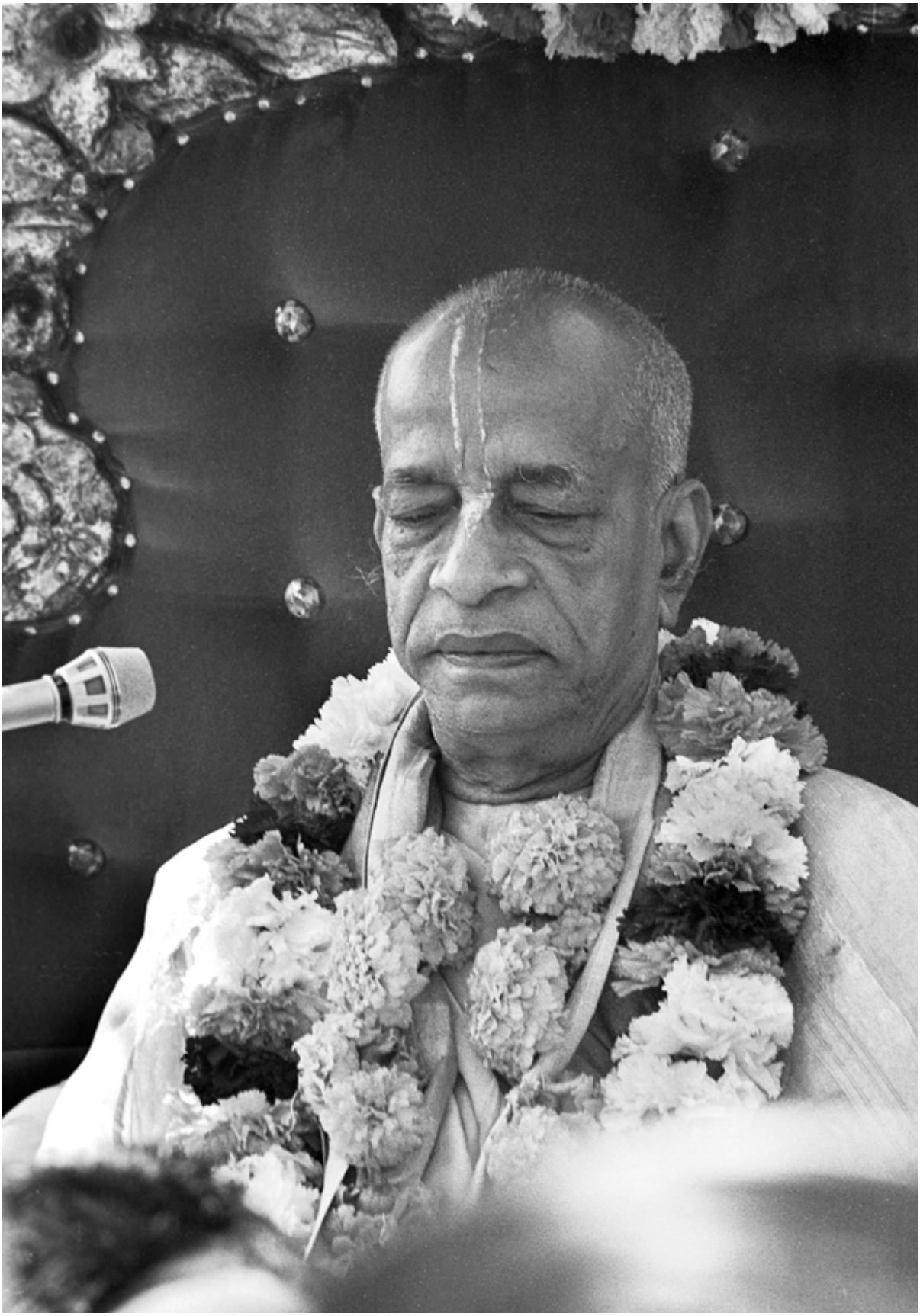
Śrīla Prabhupāda, the beautiful temples you established worldwide are one of your greatest contributions. Their cleanliness, management, decoration, worship, and Deity service are unparalleled. Today, millions are attracted to ISKCON temples and are learning the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. These temples have become a global inspiration.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the *prasādam* served in your temples is another great attraction. Your instruction that no one should remain hungry has borne fruit. This sattvic food is reaching many, even as midday meals in schools. Many people are becoming devotees through *prasādam*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your books are one of your most important contributions. You translated scriptures written in Sanskrit into simple English, making them accessible to all. You presented pure Vedic knowledge and revealed deep spiritual truths in a simple way. Your books answer countless questions and act as a guiding light for the world. Humanity will always remain indebted to you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you lived a life full of struggle. At that time, devotion was challenged by philosophies like Māyāvāda, impersonalism, and voidism. You removed these obstacles and created a clear path, allowing conditioned souls like us to progress easily.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, before leaving this world, you gave us many pure disciples who continue your mission. Through them, your divine service is expanding globally.



Śrīla Prabhupāda, at the age of 70 you undertook the difficult journey on the *Jaladuta* to fulfill your guru's order. Despite physical, financial, cultural, and environmental challenges, you continued preaching. Your life is an inspiration for every spiritual seeker.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you accepted hardships to connect souls with the Lord and uplift humanity through Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your contribution is a debt that can never be repaid.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in Baramati, a center is serving with your blessings. Through youth programs, *Bhagavad-gītā* courses, pilgrimages, festivals, *satsaṅgas,* book distribution, and *prasādam* distribution, we are trying to serve society. We pray that your blessings always remain upon us.

Your servants of the Baramati ISKCON center

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

With deep gratitude and a sense of responsibility to serve your divine mission, we, the devotees of ISKCON Bhopal BYC, humbly present this year's offering, reporting the progress of your movement in Bhopal and seeking your continued blessings.

Last year, by your mercy, we witnessed a historic beginning with the grand *bhūmi-pūjā* of our new temple land. This year, that seed has begun to take visible form. After the *bhūmi-pūjā,* by the end of March all the devotees had gradually shifted to the new temple land, embracing many austerities and challenges with enthusiasm simply to assist in establishing your mission here. Since then, construction has been steadily progressing, and by your causeless mercy we have successfully completed Phase 1 of the project.

This first phase has given us a functional residential facility for temple devotees, guest rooms for visiting and senior Vaiṣṇavas, a proper kitchen, and a *prasādam* hall where devotees and guests can honor sanctified food together. Additionally, a new Matchless Gifts shop has started, attracting visitors and giving them an opportunity to connect with Kṛṣṇa consciousness through books and devotional items. All these developments are small but significant steps in manifesting your vision in this part of the city.

Last year, we were also blessed to organize a grand Ratha-yātrā festival, which concluded at the new temple land. Many people from across the city participated, and the atmosphere was surcharged with the holy names. For many, this was their first connection with your movement at this new location. Shortly after, we celebrated Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī for the first time on this new land, and to our great surprise and joy, the number of visitors far exceeded our expectations. It became evident that by your blessings, this new center is naturally attracting sincere souls eager to connect with Kṛṣṇa.

With this encouraging response, we have now begun working on Phase 2 of the temple project: a large *satsaṅga* hall that will be able to accommodate a significant gathering of devotees and guests. Work on the foundation has already begun, and we are hopeful that within the next year it will be completed. This hall will not only enhance the beauty of the temple but will also greatly strengthen preaching activities by providing a proper space for large programs, festivals, and classes.

Although the number of devotees is still limited, we are sincerely trying our best to continue all aspects of devotional service. Regular *saṅkīrtana,* book distribution, weekly programs, and *dhāma-yātrās* are ongoing. A new small *saṅkīrtana* van has been acquired, which regularly goes out for book distribution, helping to expand your mission and reach more conditioned souls.

Our outreach preaching centers are also gradually growing, and new connections are forming in different parts of the city. The seeds of Kṛṣṇa consciousness are being planted in many hearts, and we can see that with time and proper nurturing, these will grow into strong devotional communities.

We are especially grateful that many senior *sannyāsīs* and spiritual leaders of ISKCON continue to visit this new center, offering their guidance, association, and blessings. Their presence inspires all devotees and strengthens our conviction to serve you sincerely. This year, for the first time, initiation ceremonies were also conducted at this new temple land, where many devotees received initiation from their respective spiritual masters. Seeing devotees from different gurus living together, serving cooperatively, and striving to please you as the founder-*ācārya* is a great source of inspiration and hope for the future of your movement here.

Following the same spirit as last year, our youth preaching, Vaiṣṇavī forums, weekly congregational programs, and scriptural study sessions are continuing steadily. Devotees are becoming more serious in their practices, regularly attending classes, chanting, and reading your books. We understand that real success lies not only in physical expansion but in developing pure devotees, and we are trying to keep this focus in all our efforts.

Our goshala service is also continuing near the temple, where cows are being cared for with devotion, contributing to the spiritual atmosphere of the *dhāma* we are trying to establish here.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as we reflect on all these developments, we clearly see that everything is happening only by your mercy. At the same time, we also understand that this is just the beginning. Being a new project, there is still so much to be done: construction, preaching expansion, devotee care, training, and establishing a strong spiritual foundation.

We humbly admit that we have many shortcomings, both individually and collectively. Still, with whatever little capacity we have, we are trying to serve your mission sincerely. We deeply feel the need for your constant blessings and guidance so that we may perform all services in the proper mood – free from ego, with cooperation, humility, and a desire to please you.

Kindly bless us that we may develop strong unity among devotees, remain fixed in *sādhana* and Vaiṣṇava etiquette, expand this center as a powerful preaching hub, and most importantly, become instruments in fulfilling your desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village. Please continue to reside in this project and guide us from within our hearts.

We pray that this new ISKCON Bhopal BYC center becomes a place where thousands of conditioned souls come, take shelter, and transform their lives through your teachings.

Your insignificant servant,
Rasānanda Dāsa
On behalf of devotees of ISKCON Bhopal BYC

Brunei

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our dearest, ever well-wisher, eternal father, and master,

brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja

> According to their karma, all living entities are wandering throughout the entire universe. Some of them are being elevated to the upper planetary systems, and some are going down into the lower planetary systems. Out of many millions of wandering living entities, one who is very fortunate gets an opportunity to associate with a bona fide spiritual master by the grace of Kṛṣṇa. By the mercy of both Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master, such a person receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 19.151)

We begin with trembling hearts and folded palms, fully aware of our utter unworthiness. We are the lowest of the low – fallen souls in a far-flung corner of the world, and the least deserving recipients of the *bhakti-latā-bīja*. And yet, by your causeless mercy, that seed appears to be sprouting in this most unlikely of soils. It is only by your boundless compassion that we find ourselves at your lotus feet once again on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance.

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you mentioned, "A Vaiṣṇava is therefore described as being *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī,* very much aggrieved by the sufferings of others. As such, a Vaiṣṇava engages in activities for the real welfare of human society." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 9.21.12, purport)

This year in Brunei, your servants have attempted – however feebly and imperfectly – to embody this instruction. Witnessing the spiritual hunger of Indian and Bangladeshi expatriates in this distant land, and feeling genuine pain at their separation from Kṛṣṇa, your servants have endeavored to bring your books, your kirtan, and your *prasādam* to their doors.

This year it was heartening to partake in an indoor Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā in the palatial homes of some gracious devotee-friendly families. With great joy and enthusiasm, approximately eighty guests and devotees pulled the *ratha,* inviting Their Lordships Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā into their hearts. All of this was entirely possible by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for we have no ability or capability to arrange anything by our own efforts.

By the mercy of Lord Gaurāṅga, we were invited to sing kirtan and perform *āratis* in the homes of friends on a couple of evenings during the eleven-day Gaṇeśa-caturthī festival. By Your Divine Grace, the guests were absorbed in the kirtan, and many enthusiastically performed the *āratis* themselves – a quietly transformative moment for souls otherwise unacquainted with Vaiṣṇava devotion.

The auspicious Dāmodara month continues to be the most beloved season for outreach. This year, by your mercy, we were invited to conduct the very first *dāmodara-ārati* in the homes of several new friends and colleagues. Most movingly, the High Commissioner of India to Brunei himself graced one such program and offered a ghee lamp to Lord Dāmodara. In all, approximately 375 ghee lamps were offered across first-time home visits and regular congregation members' houses during this sacred month – kindling devotion by your causeless grace.

Govardhana-pūjā remains the most eagerly awaited annual gathering in our home. This year, more than seventy devotees and friends – some with their young children – participated with great enthusiasm. The air was filled with energetic kirtan, and a sumptuous feast of *prasādam* was lovingly prepared and honored. It is entirely by your mercy that such an event is even possible in the context of this conservative Islamic country.

Festivals such as Narasiṁha-caturdaśī, Janmāṣṭamī, Rādhāṣṭamī, and Gaura-Pūrṇimā were all celebrated behind closed doors by performing *abhiṣeka* with deep devotion. Most notably, *abhiṣeka* for Gaura-Pūrṇimā was organized twice to accommodate the schedules of friends and colleagues. All invitees individually participated in the transcendental activity of bathing Gaura-Nitāi Deities with milk, honey, yogurt and other sacred ingredients, and in so doing received the causeless mercy of Their Lordships.

Gītā-jayantī was celebrated in a most memorable way this year, with the translations of all seven hundred verses of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* being read aloud in six different languages by friends, colleagues, and their families. What a sight it was, Śrīla Prabhupāda – your words in six tongues, all glorifying the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This was only possible because of the seeds of devotion you planted through your books.

Our weekly *Bhagavad-gītā* study sessions – the Saturday group and the Tuesday group for expat oil-industry colleagues and their families – had a few unforeseen interruptions this year, but by your mercy, we were able to resume them and continue our study, reflection, and discussion of verses, translations, and the nectarean purports penned by Your Divine Grace. These sessions remain a lifeline of spiritual nourishment for many ultra-neophyte friends who have no other regular access to Vaiṣṇava association.

Our Sunday evening gathering with the Bangladeshi expat community continues to be the spiritual heartbeat of the congregation. *Tulasī-ārati*, *Gaura-ārati* and *Nṛsiṁha-ārati*, followed by soul-stirring kirtan, a reflection on the *Bhagavad-gītā,* and a shared *prasādam* meal – this format, so lovingly given by you, continues to attract new members. It warms the heart to see some attendees now turning away from meat-eating, and others eagerly requesting *japa* beads to begin chanting at home.

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, we, the most unworthy and fallen of souls in this tiny corner of the world, bow our heads at your lotus feet in deepest humility. Whatever small service may have been rendered in Brunei is entirely and solely the fruit of your boundless, causeless mercy. We have no qualification whatsoever of our own. It is only the shade of your lotus feet that keeps us from drowning in this ocean of material existence.

We beg, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you never withdraw your compassionate glance from us. May you kindly overlook our countless offenses and shortcomings. May we always remain, in life and death, the most insignificant dust particles at your divine lotus feet.

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!

Your insignificant servants of the servants of the servants,
Cakradhārī Kānāi Dāsa and the devotees of the Brunei *yātrā*

China

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. It is said in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (2.4.18):

kirāta-hūṇāndhra-pulinda-pulkaśā
ābhīra-śumbhā yavanāḥ khasādayaḥ
ye 'nye ca pāpā yad-apāśrayāśrayāḥ
śudhyanti tasmai prabhaviṣṇave namaḥ

> Kirātas, Hūṇas, Āndhras, Pulindas, Pulkaśas, Ābhīras, Śumbhas, Yavanas, members of the Khasa races, and even others addicted to sinful acts can be purified by taking shelter of the devotees of the Lord, due to His being the supreme power. I beg to offer my respectful obeisances unto Him.

In your Bhaktivedanta purport to this verse, Your Divine Grace wrote: "Khasa: The inhabitants of the Khasadeśa are mentioned in the *Mahābhārata* (*Droṇa-parva*). Those who have a stunted growth of hair on the upper lip are generally called Khasas. As such, the Khasa are the Mongolians, the Chinese, and others who are so designated."

From this we can understand that even we Chinese, who are constantly engaged in sinful acts, are corrigible to the standard of perfect human beings by taking shelter of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness founded by Your Divine Grace in 1966 in New York. Just like Jesus Christ, a powerful devotee of the Lord, Your Divine Grace has done tremendous service on behalf of the Lord on the surface of the globe. The dust-worn minds of the people in general are becoming purified by the association of Your Divine Grace and of the devotees of ISKCON.

Your Divine Grace has taught us that simply by chanting the holy name of the Lord, a tremendous change of heart can take place, by which the complete misunderstanding between the human nations created by politicians can at once be extinguished. Otherwise, the valuable human form of life will be spoiled in following a type of materialistic civilization that is ultimately doomed.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Your Divine Grace is such a powerful Vaiṣṇava that you turned into Vaiṣṇavas even those who were lowborn, women, *śūdras,* and *vaiśyas*. Your Divine Grace has fulfilled the prophecy of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

pṛthivī-paryānta yata āche deśa-grāma
sarvatra saṅcāra haibeka mora nāma

> In every town and village of the world, the chanting of My name will be heard. (*Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata, Antya-khaṇḍa* 4.126)

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for saving us from this animalistic way of life. Your Divine Grace is our great savior.

Now we have over two thousand devotees here in China, although we are not a legal entity yet because of the local government. Your Divine Grace predicted that the Chinese will be the last but the best for taking up Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is definitely going to come true, for as

a self-realized soul, Your Divine Grace can see past, present, and future. Just as the Chinese accepted Buddhism with all their hearts and souls thousands of years ago, so by the mercy of Your Divine Grace and the mercy of Lord Buddha, who is a powerful incarnation of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, we Chinese will also accept Kṛṣṇa consciousness with all our hearts and souls in the not-far future.

Your fallen servant,
Gaurāṅga Prema Dāsa
On behalf of the Chinese devotees

Chowpatty, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Once again, that most auspicious time of the year has arrived when we are given the opportunity to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt prayers unto you.

With every passing year, we witness your movement expanding far and wide, especially in India. New centers are opening, existing centers are developing into full-fledged temples, book distribution is steadily increasing, and the number of devotees continues to grow. More people are becoming our friends and well-wishers, our social outreach is strengthening, and even government leaders are extending increasing support to your mission. Within the society, devotees are coming together in a spirit of cooperation and forming more effective and collaborative teams to expand your preaching mission. Although certain challenges have arisen that could potentially create rifts, none have become so severe as to obstruct the overall progress of your movement.

While the expansion of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's movement is deeply encouraging, we also observe the rise of disturbing and harmful influences all over the world, across all continents. There are forces that seek to undermine, corrupt, or even destroy *sanātana-dharma* in various ways. Day by day, their influence appears to be growing across different levels of society, and we cannot foresee what the situation may be in the coming years.

In such times, we try to draw hope and strength by remembering the Kurukṣetra war as it is described in the *Mahābhārata,* where the righteous Pāṇḍavas were vastly outnumbered by the Kauravas, yet despite their apparent disadvantage, they emerged victorious simply because Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa was on their side: *jayas tu pāṇḍu-putrāṇāṁ yeṣāṁ pakṣe janārdanaḥ*. We are also reminded of the story of the small sparrow who sought to dry up the ocean to recover her lost eggs, and how Garuḍa ultimately came to her aid.

Similarly, although our strength appears insignificant in comparison to the vast forces of Kali and Māyā, we place our hope in your causeless mercy and blessings. By your empowerment, even the smallest effort can become successful. We pray that we may remain instruments in your hands, able to serve your mission with sincerity and determination, and thereby contribute, in whatever small way, to the victory of Lord Caitanya's movement. *Paraṁ vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam*.

Your servants at ISKCON Chowpatty



Dubai

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I am filled with gratitude, realizing that it is by your mercy – and your mercy alone – that we are attempting to lead our lives in a Kṛṣṇa conscious way. We can never truly imagine the darkness we would be in had you not brought the light of the holy name to the world.

I am immensely blessed by the association of my spiritual father, His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja, who is a living testament to your empowered mission. He is constantly meditating on your instructions to him and the GBC, showing us how to fulfill your vision despite all odds. Through his mercy, and the mercy of the wonderful devotees of ISKCON, I find the strength to serve.

You painstakingly created ISKCON and headed it for twelve years, setting a perfect example for an organization that continues to grow sixty years after its incorporation. Your disciples followed the instructions of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.7.30–31 to the letter, giving 100 percent of themselves to you and your mission. Specifically, I am moved by the principle of *sarva-labdhārpaṇena ca* – offering everything one has acquired to the spiritual master. They have shown us that through *guru-śuśrūṣayā* (service to the spiritual master) and *saṅgena sādhu-bhaktānām* (association of devotees), all success is achieved. Following in their footsteps, we strive to emulate that dedication, supporting ISKCON's growth while trying to grow in our own Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Currently, I am serving in the GCC area (Damodar Desh). As you know, the circumstances here are tough for open preaching, and we mainly reach out to the expat community. We continue to seek your special blessings so that we can improve our outreach and, by your grace, one day establish a beautiful temple in this region.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, handling even a small *yātrā* is so intense and all-consuming that it makes me realize your true position. You are undoubtedly a *śaktyāveṣa-avatāra;* only a soul directly empowered by Kṛṣṇa could have managed such a massive global empire at your age, winning the lifelong dedication of those fifty years your junior.

I beg for your continued blessings to serve Your Divine Grace, the institution of ISKCON, and the current leadership with sincerity and steadiness.

Your spiritual grandson and servant,
Śrī Vallabha Dāsa and the devotees of Damodar Desh

Gaya, Bihar, India

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my humble obeisances. I am stating a few sentences of your glorification for my own purification, because when a person simply remembers you, he is purified.

Your books are a great blessing for human society. Through your books, you eternally give your divine association to the conditioned souls. So many souls have been delivered, and for thousands of years to come, many more will be delivered.

Although I have no purity at all to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness, I have strong faith in your books, which preach with complete purity. Therefore, I simply try to facilitate others to read your books. I have seen that by reading them, people gradually cultivate your mood of preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your letters, quotes, and discussions help us realign our consciousness. This is your causeless mercy – that you have given this unqualified, sinful, conditioned soul the responsibility to lead

the project in Gaya Dhāma, where Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu began the *saṅkīrtana* movement after having darshan of Viṣṇupāda and receiving initiation from Śrīpāda Īśvara Purī.

My only qualification is that somehow or other I am attached to your morning program. This morning program is truly wonderful and purifies us very quickly. I have experienced in my own life that although I had so much conditioning, by attending your morning program I gained the realization to give up sense gratification and to practice pure devotion.

I have a spiritual desire, Śrīla Prabhupāda, which has also been sanctioned by our immediate authority. I wish to build a 108-foot statue of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu here in Gaya to mark the place where He began the *saṅkīrtana* movement. The statue may be called the "Statue of Love" or "Statue of Devotion." I do not know whether I will be able to render this service in this lifetime.

If you so desire, Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless and empower me. Your mercy is my only qualification.

Your humble servant,
Jagdish Shyam Dāsa

Georgia, Central Asia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept this humble attempt to glorify and please you, along with a few words of gratitude from your eternal and hopelessly indebted servants. As you have repeatedly pointed out, true glorification and expression of gratitude to the spiritual teacher lies not only in speaking refined words and expressing deep emotions during Vyāsa-pūjā ceremonies and similar events, but first and foremost in the daily sincere efforts to follow his instructions and example, no matter how difficult or inconvenient it may be.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us everything – your invaluable books, numerous temples, beautiful Deities, an extraordinary example of a selfless and sacrificial life, and many practical and wise instructions for all aspects of life. One could go on listing endlessly. But especially, I would like to thank you for your two most important and wonderful gifts. About twenty years ago, I heard words from His Holiness Radhanath Swami that became engraved on my heart, hopefully forever: "Śrīla Prabhupāda said that we can do without temples – we can do without everything. We don't need money. If we can get it, we will use it. We don't need property. If we get it, we will use it. We don't need vehicles. If we get them, we will use them. We don't need good public relations. If we get it, we will use it. But one thing we always need, at all times, for our spiritual survival, and that is the association of the devotees and the regular chanting of the holy names. If we lose either of these two, which are actually one in essence, then we lose our connection to Kṛṣṇa.

In this small country of Georgia, we are trying as best we can to serve the holy name and the

Vaiṣṇavas. And you are reciprocating by sending more and more sincere souls and by sustaining the inspiration of those who are already practicing Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavīs. Just a few years ago the situation was not so simple or optimistic. But now devotees hold *harināmas* each week on the streets of Tbilisi and Batumi, distribute your books, and with each passing year, the December marathon becomes more and more successful and inspiring. Educational programs for interested people and new devotees are constantly being held, and the beautiful Deities of Gaurāṅga and Nityānanda are worshiped with great love. This has become possible largely due to your steadfast and faithful follower, His Holiness Dayānanda Swami, as well as other senior Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavīs who selflessly dedicate themselves to serving your mission. This is undoubtedly your special gift to our *yātrā*.

Please allow us to continue serving you more and more and better and better by spreading the *harināma-saṅkīrtana* of Lord Caitanya both externally and internally. In particular, we beg for your mercy so that your instructions and life example do not remain merely a magnificent monument that we admire from afar, but become the true essence of our lives, merging with our consciousness: *guru-mukha-padma-vākya cittete koriyā aikya, ār nā koriho mane āśā*.

We will try to make our community a truly united and loving family, where everyone cares for and worries about others more than themselves. But only by your mercy will we be able to obtain the necessary purity and strength for this. And finally, please bless us so that more and more local young people come to Kṛṣṇa and that we may care for them and help them become serious devotees so that Kṛṣṇa consciousness may take deep roots in this land and bear the desired fruits. Please engage us without obstruction in your eternal service to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga.

The devotees at ISKCON Georgia

Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

It is our great fortune that we are in touch with such a divine personality as yourself. You first came into my life in form of your *Bhagavad-gītā* purports, and by your mercy I then got contact with ISKCON and your devotees.

If one reads about your life struggles and the milestones you achieved, then definitely one will accept you as the *jagat-guru,* because what you did, no one else could do past, present, or future. You are a Vaikuṇṭha man and true spiritual human being, who came of your own free will into this world to deliver the three worlds by giving us Kṛṣṇa and His pure devotees, your books, a morning *sādhana* program, *prasādam* to honor, and so many other gifts. All of this was done when you were at the advanced age of seventy, when you went abroad to preach. Within twelve years you had circled the earth fourteen times and translated and commentated so many books. You also

wrote thousands of letters and established over one hundred temples. You slept only two hours a day. All of this is proof that you are a divine human being.

Now, because of you, we have more than seven hundred temples around the world and Ratha-yātrā festivals in so many places. You also introduced us to the divine Vṛndāvana and taught us how to do *parikramās*.

On this special occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā day, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I pray that you please forgive me and bless me and all the devotees serving here at ISKCON Ghaziabad so that by your mercy, we will strictly follow the authentic *guru-śiṣya paramparā,* under your guidance and shelter.

Your servant,
Mahābhāva Gaura Dāsa
and the devotees of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana Mohana temple

Govardhan Ecovillage, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You showed us that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not separate from life, but meant to be lived fully, through every stage, and in every moment of life. It is not confined to temples or limited to specific spiritual moments, but is meant to permeate our thoughts, shape our relationships, guide our responsibilities, and purify our intentions.

In *The Nectar of Devotion*, you explain that devotional service means engaging all our senses in the service of the Lord. In this way, you taught us that spiritual life is not an escape from the world, but a transformation of how we live within it, where even ordinary activities, when performed for Kṛṣṇa's pleasure, become spiritualized.

At Govardhan Ecovillage, we are trying, in our small and humble way, to follow this instruction practically – under the compassionate guidance of His Holiness Radhanath Swami, who is sincerely striving to carry forward your desire. Over the past year, we have seen this effort gradually take tangible shape in several meaningful ways.

You have also given us a complete vision for a spiritually balanced society. In your purports to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (3.16.10 and other verses), you described how five categories of creatures – *brāhmaṇas,* cows, women, children, and the elderly – must be properly cared for and protected.

Inspired by this vision, a *variṣṭha-vaiṣṇava-āśrama* has recently been established for elderly devotees who have dedicated their lives to your service. Here, they are lovingly cared for in a devotional environment enriched with kirtan, *sādhana,* and sacred association. Their lives continue in the same spirit of service, now deepened by reflection and absorption. It reminds us that devotional life does not diminish with age but matures. As you taught us, "In Kṛṣṇa consciousness, there is no retirement."

At the same time, a new residential facility, Govardhana Kuñj, has been developed for devotees who wish to live within the Govardhan Ecovillage campus and participate more closely in its variety of services. For many devotees, especially Vaiṣṇavīs, this has become a meaningful support. Freed from long commutes and urban challenges, they are able to engage more naturally in temple services and community life. Gradually, what begins as a place of residence transforms

into a place of belonging, where daily life revolves around *sevā* – in the temple, at the *gośālā,* and in other areas of service.

In alignment with your instructions, efforts are also expanding in the areas of cow protection and education. The *gośālā* is steadily growing, providing loving care for the cows. And, the Govardhan English Medium School (GEMS) is nurturing students in both academic learning and Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We have also developed a children's play area inspired by Kṛṣṇa's *bālya-līlās*, providing a space where children can engage in joyful activity while being spiritually nourished. Through seasonal camps during the summer, monsoon, and winter, we further help in educating and inspiring young minds in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In addition, the scope of spiritual education at GEV has been expanded in the form of the "Govardhan School of Education and Culture (GSEC)," which includes the Bhaktivedanta Vidyāpīṭha, and which continues to serve as a center for systematic scriptural education, offering course like *Bhakti-śāstrī, Bhakti-vaibhava,* and *Bhakti-vedānta* to help devotees become firmly grounded in philosophy and brahminical character. And several courses on traditional arts and sciences, such as music, dance, *yajña,* and Deity worship are also part of GSEC.

A Navadvīpa-ghāṭa is also being developed along the Vaitaraṇā river, a tributary of the Godāvarī. This simple yet sacred place offers devotees an opportunity for quiet remembrance and purification. A dip in these waters becomes more than a ritual – it becomes a pause for inner reflection and reconnection with Kṛṣṇa. As you repeatedly emphasized that remembrance of Kṛṣṇa is the essence of all spiritual practices, we are trying to facilitate such remembrance in natural and accessible ways.

Along with these developments, we are witnessing a steady increase in visitors. Many arrive without a specific intention – some out of curiosity, others seeking a brief respite from their routine lives. Yet something in the atmosphere touches their hearts. Through the darshan of the Deities, the sound of kirtan, the warmth of devotee interactions, and the simplicity of the surroundings, they experience a sense of peace and connection. Even if they cannot fully express it, they carry something meaningful back with them.

You taught us, "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and your life will be sublime." Here, we see how even a brief exposure to kirtan or *prasādam* can plant a seed of devotion in the heart – a seed that may quietly grow over time.

Under your instructions, *prasādam* distribution continues extensively through the Govardhan Annakṣetra. Every day, large numbers of people are lovingly served sanctified food, both within the Ecovillage and in surrounding rural villages, where devotees personally go to serve. For many, this becomes their first genuine encounter with devotional life. What appears to be a simple meal often leaves a deep and lasting impression. As you beautifully explained, "If you simply take *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, your spiritual life begins." We see this truth unfolding again and again.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, through all these efforts, we are beginning to understand that your vision is reflected not only in visible projects but also in subtle transformations – hearts becoming softer, relationships growing more respectful, and lives gradually aligning toward devotion.

As we look ahead, the next phase of development, GEV Madhya, is emerging, with expanded facilities for education, healthcare, and community living. The purpose is not merely expansion, but integration: to create an environment where devotees can harmoniously balance their practical responsibilities and spiritual aspirations. You emphasized this ideal in your instruction, "Simple living and high thinking." We are trying to create a setting where this principle can be experienced in daily life.

Ultimately, the success of these initiatives is not measured in structures or numbers, but in whether they help us become better *sādhakas* – with greater sincerity, humility, and steadiness in our practice. You taught us that the essence of spiritual life lies in attentive chanting, humble

service, and genuine compassion – as you explain in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (9.14), where Kṛṣṇa says *satataṁ kīrtayanto mām* – always chant My glories. This consistency is what we aspire to cultivate.

You also instructed, "Do not try to see God, but act in such a way that God will see you." This reminds us that our focus should not be on recognition but on sincerity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are simply trying to assist in your mission in whatever small way we can. Whatever is happening here is only by your mercy and the blessings of the previous *ācāryas*. We have no qualification of our own.

We pray for your continued guidance and blessings that we may remain instruments in your service, that we may not lose sight of the true purpose behind all these efforts, and that we may develop the sincerity and steadiness required to serve your desire.

May we always remember that everything we do is meant for Kṛṣṇa's pleasure.

Your insignificant servants,
ISKCON Govardhan Ecovillage

Hebri, Karnataka, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga.

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

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

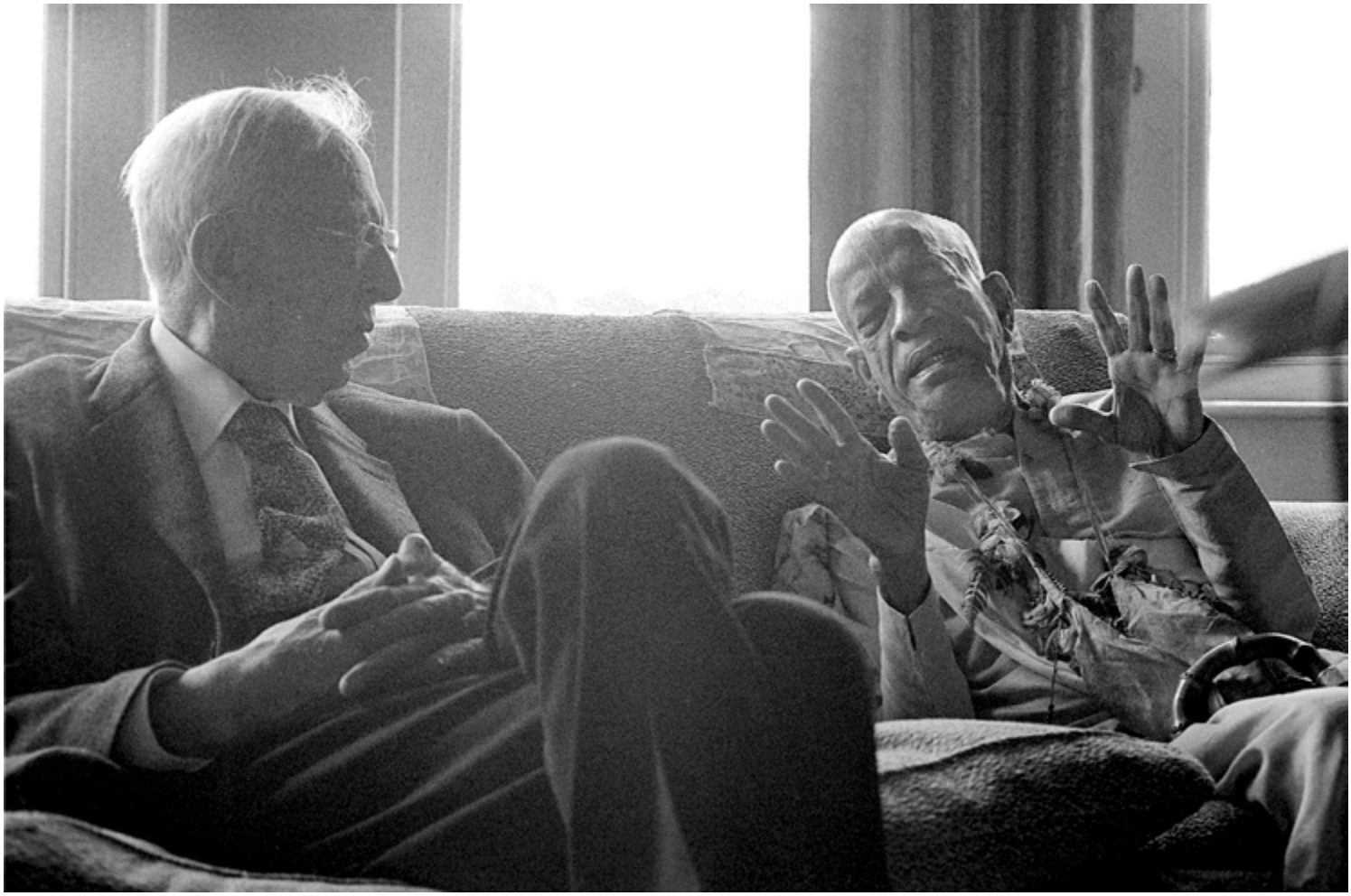
As you always emphasized simple living and high thinking, a lifestyle based on agriculture and cow protection, we here at ISKCON Hebri, a farm project near Udupi, in Karnataka, try to follow your words. We have around sixty beautiful *gau sampada:* cows, bulls, and calves.

This year, for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, we cultivated rice fields twice and produced eight quintals of rice. Spices like turmeric, black pepper, some varieties of vegetables, and different varieties of flowers are grown for the pleasure of the Deities. We also offer ghee and milk from our cows to the Deities. We go around to the different villages to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness and conduct programs. A small team of devotees is trying to live the vision given by Your Divine Grace. Our inspiration and strength come from your dear disciple, His Holiness Bhakti Raghava Swami.

We seek blessings from your lotus feet so that we may continue our *sevā* and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in as many villages as possible.

Happy cows and happy devotees.

your humble servant,
Smitha Krishna Dāsa,
for the devotees of ISKCON Hebri



Hong Kong, China

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most sincere and humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

On behalf of ISKCON Hong Kong, I am writing your Vyāsa-pūjā offering for this year. This is the first time I have had the opportunity to write for the official ISKCON Vyāsa-pūjā book for Your Divine Grace. Your glories are unlimited, and therefore by your mercy, please allow me to write something in your glorification.

The Vyāsa-pūjā of Your Divine Grace is the most auspicious event and a blessing to all of us. You appeared just to save the fallen souls of Kali-yuga and ultimately bring us to the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

The whole world is in complete ignorance and bereft of spiritual knowledge. Hong Kong is an example of that. In this concrete jungle of buildings, there is barely even a place to sit down peacefully. People here are simply busy working day and night, without any spiritual purpose. It is so sad to see the condition of the people here. Without your kindness, teachings, and ISKCON society, we ourselves would be in this group of spiritually aimless people.

In the midst of all this *māyā* and forgetfulness of Kṛṣṇa, we have your ISKCON temple and the most beautiful Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi Deities presiding over it. Their presence brings glory to this city. This is your mercy and kindness on all of us. Your lotus feet touched down and blessed this part of China in the 1970s. Your ISKCON society has continued to develop and expand since that time.

You live forever in your instructions. We can still associate with you through these instructions by staying fixed in our devotional *sādhana,* serving our beautiful Gaura-Nitāi Deities, hearing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and also going out for *harināma-saṅkīrtana* to share the holy names of Lord Kṛṣṇa with the public.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mercy is overflowing continuously. There is no room for complacency in our endeavors to reach out for your mercy.

I heard a lecture of yours. The point you made inspired me so much that I wanted to mention it in this Vyāsa-pūjā offering to Your Divine Grace. In this lecture, you gave the example of a rocking chair, with a person simply sitting on it but not making an effort to get up. Similarly, one may have a lot of knowledge, but if that knowledge is not used in practical services to Kṛṣṇa, that knowledge is stagnant and useless.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, my humble request is that you please continue to shower your blessings on us in the ISKCON Hong Kong community. We pray for your encouragement and compassion that your movement in Hong Kong will continue to develop and become more and more successful in every way. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your insignificant servant,
Devarishi Dāsa
On behalf of ISKCON Hong Kong

Juhu, Mumbai, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

It is explained in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.3.21) that if we wish to seriously achieve real happiness, we must approach a bona fide spiritual master:

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.

You mentioned in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.12.3: "The student must approach a spiritual master and surrender unto him fully (*praṇipātena*)." So, that surrender process is not very easy. It takes great effort and a deep desire for attaining the perfection of surrender. Actually, it must be based on love. Once, a devotee was typing for you and it became mechanical. One day, you told him, "If you love me, I will love you." So it is a matter of love that we are trying to develop for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. If we serve you for some other purpose, the time will come when we will be diverted by some material thing. We are not meant to come to you for any material benefit, but to learn from you how to love Kṛṣṇa by serving Him. However, to do that, we need to learn how to love you first.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are fully situated in transcendental knowledge, and unless we approach you, we will remain in ignorance. There is no question of your ability to deliver us from material existence through your instructions, which are clear and lead us step by step to Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have this rare human form of life, and we need your loving guidance to make it successful. In so many lives, we failed to remember Kṛṣṇa at the time of death. But this time, we are holding tightly to your lotus feet, with the great hope that we will pass the test at the time of death, when all our devotional activities will be tested.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we submit ourselves to you and hope that you will accept us with all our imperfections, for it is only by your special causeless mercy that we can hope to understand the science of bhakti and thus raise ourselves to being accepted by Lord Kṛṣṇa.

On this very special day of your appearance, when we worship you as the representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, we ask you to continue showering your blessings on us so that we may serve you and please you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your servants at ISKCON Juhu
(written by Bhīma Dāsa)

Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Śrīla Prabhupāda, The Power of Actual Hearing (He Heard, He Obeyed, and He Transformed the World)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, the crest jewel of all scriptures and *vaiṣṇavānāṁ priyam,* emphatically proclaims *the power of actual hearing. Actual hearing* means hearing with a desire to follow at any cost. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.2.17) states:

naṣṭa-prāyeṣv abhadreṣu nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā
bhagavaty uttama-śloke bhaktir bhavati naiṣṭhikī

> Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead, who is the Paramātmā [Supersoul] in everyone's heart and the benefactor of the truthful devotee, cleanses desire for material enjoyment from the heart of the devotee who has developed the urge to hear His messages, which are in themselves virtuous when properly heard and chanted.

Once transcendental sound enters the heart, it cleans the heart of all dirty things and makes the Lord appear in the heart. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (2.8.4–5) states:

śṛṇvataḥ śraddhayā nityaṁ gṛṇataś ca sva-ceṣṭitam
kālena nātidīrgheṇa bhagavān viśate hṛdi

praviṣṭaḥ karṇa-randhreṇa svānāṁ bhāva-saroruham
dhunoti śamalaṁ kṛṣṇaḥ salilasya yathā śarat

> Persons who hear *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* regularly and are always taking the matter very seriously will have the Personality of Godhead Śrī Kṛṣṇa manifested in their hearts within a short time. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*,] the sound incarnation of Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Soul, enters into the heart of a self-realized devotee, sits on the lotus flower of his loving relationship, and thus cleanses the dust of material association, such as lust, anger and hankering. Thus it acts like autumnal rains upon pools of muddy water.

We have many examples of powerful hearing in developing love of Godhead in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam:* Mother Rukmiṇī heard from Nārada Muni; the *brāhmaṇa patnīs* heard from the *gopīs;* Prahlāda Mahārāja heard in the womb from Nārada Muni. And therefore great devotees pray only to hear *kṛṣṇa-kathā* in the association of devotees. For example, Pṛthu Mahārāja states in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.24,

na kāmaye nātha tad apy ahaṁ kvacin
na yatra yuṣmac-caraṇāmbujāsavaḥ
mahattamāntar-hṛdayān mukha-cyuto
vidhatsva karṇāyutam eṣa me varaḥ

> My dear Lord, I therefore do not wish to have the benediction of merging into Your existence, a benediction in which there is no existence of the nectarean beverage of Your lotus feet. I want the benediction of at least one million ears, for thus I may be able to hear about the glories of Your lotus feet from the mouths of Your pure devotees.

Among all the transcendental messages, the instructions of the spiritual master are most powerful. As Śrīla Prabhupāda repeats the commentary of Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura on *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41, one should make the instructions of the spiritual master one's life and soul.

He heard … Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda is teaching us to hear in this way by his personal example. It was 1922 when Śrīla Prabhupāda received the seeds of transcendental instruction from his eternal spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, that were to grow into the whole tree called ISKCON: "You are educated young men. Why don't you preach Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's message throughout the whole world?" Many were listening, but he *heard*.

Again, on the banks of Rādhā-kuṇḍa, his spiritual master told him that if you ever get money, print books. Again, many were listening, but *he heard*.

On the last day of the *parikramā* it was announced that devotees could either go for darshan of Śeṣaśāyī Viṣṇu, or they could remain in camp and hear from Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Although Śrīla Prabhupāda admitted that it was tough to understand his guru's words, he loved to hear him speak. Later, when Abhay was put forward for initiation, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura said, "Yes, he likes to hear. He does not go away. I have marked him. I will accept him as my disciple."

In his final letter to his spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda asked him, "Is there any particular service I can do?" Śrīla Prabhupāda received the same instruction he had been meditating on since 1922: "I am fully confident that you can explain in English our thoughts and arguments to the people who are not conversant with the languages of the other members. This will do much good to yourself as well as your audience. I have every hope that you can turn yourself into a very good English preacher if you serve the mission to inculcate the novel impression of Lord Chaitanya's teachings in the people in general as well as philosophers and religionists." (*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* chapter 4). Many were listening, *but he heard*.

He obeyed … After the departure of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura in 1936, the Gauḍīya Math disintegrated. Śrīla Prabhupāda tried to encourage his godbrothers to keep Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's desire to preach in the center, but it couldn't happen. Others fought, but he *obeyed*.

Now it was completely on his shoulder to obey and follow the desire and instructions of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura and preach all over the world. Everyone thought they were right, but *he obeyed*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda began preparing his manuscript for the *Bhagavad-gītā,* but it was lost. Yet he wasn't disappointed, wasn't discouraged. Undeterred, he started *Back to Godhead* magazine, even though he had no funds for printing it. He sought support from his godbrothers, but received little encouragement. Still, he pressed on. He then went to Jhansi and founded the League of Devotees, striving to establish Lord Caitanya's mission. However, circumstances forced him to leave, and financial difficulties made printing increasingly challenging. Despite repeated obstacles, his determination to serve his spiritual master never wavered. Others stepped back, *but he obeyed* his spiritual master and carried on.

Finally, in 1965, he decided to give a final try to wholeheartedly obeying his spiritual master's instruction to go to the West and preach the cult of Caitanya Mahāprabhu in the English language. After great struggle he got a ticket to America aboard a cargo ship with the help of Sumati

Morarji. Despite seasickness and then two heart attacks, he arrived in the United States. Everyone else looked on while *he obeyed*.

He transformed the world … After arriving in America, his struggle intensified. He had no help, the winter was freezing cold, he had no money, no fixed residence, and was living for some time with a Māyāvādī. Later, someone broke into his room and stole his typewriter. All of this, and he was facing old age. At least in India he knew how to function and people respected *sādhus.* He had been living in Vrindavan at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple, but in America he was externally alone. Internally, of course, he had full faith in the instructions of his spiritual master and the power of his words and desires. As he wrote in his famous poem aboard the *Jaladuta:*

śrī-siddhānta saraswatī śacī-suta priya ati
kṛṣṇa-sebāya jāra tula nāi
sei se mohānta-guru jagater madhe uru
kṛṣṇa-bhakti dey ṭhāi ṭhāi

tāra icchā balavān pāścātyete ṭhān ṭhān
hoy jāte gaurāṅger nām
pṛthivīte nagarādi āsamudra nada nadī
sakalei loy kṛṣṇa nām

Miracles began to happen on Second Avenue. There were many other yogis and swamis in America, and they also spoke, but Śrīla Prabhupāda was different. Others spoke to people's heads, but *he transformed the heart*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's love for and care of the hippies transformed them into "happies." He gradually began to organize big Ratha-yātrās in all the major cities of the world. He established 108 ISKCON temples around the world. He traveled the globe fourteen times. Wherever he went, his compassion transformed the hearts of millions of people and drew them *to love and serve Kṛṣṇa*. His Bhaktivedanta purports transformed men and women into gentlemen and gentlewomen. His words are *still* transforming generations of hearers. While others spoke, *he transformed us and made us love Kṛṣṇa and become dear to Him*.

O most merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda, our eternal guide and ever well-wisher, today we bow at your lotus feet with a simple prayer born from our hearts. You taught us that real life begins when we learn to follow not our whims or our restless minds but the pure instructions descending from guru and Kṛṣṇa.

In a world that glorifies independence, you showed the beauty of surrender. In an age of confusion, you gave the clarity of obedience. To obey you is not a burden but our greatest fortune, our only shelter, our path back home, back to Godhead.

Yet, O Prabhupāda, we admit with humility that our obedience is often weak and mixed with hesitation, distraction, and pride. We hear but do not always follow. We promise but do not always act. Still, your compassion is causeless. You do not reject us; rather, you patiently guide us again and again.

Please bless us with the strength to accept your words as our very life and soul. Let us not interpret, dilute, or delay, but hear attentively and obey with faith, simplicity, and determination to be transformed. May we remember: perfection is not in great ability but in sincere obedience.

Your insignificant servants, who are trying to follow,
The devotees at ISKCON Kanpur

Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Although my connection to you started in 1989, of late I am realizing it to be from previous lives, and I want it to be eternal. I am ambitious and passionate, but through your connection I have received proper direction to proceed.

We devotees at ISKCON Kanyakumari humbly seek your mercy, blessings, and that you please forgive our mistakes, protect us from deviations, direct us toward devotion, instruct us to keep away from *māyā,* and inspire us to fulfill Lord Caitanya's plan.

Kanyakumari district is very unique in that there are five places here that Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu visited, as mentioned in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. We are fortunate to be here and also preaching in four places.

At ISKCON Kanyakumari, this year we are inaugurating your memorial – a dedicated area of 1,000 square feet – where we want to introduce you to all the visitors first and tell them about your glorious activities.

We in the ISKCON Kanyakumari district have big plans, as per your desire and remembering your words: "Shoot for the rhinoceros."

We in the ISKCON Kanyakumari district have a great desire to turn 1 percent of the population to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, following your statement that if 1 percent of the population becomes Kṛṣṇa conscious, the whole world will become peaceful.

We in the ISKCON Kanyakumari district have a great desire to reach every town and village to fulfill your statement, "Because he wanted me to do it." We have weekly gatherings at nine different places.

We are willing to become instrumental in what you want us to do. Kindly make us better instruments in the hands of the *guru-paramparā*.

Though incapable, though sometimes I think, "Have we gone mad?" – we desire to do more and more in your service. By your mercy, many magical things are happening, and still more will happen. *Ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana* …

Your servant,
Vikrama Govinda Dāsa
And the devotees at ISKCON Kanyakumari

Malaysia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your insignificant servants in Malaysia, offer our heartfelt gratitude for your boundless mercy in bringing the teachings of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to the entire world. Currently, ISKCON Malaysia has twenty-four branches/temples across the country, and many *nāma-haṭṭas.* All of these are carrying out your preaching efforts.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your causeless mercy, the Malaysian *yātrā* has continued to make steady progress over the past year. Whatever little has been accomplished is solely due to your inspiration and blessings.

Temple and congregational development: Regular spiritual programs across Malaysia have been strengthened, including *Bhāgavatam* classes, *Bhagavad-gītā* study groups, and vibrant kirtan gatherings. Congregational preaching has expanded, with more families embracing Kṛṣṇa consciousness in their daily lives.

Major events and spiritual gatherings: By your mercy, several large-scale devotional events were successfully organized this year. The annual Hare Kṛṣṇa Convention, held in September 2025, brought together devotees across the country for association, classes, and kirtan. The Kirtan-melā, in June 2025, created a spiritually surcharged atmosphere, immersing participants in continuous chanting of the holy names.

The Vaiṣṇavī retreat, in May 2025, provided a dedicated platform for Vaiṣṇavīs to deepen their spiritual practices and association. In addition, house programs during the Dāmodara month were conducted extensively, allowing many families to host the Lord and engage in devotional service within their homes.

During the Deepavali carnivals, devotees actively participated in outreach efforts, sharing *prasādam,* kirtan, and spiritual literature with the wider community and introducing many newcomers to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Book distribution and outreach: Your transcendental books continue to be distributed throughout Malaysia, both physically and through online efforts. Many conditioned souls have had the opportunity to connect with your teachings through these initiatives.

Festival celebrations: Major festivals such as Janmāṣṭamī, Ratha-yātrā, and Gaura-Pūrṇimā were celebrated with great enthusiasm, drawing large crowds and inspiring many to take up devotional service. It is especially noteworthy that in Malaysia, more than twenty Ratha-yātrās are held annually.

Youth and educational programs: Youth engagement remains a priority, with regular youth gatherings, study sessions, and camps being conducted. Children's spiritual education programs have also continued to develop steadily.

Prasādam distribution: Prasādam distribution has expanded significantly during festivals, outreach programs, and special events, benefiting many people and spreading your message of mercy.

Deity worship and standards: Efforts have been made to maintain and enhance the standards of Deity worship, ensuring that temple worship remains pure and uplifting. We finally managed to install Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulacandra in the capital of Malaysia.

Challenges and aspirations: Despite these efforts, we remain aware of our many shortcomings. We sincerely pray for your mercy to improve our cooperation, humility, and dedication. Our aspiration is to expand your mission further across Malaysia and bring more souls to your lotus feet.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have no qualification to serve you, yet we beg to become instruments in your divine mission. Thank you for giving us Kṛṣṇa, your books, and a life of purpose in devotional service.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees in the Malaysia *yātrā*

Manikonda, Hyderabad, India

Most worshipable and beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Please accept my most humble obeisances again and again at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, who mercifully opened my blinded eyes with the torchlight of transcendental knowledge and delivered this fallen soul from the darkest regions of ignorance.

I am completely unqualified to glorify your unlimited divine qualities, for even the greatest personalities cannot fully describe your transcendental glories. Still, for my own purification and spiritual benefit, I am making this insignificant attempt to offer a few words at your lotus feet.

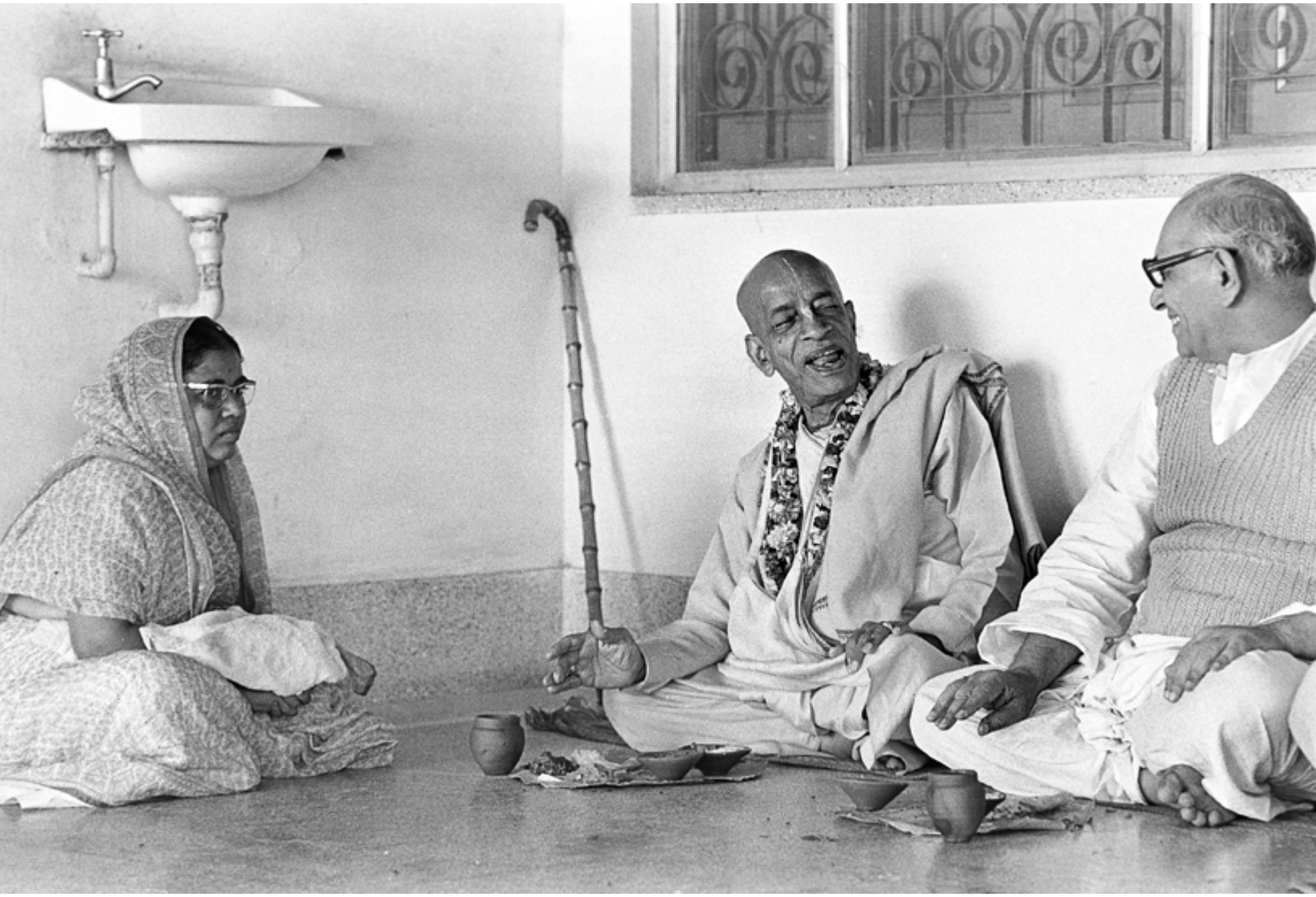
Just as Śrīla Nārada Muni traveled throughout the universe creating exalted devotees such as Prahlāda Mahārāja, Dhruva Mahārāja, and countless other shining jewels of devotion, similarly, O Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your unparalleled compassion you have created innumerable purehearted devotees throughout the world and offered them as a gift to suffering humanity. Through them, conditioned souls like myself have received hope, shelter, and a path back to Godhead. All glories unto you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, by the blessings of the senior Vaiṣṇavas of ISKCON Hyderabad temple management, three years ago we began Bhakti Kuteer, a humble *nāma-haṭṭa* center, in our residence at Manikonda, Hyderabad.

By your divine mercy, this small effort has gradually grown, and now every week more than seventy-five devotees gather regularly to hear the *Bhagavad-gītā*. They are chanting sixteen rounds of *japa* regularly and sincerely practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In addition, more than twenty-five children are also learning to chant the holy name and memorize *Bhagavad-gītā ślokas* from a young age.

By your mercy, we have also been blessed to organize Lord Jagannātha's Ratha-yātrā for the past two years, wherein more than two thousand devotees have participated in glorifying the Lord through *saṅkīrtana*.

We are also feeling most fortunate and deeply blessed to participate in the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of Śrī Śrī Rādhā Madana-mohana of ISKCON Hyderabad. Only by your causeless



mercy have we received this rare and auspicious opportunity to render service in such a historic and glorious celebration in your divine mission.

Furthermore, under the instructions of my spiritual master, your beloved disciple His Holiness Bhakti Rāghava Swami, we have begun village preaching every week at Narasimhapalli Vedic Village while also cultivating agricultural service there in the mood of simple living and high thinking.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as children happily enjoy the fruits of their father's labor and sacrifice, in the very same way we are daily relishing the nectarean fruits of your unimaginable sacrifices. You crossed oceans, tolerated endless hardships, and sacrificed every breath of your life simply to deliver Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the fallen souls of this age. We are simply enjoying the sweetness of the spiritual treasure you mercifully brought to this world.

You are truly our eternal spiritual grandfather, and whatever little Kṛṣṇa consciousness we possess today is only due to your causeless mercy and immeasurable sacrifice.

You dedicated your entire life to fulfilling the heartfelt order of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and fearlessly carried Mahāprabhu's mission to every corner of the world. Therefore, I beg at your lotus feet with folded hands – please bless me that I may always serve my spiritual master as my very life and soul, birth after birth.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please shower your causeless mercy upon this most fallen and insignificant soul so that I may develop the spiritual strength, purity of heart, unwavering determination, and selfless devotion required to assist in spreading your mission throughout the world. Only when I become an instrument in your divine mission will my life attain perfection.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything. Begging eternally for a particle of dust from your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant of the servant of the servant,
Śrīpati Dāsa
On behalf of Bhakti Kuteer, Manikonda

Manila, Philippines

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you and your ever-expanding International Society for Krishna Consciousness. All glories to your all-divine disciples who continuously purify the whole world with their lotus feet.

This year we would like to offer the humble new temple of our most beautiful Divine Couple, Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava.

It is only through Your Divine Grace's causeless mercy and the instructions of your most faithful disciples, who are still continuing the try to fulfill the prophecy that the holy name of Lord Kṛṣṇa will be heard in every town and village, including our lowly country, the Philippines, that this temple has been built.

This year, with the guidance of His Holiness Janānanda Goswami, we were able to celebrate the grand opening of the new temple on January 31. We also added a tag name to out temple: The Temple of Unity, where everyone from all levels of society, faiths, and affiliations are most welcome to offer worship to the absolute forms of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Kṛṣṇa and His eternal consort Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī.

With the blessings of the Vaiṣṇavas, we also plan to install Deities of Gaura-Nitāi on the left side of Rādhā-Mādhava, and Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā on Rādhā-Mādhava's right side. We will do this when we become qualified to have Them.

We would like to take the opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude to all the members of the Indian community, which contributed more than 90 percent of the financial requirements to secure the property ten years ago and for the successful building of the temple thereafter.

A special mention goes to the architect His Grace Śachitanuja Prabhu, who painstakingly guided the design phase of the project in accordance to established Vedic architectural understanding, without demanding anything in return.

Now we are still in the transition phase of transferring everything from a rented old house to a space six times larger, and learning to cope with the ballooning expenses that come with such a large space.

At this turn we would like to beg Your Divine Grace to bestow your causeless mercy and blessings to all who have contributed to the success of the temple construction project.

But most of all, please accept our sincere thanks to Your Divine Grace, who set your lotus feet on this lowly country on 11 October 1972, and from then on, the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement slowly spread to the many islands that make up this country.

Our most fervent prayer is for all the hindrances, like politics, petty bickering, and unfounded philosophies to be most far away from us, as Your Divine Grace has expressed that real danger and damage will not come from outside but from within: "The greatest danger to our movement will come when we manufacture and create our own process for worshiping the Deities. So don't ask any more new questions, whatever is going on, follow it just to the exact standard as I have given you, that's all." (Letter to Dhruvananda, Bombay, 4 January 1973)

May Your Divine Grace and our Śrīla Gurudeva, Tamal Krishna Goswami, be eternally together in spreading the glories of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa, in the various universes of this material manifestation.

Your unqualified grand-servant,
Mahendra Dāsa, president
And the devotees of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Mandir

Māyāpur – The Temple of the Vedic Planetarium

My most revered spiritual master, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. On this most auspicious occasion of Vyāsa-pūjā, I offer my humble words, knowing they can never adequately express the depth of my gratitude I feel for your causeless mercy.

A severe health challenge last summer forced me to confront the temporary and uncertain nature of this material body. In that condition, all illusions of independence were stripped away, and I could clearly perceive that I am completely dependent on your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

During that difficult period, I also felt deeply sustained by the heartfelt prayers of devotees throughout ISKCON. I remain profoundly grateful to every devotee whose sincere prayers, concern, and well-wishes carried me through that time and continue to do so now. It is only by their compassion and spiritual strength that I feel I have been allowed to continue in my service.

I'm truly grateful for this second chance – a renewed opportunity to carry out the service you so kindly ordered me to do at the Devasadan Mandir in 1976. Helping complete the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium is a sacred trust, one that I see with ever-increasing clarity and urgency.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you envisioned this temple not simply as a grand building but as a spiritual and cultural beacon for the entire world – a place that would present the Vedic understanding of the universe, establish the supremacy of devotional service to Kṛṣṇa, and powerfully counteract the influence of the Age of Kali.

The TOVP is meant to be a bold declaration of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to humanity, a center from which the teachings of Lord Caitanya can enlighten people and engage them in His service. It is to serve as a unifying spiritual home for devotees, a place of pilgrimage, education, and

inspiration, the worldwide headquarters of the preaching mission of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

To assist in manifesting this divine vision is an immeasurable honor, one I now approach with greater humility and seriousness than ever before. Having been reminded so vividly of the limited nature of my time, I feel an intensified determination to see the Deities installed and worshiped in Their full glory in this grand temple, your place of worship, and a worthy offering from you to our glorious *paramparā*!

The TOVP is a tangible expression of gratitude from all the devotees in your worldwide ISKCON movement to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you have given us and as an expression of unity that was your parting wish for us.

I pray that this service may be performed purely as an offering, free from personal ambition, guided only by your instructions and the desire to please you and our previous *ācāryas*. Please allow me to act as an instrument in fulfilling this vision, despite my many shortcomings. May your dedication to carrying forward Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's mission continue to inspire us despite all obstacles. Your shining example of tolerating so many difficulties for the upliftment of others remains our guiding light. Whatever small service I may render is only possible by following your example and receiving your mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I would also like to give you a TOVP progress and current work update, and also assure you that we are doing our utmost to open the temple for your pleasure on 1 November 2027, your fiftieth disappearance anniversary. A three-month festival will follow that most sacred day, during which all our beloved Mayapur Deities will be relocated to Their new palace home, and fifteen new *ācārya mūrtis* will be installed. Our main focus is the completion of the TOVP's main wing in all its gorgeous detail. Varieties of work continue unabated, almost twenty-four hours a day. This includes:

Main altar – to be completed by the end of 2026
Vyāsāsana – to be completed by the end of 2026
Flooring inlay work – to be completed by the end of 2026
Marble cladding of pillars and walls – to be completed by the end of 2026
Coffered ceiling and crown – to be completed by June 2026

In February this year, amid the progress in the main wing, as above described, we happily opened the beautiful and spacious TOVP *yajña-śālā* for your pleasure. In this *yajña-śālā* we perform daily *yajñas* to the Lord by the hands of our *gurukula* students and other devotee *brāhmaṇas*. It is a wonderful example to the world of placing the Supreme Personality of Godhead as the supreme enjoyer of all activities and offerings, as you have taught us to do.

On this most sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I place whatever remains of my life, energy, and capacity at your lotus feet. Kindly engage me in such a way that I may contribute to the fulfillment of your great mission and the glorification of our entire disciplic succession. Thank you for your boundless compassion, guidance, and inspiration!

Your insignificant servant,
Ambarīṣa Dāsa

Mumbai (Mira Road), Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This year is being celebrated as the sixtieth anniversary of ISKCON, which you established in 1966. Her Grace Nārtakī Mātājī, while traveling by car across Dahisar Bridge, saw the small building-type arch and said, "Śrīla Prabhupāda built a house in which the whole world can live, while here they have built a house where no one can live."

Śrīla Prabhupāda your vision was to establish Ram Rajya, a society rooted in dharma, peace, and spiritual prosperity. Being a pure devotee, your qualities find a divine parallel in the sixteen primary qualities of Lord Rāma, as they are described in the Vālmīki *Rāmāyaṇa*. When sage Nārada visited the hermitage of Vālmīki Muni, the *muni* asked him if there was a single, perfect individual who had been bestowed with all good qualities:

> *konvasmin sampraaptan loke gunavaan kashch veeryavaan.*
> *dharmagyashch krtagyashch satyavaakyon drdhavratah* || 1–1–2
>
> *charitren ch ko yuktah sarvabhooteshu ko hitah.*
> *vidvaan kah kasmaarthashch kashchaikapriyadarshanah* || 1–3–3
>
> *aatmavaan ko jitakrodho dyutimaan konaasooyakah.*
> *kasy bibhyati devaashch jaataroshasy sanyuge* || 1–1–4

"Who in this world lives today endowed with excellent qualities, prowess, righteousness, gratitude, truthfulness, and firmness in his vows? Who is that one gifted with good conduct, given to the well-being of all living creatures, learned in the lore [knowledge of all things that are known], capable of doing things others cannot do, and singularly handsome? Who (among men) is self-restrained? Who has conquered anger? Who is endowed with brilliance and free from envy? Who is that when, excited to wrath, even the *devatās* are afraid of (let alone his foes)?"

1. *Guṇavān:* Lakṣmaṇācārya writes, *aganita guna gana bhuSītā ram* … O Rāma, Who is adorned by a collection of innumerable qualities! Lord Rāma is accessible to all without discrimination. He moved around with the tribal Guha, monkey Sugrīva. He is willing to give shelter to anyone, qualified or disqualified. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have innumerable qualities. You made yourself available to everyone, and to a man who did not know his father you should absolutely no discrimination.

2. *Vīryavān:* Courageous and valorous Lord Rāma killed Tataka, Subahu, and so many demons. In Janasthana, 14,000 soldiers came, including Khara and Dushana. Single-handedly, with one arrow, He killed them all. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you boldly preached in communist countries and courageously started book marathons. You said one should have the courage of a British soldier and the heart of a Bengali mother. After the struggle to purchase the Juhu land, you said, "It was a good fight."

3. *Dharmajñaḥ:* Lord Rāma was well-versed in dharma and spoke about dharma with accuracy. He was well-versed in the principles of righteousness. He thoroughly played the role of son, disciple, and husband. Lord Rāma played the role of a disciple by knowing the mood of sage Viśvāmitra. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were a first-class disciple, understanding the mood of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. You not only followed dharma but also made the Westerners follow dharma.

4. *Kṛtajñaḥ:* Lord Rāma was extremely grateful to Hanumān, Sugrīva, Jaṭāyu, and others. Lord Rāma appreciated the squirrel for shifting a little mud. Filled with gratitude, when Hanumān

found Sītā, He embraced Hanumān and was ready to give anything to the Vanaras. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you had an "attitude of gratitude." You were so grateful for even the slightest service done; you appreciated every little service. In a purport in the Dhruva Mahārāja pastimes in the *Bhāgavatam,* you mentioned that if even one of your disciples becomes like Dhruva and goes back to Godhead, then by your connection to that disciple, you too could go back to Godhead.

5. *Satyavako:* Lord Rāma always keeps His word. As Lord Rāma always walked the path of *satya,* truth, and lived by that principle, so, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you never compromised your principles. For instance, you instructed everyone to chant sixteen rounds, but you chanted sixty-four rounds as an *ācārya* who practiced more than what he preached.

6. *Dṛḍha-vrataḥ:* Self-determined and firm in his vows. Bharata tried his best to ask Rāma to return to Ayodhya. He told Rāma that his three mothers and Vasiṣṭha Muni were calling Him back. But Lord Rāma did not budge an inch. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, even in childhood you did not take chicken soup as medicine but kept the principles of Vaiṣṇavism without compromise. In the *Rāmāyaṇa* Lord Rāma promises to protect anyone who surrenders. There is a famous verse in the *Rāmāyaṇa* quoted in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 22.34, and Śrīla Prabhupāda appreciated this verse and promised each of us that if we simply chant sixteen rounds of the *mahā-mantra* daily and follow the four regulative principles in association with devotees, he will take us back to Godhead. On behalf of Lord Rāma, a pure devotee can make this vow.

7. Lord Rāma had high moral values. He asked Kaikeyī, "Why are you disturbing Daśaratha? You could have informed me of his vow." Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, like a *gosvāmī,* all your senses were controlled and you never got agitated.

8. Rāma was the well-wisher of all: Up until his last arrow, Lord Rāma intended not to kill Rāvaṇa. Rather, He wanted to give Rāvaṇa every chance to change his heart and surrender. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you loved everyone. Once, a person blasphemed you in public, and a few days later you asked about his whereabouts.

9. Rāma knew everything: Rāma was expert at everything, including the scriptures, warfare, governance, and so many other things. He valued the love of every devotee. Similarly, because of your strong hold on the six philosophical systems, no one could defeat you.

10. Rāma was competent in doing things that could not be done by others: Lord Rāma gave Sugrīva confidence by felling seven trees with one arrow. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you fulfilled Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's mission that none of his other disciples could even dare to accomplish.

11. Rāma's appearance is eternally pleasing. Even an enemy would be pleased when seeing Śrī Rāma. Mārīcha was stunned the first time he saw Lord Rāma. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your appearance is celebrated for its spiritual potency.

12. Lord Rāma had control of His desires and senses and conquered His mind: Lord Rāma was undisturbed when He heard He had to go to forest for fourteen years and smilingly accepted the two boons Daśaratha had given to Kaikeyī. Similarly, when goons came to attack you in India, you began reciting the *Brahma-saṁhitā*.

13. Rāma conquered anger: Anger did not dominate Lord Rāma. Rather, He used His anger when He needed it, such as when Samudra did not respond. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, even when ISKCON was defamed in German newspapers and your book godown was burned down, you did not get angry.

14. Rāma had a special splendor emanating from His body: The demons were afraid and the devotees felt protected by Lord Rāma's radiance. Swati Tirunaal compares the halo around Lord Rāma to one hundred suns rising simultaneously. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your body is divine. Her Grace Yamunā Devī shared that when you walked, there were no footprints. You were effulgent. You attracted everyone like a magnet with your singing, which drew people to it because it was so deeply felt.

15. Rāma was never envious: Rāma never thought that He had lost His position because of Kaikeyī. In Kishkinda and Laṅkā he put Sugrīva and Vibhīṣaṇa on the throne, respectively. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, almost all spiritual movements are named after their founder, but you popularized ISKCON not using your name but Kṛṣṇa's name.You were happy to see others' success.

16. The *devatās* approached Lord Rāma with awe and reverence, fearful due to respect. Your disciples always respected and fully depended on you

Thomas Hopkins said that you did something unprecedented and unparalleled: you preached to the hippies, who were rebels without a cause, and tried to give them Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You brought them to serve Lord Rāma.

Here is our preaching report:

- 55,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* distributed during the marathon
- NICE department conducted value education in schools and weekly *Gītā* classes at residences and schools. Also, Janmāṣṭamī celebrations and *deepdhan* at schools
- Bhaktivedanta College started a Bhakti-śāstrī course
- Devotee care sessions are grooming families
- The Deity department and Food for Life department have been functioning perfectly
- Govinda's is attracting huge crowds on weekends and holidays
- We hold twelve-hour kirtans on Ekādaśīs. *Harināma-saṅkīrtana* goes out daily for one hour in the streets around Mira Road
- Our *upāsana* festival attracts numerous young boys from different areas

We pray at your lotus feet to develop the quality to appreciate everyone and everything. We pray to simply remain together and practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness, as you taught us. Then we can go back to Godhead and serve your lotus feet. Please allow us to develop a taste for chanting and scrutinizingly studying the scriptures you gave us. During our upcoming 50/60 celebrations, we will try to improve and increase our services in all departments, by your blessings.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Mira Road

New Delhi (East of Kailash), India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you struggled so much in Delhi, personally writing, printing, and distributing *Back to Godhead* in places like Jhandewalan and Connaught Place, thus laying the foundation of your mission with great determination. Carrying the instruction of your spiritual master, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you later spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

That very legacy in Delhi was powerfully carried forward by your dear disciple, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, who expanded your mission with profound dedication. By his sincere efforts, ISKCON in Delhi has now grown to nearly twenty temples throughout the NCR region. Now under the inspirational leadership of our GBC His Holiness Guru Prasad Swami, your dear disciple who is firmly aligned with your vision and who is continuing the tireless service rendered by Gopal Krishna Goswami, all the devotees in this region are working together.

His Holiness Gopal Krishna Mahārāja, who often paraphrased your words when you spoke about your own great spiritual master reaffirmed about Your Divine Grace that you are "a true Vaikuṇṭha man." By your blessings, more than 3,500 devotees participated in last year's book marathon, during which over half a million *mahā*-big books were distributed, continuing your glorious mission of spreading transcendental knowledge. We are praying every day for the ability to induct more traveling *saṅkīrtana* teams and thus participate in more frequent marathons during the year. We seek your blessings for this.

Furthermore, last year a mega youth festival named UDGAAR was held at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, drawing more than 15,000 youth participants and creating a Guinness World Record for the most pledges received for an anti-drug campaign within twenty-four hours. In this way, your mission continues to transform lives and uplift society.

Last year, Janmāṣṭamī attracted more than half a million visitors to the East of Kailash temple, and even the government commended the temple management on their remarkable ability to organize such a massive festival so smoothly. In this way, your movement continues to inspire and attract countless souls.

Understanding that *saṅkīrtana* is your very heart, our bhakta training program has now been renamed *saṅkīrtana* devotee training, emphasizing the importance of your mission. Every year, nearly twenty-five new dresses are offered to Their Lordships, and forty-nine festivals are celebrated, including fifteen *abhiṣekas* and eight *adhivāsa* festivals.

To ensure greater safety for the thousands of visitors who daily throng to your Glory of India Project, advanced cloakroom and baggage scanning systems have been installed, as ISKCON Delhi remains vigilant against unholy elements. Moreover, prominent personalities, such as Mrs. Rekha Gupta (Delhi Chief Minister), Kangana Ranaut (national award-winning actress and Member of Parliament), Bhupinder Yadav (Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change), ambassadors of several other countries, and many other dignitaries, have visited ISKCON East of Kailash, further glorifying your movement.

In the area of outreach and influencing society in Delhi NCR, a significant milestone has been achieved through a recent agreement with All India Institute of Medical Sciences for the ISKCON-AIIMS Wellness Center on three acres of land, reflecting a meaningful synthesis of spirituality and modern science. On the other hand, the Institute of Science and Spirituality (ISS), ISKCON Delhi's scientific preaching wing (recognized under the Indian Knowledge Systems of the Government of India), engages scientists, academicians, and intellectuals through research-driven outreach, developing innovations like Sakshi Sense, is recognized at IIT Mandi and is conducting programs at premier institutes such as IIT Delhi, IIT Roorkee, and NIT Warangal.

And lastly, as an offering on the 130th anniversary of your divine appearance, and the 60-50 celebrations, we dedicate the new Vedic Expo, named, Rasa – An Ocean of Nectar, which was inaugurated at the end of April 2026 by the Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, along with the Ambassador of Belgium, Didier Vanderhasselt.

By your mercy, we continue to witness the extraordinary manifestation of Caitanya

Mahāprabhu's prediction, which is becoming true day by day. Our duty now is to remain deeply loyal to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and to faithfully carry forward your divine mission by sincerely practicing devotional life. Please bless us to become humble and sincere instruments in your service, free from offenses and steady in our *sādhana*. Kindly forgive our shortcomings and always engage us in your service. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servant,
Mohan Rūpa Dāsa, temple president
On behalf of the devotees of ISKCON Delhi, East of Kailash

Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your accomplishments in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. All glories to Your Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Happy Vyāsa-pūjā, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we eagerly wait for the most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā each year. This day provides us an official opportunity to submit an annual report at your lotus feet and seek your blessings and guidance.

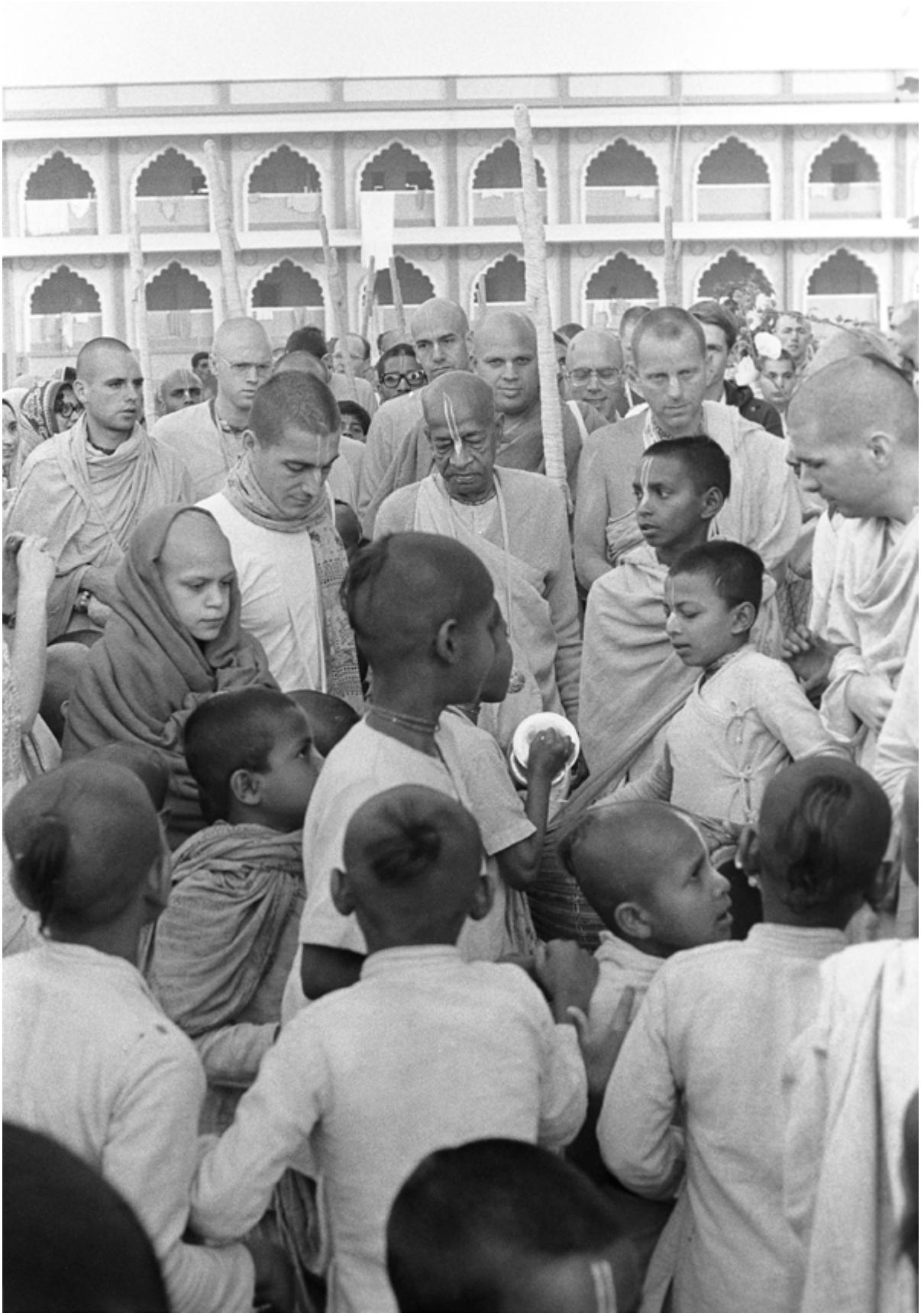
On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of ISKCON Noida, offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet again and again. By your unlimited mercy, even though we are insignificant and full of shortcomings, you have engaged us in your divine service. Whatever little service is happening here is only by your blessings and the inspiration of your teachings.

Many congratulations Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the glorious sixtieth anniversary of our wonderful society, ISKCON, which Your Divine Grace masterfully created and where the entire world can fit in happily.

With great gratitude, we wish to present a small report of the activities taking place in Noida in a humble and prayerful mood, seeking your continued mercy and guidance.

By your mercy, the construction of a new temple project in Noida Sector 151 has begun. This project is very dear to all the devotees, and we are praying that it may progress smoothly and without obstacles. The basement construction work has already started, steel has been procured, and a contractor, along with a dedicated team, is now present onsite. We humbly pray to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to bless this project so that it may be completed successfully and become a beautiful place for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In Greater Noida West, a dream project named Prabhupāda Village is gradually taking shape. The vision is to create a devotee community where like-minded devotees can live together, serve



together, and support one another in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Many devotees have already booked their apartments, villas, and plots with great enthusiasm. At present, we are facing some challenges with the developer, especially regarding the transfer of a portion of land to ISKCON's name for building a temple. We are hopeful that by your mercy, the developer will soon agree, and we will be able to establish a small temple within the community. This will become a very unique devotee community – an ISKCON township further expanding your mission.

At the Noida temple, the Matchless Gifts shop has been completely renovated. Its size has been doubled, and the entire interior has been redesigned in a modern and attractive way. By your grace, it has now become one of the most grand and well-developed Matchless Gifts stores at ISKCON temples across North India. Devotees and visitors are very inspired to purchase devotional items, books, and gifts, thus increasing their connection with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Govinda's restaurant has also been fully refurbished and renovated. With new furniture, improved lighting, and a fresh, welcoming look, it has become a very popular spot for visitors. Many people are coming regularly to honor *prasādam,* and they deeply appreciate its quality and taste. By your blessings, Govinda's is not only attracting more people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but is also generating good financial support for the temple.

For the first time, we organized a program called Bhajan Clubbing in the temple auditorium. Initially, we thought this would mainly attract the youth, but to our surprise, many families from across the city attended. Through melodious *bhajanas* and engaging musical presentations, the audience experienced a glimpse of the mood of Braj Vrindavan Dhāma. The response was overwhelming. Our auditorium, with a seating capacity of around six hundred, was completely sold out, and many people could not get tickets. The feedback we received encouraged us to plan for an even bigger venue next year. We are making efforts to connect with the attendees and gradually engage them in structured programs like *bhakti-vṛkṣa,* IYF, and IGF.

By your mercy, the *brahmacārīs* have now shifted into their newly constructed two-story ashram facility. They are living happily and peacefully, with better arrangements for their *sādhana* and service. This has brought great enthusiasm among the *brahmacārīs* and is helping them remain steady and inspired in their devotional lives.

The land at Jewar has now been officially registered in ISKCON's name. We performed a small *bhūmi-pūjā* ceremony, which was presided over by your dear disciple His Holiness Lokanath Swami and attended by local dignitaries and community members. The location has become significant, as the Jewar International Airport has been inaugurated nearby by the Honorable Prime Minister of India. This has made the area prominent, and the value of the land has increased. A small temporary shed has been constructed, where temple programs are being conducted regularly, allowing local people to come and participate. A few dedicated devotees are residing there permanently and carrying out daily temple activities.

By your blessings, the Noida temple is experiencing a large and increasing number of visitors every day. The temple premises are becoming more and more crowded, especially on weekends, when the temple is often completely full. The Bhaktivedanta Academy is also facing a shortage of classrooms during peak times due to the growing number of participants. This increasing footprint is a sign of your mercy, as more and more people are coming in contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The Bhaktivedanta Academy has successfully completed its sixth batch of Bhakti Śāstrī students, with thirty-seven students graduating this year. These students have studied your books in depth and are now better equipped to understand and share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others. This steady growth in systematic education is helping strengthen the foundation of the devotee community.

As an expansion of the Prahlad School initiative, we have now started a dedicated program for teenagers called the ISKCON Teenagers Forum (ITF). This weekly program is conducted in the

temple by trained and qualified teachers, who guide the teenagers in a structured and engaging way. It is helping teenagers connect with Kṛṣṇa consciousness during a very unsteady phase of their lives.

Overall, Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever little progress we are witnessing in Noida is simply due to your causeless mercy. We have no qualification, but you have given us the opportunity to serve your mission. We pray that we may remain united, humble, and sincere instruments in your hands, and that we may continue to serve your desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in every town and village.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept this verse composed by your servants from Noida:

prabhupādaḥ prāṇa-dhanaṁ bhaktivinoda-vāñchitam
caitanya-kāryaṁ kurmaḥ sma sarvatra yatnataḥ

rādhā-govinda-nāmāni vahni-vad vyāpnuvantu hi
pāvayantu jagat sarvaṁ prema-bhakti-pravāhataḥ

> Śrīla Prabhupāda is our very life and treasure, fulfilling the desire of Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura. We strive everywhere to carry out Lord Caitanya's mission. May the holy names of Rādhā-Govinda spread like wildfire. And purify the entire world with a flowing current of divine love and devotion.

We beg for your blessings that we may always remain fixed in your instructions, serve the Vaiṣṇavas, and develop pure devotion to Lord Caitanya – *rādhā-kṛṣṇa nāhi anya*. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā mahotsava *kī jaya*.

Your insignificant servants from ISKCON Noida

Pandharpur, Maharashtra, India

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your 130th Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your insignificant servants at ISKCON Pandharpur, gather with hearts filled with gratitude to offer our humble homage unto your lotus feet. By your causeless mercy, we are able to engage in your divine mission, and it is only by your inspiration that even our smallest efforts bear fruit.

With great joy and humility, we present a brief report of your mission's progress in the holy land of Śrī Pandharpur Dhāma.

Transcendental book distribution: During this year's marathon, your dedicated devotees distributed 18,259 transcendental books, along with two complete sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Your *vāṇī* continues to transform lives, illuminating countless hearts with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Bhūvaikuṇṭha temple construction: The construction of the grand ISKCON Bhūvaikuṇṭha Pandharpur temple is steadily progressing by your blessings. We are pleased to report that the ground floor has now been completed, marking a significant milestone in manifesting this divine

project. For the promotion of Śrīdhāma Pandharpur, and especially the Bhūvaikuṇṭha temple project, we hosted a convention of press reporters from Maharashtra State – counting around 1,200 reporters.

Bhūvaikuṇṭha Sevā Nīdhi (BSN): To expand participation in your mission, we have launched the Bhūvaikuṇṭha Sevā Nidhi scheme, encouraging mass involvement through small *hundi* collections, allowing everyone to render service according to their capacity.

Chandrabhaga guest house development: By your mercy, this facility has expanded significantly and now accommodates 110 rooms, along with enhanced service quality, offering devotees a peaceful and spiritually uplifting stay. Also, we were successful in getting drainage and the road sanctioned by the government, and the work is now almost completed.

Jagannath mandir guest house: Additional rooms have been added, bringing the total to eleven rooms, further supporting the growing number of visiting devotees.

A flourishing brahmacārī ashram: Our ashram is now home to more than fifty sincere *brahmacārīs,* who are dedicated to a life of discipline, study, and devotional service, strengthening the spiritual backbone of the temple.

Daily harināma-saṅkīrtana: Devotees go out for *harināma-saṅkīrtana* daily at various places to distribute the choicest gift of *hari-nāma* to countless souls. Also, all *brahmacārīs* come together and read your books.

New bhakta training: We are blessed to have six new devotees undergoing structured training, preparing them for a life of committed devotional service under your shelter.

Youth preaching expansion: Along with ongoing youth initiatives, we have now started preaching at MIT Alandi, reaching new young minds and inspiring them in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Congregation preaching growth: To bring devotees closer to the temple and enhance their engagement, several new *nāma-haṭṭa* (*satsang*) centers have been established in nearby areas, including Degaon, Bhose, Takali, Manisha Nagar, and Akluj, strengthening the local devotional community.

These offerings are but a tiny attempt to serve your unlimited mission, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Every step forward is a reflection of your mercy and vision, and we remain ever dependent on your guidance.

On this sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we sincerely pray that we may continue to serve your instructions with sincerity, unity, and determination. May we always remain instruments in your hands, dedicated to spreading the holy names and teachings of Śrī Kṛṣṇa to every town and village. *Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Pandharpur

Panihati, West Bengal, India

Most worshipable Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your divine vision and prediction about Panihati are gradually manifesting before our eyes. You mercifully said that the ISKCON center in Panihati would become a very important center, because it is connected to the waterways. Today, we are witnessing how your words are proving true by your causeless mercy.

Devotees from all parts of India and many countries across the world are coming to Panihati to receive the blessings of this sacred *dhāma*. As the glories of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Lord Nityānanda Prabhu's transcendental pastimes in Panihati are spreading everywhere, more and more devotees are becoming attracted to visit this holy place.

Many exalted GBC gurus and ISKCON *sannyāsīs* are frequently visiting Panihati and showering their blessings upon the temple and its devotees. Their presence further inspires devotees of ISKCON Panihati temple to increase their service mood and deepen their commitment to your instructions.

To facilitate this growing service, arrangements are being made for proper accommodation for visiting devotees and senior Vaiṣṇavas. Land is being acquired and flats are being purchased so that devotees coming from around the world may stay comfortably and engage in devotional service. At the same time, devotees who desire to reside near ISKCON Panihati temple and dedicate their lives to serving the exalted visiting Vaiṣṇavas are also being given opportunities to stay close to the temple and assist in your mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you would also be overjoyed to know that many young devotees are now determined to dedicate their lives fully to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and are preparing to join the ISKCON Panihati temple as new *brahmacārīs*. These enthusiastic young devotees are eager to surrender their lives in your service.

You will also be pleased to know, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that during the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign, the devotees of ISKCON Panihati distributed 495 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. During the recent Gaura-Pūrṇimā festival in 2026, many sets of *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* were also distributed. Your books are entering countless homes and hearts, carrying your transcendental message and transforming lives. The devotees of ISKCON Panihati are determined to keep the mercy of Lord Caitanya flowing continuously and to widen the smile on your divine face by sincerely serving your mission.

Our book, *The Glories of Panihati,* is also steadily gaining wide appreciation and heartfelt admiration throughout the ISKCON community and even beyond. Devotees and seekers alike are becoming deeply inspired by the sublime pastimes of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Lord Nityānanda Prabhu revealed in this sacred place. To expand its reach and spread the glories of Panihati on an even grander scale, the book is now being published through Golden Age Media Publishers so that this transcendental message may enter more homes, hearts, and lives across the world.

After being translated into Bengali and Hindi, the book is also now translated into Tamil, and very soon it will be rendered into more languages. With the ambitious desire to carry the glories of Panihati Dhāma to every nook and corner of the world, this humble effort seeks to ensure that the mercy of Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda reaches hearts across all borders, languages, and cultures.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever little service is taking place here is only by your causeless mercy, your blessings, and your divine arrangement. We have no qualification of our own; we are simply trying to become instruments in fulfilling your desire.

Please continue to guide, protect, and bless ISKCON Panihati so that this center may flourish more and more as a powerful center of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, distributing the mercy of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Lord Nityānanda Prabhu to the entire world. We pray that we may always remain united in your service, faithful to your instructions, and engaged in widening your smile by sincerely serving your mission life after life.

Begging for a particle of dust from your lotus feet,
Your insignificant servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Panihati

Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Veṇimādhava. All glories to Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā. All glories to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu. All glories to Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī Prabhupāda. All glories to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda. All glories to the Śrī Brahma-Madhva-Gauḍīya *guru-śiṣya sampradāya*. All glories to Śrī Gaṅgā-mayī, Śrī Yamunā-mayī, and Śrī Sarasvatī-mayī.

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are fortunate to receive an opportunity to serve in the holy land of Prayagraj, the place of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī. This is also the place where you received initiation from Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura and served his mission for many years.

This year has been a mix of a lot of challenges, learning, innovation, and difficulties that helped us remain united, growing, and committed. We also got some good results for the Prayagraj temple and even ISKCON as a whole, by Your mercy. Your words and immense example for the same has been a great force helping us to forge ahead during these times.

Amidst the current war situation in the world, when all technological and scientific advancement is itself proving lethal to people, your words about "simple living and high thinking" are clearly showing your farsightedness. You are like the gardener who sees the forest by seeing a single seed. You could see that the future could only be sustained by living according to these principles. Your words in your books are the guiding light for the misdirected civilization, and thus many people are getting freed from this danger. Seeing such a situation in the world, many times we are reminded of your word in the preface to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam:* "[T]his movement will go down in history for saving the world in the darkest hour."

In 2025, we had Mahā Kumbh, so we had the challenge of developing a big facility for serving Vaiṣṇavas. This year was challenging in terms of managing, maintaining, and refining that big facility.

Here are some highlights from last year:

Prabhupāda Ghat – a shelter for culture, festivals, and joy

By your grace, we were able to collaborate with the tourism department in Uttar Pradesh, where they offered us a ghat next to our temple. This ghat is named after Your Divine Grace as Prabhupāda Ghat and served as an opportunity to start a grand Yamunā *ārati* in the evenings to attract people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We also have a special Yamunā *ārati* on Sundays, which includes cultural performances, soothing kirtans, and engages the youth and families. We conducted a Snāna-yātrā festival, a beautiful Deva Deepavali, Vijay Dashami, graceful kirtan-melās, and through all that, Prabhupāda Ghat attracted thousands of people over the variety of festivals.

ISKCON's hospitality in Prayagraj – staying along the Yamunā's bank

By the hard work of His Grace Alok Nimāi Prabhu and Dhawal Prabhu, along with the devotees assisting them in fundraising, we have a high-class guesthouse facility on the bank of the

Yamunā and within the temple campus. This helped us to facilitate and serve many Vaiṣṇavas and pilgrims. By this we are also able to generate major funds for temple expenses.

Your teachings entering mainstream education

Three of our *brahmacārīs,* His Grace Acyuta Mohan Prabhu, His Grace Satya Saṅkarṣaṇa Prabhu, and His Grace Prema Rūpa Prabhu got to offer credit courses based on the *Bhagavad-gītā* in IIIT A Prayagraj and MNNIT Prayagraj, which are two of the prominent engineering colleges in the country. The students were thrilled to get this wonderful knowledge of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. By your grace, many of the students even came with us to Delhi for UDGAR, a national ISKCON youth festival, and many of them came to attend our kirtan-melā and our Holi festival at the Prayagraj temple. The knowledge and the culture you gave us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is the need for every *jīva* to experience pure joy.

Advancing devotees, growing community, and expanding service

This year, many devotees got *hari-nāma dīkṣā.* Some got brāhmaṇa initiation, and a few *brahmacārīs* accepted saffron. More than fifteen devotees are doing Bhakti Vaibhava, and many more are doing Bhakti Śāstrī courses. Many devotees are learning about the wisdom of the *Bhagavad-gītā* through temple programs. By the means of new preaching programs, many sections of society are getting connected. His Grace Rohiṇī-suta Prabhu is leading efforts to connect hundreds of kids. A good number of youths are getting connected to the temple through Sunday programs and online preaching programs as well.

Social media outreach – an innovative way to bring people to the temple

After Kumbh Melā, we experimented with how to connect with people. Instagram and other social media platforms gave us very good responses, through which hundreds of new people came to know about the temple activities. The temple footprint increased multifold in spite of our difficult-to-reach location.

We started promoting Yamunā *ārati,* and it clicked well. Later, many more events, like Snāna-yātrā and Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā became lively, attracting thousands of participants and volunteers, and became huge successes. This year's Janmāṣṭamī celebrations attracted thousands of visitors. The majority of the credit for that goes to social media. Later festivals like Deva Deepawali, the Lord's boat festival, kirtan-melā, New Year's celebrations, and more, were promoted simply through social media. Recently, a grand flower Holi festival, with more than 1,200 paid registrations, was fully campaigned simply through social media. His Grace Śiva Kumāra Kṛṣṇa Prabhu put sincere and intelligent efforts into bringing the online reach and promotion to this level.

Many more initiatives, like a new goshala project for our more than fifty cows, and a Magh melā camp for Kalpavāsīs, were carried out. This year onward we extended our support in IIT Madras youth preaching for ISKCON Madras by sending our team there. Two devotees learned to do Pañcarātra *yajñas* from Govardhan Eco Village and are thus performing grand and elaborate *yajñas*. We have also been serving many traveling Vaiṣṇavas by supplying them with journey *prasādam*.

There are many more things we wish to do in your service in the upcoming years, and we earnestly seek your blessings and empowerment to accomplish them for your pleasure:

1. Making a grand temple for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Veṇimādhava.
2. Increasing the congregation of devotees in and around Prayagraj.
3. Completing the hospitality facilities and a Govinda's.
4. Developing a beautiful, green campus.

5. Getting solar energy set up for the temple.
6. Preaching to youths coming to the temple and encouraging them to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*.
7. Creating leadership succession.
8. Developing a plan to get more devotees to join the ashram.

We wish to especially thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for having sent your loyal and able devotee His Grace Acyuta Mohan Prabhu as the spiritual mentor and exemplary leader for our community here. Under his guidance, our united team had been able to face many challenges.

Kindly bless all the devotees and especially the devotees taking the lead in various services here. Kindly bless all our endeavors and efforts and the projects we are taking up for your pleasure. May they be pleasing to you and your representatives.

Truly speaking, we feel extremely humble and unqualified to render this responsible service to Your Divine Grace at such a divine place, but your mercy and empowerment has been our true strength and saving grace. We apologize for the shortcomings in our personal practice as well as our service rendered, but at the same time, we are fully confident of bringing transformation through promotion of your teachings here in Prayagraj on the strength of sincerity and unity of our team and the inconceivable power of your desire and grace. Thank you very much.

Your servant,
Satya Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa, vice-president
On behalf of all the leaders and devotees of ISKCON Prayagraj

Punjabi Bagh, Delhi, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our respects and gratitude at your lotus feet on the occasion of your most auspicious 130th Vyāsa-pūjā festival. In hindsight, your appearance in this world is one of the most historic events for humanity in modern times. The majority of the 7 billion people on this planet had forgotten Kṛṣṇa or had no detailed conception of God. The depth of your love for Kṛṣṇa, manifesting as compassion for all living entities, reignited Kṛṣṇa consciousness in countless souls. As a *tattva-darśi,* a seer of the truth, you cut through the illusions of *māyā* that entangle conditioned souls in false conceptions of life.

"Life doesn't come from matter. Life comes from life." This single phrase dismantled the foundation of civilizational ignorance. In your role as guru you dispelled the darkness of ignorance with the torchlight of knowledge.

As the servant of your spiritual master, Oṁ Viṣṇupāda Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you made his instructions and desires the sole purpose of your life. The *Bhagavad-gītā* (2.41) states:

vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana
bahu-śākhā hy anantāś ca buddhayo 'vyavasāyinām

> Those who are on this path are resolute in purpose and their aim is one. O beloved child of the Kurus, the intelligence of the irresolute is many-branched.

While reading Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura's commentary on this verse, you became firmly resolved to fulfill your spiritual master's instruction. In that service, you founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT). You traveled around the world fourteen times in just twelve years, even in your advanced age and failing health. You wrote more than fifty books, opened over a hundred temples, farm communities, and *gurukulas,* initiated thousands of disciples, organized Ratha-yātrās, delivered thousands of lectures, and wrote countless letters guiding your disciples and well-wishers – all with the singular purpose of helping living entities turn to Kṛṣṇa. You established the Governing Body Commission (GBC) as the ultimate managing authority of ISKCON, ensuring that the society would continue to expand even after your departure. You never allowed failures or setbacks to discourage you permanently; rather, you remained determined in the face of all challenges to push this movement forward.

The city of Delhi was of strategic importance to you, and by your efforts, Kṛṣṇa consciousness has steadily grown here. You established your first official office in Chippiwara. You published *Back to Godhead* magazine and the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (in three volumes) in Delhi. After leaving your family life, you stayed at the *maṭhas* of your godbrothers and struggled alone. There was a time when you did not even have a proper dhoti-kurta for preaching, no money, and no permanent place to stay, yet you constantly thought of how others could take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

After the setback with the League of Devotees in Jhansi, you moved to Delhi. In a letter to government officials written on 25 December 1955, you expressed your vision for establishing the movement here:

> My associates were therefore disbursed & I came to Delhi to give it a new life. Delhi is the only center wherefrom this cultural movement could immediately be given effect because it is the center of international, political, social, educational, and cultural movements. What I want to do immediately is as follows:—
>
> (1) To hold consecutive meetings at different Mohallus & houses of Delhi for impressing the ideas of the mission.
>
> (2) To give training to at least 7 to 10 educated young men in the '*parampara lessons of Bhagavad-gita*' and then to '*Brahma Sutra,*' *Bhagavata* and *Caitanya Caritamrta*.
>
> (3) To publish an English monthly paper to sell specially to the English knowing heads of the society and to get printed some relative literatures.

Similarly, in a letter to Tamal Krishna Goswami dated 20 August 1971, you wrote:

> Delhi is the most important city in India because the capital is established there. Mostly the population is educated. Many foreigners are there also and embassies of different countries. So from the cultural point of view Delhi is the most important city. Many cultural centers are there also, many libraries, many schools, colleges, varieties of mercantile offices and different presses. So if you can influence them it will be a great propaganda center. I think in Delhi also you should hold one festival pandal meeting like in Calcutta and Bombay. There is a big ground open near Connaught place.



Because of your pure devotional service in Delhi, there are now more than twenty-two beautiful Kṛṣṇa temples in Delhi-NCR, with over seventy centers and thousands of devotees. Your disciples – such as Guru Dāsa, Yamunā Devī Dāsī, Bhānu Swami, and Kṣīrodakaśāyī – began expanding the movement in Delhi under your guidance. Your dear disciple Gopal Krishna Goswami, in the same spirit of service, led the preaching mission in Delhi for five decades, resulting in the opening of eighteen temples, the distribution of millions of books, the cultivation of leaders, the initiation of thousands into devotional service, and countless souls receiving Kṛṣṇa's mercy.

The ISKCON Punjabi Bagh community, home of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhikāramaṇa and Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, is a recipient of the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu through you. Many centers have expanded from this base, especially after the installation of the Deities in 2007. Currently, temple expansion is progressing steadily, and Kṛṣṇa's reciprocation is being experienced throughout the project. Recently, land was acquired in Rewari, and a *bhūmi-pūjā* scheduled for the new temple. The community ranked first globally in the book distribution marathon for 2025 (mid-size temple category). Four devotees joined the full-time Vaiṣṇava Training Program, and your servant Rukmiṇī Kṛṣṇa Dāsa accepted *sannyāsa* to expand the preaching mission. Programs for

children, youth, and congregational members continue to grow through weekly engagements, *yātrās* to holy places, festivals, and Deity service.

The past year has been marked by global unrest, with conflicts arising over resources like petroleum. Waves of godlessness and sinful activities – animal slaughter, intoxication, gambling, and illicit relationships – are widespread. Modern leadership remains largely unaware of the laws of nature, and people suffer under the threefold miseries. In such times, the message of Lord Caitanya and your purports stand as the true hope for peace and happiness.

We stand in awe and reverence for the priceless gifts you gave the world – Kṛṣṇa's holy name, His form, His philosophy, kirtan, temples, books, *prasādam,* communities, holy places, *gurukulas,* your letters, audio and video recordings, sacred art, culture – and above all, your legacy of love.

We offer our deepest respects and gratitude and pray for the strength and empowerment to share your gifts with others.

Your servants at ISKCON Punjabi Bagh

Qatar

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Last year for your Vyāsa-pūjā, I mentioned Kṛṣṇa-kathā Deśa *yātrā,* taking responsibility for constructing a temple at Birnagar to honor your desire and glorify the birthplace of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura. Now I wish to inform you that the project is taking shape nicely, with the blessings of His Holiness Jayapatākā Swami Mahārāja.

Last year, in the month of September, I went to Kanhaiya Deśa *yātrā* to promote the Birnagar Temple Construction Project. We got very good support from all the congregational devotees there. I would like to make a special mention of the Bengali-speaking devotees in Kanhaiya Deśa *yātrā*. They were very eager to support and participate in the project.

Under the guidance of Vaikuṇṭhapati Prabhu, we have begun the process of constructing a "Wall of Legacy," where donors' names will be inscribed. The minimum contribution for inscription is INR. 1,000, and donors may contribute in multiples of INR. 1,000 if they wish to give more.

As Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu said, *yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa,* the devotees of Kṛṣṇa-kathā Deśa are going and meeting people to promote the contribution campaign for the inscription on the "Wall of Legacy." The motto followed by the devotees of Kṛṣṇa-kathā Deśa is "*yāre dekha, tāre kaha,* contribute for the inscription." This way we can reach a greater number of devotees to participate in the construction of the temple.

Very soon, we will also acquire the land adjacent to the birthplace of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura. This plot is located on the opposite side of the land ISKCON acquired last year.

With your mercy, the desire to construct a beautiful temple for Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura is beginning to take shape. Please bless all the devotees involved in this project.

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your humble servant,
Aniruddha Gopāla Dāsa
on behalf of Kṛṣṇa-kathā Deśa

Raichur, Karnataka, India

Our dear grandfather, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious appearance day of Your Divine Grace, we, the insignificant servants at ISKCON Raichur, fall at your lotus feet and attempt to offer our heartfelt homage. Words are inadequate to glorify you, yet speaking about your mercy is our only shelter.

You came alone to the West at an advanced age, carrying not wealth, not institutional backing, but only the order of your spiritual master and unshakable faith in the holy name. You wrote in your diary upon arriving in America: "I do not know why You have brought me here.... But I guess You have some business here, otherwise why would You bring me to this terrible place?" (*Jaladuta Diary,* "*Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma,*" at Boston Harbor, September 18, 1965)

From that apparent uncertainty emerged a spiritual revolution that transformed the world. You fearlessly established Kṛṣṇa consciousness across continents – temples, farms, *gurukulas,* and books that continue to illuminate humanity.

Your mission was not without deep pain. You faced not only external opposition but also internal disturbances – even from those who once took shelter of you. Some disciples misunderstood your instructions, deviated from the principles, or even opposed your authority. Still, your compassion never diminished. You once indicated with grave concern that if there was an opportunity, the senses will deviate and falldown is inevitable from there.

And yet, despite such challenges, you did not withdraw your mercy. Rather, you intensified your efforts to protect the movement through books, systems, and clear instructions. You emphasized repeatedly: "Your love for me will be shown by how much you cooperate to keep this institution together after I am gone." (*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* chapter 52)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this instruction pierces our hearts. It is both a warning and a guiding light. You demonstrated what it means to be a true *ācārya* – not merely one who teaches, but one who tolerates, uplifts, and continues giving despite setbacks. Your life exemplifies the verse *tṛṇād api su-nīcena ...* (*Śikṣāṣṭakam* 3).

You tolerated dishonor, betrayal, and immense pressure, yet remained fixed in your service to Śrī Kṛṣṇa and your Guru Mahārāja. Your steadiness under such trials is one of your greatest teachings.

At ISKCON Raichur, we are trying – very imperfectly – to serve your mission. By your mercy:

- A few devotees have successfully completed the Śrīla Prabhupāda Introductory Course (SPIC), taking initial steps in understanding your teachings.
- The ground floor of our ecofriendly temple construction has been completed, and we are preparing to begin the first-floor construction.
- Our *gośālā*, with around fifty protected cows and bulls, is being maintained with care, and we are producing *dhūpa* sticks and cow-dung cakes, attempting to implement simple living and high thinking.
- Weekly *nāma-saṅkīrtana* (*nagara-kīrtana*) is organized in different parts of the city, distributing temple invitation flyers and spreading the holy name.
- We conduct a monthly twelve-hour kirtan every fourth Sunday, creating a spiritual oasis for the community.
- A monthly *Narasiṁha-homa* is performed on every Svātī *nakṣatra,* seeking protection and purification.
- By your mercy, we have distributed over seventy sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in the past year.

These are small offerings, Śrīla Prabhupāda – tiny attempts by struggling souls. Still, we place them at your lotus feet, knowing that only your mercy gives them any value.

We are also aware of our shortcomings. We see how easily the mind becomes distracted, how subtle ego creeps in, how cooperation becomes difficult, and how steadiness fluctuates. When we read about the challenges you faced with your own disciples, we become sober. If those who personally served you could struggle, then what to speak of us, who are so far removed?

Therefore, we pray not for comfort or recognition, but for strength, humility, and stability. Strength to continue despite obstacles. Humility to remain servants and not controllers. Stability to follow your instructions without deviation.

You told us, "Everything is there in my books." If we ready your books carefully, everything will be clear

Please give us the intelligence to take full shelter of your books. Let us not become sentimental or superficial, but deeply rooted in *śāstra* and *sādhana*. Let us not repeat the mistakes of the past; let us instead learn from them. Let us build not only structures but character; not only congregations, but conviction; and not simply perform activities but surrender.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said you had given us everything and encouraged us to develop it. We tremble at this responsibility. Yet, with your blessings, even the impossible becomes possible.

Please allow us to remain instruments in your mission. Please protect us from pride and disunity. Please engage us in meaningful service. Please help us cooperate as a family of devotees. And most importantly: please never let us forget you.

On this sacred Vyāsa-pūjā day, we bow again and again at your lotus feet, begging for your causeless mercy.

With deep gratitude and love,
Your humble servant,
Sarāthi Shyāma Dāsa,
On behalf of ISKCON Raichur

Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Although feeling as insignificant and small as a spark trying to glorify the blazing sun, still, for the purification of our hearts and to remember your unparalleled glories, we are attempting this impossible task.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.8.4) it is said:

mahad-vicalanaṁ nṝṇāṁ gṛhiṇāṁ dīna-cetasām
niḥśreyasāya bhagavan kalpate nānyathā kvacit

> O my Lord, O great devotee, persons like you move from one place to another not for their own interests but for the sake of poor-hearted *gṛhasthas*. Otherwise, they have no interest in going from one place to another.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the very personification of this verse of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Not only this verse, but the whole *Bhāgavatam, Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* and all Vedic literature glorifies you – yet still fall short of words.

The compassion you possess in your heart for the poor conditioned souls is boundless. Therefore, you happily faced all the challenges the Supreme Lord gave you on your journey, accepting them as opportunities to glorify Him.

Whether it was struggling alone in the streets of Delhi to distribute *Back to Godhead* magazines – sometimes fainting due to the severe heat – or experiencing intense seasickness and two heart attacks during your voyage to the West aboard the *Jaladuta,* or the many struggles you faced in America while establishing this movement – your determination never wavered.

Even after establishing your society, it was not at all easy to manage hundreds of centers, thousands of neophyte American and European disciples, translating scriptures, writing books, establishing *gurukulas* and farm communities, organizing the BBT and GBC, and envisioning the future of the society.

And the list is unending, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You accomplished all of this while constantly traveling across the world, adjusting to different time zones.

You are Lord Caitanya's commander in chief, about whom it is predicted in the *Caitanya-maṅgala:*

ebe nāma-saṅkīrtana tīkṣṇa-khadga lañā
antara asura jīvera pheliba kāṭiyā

yadi pāpī chāḍi' dharma dūra-deśe yāya
mora senāpati-bhakta yāibe tathāya

> Taking the sharp sword of the congregational chanting of the holy name, I will root out and destroy the demoniac mentality in the hearts of conditioned souls. If some sinful people give up religious principles and go to far-off countries, then My commander in chief (*senāpati-bhakta*) will go there and deliver them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is only you who can penetrate the deep ignorance in the hearts of conditioned souls like us through your simple but profound presentation of the highest philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. If you had not come, who could have saved us from falling into the deep, dark well of material existence?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always meditated on and executed the instructions of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda:

- To preach the teachings of *Bhagavad-gītā* in English to the Western world
- "Whenever you get money, print books"
- To establish a Governing Body Commission of qualified disciples to lead the movement

We beg at your lotus feet for the mercy to be able to execute your instructions and to always follow your mood, without deviating even an inch from your divine will.

Here at ISKCON Sagar, we are trying to serve you by

- distributing your transcendental literatures and performing *harināma-saṅkīrtana*
- focusing on youth preaching to develop the future leadership of this movement
- building a strong community of well-trained devotees
- constructing a beautiful temple on a hill, also known as Govardhana Hill, in Main Pani, Sagar
- planning to establish a goshala to serve and protect Kṛṣṇa's cows
- aspiring to open a *gurukula,* as per your desire

As insignificant as we are, our endeavors are also insignificant and full of shortcomings. Still, like small children completely dependent on the mercy of their mother, we beg for your divine grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

A disciple who thinks he can repay the debt to his spiritual master is called a *vinoda-pātra* – a fool. We can never even imagine repaying what you have done for all of us, Your Divine Grace. But if, by our small efforts, you become even slightly pleased, then our lives will be successful.

Eternally indebted and forever grateful,
Your humble, insignificant servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Sagar

Siliguri, West Bengal, India

Dearest, most beloved eternal master, Your Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the assembled devotees of ISKCON Siliguri gather in gratitude, reverence, and deep affection to offer this small token of homage. Words feel insufficient today, yet our hearts compel us to try, for glorifying you is both our duty and our greatest fortune.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the divine instrument of the Supreme Lord's compassion. In an age marked by confusion, distraction, and spiritual forgetfulness, you carried the eternal message of Lord Kṛṣṇa across oceans and continents, delivering it with purity, courage, and unwavering faith. You did not simply teach philosophy, but you gave life, direction, and purpose to countless souls who were wandering without shelter. You once said "I have no personal qualification, but I simply tried to satisfy my guru, that's all." (Arrival address, Los Angeles, 20 June 20 1975)

In this statement lies the essence of your greatness. Your humility shines brighter than any achievement, and yet your achievements are unparalleled. By your obedience to your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you fulfilled the deepest desire of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to spread the holy name of Kṛṣṇa to every town and village.

We reflect upon your journey to the West, made at an advanced age and carrying only a few rupees and a trunk of books. Externally, it appeared impossible, but internally, you were fully empowered. As you prayed when you reached America, "O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance." (*Jaladuta Diary,* 1965). This prayer continues to echo in the hearts of your followers, reminding us that true strength comes from complete surrender.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, through your books, you gave us your eternal association. Your translations of and purports to the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* are not mere commentaries; they are living guides filled with realization, clarity, and divine compassion. You have made the highest truths accessible even to the simplest hearts. You taught us how to see the world through the eyes of *śāstra* and how to live a life centered on devotional service.

You instructed, "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy." This simple instruction has transformed lives. In a world searching for complicated solutions, you gave the most direct and powerful process, the chanting of the holy name. Through this, you connected us to Kṛṣṇa, to one another, and to our own true selves.

As devotees of ISKCON Siliguri, we feel especially indebted to you. Whatever little service we are able to render, whatever understanding we possess, and whatever devotion awakens within our hearts, all are your causeless mercy. You have given us a spiritual home, a community centered on Kṛṣṇa, and a mission that brings meaning to our lives.

You taught us not only philosophy but culture, discipline, and compassion. You showed us how to worship the Deity, honor *prasādam,* serve the Vaiṣṇavas, and dedicate every aspect of life to Kṛṣṇa. Your instructions are practical, clear, and timeless.

At the same time, you were deeply personal and caring. You guided your disciples like a loving father, correcting when needed, encouraging always, and inspiring everyone to rise to their highest potential in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Even today, through your teachings and example, we feel your presence guiding us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we know that we are far from ideal. Our minds are restless, our determination often weak, and our service inconsistent. Yet, despite our shortcomings, you have not rejected us. Instead, you give us hope that by sincerely following your instructions, we can gradually become purified and develop love for Kṛṣṇa. You write, "This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is the greatest boon to human society." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.29.76–77, purport).

We see this truth unfolding daily. Wherever your movement reaches, lives are transformed, hearts are softened, and divine purpose is awakened. We pray to become worthy instruments in this mission.

On this sacred day, we make a humble prayer at your divine lotus feet:

Please bless us that we may always remain faithful to your instructions. Please bless us that we may work together in unity and humility. Please bless us that we may develop genuine taste for chanting the holy name. Please bless us that we may serve your mission with sincerity and dedication. May we never forget that everything we have is because of you. May we always remember that our real success lies in pleasing you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our eternal guide, ever well-wisher, and shelter in all circumstances. Your life is our inspiration, your words are our direction, and your mercy is our only hope.

On behalf of all the devotees of ISKCON Siliguri, we offer our repeated obeisances unto your divine lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant,
Akhilātmā Priya Dāsa, temple president
on behalf of the devotees of ISKCON Siliguri

Solapur, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Rūpa Gosvāmī writes in the *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu* (1.2.239): "My dear friend, if you are indeed attached to your worldly friends, do not look at the smiling face of Lord Govinda as He stands on the bank of the Yamunā at Keśī-ghāṭa. Casting sidelong glances, He places His flute to His lips, which seem like newly blossomed twigs. His transcendental body, bending in three places, appears very bright in the moonlight."

With His incomparable beauty, Lord Kṛṣṇa conquers the hearts of all living entities. Among His six opulences, His beauty stands supreme. And you, His pure devotee, are the divine messenger of that beauty.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you transformed our dull and dry lives by adorning them with priceless spiritual jewels whose true value we can scarcely comprehend.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (1.1.8):

> *vettha tvaṁ saumya tat sarvaṁ tattvatas tad-anugrahāt*
> *brūyuḥ snigdhasya śiṣyasya guravo guhyam apy uta*
>
> The secret of success in spiritual life lies in satisfying the spiritual master and receiving his sincere blessings.

Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura confirms: "Only by the satisfaction of the spiritual master can one please the Supreme Lord, and without his satisfaction, there is only devastation on the path of spiritual life."

On this auspicious occasion of the 130th appearance day of Your Divine Grace, although we

feel completely unqualified, we humbly take this opportunity, for our own purification, to express our heartfelt gratitude for the society you have mercifully given us.

We offer our deepest appreciation for your unparalleled contribution in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world, thus fulfilling the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu with unwavering determination.

At the age of sixty-nine, you undertook an unprecedented journey to the West, carrying within your heart the order of your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Despite immense hardships, you single-handedly ignited a spiritual revolution and established ISKCON as a global beacon of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Your mission was not merely to construct temples but to transform hearts through the distribution of the holy name.

You gifted humanity the Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* among many other transcendental scriptures – not merely as books, but as eternal guiding lights. Your transcendental literature continues to nourish and sustain ISKCON, its devotees, followers, and well-wishers, keeping them spiritually vibrant and ever fresh.

You described festivals as the "mothers of devotion." Following this instruction, we continue to celebrate major festivals with great enthusiasm, enriching the experience of visitors and strengthening the devotional community.

By your mercy:

- During Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, approximately 1.5 lakh pilgrims took darshan of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara. Around 10,000 full *prasādam* plates and more than 30,000 *drona prasādam* were distributed.
- On Utthāna Ekādaśī (November 2), we celebrated the fourth Brahmotsava over three days (October 31 through November 2), in the presence of His Holiness Bhaktirasamita Swami, during which approximately 5,000 plates of *prasādam* were distributed.
- We organized a mega youth festival, UTSAV – A Festival of Joy and Happiness – attended by 1,500 students from 14–15 colleges, along with an enlightening seminar entitled Artificial Intelligence to Spiritual Intelligence. Approximately 200 transcendental books were distributed.
- On Bhādra Pūrṇimā, we distributed 253 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* securing the second position in India in the small temples category.
- During Gītā Jayantī, approximately 28,300 books were distributed.

By your mercy, we are now placing greater emphasis on youth engagement and congregational preaching in an effort to further expand Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission.

Additionally, by your blessings, construction has begun on a new guest house, Sant Nivas, with accommodation for seven rooms, expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

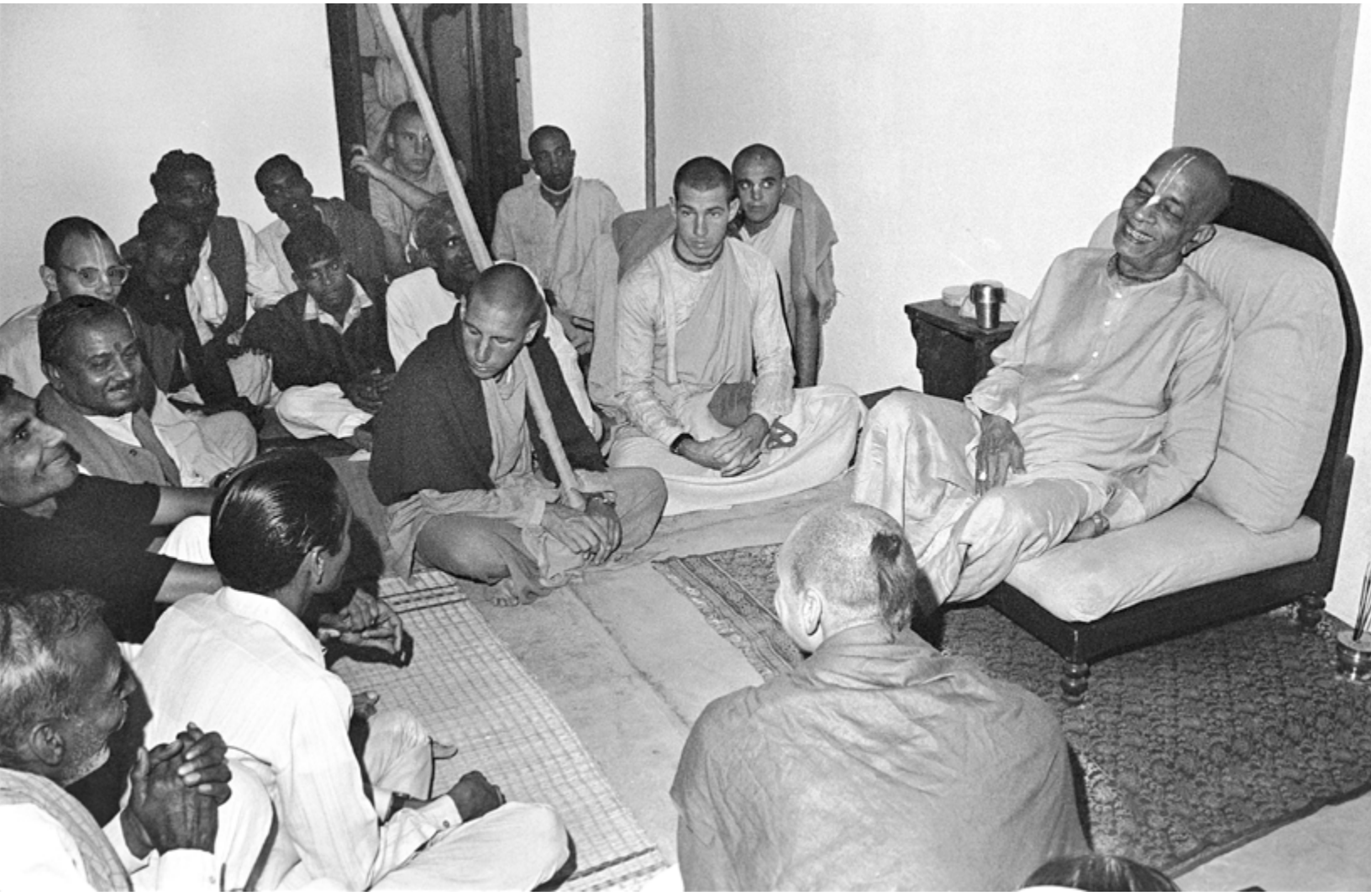
Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are deeply indebted to you. You have not only given us knowledge, but have completely transformed our lives. You created this society through immense sacrifice, and we can never repay that debt.

You desired nothing other than to please Kṛṣṇa, and in return, Kṛṣṇa fully empowered you to spread His holy name throughout the world for generations to come.

When sincere seekers begin searching for truth, they ultimately meet you – the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON – and through your teachings, they discover the path out of material existence.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (10.2.31) states:

svayaṁ samuttīrya sudustaraṁ dyuman
bhavārṇavaṁ bhīmam adabhra-sauhṛdāḥ



bhavat-padāmbhoruha-nāvam atra te
nidhāya yātāḥ sad-anugraho bhavān

> O Lord, just as the sun dissipates darkness, Your devotees cross the ocean of nescience and leave behind the boat of Your lotus feet for others to follow.

You have mercifully left this divine process for us. By following it, we too may cross this ocean of material existence. For this eternal gift, we remain forever grateful.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so that in this rapidly changing world we may faithfully follow in your footsteps and effectively preach your message. Kindly allow us to serve your mission with sincerity, never forgetting that all success belongs solely to you.

You taught us that ISKCON is your body and that serving ISKCON means serving Your Divine Grace. We accept this as our life and soul, and we pray for the strength to serve wholeheartedly with body, mind, and words.

As we continue in this movement, we are gradually beginning to understand your vision and the responsibility that accompanies it. Please help us remain serious, avoid complacency, and rise above bodily consciousness so that we may render genuine devotional service.

Though the path ahead is long, we have complete faith in your mercy. Kindly guide us, purify us, and always engage us in your service.

You are a true Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura. Only you can give us Kṛṣṇa. We are simply trying to follow in your footsteps, crying for your mercy.

Your servants at ISKCON Solapur
(written by Krishnabhakta Dāsa)

South Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.30.37 you write, "All devotees are indebted to the great sage Nārada, for he has wandered both in heaven and in hell. A devotee of the Lord is not even afraid of hell. He goes to preach the glories of the Lord everywhere – even in hell – because there is no distinction between heaven and hell for a devotee." Following in the footsteps of Śrī Nārada Muni, you also traveled across the globe to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with one and all. You circumambulated the world fourteen times and took great risks to spread the message of Lord Caitanya to millions of conditioned souls.

With the blessing of Your Divine Grace, a branch of ISKCON started in South Bengaluru in 2011. As desired by you, this branch is growing into a prominent cultural center. We, the devotees at ISKCON South Bengaluru, are grateful to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all the opportunities you created for us to engage our talents in the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vinodajī, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Nityānanda Naṭabara Gaurasundara. On this auspicious occasion we would like to share our spiritual journey in the last one year to seek your divine blessings to assist you in your mission.

1. Following are the number of books distributed by our temple devotees from April 2025–March 2026:1,200 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets, 63 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets, 20,022 *Bhagavad-gītās,* and 713 *Kṛṣṇa* books.

2. We are about to complete construction of a new extension of the temple building. It consists of a new Deity kitchen (on the same floor as the altar), new residential facilities for *pūjārīs,* and an accounts office.

3. Festivals are being celebrated in more attractive ways for the pleasure of Their Lordships. Many of the second-initiated congregational devotees are actively taking part in serving the Deities.

4. We are shortly coming up with a new Bhaktivedanta *kalakshetra* to facilitate many cultural events.

5. We are working on improving the devotee care systems to keep all the devotees well nourished and inspired in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

6. The temple's overall preaching is growing. This includes the youth preaching wing (boys and girls separately), the congregational preaching wing, and the children's preaching wing. We now have fourteen *brahmacārīs* in our center, and our congregation is around six hundred devotees.

There are many more initiatives that we've started working on for your pleasure. We seek your blessings so that we can continue to offer our loving services to Their Lordships.

Thanking you,
Your servants at ISKCON South Bengaluru

Sri Rangam, Tamil Nadu, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

In the first verse of the ninth chapter of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* Lord Kṛṣṇa tells Arjuna that He will speak the most confidential knowledge along with realization of it to one who is nonenvious. In your purport, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you mercifully explained that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not simply theoretical knowledge but knowledge combined with realization.

You not only presented the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but you also gave your own realization, which you received through your pure devotional service and complete surrender to your spiritual master. In this way, you made the highest spiritual truth accessible to all sincere souls.

At the same time, you clearly explained that although this knowledge is open to everyone, only those who are nonenvious of Kṛṣṇa and His devotees can truly understand and realize it. Only such sincere and fortunate souls can receive your mercy and become enlightened in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We understand this principle through the example of Prahlāda Mahārāja. Although he had every opportunity to enjoy material comfort as the son of the powerful demon-king Hiraṇyakaśipu, Prahlāda did not compromise his devotion. He remained fixed in the instructions of his spiritual master, Nārada Muni, even in the face of severe persecution. Prahlāda Mahārāja did not choose comfort or convenience. He chose sincerity and loyalty to his guru. Because he received knowledge along with realization by the mercy of Nārada Muni, he remained steady in Kṛṣṇa consciousness under all circumstances. Ultimately, the Lord personally appeared to protect him.

In the same way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you freely distributed Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. You gave both knowledge and realization through your transcendental books, without considering who was qualified and who was not. This is your causeless mercy.

However, we understand that although this gift is available to everyone, only those who are honest, sincere, and free from envy can actually realize and benefit from it. The key is not simply receiving the knowledge, but receiving it with the proper heart.

Your dedication and devotion to your Guru Mahārāja stand unparalleled. Because of your complete surrender, you have been able to present Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a pure and powerful way. Through your books, you gave the whole world a matchless gift. Anyone who sincerely follows your teachings can understand this knowledge, practice devotional service, and achieve perfection.

At ISKCON Sri Rangam and Trichy, we are making a small attempt to serve your mission. We have started the Sri Rangam Institute for Higher Education to systematically teach your transcendental literatures to all. We understand that we can only teach to the extent that we have understood your books. Therefore, we sincerely pray for your mercy so that we may properly represent your teachings and be instruments in your mission.

We are also trying to create facilities for pilgrims who visit this holy place by arranging proper accommodations and *prasādam* for them. In addition, we are constructing a small temple so that the message of Lord Caitanya may be spread from this sacred land. We fully understand that none of these efforts can be successful without your mercy. Therefore, we, the devotees of ISKCON Sri Rangam and Trichy, humbly pray at your lotus feet to kindly bless us with strength, sincerity, and purity so that we may be able to serve your mission and be of some use in your transcendental movement.

Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us Kṛṣṇa consciousness, for giving us your association through your books, and for giving us the opportunity to serve.

Your insignificant servants,
Nandapūtra Dāsa the devotees of ISKCON Sri Rangam and Trichy

Taichung, Taiwan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I have the fortune to have been invited to write the Vyāsa-pūjā offering for Your Divine Grace on behalf of the Taichung *yātrā* in Taiwan for this year. Although, I am telling my own experience of coming in contact with Your Divine Grace, my experience is similar to others in Taiwan who have come in contact with Your Divine Grace and your teachings. How fortunate I am to have met you in this lifetime!

When my father passed away quite some years ago, I realized that at the moment of death, a person possesses nothing. This realization set me on a path of searching for the meaning of life. After years of seeking, I finally encountered Lord Kṛṣṇa and His devotees. Without you spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village across the world, it would have been impossible to receive Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy in a place as remote as Taichung, Taiwan.

Even after ten years of being in the ISKCON society, I am still like a toddler learning to walk, stumbling along the path of devotional service. For many years, your image in my heart was vague and distant, even seemingly unattainable, which deeply discouraged me. That changed in April 2020.

In April 2020, your disciple, Kṛṣṇa Baladeva Dāsa, encouraged me to begin reading *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* aloud online for fifteen minutes a day for the devotees in Taiwan. I agreed without hesitation. Within just a few days of reading your life story, my life began to change. After chanting my sixteen rounds of *japa,* I immersed myself in reading your biography and recording it for the devotees to listen to afterward. Often I was unable to stop reading and became filled with joy as I read of your glorious activities. I reduced my daily household duties as much as possible. This service became the center of my life. By reading and reciting every word daily, I became absorbed in your divine pastimes.

Then something subtle and wonderful happened: your form, words, conduct, and spirit – once unclear in my heart – gradually came together like the pieces of a puzzle into a complete and vivid picture. You nourished me and rekindled my enthusiasm for Kṛṣṇa consciousness and awakened in me a deeper desire to serve.

During this time, the recordings of your glorious activities were uploaded daily for the devotees of Taiwan. This received an enthusiastic response. The devotees eagerly longed to hear this nectar, and through it, they came to know you more fully and deeply.

Throughout the entire process of reading and reciting, what moved me most profoundly was your unwavering determination to follow the instructions of your spiritual master. Everything you did was solely to please him. Even encountering countless difficulties, you never retreated – something ordinary people in this world would have long given up.

I came to understand that the relationship between a spiritual master and a disciple can become unbreakable when the disciple faithfully follows the spiritual master's instructions, even without physical association. You have said that following the instructions of the spiritual master is the eternal duty of the disciple. In the purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41, you explain that one should perform devotional service to Kṛṣṇa under the guidance of the spiritual master and accept his instructions as one's life and soul. You also said that as long as a disciple follows the spiritual master's instructions, the spiritual master is eternally present with the disciple. Today, we are able to receive your mercy, because your disciples have faithfully followed your instructions. These sincere disciples received your most precious gift – the opportunity to serve you in separation – and they have continued to spread this throughout the world, allowing it to flourish everywhere.

Ah! How fortunate we are, your granddisciples, to have met you, your disciples, your teachings, and your ISKCON society. We pray that we, in the Taichung *yātrā,* will continue to share your glories with others in Taiwan, thus allowing them to have the fortune of coming into contact with you, your teachings, your followers, and your ISKCON Society.

Your humble servant,
Kuntī Kripa Devī Dāsī
On behalf of the Taichung *yātrā*

Taipei, Taiwan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Whenever I meditate on your pastimes, I am deeply moved by your unwavering obedience to and faith in your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, as well as the profound surrender and love for Kṛṣṇa that resided within your heart.

Shortly after your first meeting, your spiritual master instructed you: "Whatever you have learned, you should go to the Western countries, and you must distribute this knowledge." You unconditionally accepted this instruction as your life and soul, crossing the ocean in 1965 at the age of nearly 70 to disseminate Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West. When others deemed your mission impossible, you humbly and humorously replied: "Since the mission of others to preach in London failed, let me go and fail in another place! Let me go to New York and fail there."

Because of your absolute adherence to your spiritual master, even when encountering severe

obstacles, challenges, and physical ailments, you persisted in spreading the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness without fear. The humility and the relentless, compassionate spirit you demonstrated are not only awe-inspiring but also serve as a beacon for us, illuminating by example that all glory belongs to the mercy of the Lord and the instructions of the spiritual master.

Among your pastimes, what touches me most deeply is the Bengali poem you wrote while residing in Vrindavan, titled "*Vṛndāvane Bhajan*." It reflects the purity of your detachment and your singular dependence on Kṛṣṇa:

Part One

(1) I am sitting alone in Vṛndāvana-dhāma and in the midst of my thoughts, I am receiving some realizations.

(2) My wife, sons, daughters, grandsons are all there, but because I have no money, they consider that my true wealth is useless.

(3) Śrī Kṛṣṇa, You have revealed to me the naked form of material nature, and today, by the power of Your mercy, I have become freed from all desires.

(4) "He whom I favor, I gradually take away his wealth" – how can I understand such mercy from the most merciful One?

Part Two

(1) Seeing that I am bereft of wealth, everyone has abandoned me – family, relatives and friends who were like brothers to me.

(2) Although it is miserable, I am amused and I sit alone and smile. Who are my dear one's in this material world of *māyā*?

(3) Where have my mother and father, who were so full of affection, gone? Where have my elders and close relatives gone?

(4) Tell me, who will bring me news of them? All that remains of that family are their names only.

You dedicated your entire life to sharing Kṛṣṇa consciousness, guiding us by example how to obey the instructions of the spiritual master and how to cultivate devotion through the scriptures to become a humble servant of the Lord. There is no other path to pure devotional service except by serving your lotus feet. It is only because of your causeless mercy that I am able to traverse this ocean of material suffering. I cannot repay your kindness; I can only strive to follow in your footsteps, cultivating deeper Kṛṣṇa consciousness to offer better service to the spiritual master, to you, and to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

I know that I am unqualified to ask for your blessings, yet I beg for your mercy. Please allow me to serve Lord Kṛṣṇa, your mission, and the devotees with a more humble and tolerant heart. This is the only way I may hope to repay your kindness. Thank you for your selfless sacrifice. Your life remains our eternal example.

Your eternal servant,
Champaka Latikā Devī Dāsī
On behalf of the devotees of Taipei, Taiwan

Tsukuba, Japan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

In 2018 we started our Hare Kṛṣṇa center in Tsukuba, known for its research and scientific studies internationally and a city of pride in Japan for its innovations to improve health and the standard of living for communities locally and worldwide.

Now we have a vibrant, growing community with locals enthusiastically participating in learning Kṛṣṇa consciousness by studying *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in Japanese and embracing the lifestyle of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which is very challenging for the Japanese due to their conservative society and traditional lifestyles. Under the expert guidance of His Holiness Kavicandra Swami Mahārāja, and by sharing Your Divine Grace's love and compassion, we are making friends with both Japanese people and expats, keeping the cultural sensitivity, serving them *prasādam,* and serving them with kirtan music and the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. With Mahārāja's guidance we are serving those in Japanese bodies.

In this journey over the past eight years, we are helping the local Japanese through

- *Cooking classes:* teaching vegetarian recipes using local ingredients, which helps them to prepare them in their homes. We also teach a few Indian recipes, such as samosas, kachoris, chapatis, and various dals, which include protein.
- *Classes in nutrition:* especially teaching practitioners how to feel safe to replace meat with lentils and other vegetarian foods, which have all proteins and nourishment. This is helping Japanese families safely adopt a vegetarian diet and subsequently learn to offer the food to Kṛṣṇa's pictures and honor it as *prasādam*.
- *Teaching English through reading Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam in English:* This is for advanced students whom we meet online once a week. We are still in the First Canto, since we began reading the *Bhāgavatam* from the beginning. Here we read and discuss the word-by-word meanings given in your books so we can understand context and depth of Vedic culture, and its relevance to the present time.
- *Home programs:* These are vibrant and cozy programs, which all the Japanese like. We all come together, chant Vaiṣṇava *bhajanas,* read the translations of the verses, and discuss the pastimes in Japanese. We also relate some Japanese folktales and enjoy this *sādhu-saṅga* with *prasādam* and bonding. This is helping us to become friends, discuss your teachings through your books, sing together, and embrace the message of Lord Caitanya.

While all these things are happening, His Holiness Kavicandra Swami Mahārāja has expressed his desire to have more Kṛṣṇa conscious centers in Japan the way we have MacDonalds and Starbucks – high accessibility in every nook and corner. With this vision in the heart, my husband and I have thought of buying property for our Kṛṣṇa conscious center that can help us hold more diverse programs, such as retreats and educational activities with more accessibility for the locals.

We did buy land, but the construction costs increased a lot after COVID-19 subsided. Our son was boarding at university, and we geared up to build a center after discussing it with Mahārāja. He guided us that there should be no loan – we should stay simple and serve more.

We searched for more than two years and could not find an agent who could build a center that was within our budget without a loan. We were almost exhausted and kind of disappointed that we questioned whether we were on the right path. Then one day, we thought we would try one more time, and after this, halt for some time.

On that day, we found a place near the Tsukuba area – a Japanese house. We immediately rushed and spoke with the agent, who arranged a visit that same day. After a good amount of struggle, we bought the place for our Hare Kṛṣṇa Center in Tsukuba. It is a wonder Japanese Heritage House, 180 years old – a beautiful house with a history of a Samurai's dynasty.

On this auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā of offerings to Your Divine Grace, we offer to Your Divine Grace our Hare Center in Tsukuba, Japan, and we all humbly beg that you bless us all that we continue to progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As per Mahārāja's desire, we serve the locals and give more access to Kṛṣṇa conscious through retreats, educational activities within their cultural settings, and to make them welcome.

Your servants at the Hare Krishna Center in Tsukuba
Ujjvalā Gopī Devī Dāsī (RNS), Sudāmā Dāsa (KCS), and team

Türkiye

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

With respect and gratitude, we are sending this offering on behalf of the devotees and congregation of ISKCON Türkiye. We do not present this as a record of accomplishment but as a small reflection of service that has been possible only by your mercy during 2025.

In this country, where the cultural and religious background is quite different from the tradition of bhakti, your teachings have nonetheless begun to take root – not through external force but through gradual contact through your books, through kirtan, and through personal association. In this way, your presence is being felt in a steady and meaningful manner.

At present, the *yātrā* consists of approximately 150 congregational devotees, with eight new devotees joining. Six devotees have successfully completed the ISKCON Disciples Course, and three devotees have taken initiation – two receiving first initiation, and one second initiation. These steps represent a growing commitment to the process you gave.

Regular programs continue to form the foundation of devotional life. During the year, hundreds of online morning programs were held, maintaining consistent participation. Onsite gatherings, though fewer, continue to support personal connection. Weekly Sunday programs were held in three cities: Istanbul, Ankara, and Antalya, with steady attendance and ongoing engagement.

In addition, weekly kirtan programs in Istanbul, often organized at yoga studios have opened a natural connection with the broader spiritual community. These kirtans are received with appreciation and have become an accessible entry point for many individuals who are already seeking deeper meaning through yoga and meditation.

A significant development has been the launch of the Bhakta Program, which attracted approximately 100 participants, primarily from the yoga community. With little or no prior connection to ISKCON, these participants have begun a systematic study, completing the first module and progressing into the second. This has created a structured pathway for deeper engagement with devotional service and Vaiṣṇava philosophy.

Alongside this, weekly online *satsaṅgas* on the *Bhagavad-gītā,* reading groups focused on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Kṛṣṇa* book, *japa* meditation gatherings, sattvic cooking classes, and seasonal retreat-style programs have all contributed to a steady cultivation of people interested in spiritual life. Educational content shared through digital platforms has also extended the reach of your teachings to a wider audience.

We observed all major Vaiṣṇava festivals here in our country, providing opportunities for devotees and guests to gather for kirtan, hearing, and *prasādam* in major cities.

Your books remain at the core of our efforts. Last year, 2,000 copies of the *Kṛṣṇa* book in Turkish, and 5,000 copies of a retranslated *Bhagavad-gītā* were printed and distributed. Through various programs, festivals, book fairs, and personal outreach, approximately 5,000 of your books were distributed throughout the year, each one carrying your message to a new life. Translation work continues, with plans to publish additional titles so that more people may come in contact with your teachings in their own language.

Prasādam distribution has also been an ongoing service. Through Food for Life Türkiye, regular programs were carried out in the country, serving both homeless individuals and low-income families. In addition, Govinda restaurant in Istanbul continues to distribute approximately fifty plates of *prasādam* daily, functioning as a sustainable and continuous outreach effort.

Another meaningful development has been the growing connection with the yoga and wellness community. Through kirtan, festivals, and lifestyle-based outreach, bhakti practices are increasingly recognized as an authentic dimension of spiritual life. This has brought many sincere individuals into closer contact with your teachings.

At the same time, growth takes place within certain limitations. Public outreach is naturally restricted, and expansion is gradual. Progress often depends on personal relationships, steady practice, and long-term engagement rather than large-scale visibility. Yet even within these conditions, a consistent and sincere development can be observed.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever is taking place here is only possible because of your mercy. In this land, your presence is not loud, but it is steady. It grows quietly through books, through kirtan, through simple association. We do not see rapid expansion, but we see sincere transformation. We do not see large numbers, but we see hearts gradually opening. Whatever is taking place here is fragile but real, and for that we feel deeply indebted. We offer this small *yātrā* at your lotus feet not as something complete, but as something that is still becoming. If you so desire, let this effort continue. If you so desire, let it deepen. And if you so desire, may this land one day become a place where your teachings are naturally heard, understood, and lived. This is our offering to your lotus feet.

Your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Türkiye

Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

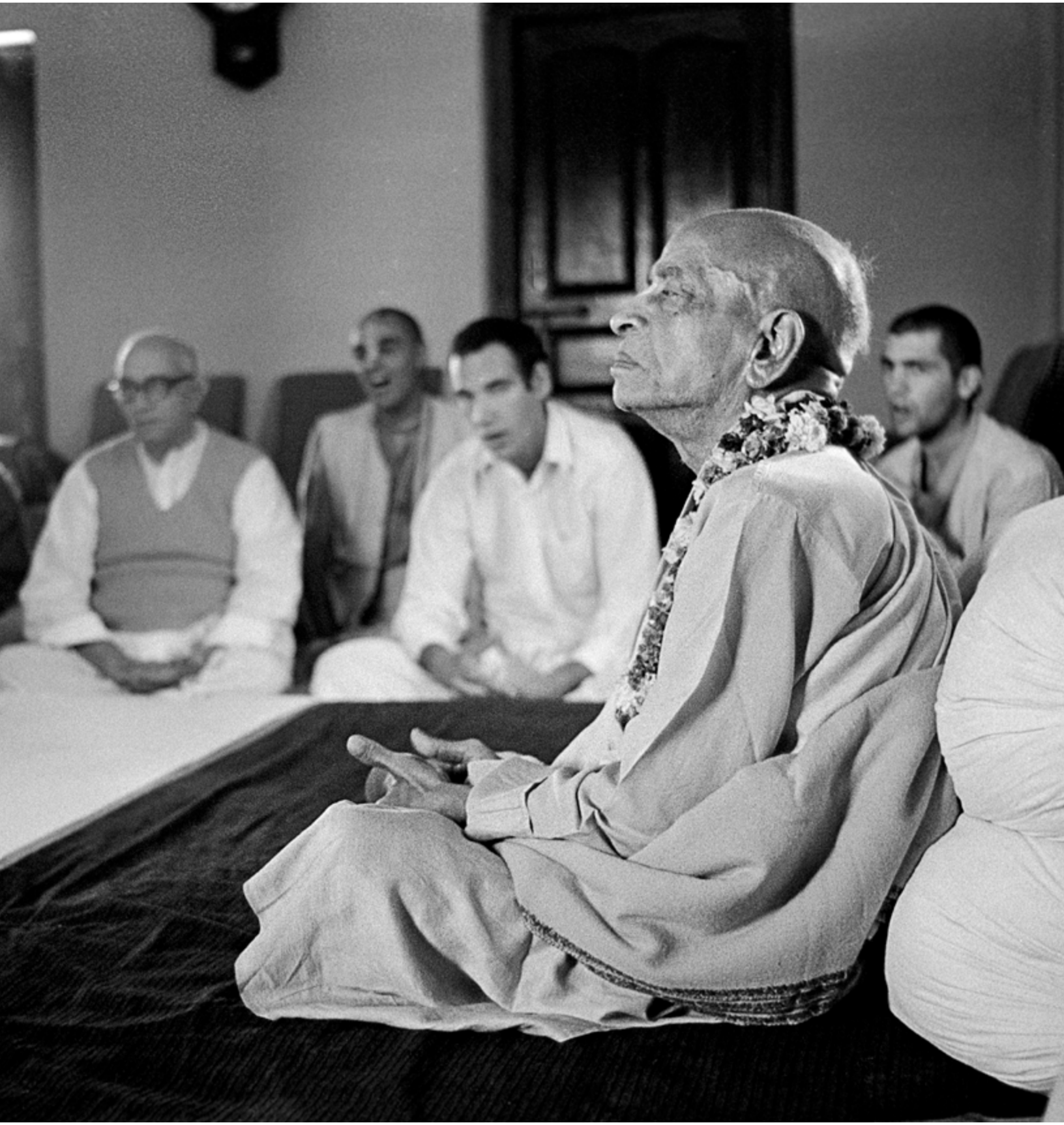
Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances unto the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace

This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the incorporation of ISKCON, and the twentieth anniversary of ISKCON Ujjain. During this auspicious time and on the auspicious day of your appearance, we wish to offer the following services at your lotus feet:

- Last year, we distributed a total of 51,286 books.
- 32 grand Ratha-yātrās were organized across Madhya Pradesh, involving participation of more than 380,000 people. More than 183,000 plates of *prasādam* were distributed.
- We got the opportunity to celebrate Janmāṣṭamī with the Honorable CM in CM house, Bhopal.
- Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Rath is traveling and performing *harināma*. That party has distributed prasādam to around 400 villages in the Ujjain district.
- The dubbing of *Abhay Charan* has been completed in Gujarati and Marathi now.
- The *brahmacārī* ashram has been extended by constructing a fourth floor. Apartments have been renovated and painted.
- In Ujjain local, Bhakti Kutir house programs have been flourishing rapidly in thirteen locations with 180 participants. The SKY Annual Yātrā has increased from 200 to 500 devotees this year. *Nāma-haṭṭa* programs are held in eight places with a cumulative count of over 500 devotees participating. Our five Bhakti-vṛkṣa programs attract over sixty devotees. The Kalpataru preaching program is cultivating twenty devotees.
- We have successfully registered seventeen outposts and three extension centers across MP.
- The "I love Bharat" festival was well attended by more than 3,000 youths. The theme was "awakening Bharat." This session had a documentary of Your Divine Grace as well.
- The Śrīla Prabhupāda Memorial Festival was a grand event that brought together over 3,000 devotees from twelve nations, the theme being the sixtieth anniversary of the arrival of Your Divine Grace in the United States.
- Pandava Sena is empowering over 700 boys aged 15–30. In MANIT and IIIT Bhopal we had an orientation program, led by Amogha Līlā Prabhu for the first year, which was attended by over 1,200 and 500 students respectively. At MANIT Bhopal we organized a program for Chaitanya Charan Prabhu. As a result, the director expressed his willingness to initiate courses on Indian Knowledge Systems.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all this is happening only by your causeless mercy. On behalf of the ISKCON Ujjain community, we offer our deepest gratitude and prayers at your lotus feet to internalize your mood of selfless service, to carry and spread the mission forward with purity and courage. Kindly empower us to represent your teachings with determination.

We beg to remain the humble servants of your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Ujjain



Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees at ISKCON Vallabh Vidyanagar, gather with hearts full of gratitude and awe. As we look at the state of the world today – marked by rising conflicts, unrest, and the dark shadows of war – your words resonate with a clarity that is both sobering and deeply comforting.

You warned us decades ago that a civilization without Kṛṣṇa at its center is a "civilization of polished animals," destined for strife. We see your predictions unfolding before our eyes, yet in the midst of this global chaos, we see your ultimate victory. You have won, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because you gave us the only weapon capable of ending all wars: the *mahā-mantra* and the sublime philosophy of the *Bhagavad-gītā*.

While the world struggles with borders and divisions, you have created a global family that transcends nationality, race, and creed. You have built a "house in which the whole world can live." Here in Vallabh Vidyanagar, we feel the shelter of that house every single day.

Our humble vows to you:

To take refuge in your books. We recognize that your purports are the "lawbooks for the next ten thousand years." We pledge to study them deeply and remain steady amidst the world's turbulence.

To perform saṅkīrtana: We vow to push forward the distribution of the holy name, knowing it is the only true formula for peace.

To remain united in service: Following your instruction to show our love for you by how we cooperate, we commit to serving together in harmony in order to expand the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for not leaving us in the dark. Thank you for giving us Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Peacemaker. We are eternally indebted to you for pulling us out of the fire of material existence and giving us a purposeful life in service to Guru and Gaurāṅga.

May we always remain tiny servants at your divine lotus feet.

Your eternally grateful servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Vallabh Vidyanagar

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet and express our deepest gratitude for giving us the priceless opportunity to serve your divine mission in the association of devotees here in Varanasi.

As you explained in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* the greatest benediction of life is to receive the

association of devotees. By your causeless mercy, we have received this rare opportunity, and whatever little service we are able to perform is only due to your vision and blessings.

We are merely instruments with no qualification without your guidance. You gave us everything – purpose, the process of bhakti, and the association of devotees. Though we feel unfit in our service, we continue to hope that one day we will become worthy instruments in your mission. Here are some efforts by our devotees we would like to share with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda:

Preaching efforts and outreach: Keeping your desire in our hearts, we have tried to focus on youth preaching, understanding that the youth are the future of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Our efforts include:

- two youth centers near IIT Varanasi, IMS BHU, and BHU University to cater to students of the these colleges and university.
- two youth centers near the temple to cater to youth visiting the temple and other education institutions of Varanasi.
- We regularly conduct preaching programs at youth centers as well as at the temple. At the temple, we have three youth groups – with a total of about one hundred young people regularly attending programs.
- We have three *bhakti-vṛkṣa* centers, and in each, about fifteen devotees attend classes on weekends.

Temple sādhana culture: We have daily morning programs at the temple, which are attended by more than thirty devotees on weekdays and more than sixty devotees on the weekends. Weekend *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes are attended by about 150 devotees, including all batches. We also hold weekly classes separately for *gṛhasthas* and youths at the temple, and daily *Bhagavad-gītā* classes in the evenings, which are generally attended by more than twenty devotees.

Prasādam distribution: We have tried to serve all visitors (around 500 come on a regular basis) with sufficient *prasādam*. Earlier, we have been working with a single vehicle, but recently we added two more for our Food for Life program, which distributes in different parts of the city.

Kirtan, Deity worship and festivals: To please Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Śrī Śrī Lakṣmī-Narasiṁhadevjī, we have a dedicated team of devotees who perform regular kirtan in front of the Deities and also go out to the streets for *harināma-saṅkīrtana* on weekends and during festivals. We also endeavor to serve the Deities with joy and enthusiasm and ensure purity and punctuality in the *sevā*. Devotees make fresh, beautiful garlands for the Lord. We have a team of cooks who make the *rājabhoga,* and offer it to the Lord. Many congregational devotees volunteer on a scheduled basis to help with all this *sevā*. And we have a team who helps plan, organize, and celebrate festivals so that we can invite large numbers of people and give them a taste of bhakti.

Management development: To inspire cooperation and unity among the devotees, we have a well-defined organizational structure at the temple. We have divided up the *sevā* into various departments, made it clear who is in charge and how things should be executed in the spirit of servant leadership so that all devotees feel empowered, inspired, and create a strong *sevā*-related identity within our community. Responsibilities are being clearly divided, devotees are working in a more systematic way, and this has increased efficiency and enthusiasm in service.

Temple Project (VICC): We are trying to fulfill your vision of building a temple for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla (Vedic India Cultural Center). The project is planned in two phases:

- Phase 1: Guesthouse, ashram, Govinda's, etc.
- Phase 2: Temple hall and auditorium

Due to a funding crisis, the project is moving a little slower than hoped, but now we have made efforts to collect funds and planning to speed up the construction work after Narasiṁha Caturdāśi onward. We pray that by your mercy this project may be completed and become a center of preaching in Varanasi.

We are deeply grateful to His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, His Holiness Guru Prasad Swami, and His Grace Gokuleshwar Prabhu for sharing your vision and inspiring us to serve. We are also grateful to His Grace Acyuta Mohan Prabhu, who is providing us spiritual nourishment and training the devotees, especially the leaders, and giving all practical guidance on regular basis so that we can be engaged in your service.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are trying, though very imperfectly, to follow your instructions and serve your mission. Whatever little has been done is only by your mercy. We sincerely pray that you please give us strength, purity, and intelligence to render selfless devotional service. May we always remain your humble servants, serving under the guidance of guru and the Vaiṣṇavas.

Servants of your servants,
Ram Keshav Dāsa, vice-president
On behalf of the devotees in Varanasi

Vrindavan, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet.

This year we celebrated the fifty-first anniversary of the grand opening of the Śrī Śrī Krishna-Balaram Mandir in Vrindavan. You struggled tirelessly to establish this temple while you were also creating ISKCON temples worldwide. We are so grateful that Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārakādhīśa told you to open a temple in India that would be a hundred times better than any other temple you had established. We want to thank you for encouraging us by your enthusiastic determination to glorify Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the *saṅkīrtana* of the holy names at Krishna-Balaram Mandir, and also for allowing us to render some service to you and the *guru-paramparā* and to be part of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* mission.

The Krishna-Balaram Mandir Live high-definition broadcasting is followed by devotees all over the world. We invite everyone to participate and connect through our website, which shows darshans, kirtans, and festivals loved by everyone. Krishna-Balaram Mandir is one of the most popular temples in the entire world, and daily thousands of pilgrims take darshan of the beautiful Deities, dance in the twenty-four-hour kirtans, take *prasādam*, and purchase many books.

The upcoming Krishna-Balaram Cultural Center is beautifully designed, with arches, columns, guest rooms, a Govinda's restaurant, a gift shop, and other facilities that will enhance and complement the temple, *samādhi* and museum. In the museum, we've developed unique diorama exhibits that give a glimpse of how you were empowered to spread Vedic knowledge all over the world. The new project will be ready by next year and will have more preaching facilities, cultural halls, more than 110 guest rooms, a new Govinda's restaurant and bakery, and a very large book and gift shop.

For your pleasure, we are also building a senior care building with thirty nice rooms for your

elderly disciples and devotees who wish to retire in Vrindavan. There is a new *brahmacārī* ashram, and many new bhaktas are joining. They are eagerly studying, being trained for book distribution, and serving in all the temple departments. Your Bhaktivedanta Swami International Gurukula has grown and is now developing a university on campus.

Fortunately, the Honourable President of India, Srimati Droupadi Murmu, along with the Governor of U.P. and a number of other top government officials, recently visited the Krishna-Balaram Mandir. She offered flowers to you at your *samādhi* and then at your *vyāsāsana* in the temple. While taking darshan of Their Lordships, she offered lamps to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara. Our cultural department presented a wonderful Odissi dance, performed by international devotees, and the *gurukula* boys chanted auspicious mantras.

With extreme gratitude we pray to you for the strength to carry on keeping the temple neat and clean, distributing many of your books, distributing free *prasādam* to everyone, and continuing the dynamic, twenty-four-hour kirtan, which inspires everyone to sing, dance, and appreciate your Kṛṣṇa consciousness *saṅkīrtana* movement. We feel your presence very much in your *samādhi* as well as in the Krishna-Balaram temple. You are our most worshipable, beloved representative of the Supreme Lord. You are the best servant of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. Please bless us. *Jaya* Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma!

Your humble servants,
(written by Pañcagauḍa Dāsa, temple president)

Yokohama, Japan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

From our Yokohama, Japan, center, a second busiest and the largest city after Tokyo, we express our deepest gratitude for your having given us the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We come together every month for kirtan, *kṛṣṇa-kathā,* dancing kirtan, and *prasādam*. Our team cooks *bhoga,* decorates the hall for the program, and places the Deities' pictures. The Japanese participate in kirtan and festivals. The Japanese like Gaura-Pūrṇimā and the Holi festival of colors. They also like the festival of lights (Deepavali) and Govardhana-pūjā.

Our team has been growing because of your empowerment through the guidance and care of His Holiness Kavicandra Swami Mahārāja. Our team members are embracing the process of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* adopting the four regulative principles within their lifestyle, and observing Vaiṣṇava festivals. Our team members in Yokohama are cordial and cooperative in organizing our Hare Kṛṣṇa festivals and programs.

Our team is very much excited during book distribution, especially the book marathon month,

November-December. Our team distributes books in groups and goes door to door to distribute your book *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in languages like Japanese, English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, and Bengali. We also distribute small books as sets to our community members.

In Yokohama in 2025, we distributed 400 *Bhagavad-gītās* and 100 small books.

Our congregation also comes together during Bhadra Pūrṇimā to receive *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* into their homes and sponsor sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* for yoga studios for the Japanese community.

In Yokohama in 2025, we distributed 11 full sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in languages like English, Telegu, and Hindi.

During this period, one of our members, Sudāmā Dāsa (KCS), worked with a devotee named Onon Zorigtkhuu, from Mongolia. He inspired Onon to speak to her friends and the devotees in Mongolia and encourage them to accept *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* into their homes. By Your Divine Grace's mercy, she agreed to speak to her friends and the devotees in Mongolia.

With Onan's coordination in Mongolia, Sudāmā Dāsa was able to send 25 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets and 3 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets to Mongolia. All these sets were in the English language.

It took lots of coordination, but we did all of this legally and with permission from the BBT in America, the GBC, and respected ISKCON authorities. A very special thanks to our ISKCON of Silicon Valley (ISV) team for sending books to our centers in Yokohama and Tsukuba in Japan.

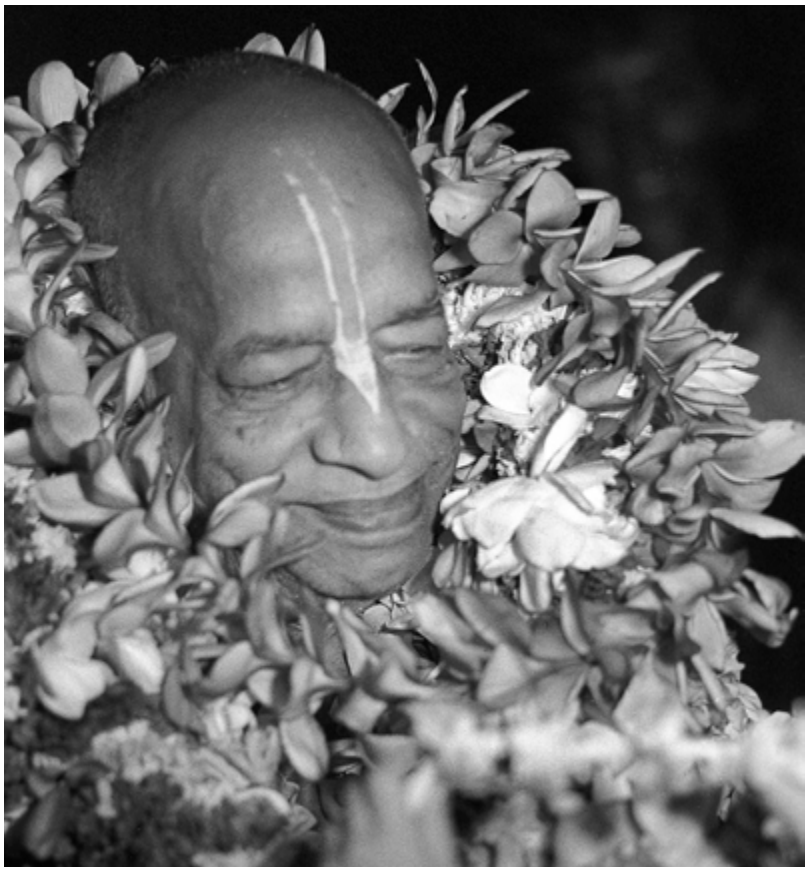
During the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign, our Japanese devotees distributed 6 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets and 1 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* set among themselves or gifted them to friends.

The kids in Yokohama are very enthusiastic while doing dramas, kirtan, festivals, and chanting. They are excited to hear the pastimes of Lord Rāma and Kṛṣṇa's childhood pastimes.

The families in Yokohama embraced the Monopoly game *Every town and Village* enthusiastically. This game was brought to Japan by His Holiness Kavicandra Swami Mahārāja. We distributed them to Japanese devotees, and devotees from India and Nepal.

As a team we're growing slowly and surely to bring the auspiciousness Your Divine Grace gave us through Kṛṣṇa consciousness to Japan. Our Yokohama team humbly seeks Your Divine Grace's blessings to continue and progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness with all cooperation, and to spread Lord Caitanya's message and mission to more families in the coming years. We beg your mercy to help us properly understand and practice Your Divine Grace's teachings, which we are learning through your books and lectures.

Your servants at ISKCON Yokohama
Sudāmā Dāsa and our team



HOMAGES FROM ISKCON CENTERS

Europe & Russia

Abentheuer, Germany

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept my humble obeisances at the divine dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga!

I attempted to write a small poem in your glorification on this very happy day on behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Goloka Dhāma. I beg for your kindness to accept my humble service.

The Messenger of Lord Kṛṣṇa

Empowered by your Guru Mahārāja's grace,
With a mission vast – to uplift the human race,
More than sixty years ago, upon the *Jaladūta* you came,
A devoted servant of Kṛṣṇa, bearing His holy name.

Across the restless ocean, frail in body yet strong in soul,
With heart attacks and trials that sought to take their toll,
Still you pressed onward with unwavering steadiness,
A beacon of courage, untouched by distress.

Upon that ship, in solitude yet divine company,
You celebrated Janmāṣṭamī in deep spiritual harmony,
And those who sailed with you, though worldly they may be,
Received your mercy, your kindness, your purity.

Arriving in the West, unknown, without support or claim,
Yet carrying within you your guru's sacred flame,
With fearless determination and a vision crystal clear,
You planted seeds of bhakti that would blossom far and near.

Establishing ISKCON with compassion bold and bright,
You turned the darkest corners toward transcendental light,
To every soul you met, regardless creed or birth,
You gave the greatest treasure ever known upon this earth.

Bearing the sacred service mood of Śrī Rādhā's grace,
Soft as the dawn of love upon the soul's embrace,
Illumined by Kṛṣṇa's wisdom, as sung in *Gītā's* song,
A guiding light of truth to which all hearts belong.

Overflowing with *prema-bhakti,* boundless and free,
As Gaurāṅga danced in divine ecstasy,
You shower compassion upon every living being,
Awakening love through divine seeing.

In humble praise, your glories we proclaim,
Echoing truths the *Vedas* eternally name,
Your life a bridge from knowledge unto bliss,
A path of devotion no seeker should miss.

O radiant soul, in service pure you stand,
An instrument of grace in the Lord's own hand,
May we follow the footsteps your deeds have shown,
And awaken that Divine love as our very own.

Wherever your lotus feet so gently did reside,
You left behind a legacy no time can ever divide
Kirtan's joyful chanting, the holy names' embrace,
Books that sing eternal truths, revealing Kṛṣṇa's face.

Lectures filled with wisdom, *prasādam* rich with grace,
A culture of devotion that time cannot erase,
With patience deep as oceans and compassion ever pure,
You gave a path to Kṛṣṇa, simple, joyful, and sure.

No distraction swayed you, no hardship dimmed your sight,
You saw each soul as precious, meant to walk in dharma's light,
And vowed that none be lost within illusion's stormy sea,
But all be brought to Kṛṣṇa, that is your legacy.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, each year we humbly come,
To offer but a tiny lamp before your radiant sun,
Our words fall short, our praises faint and small,
Before your boundless glories that uplift us all.

Yet still with hearts of gratitude, we stand within your line,
Aspiring to be instruments of your divine design,
Whatever strength we carry, whatever voice we raise,
We offer in your service, in Kṛṣṇa's loving praise.

So in full *daṇḍavats* we bow before your feet today,
And earnestly, with folded hands, we pray
Please bless us that in every time and place,
We may remain sheltered in your causeless grace.

And let us serve your mission with steady hearts and true,
With firm resolve and faith in all we say and do,
To carry forth your message, both timeless, pure, and new,
And share Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy, as we have learned from you.

All glories to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your insignificant servants at Goloka Dhama
(written by Bhāgavata Dharma Dāsa)

Aheloy, Bulgaria

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to you! Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Thank you for your great dedication to the mission of Lord Kṛṣṇa and our Lord Gaurāṅga! And thank you for your patience, wonderful behavior, and compassion toward all of us!

The rarest and most valuable thing in this world is a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa. In the material world, there is always some contamination. Therefore all the knowledge we receive is more or less contaminated, or wrong! By the mercy of Kṛṣṇa we had a unique fortune to come in contact with you in the form of your book, classes, videos, and your most wonderful movement, ISKCON!

Even though in this lifetime I was not able to see you personally, I feel a very strong connection with you through your books and devotees! Reading only a few pages of your books can completely change the life of a person if he dedicates his life to following what you write. I was reading in the *Bhagavad-gītā* that Kṛṣṇa cannot be pleased without brahminical culture and cow protection. I was thinking that brahminical culture is too difficult for me, but let me try with cow protection.

I've now been doing this service for the past twenty-two years, and during this time so many wonderful things have happened in my life. Now more devotees are engaged as well, and I am sure that you are seeing us and are very pleased with us!

We all going through different illusions, but the persons who dedicate their lives to your instructions will be eternally benefited!

Your eternal servant,
Nitāi Candra Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at New Madhuvana farm

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your divine appearance, we offer our heartfelt homage and reflections. Over the past year, we have encountered both challenges and encouraging developments within our congregation. With sincere determination, we are striving to establish a permanent temple, a sacred home for Śrī Śrī Karuṇa-Nitāi Gauracandra and a spiritual center from which your preaching mission can continue to expand.



Deeply inspired by your unparalleled efforts in founding this movement, we feel a strong eagerness to follow in your footsteps. At the same time, we remain ever aware that our endeavors are but small and insignificant in comparison to your extraordinary service.

We are grateful to share that an increasing number of devotees are taking enthusiasm in participating in *harināma* and distributing your transcendental books. As you so powerfully emphasized that book distribution is your life and soul, we carry this instruction in our hearts. With renewed energy and devotion, we go out to the streets to share the mercy contained within your writings with those who may still be covered by ignorance. You taught that even if one person becomes Kṛṣṇa conscious the mission is successful, and we understand that this transformation is made possible through the books you so compassionately wrote, often under great difficulty. We therefore feel a deep responsibility to continue this service.

At the same time, we are placing increasing attention on nourishing and caring for the devotees within our community. We recognize the importance of spiritual support, meaningful relationships, and genuine care. United in our shared goal of reviving our eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa, we strive to cultivate a spirit of cooperation and friendship, knowing that this journey is best undertaken together.

To sustain and expand these efforts, a suitable temple building would be a great blessing. We humbly pray at your lotus feet that, by your mercy, such an opportunity will manifest. Until that time, we remain committed to serving you in whatever capacity we can, dedicated to preserving and carrying forward your teachings and legacy.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you have given to the world. You will forever be remembered as the one who built a spiritual home in which the entire world can reside. We remain eternally indebted to you. *Haribol*!

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Amsterdam

Antwerp, Belgium

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

We offer our humble obeisances to your lotus feet on the most auspicious day of your divine appearance.

You are the representative of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Prema-Puruṣottama Gaurāṅga, who appears only once in a thousand *yuga*-cycles, in a *kalpa,* just after Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, who Himself also appears personally only once in a *kalpa*.

In the same way, you, the confidential associate of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, who have fulfilled the prediction of that same Prema-Puruṣottama, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, are equally rare. Therefore, we are most fortunate to have taken birth in this era and to have received the special

mercy that you came to distribute throughout the entire world. The rarity of such an opportunity is beautifully expressed in the teachings of Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya-līlā* 19.151):

brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja

> Wandering throughout the universes, some fortunate soul, by the mercy of guru and Kṛṣṇa, receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service.

We thank you gratefully from the core of our hearts for having arranged the needed and beneficial association of your disciples and followers in disciplic succession – for all of us and those to come.

Empowered by the complete mercy and desire of our *guru-paramparā,* and inspired by the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, what you have accomplished and were able to do was and is divinely ordained!

We will not so easily be able to completely fathom our great fortune, because only by becoming a pure devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa can one actually understand the extent of that fortune. Therefore, on this sacred day of your divine appearance, we pray that we may come to understand in a fuller way the depth of our good fortune.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servant,
Puruṣottama Tīrtha Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Antwerp

Ávila, Spain

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this auspicious day, we, the devotees of ISKCON Ávila – Navalakuṇḍa, wish to approach you with sincerity and open hearts, just as we are.

We are deeply grateful for your presence in our lives and for the path you have given us. By your mercy we have received direction, shelter, and purpose in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Although we are mindful of our many limitations, within our community there exists a sincere desire to serve you and to advance spiritually.

We pray for your guidance from within our hearts. Please help us to remain steady and faithful, even when we face challenges and difficulties in our service.

We beg for your blessings so that we may continue preaching with enthusiasm, without becoming discouraged and without letting ourselves be overcome by circumstances.

Allow us to be instruments in your hands, so that many souls may draw closer to Kṛṣṇa. May our efforts carry a reflection of your mercy and touch the hearts of those who come in contact with this project.

You know the responsibilities we are carrying as well as the difficulties we face. Please bless us with intelligence, patience, and purity of heart, so that we may act correctly, without falling into offenses or deviations.

Help us to protect and nurture the spiritual environment where we are serving, and to never lose our sincerity nor the desire to serve, even in the midst of trials.

We thank you for your limitless mercy and for continuing to guide us, even when we are not aware of it. We offer all that we are and all that we are attempting to do at your lotus feet, with the hope that one day it may be pleasing to you.

Your servants,
ISKCON Ávila – Navalakuṇḍa
(written by Amala Śacī Devī Dāsī, temple president)

(*Text in its original Spanish*)

Querido Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Por favor, acepte nuestras humildes y respetuosas reverencias al polvo de Sus pies de loto.

En este día auspicioso, nosotros, los devotos de ISKCON Ávila – Navalakuṇḍa, deseamos acercarnos a usted con sinceridad, con el corazón abierto, tal como somos.

Le estamos profundamente agradecidos por su presencia en nuestras vidas y por el camino que nos ha dado. A través de su misericordia, hemos recibido dirección, refugio y propósito en la conciencia de Kṛṣṇa.

Aunque somos conscientes de nuestras muchas limitaciones, dentro de nuestra comunidad existe un deseo sincero de servirle y de avanzar espiritualmente.

Oramos por su guía desde dentro de nuestros corazones.

Por favor, ayúdenos a mantenernos firmes y fieles, incluso cuando enfrentamos desafíos y dificultades en nuestro servicio.

Le suplicamos sus bendiciones para poder continuar predicando con entusiasmo, sin desanimarnos y sin dejarnos vencer por las circunstancias.

Permítanos ser instrumentos en sus manos, para que muchas almas puedan acercarse a Kṛṣṇa. Que nuestros esfuerzos lleven un reflejo de su misericordia y puedan tocar el corazón de quienes entren en contacto con este proyecto.

Usted conoce las responsabilidades que estamos sosteniendo, así como las dificultades que enfrentamos.

Por favor, bendíganos con inteligencia, paciencia y pureza de corazón, para poder actuar correctamente, sin caer en ofensas ni desviaciones.

Ayúdenos a proteger y nutrir el ambiente espiritual donde estamos sirviendo, y a no perder nunca la sinceridad ni el deseo de servir, incluso en medio de las pruebas.

Le agradecemos por su misericordia ilimitada y por seguir guiándonos, incluso cuando no somos conscientes de ello.

Le ofrecemos todo lo que somos y todo lo que estamos intentando hacer, a Sus pies de loto, con la esperanza de que algún día pueda ser de Su agrado.

Sus sirvientes,
ISKCON Ávila – Navalakuṇḍa
Servidora representante: Amala Śacī Devī Dāsī
Presidenta de ISKCON Ávila Navalakuṇḍa

Barcelona, Spain

Our most dear and worshipful A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, all glories to you.

From Shadow to Service: Our Lives Awakened by Your Mercy

From time without beginning, we wandering *jīvas*
turn upon the wheel of our own choosing,
misdirecting that fragment of freedom,
turning away from our natural harmony with the Divine.

Covered by the ever-changing conditions of material nature,
we pass from one body to another,
sometimes rising, sometimes falling,
yet always mistaking the temporary for the eternal,
the reflection for the substance.

Thus, in ignorance, we too have wandered,
chasing fleeting shadows of happiness
across the vast expanse of repeated birth and death,
embracing again and again
that which can never satisfy the soul.

Bound by action and reaction,
and influenced by the three modes of material nature,
we have remained forgetful of our eternal identity
and of our loving relationship
with the Supreme Lord, Kṛṣṇa.

But you, O Śrīla Prabhupāda,
did not come into this world
under such conditions.
You did not arrive driven by *karma*,
nor compelled by the forces that bind the ordinary soul.

You were sent,
sent by the Supreme Lord Himself
as an instrument of His divine will
to awaken those who had forgotten Him.

An ever-liberated soul,
untouched by illusion,
you appeared among us as if one of us,
walking, speaking, acting within this world,
yet always established in transcendence.

An eternal servant of the Lord of Vraja,
a resident of Goloka Vṛndāvana,
you came to fulfill the deepest desire
of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu
that the holy names of the Lord
be heard in every town and village,
and that the sleeping souls of this age
be awakened to their eternal life of devotion.

Carrying forward the current of divine grace
revealed by Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura,
and powerfully established by
Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura,
You crossed oceans, cultures, and boundaries,
planting the seed of devotion
in hearts that had never before heard the name of Kṛṣṇa.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, all glories to you,
At a time when our hearts were awakening
from the barren landscape of misunderstanding,
we found ourselves suspended in a strange emptiness,
caught in the painful grip of illusion.

Having wandered without direction,
having acted in ignorance,
we remained deprived of our eternal relationship
with Him – the Absolute Truth,
the Supreme Beauty.

Ignorant of His form, His abode, and His pastimes,
we found no true happiness
in this chaotic and suffering world.

In that helpless condition,
with all our hearts, our entire being, we prayed,
that someone who truly knew Him,
who had seen Him,
who lived in devotion to Him,
might come and guide us.

And by your causeless mercy,
you came.
Without delay,
you revealed the Supreme Person, Śrī Kṛṣṇa,
not as an abstract conception,
but as the all-attractive Lord of the heart.

You revealed Rādhā,
the highest embodiment of divine love,
and through your teachings,
you opened before us
the vision of an eternal spiritual family
we did not know we had lost.

You revealed the path of devotion,
not as sentiment,
but as the eternal function of the soul,
and by your mercy alone,
we came to take shelter
at your lotus feet.

Yet, O most merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda,
the shadows of illusion do not disappear at once,
and still, your compassion never diminishes.

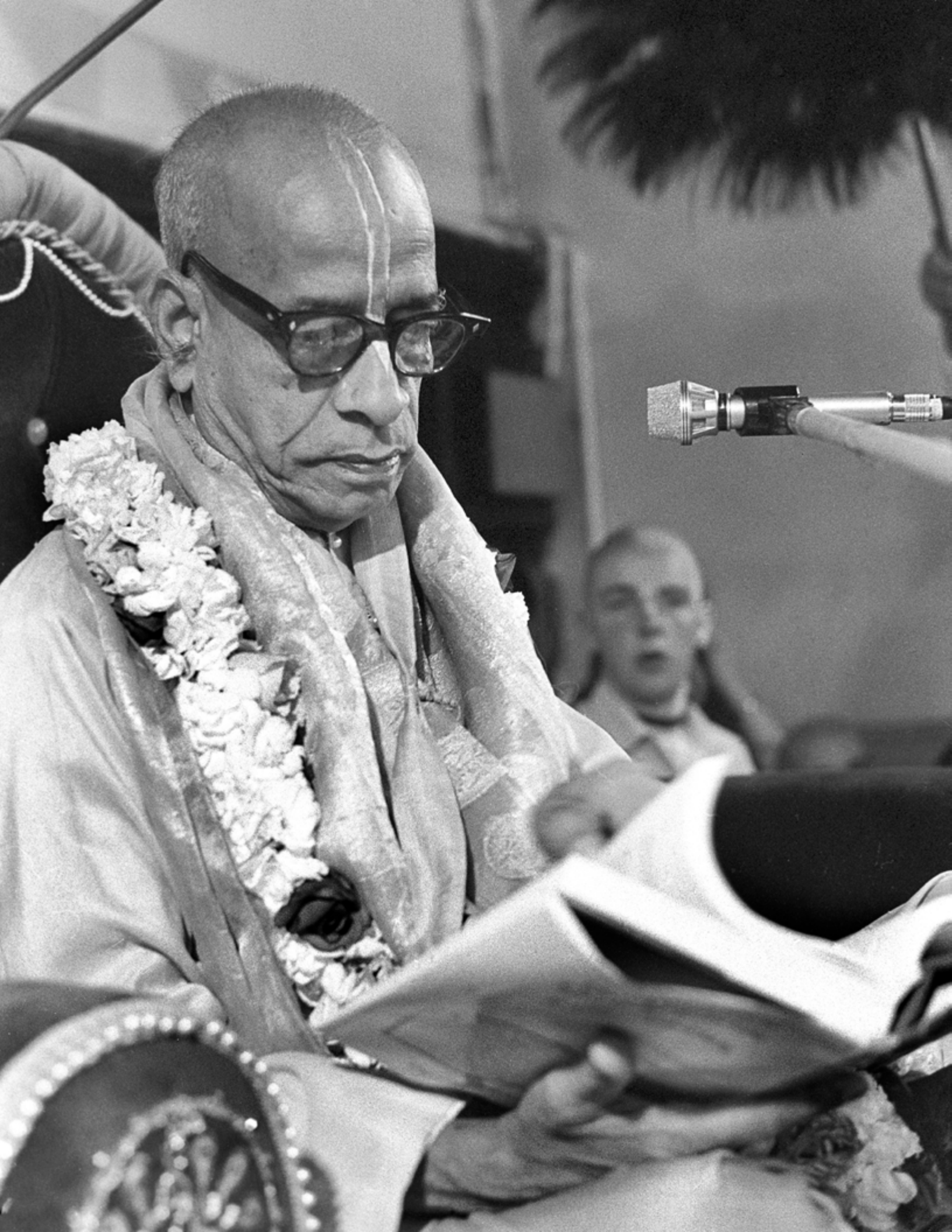
Conditioned since time without beginning,
our hearts could not at once
cast off the coverings of forgetfulness,
yet you never abandon us.

For such is your mystic kindness:
that even through the movements of this world,
you guide, you arrange, you transform.

The experiences come,
sometimes gentle, sometimes severe,
yet never without purpose,
never beyond your care.

For you are always there,
not only as the instructing master,
but as the unseen guide of our lives,
quietly directing, carefully shaping,
leading us toward Kṛṣṇa step by step.

Even when we cannot understand,
your hand is ever present,
orchestrating each circumstance
with perfect wisdom,
knowing precisely what our souls require
to gently loosen the shackles
of material existence.



What we mistake for difficulty
is, in truth, your higher mercy.
What we perceive as loss
is your divine and compassionate arrangement
for our eternal gain
and the gentle dissolution of our false ego.

But more than freeing us
from the futility of this temporary world,
you have revealed to us
the reality of the spiritual world.

You have opened the path
of eternal devotion,
as illuminated by Rūpa Gosvāmī,
and granted us shelter
at the feet of our revered *guru-varga*.

Through your teachings,
you gently awaken within our hearts
a deep and sacred attraction
for the divine service
of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa,
the eternal Divine Couple,
the very essence and ultimate conclusion
of all Vedic revelation.

You unveiled not only philosophy,
but the inner current of devotion,
a glimpse of your own heart,
absorbed in loving service.

And by your causeless mercy,
our hearts have begun, however faintly,
to turn in that same direction.

Now, by your mercy,
Only service to Kṛṣṇa holds meaning.
Only the realm of divine love appears real.
All else slowly fades,
like a dream at dawn.

In this way, O Śrīla Prabhupāda,
you have given us everything –
purpose, direction, identity,
and the hope of one day rendering loving service
under your guidance
at the lotus feet of
Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Govinda.

And if there is any way
to bring even a moment of satisfaction
to your compassionate heart,

we pray, with complete submission,
under the shelter of your divine lotus feet

That, though without qualification,
by your mercy alone,
we may assist, even in the smallest way,
in carrying forward your mission,
the eternal mission of
Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu,

that the holy names of Kṛṣṇa
will resound throughout this world,
awakening the wandering souls
to their eternal identity
as servants of the Absolute Truth.

You have given us everything –
knowledge, shelter, direction,
and the awakening
of a higher aspiration.

Still, we remain dependent,
at every step,
upon your continued grace.

We can only pray,
that we may never forget you,
that we may never turn away
from the path you have revealed,
and that we may remain always
under the shelter of your lotus feet.

Let our hearts be purified.
Let our intentions be made sincere.
Let our lives gradually become aligned
with the current of your mercy.

And if you so desire,
may the aspirations you have awakened,
one day mature
Into the genuine service
of Lord Caitanya and Nityānanda,
in the line of your eternal service.

For in truth,
we have nothing else to ask.
You have already given everything.

Let us simply remember this,
and remain always
your eternal servants.

Barcelona ISKCON Temple and Bhakta Community
(written by Hlādinī Śakti Devī Dāsī [ACBSP])

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we in Belfast lovingly remember your causeless mercy upon the fallen conditioned souls. You have compassionately descended in the form of your divine instructions and books to deliver us from ignorance and to reconnect us with our eternal relationship with Śrī Kṛṣṇa. We remain ever grateful for this unparalleled gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

By your mercy alone, the preaching activities in Belfast are steadily developing and giving shelter to many seeking spiritual life. Weekly online classes on the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* are being attended with sincerity and enthusiasm. The children's club, with around thirty-seven young participants, is nurturing seeds of devotion in the next generation. Our *bhakti-vṛkṣa* programs, Sunday feast gatherings, *harināma-saṅkīrtana,* and book distribution efforts are all continuing, and we see that wherever your books are distributed and your teachings are heard, hearts are being transformed.

We are especially grateful for your unparalleled gift of presenting Kṛṣṇa consciousness "as it is." Every page of your books and every word of your lectures continue to inspire us to come closer to Lord Kṛṣṇa and to live a life dedicated to His service. Through your divine instructions, even those who are struggling and inexperienced are given direction, hope, and engagement in devotional service.

We understand that without your mercy, we are completely incapable of understanding or practicing this sublime science. Therefore, we constantly seek shelter in your instructions, your books, and your *vāṇī,* praying that we may remain connected to your mission.

On this sacred day, we humbly pray for your blessings upon all the devotees in Belfast that we may remain united, sincere, and enthusiastic in serving your mission. Kindly empower us so that we may continue to serve you faithfully and eternally under the shelter of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, and assist in spreading the holy name of the Lord to every town and village.

May we never deviate from your instructions, and may we always remember that our only success is to please you in your service.

Your servants at ISKCON Belfast

Bergamo, Italy

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

In many wonderful ways you have worked to bestow the blessing of Kṛṣṇa consciousness upon the world, but perhaps your greatest contribution is the personal change you have brought about in the hearts of your disciples. Their joy and purity, their dedication and freedom from vices, are all evident in their lives, but the feeling of gratitude that each of them feels toward you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is practically inexpressible.

I therefore borrow the words of the great devotee Prahlāda, who prays thus: "My Lord, due to material desires I was falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the common people, but Your servant, Nārada Muni, my spiritual master, kindly accepted me as his disciple and instructed me on how to attain the transcendental position. Therefore my first duty is to serve him. How could I ever give up his service?" (*Bhāgavatam* 7.9.28)

You have actually saved your disciples from a cumbersome materialistic life, delivered them from the confusion of this world, and led them on the path to Kṛṣṇa. You have now left this world and returned to your original abode, but although you are no longer with us physically, you live eternally in your teachings, in the vast literature you have left us, in the movement you started, and in the memory of your personal example, an immaculate example of uninterrupted dedication to your master, to the masters who preceded him, and to the Supreme Lord in His various forms as you have taught us to worship Them.

I could compare your books to jewels, which you have given as a testimony of love to your disciples and followers in particular and to the whole world in general, and now that we have them in our hands, how could we not feel rich, poor wretches that we were? Now we can show these jewels to everyone; and we can also show how they have the power to change us: not partially, but they transform us radically in all kinds of habits. These are not hidden changes, but visible ones that everyone can observe.

From the pages of these books, in which you invested most of your life, working tirelessly for endless hours each day and night for months and years, one can perceive the full strength of your devotion to your spiritual master and your firm will to save this confused world, where people do not know where they come from or where they are going. I know that while reading your books, many people feel with every page the sense of heaviness that oppresses them vanishing and a feeling of light and cheerful hope taking over. I think they glimpse, at the end of the dark tunnel of material problems, the light of a new life filled with transcendental experiences.

You once said, "If I could make just one pure devotee, I could consider my mission a success!" But see how many pure devotees you have made! And see how many you are still making! We can't even imagine how many more you will make in the future! As I look around, I see your disciples who have dedicated their lives to your mission, all now elderly, and I see so much devotion reflected in their services, all extraordinary, all wonderful. Then I see new faces – boys and girls who are putting all their youthful enthusiasm and vigor into continuing to expand your work to make this branch of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's tree, called ISKCON, even more luxuriant so it can bear unlimited quantities of good fruits in the form of good examples, beautiful preaching, excellent care of the temples and Deities, so dear to all of us, and so on, just to name a few.

I conclude by borrowing another phrase, this time from a very great devotee of Mahāprabhu and author of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, who at the end of his work expresses himself with great humility: "The sky is unlimited, and many birds fly higher and higher according to their own abilities." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Antya* 20.79)

One can speak or write only to the extent that one's intelligence and spiritual realization allow. Kṛṣṇa's personality is unlimited, as are His names, forms, qualities, and pastimes, but I am certainly not an eagle soaring above the Himalayan peaks at 30,000 feet; I am a mere sparrow who can only fly among the branches of trees. Thus I am not the most suitable person to glorify the unlimited qualities of Kṛṣṇa and His bona fide representative. There are many other devotees capable of soaring to such heights and composing hymns for your glory. However, in my own small way, I nurture a strong desire to look out at this infinite sky, praying that your benevolent gaze will fall upon me too and grant me the strength to always give my best, under any circumstances.

Your servant,
Ali Kṛṣṇa Devī Dāsī
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Bergamo

Bhaktivedanta Manor

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace and your mission to save the world! On this most auspicious day, we want to offer our most heartfelt gratitude to you for creating this wonderful house we can all live in.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in order to carry out your spiritual master's instructions and to introduce the fallen souls in the Western world to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, at the advanced age of 69 years you sailed for America aboard the steamship *Jaladuta* on Friday, August 13, 1965, leaving at 9:00 A.M. Despite experiencing seasickness, dizziness, vomiting, and suffering two heart attacks, you were determined to carry out the mission. You felt, "If a third comes, I will not survive!" That night in a dream, the Lord appeared to you in a boat full of many incarnations and assured you, the dedicated mendicant, that He would protect you.

Śrī Kṛṣṇa was very kind to Your Divine Grace. In your diary you wrote, "If the Atlantic would have shown its usual face, perhaps I would have died. But Lord Kṛṣṇa has taken charge of the ship."

Starting with the most basic principle – how to become a civilized human being – you have laid out the clear path to happiness and fulfillment in this life, the next life, and ultimately, for eternity. All we have to do to succeed is take up your instructions.

To define what it means to be civilized, you told a story about how Gandhiji came to England for "round-table discussions." To impress him, the hosts gave him a tour of London – Big Ben, the House of Commons, Buckingham Palace, and other places. At the end of it, they asked him, "So, Gandhiji, what do you think of Western civilization?" Gandhiji replied, "It will be a good idea." In other words, it was not simply the ability to stack up stones that made one cultured, but rather a person's character and a society's ethos and aspirations that were a real measure of civilization.

We value how much you have emphasized character, integrity, and honesty. Of the many thousands of verses you translated and commented upon, *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41 is a very special instruction to us:

vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana
bahu-śākhā hy anantāś ca buddhayo 'vyavasāyinām

> Those who are on this path are resolute in purpose, and their aim is one. O beloved child of the Kurus, the intelligence of those who are irresolute is many-branched.

Bhaktivedanta Manor owes its entire existence and offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You had the vision of having a large temple in London, and you inspired Dhanañjaya Prabhu to look for the building, then George Harrison to buy the building, where you then mercifully installed and welcomed our most beautiful Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda, the objects of our worship. By your blessings we have a come a long way to develop Bhaktivedanta Manor as a place of worship for the wider community. We have a vibrant, growing congregation.

We have a goshala, where our cows and oxen are cared for, loved, and in reciprocation, who serve Rādhā-Gokulānanda by giving their milk. One of the loveliest sights is when we let the cows out in the spring. The excitement on their faces has no parallel. We just had this event a week ago.

We now have a haveli building of 2,200 square meters onsite, which has become very useful for our programs and functions. Here we can accommodate much larger numbers of devotees than ever before. We also have weddings there, where couples can take Their Lordship's blessings. The haveli has allowed us to make our offering to the community bigger, better, and brighter.

We have very special offerings of festivals. Janmāṣṭamī alone attracts in excess of 50,000 visitors over two days. These guests take darshan and celebrate the birth of Lord Kṛṣṇa with us.

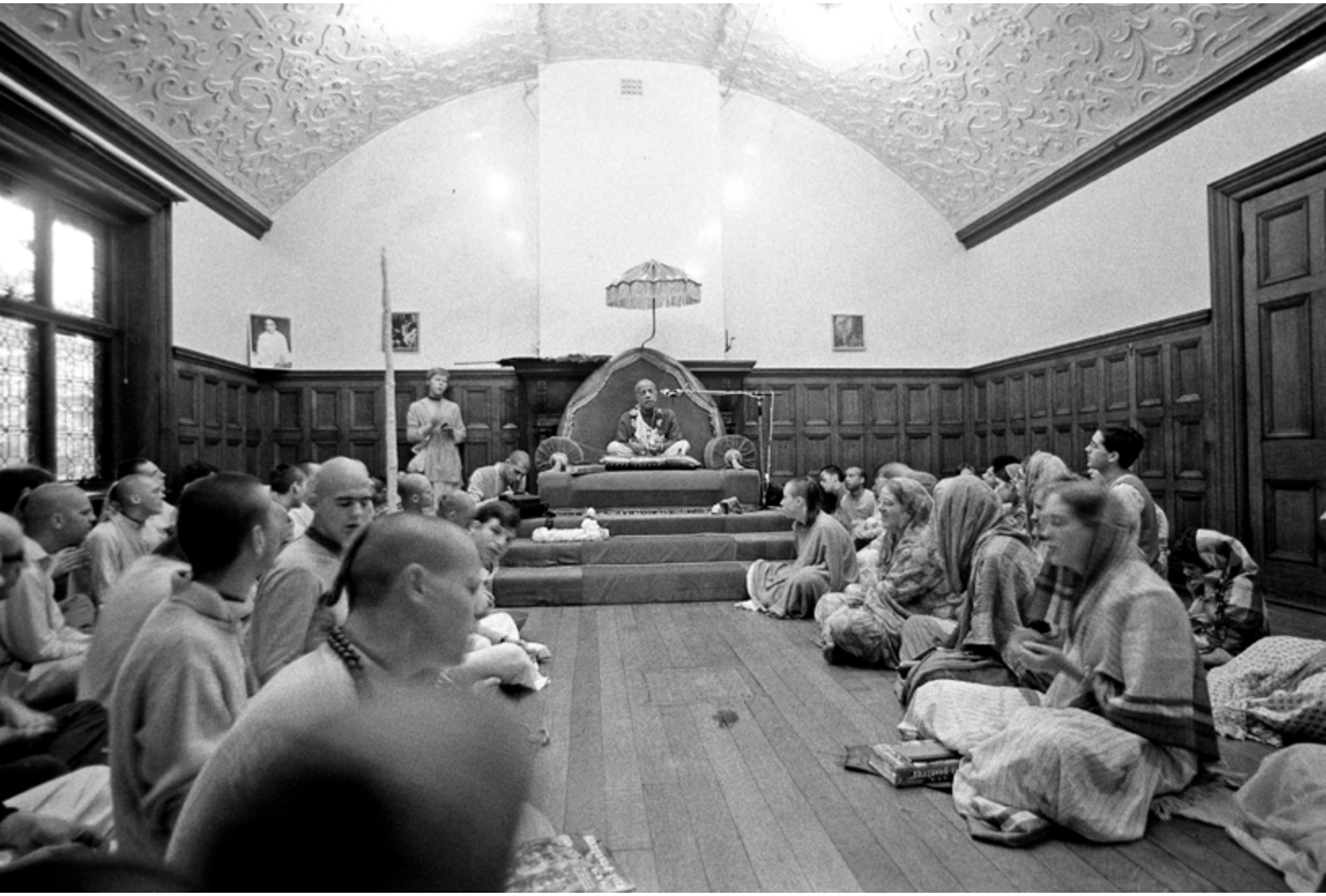
We continue our primary focus on spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness as you taught us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Our *saṅkīrtana* program is vibrant, strong, and effective in distributing your books.

Bhaktivedanta Manor has a thriving educational arm called School of Bhakti (SOB), which runs courses at different levels both online and in person. Thousands of participants take advantage of the spiritual knowledge being delivered through these courses. SOB also organizes spiritual retreats, which are very popular and educational.

We have a large army of volunteers who want to serve Their Lordships, and during Janmāṣṭamī alone, we have in excess of 1,500 volunteers serving the visitors to make their experience of coming to the Manor and experiencing the glorious birth of Lord Kṛṣṇa memorable.

We are embarking on producing a master plan for the next fifty years, including constructing a new temple, as you once mentioned. This is an extensive project which will comprise many smaller, subprojects, and with your blessings, it will become a reality.

During the 1950s, before you went to the USA, while translating the *Bhagavad-gītā* you were



struck in a special way by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura's commentary on verse 2.41. You later told your disciples that this commentary fixed you in your resolve to follow Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's order to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in English.

Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura writes: "Of all kinds of intelligence, the best is intelligence focused on *bhakti-yoga*. In *bhakti-yoga,* one's intelligence becomes single-pointed or fixed in determination. One thinks, 'The instructions of my spiritual master to worship the Personality of Godhead by chanting, remembering, serving His feet, and so on are my only *sādhana,* my only *sādhya,* my only livelihood. I am incapable of giving up these instructions either in the stage of practice or in the stage of perfection. They alone are my object of desire and my only responsibility. Besides them, I can desire no other responsibility, not even in my dreams. It is all the same whether I feel happy or unhappy or whether my material existence is eradicated or not.

In the same way that this commentary fixed your intelligence on following the instructions of your spiritual master, it should also inspire us to be fixed in following your instructions. We read and follow your instructions as you have left them in your letters, conversations, and books.

Once you were giving a talk in which you said that in order to go back home, back to Godhead, one must be cent percent pure, cent percent free of material desires and attachments. When you saw that the devotees were discouraged, you said "All right, 90 percent pure." Still, they were dejected. Then you said, "All right, 80 percent. Still, they were crestfallen. Then you said "All right, 75 percent – but no less." After the talk, you commented, "If you just hold on to my lotus feet, I will take you back to Godhead. I have the key to the back door."

You are so merciful to us, and our only hope is to be able to hold on to your lotus feet in the form of your instructions and carry them out to the best of our ability. Once, you said, "Your qualification is that I give an instruction and you try to follow it." And of course, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that is our only hope, too.

We very fondly cherish your pastimes at the Manor and your love for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda, Rāma-Sītā-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān, and Gaura-Nitāi. One evening at Bhaktivedanta Manor, you were sitting in your room with your disciples and a few guests, including a woman reporter, who had come to interview Your Divine Grace. Despite the chilly English summer weather, the reporter was dressed in a scanty mini skirt. Her first few questions revealed her skeptical, almost cynical attitude, toward the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. As usual, you coolly and expertly answered her questions. Somewhat exasperated and in a challenging mood, she brought up the old question, "Why do you people have bald heads?" You immediately retorted, "Why do you have bare legs?" She was speechless. You then offered, "Better to have warm legs and a cool head." Everyone, including the reporter, laughed with delight. You added, "You must have a cool head to understand this Kṛṣṇa consciousness philosophy."

We, of course, in the execution of our service commit many mistakes. But we know that Kṛṣṇa's and His devotees' mercy are greater than His laws. You write in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya* 15.163, purport)*:* "A Vaiṣṇava is so liberal that he is prepared to risk everything to rescue the conditioned souls from material existence." Śrīla Vāsudeva Datta Ṭhākura demonstrates universal love for he was willing to sacrifice everything and fully engage in the service of the Supreme Lord." We also know that Lord Kṛṣṇa forgave Pūtanā and in fact liberated her despite her intention to kill Him. Clearly, His mercy is greater than His law.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.16 you state: "The expert devotees also can discover novel ways and means to convert the nondevotees in terms of particular time and circumstance. Devotional service is dynamic activity, and the expert devotees can find out competent means to inject it into the dull brains of the materialistic population. Such transcendental activities of the devotees for the service of the Lord can bring a new order of life to the foolish society of materialistic men. Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His subsequent followers exhibited expert dexterity in this connection. By following the same method, one can bring the materialistic men of this age of quarrel into order for peaceful life and transcendental realization."

We have no qualifications to be in this position of being able to serve devotees. But due to His inconceivable humor of the Lord and your mercy, we have been placed in this position.

yogyatā-vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi,
tomāra karuṇā – sāra
karuṇā nā hoile, kāndiyā kāndiyā,
prāṇa nā rākhibo āra

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

All we have, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is Kṛṣṇa's mercy and your mercy to allow us to serve.

We very much value your instructions to His Holiness Giriraj Swami about intelligence and organization as means to continue the mission. On 2 January 1973, in a letter to Haṁsadūta Dāsa, you wrote, "Occupational duty means to stick with one type of occupation which is just suitable for me, considering that it is my duty, therefore I am throughout my life obliged to perform it to the best of my ability. This is mature understanding of occupation. That means I must not leave it even for the so-called good cause, just like Arjuna wanted to stop his fighting activity just to avoid killing of so many of his kinsmen, cousin brothers and other friends. So we are preachers on behalf of Lord Krishna, that is our occupational duty, we haven't got to search any further some new challenge or change our environment. No, that has already been set up. Now best thing will be to develop more and more what we have begun. I have built the skeleton of the building, but there is so much work remaining before us.... You needn't look further to find some big challenge. The challenge is very near at hand."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you built the skeleton of the building and your disciples, granddisciples, and aspiring granddisciples are still working on finishing the outside and inside of this colossal structure.

We, the devotees at the Bhaktivedanta Manor, will continue to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda, Rāma-Sītā-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān, and Gaura-Nitāi by your blessings and under your instructions.

Your insignificant and aspiring servants,
The devotees at Bhaktivedanta Manor

Brihuega, Spain

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our humble obeisances and attempt to glorify you on behalf of the community of New Vrajamaṇḍala, part of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness near Madrid.

Our spiritual authority has requested that I write this offering. As I am new in the role of president, I can only present these words as a sincere expression of our intentions and vision for our project. Yet, whatever our position, we always have the opportunity to glorify our beloved spiritual master.

New Vrajamaṇḍala is an exceptional place for developing spiritual activities and preaching – we have space for retreats, seminars, courses, camps, and gatherings of many other kinds. Therefore, having mature, organized, and spiritually grounded leadership is essential.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, at present we are blessed with an exceptionally dedicated team of devotees. Our commitment is to follow your instructions and to please you by creating an environment that is organized, clean, and spiritually vibrant – so that anyone who comes here can feel, breathe, and experience spiritual peace simply by the harmony of the atmosphere. To achieve this requires the collective effort of the entire community. Our service depends on our own internal spiritual work, because the external reality will reflect our internal consciousness. This community exists for the individual spiritual advancement of each devotee. To the extent that we are serious in our practice, that same spiritual energy will manifest outwardly and naturally attract other souls.

Those who visit will feel inspired to continue their journey back to Godhead. The Supersoul

within their hearts will guide them: "Here you will find what you are seeking." In this way, our effort is truly a cooperative spiritual endeavor.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have this extraordinary place. We also have your teachings in their pure form, without addition, giving us the ability to understand spiritual life clearly and to guide society toward respiritualization and purification.

At the heart of our community are our beautiful Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda Candra, who inspire us, give us strength and enthusiasm, and nourish our devotional service day by day. This is a wonderful opportunity for service and purification. By serving your mission, we can purify our hearts and attain the ultimate goal of life.

Life here, especially in winter, can be austere, but this austerity also helps us cultivate introspection and dependence on Kṛṣṇa. It is both a challenge and a blessing. We are working to develop a strong and cooperative community capable of advancing in essential services such as cow protection, self-sufficiency, educational programs, youth training, seminars, and spiritual gatherings. In all of this, we aim to remain practical – keeping our feet on the ground while keeping our hearts fixed in Vaikuṇṭha.

We pray for your blessings so that we may serve your mission faithfully, work together harmoniously, and become instruments of your compassion for the benefit of all living beings.

Your servants at New Vrajamaṇḍala
(written by Dharmarāja Dāsa)

Brussels, Belgium

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ 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-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most divine day.

As we are living in Kali-yuga, we often face calamities, whether on our personal spiritual path or in our preaching center; we are not free from these obstacles.

By the mercy of your Guru Mahārāja, you came to the West to show us, by your own example, that when we take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness we should not fear the waves of happiness and distress. When we consider all the difficulties you went through, being driven by your sole desire to serve Guru and Kṛṣṇa, to bring us the teachings of Lord Caitanya and Lord Kṛṣṇa, we should have no other business than to follow in your footsteps, realizing that you are the only true guide who can bring us back to Godhead.

To take care of a preaching center is not always easy. Many struggles may be involved, but Your Divine Grace gave us the perfect formula for how to walk through these struggles. *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* came to the West through the disciplic succession, with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as our mentor. When we listen to your lectures and conversations, we witness the patience you have with every person in order to help us understand the conversation between Lord Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna. This *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* is like a blueprint for our lives, a GPS showing us our destination and how to get there in the best possible way.

In your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 6.7, you write: "When the mind is misled by the external, illusory energy, one becomes entangled in material activities. Therefore, as soon as one's mind is controlled through one of the yoga systems, one should be considered to have already reached the destination. One has to abide by superior dictation. When one's mind is fixed on the superior nature, he has no alternative but to follow the dictation of the Supreme. The mind must accept some superior dictation and follow it."

Throughout the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad Bhāgavatam,* and your other books, you take us by the hand and show us the beauty of the Lord and His pastimes.

At Sunday programs, we speak with guests and often share how you came to the West, how you started the Sunday Love feast, and how they are now also taking part in it. People are eager to sing various *bhajanas,* learn their meanings, listen to lectures on various topics, cook *prasādam,* and partake in the feast. For many devotees living in a city and having a full-time job, the Sunday feast is the highlight of the week – a moment to recharge their spiritual energy.

In your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 10.10 you write: "The qualification is that a person always engages himself in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and, with love and devotion, renders all kinds of service. He should perform some sort of work for Kṛṣṇa, and that work should be done with love."

In one lecture, you explained that this human form of life is meant to stop illusion, or bodily identification, and by doing so, we begin to understand what real love is, what reciprocation of love is. Then we will finally understand what a healthy life is.

Even today, we witness through your direct disciples the love and care you have for them, teaching by example how to serve in every aspect of Kṛṣṇa consciousness – *pūjā,* cooking, painting, preaching – whatever we need to know, you gave us. We, as granddisciples, also receive this mercy, benefiting from the lessons of your disciples.

Our preaching center in Brussels is small, but we have a very nice congregation of devotees and friends of Kṛṣṇa who are always eager to help with any service needed. I often see this as your divine mercy – that you always send devotees who are enthusiastic and willing to take part in this beautiful *sevā* of serving and pleasing Lord Kṛṣṇa.

We pray, sitting at your lotus feet, that we may always remain encouraged and enthusiastic to serve you in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Vrindaranya Priya Dāsa
On behalf of your servants at Centre de Bhakti Yoga

Bucharest, Romania

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

In your purport to *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 25.20, it is written: "We have been spreading this *saṅkīrtana* movement in the Western countries, and in our recent tour of European cities like Rome, Geneva, Paris, and Frankfurt. Many learned Christian scholars, priests, philosophers, and *yogīs* came to see us, and by the grace of Kṛṣṇa they agreed that the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, the *bhakti* cult, offers the topmost conclusion. Following in the footsteps of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, we are trying to convince everyone that the devotional service of the Lord is enjoined in every scripture.... It is not a question of being Christian, Muslim, or Hindu. One should be purely religious and freed from all these material designations. In this way one can learn the art of devotional service. This argument appeals to all intelligent men, and consequently the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is gaining ground throughout the world. Due to our solid logic and scientific presentation, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's prediction that Kṛṣṇa consciousness will spread to every town and village throughout the world is gradually being realized."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you arrived in the West more than sixty years ago, entering an America that was blooming economically but dying morally. You came to a land of religious conflict, hypocrisy, and atheism – a place where people were cheated and even killed in the name of God. You personally explained to the people the difference between religion and atheism. Into this world of empty ritualism and impersonalism, you brought the purest gift: unconditional devotional service to the Lord. Many sincere souls embraced these teachings, finding them to be the only authentic truth in a world of materialistic superficiality.

Thanks to your sacrifice, countless people heard for the first time of the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu – the most compassionate incarnations of divine love, who opened the path of chanting the holy name to the entire world. Through you, we received the chance to touch a spiritual reality where love for God awakens and the true meaning of human life is revealed.

Your movement and teachings brought a peace that no political leader could ever achieve. A powerful symbol of this was the Durban Ratha-yātrā, one of the first events where black- and white-skinned citizens danced together in spiritual unity, proving that Kṛṣṇa consciousness breaks all racial barriers. Your personality brought together people who would otherwise never speak; under your loving guidance, even communists and capitalists cooperated in service.

Now, sixty years later, the material world has not improved. Wars continue, nations compete, and large corporations dominate to the point that even pure food and milk are becoming increasingly scarce, just as you foretold. In these times, your followers are the ones maintaining your mission, spreading the desperately needed knowledge of the soul, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and our eternal relationship with Him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your commentary quoted at the beginning of this offering, you state that this universal message appeals to all intelligent men, so the movement gained traction and your words became reality. The potency and mercy you spread carry on as sincere souls continue to join your mission. In every town and village, "hippies" are being transformed into "happies," and your divine books and legacy are more relevant than ever.

Your compassion has reached Bucharest, Romania, through your qualified and faithful disciples. Through their boundless dedication and your generous mercy, a living connection with the *guru-paramparā* has become possible for us as well.

Please accept our humble but sincere attempts to please Your Divine Grace and the *guru-paramparā*. Our humble results from this past year include:

- Public preaching: Over 50 programs conducted with more than 190 new guests.
- *Prasādam* distribution: Over 1,500 portions of premium-quality *prasādam* distributed.
- Book distribution: More than 1,000 of your transcendental books placed in the hands of the public.
- Festivals: Active participation in city festivals with kirtan and Vedic philosophy.
- *Sādhu-saṅga:* Hosted the annual Romanian *Sādhu-saṅga* festival, with over 100 international participants.
- Expansion: Established a new strategic presence in the city of Brasov.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mission of spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement continues even today. It is our greatest fortune to be connected to this inexhaustible stream of blessings. Our hearts are filled with eternal gratitude for the rarest gift: a connection to the *guru-paramparā* and the opportunity to serve.

We beg at your lotus feet to be used as instruments in Lord Caitanya's mission. Please let us inherit your solid logic and scientific presentation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please make us dance, make us speak, and empower us to distribute this message fearlessly. We pray to please you and the *guru-paramparā* by expanding across Romania to bring the art of devotional service to others.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Bucharest

Budapest, Hungary

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

To write my offering this year, I began listening to your classes to better connect with you and help me meditate on you, which will inspire me to write the following lines. In 1977 you gave a class at the Bhaktivedanta Manor where you said: "This is the arrangement of Kṛṣṇa. If we strictly try to serve the spiritual master, his order, then Kṛṣṇa will give us all facilities. That is the secret. Although there was no possibility, I never thought, but I took it little seriously by studying a commentary by Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura on the Bhagavad-gītā. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* verse [2.41], *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana* ... In connection with that verse Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura gives his commentary, that we should take up the words from the spiritual master as our life and soul. We should try to carry out the instruction, the specific instruction of the spiritual master very rigidly, without caring for our personal benefit or loss."

Listening to your impressive words, we can find in them everything that founded your success and helped you fulfill your mission. Humility, sincerity, loyalty, commitment, perseverance, and faith – for me, these are the main character traits, the virtues that I hear from your words, which have guaranteed your success in your loving service to your spiritual master.

The disciple receives instructions from the words of the spiritual master, but it is often not so easy to know what it means to fulfill those instructions. What will the full outcome of fulfilling

those instructions be? The instructions you received were quite specific and quite narrow: "Write in English, publish books in English, you preach in English."

But did this mean hundreds of beautiful temples, living farm communities, profitable restaurants, thousands of disciples, impressive Deity worship, world-renowned educational systems, and professionally organized Ratha-yātrā festivals?

These were all revealed by Kṛṣṇa over time to the extent to which your amazing service would develop. So much of these depended on your sincerity, whether you wanted "to make a mountain" out of something "seemingly very small." You could have fulfilled the instructions you received by traveling to the West, distributing some books, and returning to India. But what you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, made of this the instruction your received was something truly extraordinary. This shows that you took the instructions very seriously and turned them into something magnificent.

There is the disciple who takes exactly what he has learned and masters that. He was told to do this, and he does that. This is nice. There is another disciple who takes what he had learned and says, What is the full outcome? What is the full consequence of this instruction? How can this service be developed? How can I build upon this? And then that disciple turns his instruction into something extraordinary. You are definitely the disciple who took the instructions of your Gurudeva and turned them into something very, very special.

This is our greatest fortune, this is our planet Earth's greatest fortune. Thank you very, very much! We have all the facilities to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness and go back to Godhead at the end of this lifetime.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, here at our Budapest *yātrā* we also already have a lot. We have an amazing temple building with lots of nice space in it for the people, beautiful Deities who charm everyone who sees Them, a profitable restaurant that distributes tasty *prasādam,* successful festivals at which devotees can celebrate various holy events, quite good book distribution, with the success of distributing full sets of your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* on the streets, and last but not least, a few hundred enthusiastic and committed devotees.

These things are amazing, and we could reach them only by your mercy and by the sincere and loving services of many devotees. But please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, look at us with your empowering, loving gaze, and bless us to build an even more cohesive, seriously practicing, mutually helpful and respectful, mature-minded Kṛṣṇa conscious community of thousands more people! I wish we could be successful in this so that we can bring you some satisfaction as a token of our gratitude toward you! Thank you very much.

Your servant on behalf of the Budapest temple,
Gauramaṇi Dāsa

Chelyabinsk, Russia

Dear and infinitely merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances from every member of the Chelyabinsk *yātrā*.

You are the perfect servant of the servant of the servant of Kṛṣṇa. You are not an abstract ideal, but a real example of a Vaiṣṇava who, with every breath, in every line, and in every decision has fulfilled the will of his *gurudeva,* Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, the will of the *paramparā,* and the will of the Supreme Lord Himself. You never followed a formula. In

your letters, meetings, and teachings you had a keen sense of timing, place, and circumstance. You found the unique key to each person's heart, supporting one with gentle words, awakening another with strict guidance, and guiding a third through the patient repetition of the same truth.

But beneath this remarkable flexibility and personal warmth, there was an unwavering, diamondlike loyalty to your spiritual teacher's mission. You showed us that true leadership is not about personal power but about spiritually powerful, selfless, impeccable service. We see in you not just a great *ācārya* but an ideal example of a Vaiṣṇava who has transformed his life into a bridge between the will of *gurudeva* and the real conditions of the material world.

In this year, 2026, we offer you the fruits of our humble service and our inner work on ourselves, fully aware that you are their true owner and inspiration. By your grace, our *yātrā* is gradually flourishing. We are raising the standards of Deity worship, and we are learning to treat arcana not as a ritual but as a living experience. Slowly but surely, we are transforming from a small community into a well-coordinated spiritual society, where every aspect is working in harmony. Daily worship is a regular occurrence, and every Wednesday devotees gather to sing kirtans that fill the city with the sound of the holy names. There are ongoing training courses, a Sunday program, and *harināmas* have become a regular occurrence not only in our city but also throughout the region.

We are doing a lot of work to interact with the city administration. We receive monthly visits from guests and preachers from other regions, enriching our understanding of the *śāstras* and our mood of service. Every day we read *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* together, and this joint immersion in the transcendental pastimes of the Lord helps to develop our unity. The number of devotees is growing, and the responsibility and inner maturity of each one is increasing. New young, active leaders and preachers are emerging.

We have started building our own temple and are setting up a dairy farm. But we look at all this without pride. It is not our merit. It is your energy flowing through our hands, your will clothed in our capabilities. There were moments when resources, both financial and human, were running out, when fatigue accumulated and our hands literally fell. Several times there was a temptation to stop, to curtail activity, to say: "We have done everything we could." But in those moments, we remembered how, alone in a foreign country, with no resources or support, you carried the weight of a global mission on your shoulders, relying only on the guidance of your *gurudeva*. This memory became our oxygen. It transformed our fatigue into determination and our doubts into humble faith. We understand that everything that has grown over the past year is rightfully yours. We are merely the tools, and you have allowed us to be used.

Please accept our deepest gratitude from the very depths of our hearts. You guide us not only through books and lectures but through the very heartbeat of our daily ministry. In moments of acute resource scarcity, when it seemed that the next step was impossible, you provided an invisible shoulder to lean on, guiding the right people, opening up unexpected opportunities, or simply granting an inner silence that made it clear: "Keep going."

You protected us from the hidden pride that can grow even on spiritual soil, provided us with the wisdom to prioritize, and taught us to see each obstacle as a lesson rather than a punishment. We look into the darkest and brightest corners of our minds and find one constant truth: you are always there for us. Your presence does not depend on distance or communication format. You do not require us to perform superhuman feats or provide flawless reports. What brings you true joy is our growth. It is not the external glamor that matters, but the inner maturity. It is not the number of programs we have completed but the quality of our spirits. It is our sincerity, both when we fall and when we rise. Our honest work on ourselves comes when we admit our weaknesses but do not allow them to break our desire to serve. You rejoice when we learn to listen to one another, when we put the care of the devotees and faith in the holy name above all else, when

we can take a hit, when we cooperate based on your wisdom rather than our own calculations. For this, we are eternally grateful.

You have created a perfect home for the entire world, where anyone can enter, but only by serving the Lord and cooperating. You left us clear instructions: "Your love for me will manifest itself in how you will cooperate with one another." We will actively attract new people, honestly prioritize based on real opportunities, protect and increase the faith of the devotees. We will begin to build transparent self-government mechanisms, develop leadership skills, delegate authority, and teach one another to trust.

May we be blessed to develop the ability to see the will of Kṛṣṇa in every event – success and failure, open door and closed door, support and challenge. Give us the strength to truly cooperate, without fighting or envying others' successes, with the single intention of serving your mission. Help us gain spiritual purity, maturity, and the unwavering faith with which you yourself set foot on the land of the West. Please strengthen our desire to serve, making it deeper and more resilient to external circumstances. Give us the wisdom to distinguish between inspiration and vanity, and between diligence and fussiness. Let our *sādhana* become a solid foundation for our service rather than an accessory to it.

And we, your humble servants, dare to offer you a wish that can only come from the position of a disciple who knows his place at the feet of his master: may your mission expand not in spite of our weaknesses but through them, transforming our frailty into an instrument of your mercy. May every devotee in our *yātrā* become a worthy blade of grass in the path of your service, ready to bear any burden for the sake of the glory of the holy names. May your instructions be conveyed without distortion through our lips, and may our hands be a natural extension of your will. Grant us eternal, unwavering shelter at your lotus feet so that we may serve Kṛṣṇa by serving you and your representatives. May we never stray from the path you have paved for us. May our *yātrā* grow not only in quantity but also in the quality of our devotion. May your Vyāsa-pūjā become for us not just a date on the calendar but an annual renewal of our vow to serve in the *paramparā,* humbly and joyfully, always.

Please accept our obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet,
Your *śikṣā* disciples at ISKCON Chelyabinsk

Cherkasy, Ukraine

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your devotees from the city of Cherkasy, Ukraine, wish to express to you our gratitude and love.

In former times, disciples searched for the true guru in order to attain knowledge of the Absolute Truth, but modern society has become so degraded that the *jagad-guru paramahaṁsa* pure devotee of the Lord, such as yourself, had to cross the Atlantic Ocean of material existence in order to find all of us, the lost children of Kṛṣṇa.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.14.58 it is said that this world is a dangerous place and that dangers await at every step. You've also said that at any moment, anything can happen. Now, from our own experience, we have realized the truth of your words.

Nevertheless, by your mercy, all your disciples and the disciples of your disciples continue to preach, each on their own "battlefield." During these years, when war has overtaken our country, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, armed with your instructions, we have begun to take shelter in the study of the sacred scriptures. Practically the entire *yātrā* is studying the *bhakti-śāstras* under the guidance of senior devotees.

A Food for Life project was launched, and people spoke very positively about the devotees, thanking them for their care and support in this difficult time. Together with the devotees, these people chanted the holy names of Kṛṣṇa and received your books.

Daily online lectures on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* were organized in the mornings (the devotees are learning how to give lectures), as well as readings of *kṛṣṇa-līlā* in the evenings.

We have also been conducting mantra-yoga – chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* with new people, offering them *prasādam,* and distributing your books to them. People very positively and gratefully shared their experience of happiness from chanting and associating with the devotees.

At present, some services have been put on pause due to military actions, but we are all together and continue to cooperate despite everything because in this way we wish to express our love for you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and to follow you by carrying out your will.

Our community, the *yātrā,* is small, and we cannot boast of great achievements or projects. Nevertheless, as you have said, "It is time to boil the milk." And now, together and individually, we are "boiling the milk," deepening our relationship with you, with guru, and with Kṛṣṇa.

At present, we are absorbed in studying your books, associating with senior devotees, and chanting the holy names.

You continue to lead us, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, blind and lame as we are, on the path of bhakti, and we, in turn, try to dedicate our lives to you and to your disciples as our *guru-dākṣiṇā*. You once said, "Do not be surprised when something does not go as it should; be surprised that something still goes as it should." Therefore, despite all difficulties, hardships, and obstacles, we move forward, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, through the darkness of Kali-yuga, because you illuminate our path, and by your mercy we are able to see the path of pure devotion.

> I was born in the darkness of ignorance, but my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge. Therefore, I offer my most humble obeisances unto him.

All glories to your lotus feet.

The servants of your servants,
The devotees from the city of Cherkasy, Ukraine

Czech yātrā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ 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 to Oṁ Viṣṇupāda Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya 108 Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having fully taken shelter at the Lord's lotus feet.

I offer my prostrated obeisances to Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, the dearest servant of His Divine Grace Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda. He is spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the Westernized capitalist world, soundly defeating atheists, Māyāvādīs, who claim that God does not have a form, and the adherents of the atheist doctrine that everything is ultimately void.

Religions failed to confront and defeat atheism
Which currently dominates most discourses in our secular democracies
Be it in the media
Or at universities

The line of demarcation between religion and science
Has been drawn since more than two centuries
Science is the religion of evolution
Sharing the belief in an unknown cause
While Abrahamic religions share the belief in an unknown creator
It is belief against belief, after all.

The science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness
On the other hand
Has nothing to do with religious belief
It is based on the teachings of Lord Kṛṣṇa in His *Bhagavad-gītā*

The science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness
Does not profess mental speculation
Nor does it preach dogma, manmade doctrines, or some magic
It teaches what the Supreme Personality of Godhead
Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the son of Vasudeva and Devakī, the darling of Vraja
Taught trillions of years ago to Lord Brahmā
Who taught it to the president of the sun planet, Vivasvān
Who taught it to Ikṣvāku, and then to the Manus
Progenitors of generations of women and men.

For this and many other reasons
Kṛṣṇa consciousness
Will prevail against atheism and flourish – for the next ten thousand years!

Thanks to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda,
For it is you who has singlehandedly
Delivered Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the world
In order to defeat the rule of demonic science and ruthless atheism
In all aspects of human civilization
You delivered Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a most selfless way
Acting strictly on the order of your Guru Mahārāja
The evangelic angel of the gospel of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu
The Great Savior from the East

Your servants, and servants of your servants in Czech Republic,
Nitāi-Navadvīpa Candra Mandir
Kṛṣṇa's Court
Śrī Hari Dhāma Saṅga
Chakra Lutotin
and all the friends and supporters of Kṛṣṇa consciousness
(written by Jayagurudeva Dāsa)

Czech Republic – Prabhupāda Bhavan and Nava Gokula

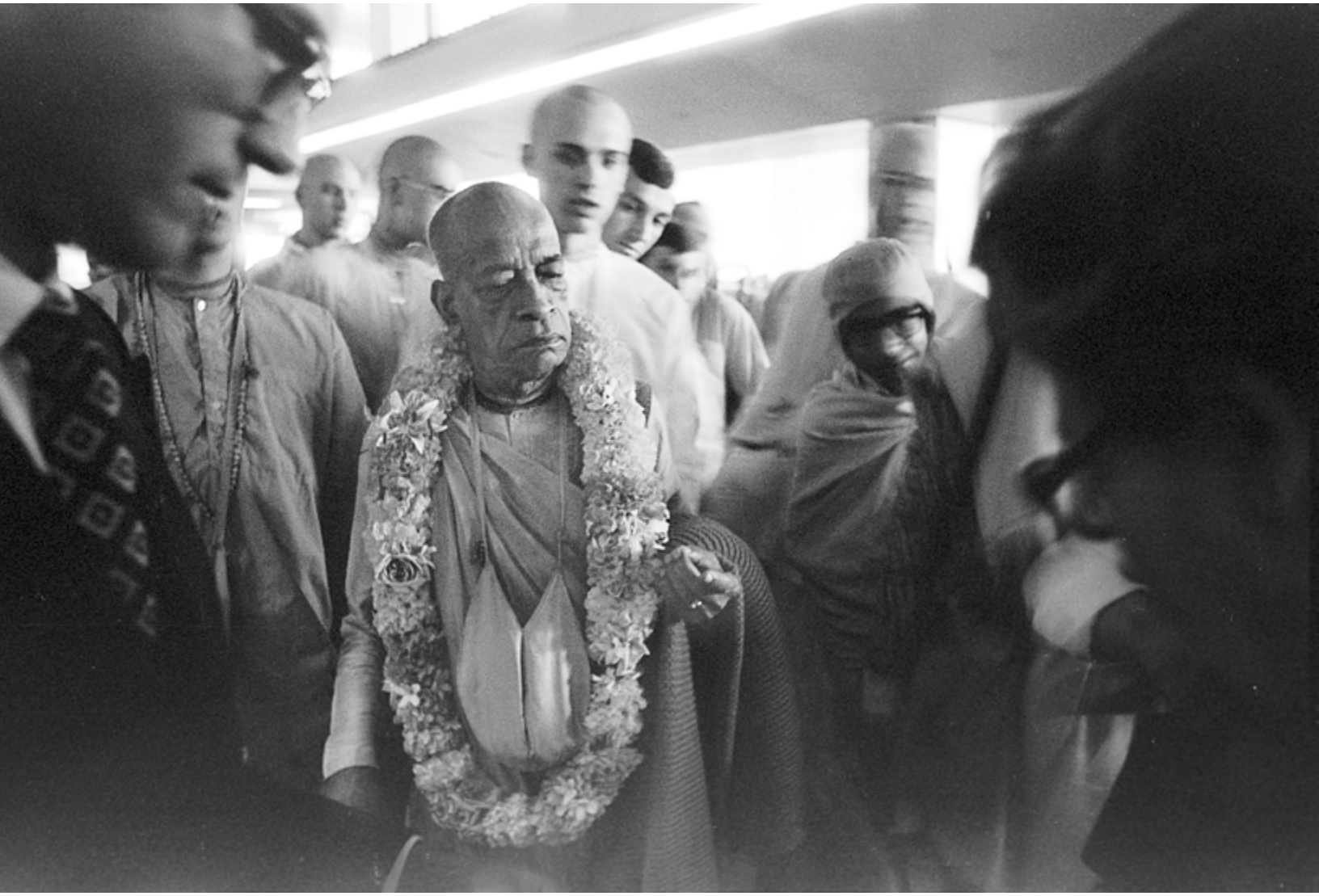
Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

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

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

You are indeed the most merciful and advanced personality to have visited this planet of death in recent times. Your closeness to Kṛṣṇa is truly astounding. You are His very intimate associate. We have seen this repeatedly in the pastimes you manifested in this material world. In reality, you were not even *in* this world. You were always with Lord Kṛṣṇa. You never forgot Him. And yet you hardly ever publicly displayed ecstatic signs of love for God. By that I mean signs such as rolling on the ground, incoherent speech, loss of consciousness and the like. You could have, but for our sake, you acted in such a way that we could gain as much as possible from pure devotional service. You remained understandable to our Western minds. You thought of us. You performed many miracles and accomplished deeds that are unparalleled in the history of this universe. Your greatness is very difficult for us to comprehend. And yet you remained perfectly personal and normal.

Practically everyone who came into contact with you could immediately begin to love you. You knew very well that when a conditioned soul loves someone like you, they gain immense



spiritual benefit. Repeatedly in your lectures you teach that our attachment to sense gratification must be transformed into attachment to a *sādhu*. You also perfectly embodied this *sādhu*. You were not a charlatan who merely performed cheap yogic or magical tricks to gain popularity among the uninformed public. You took the ancient teachings originating from the spiritual world and descending into this material world through Lord Brahmā, Nārada Muni, Vyāsadeva, Madhvācārya, and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You took this very noble message and very carefully and expertly presented it to us, the people of the West.

And who are we? Merely the degenerate remnants of the *mlecchas* and Yavanas who, many years ago, broke away from the Vedic tradition and went in search of happiness on a lower, even animalistic, level. But that did not bother you. Although from the Vedic perspective we are untouchable, and a pure person should take a bath as soon as they see any of us, you paid no heed to such regulations. The only thing on your mind was to fulfill the instruction of your spiritual master. You set out into hardship and foreign lands. You proudly carried the message of Śrī Caitanya

Mahāprabhu and proved yourself a true general who defeats the armies of material energy with the ease of a little boy.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have Kṛṣṇa. Everyone knows this. Even little Saraswati knew it. And yet you are constantly in the mood of earnest effort to find Kṛṣṇa, just like the Gosvāmīs of Vrindavan. *He rādhe vraja-devike ca lalite he nanda-sūno kutaḥ* … "Where is Kṛṣṇa? When will the day come when I see Kṛṣṇa?" This is what you taught us. You never taught, "I have Kṛṣṇa. I am very advanced. I am a noble devotee." That was not your mood. You perfectly embodied the mood of Rūpa Gosvāmī. You gave us countless perfect examples of what a true Vaiṣṇava looks like. You were a perfect servant. Although your position is most exalted, you yourself washed the plates of your future disciples and cleaned up after the feasts you yourself cooked. You did everything so that the conditioned souls of this material world could find a crack in the impenetrable external energy of the Supreme Lord. Like a needle, you created a tiny crack that gradually grew into a vast path leading directly from this *brahmāṇḍa* to Goloka Vṛndāvana. You built a bridge across which even the blind or mute can safely walk home, back to God.

You feared nothing and no one. And you preached the same: whoever knows Kṛṣṇa has no fear. Fear is merely a sign of ignorance. You alone have done what is utterly impossible for thousands of others. Your glories are celebrated every day. In many places on this planet, hundreds and hundreds of ashrams, temples, and farm projects celebrate your glories, which are constantly expanding. Unlike materially famous personalities, your glories will never fade; on the contrary, they will spread throughout all three worlds. *Ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana*.

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, you saved us. You saved us from ourselves. We had fallen into the dark well of the material world and lost our direction, purpose, and sense of reality. Like madmen, we wandered from place to place in a hopeless search for happiness. We wanted to be happy, but we didn't know how to go about it. You came and gave us that supreme happiness, just as if it were a completely ordinary and natural thing. We were engaged in the most dreadful sinful activities, hoping they would bring us joy. But instead of joy, frustration and suffering came again and again. You taught us to chant the holy name of Lord Hari. You taught us to prepare delicious *prasādam,* and you gave us a *yajña* perfectly suited to the present age and the condition of humanity. You engaged us in the production and distribution of your books, your transcendental ecstasies.

You taught us perfect selflessness. You taught us that if we truly want to take Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously, we must spread this consciousness far and wide. Only by sharing Kṛṣṇa consciousness can a living being experience true happiness, which comes directly from the spiritual world. You brought the spiritual world with you and gave it to us. Again and again, you asked, "Where is book? Where is book?" But you did not ask for yourself; you asked for the good of all humanity. Until the very last moment of your presence in this world, you were translating *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. You fought until your last breath and showed us a perfect example.

Your lotus feet hold the mission and the secret to true happiness. I say "hold," yet it is no secret at all; service to your lotus feet is the perfection of life. Nothing else in our lives has any real meaning or significance. Taking one, two, three, or more of your books and going to try to place them in the hands of any conditioned living being is the foundation of your mission – the foundation upon which everything else stands.

You, however, are a genius and will not be satisfied with merely partial success. As soon as we understand the importance of your mission, which you received in disciplic succession, and fully engage in it, we will be given a specific place, tailored just for us as individual living beings. You relate to each of us in a perfectly personal way. You know each of your followers perfectly, because you know Kṛṣṇa. You can discern our mentality with absolute precision and engage us perfectly in service to Kṛṣṇa. Although our tendencies are very low and our inclinations among the lowest, you search our hearts for even the slightest interest in Kṛṣṇa and gradually nurture it

more and more. As you said, "fan the spark."* You take even the tiniest spark of interest in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and elevate it very highly. You inspire and nurture this slightest interest to the point where it becomes a great fire – a fire that burns away all material attachments, leaving only interest in Kṛṣṇa. You are a perfect *sādhu* and perfectly care for the plant of bhakti, whose seed you distribute wherever there is even the slightest chance of it sprouting.

In addition to distributing books, you established and announced another vital program. This program is even more challenging than book distribution. It's a program that engages a vast number of devotees in direct service to the lotus feet of the Divine Couple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, in the mood of Lakṣmī-Nārāyaṇa. This program aims at helping all of humanity engage in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I'm referring to *varṇāśrama-dharma*. You have repeatedly said in your lectures that it is not possible for everyone to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. There will always be people who oppose it. Such is the nature of the material world. However, this did not bother you; you strove to expand self-sustaining communities and teach all of humanity simple living and high thinking. This is especially true in Western countries, which have a culture far removed from traditional Vedic culture – a culture that is, in every aspect, highly conducive to the development of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is particularly in these countries that a cultural revolution is needed to enable the mass participation of humanity in the worship of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

This endeavor is still in its humble beginnings. Here and there, glimmers of hope and some efforts in this direction appear. The *varṇāśrama* cultural direction goes against the current social mainstream. The whole world is striving for greater comfort and sense pleasure. Most people seek happiness in making money and satisfying their senses. You, however, teach us how to engage in renunciation and to satisfy the senses of the original master of the senses, Hṛṣīkeśa. You teach us how to live a simple life centered on the protection of cows, chanting the holy name, and serving the temple Deities. In this way, you engage our inclinations and tendencies in pure transcendental activity. You very graciously give us a way to live with our strong conditioning in the service of Kṛṣṇa. You do not send us away because we cannot always follow the perfect ideal you teach; on the contrary, very leniently and patiently, you teach us the basics of Kṛṣṇa consciousness again and again. We hear in practically every one of your lectures that we are not this body. Nevertheless, realizing this fact seems to be a lifelong project. And you very patiently walk with us and help us at every step to overcome the pitfalls of our own material desires. You are more merciful than our own parents. You are a true master on the path upward toward the perfection of human life, and it is only by your grace that it is possible to live in the company of devotees. There is so much I would like to say about you, and there is so much I would like to write to you. Today, therefore, let this be at least a modest effort to glorify your lotus feet, which are the sole comfort and hope of our lives.

We beg you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, shower us with your mercy and make our insignificant efforts successful by being pleased all our mistakes and shortcomings. We will strive to improve ourselves as much as possible.

On behalf of your servants at Prabhupāda Bhavan and Nava Gokula,
Sureśvara Dāsa

---

* *Memories: Anecdotes of a Modern Day Saint,* volume 2, by Siddhānta Dāsa (Jadurāṇī: Prabhupāda said, "If you see a spark of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in someone, you should fan that spark.")

Debrecen, Hungary

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to You!

My name is Nitāibhavana Dāsa, a disciple of Śrīla Śivarāma Swami. I am writing to you from a small town in Hungary – Debrecen – on the occasion of your appearance day.

For more than thirty years, Śrīla Śivarāma Swami has been organizing the spread of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Hungary. Among his many services, he arranged for the translation of your books into Hungarian, installed Śrī Śrī Rādhe-Śyāma in Krishna Valley, and Śrī Śrī Dayāl Vijaya Gaurāṅga in Budapest.

I have been serving as the leader of the center in Debrecen since 2000, and since 2009 I have also been managing the Govinda's restaurant operating as part of the center.

I am very grateful to you for allowing me to perform this service. My Guru Mahārāja has often reminded me of your expectations regarding the functioning of a Kṛṣṇa conscious center and community. He has repeatedly instructed me that I must always follow the principles you have established in your books.

By reading your books and hearing your lectures, I have gradually begun to understand your intention behind preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide. It has always been clear to me that you began spreading the bhakti movement globally in order to fulfill the desire of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Over time, I have also come to understand that this preaching could only be successful because you were fully blessed by the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

From the descriptions of Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami, we have been able to closely perceive how the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu descended upon you. In your twenties you identified yourself as a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and embraced the ideal of an independent India, while at the same time being raised in a family of devotees, which naturally attracted you to the service of Kṛṣṇa. However, when you first met and spoke with Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Gosvāmī, you immediately accepted that the desire of Caitanya Mahāprabhu – that the culture of bhakti be spread worldwide – could not wait for a future independent India.

When I heard about this conversation, I immediately felt how bhakti can enter the heart of one whose heart is pure. Although you already possessed pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness as a devotee, it was still necessary to receive the strong desire of your spiritual master to begin this immense mission. A spark was needed to inspire you to fully embrace the efforts of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Gosvāmī. This story is very beautiful, and indeed it also inspired the events in Debrecen, as Śrīla Śivarāma Swami began preaching in Hungary with the same aspiration.

You said that practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness and sharing it with others is not easy, but even if we do not reach the end of the path within one lifetime, it is still worthwhile, for it means we have made the best possible use of our lives. Indeed, we can experience how perfect our lives are compared to those who have not yet accepted the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

You also mentioned that for householders, a very good form of Kṛṣṇa conscious service is to work in a restaurant where one can participate in distributing *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. Day by day, I experience how – even though it is physically demanding – the time passes very quickly while making different preparations and distributing *prasādam*. Of course, this also includes chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra in the morning and holding morning programs. Simply by accepting even a small portion of the boundless mercy you have given us, we are able to live a meaningful life.

The distribution and study of your books also hold an important place in our lives. Those who regularly and sincerely engage in these services experience a taste that cannot be matched by any selfish activity. Fortunately, these services occupy a central role throughout the entire Hungarian

yātrā. Although there are no full-time devotees in Debrecen, many contribute to the spread of Kṛṣṇa consciousness according to their capacity. In the countryside, more and more practitioners are joining who follow the process at home and participate in collective service on a weekly basis.

You often quoted the verse spoken by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the Kūrma *brāhmaṇa:*

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

> Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in *the Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 7.128.)

This is the guiding principle of the Kṛṣṇa conscious community in Debrecen, both in personal practice and in preaching.

We are very grateful for the direct care you have given us through your books and through your audio and video recordings. If we associate with you in this way even for a short time each day, then – as you said – we will not be carried away by the lifestyle of materialists. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu also states:

kabhu nā bādhibe tomāra viṣaya-taraṅga
punarapi ei ṭhāñi pābe mora saṅga

> Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu further advised the Kūrma *brāhmaṇa,* "If you follow this instruction, your materialistic life at home will not obstruct your spiritual advancement. Indeed, if you follow these regulative principles, we will again meet here, or, rather, you will never lose My company." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 7. 129.)

The example you set in following your spiritual master has deeply touched me. I could not fully explain why, but I felt it to be very beautiful and intimate. You often said that you did not create anything new, you simply spoke what you had heard from your divine spiritual master. Although you did not meet him very often, when you did, you listened with great attention. When Bhaktisiddhānta Gosvāmī accepted you as his disciple, he remarked before his other disciples that you listened very attentively.

From this we can understand that attentive hearing of the spiritual master, understanding his instructions, and following them are of utmost importance. This alone can grant all perfection. To teach us this, you placed great emphasis on the worship of the guru.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a Vaiṣṇava *ācārya* who teaches not only by words but also by example. In a world of selfish people, such personalities are not to be found, because one who is not a devotee has no true good qualities.

yasyāsti bhaktir bhagavaty akiñcanā
sarvair guṇais tatra samāsate surāḥ
harāv abhaktasya kuto mahad-guṇā
manorathenāsati dhāvato bahiḥ

> All the demigods and their exalted qualities, such as religion, knowledge, and renunciation, become manifest in the body of one who has developed unalloyed devotion for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vāsudeva. On the other hand, a person devoid of devotional service and engaged in material activities has no good qualities. Even

> if he is adept at the practice of mystic yoga or the honest endeavor of maintaining his family and relatives, he must be driven by his own mental speculations and must engage in the service of the Lord's external energy. How can there be any good qualities in such a man? (*Bhāgavatam* 5.18.12)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you possess pure and spotless love for Kṛṣṇa, and therefore you naturally feel compassion for all living beings. Indeed, you are the one who has sprinkled upon us the blessings of Lord Caitanya from the boundless ocean of mercy, extinguishing the blazing fire of our material desires. Without you, we would have remained burning in that fire, but now it is only a matter of time before we return to our original home.

This small Vaiṣṇava community in Debrecen is deeply grateful to you for bringing the transcendental realm to us as well: *golokera prema-dhana, hari-nāma-saṅkīrtana* … Now it is up to us to express our gratitude by passing on this inheritance that we have received from you.

On behalf of the Kṛṣṇa conscious community in Debrecen,
Your servant,
Nitāibhavana Dāsa

Dublin, Ireland

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

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, our thoughts turn toward how we can assist you in your plan to please your spiritual master and to how we can assist your servants in this endeavor. You spoke to us extensively about what that service is, but because this service is very confidential, we need to constantly turn to you to ensure we are on the right track.

You were once asked what service pleases you the most. You replied that what pleases you the most is that we become conscious of Kṛṣṇa. That way we will know what Kṛṣṇa wants and we will therefore know how to act and what to do in this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

We may not be sufficiently pure to be conscious of Kṛṣṇa, but we always have you in your multimanifested powerful form as in your books, your *mūrti,* your dedicated devotees, your *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*. He reasons ill who says that Vaiṣṇavas die.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue to be with us in our endeavors here in Dublin. Please give us the intelligence to carry out your will. Please give us the strength to do so. May we continue to cooperate to become Kṛṣṇa conscious and to share that Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others, in your service.

On behalf of your servants in Dublin, Ireland,
Manu Dāsa

Greece

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I bow down to your divine lotus feet.

Every year it is more exciting to write you because I feel closer and closer to you. As my body grows older and older, I feel close to you more and more.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I write you this letter on behalf of the Greek *yātrā*. In Greece it is not so easy to present your books and Śrī Kṛṣṇa's teachings because the Greeks have been "educated" for many centuries with the understanding that only through Jesus Christ, who they consider to God Himself, can we reach the kingdom of God. They deeply disrespect any other spiritual path.

We have faced many obstacles and challenges in the past, and we are facing more of both now in this difficult country, but anyway, we go out every day to distribute your books and *prasādam*. As you said, "You will always have your customers." Every day we meet special people. For sure not many, but every day special souls are saved by your divine books, especially *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā*!

I'm experimenting here in Greece. It's a little bit the sweet taste of being a pioneer in a difficult country, a little bit like you experienced in the Bowery. I feel very fortunate and blessed by staying here in Greece to "fight" on your behalf! This keeps me young, enthusiastic, and focused on your mission.

My constant meditation is about you in your beginnings in New York. Every day I become more and more absorbed in your hard and difficult early days of preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Manhattan. The streets of Manhattan are my streets of Vrindavan – you walked those Manhattan streets distributing Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You are the greatest "soul seeker" because you left Vrindavan and went to the Bowery, living among the worse drunkards and drug addicts of America. From the garbage of this planet, you cultivated roses and lotus flowers! From the vagabonds, you brought out saintly ladies and saintly gentlemen!

You are the real personification of what the holy scriptures speak about: a Vaiṣṇava, a devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa! What a miracle happened in the streets of New York. This is our ultimate and real holy *dhāma*! For sure, Vrindavan is Vrindavan, but the mercy of Lord Nityānanda and Lord Gaurāṅga walked there in the streets of Manhattan through your unlimited compassionate nature of the greatest *ācārya*! You exemplify the meaning of a pure devotee delivering the lowest! That's why I said that my heart is not so much in Vrindavan as in the streets of New York, where you faced the most difficult time of your life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please grant me the possibility to serve the sacrifices that you performed in order to save us. I know I'm not qualified to receive that special mercy, but please grant it to me because otherwise everything else is useless to me. Without the dust of your lotus feet that you left in Manhattan, my life is meaningless.

Your servant,
Dayānidhi Dāsa

The Hague, The Netherlands

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the devotees of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Dhāma, The Hague, Holland, offer our heartfelt gratitude and prayers. By your causeless mercy, your movement continues to guide and uplift conditioned souls even amidst the turbulence of the present age.

This past year has tested our community in many ways. The path has at times felt uncertain, and yet at every turn we have found our shelter in your instructions and in the holy name. By your grace, our regular programs have been restored, and once again the names of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa are being chanted vibrantly in our congregation. This past year has shown us the truth of this teaching again and again. What seemed beyond us was accomplished by your shelter alone.

By your inspiration, we were blessed to organize the first Boat Festival in the Netherlands. It was a joyful opportunity for many souls to hear the holy name in the association of devotees in a setting both novel and memorable. We pray this humble effort has brought some small pleasure to your lotus feet.

We have also continued to work diligently toward a new temple building, hoping to establish a permanent home where your teachings may flourish for generations to come. By your shelter, we have been carried through significant legal challenges connected to this project, and that protection has renewed our faith and strengthened our determination to see this sacred service through.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever has been accomplished is only due to your mercy. And whatever struggles we have faced have, in their own way, been your mercy too, reminding us of our complete dependence upon you. Please bless us with unity, purity, determination, and the spirit of selfless service, that we may become worthy instruments in your mission.

We pray that Śrī Kṛṣṇa Dhāma may always remain a place where devotees are nourished, newcomers are welcomed, and the holy names resound loudly in glorification of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Begging for a drop of your mercy and service, your aspiring servants,
Śyāmasundara Dāsa
Bala Govinda Dāsa
Nimāi
Sandhyā Devī Dāsī
Vinodbihārī Kṛṣṇa Dāsa

Heidelberg, Germany

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

2026 is a very special year for all Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas around the globe. This year, we have already celebrated Lord Caitanya's 540th anniversary. Two other remarkable occasions are coming soon: the sixtieth anniversary of the incorporation of ISKCON and, of course, the 130th anniversary of Your Divine Grace. Devotees all over the world are going to celebrate these most precious events. We at ISKCON Heidelberg are also looking forward to observing them.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this wonderful day we are meditating on your childhood pastimes. Being born into a pure Vaiṣṇava family, you were surrounded by devotion to Kṛṣṇa all the time. You were absolutely charmed by the beauty of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda from a very early age. You soon asked your father to get you your own Deities so you could serve Them with love and devotion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your father, Gour Mohan De, wanted three things for you: "He wanted you to become a servant of Rādhārāṇī, to become a preacher of the *Bhāgavatam,* and to learn the devotional art of playing *mṛdaṅga*." (*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* chapter 1). You indeed made his dreams come true.

When you were only about six years old, you organized a Ratha-yātrā festival in your neighborhood. Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami mentions in the *Līlāmṛta* that, by engaging your playmates in the Ratha-yātrā preparations, you became their natural leader: "Wearing a dhoti and no shirt in the heat of summer, Abhay led the children in chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa and in singing the appropriate Bengali bhajana, *Ki kara rāi kamalinī*." (*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* chapter 1).

Even at such a young age, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were already a person others wanted to follow. It was completely natural for them to follow you. The same happened with the young people of the US when you went there in 1965. Your disciples' memories of how they first met you and joined the movement are the best evidence of this.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are in your eternal debt. We understand that this debt cannot be repaid. Yet, like a child who wants to please his father and buys him a present using his father's own money, we are trying to please Your Divine Grace by preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the people in Heidelberg and the nearby cities. Our regular *harināmas* attract the attention of passers-by. They eagerly take your books and *prasādam*. They also like to take pictures, record videos, and share them. Our dear Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi welcome fifteen to twenty new visitors every Sunday, bringing the total attendance to 100–120 devotees and guests at the Sunday feasts. They dance and chant in ecstasy, listen to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā* classes, and honor *prasādam*.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to be helpful in Lord Caitanya's *harināma-saṅkīrtana* movement. Please bless us to become useful instruments in your mission.

Your servants from ISKCON Heidelberg
(written by Acintya Gaura Dāsa)



Iceland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you and your spiritual master.

Thank you for bringing the wealth of love for Kṛṣṇa to the entire world! We can never be grateful enough to you for the sacrifices you made to give us this mercy. It is unfathomable how you came halfway across the world at the age of 70, suffering two heart attacks while aboard a cargo ship, and doing what you have done in a short span of eleven years. This was only possible because of the love of Godhead you possess.

As your spiritual master, Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī famously stated – and as quoted by you in your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 13.67: "There is no scarcity of anything within this world. The only scarcity is of Kṛṣṇa consciousness." Later in your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 8.44, you state: "Unless one is a first-class devotee, he cannot be a preacher." This treasure of love of Godhead has specifically been entrusted to you for distribution: *kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana* (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Antya* 7.11).

We here in Iceland are trying in our very humble manner to make you proud with whatever little we are able to do with our very limited resources. Each year we accomplish a new milestone only by your mercy. Despite knowing our limitations, we took the risk of coming to Iceland and making an effort, hoping Kṛṣṇa would step in and supply us with what we lack. That has really been our strategy.

Although we are a very small *yātrā* with very limited capital, manpower, and land and real estate, such things can be easily supplied by Kṛṣṇa as they are abundant all around. The resource we really desperately lack for making our mission successful here, however, is Kṛṣṇa consciousness – that we ourselves develop love for Kṛṣṇa. That resource, of *prema-dhana,* can only be attained by the mercy of the *śrī-guru-paramparā*. We therefore pray that we may be able to receive that treasure so that we can be authorized to distribute it to the people of Iceland.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you and your spiritual master both set the example of spending many years in the holy *dhāma* doing intense prayer and *bhajana* to be empowered before starting your mission. One of our spiritual masters, His Holiness Radhanath Swami, followed in your footsteps by doing intense austerities in New Vrindavan before becoming an empowered preacher. However, we are not in a position to first go to a holy place to execute austerities before commencing our mission. We are therefore praying desperately, that we somehow can connect to the causeless mercy coming to us from you through our spiritual masters, and that we may develop advanced Kṛṣṇa consciousness while staying committed in Iceland.

Thank you for engaging us in your service!
Your servants at ISKCON Iceland

Izhevsk, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at Your lotus feet.

On behalf of the entire Izhevsk yatra, we express our deepest gratitude to you for your boundless mercy, for your feats, and for what you have done for the entire world – and for each of us personally.

Thanks to your fearlessness, your faith, and your devotion to the Lord, the fire of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is burning even in the distant city of Izhevsk. This fire is a living force that changes destinies, unites people, and brings the soul back to its true purpose.

Izhevsk is known as the "arms capital" of Russia. It is a place where weapons capable of protecting the body are created. However, through your grace, our city has gained something much more valuable – spiritual weapons capable of protecting the soul.

Your books, the holy name, and knowledge about God have become the very weapons that destroy ignorance, fear, and illusions. Previously, there was an external struggle, but now, by your grace, there is a deeper battle in Izhevsk – a battle for consciousness, for people's hearts, and for the return of the soul to its original nature.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mission came to Izhevsk through sincere devotees in the 1980s. The first steps were very simple and at the same time heroic: devotees gathered in apartments, opened small ashrams, and distributed books that were literally brought in bags from other cities.

In 1991, the Krishna Consciousness Society in Izhevsk was officially registered. From that moment on, the gradual development of the *yātrā* began: from apartment programs to rented premises, from small gatherings to regular Sunday programs and celebrations.

Throughout these years, the main service remained the distribution of books. Already in 1992, a powerful record was set: more than 34,000 books per year. And this line of service continues to this day.

Over 35 years 265,857 books have been distributed in Izhevsk, and in 2025 alone, 8230 books. Through these books, thousands of people had the opportunity to come into contact with spiritual knowledge for the first time.

Today, the Izhevsk *yātrā* has about 200 devotees. 80–100 people regularly attend Sunday programs, 150–200 people attend holidays, and about 300 people attended Janmāṣṭamī in 2025. But, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we understand that the most valuable thing is not the numbers but the people. Behind each number is someone's destiny, someone's heart, someone's meeting with the truth.

By your grace, *saṅkīrtana* is developing in the yātrā. In 2025, we held 39 *harināmas,* with a total of about 100 devotees participating, and an average of about 24 people per event. About 6,000 *prasādam* balls were distributed. By comparison, in 2024, 36 *harināmas* were held with about 101 people participating, with an average of 22 people per event, and about 5,400 *prasādam* balls were distributed. We see how gradually the engagement and inspiration is growing.

By your grace, the service of distributing *prasādam* is also developing. In 2024, 24 programs were held, during which 2,987 portions of consecrated food were distributed to the residents of the city. Such monthly events become a living manifestation of compassion in action. Over the past year, new devotees have joined the *saṅkīrtana* and a team has been formed, which is a special joy for us. Devotees also actively participate in city and national events, sharing their spiritual culture with thousands of people:

- Mantra concert "Awakening" – attended by about 200 people
- Ectonica Festival (main stage) – attended by about 6,000 people

- Window to the Sky Festival – attended by about 2,000 people
- Yoga Day – attended by about 500 people
- Janmāṣṭamī festival – attended by about 300 people
- Other city events – attended by up to 300 people

Through music, kirtans, communication, and *prasādam,* people get the opportunity to come in contact with spiritual life for the first time.

A special stage in the development of the *yātrā* was the transition to its own space. For a long time, programs were held at rented premises, but gradually there was a desire and need to have our own place for service. In 2020, the first building, with an area of about 60 square meters, was built. And then in 2021, the construction of a large *pandal* began.

This project was a real manifestation of unity. Devotees built with their own hands, donated funds, supported one another. Gradually, the *pandal* grew into a full-fledged space with an area of about 420 square meters, with an altar of 170 square meters, designed for about 250 people. This *pandal* is not simply a building; it is the result of cooperation, faith, and inspiration. It is a place where people can come, listen, serve, communicate, and develop their spiritual lives.

The *yātrā* offers various forms of service: worshiping the Deities, preparing *prasādam,* organizing Sunday programs, taking care of families and children, conducting kirtans, decorating the altar, sewing clothes, distributing books, and providing education and support to new people. Everyone from children to senior devotees has a place to serve.

Financial support for the mission is also growing. Devotees are donating as much as they can, and there are even some philanthropists who have made significant contributions to the construction of the *pandal*. We see how your mission is bringing people together at different levels.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you write: "Kṛṣṇa is powerful enough to give His devotee whatever opportunities he desires, provided that the devotee works very sincerely for His pleasure." We are trying to live with this understanding. Sometimes we lack strength, sometimes we have doubts, but your mission inspires us to keep going. The most important thing we want to say is:

You didn't just start a movement. You gave us life. You gave us direction. You gave us the opportunity to be part of a spiritual family.

Please allow us to continue being a part of your mission. Give us the sincerity, humility, and determination to keep serving.

Let our *yātrā* become a tool in your hands. May each of us be able to use the spiritual weapons you gave us to help others and spread the light of knowledge.

Thank you for everything, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you for the books. Thank you for the holy name. Thank you for the spiritual family. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

With deep gratitude and love,
Your servants at ISKCON Izhevsk

Jandelsbrunn, Germany

Most dear and beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, standing here today, looking back at this past year in Simhachalam, we feel a mixture of exhaustion, gratitude, and something deeper – a quiet certainty that somehow, despite all our limitations, you are still carrying everything forward.

This year tested us.

Especially our summer season: six continuous weeks of festivals, one flowing into the next, like waves that never paused to let us breathe. Kirtan, cooking, organizing, welcoming guests, cleaning, guiding, serving … again and again, day after day. At some point, we stopped asking, "Can we still do this?" and simply continued.

Our devotees were tired, *truly* tired. Bodies weak, minds stretched … But at the same time, hearts full. Because somehow, in that intensity, your presence became more real.

We saw it in the kirtans that lifted us when we had no strength left. We saw it in the smiles of guests who had come for the first time. We saw it in the way devotees kept showing up, even when there was nothing left to give.

And after this intense summer, although there was never a complete break – as there is always something unfolding at Simhachalam – you guided us into a season of reorganization.

In the autumn we were able to step back, clean up, restructure, and regain clarity. At the same time, a new temple council was established and then expanded, bringing in additional experienced devotees into the leadership. This newly formed team creates greater stability, shared responsibility, and continuity in guiding Simhachalam forward.

And now, in the spring of 2026, we find ourselves again in your service – but this time with renewed determination. Twice a week we gather for Clean Scene – that is, cleaning, organizing, and preparing your temple for Narasiṁha Caturdāśi.

And as always, these weeks before the festival carry a certain tension:

Will everything be ready?

Will all services be covered?

Will the devotees come?

Will we manage?

Yet at the same time, there is deep excitement. Because we know what is coming: the most powerful darshans of the year. The amazing *pavitram mālā-pūjā*. The overwhelming beauty of Śrī Śrī Prahlāda-Lakṣmī-Narasiṁhadeva's *mahā-abhiśeka*. The fire of *yajñas*. The waves of kirtan. The nectar of *hari-kathā* spoken by your direct disciples.

And the breathtaking flower outfit, arranged with such devotion, revealing the Lord in a special, radiant splendor, along with the offering of sandesh in all its sugary opulence, prepared with love and presented in such abundance.

Narasiṁha Caturdāśi is not just a festival for us. It is a moment where the spiritual world touches Simhachalam.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, at the same time, something else has begun to move forward. After many discussions, efforts, and much patience, doors are slowly opening with the local authorities. We are now moving toward submitting a repurpose application for our oversized barn, with the vision of transforming it into a guest facility, so that we may properly host the increasing number of visitors coming to your temple.

But before that, we are taking a practical first step: the construction of a children's hut – a space for your youngest devotees, a place where they can grow, play, learn, and feel protected.

This project might seem small in scale, but it is large in meaning, because, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the future of Simhachalam is already running through our courtyard every day.

We pray that these children will develop deep roots in your mission, that they will not only inherit this place but carry your vision forward with strength and conviction.

Along with this hut, a new Tulasī house is planned so that Vṛndā Devī can reside throughout the entire year without the need to be moved seasonally.

In addition, the restructuring of the barn requires further preparations: as the upper level, currently used for hay storage, is intended to become sleeping space for guests, a new, suitable shelter for hay storage must be established as part of the goshala infrastructure.

All of these steps are essential prerequisites and must be completed before we can formally submit the usage application for the barn conversion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we also want to offer you our heartfelt reflections on *saṅkīrtana,* which remains the life and soul of Simhachalam.

The *saṅkīrtana* community events have grown beautifully. Again and again, devotees come together to organize *harināmas,* book distribution, kirtan, and *prasādam* outreach in nearby cities. These events carry a special spirit of cooperation, enthusiasm, and a taste of your movement alive on the streets.

And yet at the same time, we feel a deeper prayer arising. We pray for new *saṅkīrtana* devotees. We pray for a strong and stable *brahmacārī* ashram, where devotees can fully dedicate themselves to your mission. We make these prayers because although the structure is there and the events are taking place, your *saṅkīrtana* mission is asking for new strength.

We feel it.

We pray that you send the right souls – those who are ready to go out, take risks, depend on your mercy, and distribute your books with conviction and faith.

Please empower us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to not only maintain *saṅkīrtana* but to revive it in full force.

Sometimes, we feel overwhelmed. Sometimes, we don't know how everything will come together. But one thing is clear: our roots are deeply planted in this sacred place. And our life's purpose is simple: to continue what you have started.

We pray for our community: for unity among the devotees of Simhachalam. For stronger relationships between families and ashrams. For cooperation in service.

Because we are learning, again and again that without your devotees, Simhachalam cannot exist. Please bless them with intelligence to serve properly; with humility to work together; with devotion to stay steady; with strength to continue; and with your mercy, always.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for giving us this life. Thank you for giving us Simhachalam. Thank you for protecting us and engaging us in the service of Śrī Śrī Prahlāda-Lakṣmī-Narasiṁhadeva. Every challenge we face only reminds us that we are still under your shelter.

Your insignificant servants trying to serve you at Simhachalam

Kazan, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept the humble obeisances, deep gratitude, respect, and love from the devotees of the Kazan ISKCON community.

Thanks to you, our life has gained meaning, colors, taste, and a long-awaited joy. You came into this world and brought love and devotion to Kṛṣṇa in words, sound, and a way of life, and thus saved us, giving us new life.

Your books are like air to us. Breathing them in, we are inspired to serve. Through *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and all your other works, we have found answers to the most intimate questions, learned to think, reflect, and awaken the mind in order to live according to the laws of God. There are no analogs to these books, and it is only by your grace that we have been able to become acquainted with Kṛṣṇa, His abode, and our eternal nature as integral parts of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

You have given us a chance for meaningful, pure relationships – with guru, Kṛṣṇa, and those who follow the same path. Loneliness in the crowd was replaced by a sense of belonging to a great family of devotees, united by one goal: to return home, back to Godhead. You have shown us a taste of spiritual life, which includes joyful chanting, kirtans, *prasādam,* and sincere communication, and you taught us that renunciation without love is suffering, and love without rules is chaos.

We are grateful to you for being patient with our failures and for lifting us up again and again through strict but compassionate guidance. Knowing that you look at us through your books and the words of your followers, we gain the strength to continue the path, purify ourselves, become more honest, sincere, attentive, benevolent, and selfless. Thanks to you, we are learning to interact with each person as an eternal person, an inseparable part of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

You have given us a priceless jewel – the path of happiness to Kṛṣṇa, pure devotional service, which Lord Caitanya reveals to us all by your grace. Since our contact with the Vaiṣṇavas and Kṛṣṇa consciousness, our vision of the world has completely changed: we have learned about the spiritual world, about Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, about our true position and what we really should do in this world. You have settled in our hearts, and as long as we are alive, we will remember with gratitude the precious gift that you gave us.

Thank you for the fact that every day our fears go away, even those we did not realize we had. We are no longer afraid of a lonely and empty old age because there is always service in your family – live and online, external and internal – and you can stay engaged in your mission until your last breath. Thanks to your grace, we are not living someone else's life, but gradually learning to live the life that really leads to the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava.

We are eternally indebted to you, our dear teacher. To the best of our ability, we will continue to serve your mission, distribute your books, chant the holy name, support each other, and follow the path you have paved for us. We hope that by following your instructions, we will meet you and Kṛṣṇa again one day.

Your humble servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Kazan

Kherson, Ukraine

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are very grateful for the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done for human society and for each of us personally.

Thank you very much for the books and temples that you have given to all of us.

Thank you for the festivals and the culture of spiritual life that you so skillfully introduced into our lives.

Thank you for your example and instructions, which you have bestowed upon humanity for the next ten thousand years.

You are a great personality, for your determination to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to make people happy knows no bounds. As it is said in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (3.21): "Whatever action is performed by a great man, common men follow in his footsteps. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues."

By your mercy, a true miracle is now taking place in the world. In the midst of Kali-yuga, more and more people are taking up the spiritual path of chanting the holy names. This has become possible only because of your sacrifice of comfort and personal peace. You left Vrindavan and went to the West, where death itself could have awaited you. Even the journey to America could have ended tragically. And it may have seemed that the people of America were not at all ready for your spiritual message. But by your mercy, Kṛṣṇa inspired your first disciples, and now we have received our chance.

You gave us the meaning of life. You filled our hearts with inspiration and engaged us in eternal service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

On this day, thousands of your followers will offer you their respects for giving the priceless gift of love of God and for explaining how to attain it and preserve it amidst the distractions of material life.

You perfectly fulfilled the instruction of your spiritual master, and now the holy name of Lord Kṛṣṇa can be heard in the most remote corners of the world. People are attracted by the beauty of the Supreme Personality of Godhead – His opulence, knowledge, strength, and renunciation. Kṛṣṇa empowered you to become His messenger and to give people the invaluable gift of transcendental love of God and the opportunity to understand their eternal relationship with Him.

We are but tiny living beings, one ten-thousandth the size of the tip of a hair, yet understanding our true nature – the nature of a servant – gives us the chance to attain pure, selfless love of God. You wrote an immense number of books – something no ordinary person could accomplish. Kṛṣṇa Himself guided your hand to reveal the philosophical truths of Vedic knowledge. Without the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and your other works, it is impossible to understand the purpose of human life. Through the examples of great personalities of the past, you showed how a modern person should live in order to pass the most important examination at the end of life – to remember Kṛṣṇa and, to the sound of the holy name, enter the kingdom of God.

On this earth we are merely passengers. The material world is not meant for gentlemen, as you often said, and we should not linger here. We are souls, yet out of ignorance we identify ourselves with the body. By your example, you showed what it means to serve the Lord selflessly, offering one's entire being. You laid the foundation for the spiritual advancement of all humanity. The people of Kali-yuga are weak, both physically and spiritually. Lord Caitanya proclaimed the

sanātana-dharma of this age: the chanting of the holy names of the Lord. We sing, we dance, and we take delicious *prasādam* – a wonderful philosophy. One only needs to humbly accept God into one's life and not claim what does not belong to us.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the devotees of the Kherson community unite their hearts to offer you their lives and their service. Although our city has become a place of great external hardship, being on the very front line, your mercy remains the unshakable foundation of our lives.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, due to the ongoing war, most members of our community have been scattered across the world. Today, your followers from Kherson chant the holy names and serve your mission in Ireland, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Romania, and many other countries. Although we are physically far from our homes and from one another, we remain more united than ever. Every morning we gather online to chant our rounds of the *mahā-mantra* together, and each day we meet in the digital space to read and discuss your transcendental books. We are united by our shared devotion to your instructions.

At the same time, a courageous group of devotees continues to maintain the fire of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the very heart of Kherson. By your mercy, here in Kherson – practically on the front line of the war – Kṛṣṇa gives us the opportunity to cook and distribute *prasādam,* to perform *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in the streets of the city, to distribute your books, and to gather for Sunday festivals and *nāma-haṭṭa* programs.

We humbly present a report of our local activities for your satisfaction:

- Distribution of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam:* each week, despite the constant threat of drones, missiles, and shelling, devotees cook and distribute about 300 liters of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* several times a week at seven distribution points. We strive to help those most in need, following your instruction that no one within a ten-mile radius of a temple should go hungry.
- *Saṅkīrtana* and *harināma:* even in a city under fire, we continue to hold Sunday programs, *nāma-haṭṭas,* and kirtans. The sound of the *mahā-mantra* serves as the only true shelter for souls at this time.
- Unity in service: whether serving abroad or under shelling at home, the devotees of Kherson are one family under your protection. We see your hand in every moment of protection and inspiration.

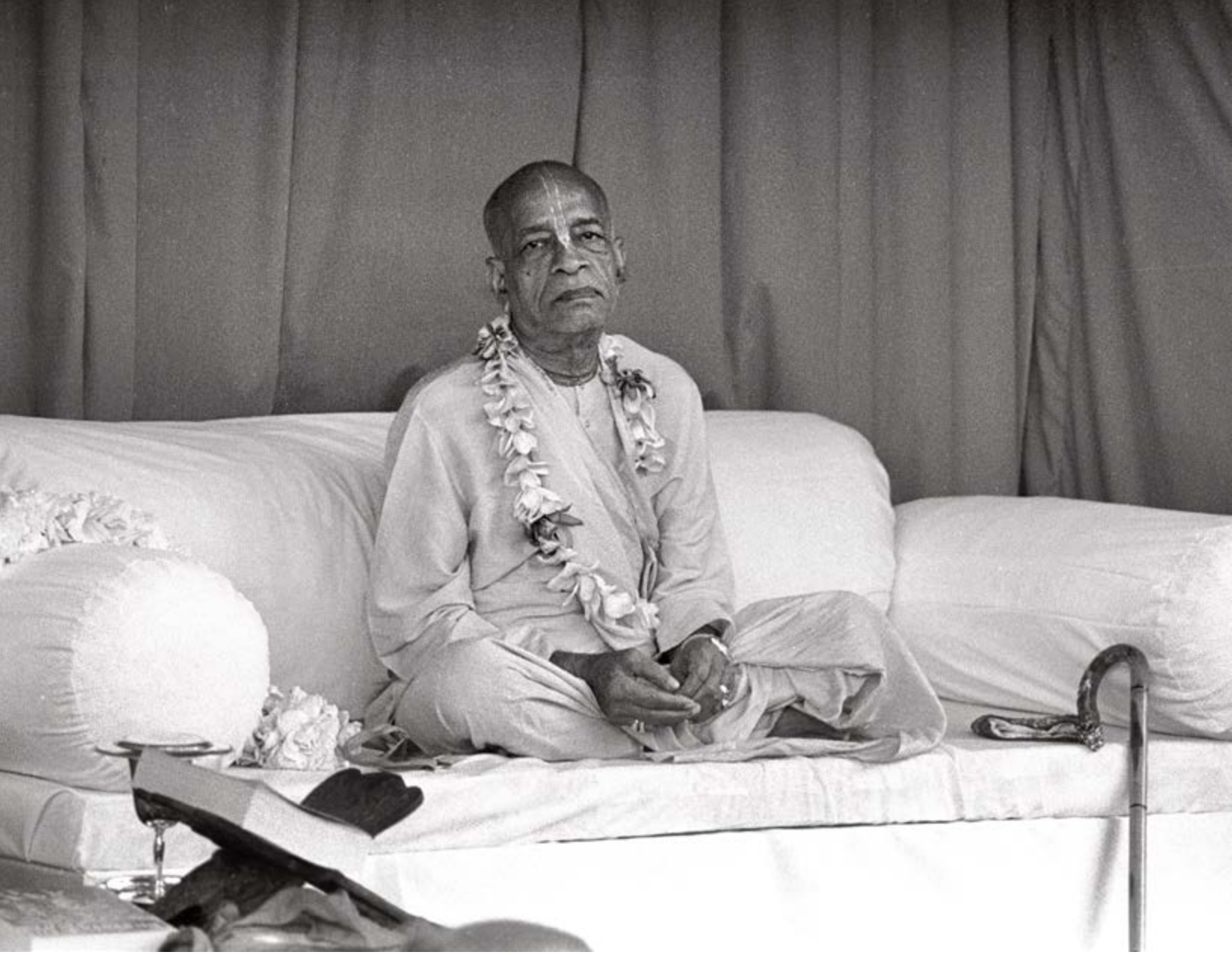
Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are simply trying to be humble instruments of your compassion. You gave everything to bring the light of the holy name to the world, and we pray for the strength to follow in your footsteps with sincerity and courage.

We pray for your continued blessings so that we may remain steady in service, wherever the waves of destiny may carry us. May our city and the whole world attain peace through your divine instructions.

We understand that even if we have some experience and skills, they are insignificant, and Kṛṣṇa, as the Supreme Personality, deserves much more than we can give. Still, we feel great joy that, for some reason, we have been placed in this wonderful society that you created.

We wish to continue our small attempts to be of service to you, to Lord Caitanya, and to Lord Nityānanda. Please guide us on the path of devotion and do not allow us to deviate. We are your eternal debtors and hope for the opportunity to continue serving your lotus feet.

Your humble servants,
the devotees of ISKCON Kherson



Kirov, Russia

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances from all the devotees of the Kirov *yātrā*!

In the *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu,* Śrīla Rūpa Goswami describes sixty-four *aṅgas* of devotional service. Among these *aṅgas,* five are the most potent: *sādhu-saṅga* (association with devotees), *nāma-kīrtana* (chanting the holy name), *bhāgavata-śravaṇa* (hearing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*), *mathurā-vāsa* (residing at a holy place), and *śrī-mūrtira-śraddhāya-sevana* (worship of the Deities with faith). Each of these five *aṅgas* gives one a chance to achieve spiritual perfection. Out of great concern for your disciples and granddisciples you gave us the opportunity to achieve this perfection.

You gave us the practice of chanting the holy names on beads and the practice of kirtan. You

translated the most valuable knowledge of the holy scriptures and made it accessible to all the people of the world. You taught us how to worship the Deities and see Kṛṣṇa in them. You gave us the society of devotees – the best of the people, with whom we can deepen our relationship with God. You built temples on the holy land of Vṛndāvana and Māyāpur. You created an entire spiritual city so that devotees from all over the world could come and increase their taste for spiritual life.

Your books, lectures, conversations and letters are as deep as Vaiṣṇava philosophy. They can never be fully studied because they are constantly unfolding and revealing new instructions, new facets of devotion and service to God.

In the material world, leaders lose their influence almost immediately after their departure. Your power, however, only grows with each passing year. We see this in the large number of devotees who continue to follow your instructions. Wherever a devotee goes in the world, he is sure to find a temple – a part of the spiritual world, where he will feel like family even hundreds of kilometers from home; you gave us this feeling of eternal spiritual happiness. Thanks to your faith and devotion, the holy name has reached every town and village, according to Mahāprabhu's will.

We are happy to be your family, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are happy to raise our children in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We are happy to bring people knowledge that frees them from material distress. We are happy to build our relationship with God.

We offer our humble obeisances to your devotion to guru and Kṛṣṇa, and to your unlimited compassion.

Your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Kirov

Krasnodar, Russia

Dear to-our-hearts Śrīla Prabhupāda!

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

My name is Gaura-siṁha Dāsa. I serve as president of the ISKCON temple in Krasnodar, in the South Russia Region. My wife, Dāmodara Rati Devī Dāsī, serves as the main *pūjarī* at this temple. Today, on the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, allow us to address you on behalf of ourselves and all the devotees of our temple of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāma and Śrī Gaurāṅga with respectful and grateful words.

By Your Divine Grace, the true reason for which remains a mystery to us, a very special idea one day entered our minds and hearts – to try to invite Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa into our lives and the spiritual life of our city, to build a beautiful, comfortable, and bright temple for Them, and to cultivate a beautiful garden with numerous *kuñjas* for Their pleasure. This inspiration came to us, as you know, from you personally in 2014 at the Krishna-Balaram temple in Vrindavan. It was then, standing before you in your Samādhi Mandir that we felt your blessing for this special service.

Undoubtedly, we made some efforts and performed certain austerities within our bodies and minds, as much as we could in this age of spiritual degradation, a time of discord and conflict. But the true driving force behind this internal and external process of building the temple was, of course, you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. It is precisely by the power of your grace and blessings, as

well as the blessings of your disciples, that this truly miraculous establishment of the temple can be attributed. Thus, on April 10, 2022, on the sacred day of Rāmanavamī, the beautiful Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāma and Śrī Gaurāṅga were installed in this new temple.

Furthermore, it was only by your grace and blessings that we were given the opportunity to serve in this temple, despite lacking the necessary qualifications, having been born and raised in families with heavy karma, and especially in this age of Kali – an age of degradation and strife. This service at the temple has been going on for four years now, and each year it becomes more and more splendid. The atmosphere in the temple becomes increasingly spiritual and attracts many devotees and new people. We never cease to be amazed by this.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we feel that you have been with us all this time. We constantly feel your presence both in the temple's altar room, where you are constantly present in the form of your deity, and in your books, which we regularly read and draw great inspiration from. We sense your presence through the love and cooperation of devotees, and we sense your presence when we reflect on the example of your life and all the incomprehensibly difficult obstacles you overcame in your desire to give people throughout the world this priceless gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

A few months after the opening of the temple, on the sacred day of your appearance, your deity was installed in the temple directly opposite Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāma and Śrī Gaurāṅga. On that day, as I offered you words of glorification, I felt inspired to offer you our entire service and our lives as devoted servants of this temple. Then, completely unexpectedly, these words burst from my mouth. As it turns out, this same desire was in the hearts of many devotees serving in the temple, and from that time this offering has been repeated every day since: all the devotees in the temple pray to be instruments in your hands, offering you their service and lives. Thus, we can feel that you direct all service in the temple. Every day, we feel your mercy, your blessings, your love, and your acceptance of us into your spiritual family.

We sincerely thank you, dear Srila Prabhupada, for everything we see, hear, and feel. We thank you for this opportunity to be part of your spiritual family, for this opportunity to participate in this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, for the opportunity for spiritual development and service.

Please accept our service, our inspiration, our creativity, and our lives as an offering to you, and please bless us to reach true, pure, and unalloyed devotion in this life. Bless us to chant the *mahā-mantra* purely: Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma Hare Hare. Bless us to understand the science of devotional service that You have given us in Your transcendental books. And bless us to render selfless and devoted service to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāma and Śrī Gaurāṅga!

Your humble servants,
Gaura-siṁha Dāsa, Dāmodara Rati Devī Dāsī,
and all the devotees of ISKCON Krasnodar

Kursk, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

In the blessed jubilee year of your divine appearance in this material world, please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your gentle, wonderfully cooling lotus feet! All glories to Your Divine Grace!

We, your followers, have a unique opportunity to communicate with you through our attempts at devotional service through your *vāṇī,* making an effort to fulfill the spiritual instructions you've given in your books, numerous lectures, meetings, and walks with devotees.

Your humility and complete devotion to your spiritual master, your compassion and love for all living entities, as well as your infinite mercy allow us to try to develop the qualities necessary for cultivating true devotion to guru and Kṛṣṇa!

Inspiring the devotees through your example, you tirelessly spread the teachings of Lord Caitanya throughout the world in every city and village. Your every step frees this world from the consequences of billions of sins!

You have opened the practice of bhakti to the whole world, opening your heart and in an incomprehensible way, transmitting the bliss of your enlightened mind. When you saw the Western world, you turned to Kṛṣṇa and said, "You've brought me here and now I'm your marionette, so pull the strings. I will dance however You wish." It was an amazing, fearless decision.

But you didn't just say it – you did it. You'd been doing it throughout the years. You were a perfect instrument. Preaching intensively, going through the great pressure of writing books at night, you practically didn't live for the body but were constantly in service to the mission.

You opened temples of Kṛṣṇa in many cities of many countries, including those where there was not a single devotee before you came. These temples are still embassies of the spiritual world.

Here in Kursk, we follow your instructions and continue the tradition of worshiping the Lord in our temple, holding Sunday programs and celebrating festivals. We invite guests for darshan of the Deities, chant the holy names together, and eat *prasādam*. All this is possible only because we know how important it was for you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! Let us always stay at your lotus feet, holding onto the hem of your dhoti and realizing our helplessness!

We ask for blessings to open our hearts so that they become as pure and beautiful as your huge heart, overflowing with the elixir of divine love in which each of us has found a place. Forever bound to you with bonds of love, we are eternally indebted to you!

We will always pray to cling to your lotus feet so that Kṛṣṇa may be pleased with our spiritual family!

Aspiring to become devotees, the eternal servants of your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Kursk, Russia

Kyiv, Ukraine

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. Please allow us to make an attempt to glorify you, as far as our humility and qualifications permit.

Reflecting on life, we become increasingly convinced of how boundless the Lord's mercy can be! And His mercy consists of sending us such compassionate, exalted souls as yourself so that we can cross the ocean of material suffering, called the material world. Your glory will spread from age to age, despite the darkening hues of Kali-yuga, and sincere souls will be able to take advantage of the boat you have left for us. It is described in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.2.31) that *ācāryas,* being compassionate saints, cross the ocean of material existence and reach the spiritual world. However, they do not simply leave. Rather, they leave behind a boat – their teachings, sacred scriptures, and spiritual practices – so that sincere souls seeking the Supreme Refuge can also cross over to the other shore.

By leaving the boat of your teachings, you give every person the opportunity to safely cross the material ocean, even though you are no longer physically present in this world. Your mission in this world is invaluable: just as a pious mother cannot evaluate her child, so spiritual values manifested by you cannot be measured. Without your mission, the lives of all conditioned souls have no meaning. You have given people light and hope for a truly bright future, which flows into eternity, full knowledge, and bliss, in the infinite happiness of love in relationship with the Lord.

Our endless gratitude to you for this and for the opportunity to try to become an instrument in the hands of the guru, who is an instrument in your hands.

Your servants,
The devotees of the New Navadvīpa community in Kyiv

Lipetsk, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! Please accept our obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

This year we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of ISKCON and the fifty-fifth anniversary of your arrival in the USSR. At birth, you were given the name Abhay, meaning "fearless." With this name the Lord wanted to show us one of your transcendental qualities. After all, to come to the Soviet Union at that time, you had to be truly fearless, even though they tried to dissuade you, trying to convince you that it was dangerous and there was almost nothing to eat. But thanks to your boundless faith in Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, you came anyway and planted the seeds of devotional service here. Thanks to your disciples, these seeds sprouted and growth continues to this day. Your seeds of bhakti are spreading throughout the world, as stated in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta:* "In every home and in every village, people will chant the holy name." In our city, too, this seed has sprouted.

It is our duty, though we can never fully repay our debt to you, to continue your mission here in Lipetsk, a small city in Central Russia. Although we lack spiritual qualification and maturity,

we draw inspiration from the books and lectures you graciously left us, as well as from the examples of your disciples who, despite difficulties, continue to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world.

Thanks to your mercy, a temple has been built in Lipetsk. Deity worship continues, book distribution is underway, Sunday programs, *harināma,* and Ratha-yātrā are held. Educational programs are held regularly as well as various public programs that introduce people to the chanting of the holy name and the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In this festive year, I would like to ask for your blessings to grant us the strength and wisdom to maintain the service we carry out, as well as to improve and expand it, to please you, your disciples, and the spiritual teachers in ISKCON.

Striving to become servants of the servants of your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Lipetsk

London (Soho Street), United Kingdom

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious appearance day, in this sixtieth anniversary year of the incorporation of your beloved ISKCON.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for everything you have given to this fallen world. By your inconceivable compassion, you fulfilled the desire of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu by establishing His *saṅkīrtana* movement throughout the world. In particular, you desired that His teachings be firmly established in London, and to fulfill this divine purpose, you sent your courageous disciples – three couples, one with a baby – to begin your mission here.

By your personal presence, you established the temple at 7 Bury Place and installed the most beautiful Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara, who continue to enchant the hearts of all living beings. You resided there, gave your transcendental classes, and bestowed your association upon the fortunate souls of London.

With great humility, we submit this offering at your lotus feet, both in gratitude and in an attempt to report how, by your mercy alone, we are endeavoring to serve your mission in London.

Since the time we wrote last year's Vyāsa-pūjā offering, by your causeless mercy many wonderful and historic developments have taken place. Most significantly, the original home of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara at 7 Bury Place was put up for sale in November 2025. Understanding the sacred nature of this place – further sanctified by your personal presence, instructions, and pastimes – the devotees felt deeply that it must be reclaimed as your holy *tīrtha*.

What had seemed impossible for so many years was made possible solely by your mercy. Through the heartfelt sacrifices and generosity of devotees and well-wishers from across the world, this sacred property was secured. Witnessing this, the entire community was struck by excitement.

Now, by your grace, we are no longer restricted to worshiping from outside. We will soon be able to enter those sacred rooms, feeling your presence within those very walls. The upper floors are being carefully refurbished and developed into a Ladies Contemporary Vedic Ashram, where Vaiṣṇavīs will be trained, sheltered, and engaged in your devotional service.

The plan is that the ground floor – where Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara were worshiped and where you personally spoke *hari-kathā* – will be restored with deep reverence. Every effort will be made to preserve its authenticity and spiritual atmosphere, so that all who enter may tangibly experience the transcendental mood imbued by your presence and come in contact with your eternal legacy. We pray that the ambience of Bury Place may once again be surcharged with devotion, purity, and spiritual intensity, inspiring generations to come.

We humbly pray that we may honor this most precious gift – 7 Bury Place – by always remembering your pastimes there and the sacrifices of your dear disciples who established your mission in London. May we never forget that it is by their surrender, and ultimately by your mercy, that we have received this opportunity for service.

Alongside this offering, efforts to expand your mission continue. Govinda's restaurant, the central hub of our *prasādam* distribution, has expanded its service by opening a second location in our Studio 108 building. Whatever success has come is solely due to your divine vision, and we humbly pray that this service may continue to expand for the benefit of all conditioned souls.

Your *saṅkīrtana* movement, the very life and soul of your mission, continues to flourish in London and has reached new heights. By the unlimited mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, we have been blessed with a successful *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* distribution campaign, through which many full sets have been distributed. At the time of writing, the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign is well underway, and the distribution of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets has increased significantly. Understanding these sacred books to be your eternal gift to suffering humanity, we are continuing the distribution of the sets, praying that even a small effort in this service may be pleasing to you. Many of these transcendental literatures have been personally distributed on the streets to people from all backgrounds by your sincere followers, who are endeavoring to execute your instructions.

At the same time, we understand that expanding your mission externally must be accompanied by sincere care for your devotees. This culture of Vaiṣṇava care was personally demonstrated by you from the very beginning of ISKCON. By your example, you showed the highest compassion, traveling to the West and giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to anyone sincere, expressing the need to give "gallons of blood" to make devotees.

Following, in a small way, in your footsteps, we are attempting to cultivate this mood through our Bhakti Steps program. Our Devotee Care team is also striving to support the spiritual lives of senior, sick, and disabled devotees, offering association, kirtan, *japa,* and *prasādam*. A dedicated team of devotees has been visiting homes, hospitals, care homes, and arranging temple visits, striving to ensure that no devotee is forgotten. At the same time, efforts are being made to nurture the youngest members of the community through weekly Krishna Club sessions, along with an increasing number of additional programs and opportunities for children.

As part of this effort to strengthen the London community, we are also attempting to recognize and honor the service of Vaiṣṇavīs. Earlier this year, we commemorated the Ladies UK *Saṅkīrtana* Party, whose dedicated service from 1977 to 1981 contributed significantly to the establishment of your Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Temple in Soho Street. A commemorative plaque now stands as a reminder of their sacrifice. We have also established a Vaiṣṇavī Ministry to support ladies of all ages and at all stages of spiritual life by providing association, study *saṅgas* centered on your books, and opportunities for engagement in devotional service.

We humbly pray that these services may continue to develop and expand.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we remain completely dependent upon your causeless mercy, guidance, and inspiration. Though there is still much to be done to fulfill your desires, you have kindly sent many sincere souls to assist in your mission, for which we are most grateful.

We humbly pray for the strength, sincerity, and purity to serve your instructions without deviation. Kindly bless us that we may become worthy instruments in your hands, able to assist, in


Burberry's

some small but united way, in distributing your transcendental knowledge to the suffering souls of this world. We beg to remain your insignificant servants.

Your servants,
Dayāl Mora Dāsa and the devotees at ISKCON London

Málaga, Spain

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we feel most fortunate to be engaged in the service of ISKCON Málaga and to have this opportunity to glorify you.

You have indeed created a marvelous society with the most wonderful Vaiṣṇavas across the globe. We have been connected with our local center in Málaga for more than forty years, and through this temple, our entire family, though it is scattered across the world, from the Far East to the United States of America.

Upon the slightest willingness on their part to hear about Lord Kṛṣṇa and His glories, we take great joy in introducing them to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and speaking of your marvelous work – the immense sacrifice, determination, and struggle you undertook to establish temples and spread Lord Kṛṣṇa's holy names throughout the world.

As we ourselves approach the age at which you single-handedly began this movement, we already feel the tiredness, weakness, and a lack of enthusiasm sometimes. Every single day we get the realization of your extraordinary achievements at the age of seventy, when most people in the world would retire from active life.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you single-handedly and without economic support or help from your godbrothers fearlessly crossed the Atlantic Ocean to preach to the Western countries. You reached the port in Boston and brought forth a spiritual revolution that transformed countless young teenagers' hearts, making them from hippies to happies!

We have not even reached that age, yet we already feel so limited. Reading about your divine life in the *Līlāmṛta* so beautifully composed by Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami, inspires us greatly. Your unwavering determination, purity of purpose, and absolute dedication to your spiritual master remain our guiding light.

We pray at your lotus feet to empower us to such an extent that we may preach to more and more conditioned souls and bring them into Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Guided by your inspiration, we are doing pretty well at our local temple along with the selfless dedication, encouragement, and collaboration of the local resident devotees, who faithfully participate in all the major programs of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness – from the full morning program, beginning with *maṅgala-ārati* to the Sunday Love feast and grand festivals

like Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī. Even though we are a small center, by your causeless mercy we are able to attract hundreds of local people, especially during our festivals.

We also have weekly kirtans, *harināma-saṅkīrtanas,* and devotees engage in book distribution as well as sell your transcendental books online along with devotional paraphernalia. All of this we do is in an effort to spread your mission and the glories of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly pray for your mercy. Please bless us with inspiration, strength, and determination so that we may continue serving in your mission. Without your blessings, we are simply a disturbance, but with your blessings, even our small efforts may become meaningful in your service.

Please allow us to remain engaged in your service, life after life. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servant,
Hema Gaurī Dāsī and the devotees of ISKCON Málaga

Manchester, United Kingdom

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of ISKCON Manchester, offer our heartfelt gratitude for your unlimited mercy. By your compassion, the holy name of Lord Kṛṣṇa has reached this important city of Manchester, and we have been given the opportunity to engage in devotional service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever service we are able to perform is only by following your instructions and taking shelter of your teachings. You have given us a complete process for spiritual life through your books, by your example, and in the society you established. We are simply trying, in our own imperfect way, to assist in your mission.

Inspired by your emphasis on congregational chanting, we regularly come together to chant the holy names. Each month, devotees participate in public chanting and book distribution, trying to share your teachings with sincerity. Remembering your instruction, "Book distribution is the most important activity in our Society" (letter to Rupanuga, 28 December 1974), we continue this service with whatever capacity we have. By your mercy, this past year many people have received your books, and we have been able to distribute approximately 5,000 copies. We also distributed around 2,000 devotional calendars, hoping to bring remembrance of Kṛṣṇa into people's daily lives.

For the first time, we were able to participate in the "Be a Gardener" campaign and, by your mercy, exceeded our pledge in distributing sets of *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. We are also taking part in the Bhadra campaign and are steadily progressing in that service.

Understanding the importance you placed on education, we offer a Bhakti Śāstrī certificate course, where devotees study your books in a systematic way. At present, around twenty devotees are enrolled. Alongside this, regular study groups, mentorship programs, and courses such as the ISKCON Disciple Course are helping devotees deepen their understanding. As you instructed, "These books are the basis; our preaching is the essence," (letter to Hamsaduta, 3 December 1968) – we are trying to keep this foundation central to all our efforts.

By your mercy, several devotees have taken further steps in their spiritual lives and accepted

initiation, strengthening their commitment to devotional service. We pray that we may remain faithful to your instructions and continue progressing under your guidance.

Our temple programs, including regular Sunday gatherings and weekly morning classes, are centered on hearing and discussing your books in devotee association. In a spirit of cooperation, devotees serve in various ways, supporting festivals and assisting other communities when opportunities arise, following your instruction that our love for you will be shown by how much we cooperate to keep this institution together (letter to Karandhara, 18 October 1973). We are especially grateful for the sincere efforts of the many volunteers who help organize and support these programs.

As the congregation grows, many festivals are held in hired venues to accommodate increasing participation. Each year, we celebrate Ratha-yātrā and other festivals, giving many people the opportunity to take part in kirtan, hear your teachings, and receive spiritual benefit. By your mercy, many thousands have also received *prasādam* over the past year.

We are also trying to support nearby congregations in surrounding towns around Manchester through participation in local programs, mentorship, and devotional education, helping to encourage their development in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In a spirit of loving cooperation, devotees from Manchester annually take time to assist in cooking for the Birmingham 24-hour kirtan festival. Devotees also travel together, filling several coaches, to participate in the London Ratha-yātrā as a joyful opportunity to serve and be part of the wider mission.

We are also trying to reach newcomers and the local community through our Sacred Lounge program in the city center, where people are invited to experience Kṛṣṇa consciousness through chanting, spiritual discussion, and distribution of *prasādam*. By your causeless mercy, new people are gradually becoming interested and connecting with devotional life. Regular youth preaching programs are also being conducted at the university in our town, and by your grace many students are becoming interested in Kṛṣṇa consciousness through these efforts.

As our congregation continues to grow, we are fully aware of the need to better accommodate the devotees and expand opportunities for service. With this understanding, we are actively working toward securing a larger temple facility, while also exploring how the current temple may be expanded. We pray for your guidance and mercy so that these efforts may be carried out in a way that pleases you and supports the continued growth of your mission in Manchester.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, although we are limited in many ways, you have kindly engaged us in your mission. We pray that we may always remain your servants, following your instructions without deviation, and working together to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness for your pleasure. Please bless us that we may continue to serve you with sincerity, humility, and determination.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Manchester

Moscow, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your followers in Moscow, Russia, offer our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Today we celebrate the sacred day of your appearance in this world. For us, this day holds a special, historical significance, as this year marks a double jubilee – the fifty-fifth anniversary of your arrival in Moscow and the fifty-fifth year of the formation of the Vaiṣṇava community in Russia and the CIS countries.

In 1971, you visited Moscow for a few days – a journey that was both risky and incredibly difficult. Upon learning of your plans, some devotees tried to dissuade you, suggesting a vacation in Hawaii to engage in book translations. They sent messages that the mango season was beginning. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your reply was immortal: "Preaching in the snows of Russia is far sweeter than any mangoes!"

Fifty-five years ago, fulfilling the order of your spiritual master, you fearlessly stepped onto Moscow's soil. At a time when spiritual inquiry was forbidden, you brought here the greatest treasure – bhakti, pure devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. You planted a seed of faith that, against all obstacles, has sprouted and grown into a mighty *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya, its branches now spread throughout Russia.

By your mercy and the tireless efforts of your disciples and followers, that seed has grown into a thriving Vaiṣṇava community. We gratefully remember your visit to Moscow and look with sincere gratitude at every available picture from your time here. Today, the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and all your books are easily accessible throughout Russia. We are proud that during the last visit of the President of Russia to India, he was gifted a copy of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in Russian language by the Prime Minister of India. The picture of Mr. Modi presenting the *Gītā* to President Putin was shared worldwide.

Because of your purity, you were able to attract thousands of conditioned souls to the path of pure devotional service. You were always humble and gentle in dealing with others. You gave the medicine by which suffering humanity can be cured – the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*.

You gave us not just a philosophy, but a practical path to spiritual life based on chanting the holy names:

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

Today we proudly witness the fruits of your preaching. Throughout Russia – from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok – ISKCON temples and centers stand where thousands of devotees gather to glorify the Lord. Millions of your books in Russian have found their readers, igniting the fire of knowledge and love of God in people's hearts. Your teachings have become an integral part of our country's spiritual culture.

You often stated that as long as book distribution goes on, you would live forever. Through your Bhaktivedanta purports, you continue to preach to the conditioned souls. Like Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, you have converted so many atheists and impersonalists to the path of devotional service. As Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura stated, a Vaiṣṇava is recognized by his preaching work. Your books will continue to preach for the next ten thousand years.

We pray for a drop of your mercy. Please engage us in pure devotional service without any tinge of karma or *jñāna*. Allow us to become humbler than a blade of grass and more tolerant than a tree.

On this auspicious day, we pray for your causeless mercy so that we may always remain fixed in executing your divine instructions and helping to propagate Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Your servant,
Sādhu-priya Dāsa, Regional Secretary and temple president
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Moscow

Munich, Germany

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to write this Vyāsa-pūjā offering on behalf of the devotees and congregational members at ISKCON München Verein für vedische Kultur e.V. We view this as an opportunity to think about you deeply, remember your divine instructions, and feel grateful to be serving in your *paramparā*. Through your books, your lectures, and your letters you have given very important instructions that we are humbly but dedicatedly trying to follow.

You gave very important instructions for the Deutsch *yātrā* in your letter to the then president of ISKCON Hamburg His Grace Haṁsadūta Prabhu, dated 11 April, 1972:

> In the meantime, you do your duty as president of Hamburg Temple, and try to improve spiritually. Our spiritual way should strictly observe the following points especially: (1) Neatness and cleanliness of all personal bodies. (I still see those who are initiated as Brahmins, they do not wash their hand after eating even; of course, there may be so many defects due to your births in non-Brahmin families, but how long it shall go on? It is very easy thing.); (2) Chanting 16 rounds daily. (I don't think everyone is following these principles.); (3) Temple worship, which should be performed rigidly between four and ten a.m.

We are delighted to inform you that we are humbly attempting to follow your instructions "as it is" despite many practical difficulties in Munich. For your pleasure, we would humbly like to inform you that in our congregation, more than twenty devotees are chanting sixteen rounds daily. Additionally, we have Deities of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi whom we are collectively worshiping "rigidly," as you have instructed, between 4 and 10 A.M. Under the supervision of our temple president, Her Grace Dānakelī Kaumudi Mātājī, we are trying to maintain the utmost standard of cleanliness in our temple, as you instructed. Please bless us that whatever difficulties we have, we will be able to overcome them and follow your spiritual guidelines as they are.

With good spiritual *sādhana* established according to your will, we are humbly attempting to preach through our book distribution scores. Some of the scores of our temple in the recent past are listed as below:

1. December marathon 2025: ISKCON München Verein für vedische kultur e.V distributed 1,191 books, including 14 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets. We secured fifth place in the Deutsch *yātrā*. Her Grace Dānakelī Mātājī single-handedly distributed 1,062 books.

2. Gaurāṅga marathon 2026: we distributed 15 books, mostly in Arabic, and secured sixth place in the Deutsch *yātrā*.
3. Nityānanda marathon 2026: we distributed 25 books and secured seventh place in the Deutsch *yātrā*.

We are regularly doing *harināma* as per your instructions, and have conducted more than 25 *harināmas* since last year. We especially do *harināma-saṅkīrtana* during the period of Oktoberfest, when people in Munich need the holy name the most.

Very importantly, you instructed in your letter to His Holiness Bhakti-bhūṣaṇa Swami (formerly, Suchandra Dāsa) and the Munich congregation, on 1 January 1972, that you desire a temple in Munich:

> Please accept my blessings. I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter undated. Kṛṣṇa has been very kind to you that as soon as you have gone to Munich to open a new center, He has helped you with a very suitable accommodation. Now develop everything very nicely there and build a fine, strong Kṛṣṇa Consciousness center.

We are humbly attempting to buy our current temple near Munich and thereby serve His Holiness Bhakti-bhūṣaṇa Mahārāja by fulfilling your will. We are doing it under the esteemed guidance of your stalwart servants in the form of the local GBC and National Council for the Deutsch *yātrā*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all the auspiciousness we are achieving is solely due to your divine mercy. We pray that you continue to shower your blessings upon us so that we may serve you and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi with sincerity, dedication, and humility. Please empower us to expand your mission in Munich, fulfilling your vision of a Kṛṣṇa conscious world.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your servant,
Uddhava Ānanda Dāsa, vice-president
On behalf of Her Grace Dānakelī Kaumudī Mātājī, our esteemed board members, and our congregation

Nava Vraja-dhāma, Hungary

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we bow down to your lotus feet.
All glories to you, and to this auspicious day.
It's been 130 years since you have appeared,
As a result, millions of *jīvas* have been saved.

You shared *kṛṣṇa-prema* with the entire world,
Such a treasure, originally brought by Lord Caitanya!
It was only known within India's borders before,
Now it could reach this unholy land of the Hūṇas.

Your books worked their magic, cleansing people's minds,
They started to chant and became dedicated bhaktas
In this mission of yours, and their efforts brought to life
A wonderful place we now know as Nava Vraja-dhāma.

You made it all possible by following your guru,
"Preach in English," he said. "Print books" – and behold:
Regarding your books, I can share some good news!
At the last marathon we broke a few of our records.

Bhāgavatam sets were distributed on the streets,
And in supermarkets we set up tables for the *śāstra*.
Still, we didn't forget about the other *saṅkīrtana* techniques.
It was a successful marathon for us and the whole *yātrā*.

We are praying to you and begging for your mercy.
Without your teachings, our life is incomplete –
So never let us go. Keep us engaged in service!
Our only shelter, we bow down to your lotus feet.

Your servants,
the residents of Nava Vraja-dhāma

Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept the humble obeisances of your followers from Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. All glories to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi! All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you so much for coming to Moscow and, in just a few days, magically creating Vaṣṇavas who spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu throughout the former Soviet Union! This is a true miracle that never ceases to amaze us.

Over time, your books and followers appeared in Nizhny Novgorod and arranged the meeting of your faithful disciple, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami as well as the city's mayor. As a result of this meeting, we got a building for the temple in 1990. A couple of years later, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami established the worship of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi here and inspired local devotees to preach. Since then, the temple has held daily worship of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi according to ISKCON standards, with twenty to thirty people participating weekly. Morning and sometimes evening programs are also held, *prasādam* is distributed in the temple and through the Hare Krishna Food for Life program, and educational courses are held.

Last year, three *harināma* groups of six people each took to the streets weekly, even in freezing winter weather. Festival and Sunday programs with kirtans and *prasādam* distribution are held. *Śravaṇam-kīrtanam* festivals are held twice a year, and before the pandemic, Ratha-yātrās were held annually. Friday kirtans are held weekly at the temple, and on Saturdays, about ten people go out to the Weekend *Saṅkīrtana* program. Throughout the year, several people went out daily to

distribute your books, and several dozen devotees participated in the December book distribution marathon.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! We continue to draw inspiration from reading your books and the entire spiritual process you have given us in the wonderful spiritual organization you founded, ISKCON, which has become a close-knit family for us all! Please continue to lead us along the path of pure devotional service, engaging us in this wonderful *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu so that we can all join you in the eternal līlā of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa!

Your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Nizhniy Novgorod

Norway

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The year 2026 is a great festival for Gauḍiya Vaiṣṇavas. It's the sixtieth anniversary of Your Divine Grace establishing the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Over these last sixty years, a great flood of devotion to Kṛṣṇa has inundated the entire world. Every small corner of the planet has been affected. A testimony to this fact is the endeavors of the servants of your servants in Norway. Although the country of Norway did not receive the fortune of your physical presence, your devoted followers traveled here in the seventies to spread the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. According to all accounts, they were very successful, and the seed of bhakti was planted in the heart of the nation. Then, in the early eighties, a devotee couple turned their home into a temple and thereby started the first center for Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Bergen, a city on the weather-torn west coast. After some years, a flourishing community of devotees moved their efforts to the capital, Oslo, and through the years Oslo has been the heartbeat of ISKCON Norway.

Today, a new generation of devotees still sustain themselves on this great heritage. For the twentieth year in a row, we will be celebrating the Ratha-yātrā chariot festival. Furthermore, the vibration of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa continue to linger in the air after the local devotees celebrated their annual festival, Scandinama, where they take the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa into the streets of the capital during the national celebration of the constitution.

A team of inspired householders, together with a growing congregation, maintain a small center in Oslo, where Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā reside, and here your Sunday love feast programs, together with Saturday night kirtans and morning readings of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* are attended weekly by a happy crowd of locals. More recently, in the 2020s, a handful of *brahmacārīs* returned to Bergen to reclaim the west coast in your honor, and they have now opened a beautiful temple in a scenic part of that city, where curious Bergensians and aspiring devotees now regularly visit to receive the mercy of Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gauracandra.

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is our hope that you will somehow be pleased with our efforts here in Norway. Your books are being distributed, and we know that this particular service is very dear to you. Following your order, the *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā* is now translated into Norwegian, and the reigning monarch, King Harald, has even received a copy with appreciation.

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg you to please bless our tiny endeavors so that we might be

made able to continue spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu here in Norway. You have so kindly given us this ISKCON society, and this small branch in this faraway Arctic Circle land is flourishing by your grace. Our only desire is to make your books and teachings more and more appealing to the local Norwegians. Please be kind and grace us with your mercy to continue this great task.

The servants of your servants at the Norwegian *yātrās,* offering obeisances at your lotus feet

Novorossiysk, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your divine personality!

On this, the most solemn day of your appearance, please accept our offering from the Vaiṣṇava communities in and around the city of Novorossiysk. All activities of the community are carried out only by Your Divine Grace!

In your temples, the worship of the Deities continues according to the accepted standards of ISKCON. One temple is located in the city of Novorossiysk, the temple of New Navadvīpa Dhāma with the Deities Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śacīnandana, and the second temple is in the Vaiṣṇava settlement of Varṣānā with Śrī Pañca-tattva and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā.

We regularly conduct programs in both temples – worship of the Deities according to ISKCON standards, daily classes on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* Sunday programs, festivals, kirtan *melās* and weekly chanting of the holy name. *Harināmas* are held once a week in four places of the large communities in different localities (Anapa, Gelendzhik, Varshana, Novorossiysk).

We distribute books daily and regularly conduct weekend *saṅkīrtana*. Our achievements in book distribution:

- Third place in the region, in the marathon
- Seventeen place in Russia, in the marathon
- Eighteenth place in Russia, for the year

There are some preaching programs – mantra-yoga, preaching lectures, preaching on social media, and on the YouTube channel, "Hare Krishna in Russia". Around fifty new people joined this year. There is a program for caring for devotees, a mentoring system, and a curator system.

Our community has governing councils for each group, including spiritual councils of mentors and senior devotees, as well as management councils. Leadership meetings are held regularly. The following committees have been established:

- Preaching committee
- Family committee
- Parenting committee

Our community also has small groups for spiritual communication:

- *Nāma-haṭṭas* – thirteen groups
- *Bhakti-vṛkṣas* – three groups

- Mentoring *saṅgas* – five groups
- Women's *saṅga* – eight groups
- Men's *saṅga* – four groups

We offer educational programs to prepare devotees for *praṇāma* and initiation, as well as the following courses and trainings:

- ISKCON Student
- Bhakti-śāstri
- Bhakti-praveśa
- Bhakti-latā
- Leadership training
- Thematic seminars
- Hare Kṛṣṇa course
- Deity worship courses
- Reflection on Prabhupāda's Mission
- Music education at the Kīrtana School
- Cooking courses

Senior ISKCON Vaiṣṇavas regularly visit our community. The Care and Protection of Children program is in operation. Temples have special rooms for children and their programs. And we plan to open Sunday schools in the temples. Sports and children's playgrounds have been set up.

The Vaiṣṇavī eco-village, Varṣānā has the following facilities:

- Educational school for children
- *Gurukula*
- Kindergarten for preschool children
- Tourist club
- Various clubs and electives
- Philosophical online education for children, Our Roots.
- Teaching children kirtan and playing musical instruments
- Organizing leisure activities and children's programs
- Organizing summer camps for children
- Acting school
- Indian dance studio
- Organizing children's *nāma-haṭṭa*

In our community, we carry out the following social projects:

- Food for Life in four settlements.
- In Novorossiysk we successfully held a photo exhibition of the organization's activities. We also plan to hold in other nearby cities.
- Take part in city holidays: Day of the village, May 9, Maslenitsa, etc.
- Maintaining social ties in the city: we develop relations and congratulate officials on holidays. We participate in the social life of the city (subbotniks, etc.).
- The international group of modern Indian dance "Anandaloka", consisting of Vaiṣṇavīs, holds performances to the sound of the holy name.
- Cooperation with social care, support for the poor

Developments at the Vaiṣṇava settlement, Varshana:

- Made guest rooms in the temple
- New roads are filled
- New lines of communications are laid
- A new well for the community's water supply is launched
- Night lighting of the streets is installed
- The temple has purchased new furniture for the guest room, the altar room, and the *pūjā* room
- The temple grounds have been improved
- Trees have been planted
- We plan to create a park area on the lake shore
- The Devāmṛta altar-making workshop is operating
- The Sundarī project for making *kaṇṭhi-mālā* is also active
- Sports and children's playgrounds have been set up
- Fire hydrants have been installed

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, all our development and activities can only take place with your blessings! We are very much appreciative and sincerely grateful to you for creating ISKCON for us, a place and a community of people where we can peacefully practice our spiritual life and follow your mission of helping others.

We try to follow your instructions and the goals you have set for us, your followers and your *śikṣā* disciples. We feel your divine presence every day, otherwise we would not have achieved what we have.

Please allow us to continue serving under your guidance and supervision, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are very dear to us, and we want to please you with our service. Please bless us so that our efforts will not be in vain and we will never stray from the path you have shown us.

ISKCON Novorossiysk

Omsk, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We bow to the shining dust from your lotus feet, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! *J̌aya oṁ viṣṇupāda paramahaṁsa parivrājakācārya aṣṭottara-śata* Śrī Śrīmad Abhaya Caraṇāravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Mahārāja Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

We express our deepest respects to you and pray that we may please you by following your instructions and serving your mission.

You have come to this misery-filled material world to bestow the supreme mercy of pure devotional service to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. This grace is the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, which liberates the world from the philosophy of impersonalism and emptiness. The world is sick, and numerous conflicts are arising both at the level of countries and the level of people – terrible wars and violence, diseases, mental abnormalities, earthquakes, fires, droughts, and floods. When you

came to this world, you brought the only remedy: the reunion with one's true self as a loving servant of the Lord. This is the only way to extinguish the fire of material existence.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you bestowed on us the purest knowledge and the eternal mercy of the *ācāryas*. You placed the responsibility on your sincere followers to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in modern society. The task is difficult and impossible on a material level. In your books, talks, and lectures, we hear your insistence, guidance, and power as you encourage your followers to be serious and sincere in their spiritual lives. You provide the conviction that the almighty Absolute Truth, the source of all existence, and the source of all love, always reciprocates the devotion of His servants.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your divine grace we have the opportunity to serve the first and incomparable Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda in Russia. This is your grace, as is the grace of the first Omsk Deities, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. Thirty or forty years ago, none of us could have imagined that we would ever be able to serve the source of all existence.

Now, our temple complex in the city center occupies an area of 250 square meters. The total area of the premises is 1,700 square meters, and more than 280 devotees are engaged in the worship of the Lord.

Lord Śrī Govinda gives joy to the earth, cows, and senses. For the satisfaction of the Lord, you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, have established the Cow Planet Farm, which is now home to more than



two hundred happy cows. The supreme spiritual abode of Śrī Kṛṣṇa is described as consisting of two main aspects, manifested in the spiritual world as the Audārya-dhāma (abode of mercy) and the Mādhurya-dhāma (abode of sweet love). This place is akin to the Audārya-dhāma, as it is ruled by the beautiful Pañca-tattva.

We conduct the following preaching programs:

- *Harināmas* are held twice a week for two hours
- Once a week, devotees participate in weekend *saṅkīrtana*
- There are weekly meetings in twelve spiritual communication groups
- There are programs for those who are just beginning to learn the spiritual science, such as Reading the *Bhagavad-gītā*, Sunday Yoga, and Yoga in the City Parks.
- On Sundays, the temple hosts a Sunday Program.
- Every two months, devotees organize mantra concerts.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us the resources and methods to achieve ISKCON's goals: to preach the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness as described in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam;* to spread and encourage the *saṅkīrtana* movement, which involves chanting the holy name of the Lord together and following the instructions of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu; to publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, and books; and to prepare delicious food for the Lord and distribute it to the people.

We can never fully thank you for the invaluable gift you bestowed on us. To fulfill your instructions and achieve these goals, you gave us everything we need. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Omsk

Paris, France

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my humble obeisances.

This year in France we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of your dearest Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Deities at New Māyāpura Dhāma. May they grant us spiritual strength so that we can overcome our *anarthas,* be fixed up in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and cooperatively serve your mission in France.

By casting your merciful glance on France, you offered us both the gradual and the fast track processes for purification: "One can gradually become purified by seeing, touching, and worshiping temple Deities, places of pilgrimage, and holy rivers. But one can attain the same result immediately simply by receiving the glance of exalted sages." (*Bhāgavatam* 10.86.52)

We may not have received your physical glance in this life, still, we can experience your divine presence in your books, recorded lectures, conversations, letters, and in your *mūrti* form. We can feel how deep is your compassion by hearing your pastimes from the lips of your sincere disciples and followers.

As far as we in Paris are concerned, the government is increasingly embracing the Indian culture. Last month, a new Indian cultural center opened in the heart of Paris, next to the Eiffel Tower. We were invited for the inauguration, and devotee artists from Belgium are now having an exhibition there for a few months. In the Paris region, a big temple from the Swami Narayan community is about to open at the end of 2026. We are also connected with them and hope to hold kirtans and classes there.

Meanwhile, your beloved Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisīśvara are kindly tolerating our lack of experience and maturity. You wrote, "I am also glad to hear that in your temple no one misses mangala arati and that everyone is becoming steady and peaceful in their service. It sounds as if you are taking care of your men very nicely. This is first class management. Please continue in this kind of management." (Letter to Kurusrestha, Bombay, 28 December 1974)

Sorry for not being up to this level yet. Also, I feel deeply ashamed to see such a poor facility for both the Deities and the devotees. Still, Rādhārāṇī's lotus hand is delicately pouring mercy upon us all to push on the mission, and attracting more and more souls to take shelter in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Even if we struggle to reach the standard They deserve, our attempt to follow your instructions is improving the situation day after day. We are still a small team of ten to twenty devotees living in the temple or close by. Our congregation is growing in number and maturity, but unfortunately, we must admit that we hardly attract locals to the temple. We try our best to reach out with *harināma,* book distribution, programs at the temple, home programs, kirtan events, and online programs … only by your mercy will these attempts bring a change in people's lives.

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

After regularly touring in Paris for few months, our *saṅkīrtana* party unfortunately has stopped these past months. We are sorry for that. You wrote, "To manage a sankirtana party nicely is more precious than all other activities. That is the verdict of Bhagavad-gita and the mission of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu." (Letter to Tamala Krishna, Bombay, 13 November 1975)

Book publication is finding a second breath also, with dedicated devotees patiently investing their time and energy in BBT-related services. New titles are about to come, including a reprint of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. You wrote, "Our first important business is to hold Sankirtana as many times as possible. The next important business is publication work." (Letter to Krishna Dasa, Los Angeles, 28 July 1969)

Book distribution is still going on, but less intensely compared to past years in terms of scores, but more and more devotees are entering the dance on a regular basis. Having said that, while finding ever fresh happiness in the preaching field, it is heartbreaking to see practicing devotees leaving your divine ISKCON boat in the hope of finding greener grass … in vain. Please kindly forgive our shortcomings and enlighten us not to commit the same mistakes.

One of your faithful disciples recently told me that we need more than better facilities for

the Deities; our first priority should be to take care of the devotees. Indeed, how long can we continue preaching to newcomers without caring for the practicing devotees? How long can we distribute books without developing relationships with the people? How long can we neglect the needs of senior devotees, who dedicated their life and soul to your mission?

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, if you feel I can be of any help in this regard, please engage me. With the blessings of my spiritual master, our GBC leaders, some senior devotees, and my wife, I decided to step aside from work – at least temporarily – to step back into deepening relationships, explore new areas of preaching, and dedicate more time to your mission. My only hope in this attempt is to please you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Parisīśvara.

Please kindly guide us, and please kindly keep us on the bona fide path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

An unqualified servant of your servant,
Jīva Praṇa Dāsa
On behalf of the management team of Rādhā-Parisīśvara Mandir

Perm, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept our obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet! Thank you for your compassion toward the citizens of Russia and the Soviet Union. Despite difficulties, you came to Moscow fifty-five years ago and carefully planted the seed of devotion in the hearts of the Russians.

Your mission continues to develop in the Russian territory. We have had the honor to develop your mission in Perm and the Perm region. Please accept our yearly report on our activities as an offering to you!

By your grace, we have the opportunity to serve our Deities: Śrī-Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā-Sudarśana-cakra, Śrī-Śrī Nitāi-Gauracandra, and Śrī-Śrī Prahlāda Nṛsiṁhadeva.

We conduct training courses on Vaiṣṇava philosophy, courses on receiving the *praṇāma-mantra,* receiving initiation, and *bhakti-śāstra* for devotees, as well as courses for studying the *Bhagavad-gītā* for new people.

Ten training courses on the philosophy and practice of Vaiṣṇavism, ninety-eight students who regularly attend classes, seven teachers, and qualified mentors.

For your satisfaction we distribute books. We hold monthly *saṅkīrtana* festivals. We organize *harināmas* – one *harināma* per week. Devotees pay great attention to building relationships and cooperation with government officials, thanks to which we are allowed to hold *harināmas* on the streets of the city. We distribute *prasādam* through our Food of Life program and also run a Gauranga confectionery.

We organize trips for devotees and residents of the Perm region to holy places: Vrindavan, Mayapur, Jagannath Puri, and Kurukshetra.

We organize traditional Vaiṣṇava festivals and the chanting of the holy names on a regular basis. We hold Ratha-yātrā each year. We organize round tables as a way to communicate with the representatives of authorities and other faiths in order to build trust and cooperation: the round table cycle "Spiritual Heritage of Russia: 17 facets" within the framework of Presidential Decree No. 809. In 2025, two events were held, in 2026, five are planned. Interreligious dialogue: visiting the Perm synagogue at the international conference in the framework of the interfaith round table.

In the council at the *yātrā*, we develop friendly relationships, team spirit, and cooperation. We meditate on expressing your will in managing our *yātrā*.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for filling our lives with a higher purpose! Bless us to continue developing your mission.

Your servants at ISKCON Perm

Poland

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This year, as we look at the global landscape of your ISKCON, we are deeply moved by how your movement connects different corners of the earth into one grand spiritual family. In Poland, we often feel like a unique section of a much larger, magnificent orchestra that you have put together. You are the supreme conductor, and the movement you started is nothing less than a divine symphony of *saṅkīrtana*.

Every devotee in our *yātrā* brings their own unique tone, their own realizations, and their own service. Yet without your expert guidance, our individual sounds would simply be noise. You showed us how to tune our hearts to the desire of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You taught us that true harmony is found only when everyone plays together for the pleasure of the Supreme Lord.

We are reminded of the beautiful words from the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.14.24): "A devotee whose voice is choked with ecstasy, whose heart melts, who cries untiringly and sometimes laughs, who loudly chants without shame and dances – such a person purifies the entire universe."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you created a sanctuary in Poland where this verse comes alive. Whether it is through the thundering *mṛdaṅgas* at our summer Festival of India tour, the quiet dedication of book distribution on rainy winter streets, or the sweet, steady congregational chanting in our temples – the music of your mercy is constantly playing in our lives.

Sometimes, as a *yātrā,* we face moments of dissonance or difficulty. In those moments, we look to your books and your instructions to find our rhythm again. We find strength in the eternal truth stated in *Bhagavad-gītā* 18.78: "Wherever there is Kṛṣṇa, the master of all mystics, and wherever there is Arjuna, the supreme archer, there will also certainly be opulence, victory, extraordinary power, and morality. That is my opinion."

You are our Arjuna, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your words are the absolute standard that keeps our orchestra united and focused. Following in your footsteps, the Polish *yātrā* wants to remain a faithful, dependable instrument in your hands. We want to play our part in this global symphony with purity, enthusiasm, and dedication, ensuring that no note is missed and that your glorification reaches every town and village in our country.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we beg for your continued mercy. Please keep us united, please keep us fixed in your service, and please allow us to remain forever grateful to be a part of your divine arrangement.

Your humble servants in the *saṅkīrtana* orchestra,
The devotees of the Polish *yātrā*

Radhadesh, Belgium

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this glorious and auspicious day of your appearance, we would like to offer you a report on the Radhadesh community in Belgium. For the past forty-six years, this community has been trying to serve you and your mission. Radhadesh strives to be a spiritual and devotional embassy – offering shelter and solace to residents and visitors alike and providing an alternative to all-exposing materialistic society, strongly influenced by the forces of Kali.

It is through your divine inspiration and personal example that we can make even small contributions to your mission. When things are difficult, we remember how you also struggled in your efforts to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world. When things go smoothly, we attribute that success to your mercy, and we pray that you will continue to bless us with the ability to move forward in this mission in a way that is aligned with your vision and mood.

Although it is already challenging to keep the community running smoothly day by day – ensuring that the hundreds of weekly services are covered, and that Their presiding Lordships, the community members, the guests, and the properties are all cared for – we also see it as our duty to actively work on the mission and vision of Radhadesh.

Fortunately, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have already given us a clear mission and vision. We simply need to apply it locally.

To ensure that we continue walking on the right path, as an important spiritual embassy in Europe, we are increasing our focus on the seven purposes of ISKCON that you clearly established in New York in 1966. By regularly reflecting and meditating on these seven purposes, we feel your presence strongly, and the roadmap for our service becomes clear.

Today we would like to share a brief report on how Radhadesh tries to get and remain connected to each of these seven purposes.

- *To spread spiritual knowledge and educate society in techniques that help people achieve a deeper understanding of their true spiritual nature:* Every year, Radhadesh welcomes thousands of guests – mainly tourists – who take part in guided tours. During these visits, they hear basic philosophy, chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* receive darshan of Their Lordships, taste *prasādam,* and have the opportunity to associate with a devotee. This remains one of the unique strengths of our community.

- *To promote consciousness of Kṛṣṇa as revealed in the Bhagavad-gītā and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam:* In addition to our well-known tour programs, we facilitate weekly *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes and monthly *Bhagavad-gītā* sessions online. A stable group of devotees takes turns covering one chapter of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* each week. This program has been ongoing for many years and is currently focused on the Tenth Canto, after having already completed the first nine Cantos. The monthly *Bhagavad-gītā* sessions also continue with a dedicated group of participants.

- *To bring devotees together for the purpose of uplifting one another in a spiritual lifestyle based on Kṛṣṇa consciousness:* We are grateful to report that Radhadesh maintains a steady morning and evening program. Although participation is sometimes modest, the programs continue daily without interruption. Occasionally there may be no one attending Gaura-ārati, yet the rest of the daily schedule continues, including evening *Kṛṣṇa* book readings and *bhajanas* during the final darshan.

We know how pleased you are when devotees come together to hear and chant about Kṛṣṇa's glories before the Deities. In addition, Bhakti Śāstrī, Bhakti Vaibhava, *śloka* classes, and youth courses are regularly held, allowing dedicated devotees to deepen their understanding of the path of bhakti together.

- *To teach and encourage saṅkīrtana – the congregational chanting of the holy names of God – as the primary means of spiritual realization:* Radhadesh is internationally known for the Radhadesh Mellows, during which approximately 1,200 devotees and guests come together for four full days to chant continuously for twelve hours a day. Not only do the participants benefit directly, but recordings of these kirtans are streamed millions of times each year across the world, inspiring countless listeners.

In addition, Radhadesh, in cooperation with other preaching centers and *nāma-haṭṭas* in the Benelux region, regularly organizes *harināmas* and *mahā-harināmas,* both in the vicinity of Radhadesh and in more distant towns and cities.

- *To establish holy places dedicated to Kṛṣṇa where devotees can engage in spiritual life together:* Radhadesh offers visitors the opportunity to experience life in a holy place, with Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha at the center of the community. Throughout the castle, there are many paintings – what you once described as "windows to the spiritual world."

At present, we are working to establish a complete *parikramā* path around the entire estate, as a holy *dhāma* is not complete without *parikramā*. Visitors can walk through the surrounding forest while learning key teachings from the *Bhagavad-gītā* and afterward visit the Govinda restaurant to honor *prasādam*. In this way, Radhadesh functions as a true *tīrtha* – a bridge between the material and spiritual worlds.

- *To support simpler, more natural ways of living, aligned with spiritual values and beneficial for personal wellbeing and harmony with nature:* In recent years, awareness within the Radhadesh community of the importance of simpler and more natural living has grown steadily. We are making efforts to become less dependent on external systems for water, energy, and food. Radhadesh has installed many solar panels and is currently adding batteries to better store and use solar energy across the property.

We have our own water supply through an underground river, and we use wood from our forest for heating. The Premaculture project continues to expand, aiming to apply holistic and sustainable agricultural principles. Recently, an educational yurt was built to facilitate the community members and guests in these principles.

Our cow protection program is also developing steadily. Most of the milk used for the Deities is our own ahimsa milk. We now have two bull calves in training, with the hope that they will eventually contribute through bull work at Radhadesh.

- *To publish and distribute spiritual literature, helping ensure that transcendental wisdom is accessible to everyone:* Some dedicated devotees at Radhadesh are focused on the mission of book distribution and book publication. In the past years, we reprinted your *Bhagavad-gītā* in Dutch twice, for a total of 25,000 copies. *The Nectar of Instruction,* your transcendental biography, and the life and precepts of Lord Caitanya were translated into Dutch, and 10,000 copies of each title were printed. Currently, the devotees are translating *Teachings of Lord Caitanya, Śrī Īśopaniṣad,* and *Easy Journey to Other Planets*. Devotees are selling your books in different languages, both to the Radhadesh visitors and outside Radhadesh as well. We know how dear book production and distribution are to your heart.

We also know from historical records that you would always listen attentively to the reports on different *yātrās* from around the world, so we thought this offering would be pleasing to you.

We beg for your continuous inspiration so that this wonderful community can continue to inspire all those who live here and those who visit us.

Your aspiring servants from the Radhadesh community

Rome, Italy

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet on the sacred day when your transcendental appearance is celebrated.

On this holy occasion, we first wish to glorify your inconceivable mercy and the extraordinary power of your devotional service. Your life is the living demonstration of how a pure devotee of the Lord can become a perfect instrument in the hands of Śrī Kṛṣṇa to transform the spiritual destiny of the world. With unshakable faith in the order of your spiritual master and complete dependence on Kṛṣṇa, you crossed oceans and continents to bring the holy name and the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to people who had never before heard of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Contemplating your activities, we are especially struck by how your mercy works in subtle ways, often invisible to our limited vision, yet capable of producing the deepest effects in the hearts of conditioned souls. There is a very significant incident that illustrates this truth.

During a flight to America, while you were taking some *prasādam* – puffed rice – a stewardess on the plane, attracted by its fragrance, put her hand into your plate and took some of it. Your servant became disturbed, thinking that the *prasādam* had been contaminated, but you immediately stopped him with great simplicity and compassion, saying, "That is all right. She is taking *prasādam*. Very good."

Years later, some devotees engaged in *saṅkīrtana* arrived in a small village in the middle of the Amazon jungle. Knocking on the door of a house, they were greeted by a woman who was wearing a sari, with *tilaka* on her forehead. When they entered her home, they noticed a tape of your voice playing and an altar dedicated to Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Surprised to meet a devotee in such a remote place, they asked her how it was possible that she had come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness while living in the middle of the jungle. She then explained that many years earlier she had been working as an airline stewardess and that one day she had taken some *prasādam* from the plate of Śrīla Prabhupāda. That simple contact with *mahā-prasādam* had transformed her life and led her to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Through incidents like this we begin to understand how deep and mysterious the mercy of a pure devotee truly is. Even an apparently small contact – a crumb of *mahā-prasādam,* a book, or a recording of your voice – can become the beginning of a complete spiritual transformation. In this way you have planted the seed of devotion in the hearts of countless souls, a seed that, in time, can sprout and lead them to devotional service.

In this way we can glimpse how the principle of *ajñāta-sukṛti,* spiritual merit obtained unknowingly, acts in subtle and mysterious ways. Even a small service rendered to a pure devotee can, in time, lead to a meaningful connection with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Meditating on such incidents, we increasingly understand how immense your compassion is for the conditioned souls. You did not simply preach a philosophy; you opened a doorway of mercy through which even the smallest contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness can transform a person's life.

For this reason, today we offer you our deepest gratitude. Without your mercy we would have no possibility of understanding the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Without you we would not have received *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* nor the living example of how to serve the Lord with complete dedication.

Through your teachings we also understand our duty toward the conditioned souls. In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.8.5 it is explained that the devotee appears in this world precisely to help the souls who are imprisoned in material illusion. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura explains that the word *durvinīta,* used by Hiraṇyakaśipu to insult Prahlāda Mahārāja, can be understood in a spiritual way: *duḥ* refers to this material world, which is full of suffering (*duḥkhālayam*), *vi* means "specifically," and *nīta* means "brought." Thus Prahlāda Mahārāja was specifically brought into this world to teach people how to become free from the material condition. When Kṛṣṇa is not personally present, His devotee is present, but the mission is the same: to free the poor conditioned souls from the clutches of *māyā*.

By your mercy, we have understood that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is a divine gift that must be shared with others. Just as that stewardess was transformed through a simple contact with *mahā-prasādam,* in the same way countless souls can benefit by coming into contact with the holy name, your books, and *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*.

Therefore, on the day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we wish to renew our determination to serve your mission. We want to continue participating in your work by distributing your books, spreading your teachings, and offering people the opportunity to come in contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We desire to engage more and more in *saṅkīrtana* so that more and more souls may receive even a small spark of your mercy.

We also wish to inspire those who approach Kṛṣṇa consciousness to understand the greatness of your mission and to take part in it. If even a small contact with *mahā-prasādam* or with one of your books can change the course of a person's life, then we want to do everything possible so that more and more people may receive this spiritual opportunity.

We therefore pray that you grant us the strength, humility, and determination to continue this service in the sincerest way possible, becoming ever more useful instruments in your mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world.

Your aspiring humble servant,
Hari-kīrtana Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Rome

Ryazan, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept our obeisances and immense gratitude for the opportunity to experience the teachings of Lord Caitanya that you brought to the most remote corners of the Western countries!

Because of you, in Ryazan, people were given the opportunity not only to hear the holy name but also to serve the Lord and rejoice in that service with all their hearts. The spiritual revolution



you brought to the hearts of your followers not only brought no harm, unlike revolutions in the material world, but, on the contrary, enabled them to experience true happiness and realize their spiritual nature!

Through your mercy and followers, who became spiritual teachers, we were able to join this movement, join the disciplic succession, and receive the opportunity and hope of returning home, back to Godhead. Yes, we are full of faults, our minds are restless, and our hearts are torn by material desires, but the practices you gave us, the books you wrote for us and which your sincere followers distribute throughout the world – all of these purify us and prepare our hearts for the seed of bhakti to grow within.

By your mercy, a temple has been built in our city, Deities have come to us, preachers have come, including your disciples, and people come to serve and receive your mercy.

Your servants at ISKCON Ryazan

Scotland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, every day I try to read one or two offerings from your Vyāsa-pūjā book. So many books being distributed, so many temples opening, so many farming projects starting, so many educational courses being studied, so many new fresh souls stepping forward and helping to serve the mission.

Also, we see how some devotees see the challenges that lie ahead for your ISKCON Society. One of your disciples, Anuttama Prabhu, in his Vyāsa-pūjā offering to you, fears the growing demise of your disciples could lead to ISKCON also losing your mood and the Kṛṣṇa conscious standards you set. He also foresees the potential problem of growing prestige as ISKCON emerges as a world-renowned spiritual institution.

Another disciple, His Holiness Bhakti Vikāsa Swami, highlights his concerns that devotees may be losing sight of your mood and mission in his most recent three-volume book.

Another disciple, His Holiness Śivarāma Swami, in his book, *Śuddha Bhakti Cintāmaṇi,* lists all sorts of things that go on in ISKCON now that were never heard of when you were with us. His concern is that looser standards and the introduction of so many new things will threaten ISKCON's ability to fulfill the prophesies of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. He concludes, however, like a lot of ISKCON devotees, that if your priceless books are always present at an ever-increasing volume, then all inauspiciousness and deviation in this age of quarrel can be counteracted and triumphed over. Not only distribution of your books, but distribution combined with serious study, assimilation, application, and realization of your teachings will safeguard ISKCON against mission drift and relaxation of our core vows and values.

Here in the UK, there is a strong drive to increase book distribution, and the results are reflecting a strong and pure leadership in pursuance of this goal. You once said, "We are a society of *goṣṭhyānandīs,* not *bhajanānandīs,*" which means when we see deviation, untruth, or unscrupulous behavior, we have to stand up for what we know to be right. Turning a blind eye whilst trying to quietly go back to Godhead will not safeguard the future of this dynamic preaching movement. By being conversant with the literature you gave us, rich in memorization of key verses and strict in the practices of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we can follow in your footsteps and be fearless and articulate in defending the faith and spreading the message of Kṛṣṇa.

Here in Scotland, we have faced some major challenges over the last few years. We have experienced firsthand how difficult it can be to continue in the face of adversity, and yet how important it is to keep faith in our very capable leaders – and that by doing so, Kṛṣṇa vindicates the faithful.

As we move into the middle of 2026, we look at what our strategy will be for increasing book distribution and bringing new devotees in to carry this *yātrā* into the next ten thousand years under the auspicious gaze of our worshipful Lordships, Śrī Śrī Khoḍa Nitāi-Māyāpur-śaśi.

Everything is underpinned by our ability to cooperate and chant the holy name purely. As our *yātrā* emerges from a fire of purification, we place our heads at the feet of your true followers, both disciples and granddisciples, so that we may enthusiastically serve and assist them and thus please Your Divine Grace.

Certainly, we are very blessed to have the shelter and fine example of your genuine followers. May you be pleased with us all, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and may all devotees learn to see the true intentions to please you and show all love and respects to one another.

Your insignificant servants at the Scottish *yātrā*

Serbia

Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances in the dust of your merciful lotus feet. All glories to you and to your divine appearance day!

As the sages of Naimiṣāraṇya forest addressed Śrīla Suta Gosvāmī, we would like to address Your Divine Grace in the same way:

tvaṁ naḥ sandarśito dhātrā dustaraṁ nistitīrṣatām
kaliṁ sattva-haraṁ puṁsāṁ karṇa-dhāra ivārṇavam

> We think that we have met Your Goodness by the will of providence, just so that we may accept you as captain of the ship for those who desire to cross the difficult ocean of Kali, which deteriorates all the good qualities of human beings. (*Bhāgavatam* 1.1.22)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are so fortunate to be on the boat where you are the captain. That boat is a shelter for all of us worldwide who have taken refuge at your lotus feet. To encourage us and to confirm that you are still personally with us, something wonderful happened in our *yātrā*.

Exactly thirty years ago, during your glorious centennial year in 1996, your wonderful *mūrti* came to our *yātrā*. How unimaginably merciful in the form of this wonderful *mūrti* you are! Although we never met you personally while you were still on our planet, we get your association through your books, audio classes, video recordings, disciples, and, since 1996, through this most beautiful *mūrti*.

Over the last thirty years you stayed with us during the most dangerous and challenging times of our *yātrā*. You never left us. When you arrived, we had a big temple in Belgrade inhabited by many devotees, and where around a hundred guests came to our wonderful Sunday feast programs. Our Nityānanda *bhajana* band held concerts all over Serbia, attended by many thousands of people. We had many enthusiastic book distributors, distributing around 50,000 books a year. The Deities were carefully worshiped with so much love and devotion. *Prasādam* was prepared with so much love and devotion as well. New people started to join.

But then, after some years, the situation changed. We lost our temple due to unfortunate circumstances, Kali-yuga influences tricked us in different ways, and our unity was decreasing. Since that time, your *mūrti* stayed in the homes of different devotees, in rented spaces, at summer camps, and finally at a property we got just two years ago.

Over the last thirty years, after being at our temple for only the first three years, you were traveling and staying in at least ten different places and devotee homes. You never left us, although the circumstances where we kept you were sometimes very humble. Sometimes, they were even more humble than the Bowery on the Lower East Side in New York City, where you opened your first temple in the West. But despite our limited possibilities to serve you, we were growing and maturing in your presence and in your company.

And what is the result of your confidence in us? The situation has again started to improve, slowly but surely. Over the last six years, for the first time in the history of our *yātrā,* we have been registered as ISKCON. For the first time in thirty years we have printed a full edition of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in the Serbian language. For the first time in the history of our *yātrā* we have a permanent place, where we hope generations of Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavīs will continue to live and serve together.

Our cooperation and our relationships are improving. We are making a conscious effort to develop more love and trust among us. Cooperation enriched with love and trust is a wonderful formula for success, and we have inherited this understanding from Your Divine Grace.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, without your mercy and your constant presence, who knows what would have happened to us? By your mercy, our *yātrā* is getting stronger again – slowly, surely, with small careful steps. We are trying not to repeat the mistakes of the past and to not again fall into the traps of this fallen age. We know that our achievements are almost insignificant, especially in comparison with many developed *yātrās*. But those small achievements that we have, they are for us like small precious gems – our loving offering to you and our humble attempt to please you. Those gems are our wealth, and they keep the devotees together and bring new hope for the development of a bright future for our *yātrā*.

Please accept the members and devotees of our Serbian *yātrā* as the small spiders who also want to help Hanumān and the other great devotees still present all around the world. With the hope that we can steadily continue with our humble attempts to bring satisfaction to your merciful heart, we remain your grateful servants.

The devotees of the Serbian *yātrā*

Sochi, Russia

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Meeting you is a good luck and reward for us!
Please accept our obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet
and an offering of several lines.

Let me put a garland on you –
Thanks and flowers!
Although to pay tribute to your contributions and talents
We really will never have enough words ...

We are very glad to have met you!
How difficult it is to describe in words
All the gratitude and love
In exchange for eternal priceless gifts!

We congratulate you on the day of Vyāsa-pūjā
And firstly, let us glorify Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī
For the fact that he found you in this world
And made you the founder-*ācārya*!

He acted in accordance with Śrī Kṛṣṇa's orders,
Taking care of the entire world and us through you!
You fearlessly took over his legacy.
Accept our gratitude for this!

For many years,
Keeping and fulfilling the sacred vow,
Following the mission of Bhaktisiddhānta,
You have been rescuing fallen souls from the cycle of *saṁsāra*.

Generously bestowing on your followers and disciples
Your personal example and the wisdom of your words,
Using the power of the *śāstras* and your teachings,
Destroying the doubts in their hearts.

Thank you once again for conveying to us
That Kṛṣṇa needs all of us very much,
That He is our eternal and loving friend,
That He is the creator of everything around,

That He is our goal, refuge and keeper,
Witness, savior, and the main teacher!
O Prabhupāda, thank you very much,
For you make the truths so simple to us.

Thank you to the Lord for your extraordinary feats, lectures, and books:
From *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* to *Bhagavad-gītā*!
Thanks for the knowledge we have received from you,
That we have come to understand:

It is the greatest fortune to be in the company of devotees,
And in this way, our karmic bondage is terminated!
This privilege has been bestowed upon us by your grace,
From the *guru-paramparā* and Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself!

And to please you and the Supreme Lord,
We serve and will continue to serve in your mission!
Dear Prabhupāda, in gratitude for everything,
Accept from us the 2025 annual report:

Your books truly work miracles,
Resurrecting people's hearts to life!
Saṅkīrtana-yajña has gained momentum:
32,386 books were distributed this year!

Many new people appreciated the taste of attractive *prasādam*
More than 15,000 fed by the project Food of Life!
To preach more in the territory of our temple,
The Ashrama Sochi guesthouse has been completed.

Now we can accept more devotees and guests,
To expand your mission of preaching.
So, for those who want to understand Vedic culture,
We held the Veda-Life preaching festival.

Many new people joined The Ajñāta-sukṛti Movement,
And they are now serving the Lord in the spiritual elite!
We also held the Vaiṣnavī Sochi All-Russian Festival.
Allowing *mātājīs* to study from morning to night.

Replenished and united the leadership team,
Encouraged active devotees for their many years of contribution:
Organized rest and additional training for them,
Invited senior Vaiṣṇavas of special importance!

Such as: His Holiness Adhokṣaja Swami,
His Holiness Bhakti Ratnākara Ambarīṣa Swami,
His Holiness Bhakti Bhāgavatāmṛta Keśava Swami,
And His Holiness Bhakti Rasāyana Sāgara Swami.

A charge of innermost wisdom to the *yātrā's* asset,
Gave the famous Prabhu His Grace Yuga Dharma.
Continued the successful training of novice Vaiṣṇavas
To prepare for initiation and receiving *praṇāma-mantra*.

Conducted fifty-four preaching and festival programs
With Deity worship from *abhiṣeka* to vibrant performances!
More than forty fire sacrifices,
The *saṁskāras* for the devotees and the satisfaction of the Lord!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are concluding our glorification,
We are putting a garland of gratitude on you,
Let us always serve the Lord and the *guru-paramparā,*
Let us open the gates of the spiritual world for others!

Your servants at ISKCON Sochi

South London, United Kingdom

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Every year on this day it is a time to meditate on the wondrous activities you performed during your life, and at the same time reflect on how we, as a community, serve your movement.

By reading the *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* one can appreciate the extraordinary vision you had in creating an international movement to bring Kṛṣṇa to the whole world. One only gets a glimpse of the sheer weight of difficulties and setbacks you faced, and yet through sheer will, determination, and relentless faith in the instructions of your spiritual master and the will of the Lord, it is astounding to see what you went on to achieve.

Taking a step back, it really does seem quite impossible to imagine a person, at such a late stage in their life, and having never set foot outside of India before, going halfway around the world to find themselves in a strange and alien culture, whilst not even knowing a single person. To do that not for personal gain, but for the spiritual benefit of humankind is very difficult to comprehend. To inspire so many people, who had never even heard of Kṛṣṇa before, to surrender their lives to the service of the Lord is extraordinary and astounding. And yet that is what you did and so much more.

ISKCON South London as a community runs various activities in the local area – full-day weekend programs at the temple, Food for Life for the homeless, Kṛṣṇa clubs for children, *saṅkīrtana* festivals, *harināmas,* active participation in the December book marathon, and holding daily *satsaṅgas* during Kārttika. At the time of writing this offering, the temple kitchens are undergoing renovations to modernize and improve the facilities, and there are also thoughts in the near future to rebuild the hall where our programs are held.

We fervently pray at your lotus feet for a leader who can drive the temple to grow, and that as a community we can serve you to the best of our abilities in a mood of cooperation and gratitude. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of the considerable sacrifices you have made for us.

Forever your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON South London

St. Petersburg, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this wonderful day of your appearance! All glories to you!

We glorify you on this day and on all other days throughout the year, and from year to year. Every ISKCON devotee feels gratitude toward and love for you. There is no official membership in our society, but we are united by one goal – pure devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, performed by a pure soul. And you are the personification of this goal, our inspiration, and an amazing example – our *ācārya*. Therefore, the day of your appearance is a special celebration, and the feelings we experience on this day are accessible only to us, your followers, and this is our treasure.

In our *yātrā,* devotees always really want to make a special festival on your appearance day in order to somehow express their gratitude and their emotions. Despite the difficulties that the modern world is trying to overcome, devotees continue to serve Kṛṣṇa and glorify Him in all situations. We have learned this from you through your books, lectures, and personal example. We continue to study further, and along with this, our feelings of love and gratitude toward you are constantly increasing. Every time we read your books – over and over again – new aspects of sublime spiritual knowledge are revealed to us, and our desire to improve devotional service to Kṛṣṇa and give up our material attachments increases.

Every time we listen to stories about you, we are amazed at the example of your purity, simplicity, and single-mindedness in wanting to satisfy your spiritual master. Every time we come in

contact with your disciples, we see their boundless devotion and appreciation for you. Every time we come in contact with the company of devotees, we remember the purpose of our existence and are filled with happiness and the mood of selfless service to Kṛṣṇa.

How fortunate and blessed we are now to see the smiles of the Vaiṣṇavas. For us, there are thousands of positive sources of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that have come and continue to come from you.

We would like to change our lives so that we can truly call ourselves a "Prabhupāda man." Thanks to you, all the riches of the spiritual world are open to us, and we have the power to turn everything you wanted into reality. All we need to do is to let you into our hearts, removing all barriers, and this can be done if we continue to follow your instructions and adhere to the society of ISKCON devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept our attempts at service and give us your smile.

Aspiring to be servants of your servants,
Devotees at ISKCON St. Petersburg, Russia

Stuttgart, Germany

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept the humble obeisances of the devotees at the Stuttgart *yātrā*. All glories to Your lotus feet.

You glorify your spiritual master by your example and deep devotion, and in doing so, show us the greatest example. Your instructions and the legacy you left for the devotees are for us *oṁ ajñāna-timirāndhasya,* and the torch of knowledge burns, showing the way, purifying with its light our ignorance and selfishness.

By your blessing on our living, strong, and friendly local community, we are happy to inform you of the welcoming of more and more local followers. Regular, stable programs are held at the *yātrā,* delicacies are prepared for the Deities, devotees are trained in practical etiquette, and Vaiṣṇava education is applied with eager desire. Thematic lectures are held where the speakers generously share knowledge from heart to heart – and this is experienced when we see their shining eyes, deepening questions, and curiosity.

Thanks to your enthusiasm for glorifying and chanting the holy name, we continue to carry it forward, offering lessons on musical instruments. For the inquisitive and insatiable, we conduct Sanskrit lessons and readings from the *Bhāgavatam*.

During the *harināma* held on April 11, 2026, we distributed 340 plates of *prasādam* and 46 books. Lakṣmī, fruit, a bottle of milk, and a stuffed toy for the Deities were donated to the temple. A new person joined the program from the *harināma,* hearing about the holy name for the first time. He sat and listened attentively to the kirtan with tears in his eyes, and his consciousness was transformed.

Our prayer to you is that you please allow our Stuttgart mini-temple to eternally serve your lotus feet. May we always be among our brothers and sisters – all sincere followers. Allow that which you spoke to continue to resound, and allow us to act as you acted so that the holy name, as foretold by Lord Caitanya, "may be heard in every town and village." May the people we meet

take shelter in your association, and may the devotees become more and more numerous. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept these humble offerings and efforts so that we may become just as you wish to see us.

Your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Stuttgart

Ternopil, Ukraine

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This blessed day of your Vyāsa-pūjā is yet another wonderful opportunity to immerse myself in meditation on your lotus feet. They are the only shelter for all of us – the conditioned souls. In the *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya* 19.151) it is said:

brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja

> According to their karma, all living entities are wandering throughout the entire universe. Some of them are being elevated to the upper planetary systems, and some are going to the lower planetary systems. Out of many millions of wandering living entities, one who is very fortunate gets an opportunity to associate with a bona fide spiritual master by the grace of Kṛṣṇa. By the mercy of both Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master, such a person receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service.

On our journey, we have met many teachers, yet we have never become truly happy. For how can anyone find happiness without being connected to the source of all bliss?

Kṛṣ indicates "the all-attractive existence," and *ṇa* indicates "spiritual pleasure." Thus, only Kṛṣṇa can bestow true happiness upon us. How, then, can we establish a connection with Him? He answers this Himself in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (4.34): *tad viddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā* – "Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master …"

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us devotional service and, by doing so, have given us real life, for can service to one's own material senses truly be called life? Serving dead matter makes the consciousness increasingly material and condemns the living entity to descend into lower forms of existence. This is nothing other than spiritual death.

All of humanity today is following this false path. However, the Lord is most merciful to the fallen souls. He appeared as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and gave the world His *saṅkīrtana* movement – the congregational chanting of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa. This is the only method capable of dissipating the darkness of ignorance in this age.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, it was the Lord's desire that you, specifically, should lead His movement in this world, and therefore you are our only hope. Since the moment your lotus feet



stepped onto Western soil, the entire world has been given the chance to join the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya. Everyone can now, in one way or another, serve this movement and chant the names of Kṛṣṇa.

The mercy of Kṛṣṇa flows through your lotus feet. Anyone can find shelter at those feet and thus be delivered from the fear and suffering of material existence. Those feet are the only means to attain pure devotion and love for Kṛṣṇa. The only thing required for this is faith.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please be kind to this fallen soul and grant me deep and unshakable faith in your lotus feet and in the mercy of the holy name so that life after life, I may serve you with pure love.

Your unworthy servant of your servants,
Vāmana Dāsa, temple president

Timişoara, Romania

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this holy day, the anniversary of your appearance. On this day, which is the most important day for us, we gather as a community united by your mercy to offer you our hearts filled with gratitude.

Looking at our lives, we are overcome by a profound and stirring realization: had we not had the opportunity to encounter this unique spiritual movement initiated by your unconditional grace, we would still be lost today in the utter darkness of ignorance. Without your divine intervention, we would have remained prisoners in the pursuit of fleeting pleasures, strangers to the concept of true spiritual happiness, and without any real chance of liberation from the merciless clutches of Māyā.

It was Your Divine Grace who shattered the walls of illusion in which we lived. Through your example you gave us the vision necessary to understand that we are eternal servants of Kṛṣṇa, transforming a purposeless existence into a life dedicated to the Absolute. Through your kindness, that which was once completely unknown to us – love of God – has now become the ideal of each of us, an ideal we strive to place at the center of our community's life.

Thank you for not leaving us prey to the despair of this Kali-yuga. Every moment we gather for *harināma,* every page we read from your books, and every portion of *prasādam* shared within our community is a testament to your victory over the ignorance that once held us captive.

We desperately beg for your mercy and blessing that we may be able to fulfill your desire to cooperate and succeed in the only mission for which it is worth living and dying in this world: the spreading of the chanting of the holy name to every village and city. We ask for your blessings to remain forever in the shelter of your lotus feet, the only place where Māyā cannot touch us.

Your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Timişoara

Tyumen, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at the divine dust of your lotus feet. All glories unto you, whose instructions bestow on us an inexhaustible inspiration in our devotional service together with an everyday protection from false self-identification. You keep teaching us how to better understand other people, how to preach without humiliating and insulting others – not showing off, but glorifying the *guru-paramparā*.

Who could ever imagine that your transcendental message would have reached the remote lands of Siberia in Russia! For your blessings there exist no obstacles – all the boundaries dissipate, revealing an immense ocean of the nectar of the holy name. In Tyumen, we are all so fortunate – the Tyumen temple having been named after you, Prabhupāda-deśa.

Whatever we say about these matchless gifts you have awarded us we'll always lack words to express the gratitude that fills our hearts. Meditating upon your Constitution for the Society, we feel you personally guide us in our efforts to implement your instructions right here and right now.

May our lives become flowers in the garland of our service to you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda! On this auspicious day, please let your humble servants bring to your feet everything we do for you: *harināma saṅkīrtana* in Tyumen's streets, morning Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam classes in our temple, service to our precious temple Deities *Śrī Śrī* Nitāi Gaurahari, *kīrtana-melās* and other festivals, preaching programs in the Lotus Vedic Culture Center, *nāma-haṭṭa* and *bhakti-vṛkṣa* centers, educational programs, Food for Life, the Tyumen affiliate of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, Vrindavan Café, mantra evenings, the Vaiṣṇava-sevā Committee, children's programs and the Gauri Children's Rehabilitation Center, and many other endeavors to satisfy you, O *param* guru.

Sounds of your *kīrtana* free us from the arms of *māyā*.

Your selflessness does not leave us any chance to relax or lower our *sādhana* standards.

Your mercy roots out our cruelty and fanaticism from our hearts.

Your care fills our hearts with gratitude.

Your generosity makes us discover new abilities and qualities to apply in devotional service.

Your determination burns to ashes all fears, despairs, and disappointments.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may our faith be firm! Please let us always help you serve *Śrī Kṛṣṇa* and His devotees!

ISKCON Tyumen

Ufa, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. It is a great honor for us to approach you with this small offering on the day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

We are immensely grateful to you for giving our temple and small community a special place in your great work. We feel your presence in our lives and in our hearts. Without exaggeration or flowery words, our lives lose all meaning without you. You have given us everything: a path, a place to serve, amazing Deities, the holy name, the spirit of service, and an amazing example of spiritual achievement.

It is difficult to express in words how much we appreciate all of this and how much we value our relationship with you. We understand that true devotion is demonstrated through our actions, deeds, and lives. We hope that we can use our lives to express what is in our hearts and souls, and that will be more meaningful than any words.

Thank you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. We love you very much. You are our life and soul.

In the dust of your lotus feet,
Gaura Saṅga Vaiṣṇava Community
Ufa, Russia

Valençay, France

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Please bless me that I may be able to write some words of praise and appreciation to you on this blessed day of your appearance. How is it possible for someone like me to be able to praise a Vaiṣṇava? Despite the fact that through your mercy I have had some taste in devotional service, due to my great misfortune I am still attached to sense gratification and continue to wallow in the lap of *māyā*. I have heard it said that meeting a pure devotee of the Lord can be compared to a person drowning in the ocean, who, as he comes up for air, finds himself in a lifebuoy. Me, I have preferred to crawl back out all the while holding on with one hand.

Recently, I heard in a class that we should not count on causeless mercy to help us out of this material world because this is something extremely rare that is not visited on many. I couldn't help but disagree. When I think of how, out of kindness for the conditioned soul, you gave up everything that a Vaiṣṇava hankers for – living in Vrindavan, staying in the company of *sādhus,* remaining surrounded by *uddīpanas* of the Divine Couple – to come to a world that was in complete contradiction with your own. Meditating on this, I can only disagree with the idea of not counting on causeless mercy because you are the embodiment of the causeless mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

And I am, along with countless others, the proof of the causeless mercy that you brought. Despite my lack of qualifications and my continued attachment to sense gratification, again and again I have been given the possibility to stay in the service of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. I have seen and

heard stories of the most unexpected people who got to hear of the glories of the holy names and devotional service, people far removed from the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava line, but because they knew one person associated with this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement that you brought, were blessed to have been saved from the most dangerous kind of fear.

Seeing how the chanting of the holy names has become so widespread, and how not only the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava line but other *sampradāyas* are preaching worldwide, I can only hope that they realize that all this came to be through your mercy and the sacrifices you made.

Though this material world is not always an easy place, I have faith in your words that as long as we are acting in service to Kṛṣṇa and the Vaiṣṇavas we will be protected from all inauspiciousness.

Here at New Māyāpura, the devotees are working hard to follow those instructions despite so many hardships over the years. By the mercy of guru and Kṛṣṇa, New Māyāpura has been able to take an ascending path. With the help of the local and international devotee community, a lot of effort has been put into renovation of the existing buildings and beautifying the land. We are working toward building a structure to accommodate aging devotees and building new houses and a school to allow families to settle here.

You will also be happy to know that weekly *saṅkīrtana* and daily book distribution is now again happening in France. Young devotees along with some of the older devotees go out to distribute your books. I have seen people from all walks of life coming together with the sole desire to help serve your project here in France. You are the binding factor in all of this.

I would like to end with this verse by Śrīla Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī and offer it at your feet, because every time I read it I think of you:

I am fully indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because you have given me so many things: the highest conception of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, the highest form of sound, which contains the highest form of thought, aspiration, ideal – everything. And you have given me the service of our great savior, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His dearest assistant, Svarūpa Dāmodara. You brought me in connection with Śrī Rūpa, who was ordered to distribute the heart's innermost dealings, the highest devotional love, *rāgānuga-bhakti*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given me Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī, who gives us *sambandha-jñāna,* a proper acquaintance with the environment, and you have given me Mathurā-maṇḍala, which will help me in my remembrance of Rādhā and Govinda wherever I cast my glance. By your grace, you have revealed the superexcellent position of Rādhā-kuṇḍa, the favorite place of Rādhā and Govinda for Their pastimes, and this great Govardhana. Lastly, you have given me the hope that one day I can attain the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhikā and Mādhava. I have been given all these assurances by you, so I bow my head with all my respects at your lotus feet.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I know I am not qualified to go anywhere near back to Godhead, but I pray that I may remain in your service however little that may be, because in this way my life will be sublime.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all you have done. Thank you for coming to the West. Thank you for having mercy upon us conditioned souls. Thank you for being a rebel and going against all traditions so that we may all be engaged in devotional service. Thank you for being fearless, for your kindness, for your farsightedness, for *prasādam,* for Ratha-yatra. Thank you for all your translation work. Thank you for giving us Kṛṣṇa. And thank you for the holy names. May we all be blessed remembering you on this day.

Hoping for service,
Govinda Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at New Māyāpura, France

Vladivostok, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to you, our beloved spiritual master and gracious Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna consciousness!

Bowing before your lotus feet, the devotees of the city of Vladivostok, located on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, offer our humble obeisances to you. We express our deepest gratitude to you for bringing the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to every corner of the world – even here, to the far, far east of Russia.

We, your followers, live where the first rays of the rising sun touch the earth, where the sea winds remind us of the vastness of Kṛṣṇa's mercy, and the waves of the Pacific Ocean seem to chant the holy name. In this picturesque land, full of natural beauty, we feel how your teachings fill every day of our lives with meaning.

Please accept this offering from our hearts:

- Worship and gratitude for opening the path of bhakti to us, teaching us to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, serve the Vaiṣṇavas, and see the presence of Kṛṣṇa in everything.
- The promise to follow your instructions, to study your books, apply them in our lives, spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and live according to the principles of Vaiṣṇavism.
- A prayer for your grace – so that we can continue your movement, inspire others, and make Vladivostok a place where the light of Śrī Caitanya's teachings shines.

The fruits of our service:

- Distribution of books written and translated by you
- Conducting kirtans and *Bhāgavatam* study programs
- Serving the community through *prasādam* and charity events
- Strengthening the Vaiṣṇava community in Vladivostok

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that you will always remain in our hearts, guide us with your gaze, and inspire us to walk the path of bhakti. May your blessing protect Vladivostok and fill it with an atmosphere of peace, love, and devotion. And may your teachings spread more and more widely here.

We remember your words: "Just spread this teaching cleanly and without distortion, and success will come." With this faith, we continue your missionary work, hoping that you will be satisfied with our humble efforts. Please accept our humble obeisances again and again. We are your servants, ready to serve at your command.

With deep love and dedication,
Your humble servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Vladivostok

Volgograd, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

Your boundless mercy and guidance have illuminated our lives, dispelling the darkness of ignorance like the rays of the rising sun driving away all darkness. Every word and action of yours has been a manifestation of your unwavering love for Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His mission. Your devotion, determination, and energy inspire us on a daily basis. We are forever indebted to you for the priceless gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your Divine Grace has become our guiding light in this material world. We thank you for revealing the true knowledge, for the light of the *Vedas* in our hearts, and for the path to eternal life in the service of the Lord. Your legacy is an invaluable gift that we strive to preserve and multiply.

Please accept this humble offering from our hearts as an expression of our eternal gratitude and desire to follow in your footsteps. We pray to always remain your loyal servants and to spread your teachings with the same passion and dedication as you always had.

With boundless respect and love,
Your eternal disciples and servants of ISKCON Volgograd

Voronezh, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

We are happy to be with you. Hearing your voice penetrates the coverings of our conditioning and creates in the depths of our hearts an atmosphere of love and faith in the process of devotional service.

Reading your commentaries on the scriptures transforms us from unpolished ignoramuses into sages, for we begin to comprehend their essence.

The example you set inspires us to walk the path of true renunciation and not be "cabinet thinkers."

The pastimes you manifest repeatedly convince us to accept the perfection of life (pure devotional service) without deviating into karma and *jñāna*.

While residing at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple in Vrindavan, you gaze at the *mūrti* of Rūpa Gosvāmī and seem lost in thought, but you are simply immersed in the pastimes of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, which have taken place, are taking place, and will continue to take place on this planet.

We always await your merciful glance upon our insignificant attempts in the service of Lord Caitanya's mission.

The devotees of the ISKCON Voronezh, Russia

Wales, United Kingdom

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on the day of your Vyāsa-Pūjā.

To reflect on the activities of ISKCON Wales in the light of your glories is a profound experience. However, it is not a taxing or difficult task, because, for more than thirty years now, the devotees of this community have made the mission of your glorification their life and soul. Under the direct guidance of your disciples, taking nourishment from your *vāṇī,* with the building blocks of your sincere and selfless service, they have laid strong foundations for a Kṛṣṇa conscious community. Growing a garden of bhakti from seed, the Welsh devotees have acted only to honor your instructions and to please you.



Śrīla Prabhupāda, your example is the greatest source of inspiration possible for us, and for any devotee endeavoring to preach the message of Lord Caitanya. Whenever we undergo hardships, we are reminded of what greater austerities you undertook to establish your movement. When we feel that our preaching is impotent to turn the minds of the people we meet, we remember your mood of absolute dependency at Boston harbor – that *Kr̥ ṣṇa could empower your words if He wanted*. And if we are ever bewildered about how to push on and expand, we recall how you never thought small; you boldly set out to achieve so much more than anyone else would have ever suggested, and you were successful.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura writes that the essence of all religious principles is twofold: to show compassion to the conditioned souls and to relish the Lord's holy name (*jīve dayā, kṛṣṇa-nāma-sarva-dharma-sāra*). And so, over and above our attempts to preach in your wake, we at ISKCON Wales have long striven for absorption in hearing and chanting about Kṛṣṇa. Understanding that all endeavors are "only useless labor if they do not provoke attraction for the messages of Vāsudeva," we attempt to make *śravaṇaṁ kīrtanam* our business, keeping the *mahā-mantra* and the reading of your transcendental books on the central pedestal of our focus. We can only offer you a lifetime of gratitude for sharing these secrets of success and empowering us to apply them in our previously misdirected lives.

Our Tŷ Krishna Cymru project, whose inception took place around the time of ISKCON's fiftieth anniversary, is nearing completion in conjunction with ISKCON's sixtieth. It will be a preaching facility whose every aspect is intended to make you proud through its innovation, dynamism, and fidelity to your teachings. And, meanwhile, the still-small Welsh *yātrā* has so many more projects to develop and maintain, such as gargantuan efforts to increase book distribution year upon year, prolific *prāsadam* distribution programs, and an organized network of loving devotee care.

Surely, that a group of people with less-than-scanty spiritual heritage could become inspired to take on such sacred responsibilities is nothing but a testament to your potency, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The current of Lord Caitanya's mercy empowered the Six Gosvāmīs of Vrindavan, and later Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, to live such superhuman spiritual lives that their statuses as eternal associates of Kṛṣṇa seems quite obvious. But such an unprecedented example as set by all these great *ācāryas* is no less present in your life and times, our Śrīla Prabhupāda.

And so, as our community diversifies and grows more and more into the picture of a spiritual society that you would want to see, we remain dependent on, and so much in need of, your blessings. We pray that you continue to guide us always, and empower us to overcome whatever obstacles may hinder our humble execution of your will. As a community of your faithful followers, please keep us ever in the cooling shade of your lotus feet.

Your servants at ISKCON Wales

Yekaterinburg, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On behalf of the Yekaterinburg devotees, we would like to express our deep gratitude for your involvement in our lives. Your dedication, determination, and willingness to fulfill your spiritual master's directive to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western countries and the former Soviet Union have given our lives meaning, purpose, and the invaluable gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

It is impossible for conditioned souls to find their way back home to God in the impenetrable darkness of the Kali age without the mercy and assistance of the great soul that you are. Your greatness lies in your pure devotion to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. This devotion is a rare gift and our great fortune. Through your boundless compassion, we, along with all humanity on this planet, have been given the opportunity to restore our lost relationship with Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. There is nothing more valuable in all the three worlds than this opportunity. Therefore please bless us that we may always hold on to this mercy and fortune, and always be at your lotus feet.

ISKCON Yekaterinburg

Yessentuki, Russia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

> In deep reverence, I bow down to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, for he has no other refuge than the lotus feet of the Lord. O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, we bow down to you in deep reverence. You have graciously preached the teachings of Lord Caitanyadeva and brought liberation to the Western countries, where impersonalism and the philosophy of emptiness have become widespread.

Please allow us to express our deep gratitude and respect on this day, which is so important for all of your followers – the day of your Vyāsa-pūjā! This is the most important day for the entire ISKCON society, including our entire *yātrā,* because each of us understands that if it were not for your compassion, we would not be here ... we would not have this wonderful temple, our beloved Śrī Śrī Dayāl-Nitāi Gaurahari, or these beautiful devotees who are learning to serve one another together every day by your example.

We are neither many nor few, but we are learning to accept and understand the mercy that you have shown us by inviting us into your family. You are the *senāpati-bhakta* whom Lord Caitanya Himself sent, and for the next ten thousand years, the knowledge that you left in your books will help even more lost souls who are searching for the meaning of life.

We remember how much effort you had to put in to make our society happen and for your books to see the light of day. This could only be done by a great devotee with a pure heart and the sincerity of a disciple like you.

You left us with a profound message that can help us achieve pure love for God, and this is truly a miracle. Your disciples and the disciples of your disciples continue to carry this knowledge and guide us on this path. We are very grateful to you for them; the determination and faith in their preaching speaks only of deep love for you, and seeing this, we also want to try our best to serve you.

Our Prabhupāda House is a place where we all gather around Śrī Śrī Dayāl-Nitāi Gaurahari and learn to serve Them and you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are learning to develop a mood of dependence on you, knowing that without your blessings, our insignificant attempts at service are meaningless. When we enter the temple room, we feel your gaze filled with great love and compassion. As we sing and dance, we experience immense joy in our hearts and great gratitude toward you. It was only through your mercy that They could come to us and accept our clumsy attempts at service ... Lord Caitanya and Śrī Nityānanda are with us ... and it was only possible because of you!

To understand and feel the value of each devotee whom you send to our temple, and to take care of them, is what we strive for – to generously share the gift you left us with everyone, knowing and feeling that you are with each of us.

Over the past year, 10,795 of your transcendental books have been distributed by the devotees of our *saṅkīrtana yātrā,* Śrīla Prabhupāda! In addition to distributing books, every day devotees go out to perform *harināma,* generously sharing the holy name and *prasādam* with everyone! During the year, many wonderful events were held, such as mantra yoga sessions, kirtan *melās,* public lectures, charity events for orphanages with *prasādam* distribution and cultural programs.

We also consider it important to hold the Vaiṣṇava *Sevā* festival, which brings together all the devotees of our region. This is a great opportunity for our *yātrā* to serve the devotees!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have changed our lives by showing us the true path and giving us a purpose in life. We are eternally indebted to you and, with the understanding that we can never repay this debt, we ask only for your blessing to continue serving, chanting, taking care of one another, spreading the holy name and your books. Then our lives will be successful.

With great respect and love,
The servants of your servants at ISKCON Yessentuki

Zürich, Switzerland

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance.

nama oṁ 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 Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Your Divine Grace came to the Western world in order to preach the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and deliver the conditioned souls from impersonalism and voidism especially, as it is stated in the second stanza of your *praṇām-mantra*. Out of your causeless mercy, you also came to Switzerland and personally blessed this country with your divine presence in several places. Just recently we celebrated the fiftieth jubilee anniversary of your transcendental visit and were able to once again delve into the personal memories and recollections of devotees who witnessed you planting the seed for spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in Switzerland.

golokera prema-dhana, hari-nāma-saṅkīrtana

This *saṅkīrtana* movement is coming directly from Goloka Vrindavan, the topmost region of the spiritual world, as confirmed by Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura. We actually don't know what an intimate associate of the Supreme Personality of Godhead you are, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda. Once, when asked about revealing your spiritual identity, you simply answered, "If I tell you, you will faint."

When we are too close to a mountain, it is very difficult to fully grasp its real greatness. The more we try to understand your superexcellent position, the more we are actually progressing toward understanding the Absolute Truth. As Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself states, *ācāryaṁ māṁ vijānīyān navamanyeta karhicit* (*Bhāgavatam* 11.17.27): one should understand the *ācārya* as the Lord Himself, as the summum bonum, and never disrespect him. In this way we will positively invoke the mercy of the Lord and will be able to progress on the path of devotional service.

yam evaiṣa vṛṇute tena labhyas tasyaiṣa ātmā vivṛṇute tanūṁ svām

"He [the Summum Bonum] is obtained only by one whom He Himself chooses. To such a person He manifests His own form." (*Kaṭha Upaniṣad* 1.2.23). As it is said, to invoke the favor of a rich, powerful person, the simplest and most efficient way is to please his favorite child. So, our success is in pleasing Your Divine Grace. By doing so with full faith, all the imports of Vedic knowledge

will be revealed automatically: *tasyaite kathitā hy arthāḥ prakāśante mahātmanaḥ* (*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* 6.23).

In this regard Yudhiṣṭhira Mahārāja gives practical advice: *dharmasya tattvaṁ nihitaṁ guhāyāṁ mahājano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ:* "The solid truth of religious principles is hidden in the heart of an unadulterated, self-realized person. Consequently, as the *śāstras* confirm, one should accept whatever progressive path the *mahājanas* advocate." (*Mahābhārata, Vana-parva* 313.117).

To push on Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement in a most effective way, you gave us four beautifully succinct guidelines:

Books are the basis
Purity is the force
Preaching is the essence
Utility is the principle

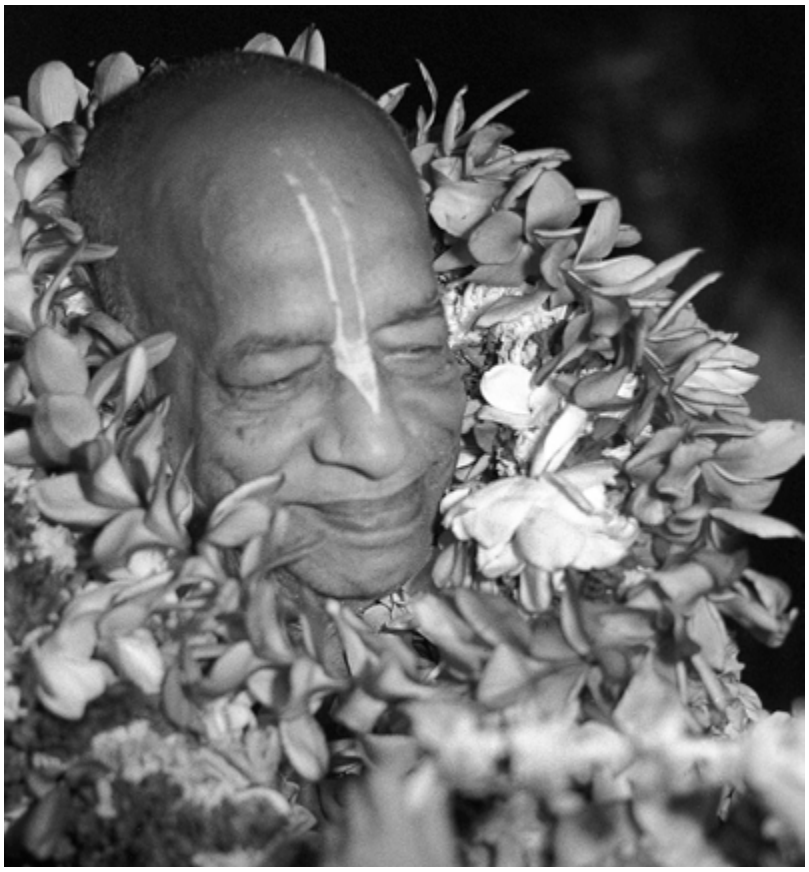
Furthermore, Your Divine Grace made a very important personal request to all sincere followers regarding how these transcendental foundational maxims will be implemented in a most beautiful manner: "Your love for me will be shown by how you cooperate with one another." This is the transcendental key for success, as the strength of cooperative efforts multiplies exponentially.

We are very grateful and eternally indebted to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for blessing the world, and especially Switzerland, with your divine presence, enabling us to be the recipients of your causeless mercy and giving us the chance to render some menial service to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement.

ānandāmbudhi-vardhanaṁ prati-padaṁ pūrṇāmṛtāsvādanaṁ
sarvātma-snapanaṁ paraṁ vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam

Please give us the shade of your lotus feet so we may never leave ISKCON and always faithfully follow your divine instructions and thus become worthy of entering the blissful ocean of transcendental life, which has a cooling, soothing effect and enables us to taste full nectar at every step.

Your humble servant,
Govinda Dāsa,
On behalf of the devotees at New Jagannātha Purī



HOMAGES FROM ISKCON CENTERS

Latin America

El Salvador, Central America

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We offer our respectful obeisances to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken refuge at His lotus feet.

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

We offer our respectful obeisances to you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī! You are kindly preaching the message of Śrī Caitanyadeva and liberating the Western countries, which are full of impersonalism and nihilism.

With great enthusiasm and gratitude, I wish to offer you, dear master Śrīla Prabhupāda, a few words on the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, and I wish to express what your auspicious appearance in this material world and in this weighty age of Kali-yuga means to me – an age where humankind is most unfortunate, filled with negative qualities that cause constant disturbance, anxiety, and a profound ignorance. The *śāstras* describe this condition as the darkness in which the soul finds itself under the complete control of the modes of material nature, becoming increasingly entangled like a spider's web by its fruitive activities, thus remaining in the repeated cycle of birth and death.

I found myself in such a sad and lamentable condition without realizing it. At certain times in my life, questions arose in my mind: Is there anything better in life than simply existing, eating, sleeping, reproducing, defending oneself, then dying? Having no satisfactory answers, I came to believe that this was simply "life."

oṁ 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. To him I offer my humble and respectful obeisances.

When the first books, *Elevation to Kṛṣṇa Consciousness* and *Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead,* arrived at my house, brought by my brother, thanks to the *saṅkīrtana* of Kṛṣṇa's devotees, the answers to my questions began to appear. And thanks to the books you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, wrote with such effort and compassion for suffering souls, four of us brothers have transformed our lives; thanks to the books and the devotees you, like a touchstone, turned to gold, preaching the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your appearance in this material world is the mercy of Lord Caitanya to redeem the fallen souls of this Kali-yuga. Śrīla Prabhupāda, in my attempt to offer you my gratitude, please grant me your blessings so that I may always be engaged in the preaching service of the *yātrā* of the savior, Lord Caitanya.

From *Śrī Guru-vandanā:*

> Our spiritual master is an ocean of mercy, the friend of the poor, the lord and master of devotees. O master, be merciful to us and grant us the shade of your lotus feet! Your fame spreads throughout all three worlds!

Always striving to be ready to serve you,
Nidrā Śilā Devī Dāsī
And the devotees of ISKCON El Salvador

Georgetown, Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we offer our gratitude at your lotus feet for blessing the world with the nectar of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Here in Guyana, we feel deeply sheltered by our connection with your ISKCON, the boat you gave to carry the fallen souls across the dangerous ocean of material existence. You did not leave us with sentiment only; you gave us books, lectures, conversations, standards, and a complete way of life. These gifts are like beacons of light, showing us how to remain safely in that boat and to row together toward the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa.

You taught us that real purification comes by taking shelter of the holy name. We are grateful to be counted among your spiritual family members, but we also know that belonging to your movement carries responsibility. It is not enough that we admire your work from a distance. We must try to embody your instructions, make tangible progress toward *kṛṣṇa-prema,* and share that experience with others in a way that is sincere, interesting, and free from pride. As your servants at ISKCON of Guyana Hare Krishna Study Centre, we pray for the spiritual strength to keep practicing bhakti as you taught us and to remain faithful to your mission.

This year, by your mercy, we are preparing to celebrate many meaningful milestones. Internationally, we are honoring the sixtieth anniversary of ISKCON. Nationally, Guyana is celebrating sixty years of independence. Locally, we are remembering fifty years since your movement came to Guyana, twenty years of preaching in Georgetown, ten years since the inauguration of ISKCON of Guyana Hare Krishna Study Centre, and twenty years of our annual Ratha-yātrā in Georgetown, the East Coast, and the East Bank of Demerara.

These anniversaries make us feel both joyful and sober – joyful, because they remind us of how much mercy you have already given to our small country; sober, because they remind us that the real success of these celebrations will not be measured only in crowds, decorations, dignitaries, or programs, but by whether more people come in contact with the holy name, *prasādam,* your books, and the association of devotees. Our festival will spread across five days, with programs at different venues and devotees expected from the Caribbean, Latin America, South America, and beyond. We are also inviting local leaders and dignitaries, praying that their participation may encourage the people of Guyana to look more favorably upon your movement and come forward to receive your mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our center aspires to become the "very nice center" that you would be pleased to see. Our congregation is growing, and many *gṛhastha* couples are now raising wonderful, Kṛṣṇa conscious children. We pray for your merciful glance upon these children so that they may grow into steady, thoughtful, and courageous servants of your mission. We have also added a few more members to our local temple board. Kindly bless us with purity, maturity, cooperation, and good sense so that our management may never become merely administrative but may always remain an offering of service to you, guided by your instructions and standards.

We hope you will be pleased to hear that regular *harināma-saṅkīrtana* is taking place in markets and villages, along with book distribution and *prasādam* distribution. Many people are still happy and excited to see the devotees, and we pray that by your mercy and the mercy of Śrī Śrī Parama Karuṇā Nitāi-Gauracandra, their appreciation may deepen into serious attraction for devotional service. We have also begun an online and live *japa* session for one hour before *maṅgala-ārati*. Although attendance can improve, it has brought more life to the temple atmosphere. Our morning programs have remained consistent, with a few devotees attending regularly, and at the time of this offering, we are working to improve the temple surroundings so that devotees and guests may come more comfortably to hear and chant.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, there is so much more we could say, yet whatever we say is small before the mercy you have given. You built a house in which the whole world can live, and somehow, by your causeless mercy, even we in Guyana have been given a place within that house. We know there are many areas in which we are lacking. Still, on this sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we pray for the honesty to see our shortcomings, the humility to correct them, and the determination to serve your mission with renewed seriousness.

Please bless us that we may take full shelter of the holy name, follow your instructions sincerely, make our lives perfect, and share your mercy with every citizen of Guyana.

Praying for your blessings and loving glance, your servant,
Hari-Kīrtan-Rasa Dāsa
On behalf of the management and congregation of
ISKCON Guyana Hare Krishna Study Centre

Guyana yātrā

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā.

On this most auspicious day, we in ISKCON Guyana humbly pray for your continued guidance that we may become worthy instruments in your hands, assisting in spreading your profound teachings and divine mission. This year marks the 130th anniversary of your sacred appearance. With each passing year, we perceive ever more deeply the limitless expanse of your glories and your transcendental qualities. Your Vyāsa-pūjā affords us a divine opportunity to contemplate your extraordinary personality and to renew our commitment to your ISKCON.

This year also commemorates the sixtieth anniversary of your incorporation of ISKCON in the United States. In a mere six decades, through the tireless endeavors of your sincere followers,



the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has expanded extraordinarily, touching millions of lives and establishing a truly global spiritual revolution.

Today we meditate upon your unwavering loyalty to your revered spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, and your resolute determination to fulfill his sacred instruction – to spread the glories of Lord Kṛṣṇa among the English-speaking world and uplift the fallen souls of Kali-yuga. Reflecting upon your early days in America, we are deeply moved by your unshakeable faith in your Guru Mahārāja and your pure devotion to Kṛṣṇa.

Despite immense hardships – uncertainty even in meeting your basic needs, and the challenge of guiding those unfamiliar with spiritual discipline – you remained steadfast, fully confident that the empowerment to fulfill your mission resided within your guru's instructions. Your commitment to pure standards coupled with boundless compassion have reached and transformed countless lives, bringing spiritual awakening to all corners of the world. In just twelve short years, you accomplished what no one in history had achieved. Today, we bow before you in profound gratitude and reverence, making our humble attempt to glorify your immeasurable mercy and sacrifice, by which you have uplifted humanity.

On behalf of the four established temples in Guyana and our wider congregation, we offer our homage unto you, our esteemed founder-*ācārya*. This year holds special significance for the Guyana *yātrā*. It marks the fiftieth anniversary of ISKCON's registration in Guyana as well as the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of our premier temple, the Hare Krishna Study Center, near the University of Guyana in Georgetown. Above all, we join the worldwide celebrations of the sixtieth anniversary of ISKCON's founding in 1966 in New York City. In recognition of these milestones, the Guyana *yātrā* is organizing a five-day commemoration, "ISKCON Guyana 60/50/20 celebrations," to honor this historic convergence.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as early as the 1970s you expressed a desire to visit Guyana and to establish an ISKCON center here. In your letter dated 4 April 1971, written to your dear disciples Vaikuṇṭhanātha Dāsa and Śaradīya Devī Dāsī, who you sent to Guyana, you encouraged them to open a center here, recognizing Guyana as a fertile field for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You envisioned a strong and beautiful center in this part of the world, and even expressed your intention to visit when circumstances permitted.

You will be pleased to know that the message of Lord Caitanya continues to flourish in Guyana. Inspired by your desire to establish temples and install Deities here, your followers have, over the years, developed four centers across the country:

1. New Kulīna-grāma in Berbice
2. the Hare Krishna Study Center in Georgetown
3. Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi Āśīrvād Mandir on West Demerara, and
4. New Navadvīpa Dhāma in Essequibo.

Three sets of Deities have been installed: Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokula Chandra in Berbice (1986), Parama Karuṇā Nitāi-Gaura Chandra in Georgetown (2016), and Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Caitanya Chandra at the Crane temple in West Demerara (1985). This year also witnessed the inauguration of the first Govinda's restaurant at our Georgetown center.

We humbly beg for your blessings that we may continue to uphold the highest standards in Deity worship. By your mercy, the observance of Vaiṣṇava festivals, book distribution, *nāma-haṭṭa* preaching, Food for Life programs, and Sunday Love feasts are all progressing steadily. We feel your constant presence and divine direction, and you remain our enduring beacon on the path of spiritual life. We pray for your mercy so that our devotees may always remain enthusiastic and loyal in their service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our shelter and our strength. Kindly bless us so that we may remain

humble mediums in your service. We pray that you forgive our shortcomings and grant us the strength to faithfully carry forward the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu as you have so perfectly taught it. You are the guiding force behind all that we do and the eternal well-wisher of every soul. You have bestowed upon us everything – knowledge, purpose, and a loving spiritual family – and we remain forever indebted to you for your causeless mercy. We earnestly pray that you empower us with devotion, courage, and humility, so that we may continue to serve your divine mission with sincerity and determination. May your words forever illuminate our lives.

Today we renew our vow to spread the mission of Lord Caitanya, to serve the devotees, and to immerse ourselves in the nectar of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa. Please continue to guide us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we may one day become true conduits of your boundless compassion and love. Kindly empower us to work together in harmony, with unwavering faith, determination, and love, in service to your divine mission. May we remain united in devotion, supporting one another in fulfilling your desires and sharing the sublime gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide.

From the depths of our hearts, we offer our gratitude, our adoration, and our very selves at your lotus feet, praying always to remain engaged in your service. This alone is our life and soul, and our sole aspiration in this life. Please keep us always near your lotus feet and engaged in spreading the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness through many diverse means.

We thank you for all the sublime gifts you have given us.

Your servants of the Guyana *yātrā*
(written by Paramatma Dāsa)

Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our boundless *daṇḍavats* at your lotus feet. All glories to you.

sakhyena saṁsthira-dhiyādhama-sāthako 'pi
seveya te parama-vismaya-bhakta-saṁgham
cikroḍa-vṛndam iva rāghava-divya-setuṁ
vande suvismaya-karaṁ prabhupāda-devam

> O Śrīla Prabhupāda! Although I am a fallen *sādhaka,* a humble practitioner of *bhakti* according to the teachings of Your Divine Grace, I beg for the privilege of serving the wonderful society of devotees you have created. I pray that this service may be rendered in a spirit of friendly cooperation with other devotees and with firm intelligence. However, my small attempt to serve your mission is similar to the service that squirrels rendered to Lord Rāma in the construction of the enormous bridge over the ocean. Śrīla Prabhupāda, with profound gratitude, I offer my humble obeisances to you who performed the most wondrous deeds. (*Śrīla Prabhupāda Vismayopahāra Daśakam* 11)

On this glorious day, we celebrate your divine appearance in this world. We pray that your divine grace will be poured out upon the hearts and minds of all your followers.

Kali-yuga and *māyā* are so powerful that even almost fifty years after your physical departure, great obstacles and challenges have arisen that threaten the stability of your sacred ISKCON mission. The scriptures, the *ācāryas,* and even Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself, as in His form of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, have established that the founder-*ācārya* is the ultimate authority in his movement and must be followed exactly as he taught, without changes, dilution, or deviation from his commands. ISKCON's dharma was established by you, as the empowered founder-*ācārya* of the ISKCON Vaiṣṇava *saṅga,* and no one has the right to change anything or circumvent your authority through social experiments. You established all the standards for leadership, whether at the level of GBC, *sannyāsī,* guru, temple president, *pujārī,* etc., and we must all simply follow them – no compromises, dilutions, or experiments. No one should believe they can be stricter than you or more liberal than how you taught us. Please, in your mercy, heal the evil influences of Kali-yuga and *māyā* in your sacred ISKCON *saṅga*. Please allow us to be your servants eternally, obeying you without deviation, simply following you "as it is." May peace and harmony reign among your followers. So be it, by your divine grace.

Your servants at the Rādhā-Govinda Mandir, Saltillo

Southern Cone, South America

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you! All glories to your beloved Guru Mahārāja, the lion among the Vaiṣṇava *sannyāsīs*!

This year, 2026, following my recent trip to India, I come before you with a realization that has shaken my material complacency. Passing through Dubai, I encountered a city that defies imagination: impeccable architecture, boundless luxury, and an order that seemed almost paradisiacal. For a moment, my conditioned mind whispered, "What a wonderful place to live. What a comfortable refuge to spend my days in."

But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, do not allow your followers to sleep for long in the lap of Māyā. Barely two days after leaving that place, the reality of this world struck with the news of bombs falling upon that very opulence. That paradise was made of glass. I then recalled the verse from Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (10.14.58) that you so often quoted: *padaṁ padaṁ yad vipadām* … – this material world is a place where danger lurks at every turn. No matter how much technology or beauty we accumulate, this world remains a place of suffering, and only your lotus feet are the safe boat to cross this ocean of ignorance.

Argentina: From the Pain of Envy to the Hope of Faith

You knew the character of this distant country well. We remember with sorrow that dark time when the movement in Argentina was shut down by the military dictatorship. It is said that upon receiving the news of the closure and the persecution, you remarked that Argentina was the most envious country in the world, for envy is the root of religious intolerance and the rejection of God. However, despite this harsh diagnosis of our nature, you never abandoned us.

In your letters to Brahmānanda and Hanumān, you wrote with transcendental vision: "The

BTG Argentina and the photos showing Argentine ladies and gentlemen singing and dancing in ecstasy give me great hope."

Even in a land marked by envy and conflict, you saw the potential of souls to transform. Here we stand, Śrīla Prabhupāda! Your faith in us was stronger than our own degradation. You taught us that the only way to cure envy in the heart is by chanting the holy names and performing humble service.

The Pastime at Jagannath Puri: Your Living Voice in Your Books

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always say that you are alive in your instructions (*vāṇī*). I vividly recall proof of this in 1998. We were on pilgrimage to Jagannath Puri, the holy place where Lord Caitanya lived His final pastimes. While visiting the Gambhira, we were captivated by the atmosphere and heard a group of people chanting a mantra with a very sweet melody:

sri-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda
hare kṛṣṇa hare rāma śrī rādhe govinda

In our innocence and lack of technical guidance at the time, we began chanting it along with them, thinking we were deepening our devotion. However, upon returning to our hotel, we resumed our systematic reading of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* just as you had instructed us to do. Amazingly, we opened the book to the exact passage where you spoke directly to us:

> There are many unscrupulous devotees who, taking advantage of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, compose their own *mahā-mantra.* Sometimes they chant "*bhaja nitāi gaura rādhe śyāma hare kṛṣṇa hare rāma,*" or "*śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda hare kṛṣṇa hare rāma śrī rādhe govinda*." In reality, however, one must chant the names of the entire Pañca-tattva ... and then the sixteen words of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*.... Of course, they are Vaiṣṇavas and must be respected, but these unscrupulous and unintelligent men muddle the whole process.

It was as if you were right there, giving us a merciful "scolding." You taught us that devotional feeling without following the prescribed method is dangerous. That instruction protected us from straying from the path and confirmed that your books are your personal presence guiding us.

Your Stature Grows: Saint Among Saints

You are no ordinary saint; you are the empowered *śaktyāveśāvatāra*. As the *Kṛṣṇa-bhajanāmṛta* of Narahari Sarakāra says, although all Vaiṣṇavas are transcendental, there are "waves of varying sizes" in the Ganges of devotion. You are the largest wave that has ever struck the shores of the West. You transformed degraded people into perfect ladies and gentlemen, and you continue to do so even today.

I long for the day when we can enter that beautiful house that Kṛṣṇa has prepared for you in the spiritual world. We know that you are waiting for us eagerly, with open arms, because your love is unconditional, and, as you wrote to Brahmānanda in 1969, you have no intention of returning to Goloka without us.

We bow before you once, a thousand times, a million times, because you are worthy.

Your grandson and servant,
Baladeva das

Suriname

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

My most humble and prostrated obeisances unto Your Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

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

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

On this most sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā in 2026, we attempt to glorify your divine presence through service, philosophy, and measurable sacrifice, knowing well that no amount of words or numbers can truly capture your unlimited mercy.

Yet, as you instructed, devotional service must be practical, organized, and result-oriented. Therefore, we present before you a glimpse of how your mission is manifesting in Suriname.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your movement in Suriname continues to expand steadily. Today, active preaching is taking place in four districts – Paramaribo, Nickerie, Wanica, and Commewijne – with established centers in Paramaribo and Nickerie, and outreach growing in the other regions.

In Paramaribo alone, your *mandira* serves approximately 150 active devotees, including 43 initiated members. We reach around 700 people regularly through our preaching programs. In Nickerie, a dedicated community of approximately 26 devotees (8 initiated) reaches out to around 220 people. Even in developing areas like Wanica, weekly programs are attracting 15–30 participants, showing the gradual awakening of devotion.

Your daily temple program continues without fail, with multiple *āratis* daily (*maṅgala-ārati,* Deity greeting, *rāja-bhoga,* and *gaura-ārati*) and a weekly Sunday feast, attracting around 60 people in Paramaribo, 20 in Nickerie, and 15–20 in Wanica. This is the living manifestation of *nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā*.

Your festivals, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have become powerful instruments of transformation. Major events such as Gaura-Pūrṇimā and Janmāṣṭamī attracted up to 500 people, while Ratha-yātrā reached approximately 700 participants. These are not mere gatherings; they are *saṅkīrtana-yajñas,* fulfilling Lord Caitanya's prophecy.

In the area of book distribution, the very heart of your mission, the results are especially inspiring. In 2025, your followers in Suriname distributed 1,687 transcendental books in total, including 1,348 books in Dutch and 339 in English. This generated over SRD 313,580.65 in distribution value, representing an astonishing 197 percent growth over the previous year.

Truly, this is the sound of the *bṛhad-mṛdaṅga* resounding across the country. Not only did your devotees spread books, but a number of *harināmas* were conducted, as instructed by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Your instruction that no one should go hungry has also been honored through our Food for Life program. In 2025, 3,120 *prasādam* meals were distributed, supported by over SRD 168,000 in donations. This is spiritual compassion in action. Furthermore, six cookouts were held to help the temple finances in the spirit of self-sufficiency, to which the Surinamese people respond very generously. Many people flock to get a taste of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam,* and this is all because of Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your emphasis on education is also being realized. Weekly classes in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* reach 10–15 participants per session, while *bhakti-vṛkṣa*

programs engage smaller groups deeply. Formal training programs, such as Bhakti Śāstrī and disciple courses ensure that your movement remains philosophically grounded.

At the infrastructure level, your mission is taking physical shape. ISKCON Suriname now holds 24 acres of land in Commewijne for future development, alongside established preaching locations in Paramaribo, Nickerie, and Wanica. In Wanica, 1.23 acres of land was secured and is finally in ISKCON's name. This area is strategic and will serve for the expansion of your mission further onto the southern part of Suriname.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when we reflect on these numbers, we understand a deeper philosophical truth: these are not statistics but souls being connected to Kṛṣṇa. Each book distributed is a life changed. Each meal served is karma purified. Each kirtan performed is ignorance destroyed.

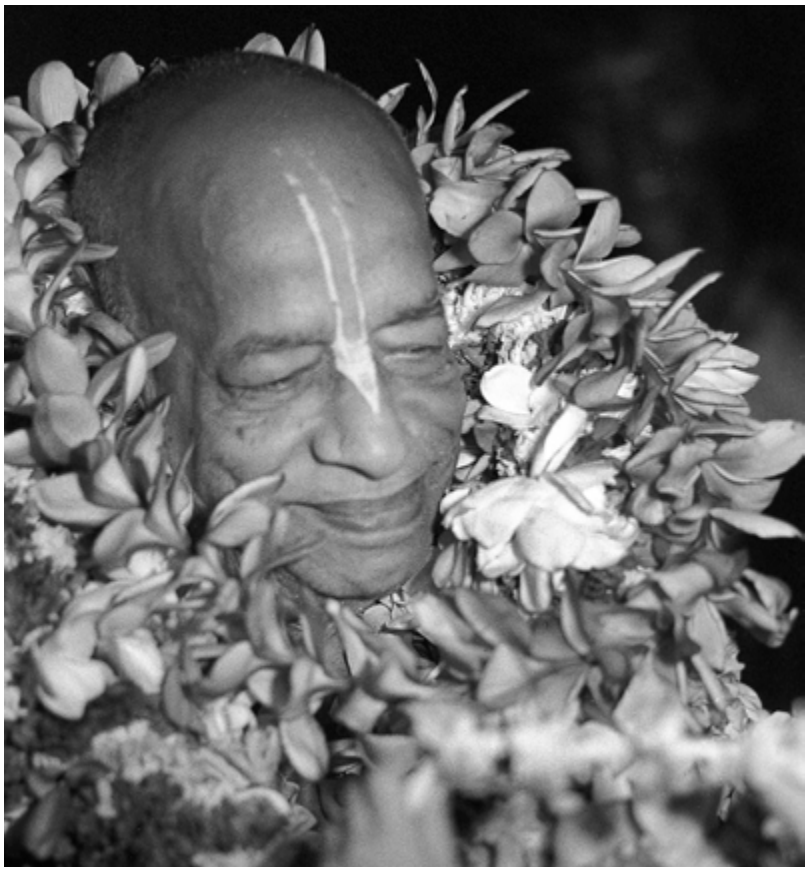
Still, despite these efforts, we recognize how small our service is compared to your desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village.

As stated in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta: pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma, sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*. You have given us both the mission and the method. What remains to develop is our sincerity.

Therefore, on this Vyāsa-pūjā day we humbly pray that we may increase our service. May we expand our preaching. May we purify our intentions. May we become true instruments in your hands.

Please bless us that in the coming years, these numbers will not only grow but deepen in quality, devotion, and purity. Śrīla Prabhupāda, everything we have is your mercy. Everything we do is in your service. Everything we aspire for is for your satisfaction. Please accept this insignificant offering.

Your eternal servant,
Shantipriya Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Suriname *yātrā*



HOMAGES FROM ISKCON CENTERS

Canada & USA

Alachua, Florida, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, our ever well-wisher, eternal spiritual master, and savior of the world.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for the causeless mercy you have bestowed on us. You alone are responsible for bringing the most confidential transcendental message of Lord Caitanya to America and thereafter distributing it throughout the world.

Of the hundreds of ISKCON temples throughout the world, your Alachua, Florida, community, where we are honored to serve, is one of your most diverse. We have devotees here from over twenty countries, and around two hundred of your initiated disciples live in the surrounding area. Then there are also second- and third-generation devotees, who are offering their experienced service, along with newcomers who have enthusiastically embraced the path of devotional service.

Among the devotees are doctors, nurses, lawyers, realtors, artists, contractors, musicians, accountants, farmers, writers, business people, and those who work in the service industry. We also have teachers, most of whom teach in the two temple-affiliated schools. Along with the diversity in occupation and nationality of the devotees, there is also a wide range of religious, cultural, and social backgrounds among the devotees.

In spite of such diversity, there is, by your grace, real unity. All are engaged according to their propensities and means in devotional service under your guidance. Along with the two temple-affiliated schools, we have elaborate Deity worship, campus *prasādam* distribution and preaching, street *harināmas,* monthly kirtan festivals, six to eight annual Festival of the Chariots programs, an annual and now famous Festival of the Holy Names, large-scale vibrant observance of various festivals like Śrī Janmāṣṭamī and Gaura-Pūrṇimā, and, of course, book distribution.

In your purport to Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 4.30.8 you write: "The unity of the individual souls attempting to satisfy the Supreme Lord or rendering service to the Lord is real unity. In the material world such unity is not possible. Even though people may officially unite, they all have different interests. In the United Nations, for instance, all the nations have their particular national ambitions, and consequently they cannot be united. Disunity between individual souls is so strong within this material world that even in a society of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, members sometimes appear disunited due to their having different opinions and leaning toward material things. Actually, in Kṛṣṇa consciousness there cannot be two opinions. There is only one goal: to serve Kṛṣṇa to one's best ability. If there is some disagreement over service, such disagreement is to be taken as spiritual. Those who are actually engaged in the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead cannot be disunited in any circumstance. This makes the Supreme Personality of Godhead very happy and willing to award all kinds of benediction to His devotees, as indicated in this verse."

On this sacred day, we pray for the strength to remain united, to honor one another as your servants, and to continue growing as a community that reflects your vision of a worldwide spiritual family.

Thank you for not only giving us Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, but one another.

Your servants at the Alachua devotee community

Angus, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are a small community in Angus, Ontario, north of Toronto, where the nearest ISKCON temple is more than 108 km away. Though physically distant from the temple, by your mercy we have never felt far from Kṛṣṇa consciousness because your books have brought your association directly into our homes and hearts.

By the enormous help of your books, we have been able to introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness to many people in our area. Most are Westerners who had little understanding of God, the demigods, or the science of the soul. Through reading your books such as *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, The Science of Self-Realization,* the *Kṛṣṇa Book,* and others, they have made remarkable spiritual progress. Your words carry such potency that they awaken devotion even where there was previously no knowledge of bhakti.

By your causeless mercy, our small group became officially registered as ISKCON in 2025. What began as a few gatherings has become a genuine spiritual family. Some devotees among us have taken the path of bhakti very seriously, and by your blessings and the blessings of guru and the Vaiṣṇavas, they have now received initiation into your movement. This is all your miracle.

You have created a spiritual home for the whole world. Even in small towns, even far from temples, your presence is alive through your books, your instructions, and your devotees.

Your books are our guide, your teachings are our shelter, and your example inspires us to continue sharing the holy name in our community. Whatever little service we are able to do in Angus is simply an extension of your compassion.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us life, purpose, and the path.

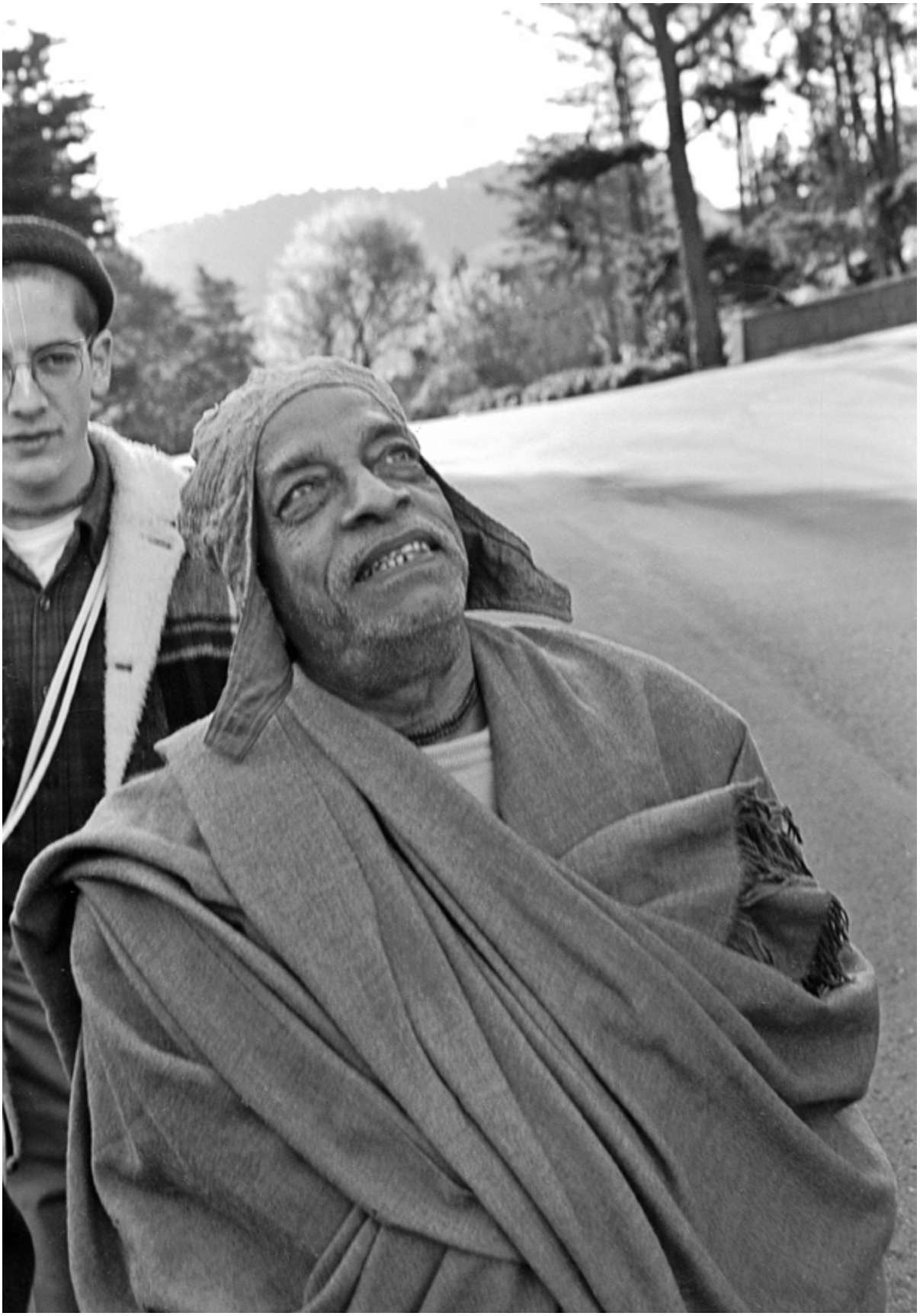
Your humble servant
Kṛṣṇa Kathā Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Angus

Athens, Ohio, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our humble obeisances to you, at whose feet all masters sit. All glories to your extraordinary life of pure and unalloyed devotional service to Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa!

On this most auspicious occasion of your appearance in this material world, we take the opportunity to remember you and to meditate deeply on the meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā. In the early days of the Tokyo temple, in 1970, on the occasion of Vyāsa-pūjā, you instructed your disciples about the meaning of the Vyāsa-pūjā day and about serving the spiritual master in separation. You said: "You should always pray that only by the grace of the spiritual master we achieve the grace or mercy of Kṛṣṇa. This is the meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā … remain always faithful to the spiritual master and try to understand Kṛṣṇa."



Today, we meditate on your instruction and rededicate ourselves to the service of your mission here in Athens, Ohio. We seek your blessings in order that we might carry on with our humble attempts to assist you in your work of bringing light to the people of this modern age of spiritual darkness, Kali-yuga. Your life's example is our guiding light and our inspiration. Please guide our thoughts, words, and deeds as we continue on. Please give us the strength to take your vision of Kṛṣṇa consciousness forward and share the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* with everyone we meet, just as you did.

Out of profound compassion, on a wonderful day – May 19, 1969 – you addressed the people of Athens, Ohio, at a place called the Appalachian Lighthouse. How appropriate, as you had come to bring illumination to this remote place, located so far from the birthplace of Lord Caitanya.

Your message was simple. You spoke about the importance of chanting and what it can do for the human being: "[W]ith chanting, there is no religious or sectarian movement, only happiness. Happiness is man's nature. It is one of man's inherent qualities." May the people of Athens become happy by being in contact with Kṛṣṇa and by the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa!

It has been our honor to represent you and to share your message of "Chant and be happy!" We pray that our service attempts are pleasing to you and to the entire disciplic succession.

We beg to remain your humble servants,
Ashok Gupta, professor emeritus
Prem Vilas Dāsa
Pranatakaruna Dāsa
Rāsalīlādevī Devī Dāsī (ACBSP)

Austin, Texas, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You said: "I have built a house in which the whole world can live." Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have indeed built such a house – a home for the entire world. By your causeless mercy, ISKCON Austin stands as one of those sacred homes, where people from all walks of life can come, find shelter, and connect with Kṛṣṇa.

You once taught that if everyone were pure, there would be no question of preaching. Yet, by your inconceivable compassion, you engage us in your service, giving us the opportunity to purify ourselves and to please Kṛṣṇa by assisting those who come to your house in Austin.

Here at ISKCON Austin, a small leaf on the great tree of Lord Caitanya, we aspire to remain humble instruments in your service. In whatever small way, we seek to assist in the spiritual journeys of all who come so that our efforts may bring you pleasure.

We understand that each person who walks through these doors is special. Every soul who comes to your temple does so for a reason, some out of curiosity, some in distress, some seeking peace, and a rare few in search of the ultimate truth. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave everything for every one of them. Please bless us to receive them as you would want, to care for and guide them on their spiritual path, and to become worthy participants in your divine mission.

By your mercy and under the guidance of your disciple, His Grace Saṅkarṣaṇa dāsa Adhikārī, we feel deeply fortunate to be engaged in your mission and to grow in our Kṛṣṇa consciousness by following your instructions.

As Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhakura prays:

kabe jīve doyā, hoibe udoya,
nija-sukha bhuli' sudīna-hṛdoya
bhaktivinoda, koriya vinoya,
śrī-ājñā ṭāhala koribe pracāra

> When will I feel compassion for all living beings? When will I forget my own happiness in true humility? And when will I, Bhaktivinoda, go from door to door, preaching Your message?

We pray we can imbibe this mood in the service of Your Divine Grace. Please continue to shower your mercy upon us so that we may always remain engaged in serving in this sacred home.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our words, our actions, and our lives at your lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your pleasure is our only goal. We humbly beg for your guidance, protection, and shelter so that one day we may truly become instruments in your hands and assist in relieving the suffering in Lord Caitanya's heart, for where else can we go but to take shelter at your lotus feet?

All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!

Your humble and eternal servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Austin

Barrie, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

We want you to know – you are our heart and soul. You came to the Western world on the order of your Guru Mahārāja, carrying the mission of Kṛṣṇa consciousness purely in your heart with unwavering faith and compassion for all conditioned souls.

In that same spirit, we are trying to serve your mission here in Barrie, Ontario. We are small and limited, but we sincerely pray for your mercy so that this place may become fertile ground in the true sense, where sincere devotees can grow, deepen their faith, and remain steady in service to Kṛṣṇa.

If ever we fall short, we pray to rise again only for you, only for your pleasure, and only to keep your instructions alive in our hearts and actions.

Please continue to guide us, protect us, and keep us connected to your lotus feet.

With deepest gratitude and humility,
The devotees at ISKCON Barrie

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

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 your Vyāsa-pūjā, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for your causeless mercy upon all conditioned souls. You crossed oceans at an advanced age, carrying the pure message of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa without compromise, giving shelter, direction, and hope to innumerable souls lost in material existence.

I feel deeply indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because whatever little spiritual life I have is only by your mercy. There is no way I can ever repay what you have given, not only to me, but to my entire family, including my wife and our two daughters, and to so many others whose lives have been transformed through your mission.

Along with my family, I had the good fortune of serving at ISKCON New Orleans for many years, receiving association and guidance from our mentors, many of whom are your senior disciples. By their mercy, we were engaged in devotional service and strengthened in our understanding of your teachings and mission.

Inspired by the instructions of your disciples, including our *dīkṣā-guru* His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami, in 2018 we felt compelled to begin preaching in Baton Rouge. What began as small weekly gatherings in a rented apartment has gradually grown larger only by your mercy. During the pandemic, the programs continued in our home, sustained simply by faith in your instructions and the strength of congregational service.

By your arrangement, we were able to acquire a space, which we gradually developed into a center for devotional activities. That humble beginning has now grown into a preaching center and temple. We also hold weekly programs at LSU for students, and those who show sincerity are eventually introduced to the temple setting for further nurturing in devotional life. By your mercy, we are also seeing how people come forward in unexpected ways to offer help and support for this mission. We clearly see that none of this is solely our endeavor. It is your desire manifesting through very imperfect instruments like us.

Today, this space has become a shelter for a flourishing community of students, professors, intellectuals and sincere seekers. By your books, instructions, and *saṅkīrtana* movement, hearts are being softened and lives gradually turning toward Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I feel completely unqualified and always indebted. No words can express what we have received from you, and no effort of ours can ever repay even a drop of it. Still, we pray only that we may remain constantly engaged in your service without deviation, pride, or forgetfulness.

Please bless us that we may always remain your humble instruments, faithfully carrying

forward your mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village, and never forget that the perfection of life is to serve your instructions with sincerity and devotion. Thank you for giving us a life of meaning, a spiritual family, and a path back to Godhead.

Your most insignificant servant,
Sarvatāraka Dāsa
and the devotees of ISKCON Baton Rouge

Boise, Idaho, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On Your Divine Grace's most auspicious 130th Vyāsa-pūjā day, at New Biharvana in Boise we are reflecting upon three anniversaries:

1. Sixty years since the establishing of ISKCON
2. Fifty years since your disappearance from this planet
3. Forty years since we opened the Boise temple

60, 50, 40

In your biography, *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* Satsvarūpa Mahārāja quotes you as you set foot in New York City, in September 1965: "I did not know whether to turn left or right."

Now sixty years later, one can go to any corner of the world and walk left or right – nay, in any of the ten directions – and one will bump into a devotee quietly walking with a beadbag in his hand, *kaṇṭhī-mālā* on his neck, and *tilaka* on his forehead. Or perhaps he'll have a bright yellow *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in hand, beseeching unfortunate souls to take one. Or maybe your ears will catch the singing of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. I have personally experienced all of these in my travels throughout the world.

Thanks to your determination and conviction, in sixty years Hare Kṛṣṇa has permeated the entire world:

pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma
sarvatra pracāra haibe more nāma

In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard.

Lord Caitanya predicted it, Lord Nityānanda predicted it, the preceding *ācāryas* wanted it, and then you, empowered by your guru, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Gosvāmī, fulfilled it. During the last two years, in my travels to the End of the World Route at the southern tip of Chile, next to Antarctica, I was amazed to see Lord Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā being worshiped and devotees holding their first Ratha-yātrā. Going north, near the Arctic Circle in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, devotees are almost finished building a four-story temple. In the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal, devotees are distributing books as far north as Muktinath, the place where people go to get liberation.

Ten years after you left us fifty years ago, you had established the *yuga-dharma* under the ISKCON banner, where the oldest religion had become the newest religion; the eternal *sanātana-dharma* has been rebranded as ISKCON. From 108 temples now, there are more than 1,008 temples, farm communities, Govinda's restaurants, and countless *bhakti-vṛkṣas*. By the time you had left us, you had inspired many of your disciples, who inspired the second-generation devotees. The result of such inspiration is the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Baṅkebihārī temple in Boise, Idaho.

In Boise, we are now celebrating forty years of the birth of this temple. It is a very small offering to Your Divine Grace, a small cog in the wheels of the giant ISKCON *ratha*. With your permission and for your pleasure, on behalf of the devotees in Boise, I would like to present to you our salient contributions to ISKCON.

The temple started as a preaching center in 1986 in a 600-square-foot family room under the guidance of four of your exalted disciples: His Holiness Gaṇapati Swami, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, His Holiness Hanumāt Preṣaka Swami, and His Holiness Badrinārāyaṇa Swami.

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Baṅkebihārī is the only Baṅkebihārī in ISKCON in the Western hemisphere. Based on Their pastimes in Boise, They are nondifferent from Baṅkebihārī in Vrindavan and the Deity you installed in Nairobi. The temple ceiling is the only ceiling in ISKCON temples that has the entire spiritual sky and material sky painted on it, as depicted on the cover of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* Canto 1.

We celebrated the first Holi in ISKCON in the US in 1987. Your exalted disciple, Cāru Prabhu, picked up on the idea and made it a worldwide phenomenon.

We held our first twenty-four-hour kirtan in ISKCON in the US in the 1990s – an idea picked up from another of your exalted disciples, His Holiness Hanumāt Preṣaka Swami, who had held a twenty-four-hour kirtan in Nashville and then it spread elsewhere.

We conducted the first New Year's Japathon in Boise, chanting 300,000 names on New Year's Day, which again was picked up as an annual activity on New Year's Day in many temples, including Salt Lake City and Naperville, Illinois. Over the years we have now collectively chanted over one million names on New Year's Day.

We started the homeschooling movement in ISKCON by homeschooling our children based on studying *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Right from the inception, our focus was on two areas: to raise Kṛṣṇa conscious children by homeschooling them, and to have a truly international congregation. In forty years, forty-two devotees were initiated, of which one third are Westerners. Our latest effort started three years ago, when we started a Thursday evening Kṛṣṇa Lounge program to attract Westerners.

COVID-19 slowed us down quite a bit, but we are rebuilding and rejuvenating now. We need your blessings to venture into our half century of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Boise.

Seeking drops of your mercy and shade under your divine lotus feet
in the dry parched desert of Idaho,
Your insignificant servant on behalf of the devotees in Boise,
Anantarūpa Dāsa

Brampton, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you.

We, aspiring to get shelter at your lotus feet, have no qualification to glorify your life, qualities, and pastimes, yet we believe that glorifying an exalted Vaiṣṇava *ācārya* like you is a way to purify our heart and soul. We pray to the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Giridhārī, the presiding Deities of ISKCON Brampton, for humility, so we can present our humble offering to you with the right words in the right spirit. Any limitation in our endeavor to glorify you is probably a reflection of limitations and imperfections in our devotional service and limitations in following your instructions as you have given them.

As our ever well-wisher, you endowed us with the greatest gift: the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, ISKCON. Your life and deeds continue to inspire thousands of people to join the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement every day from all sections of life.

The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement was introduced by none other than Kṛṣṇa Himself in the form of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Mahāprabhu made a predication that in every town and village, the chanting of His name will be heard (*pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi-grāma sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*). You accepted Mahāprabhu's instruction as your personal responsibility. Being empowered by Mahāprabhu as his warrior devotee (*senāpati-bhakta*), at a very advanced age you left your accomplished spiritual life in Vrindavan for America, to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In your journey as a *parivrājakācārya*, you endured health issues, physical discomfort, psychological torment and uncountable risks; yet you were fearless and relentless in the face of every adversity and calamity. While you were under no compulsion, you undertook this great spiritual endeavor to make Mahāprabhu'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 through the glorious path of devotional service. We owe you an unrepayable debt of gratitude.

The ISKCON community continues to thrive despite many societal challenges, because the purpose is genuine, and the process is sublime. It is no overstatement to say that human society at large is deriving much-needed spiritual nourishment from the ISKCON movement. It is also not an exaggeration to mention that ISKCON is serving as the modern transformational institution for many ordinary souls, who get solace by following your simple instructions on the devotional path and by taking shelter of your books. You were the touchstone magician who reshaped many ordinary human hearts into pure golden ones.

After your departure from this material world, your mission continues to be the change agent in society. We continue to experience significant spread of the movement both through various traditional methods, such as house congregation programs, outreach preaching, temple programs and creative means of virtual outreach that leverage technology to reach thousands of ordinary souls all over the world who are waiting to follow your instructions.

The ISKCON movement assumes even greater significance in this decade, mired in geopolitical

conflicts and forever wars. With global mental health continuing its downward spiral in the aftermath of the pandemic, many are finding a much-needed solace by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa.

The devotees at ISKCON Brampton feel a deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness for the spiritual treasures you bestowed upon our community. With more than 650 devoted members, the ISKCON Brampton community continues to flourish year by year, driven by the profound sense of purpose you gave us. The following are some lines of sight presented for your pleasure.

Congregation programs: With numerous congregation programs across the Greater Toronto area, ISKCON Brampton is attracting more new devotees by propagating your teachings. Many of these newcomers have made immense progress on the devotional path and are making significant contributions in various initiatives through sincere service.

Book distribution: Book Distribution has been one of the most telling successes of ISKCON Brampton in recent years. In 2025, ISKCON Brampton was able to distribute a total of 13,000 books, which includes 71 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets, 2,567 copies of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* and more than 10,000 copies of other big and small books. This accomplishment was only made possible by your mercy and determination, coupled with the enthusiasm of a few sincere devotees.

Temple programs and festivals: The weekly Sunday Feast at ISKCON Brampton consistently draws an average of 200 devotees and serves as a pillar of our community. In 2025, the temple successfully organized ten major festivals. Notably, Ratha-yātrā and Janmāṣṭamī attracted massive crowds, blending devotional fervor with cultural fanfare and resulting in the distribution of 5,000 and 2,000 plates of *prasādam*, respectively.

Sunday school: A hallmark of ISKCON Brampton, our Sunday school is making steady progress, with 75 students currently enrolled. By imparting essential spiritual education, the program continues to build a strong devotional foundation for our young children.

Adult education: The year 2025 marked a pivotal moment for the Adult Education department at ISKCON Brampton. By expanding our curriculum, this department attracted approximately 70 students across established programs like Vaiṣṇava Etiquette, Bhakti Śāstrī, *Bhagavad-gītā* Fundamentals, and the ISKCON Disciples Course. ISKCON Brampton is proud to announce that four students have successfully completed the rigorous Bhakti Śāstrī course. Furthermore, new offerings like Tulasī Care and Parenting have drawn many curious participants who seek practical spiritual training. 2026 is already following the same encouraging trend we experienced in 2025.

Teen education: ISKCON Brampton's Teen Education program emphasizes experiential learning, blending spiritual knowledge with practical application through innovative projects. In 2025, 20 students participated in the Bhakti Śāstrī Teens program, engaging in highly interactive, hands-on learning. As part of the curriculum, they completed two student-led projects, taking full responsibility for planning and execution. The NOD Project involved organizing an interactive workshop with rotating sessions on Vaiṣṇava etiquette, Deity worship and cleanliness, book distribution, and the benefits of *prasādam*. In the *Śrī Īśopaniṣad* Project, students applied philosophical teachings to real service roles, demonstrating principles such as selfless service, duty without attachment, and respect for all.

Youth program: ISKCON Brampton's youth group is a closely connected and emerging community of young leaders poised to serve as future torchbearers. Throughout 2025, the Youth Group worked diligently behind the scenes to lead and support several outreach initiatives, including organizing a family day kirtan that fostered a spiritually enriching, community-centered environment, and actively contributed to the success of our 13th Annual Festival of Chariots, serving in multiple areas. In parallel, the group maintained consistent engagement in temple activities and service opportunities, strengthening a culture of responsibility, collaboration, and deeper devotional connection among its members.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the purport to verse 1.2.6 of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, you define dharma as the living being's sustenance of existence by aligning one's activities with one's eternal relationship

with the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. While we sincerely try to live by this guiding principle, we often find ourselves falling short of the standards you set. Despite our efforts to uphold and preserve what you so mercifully gave us, we recognize our limitations in expanding your movement with the dedication and boldness it truly deserves. At times, we take shelter in our comfort zones, supported by excuses that hold us back from striving further.

We understand that your ISKCON movement is now more relevant than ever, especially in a world increasingly affected by conflict, suffering, and uncertainty. Humanity stands in need of hope – the hope of returning back home, back to Godhead, beyond the despair of material existence. In these challenging times, we humbly beg for your special mercy – that we may remain firmly rooted in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and protected from influences that may divert us from the path of devotional service.

Please bless us with strong spiritual character and a genuine missionary spirit, so that together we may contribute, in our own small way, toward uplifting the world. Kindly grant us unwavering conviction in Kṛṣṇa's protection – *avaśya rākṣibe kṛṣṇa viśvāsa pālana* – under all circumstances.

Above all, we pray for the strength to live simply on your remnants and to sincerely serve by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness with humility and devotion.

Your menial servants at ISKCON Brampton

Burlington, Ontario, Canada

Our dearest ever well-wisher, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the 130th anniversary celebration of your appearance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we stand before you with no qualification. We have no good qualities, no strength, and no ability to serve you properly. Still, by your causeless mercy, you have given us a place in your mission, and that alone gives us hope.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.10.18), it is said that the symptoms of a *sādhu* are that he is tolerant, merciful, and friendly to all living entities. When we think of this, we can only think of you. You showed these qualities perfectly in your life.

Another verse describes how a tree gives everything to others without expecting anything in return. Even when cut or neglected, it continues to give shade, fruit, and shelter. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are like that tree. You tolerated so many difficulties, traveled across the world at an advanced age, and gave Kṛṣṇa to everyone without discrimination. In fact, you built a house (ISKCON) in which the whole world can live, the true definition of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam*.



From *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 11.59):

anargala prema sabāra, ceṣṭā anargala
prema dite, kṛṣṇa dite dhare mahābala

All these devotees had unlimited strength to deliver unobstructed, unceasing love of Kṛṣṇa. By their own strength they could offer anyone Kṛṣṇa and love of Kṛṣṇa.

Purport: Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura has sung, *kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāra, tomāra śakati āche.* In this song, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura describes that a pure Vaiṣṇava, as the proprietor of Kṛṣṇa and love of Kṛṣṇa, can deliver both to anyone and everyone he likes. Therefore, to get Kṛṣṇa and love of Kṛṣṇa one must seek the mercy of pure devotees. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura also says, *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi:* 'By the mercy of the spiritual master one is blessed by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement.' By the grace of a Vaiṣṇava or bona fide spiritual master one can get both love of Godhead, and Kṛṣṇa Himself.

It is described that a pure devotee has the power to give Kṛṣṇa and love of Kṛṣṇa to anyone. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have done exactly that. You have given Kṛṣṇa to the whole world. Because of you, even in a small city like Burlington we are able to chant, hear, and try to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Home away from home – just because of your causeless mercy.

We know that without the mercy of the spiritual master, we cannot get Kṛṣṇa. So today, we simply pray to you: please shower us with your *bhakti-śakti* (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya* 7.99). Please give us even a small drop of your faith, your determination, so that we, your followers, are able to preach this message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we also remember how Lord Kṛṣṇa embraced Sudāmā and the leper Vāsudeva with great compassion (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya* 7.143). In the same way, we pray that you kindly embrace us also at ISKCON Burlington, even though we are unqualified and full of faults.

By your mercy, this past year has been very special for ISKCON Burlington. We started Bhakti Vriksha programs in devotees' homes, where we gather in a simple and informal way to hear, chant, and associate. These programs have helped us come closer as a community and stay connected in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

With your blessings, we were also able to conduct our fourth Ratha-yātrā at Spencer Smith Park. It is one of the most beautiful places in our city, and many people came, took *prasādam,* had darshan of Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and received Their causeless mercy. We could feel that this is your movement, and you are bringing people to ISKCON step by step.

Our small community has also grown. More devotees are regularly coming, and for the first time at ISKCON Burlington, two devotees have received first initiation. This has given us great hope that many more will come forward in the future to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever little we have been able to do is only by your mercy. We cannot claim anything as our own.

Looking forward, we have one strong desire: to establish a permanent home for your mission here in Burlington. We are searching for a place where devotees can come together regularly, where your books can be distributed, where kirtan can go on, and where new people can be introduced to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please bless us so that we can collect the required *lakṣmī* and resources to make this happen for your pleasure, if you so desire.

We also pray that we can continue and expand our temple and Bhakti Vriksha programs and focus more on making devotees and engaging them in your mission. Please give us the intelligence, cooperation, and sincerity to work together and serve you nicely.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said that your mission is to give Kṛṣṇa to everyone. We are very small and weak, but if you bless us, even we can become instruments in your hands.

So today, on your Vyāsa-pūjā day, this is our simple prayer:

Please engage us in your service.

Please keep us together.

Please keep us under your shelter.

Let us never forget that everything depends on your mercy.

Thank you for giving us Kṛṣṇa. Thank you for giving us your books. Thank you for giving us a place in your movement.

Your insignificant servants of your servants,
ISKCON Burlington, Canada

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

ISKCON Calgary offers this small offering as a humble tribute to your inconceivable contribution toward humanity on this Vyāsa-pūjā. Śrīla Prabhupāda, a few words or a few pages cannot fully express the deep gratitude in the hearts of your devotees at ISKCON Calgary. Just as Vaikuṇṭha ever expands, so the devotion and gratitude of the devotees here continue to grow for you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an ocean of mercy. Just as Śrī Kṛṣṇa happily accepted the banana peel offered with great love and devotion by Vidurāṇī, so we pray that you kindly accept this offering as a token of gratitude, devotion, and love on behalf of the ISKCON Calgary congregation.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you established so many temples across the world that serve as powerful gateways to propagating spiritual knowledge and wisdom. Inspired by your vision, ISKCON Calgary, to the best of its ability, is striving hard to spread this mission. To meaningfully carry forward your divine purpose, the temple places a strong emphasis on nurturing devotees from within and without. With this understanding, by providing internal nourishment, a devotee naturally becomes an instrument for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others. In this way, dear Prabhupāda, internal cultivation and external outreach go hand in hand, forming a balanced and sustainable approach to fulfilling your mission in the Western world.

Focused on providing spiritual nourishment to the devotees, temple efforts involve organizing spiritual courses, devotional discussions, and outreach programs. These also include book distribution, which is the heart of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

With the involvement of youth and other volunteers in the temple services, the temple also takes care of these devotees by providing them spiritual nourishment. Rendering services in the right mood and consciousness is very important for quick elevation in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Therefore we have more than forty devotees who have taken courses like Discover Yourself and Positive Thinkers, taught by His Grace Rādheśhyāma Prabhu form ISKCON Pune. These courses have not only helped devotees to grow in their spiritual wisdom but have helped them over time to preach this transcendental knowledge to new devotees during outdoor activities.

ISKCON Calgary now has more than twenty dedicated youth who attend the full morning program, including *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class. For many devotees, the Saturday *maṅgala-ārati* programs have become a powerful source of spiritual support. Regularly joining these early morning gatherings has helped people strengthen their bhakti and build more consistency, sincerity, and enthusiasm in their devotional lives.

As a result, many have made real progress in their spiritual journey by regularly chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and slowly bringing their lives in line with the four regulative principles. These programs encourage discipline and devotion while building a sense of community, accountability, and shared spiritual growth among everyone who takes part.

ISKCON Calgary has always prioritized high standards of cleanliness. Temple management recognizes that the regular cleaning of the temple on weekdays, festivals, and Sunday feast programs requires a large number of dedicated devotees. In your letter dated 2 January 1972, you explained the most practical way to engage our skills in Kṛṣṇa's service: "In the material dealings, there is always something undesirable, but even so, you cannot give up your occupation. Just like fire is very pure, there is still some smoke. You cannot avoid it. All these things can be rectified when the result is offered to Kṛṣṇa." Taking this instruction as a guiding principle, devotees at ISKCON Calgary, including our more than forty young people, are wholeheartedly engaged in

cleaning services, trusting that it will please you and our Lordships. This service is performed not merely as a duty, dear Prabhupāda, but as an offering imbued with devotion.

To further cultivate and help them grow, a dedicated initiative known as Pāṇḍava Sena of Calgary has been established under the guidance of His Grace Kanāi Ṭhākura Prabhu. This is a dedicated team focused on youth outreach. Pāṇḍava Sena of Calgary organized various courses for the youth, including retreats, kirtans, and other youth-oriented activities to provide them holistic and nurturing care. This team's efforts aim to create a supportive and inspiring environment where young devotees can connect deeply with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Currently, Pāṇḍava Sena is actively involved in university outreach, conducting regular monthly programs at the University of Calgary to introduce students to Vedic philosophy and devotional practices. These sessions include interactive discussion, kirtans, and the practical application of spiritual principles, creating a welcoming platform for students to explore Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a structured and relatable manner. Thanks to the dedication of our faithful devotees, it has been possible for us to participate in many of the events at the university level, where not only were the students connected, but also books like *Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Elevation to Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, Beyond Birth and Death,* and many others have been distributed. Not only that, but Pāṇḍava Sena also has plans to conduct its very first retreat in May 2026. This retreat is aimed at anchoring the existing devotees and new devotees of the temple.

CVA in Calgary is also expanding rapidly. With an initial enrollment of forty-five students, CVA now has more than 150 students, who participate in understanding the fundamentals of the Bhagavad-*gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* along with *śloka* recitation. CVA is diligently working to train the next generation of warriors for your mission, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Calgary bows at your lotus feet again and again and offers its obeisances to you on the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. You crossed oceans, endured two heart attacks, and had nothing in your hands simply to deliver generations and generations of this world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you did not have material riches, but you were full of the mercy of the Supreme. Śrīla Prabhupāda, how will we – rather, how will this whole world – be able to repay our debt to for your immense mercy?

With you in our hearts, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the devotees are constantly elevating themselves on the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Śrīla Prabhupāda, there is no moment when the devotees of Calgary forget you. Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Calgary may not have achieved the best of everything it's capable of, but we promise that, being warriors in your army, we will keep growing every day, every moment, and make sure that Lord Caitanya's message and glories are heard in every street of the city.

With this, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg forgiveness if in any way we are lacking in our service to your mission. Please accept each of us and keep us under your shelter. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you.

Your servants at ISKCON Calgary

Corcoran, Minnesota, USA

Most respected and dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

When our congregation reads, listens to, studies, and discusses your books and lectures we feel enlivened, our minds are purified, and we clearly see the purpose of our lives – to perform sincere devotional service until the lotus feet of your pure devotees.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.16, Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī addressed the queries of the great sages headed by the sage Śaunaka:

śuśrūṣoḥ śraddadhānasya vāsudeva-kathā-ruciḥ
syān mahat-sevayā viprāḥ puṇya-tīrtha-niṣevaṇāt

> O twice-born sages, by serving those devotees who are completely free from all vice, great service is done. By such service, one gains affinity for hearing the messages of Vāsudeva.

The effect of such service is priceless – developing a taste for hearing and chanting the holy sound vibration. By hearing and chanting, all material desires are cleansed from the heart of a truthful devotee, as explained in the next, verse, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.17:

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

> Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead, who is the Paramātmā in everyone's heart and the benefactor of the truthful devotee, cleanses desire for material enjoyment from the heart of the devotee who has developed the urge to hear His messages, which are in themselves virtuous when properly heard and chanted.

In your purport you have kindly point out:

> Messages of the Personality of Godhead Śrī Kṛṣṇa are nondifferent from Him. Whenever, therefore, offenseless hearing and glorification of God are undertaken, it is to be understood that Lord Kṛṣṇa is present there in the form of transcendental sound, which is as powerful as the Lord personally. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, in His *Śikṣāṣṭaka,* declares clearly that the holy name of the Lord has all the potencies of the Lord and that He has endowed His innumerable names with the same potency. There is no rigid fixture of time, and anyone can chant the holy name with attention and reverence at his convenience. The Lord is so kind to us that He can be present before us personally in the form of transcendental sound, but unfortunately, we have no taste for hearing and glorifying the Lord's name and activities. We have already discussed

developing a taste for hearing and chanting the holy sound. It is done through the medium of service to the pure devotee of the Lord.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* you mention that Śrīla Vedavyāsa was feeling incomplete despite being fully equipped with everything required by the *Vedas*. In *Bhāgavatam* 1.4.31, Vyāsa Bhagavān says:

kiṁ vā bhāgavatā dharma na prāyeṇa nirūpitāḥ
priyāḥ paramahaṁsānāṁ ta eva hy acyuta-priyāḥ

This may be because I did not specifically point out the devotional service of the Lord, which is dear both to perfect beings and to the infallible Lord.

In your purport you kindly point out: "Unless one is fixed in the normal condition of service, neither the Lord nor the living being can become fully satisfied. This defect was felt by him when Nārada Muni, his spiritual master, reached him."

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.8, Śrī Nārada Muni says:

bhavatānudita-prāyaṁ yaśo bhagavato 'malam
yenaivāsau na tuṣyeta manye tad darśanaṁ khilam

You have hardly broadcast the sublime and spotless glories of the Personality of Godhead. That philosophy which does not satisfy the transcendental senses of the Lord is considered worthless.

In the purport, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you point out that constitutionally we are eternal servants of the eternal master. Lord Kṛṣṇa expands himself to accept loving service from us, which satisfies both the Lord and us. "Dry philosophical speculations even on the transcendental subject of the Absolute have very little attraction without directly dealing with the glorification of the Lord."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are always present in your books. If this were not true, how is it possible that your books continue to transform the hearts of so many people every day? Your mysterious workings are beyond our comprehension. We only hope and pray that you continue to inspire and guide us through your devotees so that we can carry on your mission to the best possible extent – with consistency and without material motive – to please you and your pure devotees.

We have been a small congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, operating under the banner of ISKCON New Mahāvan. Always fascinated by your books and teachings, we have been performing daily *maṅgala-ārati,* weekly classes on the *Bhagavad-gītā* (on Fridays) and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (on Sundays), organizing major festivals, including Ratha-yātrā.

After every Saturday *maṅgala-ārati* and japa, devotees listen to one of your lectures and get immense inspiration. Devotees here organize multiple weekly sessions at the Gopal Fun School for children, both online and in-person. Some devotees organize online and in-person regular weekly reading sessions to study your books. We have a monthly kirtan and reading program at the University of Minnesota and have started another outreach program in Shakopee, MN. Devotees here regularly participate in book distribution at the university, fairs/festivals, other temples, and grocery stores. We celebrate important festivals with kirtan, classes, dramas and performances involving the local public, and introduce people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we feel that your books, like parents, have the power to sustain preaching centers by nourishing us with devotion, wisdom and resources.

In February 2024, devotees here acquired a 5.5-acre piece of land with a house and pole barn. It is allowing us the possibility of building an ISKCON temple. By your kind mercy, we recently

got over the hurdle of getting the Conditional Use Permit approved by the city of Corcoran. We fervently pray for your continued mercy so we can come up with a devotionally vibrant Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa temple. We are now in the process of raising funds for the temple and farming project under the banner of ISKCON New Mahāvan Temple and Eco Farm Community.

We pray unto your lotus feet to please keep us under your shelter and continue to guide us in the form of books and lectures. May we serve under the wise guidance of your able disciples, like the ISKCON GBC members, senior devotees, and initiating spiritual masters, so that we can sincerely serve and glorify your devotees and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa sincerely and consistently, with love and care.

Your servants at ISKCON New Mahāvan Temple and Eco Farm Community

Denver, Colorado, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace and your beloved Vyāsa-pūjā day.

Thank you for your only visit to ISKCON Denver, Colorado, during June-July 1975. We are deeply grateful to you for being with us each day through your *vāṇī,* manifest in your books, lectures, conversations, videos, *mūrti,* and photos. Please bless us to fully realize your presence.

In 1975, you graced us with your loving care. You named our small Deities Rādhā-Govinda. You kept a framed photo of Them in your Vrindavan quarters, as they resemble your childhood Deities, Rādhā-Govinda. You served Them throughout the *līlā* of your life on this planet, a continuation of your service in Goloka Vṛndāvana. They arranged for you to write Their books and spread the holy names around the world. They arranged for you to have Their presence and pastimes here in Denver so that we can learn to please Them through your *saṅkīrtana* movement. As Their pure instrument, you requested that They bless us with daily services that will eventually purify us to serve with *rādhā-govinda-prema*.

The unlimited compassion, love, and kindness that you daily give us is inconceivable. May we receive your grace to constantly increase our gratitude, service attitude, and pure execution of devotional service. May your blessings give us the spiritual strength to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness increasingly.

During your visit, you appreciated Denver's Deity worship, book distribution, devotees, and the temple building (a former church). Now it is our devotional happiness that we can continue with these services and simultaneously learn to please you more and eternally by your grace.

We are very grateful that you saved us from material consciousness and are giving us the *saṅkīrtana* movement to spread love of Godhead to all.

Your aspiring servants of the servants' servants,
At New Badarikāśrama
(written by Nidrā Devī Dāsī)

Detroit, Michigan, USA

Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our respectful obeisances with the highest gratitude for creating the most powerful, loving family of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. All glories to your divine mercy on humanity.

At Devasadan Mandir we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee celebration of the installation of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi you performed on your last visit to Detroit. By your divine stay at the Devasadan Mandir, it became a holy *tīrtha.* Now everyone who visits and enters your room gets the opportunity to receive the blessings of the dust from your lotus feet. It was here that you instructed His Grace Ambarīṣa Prabhu to build the glorious TOVP project, which he is doing with the highest dedication, just to please you, and which is due to open on November 1, 2027.

By your causeless mercy, we are able to continue serving the most merciful Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārījī. O ever well-wisher, we beg you to give us the good fortune to continue to participate in the loving service of your lotus feet and our most merciful Deities Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārījī until we are no longer in these bodies. Please hold our hands tight, because we have the tendency to run away from you.

Begging for forgiveness for our unlimited offenses to the Vaiṣṇavas,

Your humble servants at the Devasadan Mandir,
(written by Jagad-Guru Dāsa)

Durham, Ontario, Canada

Dearest, beloved founder-*ācārya,* Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the devotees at ISKCON Durham gather with grateful hearts to offer our prayers, reflections, and deep appreciation for your causeless mercy.

Just as water is essential for sustaining life, your teachings are the very life and soul of our spiritual existence. We are reminded of the essential role of the spiritual master through this sacred verse:

yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
dhyāyaṁs stuvaṁs tasya yaśas tri-sandhyaṁ
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam

> By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the mercy of Kṛṣṇa; without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and glorify my spiritual master, offering my respectful obeisances unto his lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this verse perfectly reflects our dependence on your mercy. Whatever little service we are able to perform is only by your blessings. Over the past year, ISKCON Durham has continued to grow as a center of devotional service, and we know with full conviction that this is entirely your arrangement.

By your blessings, we have been able to celebrate all the major Vaiṣṇava festivals, bringing together devotees and newcomers alike. Some festivals were observed on a particularly larger scale, allowing us to extend your mission of outreach even further. During Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, more than 2,000 attendees came to take darshan, honor *prasādam,* and hear about Kṛṣṇa. Our Ratha-yātrā festival welcomed over 1,500 participants, giving many the rare opportunity to pull Lord Jagannātha's chariot and receive His mercy. Similarly, Rāma-navamī was celebrated with over 1,500 attendees, filling the atmosphere with devotion and remembrance of Lord Rāmacandra.

We continue to hold regular Saturday feast programs, and by your grace, a steady and sincere congregation gathers weekly to hear *hari-kathā,* chant, and honor *prasādam*. This consistent engagement has helped strengthen the devotional community and create a welcoming environment for new guests.

One of the most inspiring developments this year has been the growth of our Krishna Fun School for children. With approximately fifty students currently registered, we are witnessing the next generation of devotees being nurtured in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Their enthusiastic participation and beautiful performances during festivals have inspired many other children and families to become involved. Alongside in-person sessions, we have also begun virtual classes focused on *śloka* recitation, helping children remain connected and steadily progress in their spiritual practices.

By your mercy, within the span of just over a year, two devotees from our congregation received their first initiation (*hari-nāma dīkṣā*), and another sincere devotee is aspiring for first initiation soon. These developments remind us that your mission is alive and actively transforming hearts.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we understand that none of this is our doing. We are simply trying, in our very small and imperfect ways, to serve as instruments in your hands. You have given us everything – your books, instructions, society, and the holy name. Whatever success we see is only a reflection of your unlimited compassion.

We pray for your continued guidance and blessings so that ISKCON Durham can remain fixed in serving your mission of spreading the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Please help us remain humble, cooperative, and sincere in our efforts. Kindly empower us to overcome our shortcomings and engage more deeply in devotional service.

We beg for the strength to always remember that we are your servants, meant to assist in fulfilling your divine desire – to bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us purpose, direction, and hope. Please continue to engage us in your service birth after birth.

Your insignificant servants,
Shyama Mohini Devī Dāsī, Council Head
And the devotees at ISKCON Durham

East Hartford, Connecticut, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

By reading the books and letters you wrote, we are amazed at how you still had time to visit your different centers and deal with the local devotees wherever you happened to be in the world. You gave classes wherever you went, you helped manage each temple you visited, you answered numerous questions, and taught how to keep Kṛṣṇa in the center, how to take shelter of Kṛṣṇa, and how to depend on Kṛṣṇa for everything. You simultaneously managed the rest of the world centers by writing letters to devotees in managerial positions as well as to rank and file devotees who just had some personal questions. Many of your managers were inexperienced and made mistakes, some of which were serious mistakes that caused you anxiety, but you wrote to them and explained what they should do, while depending on Kṛṣṇa and never letting the problems discourage you from pushing on this movement. You had full faith and confidence in guru and Kṛṣṇa. You had the patience of a saint because you *are* a saint. You never gave up; you set the perfect example for your disciples and for future devotees as well.

There is no way any person, other than someone empowered directly by Kṛṣṇa, could do what you did day in and day out. In order to do it you had to sacrifice your sleep, and therefore you slept only a few hours a night, yet devotees who lived with you admitted that you never really slept; you were always conscious.

You would meet with dignitaries, the press, scholars, parents, religious leaders, and others at the many temples you traveled to. You also found time to do outside programs at universities, churches, pandals, or anywhere devotees made arrangements for you to speak.

With such a busy schedule, you also always found time to translate and write purports to the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and other Vedic literature. Even though you have physically departed, we can still have your association because you are present in your books. This helps us to keep you in our hearts and love and serve you with our body, mind, and words. As you said about your Guru Mahārāja, "He lives forever by his divine instructions, and the follower lives with him." You were living in the present and simultaneously thinking of the future as you left behind a way for others to go back home, back to Godhead through your transcendental books. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all your sacrifices.

There aren't enough words to glorify you sufficiently, but we are hoping to satisfy you in some small way.

Aspiring to follow in your divine footsteps,
Your servants at ISKCON East Hartford
(written by Pyāri Mohan Dāsa)

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this day, we consider ourselves very fortunate to write a few lines to glorify you. We are extremely fortunate to offer our humble homage at your most revered lotus feet on the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. You are the empowered *ācārya* who carried the message of Lord Caitanya to the entire world. At an age when most people would like to take rest, you crossed the ocean alone, with no money and no support, simply carrying your faith in Kṛṣṇa along with the order of your spiritual master.

Through your compassion, purity, and unwavering dedication, you gave us Kṛṣṇa consciousness in its original, unbroken form. Your books are not ordinary books – they are living guides that continue to awaken devotion in millions of hearts.

We are eternally indebted to you for granting us the holy name, devotional service, and a clear path back to Kṛṣṇa. On this day, we pray for the intelligence and sincerity to follow your instructions and serve your mission with humility and gratitude.

With extraordinary determination, unwavering faith, and deep compassion, you introduced pure devotional service to every part of the society. Despite immense challenges, you remained fully dependent on Kṛṣṇa, translating and presenting the Vedic scriptures with clarity, authority, and devotion. Your literary contributions stand as an enduring testament to your realization and unlimited mercy.

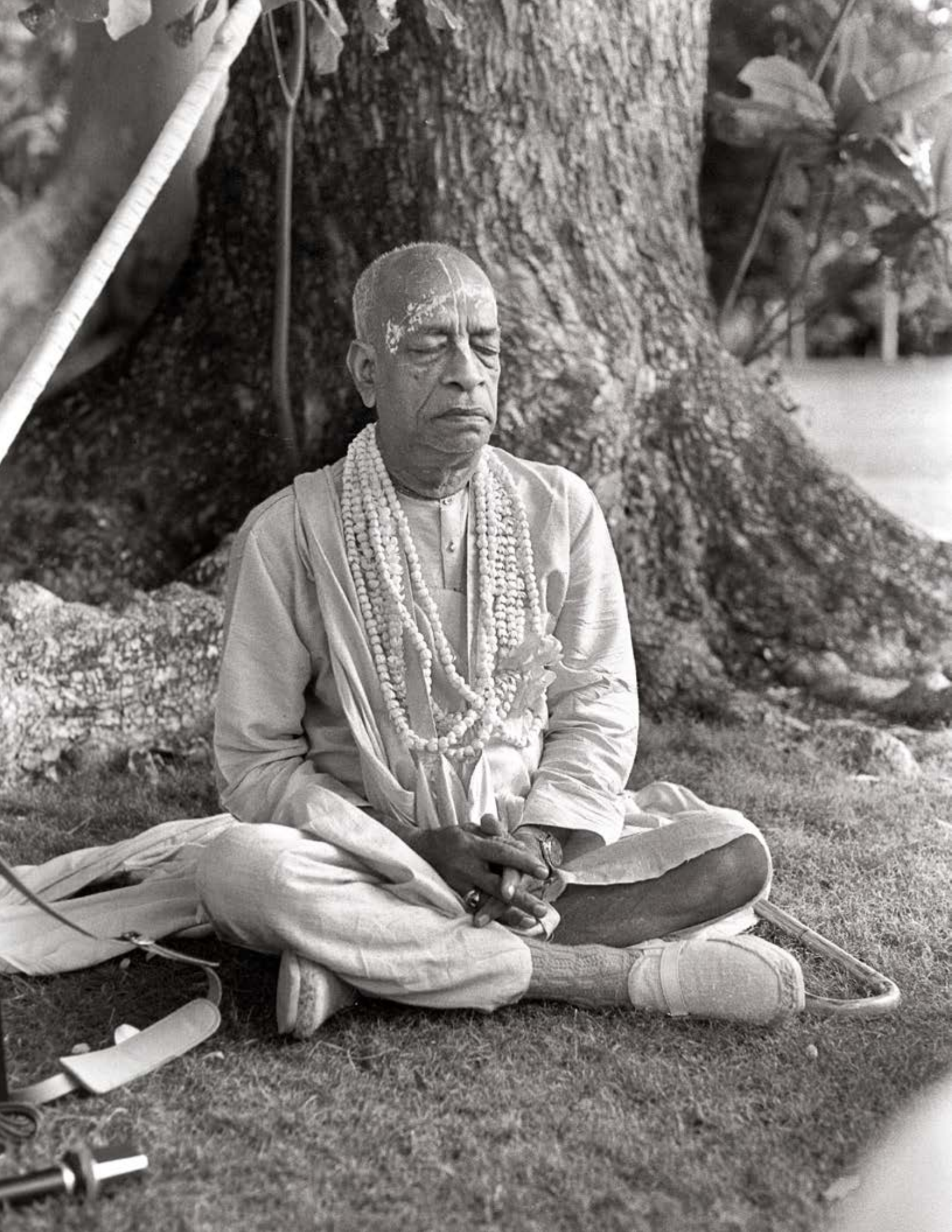
Through your personal example and divine instructions, you have given humanity the priceless gift of the holy name and a clear path to spiritual life. We remain eternally indebted to you and pray for the sincerity, humility, and strength required to faithfully serve your mission and follow your teachings.

The scriptures declare that the spiritual master is the transparent representative of the Supreme Lord: *ācāryaṁ māṁ vijānīyān navamanyeta karhicit, na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-deva-mayo guruḥ* (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.17.27 – "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."

In the purport to the above *śloka,* where it is quoted in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 1.46) – a verse spoken by Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa to Uddhava– you write, "Only out of His immense compassion does the Personality of Godhead reveal Himself as the spiritual master. Therefore, in the dealings of an *ācārya* there are no activities but those of transcendental loving service to the Lord. He is the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead. It is worthwhile to take shelter of such a steady devotee, who is called *āśraya-vigraha,* or the manifestation or form of the Lord of whom one must take shelter."

You are the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead, and we should all take shelter of your lotus feet.

Acting solely as a servant of your spiritual master and the disciplic succession, you carried



the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to every corner of the world, fulfilling the prophecy: *pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma* – "In every town and village of the world, My holy name will be preached." (*Caitanya-bhāgavata, Antya-khaṇḍa* 4.126)

You fulfilled the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu by spreading the holy name throughout this mundane world. You are the direct mercy of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi, dhyāyan stuvaṁs tasya yaśas tri-sandhyaṁ vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam* – "By the mercy of the spiritual master, one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master." (*Śrī Guru Praṇāma*)

Your tireless preaching, profound literary contributions, and spotless devotion demonstrate the symptom of a *mahā-bhāgavata*. By translating and commentating the Vedic scriptures, you fulfilled the divine injunction: *yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa* – "Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 7.128)

In the purport to the above *śloka* you explain: "This is the sublime mission of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Many people come and inquire whether they have to give up family life to join the Society, but that is not our mission. One can remain comfortably in his residence. We simply request everyone to chant the *mahā-mantra:* Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare."

You are one of the most influential spiritual teachers of the twentieth century. As the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), you accomplished what many once thought impossible: you transmitted the ancient wisdom of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism beyond India and firmly established it as a global spiritual movement. Your accomplishments span religious, cultural, literary, and organizational fields, leaving a legacy that continues to shape millions of lives worldwide.

Your most visible accomplishment was the founding of ISKCON in 1966 in New York City. At the age of sixty-nine, with no financial support and little institutional backing, you began teaching the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West. Within just eleven years, your ISKCON expanded to hundreds of centers, temples, and rural communities across six continents. This remarkable growth demonstrated not only your spiritual depth but also your organizational vision, leadership, and unwavering faith in the mission entrusted to you by your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

Through ISKCON you successfully introduced devotional practices such as kirtan, Deity worship, vegetarianism, and Vedic festivals to a global audience. ISKCON provided a structured system for spiritual practice based on chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, ethical living, and devotional service.

Another monumental accomplishment was your translation and commentary on sacred Vedic texts. You translated more than sixty volumes, including *Bhagavad gītā As It Is, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Caitanya caritāmṛta,* and numerous other works. Unlike many academic translations, your writings preserved the devotional intent of the texts while presenting them in clear, accessible English.

These works became foundational scriptures for ISKCON and are studied by scholars, practitioners, and seekers worldwide. Your insistence on philosophical fidelity ensured that Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism was transmitted authentically rather than diluted to suit popular trends. Through these books, you ensured that ancient Vedic wisdom would be preserved for future generations.

You emphasized practical spirituality, teaching that spiritual life should transform individual behavior and society. You promoted ethical living through principles such as nonviolence,

truthfulness, cleanliness, and compassion. Your encouragement of vegetarianism was grounded not merely in health or environmental concerns but in reverence for all living beings.

You also advocated for simple living and high thinking, criticizing excessive materialism and encouraging sustainable lifestyles. Through farm communities, educational initiatives, and *prasādam* distribution, ISKCON addressed social and humanitarian concerns while maintaining spiritual integrity.

Perhaps your greatest accomplishment was your role as a spiritual master. You personally guided thousands of disciples from diverse backgrounds, transmitting not just philosophical knowledge but a lived example of devotion, humility, discipline, and compassion. Despite your advanced age and fragile health, you traveled continuously, lectured daily, wrote extensively, and engaged personally with your followers.

Your life embodied the principle of complete surrender to divine service. By your personal example, you demonstrated that sincere devotion, guided by guru, scripture, and tradition, can transcend barriers of culture, language, and history.

Your accomplishments continue to resonate decades after your departure. ISKCON remains an active global movement, your books are translated into dozens of languages, and your teachings continue to inspire spiritual inquiry worldwide. More than institutions or texts, your enduring legacy lies in the lives transformed by your message of loving devotion to Kṛṣṇa.

In summary, your accomplishments were not limited to external achievements; they represented a successful reawakening of timeless spiritual wisdom in the modern world. Through truth, compassion, and tireless dedication, you fulfilled the mission of carrying Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every corner of the globe.

On this most sacred occasion, we humbly acknowledge our eternal debt to you and pray for the qualification to serve your mission with sincerity, obedience, and devotion. All glories to you and all glories to your ISKCON! *Jaya, jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your most humble servants,
Bala Kṛṣṇa Dāsa and the devotees of ISKCON Edmonton

Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, you uplift countless souls in Kali-yuga, offering a direct path to Kṛṣṇa's abode for sincere aspirants over the next ten thousand years. Your greatness was known since Kṛṣṇa's departure from this world, though it remained hidden like the *channa-avatāra,* Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. It is remarkable that Kṛṣṇa Himself appointed you and prepared the way for you to spread the holy names throughout the Western world.

Five thousand years ago, after Kṛṣṇa departed, Bhakti Devī grieved as her sons, Jñāna and Vairāgya, faded due to the declining interest in spiritual knowledge and renunciation during Kali-yuga. Nārada heard Bhakti's distress, recognizing that as Kali-yuga worsens, Bhakti, along with her sons, will gradually vanish. Nārada Muni boldly took a vow: "If I do not preach your message of bhakti, I shall not be considered the servant of Lord Hari."

Five hundred ago, as *bhakta-vatsala* and to uphold Nārada Muni's vow, Kṛṣṇa personally appeared as Caitanya Mahāprabhu, embodying the compassionate heart and complexion of his greatest devotee, Śrī Rādhā, in order to showcase bhakti, the simplest means to attain perfection in Kali-yuga.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu performed lots of pastimes in India and provided lots of evidence for the glories of bhakti by spreading the chanting of the *mahā-mantra:* Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma Hare Hare. Nevertheless, He did not venture out of India. In the *Caitanya-maṅgala* He says: "Taking the sharp sword of the congregational chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* I will root out and destroy the demoniac mentality in the hearts of all conditioned souls. If some sinful people escape, going to far-off countries, then my *senāpati-bhakta* will come at that time to give them Kṛṣṇa consciousness."

This means Caitanya Mahāprabhu left the most important task in Kali-yuga to somebody else. Lord Nityānanda, His brother and companion, told Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī that after Mahāprabhu leaves, Gaṅgā will flood the whole area for a hundred years. Then for the next three hundred years, she will move around and all the pastime places will be washed away. After that, He said, again the task of revealing the *dhāma* will begin in earnest. So this corresponds to exactly the time when Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura was present and rediscovered the birthplace of Lord Caitanya.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura made several predictions: (1) A personality would soon appear and travel all over the world to spread the teachings of Lord Caitanya; and (2) Very soon the chanting of *hari-nāma saṅkīrtana* would spread all over the world. Oh, when will that day come when people from America, England, France, Germany, and Russia will take up *karatālas* and *mṛdaṅgas* and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa in their towns and villages? When will that day come when the fair-skinned foreigners will come to Śrī Māyāpur-dhāma and join with the Bengali Vaiṣṇavas to chant *Jaya* Śacīnandana! *Jaya* Śacīnandana! When will that day be?

Śrīla Prabhupāda noted the spiritual significance of his birth in 1896, coinciding with the year Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura sent his book *Sri Chaitanya – His Life and Precepts* abroad. The will of Lord Caitanya, the aspiration of Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda, and the guidance of his spiritual master Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura enabled Śrīla Prabhupāda to disseminate Śrī Caitanya's teachings and promote the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa globally.

Fifty years ago, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you successfully accomplished the three predictions made by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you left this world with a legacy second to none, fulfilling the prediction of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that the holy name of Kṛṣṇa would be chanted in every town and village. You arrived in the USA in 1965. You founded ISKCON – the International Society for Krishna Consciousness – in 1966 in New York City in a storefront. You circled the global fourteen times to preach the mission of Lord Caitanya. You established 108 temples and several farm communities. You published over sixty books, which are accepted by leading scholars and universities. You departed this world on 14 November 1977, returning to Kṛṣṇa, as you were before you came to this world.

We know that Kṛṣṇa personally visited you on Janmāṣṭamī 1954, as related by Acharya Prabhakara. Kṛṣṇa gave you His *kadamba* flower garland that went all the way to your feet. *Kadamba* flowers are rare in Jhansi, and when they are available, they are usually the size of golf balls, but the ones you were given, Śrīla Prabhupāda, were the size of tennis balls, and their aroma was from the heavenly planets.

To encourage you to go to the West, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī also personally visited you while you were living at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple in Vrindavan.

Closing the circle of the vow Nārada Muni made to Bhakti Devī, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you traveled in our world in the mood of Nārada Muni, the eternally wandering devotee. Nārada also visited you several times while you were doing your preaching work in the West. Several times you asked your disciples to bring him a chair. You also said that your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, sent you devotees from Vaikuṇṭha to help you to fulfill Lord Caitanya's mission.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, I, your grandchild Śārṅga Dāsa along with all the devotees from the Fort Lauderdale community fall in the dust of your lotus feet and thank you millions and millions of times for agreeing to take on the challenge of fulfilling Nārada Muni's vow and serving as Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *senāpati-bhakta*. If you had not, we would be nothing. *Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda. *Jaya* Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga.

Your servant,
Śārṅga Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees in Fort Lauderdale

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Devotees at ISKCON Fredericton, in New Brunswick, Canada offer our most sincere and humble obeisances at the lotus feet of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda on his 2026 Vyāsa-pūjā day.

It is impossible for us to find the appropriate words to thank you properly for what you taught us, the example you set for us, and the wonderful ISKCON organization you created for us. We can only try, in our humble ways, to honor you and attempt to follow your perfect example of sharing Kṛṣṇa consciousness with those we meet.

As Canadians, we are fond of reading accounts of your visits to our country, particularly during the summer of 1968, when you spent several weeks in Montreal. You celebrated ISKCON's second Janmāṣṭamī festival there, and it is a glorious memory, not only for those who were in Montreal at the time, but for those of us who have read accounts of that wonderful event.

Our 2025 Ratha-yātrā festival was a historic milestone for New Brunswick, drawing a record-breaking crowd of over 600 participants. While celebrating this success, we felt a deep calling to cultivate more committed practitioners. This inspired the launch of Spiritual Sparks, a dedicated youth preaching initiative. To provide a solid foundation, we have implemented a disciplined daily *sādhana* that includes:

- Morning: 30 minutes of *japa* followed by 15 minutes reading your books together.
- Evening: *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class.
- Weekly: In-depth *Bhagavad-gītā* study sessions.

Additionally, our Kirtan Concert was a grand success, attracting 250 people and serving as a powerful outreach tool. This event allowed many new souls to chant the holy names for the first time and significantly broadened our community footprint.

The Gopal Krishna Children's School has undergone a professional transformation to become more interactive and structured. We currently have 23 enthusiastic children enrolled, all eager to learn the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Our curriculum now integrates multimedia storytelling and hands-on Vaiṣṇava arts, ensuring that the philosophy is accessible and engaging. We have also introduced a merit-based system to encourage memorization of verses and the development of devotional character.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our vision for the coming year is bold. We are currently working to move our Ratha-yātrā downtown, bringing the Lord of the universe to the very heart of Fredericton's public eye. We also continue to draw immense inspiration from your disciple, Bhaktimārga Swami and the steady support of our sister temples in Halifax, Montreal, and Toronto.

We beg for your blessings and empowerment so that we may remain sincere in our efforts to expand this movement and bring the peace of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village in New Brunswick.

But it is you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who continue to be the driving force that allows ISKCON Fredericton to grow and succeed. Devotees here and around the world are inspired by your books, your recorded lectures, and the legacy you have gifted everyone in the movement you created. Your love of Kṛṣṇa and unbelievable achievements inspire us to do our best to expand your movement. It is our wish that in some small way we can continue to be servants of the servants of the servants of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and of Kṛṣṇa!

On September 1, 1896, you arrived on Kṛṣṇa's earthly planet. Well over a hundred years later, your disciples and devotees are honored to continue building on the foundation you created and serve you as best we can in your mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Fredericton

Gainesville, Florida, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

What a privilege to serve you in this life. Whenever we please you, our hearts fill with joy and satisfaction. Your precious and potent gifts, the "techniques of spiritual life," always uplift our hearts and minds. Reading your books, chanting *japa,* discussing Kṛṣṇa with your followers, honoring *prasādam* – anyone, anywhere, now and for all time, can learn these simple practices and transform their lives. As your service to your spiritual master, you gave these miraculous gifts so freely, and at so much personal sacrifice.

As you have given these gifts to us, we pray to share them with others on your behalf. Doing so, we please you and enrich our lives with Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over again.

In his song, *Vaiṣṇava Vijñapti,* Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura wonderfully expresses our appreciation for you.

(1) Dear merciful Vaiṣṇav master, be kind to us, please.
Other than you, who can wash out our impurities?

(2) To simply be in your presence, all sins go away.
Where could we find someone else with mercy you display?

(3) To bathe in the Gaṅgā's waters cleanses over time,
yet simply to see you, one is instantly refined.

(4) Offenses to Kṛṣṇa better chanting will resolve.
Offenses to you cannot be washed away at all.

(5) In your sacred heart Govinda endlessly resides.
Govinda declares, "Vaiṣṇavas are My very life."

(6) Birth after birth, we shall beg for the dust from your feet.
Please think of your Gainesville servants as your property.

Your servants at ISKCON Gainesville, Florida, USA

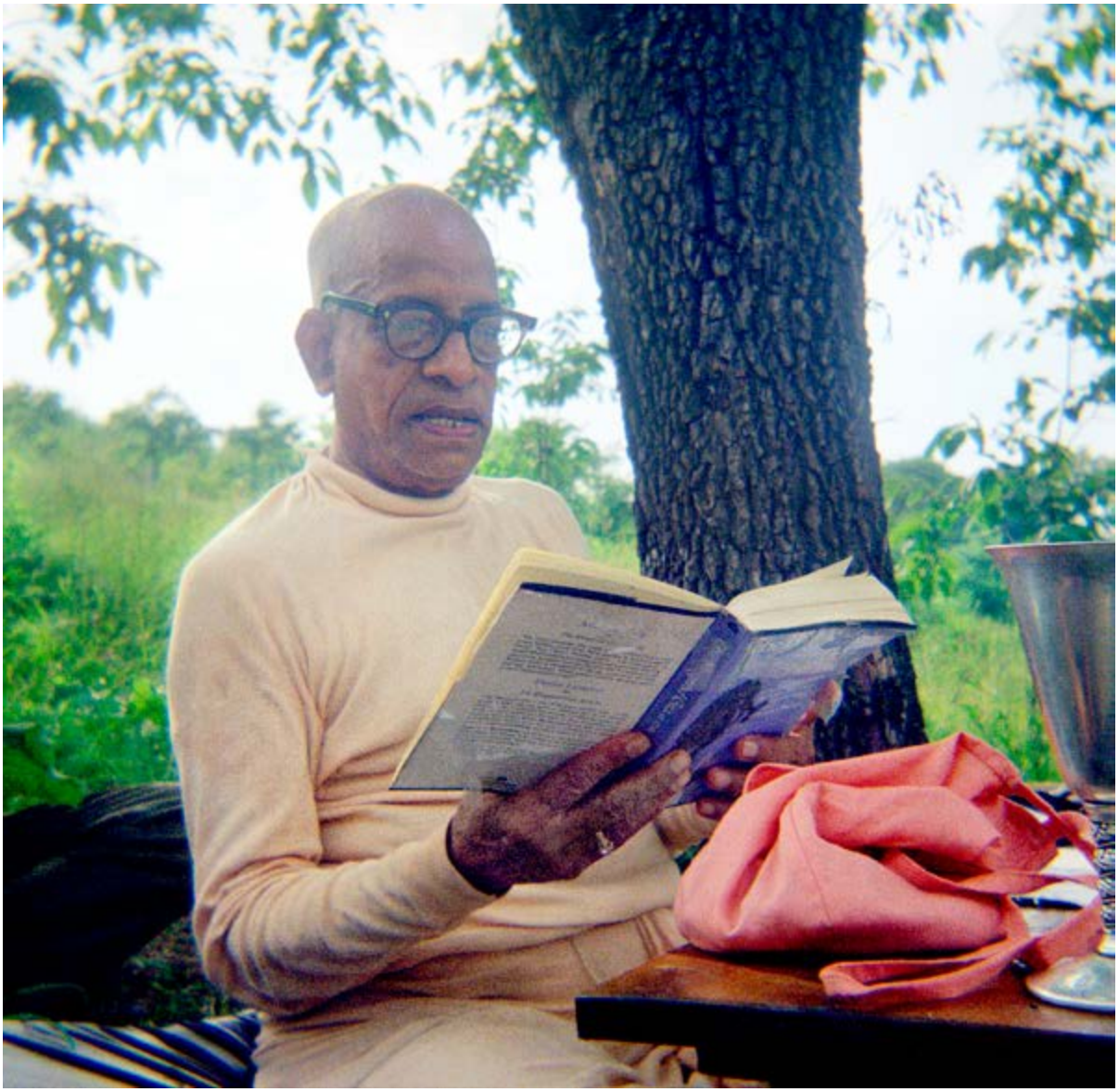
Gītā-nāgarī Farm, Pennsylvania, USA

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

Traveling to the ruins of ancient civilizations provokes in some a sense of historical irony. All of the great empires of the world declared themselves everlasting. One can still visit the temple dedicated to *Roma Aeterna,* "the eternal Roman Empire," which collapsed more than fifteen hundred years ago. When asked, anyone with an understanding of history will declare that no matter how mighty a nation, empire, or any other power is, it will eventually fall. But it is a rare occurrence for us to apply such wisdom to our own situation. Such a fate of destruction could not possibly befall us; any downturn in our fortune, we reason, must be a fluke, a simple cyclical variation. But when the tide turns back in our favor, the good times will roll, we think.

It seems increasingly likely, however, that such a correction will not save us any time soon. Over the last several years, the situation in practically every nation in the world has degraded, and there is no clear indication of how or when recovery will come. World leaders have been exposed as demons, and yet justice has not found them. Food prices increase, even as our food is chemically modified into "product" rather than nourishment. Petroleum, the lifeblood of modern civilization, is increasingly expensive, its price dependent on the egos of madmen. The people are thus forced to spend more time working in unnatural and artificial occupations, increasing their work hours until they have nothing to do but sleep and labor. This intense suffering causes them



to take shelter of the modes of passion and ignorance, leading to an increase in violence, conquest, and genocide.

Yet still, most inmates of this society hold onto the hope that a correction is just around the corner – that all we must do is wait a while longer, and the good times will surely begin. You, however, see only through the eyes of *śāstra*. You taught us, through your books, lectures, and all your teachings that the wheel of sense gratification only has so many turns before catastrophe.

You explained in so many ways how the modern demoniac society is unsustainable. An often-repeated reason is the industrialized slaughter of cows. The various means of advertisement and social engineering, meant to fan the flames of anger, lust, and greed, deserve a mention as well. The list you gave us goes on and on, showing that this modern society is but a small push away from collapse. There is also another critical reason that you gave when explaining how the collapse would come: no one knows how to grow food.

The increased chaos in the world shows that your prescription is critically needed. Almost none of the residents of Gītā-nāgarī have a background in farming. We came from offices, labs, and classrooms, from cities, where food came not from the ground but from a supermarket. But as much as we are able, we are attempting, under the direction of your servants, to take up your instruction to protect cows, grow food, and live simply off the land.

The other philosophies of the world, utopian and apocalyptic in their design, rely on political machinations, social subterfuge, or violent uprisings to achieve their aim. Ultimately, this aim is not a true rebirth of society, but only a reordering of who is on top. Meanwhile, the social revolution you envisioned is a complete cultural overhaul, and begins in the most unlikely places: a mantra chanted, a book distributed, a cow cared for, and a seed planted.

Please give us your blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we can fulfill your mission in showing the world that competition and exploitation is not the only life conceivable, but that it is indeed possible for humanity, the land, animals, and Kṛṣṇa to live in cooperation and harmony.

Your servant,
Kāla-Svarūpa Dāsa
On behalf of the Gītā-nāgarī Farm community

Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You gave us a purpose, a meaning, and a reason to live. You gave us positive engagement. You gave us temples, devotee association, and loving exchanges. You gave us books in which we can find shelter and which have become our medium to serve others.

You gave us an example. Your deep devotion gives us faith. You gave us the morning program. We beg you to please guide us on how we may become internally pure. Please give us the intelligence, words, and strength to know how we can share the message among diverse audiences in western Michigan.

Your humble servants,
Shyāmānanda Krishna Dāsa
and the devotees of the ISKCON Grand Rapids community

Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

To Your Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the members of the ISKCON Grande Prairie center, offer our heartfelt gratitude, prayers, and glorification. Though we are limited and insignificant, we pray that our words may carry a sincere attempt to express our appreciation for your causeless mercy upon us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the embodiment of compassion. You carried the message of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, across the ocean, fulfilling the predictions of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. With unwavering determination and complete dependence on Kṛṣṇa, you established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and gave the entire world access to the highest spiritual knowledge.

As you have stated in an August 1975 room conversation: "I have not done any magic. Whatever I have done is due to my Guru Mahārāja."

Through your humility we learn what it means to be a true servant of the spiritual master. You never claimed credit, yet the entire world is indebted to you.

In our small community in Grande Prairie, the northernmost center and far from the holy *dhāmas* of India, we experience your presence through your books, your instructions, and the association of devotees. Your teachings have become the foundation of our lives. Through your translations and purports in *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* we are gradually understanding our identity as eternal servants of Kṛṣṇa.

You have given us a practical process to purify our lives by chanting the holy names, honoring *prasādam,* engaging in devotional service, and associating with devotees. Even in our daily struggles, your words guide us and bring clarity.

In a lecture given in London in 1973, you instructed, "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and your life will be sublime."

By following this simple yet deep instruction, we find hope and direction. In a world filled with confusion and distraction, your teachings stand as a beacon of truth.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have also given us the mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Though we are not qualified, we try in our small ways by organizing kirtans, distributing *prasādam,* sharing your books, and celebrating festivals. Every effort we make is simply an attempt to assist in your mission.

Our community continues to grow by your mercy. New devotees are joining, families are finding spiritual shelter, and people are developing faith in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This is only possible because of your sacrifice and vision.

In a letter from 1972, you wrote, "The Krishna consciousness movement is for training men to be independently thoughtful and competent in all kinds of departments of knowledge and action."

We pray to become instruments in fulfilling this vision to live by your teachings and to share them with sincerity and compassion.

On this sacred day, we reflect on how fortunate we are to be connected to your disciplic succession. Without you, we would remain lost in material existence, unaware of our true purpose. You have opened our eyes and shown us the path back home, back to Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we may remain steady in our *sādhana,* develop genuine humility and a service attitude, work cooperatively as a family, spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in our region, and always remember your instructions in all circumstances. We pray to never forget your mercy, even for a moment. Please forgive our shortcomings and offenses. We are trying, but we

are still learning. Kindly guide us from within our hearts so that we may serve you better. At your lotus feet, we offer our repeated obeisances.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees at the ISKCON Grande Prairie Center

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the insignificant servants of your mission here in Halifax, offer our heartfelt gratitude and humble words at your lotus feet. Though our words are limited and imperfect, still we pray that you kindly accept this small offering as an expression of our appreciation for your causeless mercy.

You once said, "I have simply tried to give them Kṛṣṇa." (*Back to Godhead* magazine #10-10, 1975: Summer Sessions With Śrīla Prabhupāda – Philadelphia: July 11–15) In this simple statement lies the depth of your compassion and the essence of your life's work. Because of your determination and surrender, even a small place like Halifax in Nova Scotia has now been touched by Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This is your miracle, not ours.

By your mercy, our temple completed one full year on March 28, 2026. What once was just a hope has now manifested into a beautiful spiritual center spread across nine acres, with a usable temple space of 7,700 square feet. We see this not as a material achievement, but as your invisible hand guiding everything.

Under the visionary leadership of our Zone-1 GBC, His Grace Indreśa Gaura Prabhu, ISKCON Halifax is preparing to serve as the anchor temple for the entire Atlantic Canada region. We envision our center as a spiritual hub, where upcoming centers in Moncton, Fredericton, PEI, New Glasgow, and St. John's will receive the essential training, guidance, and support they need to blossom. By your grace, we hope to establish a strong, unified network of Kṛṣṇa consciousness across the Maritimes.

You taught us, "Everything must be done in the spirit of cooperation, without any irritation." (Letter to Jagadisa, Hyderabad 18 November 1972). Keeping this instruction in our hearts, we are striving here to work together in harmony. In 2026, we have formed dedicated department heads, clearly defining roles and responsibilities so that service can be performed more efficiently and with greater devotion. We are witnessing how your instructions are practical and transformative when sincerely followed.

By your mercy, a *brahmacārī* has joined us from Toronto and is now residing at the temple. Because of this, the temple is now open five days a week, and we have also arranged basic facilities such as showers, allowing devotees and visitors to stay and engage more deeply in devotional service. These small steps feel significant to us because they bring your vision of a living, vibrant temple closer to reality.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your desire to spread the holy name is becoming visible here. In 2025, we successfully held our Fourth Annual Festival of the Chariots (Ratha-yātrā), welcoming around 2,500 to 3,000 visitors. The enthusiasm among devotees is growing, and we are preparing for our 5th Annual Ratha-yātrā on June 6, 2026. By your grace, this event has even received endorsements

from the Canadian Prime Minister, the immigration minister, the Premier of Nova Scotia, and the mayor of Halifax. We see this as your influence expanding beyond boundaries.

Beyond these large festivals, our devotees are consistently taking to the streets. Every two weeks, a dedicated group of seven to eight devotees performs *harināma-saṅkīrtana,* filling the air with the holy name and distributing your transcendental books to the people of Halifax.

Under the leadership of His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami, who has been a key instrument in the success of the Maritime region, your instructions and blessings are becoming alive. His presence, guidance, and inspiration directly connect us to you. In June 2025, he initiated eight devotees, and we are hopeful for three to four more initiations in June 2026. During Janmāṣṭamī 2025, for the first time, our temple witnessed an unprecedented gathering of more than 3,000 visitors. It felt like a historic moment for our community. We remembered your words, "If you simply chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, everyone will follow." (Room conversation with French Commander, 3 August 1976, New Mayapur). Truly, by the chanting of the holy name, people are being attracted.

Our congregation is slowly growing and new leaders are emerging. We are also focused on reaching hearts through the arts. We are slowly building a team of devotees who can spread the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness through the medium of spiritual plays, using drama to make the deep philosophy of the *Vedas* accessible and engaging for all. We see devotees taking responsibility with sincerity, and this gives us hope that your movement here will continue to flourish beyond our current capacity.

Inspired by your instruction that no one within a ten-mile radius of a temple should go hungry, in Mayapur in 1973, our Food for Life program is expanding. In 2026, we have set a target of distributing 5,000 meals. We pray that we can serve not only *prasādam* but also spiritual nourishment to all.

We have also begun organizing monthly kirtan festivals, attracting an average of 150 to 200 newcomers and introducing them to bhakti-yoga. Your instruction to "chant, dance, take prasadam, and be happy" (Letter to Saksi Gopala, Vrindaban, 6 December 1975) is becoming a lived experience for many who come in contact with these programs.

At present, the altar for our Deities, Gaura-Nitāi-Sāgaraiśvarya, is being prepared in India, along with a *vyāsāsana* for Your Divine Grace. We eagerly await the day when you will be properly seated in your rightful place, and the Lord will be worshiped with full opulence. We are also planning to expand our kitchen facilities with the hope of establishing a Govinda's restaurant so that more people can receive sanctified *prasādam*.

In the matter of book distribution, we are trying to improve. During Gītā-jayantī, we received sponsorship for over 1,075 books. Recently, we have also received approval to set up a bookstall at Dalhousie University and to start a bhakti-yoga club there for the youth. We are hopeful that the younger generation will come closer to Kṛṣṇa through your books, which you described as the "law books for the next ten thousand years."

Furthermore, we are excited to announce the launch of the Little Krishna Vedic Club this year, dedicated to nurturing children between the ages of 6 and 14. As we expand our outreach to the next generation, we are proceeding with great care and responsibility. We are ensuring that all legal compliance is strictly met and that the temple, our volunteers, and the devotees are fully protected by comprehensive insurance. It is our humble prayer that these young souls find a joyful and secure home in your movement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year also marks sixty years since you came to North America, carrying the mission of your spiritual master across the ocean with complete faith. We wish to celebrate this historic moment in a grand way, remembering your sacrifices and determination.

We are deeply indebted to you. You have given us Kṛṣṇa, a purpose in life, and a spiritual family. Without you, we would have remained lost in material existence. Whatever little service we are able to perform is simply by your mercy.

Kindly bless us so that we may remain humble instruments in your mission. Please give us strength to overcome our shortcomings, unity to work together, and sincerity to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Halifax and throughout Nova Scotia.

We pray that one day you may be pleased with our efforts.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Halifax,
(written by Vidyāpati Dāsa)

Hillsborough, North Carolina, USA

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our most humble obeisances. Your ardent followers who are serving at New Goloka Dhāma humbly beg your mercy and thank you for your unlimited kindness by allowing us to take the saffron dust particles of your lotus feet through your glorious and ever-present *vapuḥ*.

We have understood that our great fortune on this material plane is to receive the sublime message of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu through you, His dear *senāpati-bhakta*. You have brought us this inestimable gem of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which includes the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma Hare Hare, and the science of self-realization. Had you not sacrificed so much to bring this transformative process of bhakti-yoga to the world, humankind would be lost in the pits of suffering and despair. We are saved! And we are eternally grateful that you have entrusted us with this most divine mission to help you reclaim the fallen conditioned souls. All glories to you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you!

As you have so eloquently and constantly expressed, and something that resonates strongly with us today, the world is in dire straits for lack of knowledge and understanding of the Absolute Truth. The ancient scriptures that you carefully unpacked for anyone who chooses to read them so they can understand the truth are your greatest gift to the entire world. Unfortunately, you personally showed us that although the *jīvas* are searching for the truth, they are very slow or even unwilling to actually accept it. However, with the current adverse socioeconomic conditions and increasing harassment by various agents of the threefold miseries, eventually, more and more searching souls will arrive at the precipice of "Truth or Die," as did those of us who have surrendered to you. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue to bless us so we may spread this message of the Absolute Truth to the sincere spiritual seekers, and help us understand true compassion to imbibe the same feeling of need and urgency so we may reach out to the suffering masses more insistently.

Our hearts are very heavy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as over this last year so many disciples, pioneers,

and warriors of yours have left our association; we are now helplessly drifting through the dreaded "decade of tears." Although we rejoice for those stalwarts in achieving their long-cherished desire to again join you in your personal service, it is difficult to dampen the profound pain of the loss. They were our mentors, gurus, guides, exemplars, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters – so much to so many, inspiring us all to serve and remember you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. That precious service was their life and soul, their main sustenance, infusing every fiber of their being ... and to live here without those powerful modern *mahārathas* of Lord Caitanya's army leaves us reeling. We humbly beg you to empower us so that we as the torchbearers have the strength to assume greater responsibility in your ISKCON mission so we ensure it continues flourishing on the heels of their powerful pioneering contributions.

Great news, Śrīla Prabhupāda: the steady application of your expert prescription of book distribution plus *harināma* plus *prasādam* has enabled our community to grow and flourish over the past decade or so. To support this phenomenal growth and our continued outreach efforts, we are building up the home base – both literally and figuratively. While work is underway to construct a bright, gorgeous, and more expansive temple, our primary focus is to purify our hearts and minds to best imbibe your teachings and sweetly share our beloved practice of *sādhana-bhakti*. Our worshipable Deities Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Golokānanda are the center of our lives, infusing us with shelter, solace, and strength. Our focus on chanting, hearing, and serving Them with purpose is very strong. As you repeatedly stressed, our spiritual advancement is a direct result of how sincerely we execute one of the nine processes of devotional service. You have kindly shared the formula of how we can truly be happy, fulfilled, and absorbed in serving Their Lordships in this very life. We are so very blessed to continue to nourish and grow this bhakti community with your loving guidance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have repeatedly stressed that humbly serving in a spirit of cooperation is the most pleasing to you. ISKCON is a house in which the whole world can live, a forever home-sweet-home for those who have become attached to your mood and mission. Deepening the quality and authenticity of our association with one another through loving exchanges is the foundation of the New Goloka community. We are fixed here, living under your shelter; indeed, we clearly understand that *sādhu-saṅga* is the most precious jewel we can possess. As our spiritual master, guiding authority, and founder-*ācārya,* your pure and loving understanding that every living being is part and parcel of the Lord gives us the impetus to become more compassionate and inclusive of everyone. As you always exemplified in your personal dealings with others, we must be patient, caring, and tolerant and gently encourage everyone to be friendly toward the service of the Lord. Therefore, we must be absolutely resolute in spreading the glories of the *mahā-mantra* and the process of bhakti-yoga far and wide, and we must be united in that effort. It is our primary duty as your emissaries. We are committed to that role within your mission and we will not fail.

While we are all nicely assembled here together – worshiping and chanting, reading and hearing, singing and dancing, praying and feasting, serving and caring – we realize bhakti-yoga isn't easy. You told us that, and you also told us that the process of bhakti-yoga is simple and sublime. Both are obviously true, and given the overwhelming evidence to take up this completely transformative process, we are delighted and relieved to receive this opportunity to surrender to you. When you were lecturing on the Sixth Canto, chapter 1, text 50 of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in Detroit on 3 August 1975, you famously stated:

> So Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is very kind that without considering whether he is a *siddha* or *viddha* or anything else – "Let them take *kṛṣṇa-prema*." Therefore, Rūpa Gosvāmī prayed to Caitanya Mahāprabhu (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 19.53):

namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ

> He understood, "Here is Kṛṣṇa, but He has come now in the most liberal way. Everyone He is giving *kṛṣṇa-prema*." How? "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, dance, and become a lover of Kṛṣṇa." So nice. Simply by chanting and dancing, one is becoming ... Practical it is. All these boys and girls, four or five years ago they did not know who is Kṛṣṇa. That is surprising to everyone. The whole world is praising this movement because they see practically that how these European-American boys and girls are so much absorbed in the thought of Kṛṣṇa. That is Caitanya Mahāprabhu's gift. *Namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te, kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne*. So very simple thing. Don't think I have played something wonder. No, it is not my wonder. The process is wonderful, the process itself. You have to simply accept; then your life will be successful. It is not that "Bhaktivedanta Swami has brought this." They say. They give me the credit. That is my good fortune also. But actually, I am just like a peon. I have brought, but I am delivering it without any adulteration. That may be my credit. And if you take it without any adulteration and practice it, then your life is successful. This is the secret of success. Chant, dance, take *prasādam,* live very happily, and look very brilliant, and next life go to home, back to Godhead. So kindly ... I am very pleased that you are doing nicely. But don't be proud. Always remain humble, meek, that "I am nothing. I cannot ..." That will be nice. And if you think, "Now I have become liberated. I can chant and dance," no, don't think like that. Just like even *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* author, he says, *purīṣera kīṭa haite muñi se laghiṣṭha:* "I am lower than the worm in the stool." *Jagāi mādhāi haite muñi se pāpiṣṭha:* "I am more sinner than Jagāi-Mādhāi." In this way ... That is not artificial. A Vaiṣṇava must think like that, that "I am rotten. I have no value." Don't be proud. Then the things will go on nicely. And as soon as you become proud, then *māyā* – "Yes, you are God. Come on. I will kick you on your face. Come on." (*laughter*) These rascals become God, and then *māyā* kicks on the face, and they think that they have become God. Don't become like that. Always remain humble servant and you will be happy. Thank you very much.

In that mood of simplicity and sincerity, humility and inclusivity, determination and compassion, and with an attitude of gratitude for a brilliant life steeped in devotion, your servants at New Goloka Dhāma aspire to continue pushing forward this divine *saṅkīrtana* mission. We beg you to continue showering your mercy and compassion upon our humble endeavors.

His Divine Loving Grace Abhaya Caraṇāravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your eternal servant,
Līlāśakti Devī Dāsī
On behalf of the devotees at New Gokula

Houston, Texas, USA

Our dearest and most beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet, the shelter of all fallen and conditioned souls. All glories to Your Divine Grace for beginning Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement and carrying it throughout the world. We are eternally grateful for your example of humility, tolerance, sacrifice, and unwavering determination in Kṛṣṇa's service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, without your mercy and blessings we would have no strength to continue our devotional services. Whatever we have been able to do in our temple activities is only by your kindness and the inspiration of your instructions. We pray to remain steady year after year and to assist, in our small way, in spreading the glories of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, as you envisioned.

Forty-nine years ago, your dear disciples incorporated ISKCON of Houston and began the work of bringing spiritual life to this city. We are grateful to share a few glimpses of how your mercy continues to manifest here. Forty years ago, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Nīlamādhava made the Houston temple Their home, and this year we will celebrate Their anniversary along with Janmāṣṭamī and a kirtan festival that draws thousands of guests.

By the blessings of the Deities and your guidance, our Deity worship department strives to maintain and steadily improve standards, while training a new generation to serve. In recent years, many devotees have taken up this service, and we are encouraged to see their sincere growth in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In keeping with your desire that Kṛṣṇa consciousness be shared with everyone regardless of background or qualification, the Bhakti Urban Farm program welcomes many new seekers each Sunday to hear *hari-kathā* and chant the holy names. Similarly, following your instruction to prepare future leaders, the Goswami Academy school has been serving for over a decade, with more than twenty full-time students and five full-time teachers dedicated to nurturing our children in devotional life and strong character. Our Sunday School is also vibrant, with over 180 students attending each week for age-appropriate classes on the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, japa* and kirtan, arts and crafts, and interactive activities that help them learn Vaiṣṇava etiquette, prayers, and practical devotional habits. In line with your desire to establish higher education programs in devotional service, such as the Bhakti Śāstrī, Bhakti Vaibhava, and beyond, over the last twenty-five years more than 350 students have gone through our śāstric education.

Your book distribution and *harināma-saṅkīrtana* are especially dear to your heart. By your mercy, devotees go out daily to distribute your books throughout the city, and weekly *harināma* is held, along with *prasādam* distribution. You came to teach what we have forgotten – our eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa – and imbibing that same mood, we are trying to remind the public of Kṛṣṇa through the holy name, *prasādam* distribution, and your transcendental books. By your causeless mercy, overall book distribution increased by 25 percent in 2025 over 2024. This year, by your grace, Lord Jagannātha's mercy was carried widely through our participation in the Art Car Parade caravan – wholeheartedly welcomed by the citizens of Houston, just as a thirsty person feels satisfied after drinking water. We reached thousands in person and many more through media coverage. We pray that this receptive spirit may awaken many hearts to the chanting of the holy name, and that your books and Lord Jagannātha's mercy may enter every home.

Because you emphasized the importance of *prasādam* distribution for purification of the heart, Govinda's restaurant has been serving the Houston community for the past decade – offering *prasādam* and introducing many local residents to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In addition, many other services continue throughout the year, including *bhakti-vṛkṣa* programs, university and college preaching, and numerous festivals. Sunday feasts, which Your Divine Grace started in the early years of establishing the movement, are now attended by a mix of approximately 800 visitors and

devotees – an encouraging sign of your movement's continued growth and outreach to the locals. These efforts are carried out by devotees who try to serve sincerely under your shelter.

This year, ISKCON of Houston is observing the 60th anniversary of your movement by organizing a gala to reflect on your mercy and to highlight what has been accomplished – from small beginnings to a dedicated community and many ongoing service efforts – while keeping Kṛṣṇa in the center. We pray that the program will please you, and that whatever good comes from it may be offered at your feet.

"And if we take up the process sincerely, with love, then Lord within will give you dictation: 'You come this way, come this way, come this way.' Otherwise, not. The first condition is: *teṣāṁ satata-yuktānām*. Therefore, we are trying to engage all our disciples to be engaged twenty-four hours in devotional service. Then his life will be successful. That is our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement." (Morning walk, April 20, 1973, Los Angeles)



As you expressed on that morning walk, we are trying according to our capacity to remain engaged in Kṛṣṇa's service throughout the year in various ways. We aspire to make your instructions our life and soul. Still, we know that without your blessings we cannot go very far. On your divine appearance day, we therefore beg for your causeless mercy so we may continue to serve your mission with sincerity and help carry it forward for the benefit of others.

"The temple management very nicely means to render service to Kṛṣṇa." (Lecture on *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 20.395, given in Hyderabad on August 17, 1976)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we may always remember your instruction that temple management means to render service to Kṛṣṇa. Kindly grant us the intelligence to keep Kṛṣṇa in the center of all our services, and the humility to cooperate as your servants in unity. Please engage us in whatever way will most please Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Nīlamādhava and further the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, so that your books, your instructions, and the holy name may be carried to every heart. We offer this report and all that we are at your lotus feet.

Your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Houston

Manitoba, Canada

Our dear eternal spiritual master, our dear father, Your Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

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

You have accepted all of us as your spiritual children. In this material world, relationships may come and go, but the relationship between the spiritual master and disciple is eternal. You write in your book *Elevation to Kṛṣṇa consciousness* that whenever we feel separation from Kṛṣṇa or the spiritual master, we should just try to remember their words of instruction and we will no longer feel that separation. Such association with Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master should be association by sound vibration, not physical presence. It is best to remember the teachings. Similarly, you are always present in your books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, to come closer to you by following your instructions, we at Śrī Hari Vaikuṇṭha Dhāma, ISKCON Manitoba, have started two reading circles: a fifteen-minute reading from Sunday through Friday for your small books, and a one-hour reading Mondays through Friday reading your medium books. We need your blessings to continue these readings and to understand your teachings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, more than forty devotees last year successfully completed their *Gītā* for Life course and are currently attending *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam Śikṣā* course every Saturday.

With your blessings, another program called Spiritual Buddy is going on where devotees help one another to grow in spiritual life by following the "Each one, teach one" motto. More than sixty devotees have graduated this year from level 1, Śraddhavān, where they chant a minimum of two rounds and read one small book. Another more than twenty-five devotees have graduated from further levels, such as Kṛṣṇa Sevak and Kṛṣṇa Sādhaka, requiring that they chant at least eight rounds and complete seven or eight small books.

Like a compassionate father, you never abandon your children. We humbly pray that you never let go of our hands but kindly keep us always engaged at your lotus feet.

In your introduction to *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* you offered your obeisances to your spiritual master, expressing how he opened your eyes with the torchlight of knowledge. Similarly, we feel that we were born in the deepest darkness of ignorance, and by your mercy, that darkness is being dissipated. Our lives, which once felt directionless and full of illusion, are now gradually finding their true purpose.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to make a humble request that we never give up reading your books, hearing your lectures, associating with devotees, chanting the holy name, or engaging in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa. We pray to you for strength and guidance to remain fixed in this commitment. In the eternal spiritual realm, you are waiting to guide all fallen souls like us back to our true home. We pray that we may become worthy of your mercy and not delay that journey any further. Kindly bless us that we can become instruments in fulfilling your mission.

Your humble servants,
The family of Śrī Hari Vaikuṇṭha Dhāma in Manitoba

Miami, Florida, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

nama oṁ 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 Krsna on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

namas te sārasvate 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.

Beginning in the early days of your newly established International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, you spoke in your lectures and wrote in your books about the impersonalists and the dangerous effects of impersonalism and voidism. Generally, especially in the United States, we did not understand the significance of your words. We assumed that your reference to impersonalism and voidism was some far-fetched philosophy that could only be found in India and that it was irrelevant to the Western world. Still, it seemed odd that in your second *praṇām-mantra* we regularly glorify you for delivering the Western world from the effects of impersonalism and voidism.

Gradually we understood that impersonalism and voidism had already infiltrated our lives in many ways, perhaps not with the presentation of the deep, misleading philosophical arguments of the Māyāvādīs, but with the general concepts that God does not exist, or that He is impersonal and that real knowledge can *only* be attained by man's personal endeavor, speculation, and experimentation. In general, Western civilization had been brainwashed with the assumption that real knowledge can only be attained through the material sciences and other means of direct sensual perception, and not simply from the perfect source: God.

You preached very heavily against the materialistic, atheistic scientists. You did not preach against science per se, because the *Vedas* are full of science. You preached against two particular goals of science. First was the idea that life has come about as the result of material interactions. The second was the idea that the material cosmic manifestation came about accidentally and without any intelligent direction, in spite of our practical experience that there is great order in the movements of the planets, stars, and nature, and we never find order anywhere without intelligent intervention.

Why did you take the trouble to preach in this way, even though many people held the material scientists in high esteem? You preached this way because your goal was to give the world the real science. You did not criticize science, but rather you showed the world what real science is. You pointed out that what is generally taught as science in the textbooks and scientific papers is largely speculation, because many of the ideas that are presented as facts are later proven to be false. On the other hand, the Vedic science is never wrong and never changes because it comes from the Lord Himself. Lord Kṛṣṇa says in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (4.1) "I instructed this imperishable science of yoga to the sun god, Vivasvān, and Vivasvān instructed it to Manu, the father of mankind, and Manu in turn instructed it to Ikṣvāku."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you preached that real science never changes. It comes from the Supreme Lord, and He is not a cheater, nor does He have imperfect senses, nor is He in illusion, nor does He make mistakes. You also, as the Lord's pure representative, do not have these imperfections, and therefore you have presented this science as it is without deviation.

It is also very significant and to your eternal credit that you had full faith in the Vedic knowledge and also that you had the determination to present the Vedic knowledge as Lord Kṛṣṇa gave it without making changes just to satisfy the local population. In other words, you were not a politician who would lie to and cheat the people to secure votes just to be elected to some public office. You always spoke the truth as it is, regardless of whether it was popular or not.

Often, the scientific community has downplayed or dismissed discoveries that challenge widely accepted theories, such as Darwin's evolution or concepts of gradual universal development, rather than unsettling the public consensus. Your glory was that you did not come into this world to find many followers. You came to remind the people in general of what they had forgotten: their eternal relationship with the Lord.

To address the materialistic and atheistic concepts found in the material sciences, you very intelligently engaged and empowered some of your disciples who had scientific credentials in using their scientific knowledge and also their understanding of the Vedic conclusions, in preaching to the scientific community. You knew that the normal rank and file of devotees, even though they accepted the Vedic principles, would have a difficult time preaching to the material scientists without being able to relate to the scientists in their own language and with reference to their own discoveries and conclusions. Therefore, you established the Bhaktivedanta Institute which continues to present the conclusions of our teachings to the material scientific community. You always taught us that we should preach according to time, place, and the particular circumstances and audiences.

Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your life is always glorious because you have boldly preached the absolute truth without deviation.

Here at ISKCON Miami, we are also trying our best to present the same conclusions to the people in general. We do not presently have devotees who can preach to the material scientific community in their own language, but we are trying our best to find the ways and means to present Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone according to their means. We pray that you will continue to guide us and empower us to expertly present the eternal Vedic principles to our variegated community according to their own areas of understanding.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Miami

Milton, Ontario, Canada

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda and his devotees,

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

Today we are gathered to celebrate the auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony for Śrīla Prabhupāda, who saved the world through his compassionate preaching. At an advanced age, he traveled from Calcutta to Boston without almost any money, a single contact, no manpower, a little physical strength – driven solely by one purpose: to serve his Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī stated:

> There has not been and there will not be such benefactors of the highest merit as Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His devotees have been. The offer of other benefits is only a deception; it is rather a great harm, whereas the benefit done by Him and His followers is the truest and greatest eternal benefit. This benefit is not for one particular country, causing mischief to another; but it benefits the whole universe.

In the *Bhagavad-gītā* (6.29) Kṛṣṇa says of the true yogi: "A true yogi observes Me in all beings and also sees every being in Me. Indeed, the self-realized person sees Me, the same Supreme Lord, everywhere."

In a lecture delivered in 1968 in Seattle on the disappearance day of his *sannyāsa-guru,* Śrīla Prabhupāda said:

> I was sitting alone in Vṛndāvana, writing. My godbrother insisted to me, "Bhaktivedanta Prabhu, you must do it. Without accepting the renounced order of life, nobody can become a preacher." So he insisted. Not he insisted; practically my spiritual master insisted. He wanted me to become a preacher, so he forced me through this godbrother: "You accept." So, unwillingly I accepted

One of Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciples told us, "If you become conscious of Śrīla Prabhupāda, then you will surely become Kṛṣṇa conscious." This highlights the profound truth that by following and understanding His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, one naturally develops pure devotion to Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda himself always gave full credit for all his achievements to his spiritual master,

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, demonstrating perfect humility and *guru-niṣṭhā* (firm faith in the spiritual master).

Never Give Up

On one occasion, when Śrīla Prabhupāda was visiting one city, he remarked that the city was filled with ignorance and its people hardhearted, like stone. Hearing this, one of his disciples asked, "Śrīla Prabhupāda, should we leave this city and go somewhere else?"

Śrīla Prabhupāda firmly replied, "That does not mean we are going to leave these people. We will preach here. Just because it is difficult does not mean we give up."

This incident reveals that Śrīla Prabhupāda was truly a fearless spiritual warrior, determined to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness even in the most challenging circumstances.

We must learn from the example of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda: when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Great devotees like Prahlāda Mahārāja and Śrīla Prabhupāda teach us that true devotees never give up. No matter how difficult the circumstances, they continue forward with determination. This unwavering perseverance is one of the defining qualities of a pure devotee.

A pure devotee is ready to tolerate any hardship – insults, difficulties, or challenges in this world – but will never abandon chanting, preaching, or striving to please Lord Kṛṣṇa. Such steadfast devotion deeply pleases the Lord. One can imagine even Kṛṣṇa marveling, "Just see, this devotee never gives up performing devotional service!"

Śrīla Prabhupāda himself faced many struggles and setbacks in the United States. Yet, this was all part of Kṛṣṇa's divine plan. Kṛṣṇa arranged that no external support would come easily so the world could witness the depth of His devotee's surrender.

Through all odds, Śrīla Prabhupāda persevered alone and established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in the West. Therefore, full credit goes to him – single-handedly, with complete faith and surrender, he laid the foundation of a global spiritual movement.

The Unimaginable Struggles of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

Alone in a foreign land in the bitter winter of New York City, Śrīla Prabhupāda walked with quiet determination. He had no money, no followers, no institution – no visible support of any kind. To the world, he appeared to be just another unknown elderly man moving through the crowded streets of Manhattan.

Yet within him burned something far greater. He carried the weight of a divine mission – the sacred order of his spiritual master.

Crushing Physical Hardships

The winter of 1965–66 was merciless. Snowstorms swallowed the city whole, and icy winds tore through the streets with a sharpness that seemed to pierce the body itself. Temperatures plunged below freezing, roads hardened into sheets of ice, and even the strongest struggled to keep their footing.

And there was Śrīla Prabhupāda. An elderly saint from India, clad in a simple dhoti beneath a thin coat, walking through blizzards. His face grew numb, his eyes watered from the freezing wind; there was no car to carry him, no comfort to shield him, no protection from the cold. Still, he walked. Every single day.

Pressure to Compromise His Faith

Well-wishers urged him: "Change your clothes." "Adopt Western habits." "Give up your strict principles." Even respected figures like Mr. Mishra advised him that if he wished to survive in the West, he would have to adjust – perhaps even compromise – his core spiritual vows.

But Śrīla Prabhupāda stood firm. “I have not come to beg something; I have come to give something.”

He chose struggle over compromise, hardship over dilution, and refused to trade the purity of Kṛṣṇa consciousness for comfort or acceptance.

The Pain of Loneliness

No followers. No disciples. No community. Just silence. A subway conductor, Mr. Ruben, once noticed him sitting alone, like a solitary holy man with no one by his side. Yet Śrīla Prabhupāda would say, “I am not alone.” He spoke to Mr. Ruben of future temples, future devotees, as if they were already there, waiting.

Repeated Financial Rejections

Hope came, then shattered. Support that once seemed within reach suddenly vanished. Lal Bahadur Shastri, who had appreciated him and might have helped release funds, passed away unexpectedly. A door closed.

Under Indira Gandhi, the government denied permission to send money abroad. Another door closed.

Padampat Singhania initially encouraged the idea of building a temple but later stepped back, then withdrew completely. The final door closed.

Prabhupāda even approached A. M. Hartman with a humble request: to use an empty building, just temporarily, for a spiritual center. His request was refused.

Silence from His Own Circle

He wrote letter after letter to godbrothers, institutions, friends – not for himself, but for a temple for Kṛṣṇa.

But the replies did not come. Or when they did, they carried no real help. Even those who might have stood beside him remained silent. Imagine that pain!

Failure Even in His Own Country

His books – *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* – barely moved in India; only a few copies were sold. Bookstores returned stacks of them. Even in the so-called “land of religion,” there was little interest.

A Broken World Around Him

He looked at America, with its tall buildings, wealth, and advanced technology.

But inside, he saw the youth struggling with drug addiction, growing protests against the Vietnam War, and increasing social unrest and anxiety. To him, American appeared to have material success on the outside, but spiritual emptiness within.

Relentless External Failures

No funding, no buildings, no support, no recognition. Every plan blocked. Every effort resisted. Every hope tested.

Yet he never stopped. This is where glory shines the brightest.

Despite everything, he wrote and translated daily, chanted constantly, cooked and offered his food to Kṛṣṇa, and spoke philosophy to even a single listener.

The Real Victory

Externally, he looked defeated. But spiritually, he was already victorious because he never forgot Kṛṣṇa. He never gave up. He never compromised.

At that moment, in the winter of New York, no one believed in him or supported him or recognized him.

But *he* believed in his guru, his mission, and Kṛṣṇa.

And that was enough.

Final Reflection

The world saw a struggling old man, but history would reveal a spiritual giant. A warrior. A pure devotee who crossed oceans, faced rejection after rejection, walked through freezing storms, endured loneliness, and never gave up.

And from that struggle, a global movement was born.

I will conclude this offering with one of Prabhupāda's most powerful final instructions: "Your love for me will be shown by how you cooperate to keep this movement alive after I am gone."

He knew that internal conflicts could weaken the movement, so he stressed unity, cooperation, and working together in service.

Here are some beautiful lines from his purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.30.8: "Those who are actually engaged in the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead cannot be disunited in any circumstance. This makes the Supreme Personality of Godhead very happy and willing to award all kinds of benediction to His devotees, as indicated in this verse."

Your humble servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Milton

Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

On behalf of the Minnesota temple and our Kṛṣṇa conscious community here, we feel grateful for another year under your shelter. Your presence continues to guide us in ways we often don't even realize until later.

One of the most meaningful moments for us this year was hosting ISKCON Minnesota's first Ratha-yātrā. For our community, it was a deeply emotional and joyful experience. Seeing Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Devī come out and bless the streets of Minnesota felt like a moment we had been waiting for, and it touched our hearts in a way we will never forget.

Throughout the year, we saw your teachings quietly touch people. During our weekly kirtans, new guests stayed longer than they expected, especially many college students who were curious and searching for something deeper. Their openness, their questions, and the way they connected with the chanting showed us how naturally Kṛṣṇa consciousness can reach people when it's

offered with sincerity. The children's enthusiasm during kirtan and service also brought a warmth to the temple that lifted everyone's spirits.

In this Age of Kali, we see how stressed, anxious, and overwhelmed people are. Many feel lost or are unsure where to turn. But when they come in contact with your teachings – even briefly – something softens in their hearts. We see it in their eyes, in their questions, and in the relief they feel during kirtan. Your message gives people hope, clarity, and a sense of direction that is hard to find in today's world.

Our university outreach at the University of Minnesota also gave us hope. Students were open, curious, and genuinely trying to understand Kṛṣṇa consciousness and your mission. Their sincerity reminded us that your teachings continue to reach new people, even in places where we might not expect it.

Inside the temple, we've tried to strengthen our services – festivals, Deity worship, and caring for one another. There were times when things felt challenging, but returning to your instructions on humility and cooperation helped us stay steady. Again and again, we felt guided back to what truly matters.

As a community, we feel inspired to do more. We genuinely want to serve more, to reach more people, and to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a way that touches hearts. There is so much more we hope to offer – through outreach, festivals, *prasādam,* kirtan, and simply being available for anyone who is searching. Our prayer is to grow in sincerity and dedication so we can contribute more meaningfully to your mission.

We are grateful to serve under the guidance of His Holiness Romapāda Swami, whose instructions help us stay aligned with your mood and mission. His reminders about sincerity, patience, and genuine care keep us grounded as we try to carry forward even a small part of your vision.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we feel so blessed. Your teachings give us hope, direction, and the heart to serve the community the way you taught – with humility and care.

Your servant of the servant,
Śauri Dāsa, temple president

Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Our most dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON!

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the devotees of ISKCON Mississauga offer our heartfelt gratitude and reverence unto you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our eternal guide, our ever well-wisher, and the compassionate

savior of this age. By your causeless mercy you crossed the ocean at an advanced age with nothing but the order of your spiritual master and full faith in the holy name of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Because of you, we have the priceless gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Because of you, the holy name is being chanted in homes, temples, and hearts across the world – including here in Mississauga. Because of you, our lives have found meaning, direction, and shelter.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us everything – your books, your teachings, your temples, your devotees, and most importantly, your example. Your life is a living commentary on surrender, determination, humility, and unwavering devotion to guru and Kṛṣṇa.

In our small community here, we are trying to follow your instructions to chant sincerely, serve cooperatively, and share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others. Though we are imperfect and often struggling, we take hope in your words that even a little endeavor on this path is never lost.

Here are some highlights from our activities, which we offer at your lotus feet:

- August 10, 2025 – celebrated our first anniversary on Balarāma Pūrṇimā.
- Fifteen festivals celebrated in 2025 – Nityānanda-trayodaśī, Gaura-Pūrṇimā, Rāma-navamī, Nṛsiṁha-caturdaśī, the *chida-dahi* festival, Ratha-yātrā, Balaram Pūrṇimā, Janmāṣṭamī, Vyāsa-pūjā, Rādhāṣṭamī, the Mississauga Festival of Joy, Govardhan-pūjā, Gītā-jayantī, a *Gītā* Contest for Children, and a New Year's Day celebration.
- We have a Sunday School for children ages 5–17, a Krishna and Balaram Group for Ślokas, Stories from the Vedic *Purāṇas,* two classes conducted by screened and safety-trained teachers from ISKCON.
- Increase in congregational members – we have 50–90+ devotees regularly attending our Sunday feast. Every week we have one or two families as newcomers. Trying our best to retain them to become regular members.
- Department heads and departmental meetings on Tuesdays to address challenges and how to improve.
- Deities – scheduling *pūjārīs* for *ārati,* planning and executing festivals.
- Decoration – every Sunday, setting up the table for the Deities and a grand setup for festivals.
- Garland making – purchasing flowers, maintaining and making garlands each week
- *Prasādam* – a group of volunteers preparing one or two items at ISKCON Mississauga, and the rest at home.
- Setup and Windup – setting up chairs, tables, the mike, the projector, etc. on a weekly basis.
- Purchases – buying disposable items and other items as and when required.
- IT – ISKCON Mississauga's security, website, and updating our social media; recording *āratis* and classes, preparing flyers for the regular Sunday programs and festivals, etc.
- Communications – letters to invite VIPs, recommendation letters to His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami Mahārāja for initiations, communicating with various city officials as per requirements.
- Sunday School – philosophy presented in simplified stories.
- Vedic discourse – scheduling weekly speakers.
- Kirtans – drawing up a schedule for who will sing the *āratis* and closing kirtans or lead *bhajanas* once for the next two months.
- *Saṅkīrtana* – book distribution at temples, grocery stores, festivals and kirtans, etc.
- Mississauga Festival of Joy (MFOJ) – preparing for this big event through weekly meetings, budgeting, finalizing location, etc.
- Vaiṣṇava Care (started in September 2025) – caring for devotees in need by providing them with *prasādam* and other help.
- Accounting – developing Sunday Feast and festival sponsors; encouraging monthly donors – at the moment, we have fifteen families.

Saṅkīrtana score for 2025:

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam sets: 36
Mahā-big books: 1,001
Large books: 160
Medium books: 71
Small books: 446
Other: 10

Total books distributed: 1,724

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray for the strength to serve your mission with sincerity. We pray for the intelligence to remain united in your service. And we pray for the humility to always remember that we are simply instruments in your divine plan.

Please continue to guide us from within our hearts. Please help us to become worthy representatives of your movement. Let ISKCON Mississauga be a place where your teachings are lived, your books are honored, and your mission continues to flourish. On this sacred day, we place our lives, our service, and our hearts at your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Mississauga

Montreal, Québec, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

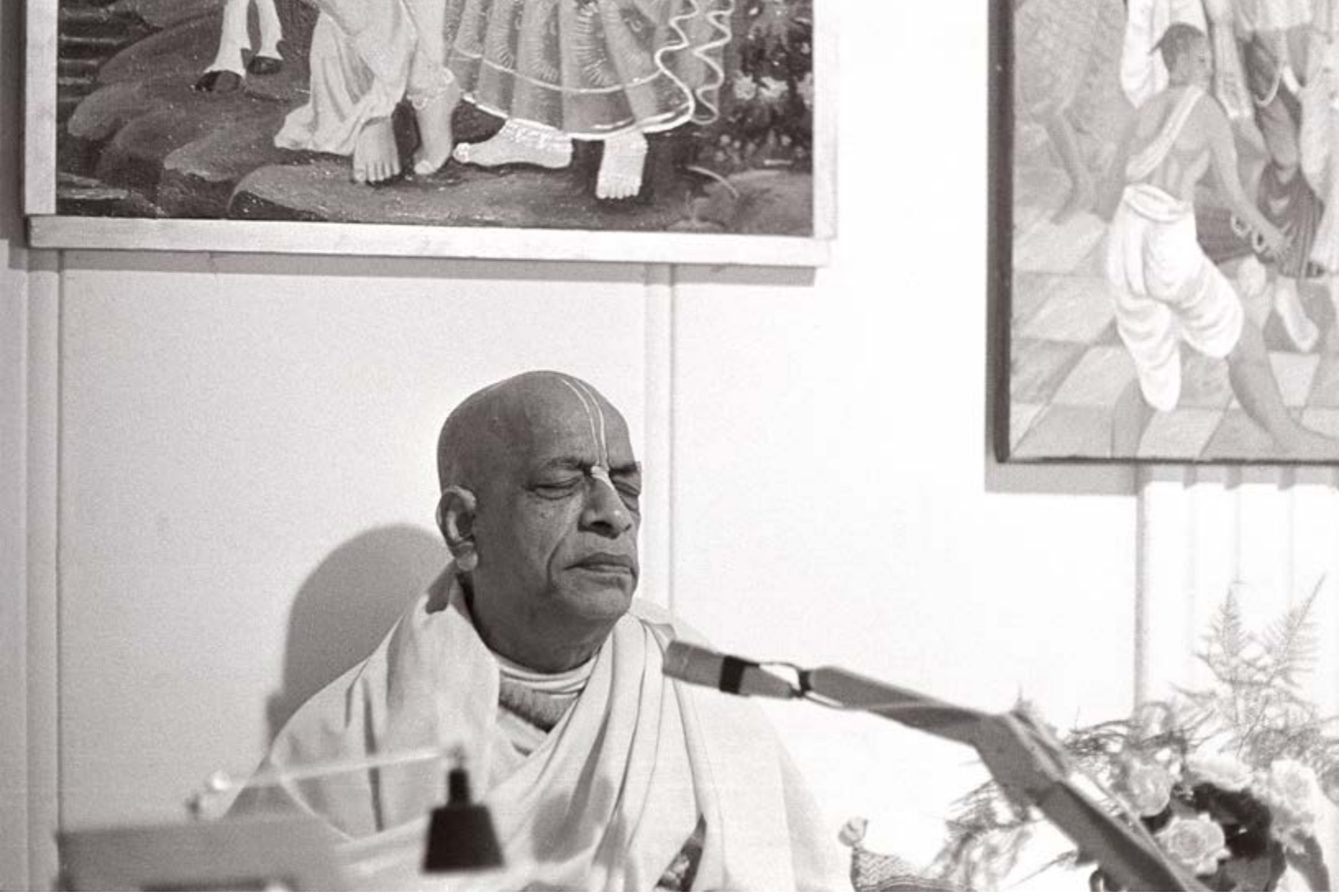
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

kali-kālera dharma — kṛṣṇa-nāma-saṅkīrtana
kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana

> The fundamental religious system in the Age of Kali is the chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Unless empowered by Kṛṣṇa, one cannot propagate the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

This verse is a direct reference to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for being the *kṛṣṇa-śakti,* a *saktyavesa-avatāra,* the *nāma-saṅkīrtana ācārya*. For who else has spread Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement far and wide?

We can just imagine the reactions of your godbrothers and others when they found out that



you had gone to America to preach. So many things must have crossed their minds. They surely had concerns for the perils and challenges associated with such an undertaking.

At 69, people retire. Hardly anyone would start anything at that age – especially not a worldwide movement like ISKCON.

Traveling to America with only 40 rupees (which was around 8 US dollars at the time) is unheard of. This journey on the *Jaladuta,* a cargo ship, was not an overnight flight; it would take 37 days to reach Boston from India. Although you did not know anyone in America, Kṛṣṇa arranged for you to meet Mr. Prasad Agarwal from Agra. Since his son was living in Butler, Pennsylvania, at the time, Mr. Agarwal requested him to send you a letter of sponsorship to assist you in your preaching mission.

Where would you live? The Agarwal's had limited space in their home with a family of four. Being in a foreign land, alone, what could you attempt to accomplish? Would there be anyone to claim your body if you suddenly passed away?

In the early '30s, efforts were made to preach in England, with little if any result. Therefore, few of your godbrothers made attempts to preach outside India. Besides, not one Englishmen had shown any interest for Kṛṣṇa consciousness in two hundred years of British presence in India. Why would Americans be any different?

Sumati Morarji, director of the biggest cargo shipping company in India, was apprehensive. To allow your passage on the *Jaladuta* would be a voyage to death. She did not want this on her conscience. Your conviction was paramount in changing her mind.

It was a difficult journey. We cannot imagine what it was like for you to experience, both the seasickness and the two heart attacks. You wrote in your diary: "I do not know how I was saved. Struggling between life and death."

During the height of your health crisis, you had a vision of Lord Kṛṣṇa rowing the boat, which gave you the strength to continue. In New York, a third heart attack and some paralysis forced you to return to India. Your young students were shocked, not knowing if you would ever be able to come back. Somehow, in India, your health improved. Time was not on your side, however, making your mission more pressing to fulfill. Reflecting on all this we understand how your determination and the compassion for us was always so much greater than any personal physical considerations.

ya idaṁ paramaṁ guhyaṁ mad-bhakteṣv abhidhāsyati
bhaktiṁ mayi parāṁ kṛtvā mām evaiṣyaty asaṁśayaḥ

For one who explains this supreme secret to the devotees, pure devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end he will come back to Me.

na ca tasmān manuṣyeṣu kaścin me priya-kṛttamaḥ
bhavitā na ca me tasmād anyaḥ priya-taro bhuvi

There is no servant in this world more dear to Me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear.

As Bali Mahārāja became one of the *mahājanas* by surrendering everything to Vāmanadeva, so the risks you took, Śrīla Prabhupāda, leaving Vrindaban, India, to preach on the Bowery – skid row of New York City at the time – is quite astonishing. To travel the globe fourteen times over, making thousands of devotees, we have to declare you to be the thirteenth *mahājana,* (*mahājano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ*) for you have shown the path of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* for all the world to follow.

In the *Gītā* there is a statement by Arjuna to Lord Kṛṣṇa that we feel also applies to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, since you are the living *Bhāgavatam*:

arjuna uvāca
sthāne hṛṣīkeśa tava prakīrtyā jagat prahṛṣyaty anurajyate ca
rakṣāṁsi bhītāni diśo drainait sarve namasyanti ca siddha-saṅghāḥ

Arjuna said: O master of the senses, the world becomes joyful upon hearing Your name, and thus everyone becomes attached to You. Although the perfected beings offer You their respectful homage, the demons are afraid, and they flee here and there. All this is rightly done.

We are lost for words to express our deepest gratitude for your gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. On this most auspicious day of your appearance, we pray to get a glance of your mercy, for that is all we are begging for.

Your servants at the Montreal temple
(written by Lakṣmīnātha Dāsa)

Muskoka, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most sincere humble obeisances. All glories unto you. By the inconceivable mercy and grace of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, I somehow found the way to your lotus feet. You have inspired all of us, both individually and collectively, to find ways to serve your ISKCON mission.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, when we see where we came from spiritually and where we are today, it is all because of your mercy, passed on to us by your ambassadors and followers. Our sincere, humble, and heartfelt desire is to pass on the same love, care, and protection that we and our families have received from you through the preaching activities at ISKCON Muskoka. It is a great credit to your teaching that we are able to perform a service through preaching under the shelter of ISKCON Muskoka.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as far as the preaching is concerned, we are performing a number of activities to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness through your teachings and the teachings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu – activities such as celebrating a Sunday feast program, holding yoga programs, celebrating all the festivals, including Ratha-yātrā, Gaura-Pūrṇimā, Janmāṣṭamī, Rādhāṣṭamī, Govardhana-pūjā, and many more. We preach, hold kirtans, cook *prasādam,* perform *dhāma-sevā,* and educate our next generation in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are my life and soul. Please allow us to serve your lotus feet, and keep us in the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Muskoka Īśvara.

Your insignificant servant,
Vyāsa Āchārya Dāsa
and the devotees of ISKCON Muskoka

New Tālavana, Carriere, Mississippi, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day of your appearance, we meditate on your unusual achievement of establishing Kṛṣṇa consciousness on such a wide scale to such a wide spectrum of individuals.

Just as Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī is honored as *śrī-gaura-karuṇa-vigraha,* "the personified energy of Sri Caitanya's mercy," you have inherited that divine quality, which rescues fallen souls from the great dream of being independent enjoyers in this world. When they become attracted by your loving compassion, they awaken their eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa.

Guru means heavy. You are carrying the heaviest manifestation of the Lord's internal potency, comprised of love and compassion. This *gaura-śakti,* which propelled you in your mission, was quite evident by your great determination to distribute the holy names to whomever you met. And because your chanting of the holy names was imbued with *prema,* it penetrated the hearts of all listeners, making you immediately successful.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have a dire need for your mercy that we may also be recipients of this *gaura-karuṇa-śakti* and thus enabled to distribute the holy name and teachings of Lord Caitanya to the conditioned souls. Most importantly, we need your mercy in order to be able to show sincere love and respect for our fellow devotees. Land, buildings, corporate organization, philosophy, and even beautiful Deities are not enough to unite a group of diverse personalities into a community or society of loving devotees. Without such an example of loving devotees, how can we attract others to the sublime culture of Kṛṣṇa consciousness?

You are our source for this divine mercy which eradicates all contamination in the heart and establishes transcendental love of God.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we bow down at your lotus feet with all the humility and sincerity at our command, ready to serve you and please you in any way.

Your humble servants at New Tālavana farm, in southern Mississippi
(written by Pṛthuśravā Dāsa)

New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

To fulfill the order of your spiritual master, sixty years ago you came to America to teach the ancient science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to share the message of Lord Caitanya through the *harināma-saṅkīrtana* movement.

I offer my prostrated obeisances unto you as your servant and disciple.

Upon departing this mortal world, you graciously left us your transcendental presence to carry on your mission – your example of a life of devotion, the ISKCON movement you established, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and all your books, initiation into our Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava lineage, your many instructions, and the association of your dedicated followers.

These gifts flow from your mercy, compassion, wisdom, and sacrifice. You are our only qualification. You are the wealth we have to give.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we happily and gratefully distribute your gifts.

Touched by your compassion for all conditioned souls, our hearts awaken with the desire to love Kṛṣṇa. In that awakening, our darkness is dispelled, and we naturally want to share this gift with others.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have touched so many hearts, and with gratitude we offer this service.

To live in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we cultivate a service attitude for Kṛṣṇa. You have taught us to become strong and empowered through bhakti-yoga – a process by which we develop a loving relationship with God. When love arises from the spiritual platform, it transcends all material considerations. In this way, bhakti connects the heart and soul, unified by the grace of Kṛṣṇa.

You have instructed us to ground our devotional life in *sādhana,* the daily practices of

bhakti-yoga. We seek Kṛṣṇa while trying to please Your Divine Grace – chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* hearing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and your other books, participating in kirtan, taking darshan of the Deities, preparing and honoring *prasādam,* and serving with devotees. By maintaining these practices, by your grace, we become strengthened in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray for the focus and association needed to cultivate the desire to please you.

From your example we have learned that Kṛṣṇa always helps the sincere. Whoever we are, wherever we come from, whatever we have done or not done, Kṛṣṇa responds to sincerity. As we approach Him, "He preserves what we have and carries what we lack." Even when His help comes in unexpected ways, we trust it as an opportunity for purification and growth in bhakti.

We pray to receive Kṛṣṇa's mercy and to help share the message that He always protects His devotees.

Through your books, we understand that Kṛṣṇa resides within the heart, even if we cannot yet perceive him. By following your instructions – serving the servants of your devotees and chanting Kṛṣṇa's holy names – His beauty, grace, and mercy awaken within us. He removes our *anarthas* and grants liberation even in this life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you blessed the world by coming to the forests of West Virginia to establish the sacred New Vrindaban pilgrimage project. After naming this place New Vrindaban Dhāma, you returned many times to sanctify it as a community rooted in simple living and high thinking. You instructed us to recite *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* daily, care for the land, protect the cows, and welcome pilgrims who come for association and darshan of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vṛndāvana Candra. For this, we remain deeply grateful.

With this spirit, we strive to embrace your teachings. Please bless us to reflect even a small measure of the urgency with which you traveled the world, sharing compassion for all conditioned souls and setting the example for us to follow.

Although I am unqualified to be part of your mission, you have accepted me nonetheless. I pray for your mercy to pass the tests required to serve and assist you.

Your servant,
Sudhanu Dāsa
On behalf of the New Vrindaban community

Niagara, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my humble obeisance unto your lotus feet. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Regardless of our situation, we are protected by the power of the divine name, which, by your great efforts and mercy, has grown to fill more than eight hundred centers worldwide and will keep on increasing. ISKCON Niagara is one of these centers. Though I lack the knowledge and ability to properly glorify you, still, by your unconditional mercy, you have blessed us beyond what we deserve.

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

As you stated, you are still dissipating the darkness of ignorance in the world of *māyā* through your books. If not for these words that are available to us via the technological medium, those of us who have not seen you physically would not have an opportunity to hear and chant with you.

We at Niagara present the knowledge through your books to all the new devotees visiting our center for the first time. Our book distribution team has been placing smart boxes in various retail outlets in order to pass out the transcendental treasure of knowledge to all.

Inspired by your childhood Ratha-yātrā, we at Niagara, as a growing center, by your mercy have taken steps to organize a children's Ratha-yātrā. It was a great event, by your blessings. This year we intend to perform it again so that kids get connected to the Lord with a smile. In the future, we aspire to hold a massive Ratha-yātrā along Niagara Falls.

Our Sunday school teachers are making sure that our little devotees grow up to be happy, intelligent, self-disciplined, and absorbed in a spirit of devotion to Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us how childhood education determines the future of both the individual and the society. Please bless us so that we may train the children properly. We want that they become the strongest hope for a spiritually progressive society.

Our cultural team has been delivering the pastimes of the Supreme through dramas and classical dance performances. In this way they reach those who neither read nor hear about the Supreme and His love for His devotees.

What would have happened if you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, had not come? This line holds so true in our lives. If you had not been there, then the life of fallen souls like us would have been wasted without Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You have truly been a *senāpati-bhakta,* as mentioned by Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You have saved so many souls and are still doing so by training them to fight against *māyā* by handing them the word of *hari-nāma,* especially for *jīvas* like us, who are far away from the holy *dhāma*.

yadi pāpi chāḍi dharma dūre deśe yāya
mora senāpati-bhakta yāibe tathāya
(*Śrī Caitanya-maṅgala*)

We have been organizing our annual retreats, where we visit other ISKCON centers. These visits have been loved by the devotees, as they get a chance to glorify the Lord with other devotees and even improve their *sādhana* while they are away from their regular duties.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you established ISKCON by engaging the youth. We at ISKCON Niagara have been working on our youth by involving them in various services. An exclusive *bhakti-vṛkṣa* is being conducted for them so they can be trained in the line of devotional service. It gives me immense pleasure to share with you that the youth of Niagara are leading kirtans, doing book distribution, performing *saṅkīrtana,* and decorating for festivals.

Our *prasādam* team has been serving everyone enthusiastically during the regular programs, festivals, and events. Our team firmly believes consuming *prasādam* becomes a vehicle for the soul's purification and a way of receiving Kṛṣṇa's mercy.

The merciful month of Dāmodara is celebrated with great enthusiasm at Niagara by reaching out to new families and organizing *deepdan* at their homes. By your blessings, we have reached out to many new souls.

Not to forget our Vaiṣṇavi Saṅga, where our *mātājīs* get together to share and learn about *gṛhastha* rules and upbringing of our little bhaktas into great devotees. Various arts and crafts activities are conducted, which are used for service at our center.

How fortunate are we to have you as our eternal father! Let us, as your spiritual children, boldly prove to the world that you are truly the Lord's *senāpati,* a merciful rain cloud who came to extinguish the blazing fire of birth and death that engulfs the material world. Please let the desire to set an example and serve your mission awaken deeply in our hearts. Bless us to learn and follow the time management skills so we execute our spiritual duties efficiently and build a beautiful temple at Niagara that will serve the society on both sides of the river.

Your aspiring fallen servant,
Rajeshwari Devī Dāsī
On behalf of ISKCON Niagara

Oakville, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this sacred day of your appearance, we, the devotees of ISKCON Oakville, offer our heartfelt gratitude for your causeless mercy. It is only by your compassion that a small community like ours has any connection at all to Kṛṣṇa, His holy name, and His service.

This past year has been one of steady and meaningful progress. By your blessings, our weekly Sunday gatherings continue with consistency, bringing together a sincere group of devotees eager to hear, chant, and serve. While the numbers may appear modest, the depth of commitment is growing, and this gives us great hope. We are especially encouraged to see more devotees taking up the serious practice of chanting sixteen rounds, gradually shaping their lives around your instructions.

By your divine arrangement, we were most fortunate to welcome a beautiful twelve-inch *pañca-dhātu* Lord Narasiṁha Deity at our center. His presence has deepened the devotional mood of our community, reminding us daily of the shelter and protection available to those who take refuge in the Lord. We pray to serve Him in a way that pleases you, knowing that without your mercy, we have no qualification.

We are also preparing for our third annual Ratha-yātrā at Bronte Lakeshore Park. It will be held on July 4. What began as a hopeful attempt has now become a growing offering to your mission. We humbly pray for your blessings that this year's festival may be successful – not in material terms, but in its ability to touch hearts, awaken devotion, and connect souls to Kṛṣṇa through the chanting of His holy names.

Our Sunday programs, youth engagement, and festival celebrations continue steadily, sustained by your teachings and the association of devotees. We see more individuals moving from

casual participation to genuine commitment, and we recognize this transformation as your direct mercy working through your instructions and books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are deeply aware of our shortcomings – our lack of purity, consistency, and realization. Yet, we take shelter in your assurance that even a small, sincere effort in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is never lost. Please continue to guide us from within and without, so that we may remain steady, humble, and united in your service.

Kindly bless us that ISKCON Oakville may always remain an instrument of your compassion – a place where your teachings are lived, where the holy name is chanted sincerely, and where conditioned souls find a path back to Kṛṣṇa.

We pray for the strength to serve you cooperatively, without pride or distraction, and to contribute, however insignificantly, to your grand mission.

With deep gratitude and devotion,
Your aspiring servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Oakville

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to your glorious mission of spreading *harināma-saṅkīrtana* all over the world, which is the only means by which one can attain pure love of Godhead.

In the *Caitanya-maṅgala* (*Sūtra-khaṇḍa,* song 12, verses 562–65), Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu says:

ebe nāma-saṅkīrtana tikṣṇa-khaḍga laiyā
antara asura jīvera phelibe kāṭiyā

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

> Taking the sharp sword of *nāma-saṅkīrtana,* I will root out and destroy the demoniac mentality in the hearts of all the conditioned souls. And if some sinful people escape, giving up dharma and going to far-off countries, My *senāpati-bhakta* will go there to deliver them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are that *senāpati-bhakta,* the divine commander of Lord Caitanya's army, who has fearlessly spread the holy name of Kṛṣṇa across the globe. Your tireless efforts to establish ISKCON, to give the world the mercy of the holy name, and to deliver the souls entrapped in ignorance have inspired millions and will inspire millions more in the years to come. Through your books, your disciples, and your personal example, you have fulfilled this glorious prophecy of Lord Caitanya.

As Lord Caitanya Himself foretold, His *senāpati-bhakta* would go wherever necessary to deliver the conditioned souls. You went to the distant lands of the West, where the most fallen souls were

immersed in materialism, and revived the great tradition of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You took the sharp sword of *nāma-saṅkīrtana* and by its power chopped out the misconceptions and material desires from the hearts of countless souls.

It is through your direct instructions and personal example that we, the devotees of ISKCON Ottawa, Ontario, continue to engage in the mission you so expertly guided us toward. In your own words, the secret of success in spiritual life is satisfying the spiritual master and thereby getting his sincere blessings; by not satisfying him, there is no chance of being promoted to the plane of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We know that the perfection of our lives lies in satisfying you and fulfilling the mission you started with your purity and grace. Following in your footsteps, ISKCON Ottawa endeavors to uphold your teachings by spreading the holy name, performing service, and expanding the loving outreach to our community.

Every Sunday, we host a Love Feast, a celebration of love for our beloved Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, where we welcome guests from all walks of life to take in *prasādam* and connect with the holy name. As you instructed us in your purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 9.50, "In every center of our institution, ISKCON, we have arranged for a love feast every Sunday, and when we actually see people come to our center, chant, dance, take *prasādam,* become jubilant and purchase books, we know that certainly Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is always present in such transcendental activities and He is very pleased and satisfied."

In this humble offering, we strive to create a community where everyone can feel the warmth of the holy name, the love of Kṛṣṇa, and the harmony of service to you.

Each month, we gather for a Monthly *Saṅkīrtana* Festival, where devotees go out onto the streets and door to door, distributing books and *prasādam,* and sharing the mercy of the holy name with anyone willing to listen. You have constantly reminded us that this *saṅkīrtana* movement is our most important program, and by chanting the holy name, the consciousness of the world can be revived. We are humbled and honored to follow your instruction and attempt to share this sacred gift with the world.

On Friday evenings, we host a vibrant kirtan event that has become a beacon of joy, where devotees connect with newcomers, students, and the wider community. You stated, "The Lord's holy name is called *śravana-maṅgala*. This means that one receives everything auspicious simply by hearing the holy name." (*Bhāgavatam* 2.7.15, purport). Every week we are blessed to see the transformation in the hearts of those who come to hear the sacred sound vibrations of the holy name. Through kirtan we connect with the divine and one another, just as you envisioned.

We recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the installation of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, a beautiful milestone in the history of ISKCON Ottawa. We are eternally grateful to you for bringing these divine forms to our lives and for inspiring us to always serve with love and enthusiasm. You said, "Without the mercy of Nitāi-Gaura, there is no way to come out of this dark well of ignorance." (*Bhāgavatam* 7.15.46, purport). It is by the mercy of Your Divine Grace that we are able to serve Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi in this special year and in the many years to come.

You emphasized that hearing from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in the association of devotees is considered the most important process of hearing. Our morning *Bhāgavatam* classes on Zoom allow us to stay connected to devotees worldwide. Utilizing technology in Kṛṣṇa's service, just as you instructed us, we have also established social media platforms and websites to further broadcast the glories of the holy name and your mission. You emphasized the value of *yukta-vairāgya:* "everything can be used to the extent that it can be engaged in Kṛṣṇa's service." By your mercy, we are able to reach countless souls and discuss the valuable Bhaktivedanta purports as a community.

You also emphasized training children, the future of the movement, in these codes of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Every week we hold children's classes where we teach the young ones the eternal wisdom of the Vedic scriptures, ensuring that they grow up with the values you instilled in us.



With the wonderful stories and explanations, you have eloquently described, we are attempting to nurture them to become devotees who will carry on your legacy.

You once said: "Observe many festivals, that will keep both public and devotees alive. Temple means festivals and Festivals means chanting and distribution of Prasadam." (Letter to Tamal Krishna, 8 August 1973). By your mercy, we are able to organize festivals and serve *prasādam* to thousands. Each year we host more than thirty festivals, providing about 2,500 meals per festival to the local community. The Ratha-yātrā festival is one of the highlights of our year, where we unite the community for the Lord's divine procession with joyous singing and dancing. We are inspired by your words: "Taking part in these festivals means a step forward for our self-realization. *Rathe ca vāmanaṁ dṛṣṭvā punar janma na vidyate.* Simply by seeing the Lord on the chariot, one makes advancement for stopping the repetition of birth and death." (Ratha-yātrā address, London, 16 July 1972)

O Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura, O personified mercy-shower of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His associates! O Śrīla Prabhupāda, we simply pray that you please accept our humble offerings of service and allow us to continue spreading the light of the holy name, following your instructions and example. We are your humble servants, and we beg for the strength to never deviate from the path you set before us.

We are forever indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we offer our prayers for your continued blessings on ISKCON Ottawa and all your followers around the world. *Jaya jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

With eternal gratitude,
Your insignificant servants
(written by Gopālānanda Dāsa)

Red Deer, Alberta, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On behalf of the devotees and well-wishers of the Red Deer center, we offer our heartfelt gratitude and reverence to you. Though separated by time and circumstance, your presence is deeply felt in every sincere attempt to serve your mission. This small center stands as a reflection of your boundless compassion – a place where your teachings continue to illuminate hearts and guide lives.

We remember with deep appreciation the immense challenges you endured for the benefit of all souls. At an advanced age, you undertook the perilous journey across the ocean, alone and with little material support, carrying only your unshakable faith in Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the order of your spiritual master. The difficulties you faced upon arriving in a foreign land – uncertainty, poverty, cultural barriers, and physical hardship – would have discouraged even the strongest among us.

Yet, you persevered with determination, humility, and complete dependence on Kṛṣṇa. Your struggles were not for yourself, but for us – for generations who would come long after, seeking meaning, shelter, and spiritual truth. Because of your sacrifice, the holy names are now chanted, sacred texts are distributed worldwide, and countless lives have been transformed.

Here in Red Deer, we aspire to serve as instruments in your mission. Though small and still developing, this center is our offering to you. We pray for your guidance and blessings so that it may grow into a vibrant spiritual home – where people can gather, learn, chant, and reconnect with their eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa.

Please empower us with sincerity, cooperation, and steadiness so that we may overcome our

own limitations and work together in a spirit of service. Let this center become a place that reflects your vision – rooted in devotion, guided by philosophy, and alive with compassion.

We are eternally indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Kindly bless us so that we may always remember that we are your servants and that our only purpose is to assist, however imperfectly, in fulfilling your divine mission.

Your aspiring servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Red Deer

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet on the most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. We offer our obeisances to all the elevated Vaiṣṇavas that have come before you.

We offer our gratitude for your courage and perseverance in bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness across the ocean, to the fallen souls in North America. Without you, we may never have been able to recognize or reconnect with our true selves in the service of and devotion to the divine personality, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

The legacy and growth of ISKCON around the world is a testament to your utter devotion, pure knowledge, and deep compassion for fallen souls like ourselves. We are so fortunate to have been initiated into and associated with ISKCON and to have the opportunity to continue to uphold your mission at ISKCON Regina.

Although we are a humble facility, our congregation continues to be uplifted by hearing your voice through your books and philosophy. We sing your name with deep reverence and gratitude for all that you have sacrificed and shared with us. May we always have the opportunity to continue in your service and in the service of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī.

Without your legacy our lives would be meaningless. Thank you for enlightening and inspiring us to continue on the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We are forever in your debt.

Jaya, jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Always, your most humble servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Regina

Sandy Ridge, North Carolina, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you and to the disciplic succession, which is coming through Your Divine Grace.

On this auspicious occasion of Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to offer our gratitude with sincerity. Although those of us who wrote this offering did not have the opportunity to meet you in person, we always feel your presence in your teachings, your instructions, and in the structured path of spiritual life that you have made accessible.

At the present time, life is filled with constant distractions, shifting priorities, and uncertainty about which direction to take. In such an environment, your guidance stands out because it is steady, practical, and uncompromising in its purpose. It provides a clear framework that helps distinguish what is essential from what is secondary.

What we value most is the practicality of your teachings. They are not abstract ideals meant only for reflection, but instructions meant for application. They show how spiritual life can be integrated into daily responsibilities and activities without losing its essence. This makes the path both understandable and workable, even if it is sometimes challenging.

At the same time, we recognize the gap between understanding and application. It is one thing to hear instructions and another to consistently practice them. There are moments of clarity and sincerity, but also moments of distraction and inconsistency. Still, your guidance remains the reference point that helps to bring our focus back whenever there is deviation.

We also recognize that spiritual progress is not dependent on physical proximity or personal familiarity, but on alignment with your instructions and a sincere effort to apply them. In that sense, connection is maintained through service, discipline, and continued engagement with the Kṛṣṇa conscious path you represent.

We do not claim qualification or advancement. However, we acknowledge the opportunity to hear, reflect, and attempt practice within a structured, spiritual framework. That opportunity itself is meaningful and valuable.

Our sincere aspiration is to continue improving consistency in practice, reducing distraction and negligence, and remaining engaged in service with greater seriousness. Progress is understood to be gradual, and we are willing to continue in that process with patience and effort.

Please continue to guide us through your instructions, correct us where there is deviation, and help maintain focus on what is essential. Whatever small progress is made is understood to be possible only by your mercy and the strength of the teachings you have preserved.

Thank you for your patience, clarity, and continued effort to keep these teachings accessible and practical in modern life.

Your servants,
Indrajit and Sandhya
On behalf of ISKCON Temple of the Holy Name, Prabhupāda Village

Śaraṇāgati Dhāma, Ashcroft, BC, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious appearance day of Your Divine Grace, we wish to offer some token glorification at your lotus feet.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.17, it is written, "Those who are not conversant with the activities of the Lord and His transcendental realm are sometimes favored by the Lord in His adventures as incarnations, wherein He displays the eternal bliss of His association in the transcendental realm. By such activities He attracts the conditioned souls of the material world."

We should know that when the Lord comes, He is seen directly by the public present at that time, but when He leaves, unless the pure devotees broadcast knowledge of Him, He will become unmanifest again. Such was the condition on this earth after Lord Kṛṣṇa left the planet five thousand years ago. Except for India and a few adjacent countries, He was unknown to most of the population.

But today, because of Your Divine Grace's determination to preach, our movement is known and appreciated everywhere. There are 800 temples, 550 million books distributed, and numerous farms, schools, and restaurants spread throughout many countries. These displays are but a token of your legacy. We can call this expansion the external manifestation of your sincere efforts, but even more important is the transformation that is created in the heart of anyone who becomes your sincere follower. That experience is of a transcendental nature, and it removes our inner dissatisfaction and replaces it with the fulfillment of our innermost heart's desires.

Only someone completely pure at heart and in personality, chosen and empowered by Kṛṣṇa, can spread His message far and wide as you did. The endeavor to please you is the key to spiritual success. Here at Śaraṇāgati, by giving Kṛṣṇa conscious education to our children, protecting cows, offering the Sunday feast experience to the public, and observing all the Kṛṣṇa conscious festivals and living a simple lifestyle, we are trying to do just that.

On this auspicious day, we again beg for the shelter of your lotus feet, as remembrance of you is our only solace in this condition of separation.

Your servant,
Ghosh Ṭhākura Dāsa
on behalf of the residents of Śaraṇāgati Dhāma

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dearest and beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, who out of unlimited compassion descended to deliver the fallen souls of this age.

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when I try to write this offering, my heart feels overwhelmed with gratitude. What am I without your mercy? In a distant land, far away from the holy *dhāma* and strong devotee association, I've often wondered how my spiritual life will survive.

Three years ago, when I moved from Mumbai to Saskatoon, there was uncertainty and quiet fear within me. Mumbai was filled with your presence – temples, devotees, kirtans, festivals – your mercy flowed everywhere. Coming here felt like stepping into a vast spiritual emptiness.

But Śrīla Prabhupāda, you did not abandon me. By your invisible and divine arrangement, you gently guided me to your devotees here. Discovering the congregation in Saskatoon felt like a thirsty traveler finding water in a desert. In that moment, I realized deeply that you are always present wherever your sincere followers gather: *tatra tiṣṭhāmi nārada:* "O Nārada, I reside wherever My devotees chant My glories."

You also reside wherever your devotees chant your glories, and I experienced this truth personally. By your mercy, our congregation gathers regularly every Sunday. These weekly programs are filled with the chanting of the holy names, soulful kirtans, enlightening discussions on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā,* and the joyful honoring of *prasādam*. These gatherings provide us with spiritual nourishment and strength to continue our journey in Kṛṣṇa consciousness amidst the challenges of daily life.

In addition to the weekly programs, we also come together to celebrate important Vaiṣṇava festivals with devotion and enthusiasm. These occasions bring great joy and unity among the devotees and also serve as an opportunity to introduce newcomers to the beauty of devotional service. Though our congregation may be small, the sincerity, dedication, and cooperative spirit among the devotees are truly inspiring.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your inspiration, there are also ongoing preaching efforts in this region. Devotees are trying in their own humble capacities to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others, whether by organizing programs, inviting new people, distributing *prasādam,* or sharing your teachings. In this connection, your instruction always inspires us:

bhārata-bhūmite haila manuṣya-janma yāra
janma sārthaka kari' kara para-upakāra

> One who has taken his birth as a human being in the land of India [Bhārata-varṣa] should make his life successful and work for the benefit of all other people.

In a place where awareness of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is still growing, every small effort feels significant and meaningful. It is only by your empowerment that such preaching can take place and remind us of our real purpose.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (1.2.17) states:

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

Through hearing and chanting, you continue to cleanse our hearts, even from afar.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, one of the most beautiful manifestations of your mercy here is the Kṛṣṇa Club for children. It is deeply touching to see young hearts being gently guided toward Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Through simple teachings, kirtans, stories, and activities, children are learning about Kṛṣṇa and devotional life. What is even more wonderful is that their parents also come, participate, and gradually become connected. In this way, your movement is quietly and steadily touching entire families. Seeds of devotion are being planted in young hearts – seeds that will one day grow into strong trees of bhakti. This, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is your miracle.

Another glorious occasion when your mercy shines brightly is the Ratha-yātrā festival. Even here in Saskatoon, this festival becomes a grand *mahā-yātrā,* drawing thousands of people. As Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Devī ride on Their chariot, and devotees pull the ropes with joy, the entire atmosphere transforms. The streets echo with the holy names:

harer nāma harer nāma harer nāmaiva kevalam
kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva nāsty eva gatir anyathā

In those moments, it feels as though the spiritual world descends upon this place. Strangers become participants, hearts become softened, and your mercy flows freely to all. We are also deeply fortunate to receive the association and blessings of the "Walking Monk," His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami, during such events. His presence strengthens our faith and inspires us to serve your mission with greater sincerity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when we as a congregation see all this, we cannot help but marvel at your inconceivable vision. You came alone, with nothing material but with complete faith in Kṛṣṇa, and today, even in a small city like Saskatoon, your movement is alive, breathing, and growing.

Your books are our constant shelter. In moments of confusion, they guide us. In moments of weakness, they uplift us. Through your words, you are still speaking, still teaching, still transforming lives.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (1.2.18) states:

naṣṭa-prāyeṣv abhadreṣu nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā
bhagavaty uttama-śloke bhaktir bhavati naiṣṭhikī

Personally, I feel deeply unqualified and insignificant. Yet somehow, by your mercy, I have been allowed to remain connected to this path. Whatever little devotion I have is simply your gift. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please forgive my countless shortcomings, my lack of sincerity, and my many offenses. I have no qualification, but I have hope – hope in your mercy.

tṛṇād api sunīcena taror api sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ

> One who thinks himself lower than the grass, who is more tolerant than a tree, and who does not expect personal honor, yet is always prepared to give all respect to others, can very easily always chant the holy name of the Lord.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless the Saskatoon devotees that we may develop even a drop of this humility, so that we may chant sincerely and learn to serve without pride. Please engage us all, in whatever small way, in your mission. Let us remain always connected to the association of all devotees. Let us never forget your instructions.

I also pray for the continued growth and unity of this Saskatoon congregation. May we remain instruments in your hands, working together in harmony to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us everything – Kṛṣṇa, the holy name, the path, and the purpose. We have nothing to offer in return except this small prayer: Please never let us forget you. Please keep us always under your shelter.

Your insignificant servant,
Vijayalaxmi Priya Devī Dāsī
on behalf of the Saskatoon *yātrā*

Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. All glories unto you and your divine appearance day.

With hearts filled with gratitude, we thank you for allowing us another year in the service of your divine mission. It is only by your causeless mercy that we have any opportunity to serve. We sincerely pray to remain loyal to your instructions for the rest of our lives.

We have no qualification to glorify such an exalted personality as yourself. Whatever little we attempt to express can never do justice to your unlimited glories. What you have accomplished has never happened in the past, nor will it happen again in the future. Your unparalleled contribution to spreading the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu continues to guide and inspire us at every step.

As a humble offering for your pleasure, we wish to report that by your inspiration, ISKCON Scarborough has endeavored to expand your mission. This year we have distributed more of your transcendental books than ever before. By your mercy, we have also collected a record amount of funds toward acquiring a new property, aspiring to create a center that will better facilitate devotional service and outreach.

Our congregational community continues to grow steadily, firmly rooted in the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. By your blessings, the Murari Bhakti School is inspiring hundreds of children and youth to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness, nurturing the next generation of devotees.

By your divine grace, we were also able to extend your mission to the far northern region of Nunavut. For the very first time, the holy name was chanted, your books were distributed, *prasādam* was offered and shared, and discourses on Kṛṣṇa consciousness were conducted. This historic outreach was successfully carried out with the association and guidance of His Holiness Bhaktimārga Mahārāja with the support of ISKCON Scarborough.

As our community increases day by day, we eagerly look forward to expanding further once we are blessed with a larger property equipped with all necessary facilities to serve your mission more effectively.

Holding a blade of grass between our teeth, we offer our prostrated obeisances unto you again

and again. We thank you for your boundless mercy and guidance. Whatever we have achieved is only by your grace. We pray that in the coming year we may become better instruments in your hands and expand your glories even further.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Scarborough

Seattle, Washington, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

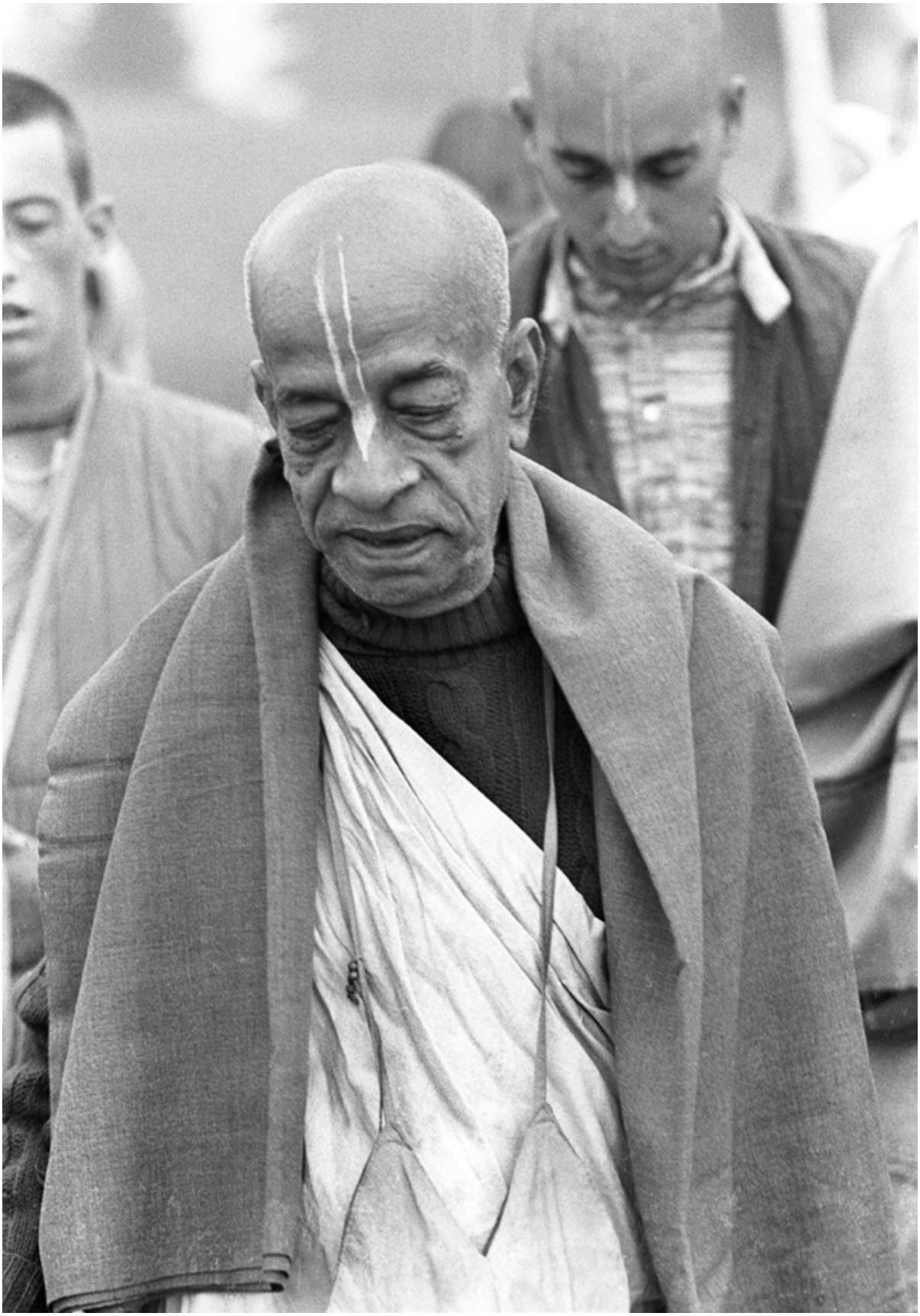
On this sacred occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of ISKCON, we offer our most humble and heartfelt obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. You have made immeasurable sacrifices for the upliftment of all conditioned souls, and through your boundless mercy, you have given the entire world the priceless gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Whatever *śāstras* we study – *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* – the true inspiration comes alive through the shining example of great *ācāryas* like you. Your life proves that the teachings of the *śāstras* are not mere philosophy but living truths that can be practiced in every circumstance. Through your divine example, you have given us unshakable faith. No matter how difficult the situation, you have shown us how to remain fixed on the ultimate goal and live with deep spiritual understanding. You have revealed that it is possible to live free from anxiety and to progress toward an eternal, spiritual existence. You taught the whole world that even a simple life, centered on devotion, can lead to the highest consciousness. From an apparently ordinary family life, you rose to an extraordinary position of spiritual strength and universal influence. With unwavering faith in your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you dedicated your entire life to service, and with great compassion, you passed that same faith into our hearts. You are truly a great *ācārya* for the whole world – a genuine *mahātmā*.

Your childhood itself stands as a divine arrangement. By the grace of your exalted father, the great Vaiṣṇava Gour Mohan De, your life was carefully molded in Kṛṣṇa consciousness from the very beginning. He nurtured your every spiritual inclination, valuing even your smallest devotional sentiments. With deep vision, he raised you not just materially, but spiritually, ensuring you received both a material and transcendental education. Like a sculptor who sees the deity within stone, he saw your future greatness and shaped you into a *dhīra* – steady, wise, and spiritually awakened. You recognized him as a pure devotee and understood the invaluable importance of his association. Through his guidance, you demonstrated to the world the true responsibility of a parent: to guide a child toward the ultimate goal of life – service to guru and Kṛṣṇa.

Because of this perfect upbringing, when you met your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you immediately recognized his true position as the representative of *sādhu* and *śāstra*. Your doubts were dispelled, and you deeply realized the urgent need for every *jīva* to take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. From your very first meeting, when you were instructed to spread Lord Caitanya's message in English, you accepted that order within your heart as your life and soul. Your only question thereafter was, "How shall I serve you?" – a perfect expression of surrender, faith, and eternal connection with your guru. Through this mood, you established the highest example of the guru-disciple relationship and dedicated your life fully to fulfilling his instruction.

Despite living as a householder, working, and managing responsibilities, you were always absorbed in how to serve and spread the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Though you



faced many challenges – within family, society, and materially – you never deviated from your mission. Even when support was withdrawn, when your business failed, and when you faced opposition even at home, you saw everything as Kṛṣṇa's arrangement and mercy. Your transcendental faith never wavered.

You endured deep loneliness after the departure of your father and spiritual master, yet you remained grateful, holding tightly to their final instructions. While publishing *Back to Godhead,* you tolerated neglect and insult. Even when your *Bhagavad-gītā* manuscript was stolen – twice – you did not lose heart; you simply wrote it again with greater determination. For nearly forty years, you patiently waited and struggled to fulfill your spiritual master's desire. No rejection, disrespect, or hardship could stop you, because you were firmly situated in the truth given by your guru.

Finally, in 1966, by your causeless mercy, you established ISKCON with the clear mission of giving bhakti to the entire world and awakening pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness in every heart.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you carried Kṛṣṇa consciousness across oceans and offered it freely to all humanity. You shaped your life completely according to the desire of the Lord, dedicating yourself to uplifting conditioned souls. You did not merely teach philosophy – you established a living path for all of us to follow. You emphasized that true spiritual life is not just about rules and regulations but about reviving our lost spirit of devotion. You taught us to take shelter of guru, *sādhu,* and *śāstra,* and through their association, to reconnect with genuine Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Traveling to the Western countries at an advanced age, you endured unimaginable hardships, yet your determination never weakened. Your life stands as a radiant example of surrender, selflessness, gratitude, and unwavering faith. You have shown that when one fully depends on the spiritual master and acts with sincerity, Kṛṣṇa provides all guidance and support.

Now, by your mercy, it is our responsibility to follow the path you have so compassionately given – to cultivate humility, service attitude, and surrender to guru, and to share this message for the benefit of all living beings with cooperation.

If one has the association of a pure Vaiṣṇava in life, it is more valuable than anything else in this world. Your own life stands as the perfect proof of this truth. By your causeless mercy, you gave this priceless opportunity to your disciples, and through them it continues to flow – from one to another – spreading that same divine mercy to all.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we remain eternally indebted to your sacrifice, your compassion, and your boundless mercy. Your insignificant servants, offering our humble obeisances again and again.

Your humble servant
Śrīdhara Gopāla Dāsa and the devotees of ISKCON Seattle

Silicon Valley, California, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

"We were born in the darkest ignorance, but Śrīla Prabhupāda opened our eyes with the torch of knowledge. We offer our respectful obeisances unto him."

We, the servants of your servants at ISKCON of Silicon Valley, offer our most humble and

grateful obeisances at your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your appearance. Everything we have, everything we know, and every moment of clarity we find in this dark and confusing age comes from you. You crossed the Atlantic Ocean so that we might cross the ocean of repeated birth and death. This loving offering is our sincere attempt to express our gratitude to Your Divine Grace.

I. You Equipped Us to Defeat the Empire of Doubt

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we live in an age of skepticism. From the earliest years of our education, many of us absorbed a subtle and corrosive teaching: that nothing can truly be known, that all truth is relative, that the wisest position is to hold all convictions loosely, and that only conclusions reached through empirical science may be trusted.

You not only systematically dismantled this worldview, but you engaged us in a battle against it. You gave us a complete and rigorous answer to skepticism, pointing out that all human beings, in every domain of life, operate through faith in authority. The medical student trusts centuries of accumulated wisdom before personally verifying each finding. The student of mathematics accepts axioms – foundations not proven but required for any reasoning to begin. The question, you taught us, was never faith vs. no faith. The question was always, Which authority and why?

You taught us that the Vedic authorities and evidences – *pramāṇas:* perception, inference, and *śabda* – are not competitors but ascending levels of vision. The senses reveal fragments, logic arranges them, but transcendence must descend from beyond the limits of speculation. Therefore, for understanding the self, suffering, and our eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa, you directed us to *śabda:* divine sound received through the transparent medium of realized teachers. You placed this understanding in our hands, and then you gave us the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

> *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is the transcendental science not only for knowing the ultimate source of everything but also for knowing our relationship with Him and our duty toward perfection of the human society on the basis of this perfect knowledge. It is powerful reading matter in the Sanskrit language, and it is now rendered into English elaborately so that simply by a careful reading one will know God perfectly well, so much so that the reader will be sufficiently educated to defend himself from the onslaught of atheists. Over and above this, the reader will be able to convert others to accepting God as a concrete principle. — Śrīla Prabhupāda, preface, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*

We live in Silicon Valley, a place where some of the world's brightest and most ambitious gather to engineer ever more sophisticated forms of material absorption. Without the benefit of hearing the sublime teachings of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* people seek perfection through technological innovation, only to worry that those same advances may lead to humanity's undoing. You have brought what people are missing: a philosophy not only refined enough to be taken seriously, but powerful enough to realign human life with its true purpose – going back to Godhead.

People hanker for perfect knowledge yet settle for what is merely available to them: incomplete knowledge. By bringing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to light, you gave the world a spiritual science that answers the most fundamental questions that baffle humanity. The *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* does not ask us to embrace blind faith. Rather, it satisfies the sharpest minds at the highest level, working through logic, narrative, philosophy, and ultimately through direct experience to distinguish reality from illusion. You educated us in the spiritual science of the *Bhāgavatam,* showing us how to speak on it with clarity and confidence to a world drowning in uncertainty.

Your descendants in the community at ISV daily endeavor to engage people from every culture

and background in Kṛṣṇa's service by placing in their hands the most powerful philosophy in the world, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Guided by your example, the devotees work constantly to refine their presentation of the *Bhāgavatam,* "in an interesting manner for the understanding of the audience." This is our mission at ISV.

II. You Healed What the World Could Not Diagnose

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the people who come through the doors of your ISV temple – and the people we meet through our outreach, festivals, and online programs – come because they are suffering. They suffer from *rāga* – misplaced attachment, grasping at things that cannot satisfy them. They suffer from *bhaya* – fear born from their sense of impermanence. And they suffer from *krodha* – anger born from intellectual despair after hearing philosophies that cannot satisfy them. *Rāga, bhaya,* and *krodha* are not passing emotions. They are, as the *Bhagavad-gītā* tells us, ontological distortions – symptoms of the soul's misidentification with matter. As Kṛṣṇa says in *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.10: "Being freed from attachment, fear, and anger, being fully absorbed in Me and taking refuge in Me, many persons in the past became purified by knowledge of Me – and thus attained transcendental love for Me."

You taught us that this verse not only diagnoses the root cause of every conditioned soul's frustration but also reveals how to administer the cure. The disease is *rāga-bhaya-krodha* – a cascade of attachment, fear, and anger that begins when the soul turns away from Kṛṣṇa, misidentifies itself with matter, and then suffers the inevitable consequences: grasping, losing, fearing, raging – and then grasping again.

Rāga – The hunger that cannot be filled

You explained *rāga* to us with the clarity of a physician. The soul is *ānanda-maya* – constitutionally blissful and constitutionally designed to love. When a living being's love is directed toward Kṛṣṇa, it expands without limit. When it is directed toward temporary objects and relationships, it contracts into debilitating obsession, craving, and grief. The soul attached to the material world chews what has already been chewed – *punaḥ punaś carvita-carvaṇānām* – seeking juice from a dry husk.

You taught us that the cure for irrational attachment to the temporary is not to reject love but to redirect it toward Kṛṣṇa. By hearing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* – its stories and philosophy – we achieve a higher taste that replaces the lower. *Paraṁ dṛṣṭvā nivartate:* when one has seen the superior, the inferior releases its grip.

We have seen this happen here at ISV, Śrīla Prabhupāda. People who enter the community with their hearts clenched over months and years, through chanting, association, and hearing the *Bhāgavatam,* gently uncoil their hearts and feel happy.

Bhaya – Fear overcome by shelter at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet

You taught us that *bhaya* – fear – is the inevitable consequence of turning away from Kṛṣṇa, only to lose oneself in a vast, dark, indifferent universe. *Bhayaṁ dvitīyābhiniveśataḥ syāt* – fear arises when consciousness becomes absorbed in the "other," in separateness from the Supreme (*Bhāgavatam* 11.2.37).

The modern world, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is steeped in this fear. People clothe their fear in the language of strength – in independence, self-sufficiency, and the rejection of any personal God, claiming it to be a crutch for the weak. But underneath that language is the terror that there is no shelter, that the universe is cold, that consciousness is an accident, and that love is merely a useful fiction. Impersonalism and voidism are philosophical reactions to the soul's fear of a personal relationship with God.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam dissipates this fear by introducing us to Kṛṣṇa, the all-merciful and all-attractive Lord. Kṛṣṇa, who is full of beauty, charm, and tenderness; who plays with His friends and calves in Vṛndāvana; and who holds Govardhana Hill on His little finger, becomes our ultimate object of meditation. You showed us that Kṛṣṇa is real, that our relationship with Him is real, and that there is ultimately nothing to fear because He loves us.

At ISKCON of Silicon Valley, we are in the business of reclaiming our natural fearlessness and empowering others to reclaim theirs. Fearlessness – *abhaya* – is the natural consequence of taking complete shelter of Kṛṣṇa. We do this through the culture you gave us: through kirtan that fills the room with Kṛṣṇa's direct presence; through *Bhāgavatam* classes that explain exactly why the soul need not be afraid; and through simple acts of devotion, like offering food to Kṛṣṇa and honoring *prasādam*.

Krodha – Anger transformed into compassion

The world we live in, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is an angry world. The anger of people who were promised happiness by materialism but did not receive it. The anger of people who are told that science has all the answers but find that it cannot quiet their fear of death.

You gave us the antidote – service to Kṛṣṇa. You gave us Prahlāda Mahārāja as the example: one whose consciousness was so absorbed in Kṛṣṇa that external provocations – however extreme – could not disturb him.

Here in Silicon Valley, we see that devotees practicing under your guidance – hearing, chanting, distributing the *Bhāgavatam,* and serving – feel happy despite the many distractions and provocations they face in their daily lives.

III. You Showed Us the *Paramparā* Is Alive in Us

Śrīla Prabhupāda, one of the greatest gifts you gave us – perhaps the one we are still learning to fully receive – is the understanding that we are not spectators of this tradition. We are participants. The *paramparā* does not flow around us; it must flow through us. You said it plainly: "Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not limited. The Gosvāmīs wrote so many books, Viśvanātha Cakravartī and all the *ācāryas* wrote books, and still, I am writing books. Similarly, also my disciples will write." You similarly said, "Every one of you should be spiritual master next."

You did not say this as a concession. You said it as a directive – a description of what faithfulness to our line of teachers looks like. You taught us that the *paramparā* is not a museum but a living current. It persists wherever devotees offer complete surrender to the previous *ācāryas* through faithful transmission of their message.

We take seriously our role in this. This community – your temple, Śrīla Prabhupāda – is not merely a place of worship. It is a place of transmission. Every class, every festival, every plate of *prasādam* we give, every book we place in someone's hands – these are the *paramparā* moving through us, as it has always moved: one person at a time, one genuine connection at a time.

Our Prayer

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said of Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura that he left the work of spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement unfinished so that we would have some service. That is his mercy. You have extended that same mercy to us. We pray to carry your teachings forward with dignity. We are your foolish, stumbling, but earnest servants. We chant your *praṇāma-mantra* every morning and remember that you came to lift the world out of its spiritual poverty.

We pray, therefore, that we may please you by our services – imperfect as they are – and that by your continued mercy, this community may grow into an ever-brighter and more powerful

instrument for the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We pray to remain your ideal followers: perpetually students before you, always prepared to receive your guidance, never imagining that we have arrived.

We are servants of your servants, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All that we offer here – all the book distribution scores and Bhakti Community Bhakti Sanga Labhas, the garlands, the Deity worship, the kirtan, the *prasādam,* the classes, the scrubbing and sweeping, the late nights and early mornings, and all the small acts of service that no one records – are for you. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your servants at ISKCON of Silicon Valley

Stouffville, Ontario, Canada

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to write to you and humbly offer our reflections on how you have cleared our vision, allowing us to see Kṛṣṇa's hand in every aspect of our lives – past, present, and future.

In *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 1.45), it is stated:

> *guru kṛṣṇa-rūpa hana śāstrera pramāṇe*
> *guru-rūpe kṛṣṇa kṛpā karena bhakta-gaṇe*

> According to the deliberate opinion of all revealed scriptures, the spiritual master is nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa. Lord Kṛṣṇa in the form of the spiritual master delivers His devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you embody the essence of divine mercy. While Kṛṣṇa may seem distant to our obscured senses, you appeared as the transparent via medium to bring Him into our immediate view. We recognize and acknowledge that every bit of clarity we possess is not our own achievement, but a gift of your unalloyed and unwavering compassion.

Looking Back: Gratitude for Protection

When we look back at our lives before we met your teachings, we see a landscape of confusion. Yet through your books, we now recognize that Kṛṣṇa was always there, protecting us even when we were unaware. You taught us that every hardship was a nudge toward Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. We thank Kṛṣṇa for the ultimate protection of sending you, His pure devotee, to rescue us from the ocean of birth and death.

Looking Ahead: Trust in the Lord's Plan

When we look ahead at this uncertain world, we no longer feel fear. You've convinced us without a doubt that Kṛṣṇa's got our backs and that He has the whole show on a string! Because of your instructions, we can trust that He has a plan for our purification. Our only desire is to remain tiny instruments in your mission, confident that under your guidance, the path home is secure.

Looking Around: Serving in All Circumstances

When we look around at the world today, we no longer see objects for our enjoyment or people to compete with. By your mercy, we see Kṛṣṇa's energy everywhere. You taught us that the highest platform is to act as the "servant of the servant." We pray for the strength to serve Kṛṣṇa in all circumstances – whether in joy or in sorrow – by sharing the message you so compassionately brought to us.

Looking Within: Finding Kṛṣṇa

Finally, when we look within, we are learning to find Kṛṣṇa residing as the Paramātmā in our hearts. Before your books touched us, our hearts were dark rooms filled with selfish desires. You lit the lamp of transcendental knowledge, revealing the presence of the Lord within. We are eternally grateful that you have reconnected us to the Witness within, guiding us back to our original, constitutional position.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the lens through which we see Kṛṣṇa. Without you, we would be blind to His protection, doubtful of His plan, selfish in our interactions, and disconnected from our own souls. Thank you for giving us these "eyes of devotion." We pray to remain forever servants of your servants.

Here's a small poem from us:

We look back and see how you gathered the stray,
The lost and the lonely you led to the way.
From a storefront in New York to a worldwide family,
You protected our hearts and you made us all free.

We thank Kṛṣṇa for sending a father so dear,
Who built us a home and who conquered our fear.
We look ahead now at the seeds we have sown,
Trusting Kṛṣṇa's great plan for the seeds that have grown.

We trust in the future, for your books are the basis,
Leading us home from all desolate places.
Ensuring the next generations find grace,
As they look at the smile of your lotuslike face.

We look around at the congregation so wide,
With Devotee Care as our compass and guide.
To serve one another in each circumstance,
To give every soul a spiritual chance.

We are servants of servants, as you have designed,
With a heart for the weary and a hand for the blind.
We look within and we find the Lord there,
In the heart of the teacher, in the student's deep prayer.

The Supersoul whispers the wisdom you taught,
Bringing us the peace that we once vainly sought.
You showed us that Kṛṣṇa is closer than breath,
The friend who delivers from life and from death.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our founder and friend,
May our efforts to care for all never end.
Through teaching and serving, we offer our life,
To build up your family and end all the strife.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we seek your strength and courage to navigate the challenges associated with disseminating the holy name. May we remain steadfast in our commitment to adhere to your guidance and consistently foster cooperation among one another. Your mercy and teachings serve as the cornerstone of our devotion, and we acknowledge that by following your directives, we not only pay homage to you but also advance the broader mission of promoting Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Stouffville and beyond.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for being the "plus" that gives value to all the zeros of our lives.

We pray to remain forever servants of your servants,
Your loving children at ISKCON Stouffville

Tallahassee, Florida, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your infinite kindness and causeless mercy.

As the years pass, it is only by your pure example and unending inspiration that we continue to make even a humble effort to serve and please you. In this material world, the powerful illusory energy is constantly trying to divert the living entity from devotional service. Yet we have full faith that by following Kṛṣṇa and His sincere devotee – your good self – with humility and loyalty, we will always remain protected.

You emphatically instructed us, "No matter what happens, never leave this ISKCON society." You also warned that if someone goes away under the pretext of a bad relationship between devotees, it is due to a lack of sincerity. We pray to Lord Kṛṣṇa to grant us the intelligence and strength to serve you – even in the humblest way – without deviation. You taught us to be respectful toward all Vaiṣṇavas, and we cannot be ungrateful or disobedient to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Through your books and lectures, you have taught we fallen souls how to love and serve Lord Kṛṣṇa and His devotees. You revealed our true constitutional position and guided us in expressing our spiritual identity through the many activities of this Kṛṣṇa conscious movement.

Here at ISKCON Tallahassee we are trying our best to share this love for Lord Kṛṣṇa through *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in the parks, festivals, home programs, Dāmodara home programs, and our daily online *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* readings and in-person classes.

On this glorious day of your divine appearance, we pray that always, no matter what, you never allow us to leave this holy movement, which is the genuine and practical hope for all living beings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg for your merciful blessings so that one day we may become expert representatives of you and the *paramparā* in presenting Lord Caitanya's teachings so that more and more fortunate souls may be attracted to studying, following, and teaching this sublime philosophy.

We remain the servants of your servants,
Uddhava Krishna Dāsa, on behalf of ISKCON Tallahassee

Tampa, Florida, USA

Dearest and most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our sincere and humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Today, we gather with hearts filled with gratitude and reverence, remembering your inimitable mercy upon the fallen souls of this age. Crossing oceans at an advanced age, with no material support, you carried the timeless message of Lord Kṛṣṇa to the entire world. Through your compassion, the teachings of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and the holy name have reached people globally.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever meager devotion we have today is entirely due to your causeless mercy. You have given us everything: the holy name, the philosophy, the process of devotional service, the association of devotees, and kṛṣṇa-prasādam. You have built a spiritual home for us within your society, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, where we all can take shelter and grow.

At ISKCON Tampa, your presence is deeply felt in every kirtan, every class, every offering, and every attempt to serve. Your instructions guide our lives, your books nourish our intelligence, and your example inspires our hearts.

By your mercy, our small community is now endeavoring to expand your mission through the development of a new ISKCON Tampa temple, New Vraja-maṇḍala Dhāma, project and expansion. This effort is our humble offering at your lotus feet and an attempt to fulfill your desire to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness in every town and village.

We envision this temple as a place where the holy name will be chanted constantly; your books will be distributed widely; people from all backgrounds will receive *prasādam* and spiritual knowledge; and families, youth, and children of all classes and genders will find shelter in devotional life.

We fully realize that this is not our project – it is *your* project. We are simply instruments trying to assist in your divine mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us that success is not measured by external achievements but by sincerity and purity of service. Therefore, as we work on this expansion, we pray for the strength to serve in a mood pleasing to you. You have shown us through your own life what true surrender means: complete dependence on Kṛṣṇa, fearless preaching, and unwavering faith in the holy name. Despite immense challenges, you never compromised the purity of the message.

In our daily lives – with our various responsibilities, distractions, and struggles – we try to hold onto your instructions. Sometimes we fail, sometimes we become weak, but your mercy gives us the strength to rise again. Each moment we are inspired by your determination, compassion, and deep love for Kṛṣṇa and all living entities.

Your words continue to illuminate our path: "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and your life will be sublime."

On this most auspicious day, we offer our heartfelt prayers: may we always remain faithful to your teachings and develop a sincere taste for chanting the holy name. May we serve your mission

with humility, cooperation, and devotion. May this Tampa temple and center expansion become an instrument for serving your mission and the spreading of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to one and all.

We know that without your mercy, we have no qualification. As expressed in the *Guru-vandanā: yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo, yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi.* Śrīla Prabhupāda, please forgive our offenses, our shortcomings, and our lack of sincerity. Still, we take shelter of your lotus feet, knowing that you are the most benevolent savior of the fallen. Please bless us so that we may always remain engaged in your service eternally.

With folded hands and grateful hearts,
Your insignificant eternal servants at New Vraja-maṇḍala Dhāma, Tampa

Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your insignificant servants in Thunder Bay, offer our heartfelt gratitude and prayers. Although we are in a small, remote city in Northwestern Ontario, we feel your presence deeply guiding our lives and our service. Your mercy continues to inspire us at every step.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you crossed the ocean with nothing but firm faith in the holy name and complete dedication to the order of your spiritual master. Because of your sacrifice, the message of Lord Kṛṣṇa has reached even this distant part of Canada. What was once unfamiliar land is now touched by kirtan, *prasādam,* and your teachings.

By your causeless mercy, we now have a dedicated temple – the Vedic Cultural Center in Thunder Bay – offered in your service. This center stands as the only stand-alone ISKCON/Hindu temple in Northwestern Ontario, serving the community seven days a week. It has become a spiritual home for many – students, families, newcomers, and seekers – who come to experience devotion, peace, and connection with Kṛṣṇa.

Within this sacred space, we are trying to follow your instructions – chanting the holy name, distributing *prasādam*, studying your books, and serving the community. Under the guidance of our spiritual master, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Mahārāja, we are attempting to carry forward your mission with sincerity and cooperation.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy, your mission is steadily growing in Thunder Bay. Through *prasādam* distribution, the Vedic Cultural Center now serves more than 20,000 meals each year, touching many lives with spiritual nourishment. Book distribution is also progressing steadily – your transcendental literature is reaching many homes through the distribution of small and large books each year.

We are especially encouraged by the next generation. Our children's classes bring together more than fifty young students each week, where they learn the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and grow in devotional values. In addition, our *bhakti-vṛkṣa* programs and online preaching initiatives are supporting youth and young families in developing their Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a practical and sustained way.

By your mercy, we have also seen your movement expand through festivals in this region. What began as small gatherings has grown into large community celebrations. The Festival of India and Festival of Colours in Thunder Bay now attract thousands of participants each year. This expansion is now reaching Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, where many people are experiencing kirtan, *prasādam*, and devotional culture for the first time.

From very small beginnings – simple gatherings with a few devotees – to serving thousands through festivals and outreach, we clearly see your invisible hand guiding everything.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your instructions continue to guide our service: "If you love me, distribute my books." Inspired by this instruction, we are trying, in our small way, to distribute your books and connect people to your teachings. We understand that your books are the foundation of your movement and the greatest gift to humanity.

At the same time, we are aware of our many shortcomings. Our minds are often distracted, our service imperfect, and our devotion unsteady. Yet your teachings give us hope and strength. Your books remain our constant shelter, reminding us that even the smallest sincere effort in devotional service is never lost.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that this temple may always remain a place of pure devotion – a place where your teachings are lived, where the holy name is chanted sincerely, and where everyone who comes feels spiritually uplifted. Please help us serve with humility, unity, and determination.

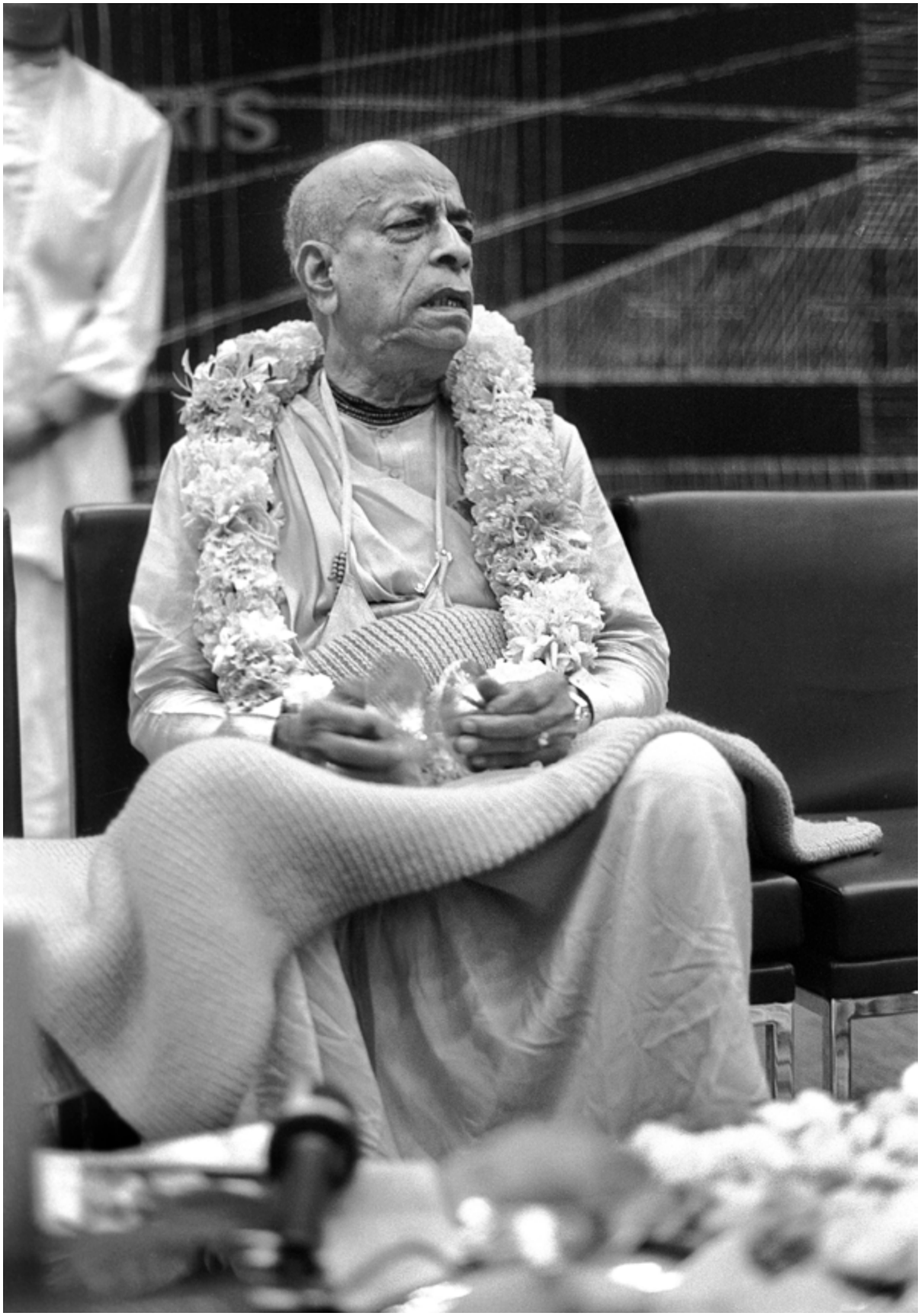
Kindly empower us to expand your mission in this region – to reach more people, to distribute your books, to offer *prasādam*, and to build a strong spiritual community centered on Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please remove our false ego and distractions so that we may become proper instruments in your service.

You have given us everything – philosophy, process, purpose, and a path back home, back to Godhead. Without you, we would remain lost in material life. Because of you, we have hope, direction, and a meaningful life in devotional service.

On this sacred Vyāsa-pūjā day, we offer our lives, our service, and whatever little devotion we have at your lotus feet. Please accept us as your servants, birth after birth.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your compassion, your courage, and your boundless mercy.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Thunder Bay
(written by Prema-kiśora Dāsa and Sunīti Devī Dāsī)



Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga.

We are honored and blessed to be writing this offering on the auspicious and glorious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of your embarking on a journey to fulfill your spiritual master's instructions to spread the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the Western countries. You departed India on August 13, 1965, from Calcutta. On September 17, 1965, at age 69, you reached the port of New York. This date has and will be embedded in the hearts of millions of followers of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu around the world. You traveled aboard the cargo ship *Jaladuta* for one month. Despite suffering two heart attacks on the ship, you continued on to fulfill your guru's instructions.

At Boston Harbor, you wrote a heartfelt prayer to Lord Kṛṣṇa you titled *Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma*. It wasn't just a prayer; it was your submissive oral reception, your seeking the blessings of Lord Kṛṣṇa so you would be able to convince the conditioned souls of His message. Your submissive mood of "unfortunate," "unqualified," and "the most fallen" teaches us that we are not in control and must take shelter of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa always.

You came with only 40 rupees and a few copies of Sanskrit text in the form of your published books. But you came with deep faith in the message of Lord Kṛṣṇa. In your initial year, you struggled and experienced so much hardship. You lived in a small, windowless room, endured a cold harsh winter. You started the movement by doing kirtan at Thompson Square Park. It was after almost a year of great difficulty that you established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in July 1966.

In the last ten years of your life, in spite of your advanced age, you circled the globe twelve times on lecture tours that took you to six continents. Despite such a vigorous schedule, you continued to write prolifically, establishing 108 temples, farm communities, and initiating disciples around the world.

At ISKCON Toronto, we take pride that this is one of those 108 temples you established. You visited the temple and stayed. With your blessings, the Toronto temple has excelled in many fields. Here are the highlights and offerings of our different departments.

Temple operations: By your causeless mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the Toronto temple and ashram are blossoming beautifully, with more souls being drawn to kirtan, festivals, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes, and heartfelt outreach. People from all backgrounds come, stay, and gradually find shelter in the chanting of the holy names, just as you envisioned. In such nourishing association, even a newcomer can feel spiritually at home, inspired by the warmth of devotees and the guidance of senior Vaiṣṇavas, whose visits deeply reconnect us to guru and our *paramparā*. The residents serve tirelessly, caring for the temple as their very own home, and this spirit of Kṛṣṇa's family is

truly moving to witness. Personally, we feel most fortunate to be engaged in this service at New Remuṇā. We are simply trying to be instruments in Mahāprabhu's service.

Building Improvement Committee: Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy, the Building Improvement Committee has made steady progress in enhancing your temple. The long-awaited elevator is now installed and fully operational, improving accessibility for all. Alongside upgrades to Matchless Gifts and revisiting the lower-level flooring, our attention has now turned upward. A new multi-purpose room is being developed on the balcony to support education, meetings, drama practices, and other community activities. In addition, a dedicated *pūjārī* changing room has been created, along with access to a new outdoor terrace above Govinda's. Our current major focus is the renovation of the Deity preparation area, where we are installing new closets, organizers, preparation islands, and improved storage to better support daily worship. With your continued blessings, we hope to further expand the balcony area and eventually develop the large attic space for future service and engagement.

Govinda's Dining: Govinda's Dining continues to operate in your temple, as per your inspiration, and by your mercy it has now become our top revenue generator, helping to fund outreach efforts and essential renovations. It serves thousands of *thalis* and traditional preparations, nourishing both body and soul. This year, we carefully expanded the menu to include items like pizza, cake, and a variety of creative drinks and snacks to attract a younger demographic. In this way, Govinda's is not only sustaining the temple but also becoming a warm and welcoming gathering place where devotees can reconnect and feel at home in your center.

Book distribution: Our book distribution team has been blessed to participate in the global efforts to share your divine books far and wide. By your mercy, during last year's Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign, we collectively distributed 410 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and for the Live to Give campaign, 28,500 *Bhagavad-gītās* and their equivalents were distributed. For the third year in a row, by your inspiration and blessings, we were able to remit over $100,000 USD to your BBT, and we were recognized among the top-ranking book distribution communities in North America.

Fundraising team: We gratefully acknowledge the strong foundation of the fundraising team built by dedicated devotees like Mother Subuddhi, Rūpa Manohara Prabhu, Keshava Prabhu, and others. The temple continues to benefit from their tireless efforts in cultivating patrons. Today's team remains committed to your vision of expanding Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We also continue to nurture and serve our dedicated patrons, whose ongoing support is the lifeline of our temple programs and our Ratha-yātrā, through thoughtful care and regular communication. Together, we have achieved meaningful milestones, including the ever-increasing volume of the Ratha-yātrā, completing the long-awaited elevator project, etc. Each success reflects your teachings, guidance, and our shared commitment to work in unity with the team, temple management, board, and GBC.

Sunday Funskool: By your mercy, our Sunday school and virtual *Bhagavad-gītā* classes are progressing well. Our virtual camp on the twelve *mahājanas,* featuring yoga, stories*, ślokas,* kirtan, *bhajanas,* and creative activities, was well received by children and appreciated by parents. We also continue to serve through our regular virtual *saṅgas* for children and adults alike during Ekādaśīs and special daily *saṅgas* during the months of Kārttika and Puruṣottama. Due to severe winter weather, we held virtual classes on Sundays for a short time, but have now resumed in-person sessions. Our annual *Gītā* contest continues successfully, and it was especially encouraging to see many teens participate and present with deep understanding. On this auspicious day of your divine appearance, we sincerely thank you for engaging us in this service of nurturing young minds. We pray for your continued blessings to stay spiritually motivated and serve these young devotees better.

Education department: In September 2024, a bunch of enthusiastic devotees embarked on a journey to deepen their understanding of *śāstra,* and in January 2026, these students successfully

completed their Bhakti Śāstrī course. Senior congregation members, who'd never taught in this capacity, challenged themselves to facilitate and nurture young minds. The weekly *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* readings that commenced a few years ago continue in full swing, and at the beginning of the year we also started biweekly *Bhagavad-gītā* readings. The focus this year is on education, so, courses like TTC 1 and 2, Vaiṣṇava Etiquette, our very successful *Bhagavad-gītā* Eighteen-day Review, a new Bhakti Śāstrī batch, and seminars with visiting guests are in the pipeline. Education is the lifeline that connects us to you, the *guru-paramparā,* and all the way to our dear Lordships. We sincerely pray at your lotus feet that more people awaken to the questions that lie dormant within and dare inquire on topics that you've flooded the world with in your books.

Festival team: Festivals at ISKCON Toronto are a beautiful blend of transcendental bliss and behind-the-scenes logistics. From intimate devotee gatherings to large-scale public celebrations such as Janmāṣṭamī and the annual Śrīla Prabhupāda Festival on January 1, each event requires extensive planning and coordination. Despite the challenges, our dedicated team of volunteers across departments comes together with one goal. They work tirelessly to overcome every obstacle so we can offer our community uplifting kirtans, inspiring classes, sumptuous *prasādam,* and beautiful darshan of Their Lordships. These festivals aren't just events; they're offerings of love, made possible by the selfless service of devotees and the generous support of our community.

Vaiṣṇavas Care team: On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā day, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, we, from Vaiṣṇavas Care, bow our heads in deep gratitude for the matchless gift you gave to the world. By your compassion, countless souls, who longed for spiritual shelter and dignity, have found their true identity as beloved servants of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your vision was not limited by time, place, or circumstance. You uplifted all, teaching us that every devotee, regardless of background or situation, is a vital part of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement. Your instructions empower Vaiṣṇavas to serve with strength, grace, and unwavering faith. With your blessings and your disciple Her Grace Saṅgīta Mātājī's guidance, we serve the Vaiṣṇavas in our community who are going through health challenges. We visit the devotees who are in need of association at hospitals, nursing homes, and residences with *prasādam,* and spend time reading your books, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* and *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā*. We chant with them and keep a recording of you chanting playing until they leave their bodies in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Though this is a difficult and emotional *sevā,* we are able to carry on this service with your blessings. We humbly beg at your lotus feet on this auspicious day, that you please empower us to continue this legacy of Vaiṣṇava care eternally, without which we are simply hopeless.

Bhakti Academy: Bhakti Academy humbly offers this report from 2025 to March/April 2026. With your mercy, we were able to host eighty residents in the ashram, offering young people shelter, training, and spiritual association. Twelve devotees took steps toward deeper commitment through *harināma* initiation. In book distribution, your transcendental mission continued through the distribution of 2,048 books. By your blessings, $35,945.95 in *lakṣmī* was collected in support of preaching and service. Through eight outreach initiatives – including Divine Dialogues, Bhakti Yoga Studio, Bhakti Yoga Club, Meditation Party, *saṅkīrtana,* Bhajana Evenings, and Saturday Love Feasts, we were able to connect with many seekers. Internally, six in-house programs – including daily morning programs, group *Bhagavad-gītā* readings, skill-building sessions, Living Bhakti sessions, study time together, and iṣṭagoṣṭhīs – helped nourish the devotional growth of residents. May we continue to hold tightly to your dhoti so that you may guide us back to Godhead, where we can eternally serve together under your loving care.

Deity Worship department: The head *pūjārīs* are tirelessly serving at the lotus feet of Kṣīra-cora-Gopīnātha whether it be raining, snowing, or severely cold – they are always there serving. They dress the Deities beautifully, with care and love. Many visitors come to take darshan of the Deities

daily. This summer the Deity room will undergo renovation, with new cabinets, drawers, and closets to store the Deities' paraphernalia.

Prasādam distribution: The temple kitchen is tirelessly cooking daily prasādam for hundreds of visitors to Govinda's restaurant. On festivals, the kitchen cooks *prasādam* for eight hundred visitors, and on Janmāṣṭamī 2025, we distributed *prasādam* to close to twenty thousand visitors. Our Sunday Love feast is distributing *prasādam* weekly to close to a thousand visitors. With your blessings, our in-house *prasādam* distribution is going well.

The temple council and board members are touched and humbled by witnessing all the departments serving cooperatively for your pleasure. We seek your blessings that we continue to serve the devotees, visitors, and newcomers with love and compassion, and expand our preaching, book and *prasādam* distribution, and the transcendental sound vibration of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa: Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma Hare Hare.

Forever, your fallen and aspiring servants of the temple council,
On behalf of all the devotees at New Remuṇā Dhāma

Toronto (Russian-speaking center), Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble and sincere obeisances! All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga. All glories to your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura!

We are immensely grateful for your endless mercy. Thanks to you and your unalloyed dedication to your spiritual master, we are so fortunate to have a higher transcendental purpose in life and an opportunity to serve your mission.

We kindly ask you to accept our offerings to you. In our humble attempt to serve your mission of propagating Kṛṣṇa consciousness and bringing knowledge of the *Bhagavad-gītā* to diverse groups of people, this year we have been continuously conducting regular weekly programs. We also celebrated all major Vaiṣṇava festivals and started a *bhakti-vṛkṣa* program. Also, we started an online store to make your books available across Canada in the Russian language. Many devotees enthusiastically read your books, absorbing and then sharing the spiritual knowledge you explain so beautifully with others.

We are begging for your mercy, blessings, and help so that we can continue and improve our outreach and devotee care services.

Thank you very much again for opening our eyes, giving us knowledge, inspiration, and spiritual strength!

Your servants in training,
The Russian-speaking *yātrā* of Toronto

Tri-Central Valley, California, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā in 2026, we offer our heartfelt gratitude and humble homage. This is our first Vyāsa-pūjā offering at your lotus feet, and we pray that you kindly accept this small expression of devotion. You are the empowered representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva and the most compassionate emissary of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Out of your causeless mercy, you carried the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu across oceans and continents, illuminating the world with the sublime teachings of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Through your tireless efforts, you established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and presented your transcendental books, which continue to guide humanity toward spiritual awakening. Your instructions on book distribution and temple establishment remain our eternal inspiration and the very foundation of our service. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate in your divine mission.

By your mercy and blessings, and with the guidance and encouragement of our late GBC, His Holiness Badrinārāyaṇa Mahārāja, His Grace Vaiśeṣika Prabhu, Zonal Supervisor, Her Grace Nirakula Devī Dāsī, Her Grace Jagariṇī Devī Dāsī, His Grace Kulādri Prabhu, the Regional Governing Body administrator, the support of the Regional Governing Body of North America, including Sunitī Devī Dāsī and Jaya Krishna Prabhu, the ISV Board of Directors, and many well-wishers, we have been able to contribute to the expansion of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We also express our heartfelt gratitude to His Grace Vaiśeṣika Prabhu for his constant inspiration in book distribution, and to His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja for motivating us to expand the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

For nearly a decade, Hari Saṅkīrtana and his family cherished the desire to establish a center to address the growing needs of the community. Formal discussions began in 2019 at the ISV board level, where the initiative was carefully evaluated. With the blessings of senior devotees and the guidance of the GBC and RGB authorities, this center was successfully established in 2024 in Livermore, California, then moved to a leased place in Dublin, California.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Hari Saṅkīrtana and Rādhikā Prema, Veṇu Gītā, Siddha Kathā, and Ānanda Vrindavan for initiating the idea and facilitating its development. We also offer our heartfelt thanks to Prema Mādhurī, Sadashiv and Girija and family, Srita Kamala, Lalita-palika, Mahesh, Hema, Aashish, Barsha, Lucy, Pulakit, Yogeswari, Shyamlal, Sunita, Pranagopika, Sachinandan, Priya-kisori, Sukhada Gauranga, Sriji Priya, Purva, Neha, Suman, Sutramalika, Mayank, Atyandh, Arpit, Haladhar, Ridhan, Dhruv, Ambarish, and many other devoted members of our congregation, whose dedication has strengthened this mission. We are very much thankful to our donors for helping us maintain the preaching center for spiritual upliftment.

Currently, more than forty or fifty devotees gather each Saturday for congregational programs, where we study the *Bhagavad-gītā,* perform kirtan, chant one round on beads, and distribute *prasādam* to all visitors. Following the guidance of Vaiśeṣika Prabhu, book distribution remains our top priority, and we regularly engage in this sacred service every Saturday for your pleasure. Our center also conducts a variety of outreach and devotional initiatives, including:

- Children's enrichment programs
- Summer and overnight camps
- A Hare Krishna Unity Run
- Wellness and community development programs

- Gopika meetups
- Cooking and cultural training sessions
- Weekday scriptural reading and daily morning chanting

We are also preparing to launch a Bhakti Śāstrī course to promote systematic spiritual education and academic excellence.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever little service we are able to render is only by your causeless mercy. Despite our shortcomings and disqualifications, you have given us the invaluable opportunity to serve your divine mission. We humbly pray for your blessings so that we may remain steadfast in our spiritual practices, united in cooperation, and fully engaged in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Kindly empower us to expand the *saṅkīrtana* movement throughout the Tri-Central Valley area of California. Please bless us with the strength, humility, and determination to follow your instructions and to remain faithful instruments in your service.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your boundless compassion, transcendental wisdom, and eternal presence through your *vāṇī*. You will forever remain our guiding light and our eternal spiritual master.

Your insignificant servant,
Balimardana Dāsa, president
On behalf of the devotees and congregation of Yogapeeth

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

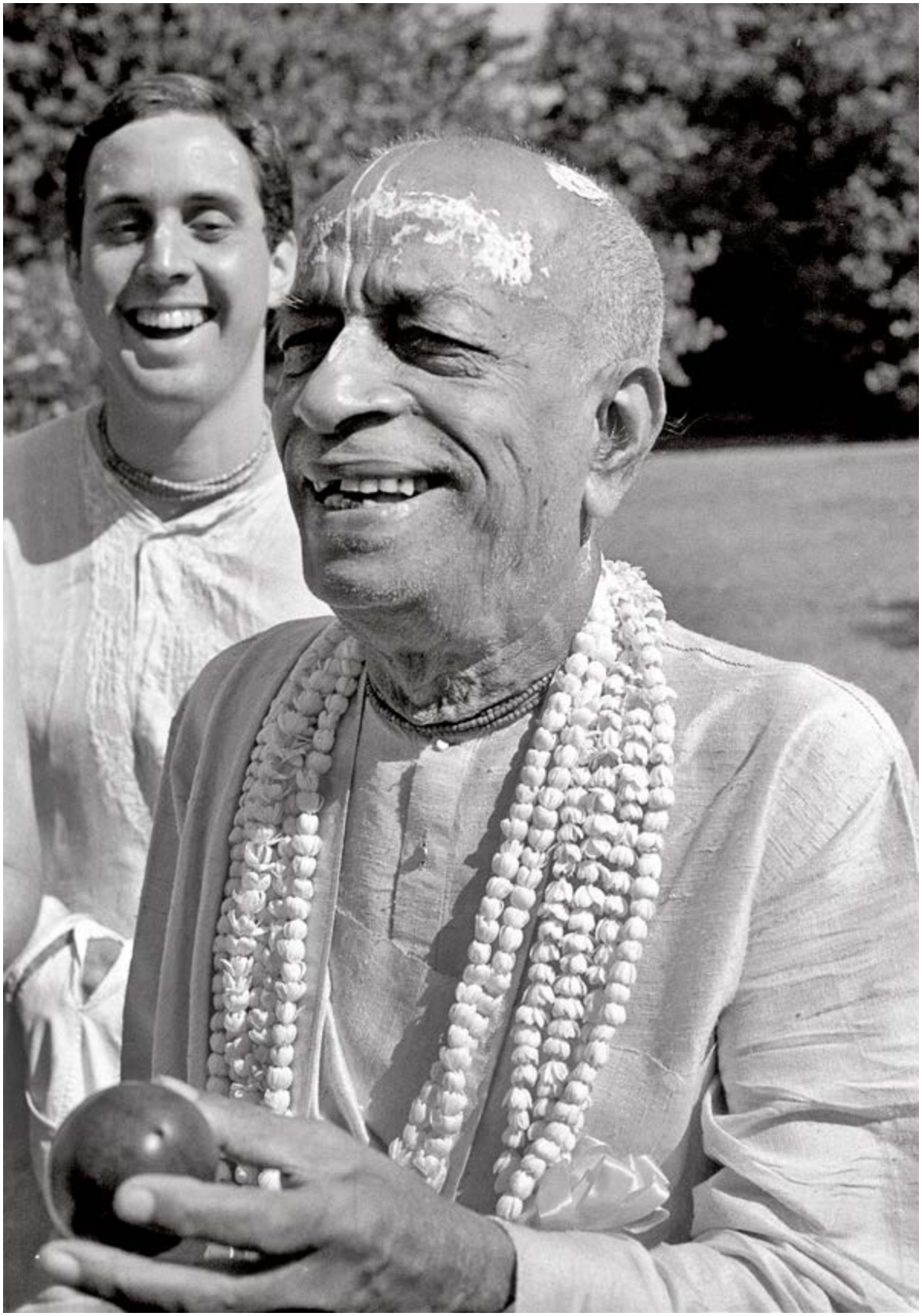
Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories unto your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said, "We are like fish out of water. Just as a fish cannot be happy unless he is in the water, we cannot be happy apart from the spiritual world."

At ISKCON Vancouver, devotees are immersed in spiritual activities. Every month is filled with festivals and events, where devotees are looking forward to the celebrations. The number of visitors is increasing by the day, and more of them are taking to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Daily classes are wonderfully facilitated by your disciples and other advanced speakers. Kirtan events are beautifully organized by devotees.

The year began on a spiritually vibrant note with the Adhivāsa festival for Lord Nityānanda's Appearance Day – celebrated for the first time at New Gokula Dhāma. It was performed by our head priest Shanti Parayan Dāsa, who made a meaningful impact on the community as well. *Brāhmaṇa*-initiated devotees took part in this special ceremony, offering twenty-seven items to Lord Nitāi in honor of His divine appearance. The congregation and visiting guests were deeply moved, witnessing both this unique festival and the beautiful three-day Gaura-Pūrṇimā celebrations that followed shortly after.

Śrīmad Bhāgavatam classes are conducted every Saturday without fail by dedicated Vaiṣṇavīs in Bengali, Hindi, and English, making the teachings accessible to a diverse community. Prakriti Sundarī Devī Dāsī facilitates the Bengali preaching sessions to audiences around the world. Similarly, Nāndīmukhī Devī Dāsī has been consistently facilitating preaching sessions in Hindi. The



Vaiṣṇavī Ministry here continues to inspire and encourage women to read your books daily, a practice being followed with sincerity and commitment. Your biography, *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* is imparting countless valuable lessons and deepening our understanding and appreciation during our weekly reading sessions. We are also truly fortunate to receive the guidance and blessings of advanced Vaiṣṇavīs, whose presence enriches and uplifts the Vaiṣṇavī *Saṅga* gatherings.

Bhakti Home preaching efforts are being made by some of our core members under the guidance of the Congregational Development Ministry. Forming these small groups and inspiring their members to take small steps, we are making great progress, and devotees are taking up chanting on *japa-mālā* and reading all of your books, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

This year, on the occasion of ISKCON's sixtieth anniversary, our *yātrā* is looking to conduct the groundbreaking ceremony for a new temple on our current property. With your blessings, devotees have acquired a beautiful piece of land in Metro Vancouver, which has housed our Deities for so many years. With time, the need has arisen for us to construct a new temple. Several devotees have come forward to contribute their resources for this noble cause. Please bless us so we can give better space for Their Lordships and Your Divine Grace.

Our book distribution team, headed by Rasasindhu Dāsa, is doing a tremendous job. In 2025, more than a thousand copies of the *Bhagavad-gītā* along with others of your books were distributed around the Greater Vancouver area. During our 2025 book marathon, devotees placed the *Bhagavad-gītā, Science of Self-Realization,* and *Higher Taste* in more than 200 Little Free Libraries as well as at the Vancouver and Lynn Valley public libraries, in senior care homes, hospices, several thrift stores, and more.

By your boundless mercy and the power of your transcendental vision, what began as a small, humble offering of flowers has, by your grace alone, blossomed into something we could never have imagined on our own. In 2026, we enter the fifth year of the Vancouver Pushpanjali Flower Farm – a small expression of your instruction to engage everything in the service of Kṛṣṇa. Situated on the sacred grounds of ISKCON Vancouver, we grow thousands of fresh, seasonal flowers – marigolds, cut flowers, and more – for the pleasure of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana, and for the garlands and offerings of our beloved temple and community festivals. In the words of Murāri Charan Dāsa and Dhruva Nārāyaṇa Dāsa, who lead this project, "Each petal grown is an attempt, however imperfect, to honor your vision that devotional service can flow through the earth itself."

We endeavor to tend this land with ecological care and consciousness, honoring the gifts of Mother Earth as Vaiṣṇavas ought to. Every year, by your grace, the farm reaches new milestones in service to the temple. Most recently, the land has been granted Farm Status in Canada – a development that now saves the temple approximately $20,000 per year. These resources may now be redirected to Kṛṣṇa's service. Through the Federal Canada Summer Jobs Program, we have also been blessed to engage young students from UBC, offering them the opportunity to participate in this sacred *sevā* during the summer months. Murāri Charan Dāsa further says, "What began as seeds – both literal and spiritual – has grown into a living instrument of community, devotion, and sustainability. The farm has become a place where hands touch soil in your service, where strangers become devotees, and where the land itself participates in a higher purpose. We humbly pray that you continue to guide and bless this service, that it may remain always pure, always useful, and always for the pleasure of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and His devotees."

The Vancouver Food for Life team has consistently distributed *prasādam* in downtown Vancouver since 2022. Every Sunday, rain or shine, Bhakta Victor, along with the other team devotees, prepare and transport *prasādam* to downtown eastside Vancouver. People in that neighborhood are struggling with addiction and homelessness. It reminds us of how merciful you were to live in the Bowery loft that was offered to you by Harvey Cohen. Living among addicts did not deter you from serving your spiritual master's wish that Kṛṣṇa consciousness be spread in the West. We are

praying that by the mercy of *prasādam* these individuals can realize the importance of their human life and slowly reintegrate into society.

Members of the Friday Night Youth Kirtan team immerse themselves in the nectar of the holy names. There are at least a dozen youth that sing soulfully for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana, Śrī Jagannātha, Śrī Baladeva, and Lady Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. *Hari-nāma eva kevalam*! Śrīla Prabhupāda, your blessings are bountiful for this group. We are consciously preparing the little souls to lead the congregation in the future.

This past year, ISKCON Vancouver has seen tremendous growth in spiritual activities for teenagers and youth. While the parents are busy serving in the temple, their children are bonding with their spiritual buddies. Teen mentorship involves spiritual goal-setting and serving in the temple while sharing their highs and lows for the week.

I read recently this remembrance by Yamunā Devī Dāsī: "It was a very crowded situation – perhaps ten to fifteen of us in one room – and the only place free was the bottom shelf in one of the walk-in closets. We had all of our paraphernalia piled up, and I was in a sleeping bag down on the bottom shelf. Śrīla Prabhupāda noticed I was missing, and I was later told that he had inquired many times where I was. 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 I remember being propped up in this bed, and he came in every day to check on my progress."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the personification of devotee care. Despite having thousands of disciples worldwide, you carried each one in your heart, personally guiding them through your tireless correspondence. Today, that same compassion flows down to us, your granddisciples, through your esteemed disciples. Inspired by this legacy, ISKCON Vancouver has made devotee well-being our highest priority. Each week, our management team begins by meditating on your instructions for leadership. We don't just read them; we strive to breathe them into our decisions, knowing that a temple only truly flourishes when the servants of Lord Kṛṣṇa are deeply cared for.

In a letter to Tribhūvanātha dated 17 July 1971, you wrote: "I am also glad to note that a meeting of all the presidents was held just recently in order to unify the temples. That is the process. Unless we work cooperatively, how this movement will go on? So my request to you all is that you maintain that spirit of cooperation always and help me to deliver Lord Caitanya's message all over the globe."

Our temple leaders and managers are dedicated to channeling positive energy toward the temple's mission. Rooted in your instructions on cooperation, we are successfully advancing Lord Caitanya's vision of global outreach. Our strategic focus for this year is Education and Training, providing developmental opportunities for devotees and council members alike. While we remain committed to our preaching efforts, we are equally focused on maintaining the strength of our personal *sādhana,* and we pray for your blessings to succeed in this endeavor.

We are eternally grateful to His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami, Indresh Gaura Dāsa, and Vrinda Devī Dāsī for guiding us as we follow your instructions in all our endeavors. While His Grace Rohita Prabhu's dedication to *tulasī* service reflects your teaching and instruction, Her Grace Mother Rādhikā's contribution to our temple's growth is remarkable as well. Pārtha and Uttama Prabhus have taken time from their busy schedule to deliver seminars and the disciples course, which are indispensable for our spiritual growth. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are eternally indebted to you for your mercy on millions of souls. Thank you for giving us this family called ISKCON.

On behalf of ISKCON Vancouver's temple council and congregation,
Nitya Kishori Devī Dāsī

Washington, DC, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

This year in DC
we celebrate your visit
of 50 years ago, in 1976
to the property at Potomac

13 acres of good land
with a hill to remind us
of Govardhana
a small stream that
becomes the Yamunā
and a flood plain
to remember the mercy
you carried, to inundate
the world with beauty and truth

Because you gave us the eyes to see
you gave us the language to understand
and gave us wisdom to dig beneath the surface
of an ordinary life, an ordinary piece of land,
we find Kṛṣṇa here and our identity in relationship to Him

Tucked into every nook and corner
are the seeds of bhakti that you planted
the seeds of *golokera prema-dhana, hari-nāma-saṅkīrtana*
Take advantage, you would say, and make your life perfect.

We thank you for planting this place of pilgrimage.
"In Vrindavan there is a place where there was no temple, but a devotee desired, 'Let there be a temple and *sevā,* devotional service.' Therefore, what was once an empty corner has now become a place of pilgrimage. Such are the desires of a devotee." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.13.50)

Your servant,
Ananda Vrindavaneswari Devī Dāsī, temple president

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu requested that His message be preached in every town and village. Through the visionaries who foresaw His instructions coming to fruition, we can proudly say that ISKCON Waterloo is one such center.

We wish to offer our deepest appreciation for the immense effort Your Divine Grace invested in establishing Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide. We marvel at how you managed this mission before the existence of modern technology, which today allows us to broadcast a message at the touch of a button.

We also thank you with profound gratitude for the hardships you endured to plant this seed across the globe. Were it not for Your Divine Grace and the dedication of your sincere disciples, we would be lost in this material realm of instant sense gratification.

We are striving to work strictly under your instructions and the guidance of our spiritual masters. We recognize the challenges, but as you so wisely stated, "Purity is the force" and we are committed to abiding by that principle. We understand that progress begins with cooperation, and we are deeply appreciative of the support from our leadership, which has allowed us to foster a true sense of unity.

Through the profound knowledge you have given us in the *śāstra,* we are working to ensure that our devotees grow with a deep philosophical understanding, moving beyond mere sentimentality toward a fixed state of devotion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the ISKCON Waterloo center has been steadily growing, and our only desire is to continue pleasing Your Divine Grace and the Lord. Although we were officially registered as an entity in April 2025, our community has been active in various forms for the last six years. Having maintained a steady location for the past year and a half, we are pleased to report a consistent increase in our congregation.

Our weekly programs now regularly host 50–55 devotees. During last year's Janmāṣṭamī celebration, we were blessed to welcome over 350 guests. Furthermore, your Chariot Festival, the Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, has become a cornerstone of our outreach. Following the success of our last two festivals, we are preparing to go "bigger and better" this year. We are implementing more structural organization in our dealings with the city, inviting more delegates, and refining our outreach to bring the mercy of Lord Jagannātha to every soul in this area.

This is merely our humble and sincere attempt to serve your mission. We pray for the strength to continue expanding this center for your divine pleasure.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Waterloo

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

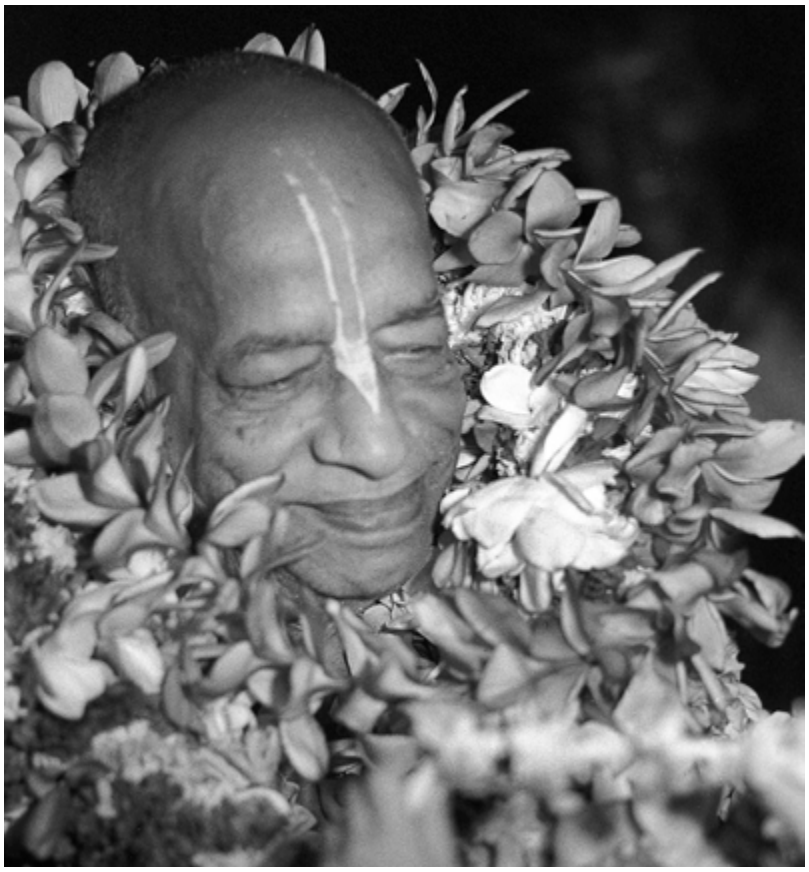
Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. On this sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the devotees of ISKCON Windsor offer our heartfelt gratitude for your boundless mercy. By your compassion, the teachings *of Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* have reached even us, guiding our lives toward Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, inspired by your divine vision, we are striving to build a *saṅga,* a spiritual community, where devotees grow together, serve together, and realize together. In this endeavor, we seek to uphold the sacred principle of *yatra nāryastu pūjyante*. We recognize that a thriving *saṅga* is built upon honoring all devotees and on embracing the essential role of Vaiṣṇavīs in particular. In building a *saṅga* where devotion and dignity unite – that comes from your teachings, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Though we are unqualified, please kindly engage us as instruments in your mission. Bless us with unity, humility, sincerity, and steadiness in chanting and service.

May ISKCON Windsor always remain an offering at your lotus feet – serving your desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness for the benefit of all. We pray to remain eternally under your shelter.

Your aspiring servants,
ISKCON Windsor *saṅga*



HOMAGES FROM ISKCON CENTERS

Oceania

Adelaide, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

By your causeless mercy, ISKCON Adelaide continues to grow. This Vyāsa-pūjā offering is a humble report of the various services, preaching initiatives, and developments carried out at ISKCON Adelaide over the past year for your pleasure by the devotees striving to serve under your shelter and instructions.

This past year has been marked by consolidation, strengthening standards, expanding preaching efforts, rejuvenating temple infrastructure, and laying stronger foundations for the future growth of your mission in Adelaide.

Nontraditional preaching to local communities has also expanded through "Beyond Borders" outreach for war-affected communities, particularly members of the Muslim community, along with Women's Experiences in Spirituality programs, yoga-studio outreach, Adelaide Fringe initiatives, monthly Full Moon Kirtans at the Beach, Kirtan Under the Stars at Flaxley, Harmony Day exhibitions, and other grassroots outreach events.

Book distribution increased by approximately 82 percent compared to the previous year, reflecting a growing commitment among devotees to distribute your transcendental literature. Here are our 2025 marathon results:

15 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets
2 *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* sets
1 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* set
1,000 *Bhagavad-gītās*
210 *Kṛṣṇa* books
473 other books
Total books distributed: 1,630
Total devotees participating: 34

The temple bookshop is now open seven days a week. We pray to continue increasing distribution of your transcendental literature throughout South Australia and beyond.

Youth preaching expanded considerably this year. Two new youth groups have been formed at the temple. Likewise, the children's engagement also increased by unifying the children's education system. We now have just under 100 children registered. We pray to create a stronger spiritual foundation for the next generation of devotees in Adelaide.

Harināma-saṅkīrtana was revived within the city, with plans for expansion into additional locations across Adelaide.

This year marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the purchase of the beautiful Bhakti Vedanta Ashram property in Adelaide. As part of honoring and preserving this property for future generations, extensive infrastructure work has been undertaken, including:

- Complete interior repainting of the temple
- Extensive repairs and maintenance of roofing, gutters, and downpipes at both 23 and 25 Le Hunte Street
- Complete asbestos removal from the temple property
- Removal of over twenty-five years of accumulated rubbish from sheds and storage areas
- Construction of a purpose-built book-storage shed
- Conversion of the old temple room into a preaching and multipurpose hall
- Renovation and improvement work throughout the property



These efforts have helped prepare the temple for future preaching expansion and safer long-term use. The temple is also currently in the process of installing approximately 150 kilowatts of battery storage infrastructure to improve sustainability and reduce operational costs.

By your mercy, in 2025 ISKCON Adelaide experienced its biggest Janmāṣṭamī festival ever, with more than six thousand visitors attending the celebrations.

Devotee engagement and preaching initiatives also expanded significantly through programs such as Śrīla Prabhupāda Abhishek by congregation members, Christmas and New Year Kirtan Melās, Kids' Kirtan Melā, a weekly Vaiṣṇavī Saṅga, and Wednesday *Bhagavad-gītā* classes.

The congregation increasingly embraced preaching as an essential part of devotional life and responsibility. This year, significant emphasis was placed on training devotees and building long-term foundations for the future of your mission in Adelaide. Throughout the year, ISKCON Adelaide was deeply blessed by the association and guidance of fifteen *sannyāsīs* and senior Vaiṣṇavas.

More than forty devotees enrolled in a three-day online children's teachers training course to help strengthen Kṛṣṇa conscious education for the next generation.

More than thirty devotees registered for a four-week *bhakti-vṛkṣa* leadership training program to develop preaching skills, devotee care, facilitation, and leadership capacity within the congregation.

A two-day, twenty-hour Devotee Care seminar was also conducted, and more than 35 devotees participated, helping us establish a stronger culture of devotee support, empathy, and pastoral care within the community.

Understanding that Deity worship is the heart of temple life, we focused significantly on improving worship standards and expanding opportunities for devotees to serve.

Over the year:

- Night dressing of the Deities was introduced
- Evening *bhoga* offerings were commenced
- Increased flower budgets and decorations were arranged for Their Lordships
- Theme-based decorations on the altar were developed
- *Adhivāsa* ceremonies were introduced for festivals
- Auditing and inventory systems for the Deity department were initiated
- More devotees were encouraged to participate in Deity service

By your mercy, Govinda's Restaurant also received a 5-star food safety rating. Govinda's Vegetarian Delights was launched and now operates on major festival days. We also aspire to continue expanding Food for Life initiatives in the future.

Most importantly, we pray to develop a stronger mood of cooperation, humility, service, and dependence on your instructions. Please bless ISKCON Adelaide so that this community may become an instrument for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout South Australia and beyond. We beg forgiveness for all shortcomings, mistakes, and offenses committed, knowingly or unknowingly, in the course of service.

Your servants at ISKCON Adelaide

Auckland, New Zealand

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Though there is no way that we can fully express our gratitude to you because it is so enormous that we cannot even see the amount of it ourselves, we, your disciples and granddisciples at ISKCON Auckland, bow down at your lotus feet to offer you our most humble obeisances! Kindly bless us as we attempt to glorify you to the best of our ability!

A very happy 130th appearance day, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. 130 years ago, Lord Caitanya

Mahāprabhu gave a very valuable gift to humanity – you, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have changed the landscape of this material world by your wonderful preaching activities. You extended the mercy of Lord Caitanya all over the world. What you achieved in a few short years of your mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the world cannot be imagined. You gave us eternal life, community, family, real knowledge, shelter, culture, a true sense of belonging, leadership, integrity, plus your secret weapon to get all of us hooked, the world's best cuisine, *prasādam*!

This movement has given immense happiness and bliss. It has given a genuine purpose to our lives. The knowledge we gained from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is pure and meaningful. We at ISKCON Auckland are truly indebted for that.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, only because of your mercy and blessings, we got our Lord Jagannātha's Exhibition, which consists of the backdrop, wheel, and column directly from Lord Jagannātha's *ratha* in Jagannath Puri Dhāma.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our Rupanuga Institute of Spiritual Education (RISE) continues to be a thriving hub for spiritual learning, serving over six hundred devotees and guests. The Institute has conducted four batches of the Bhakti Śāstrī course, which has seen thirty-seven graduates so far, over a hundred attendees, and the certification of eleven teachers through the Mayapur Institute. The Bhakti Vaibhava course currently has sixteen students. RISE has also facilitated six batches of the ISKCON Disciple Course, with more than eighty devotees attending, conducted specialized chanting workshops, hosted three major outreach seminars that engaged over four hundred people, and offered Career Dharma coaching to fifteen devotees. Beyond these core programs, RISE serves as a vital support system for four local *bhakti-vṛkṣa* groups, assisting prospective teachers and *bhakti-vṛkṣa* leaders. Last year, the RISE facilitator was appointed by the ISKCON Ministry of Education to serve as the Regional Coordinator for reporting educational activities in New Zealand. This whole progress is only possible by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, distributing your books at ISKCON Auckland is a deeply enlivening service, and we have experienced many inspiring moments over the past year. Our book table provides a valuable opportunity to develop relationships with those visiting the temple, particularly during the Sunday Feast program. Many guests have deeply moving experiences during the *ārati,* class, and kirtan – sometimes even to the point of these programs evoking tears. Afterward, they often approach the book table to share their experiences and seek guidance on the next steps in their spiritual journey.

We are also fortunate to work alongside the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, participating in the distribution of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets during Bhadra Pūrṇimā and *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* during the Live to Give campaign. We humbly pray for your empowerment in carrying forward this important mission.

In addition to steady book distribution within the temple, through our *śāstra-dhana* and Motel Gita initiatives, we are striving to distribute your books to every town and village throughout New Zealand. This is an inspiring and dynamic service, and we can only imagine how far your words may travel through these transcendental literatures.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you in this way and are pleased to report that, by your mercy, during the past year we distributed:

- 48 full sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*
- 1,565 copies of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*
- 1,669 other titles

This amounts to over 4,000 individual books distributed.

We humbly pray to continue serving in this mission and assisting in the distribution of your transcendental books for the benefit of all.

The Hare Krishna School presently has 206 students enrolled across years 1 through 12, with continued steady growth in our roll. We are grateful to be serving the community of Vaiṣṇava families, faithful Hindu households, and others who are developing an appreciation for Kṛṣṇa consciousness. By your mercy, the school is now officially recognized and funded by the Ministry of Education as a full Years 1–13 school. This is a significant milestone, as it enables our students to complete their entire schooling journey, including their secondary qualifications, within a Kṛṣṇa conscious environment. We now have subject specialist teachers across years 7–12, strengthening the quality of teaching and learning in each area. We are the only school in New Zealand offering Kṛṣṇa consciousness as a dedicated Religious Studies subject at the high school level.

Our *śāstra* curriculum continues to develop steadily, supporting students' understanding of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* knowledge and practices. The daily program includes kirtan, *ārati, japa, śloka* recitation, and regular study of your books. In addition, our year 7–10 students study *śāstra* as a dedicated subject, with four classes each week on their formal timetable. Through this, we are endeavoring to systematically nurture Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the hearts of our students. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for engaging us in nurturing young hearts to a spiritual awakening.

We are pleased to announce the inauguration of a new center in South Auckland named the Vedic Education and Cultural Center. This center has been established with the sole purpose of sharing spiritual knowledge and uplifting the community.

Every Sunday evening, we host a Sunday Feast program to support the spiritual needs of people in that region. Alongside this, we run engaging children's programs concurrently, creating a welcoming space for families. The response has been very encouraging, and we attribute this success to your blessings and continued mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We humbly seek your guidance in sustaining and growing this spiritual endeavor. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We continue to conduct our weekly and fortnightly *harināma* programs. Every Friday evening, we gather in central Auckland, and every fortnight, we extend these gatherings to West and South Auckland, sharing the mercy of Lord Caitanya through devotional chanting.

In addition, *prasādam* distribution takes place fortnightly in both Auckland City and South Auckland. This initiative has become increasingly popular among locals and serves as a meaningful way to connect with the wider community.

We also remain committed to organizing our annual Ratha-yātrā festivals, hosting more than ten events during the festival season, including participation in Christmas parades. These occasions are always met with great enthusiasm, as audiences eagerly look forward to our vibrant chanting and dancing, while also inquisitively embracing the opportunity to take darshan of Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we at ISKCON Auckland are unable to fully express our gratitude for all that you have given and done for us – it is truly impossible to repay you. Therefore we remain forever indebted and deeply grateful for your unfathomable compassion and mercy. The only way we can hope to please you is by embracing and continuing your mission as the very heart and soul of our lives. Kindly bless us with the strength and sincerity to become worthy instruments in spreading the glories of your divine mission.

Begging to always remain at the shelter of your lotus feet – our savior,
Your servants at ISKCON Auckland

Bambra, Australia

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, our savior from the repeated cycle of birth and death.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the residents of Krishna Valley, in Bambra, Australia, offer our heartfelt gratitude for your boundless mercy and compassion. By your divine vision and tireless efforts, you have given the world the greatest treasure – the chanting of the holy names of the Lord – and a practical way of life centered on devotion, simplicity, and service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Krishna Valley exists only because of your desire to establish farm communities, where people can live in harmony with nature, protect cows, grow their own food, and cultivate Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a natural and joyful way. Every tree, every garden bed, every kirtan, and every guest who walks through our gates is a reflection of your mercy.

We especially pray for your blessings as we strive to expand our outreach by welcoming more visitors and tourists to Krishna Valley. We see this not as a material endeavor, but as an opportunity to serve your mission and to give people a glimpse of a spiritually vibrant lifestyle. When guests come here, take *prasādam,* walk through the gardens, meet the cows, and hear the holy name, their hearts are touched in ways that words alone cannot achieve.

Please empower us to develop this place in such a way that it becomes a beacon of spiritual hospitality, where people from all walks of life feel nourished, uplifted, and inspired to inquire about higher truths. Let our efforts to increase tourism be guided by sincerity, purity, and a genuine desire to serve, not by profit or prestige.

Kindly help us to work cooperatively, selflessly, and enthusiastically, so that Krishna Valley may flourish as a living example of your teachings. May every visitor leave with the seed of bhakti planted in their heart, and may we always remember that we are simply instruments in your divine plan.

We are eternally indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us this path, this community, and this opportunity to serve.

Your servants,
The residents of Krishna Valley

Brisbane, Australia

To our beloved founder-*ācārya,* His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, in what has been, for us, a very special year.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on one of your six visits to Australia, devotees were overjoyed to show you their newest preaching acquisition: a double-decker bus outlandishly painted bright orange with THE HARE KRISHNA MOVEMENT – THE POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE emblazoned on its side. You were

delighted and, upon inspecting its interior, remarked "I could live in this." (*The Great Transcendental Adventure,* Kūrma Dāsa p. 105).

That same year – 1972 – this bus would bring a crew of ISKCON devotees, with an abundance of your books, to Brisbane for the first time. On that occasion, they stayed only two days, but Brisbane had its first taste of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Later that year, our first temple was opened on your behalf by your dear servants Upendra Dāsa and Citralekhā Devī Dāsī, followed by Cāru Dāsa and his wife Vaibhavī Devī Dāsī.

After this followed fifty-four years consisting of a total of nine location moves, literally hundreds of devotees made, and thousands more people whose lives have been touched by your books, *prasādam,* and/or the holy names, sung in the streets today as they were on that first 1972 visit.

However, this year something monumental occurred. After fifty-four years of being moved – sometimes willingly, sometimes unwillingly – from one location to another, we finally purchased a permanent home for our wonderful Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and Your Divine Grace. In what can only be described as a miracle, after a seemingly endless citywide search for a suitable location, a church came up for sale a mere short walk from our then residence. Astonishingly, we then beat out other buyers to acquire, for your ISKCON, this heritage-listed property, built a hundred years earlier by the Methodist Church, at 8 Lee Road, Darra, Brisbane, Australia.

The building was old and in need of repair, but what rose up is an utterly charming, unique, character-filled, fully restored, beautiful temple. It also features delightful gardens, an expansive lawn, a huge permanent marquee to cater for large festival crowds, and the former hall was expertly converted into a massive, fully equipped commercial kitchen.

This work was the effort of your ISKCON Brisbane community, not only as it is now but of all those who came before us. It was completed by a small team who worked tirelessly around the clock to offer this to you.

Due to the proximity to our former premises, it was decided to take the Deities and yourself to your new residence via a Ratha-yātrā procession. An auspicious date was chosen for the move – 28 February 2026 – and a five-day festival was planned, culminating in Gaura-Pūrṇimā.

So many wonderful occurrences happened during this time: from roads being cleansed by steady rain the entire day before the parade to brilliant blue skies and sunshine on the day we moved, to local dignitaries crying with joy during speeches (one of them dressed for the occasion in a sari) and to wonderful gifts and blessings kindly sent to us by our first devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you wrote to your disciples in a letter dated 13 December 1972 that you were very happy to know an ISKCON temple had been established in Brisbane, Australia, and that you would like to come here. Upon completion of the new temple project, we felt so happy to welcome you to your new home here.

Our temple is continuing to flourish in a number of ways, such as increased *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and book distribution efforts, *bhakti-vṛkṣa* programs, educational courses like Bhakti-śāstrī, *prasādam* distribution, Western outreach initiatives, bigger festivals, and more visits from senior devotees, including our GBC.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we love you with all our hearts. We know that strictly following your instructions will lead us to the perfection of our lives. Please forgive us for our shortcomings and bless us so that we can serve you in a way that always pleases Your Divine Grace.

With eternal gratitude,
Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Brisbane

Cessnock, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, bestower of jeweled knowledge and causeless mercy,

Today, on this day, the most auspicious day, we reflect on why this is, indeed, the most wondrous day. And we begin the impossible task of trying to explain "auspiciousness," to try to encapsulate what your presence has meant to all of those mercifully brought into your orbit and influence. A wonder is that, although you are *jagat-guru* and the three worlds are ringing with your praises, you traveled, at an advanced age and great personal inconvenience, to the most extreme places to save us with the science of devotional service. Us! The wonder and power of true causeless mercy, indeed. And then, wonder of wonders, you, became our stern and loving benefactor, who offers a personal connection to us all.

We each have our own wonders to speak of: your influence and magnanimity ranges from the global to communities to the personal. The miracle for many older followers was that you descended into the desert of our ignorant, dull, suburban lives, humbly opening your arms, speaking of the science of knowing a loving and beautiful God, and then tirelessly committing it all to print for daily reference and posterity. You dispelled our stumbling confusion and softened us with a beautiful mantra that can dance daily on our tongues and cleanse our hearts. You removed the cataracts of materialism from our eyes so we could daily greet the beautiful Deities, both on the altar and in our minds and hearts. We were the recipients of mercy we could not even have envisaged.

And the enduring wonder today is, in all our preaching activities, and indeed in our daily exchanges, we can look to others in every town and village who are distraught and blind, and even to those who are as yet unborn, and open to them all the windows you gave us. And we, who knew the emptiness of a world not yet touched by Your Divine Grace, can follow your example and embrace them and say, "Do not despair! We are blessed by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda with this *mahā-mantra* balm to revive you."

We can go out and find them and draw them into the safe spaces of devotion that we are building. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your devotees worked tirelessly over the decades to fulfill your mission, distributing the light of your books in challenging circumstances and emergencies; they continue to do so in book distribution, glorious Deity care, *prasādam* distribution, farming and cow protection, and by developing preaching facilities – temples and farms, restaurants and rural and city preaching pods.

And a present wonder, growing from your loving example, we are maturing! We are better leaders and community members now; less in the passion required in those urgent times, we are now interacting with greater care. We are working hard to build strong communities in the places we gather to worship; we are endeavoring to develop the Vaiṣṇava qualities, as enunciated in *The Nectar of Instruction* and exemplified in you, that contribute to deep, appreciative connection. You gave us a perfect behavioral guide of high expectation, compassion, causeless love, and forgiveness. Your devotees are meeting each other with increased compassion and openness, while building and honoring the trust between one another that makes this possible. There is growing respect, cooperation, and reciprocity between areas of service, spiritual guides, ashrams, genders, and ages. And this is further strengthening the foundations you gave us and encouraging the preaching opportunities you wanted for us. Daily appreciation is fueled by exquisite, careful Deity worship and ecstatic kirtan, which is often driven by the enthusiasm of our wonderful youth. Indeed, the wonder is the meticulous attention to their service offered by all your devotees, touched by your example and your grace.

Of course, anything offered springs from our heartfelt gratitude to you and a deep commitment to continue your wonderful mission. That your causeless, loving mercy was bestowed on us is

what makes this the most wondrous day. Please bless us to hold on tightly to your gifts and your example.

All glories to you, our wondrous ever well-wishing ISKCON founder-*ācārya,* His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Your servants at New Gokula Farm community

Lautoka, Fiji

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*! All glories to Guru and Gaurāṅga.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are widely recognized for the monumental efforts you made to introduce the wisdom of the Gauḍīya *paramparā* from India to the global stage. In just over a decade, you transformed a small following of hippies in New York City into a worldwide spiritual movement – from hippies to happies.

Here is a summary of the significant religious and cultural work you accomplished.

You translated and commentated Vedic literature: Śrīla Prabhupāda, your most enduring legacy is your literary contribution. You translated and provided extensive Bhaktivedanta purports (commentaries) for several foundational texts of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition. *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* is one of the most widely read and distributed versions of the *Gītā* in the world and has been translated into seventy languages. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* currently printed in eighteen volumes, is an encyclopedia of spiritual knowledge. *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* is a multivolume biography and philosophical study of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's life and teachings.

You established ISKCON: In 1966, at the age of 70, you founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). It began in a storefront on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and grew into a global network that today includes over 600 temples and cultural centers, dozens of ecovillages and farm communities, and educational institutions for adults and schools for children.

You developed the Food for Life program: You emphasized that no one within a ten-mile radius of a temple should go hungry. This philosophy led to the creation of Food for Life, which has become the world's largest vegetarian food relief program, serving millions of free sanctified meals (*prasādam*) to people regardless of their background.

You inaugurated cultural exchanges and global festivals: You are credited with bringing the Rathayātrā (Chariot festival) out of India and into the streets of major Western cities such as London, San Francisco, and New York. This allowed millions of people to experience Vedic culture and music (kirtan) firsthand.

You established the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT): To ensure the continued distribution of spiritual knowledge, you established the BBT in 1972. It is currently the world's largest publisher of books concerning Indian religion and philosophy.

Summary of your impact: Śrīla Prabhupāda, your work is often praised for its "uncompromising" presentation of our tradition. You did not dilute the teachings to fit Western trends; instead, you invited the world to adapt to the principles of bhakti (devotion), focusing on character, vegetarianism, and the chanting of the *mahā-mantra*.

I was very fortunate that I had your association sometimes in 1976 in Vrindavan while Tamal Krishna Mahārāja was your personal secretary. I came to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with an invitation from Vāsudeva Prabhu to make a beautiful special residence for you in Lautoka, Fiji. We wanted to invite you to stay and complete your *Bhāgavatam* writing in a very quiet and peaceful atmosphere. I still remember that you sent your blessings to us through Tamal Krishna Mahārāja.

By your blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our Kṛṣṇa-Kāliya temple in Lautoka and all other Fijian temples are expanding. By your blessings, we in Fiji are still continuing our services to you and Kṛṣṇa-Kāliya. Please bless the whole world so that everyone can taste Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this lifetime.

With lots of love to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants,
Vāmanadeva Dāsa, Gāndharvikā Devī Dāsī, and the devotees in Lautoka

Melbourne, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

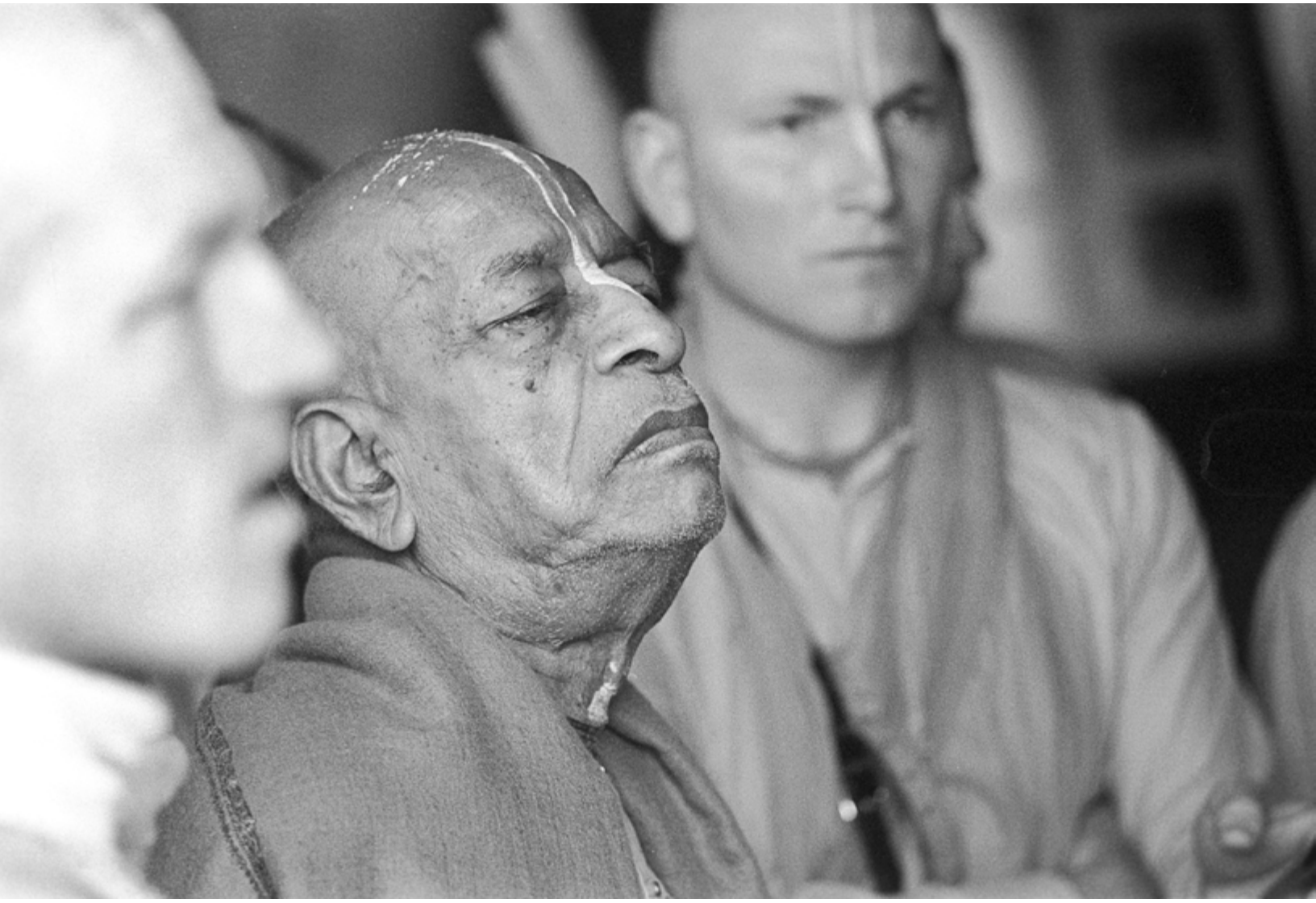
I was born in the darkest ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torchlight of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto him.

mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam

By whose mercy a dumb man can speak eloquently and a lame man can cross mountains, unto that spiritual master, savior of the fallen, I offer my obeisances.

nama oṁ 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, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.



namas te sārasvate 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 Gaurāṅga and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

All glories unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness who is spreading the mission of Śrī Caitanya, the Pañca-tattva, and the Six Gosvāmīs all over the world.

On this sacred day of Vyāsa-pūjā, we bow at your lotus feet with gratitude and reverence. You are the ever-living guide whose words, books, and example continue to shape our lives and our

service. In Melbourne, far from the dust of Vraja, your presence is nonetheless tangible – alive in every kirtan, every offering, every sincere attempt to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vallabha.

The Six Gosvāmīs of Vrindavan, as glorified in the first verse of the *Ṣaḍ-gosvāmy-aṣṭaka,* were absorbed in *nāma-saṅkīrtana* – dancing, singing, and relishing the nectar of divine love, thus glorifying and amplifying the sacred realm of Vrindavan with their presence. Their lives were a continuous current of *bhajana* and compassion, drawing conditioned souls toward Kṛṣṇa through sound, example, and realization. Their lives were dedicated to the well-being of all.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you extended and expanded that very current of compassion across oceans and generations. Where the Gosvāmīs revealed Vrindavan, you carried Vrindavan into the cities of the world. Where they sang beneath *kadamba* trees, you inspired *saṅkīrtana* in streets, temples, and homes across continents. Their *bhajana* became your global mission; their renunciation, your fearless preaching; their love for Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, your gift to all.

Here at ISKCON Melbourne, your inspiration is the life-force of every activity. The kirtans resound because you taught us how to chant. The Deities are worshiped with care because you showed us Their eternal reality. The devotees gather in unity because you revealed the culture of Vaiṣṇava association. Your books are studied systematically because in them you share and nourish the heart of a pure devotee. The preparation and distribution of Rādhā-Vallabha's *mahā-prasāda* is the perfection of the kitchen religion demonstrated by you in the original love feasts of early ISKCON 62 Second Avenue, in New York City. What we attempt here is but a reflection of your vision – a small but sincere extension of the Gosvāmīs' mood, as carried by you.

By your mercy, this temple is not experienced as a place of geography, not merely a place on the map, but as a sacred realm of divine consciousness. You declared that this is not Melbourne but Vrindavan – and by your potency, that statement is realized. In the atmosphere of devotion, in the simplicity of service, in the shared aspiration to please Kṛṣṇa, we perceive a nondifference from His spiritual abode. The holy name resounds, hearts soften, and remembrance awakens. This is your miracle.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue to engage us in your service. Let ISKCON Melbourne always remain a place where your instructions are lived, where the mood of the Gosvāmīs is honored, and where all who come may feel the presence of Vrindavan. May we never forget that whatever sanctity is here flows from your mercy alone.

We offer this homage with folded hands, praying to be instruments of your compassion.

Your servants at ISKCON Melbourne
(written by Aniruddha Dāsa, president)

Perth, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to your Divine Grace.

Your glories are unlimited, so how can we glorify you with our tiny brains and inadequate words? We can only do this by your mercy, just as one can offer Ganges water to the Ganges!

Please accept our prostrated obeisances on this, your divine 130th Appearance Day. It has been sixty years since you established ISKCON, your transcendental body. This movement is going

very strongly, with many new temples coming up, more books being distributed, and more and more devotees taking to the process of devotional service.

At the same time many of your direct disciples and stalwart devotees are leaving this material world and joining you to serve you and preach in other worlds under your guidance. In the last two months, we have seen the departure of three of your dedicated disciples, each of whom inspired many souls. We are now deprived of their association and can only cherish the sweet memories of their association and their exalted and dedicated service to your movement. This is a fact: as time progresses, we will see many, and then all, of your direct disciples gradually leaving this world. As one of your senior disciples said, "This is a decade of tears," referring to the departure of so many senior devotees and leaders. So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us and give us the intelligence to control our minds and take this process seriously, and to do something significant for your pleasure.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you put your lotus foot on the soil of this place called Perth, which is so far from other cities. Only out of your causeless mercy did you choose to visit Perth. You stayed for ten days, thus making Perth a holy place (*tīrtha*). The devotees here are trying to do some insignificant service to please you and Lord Caitanya Mahaaprabhu by spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Our book distributors are distributing regularly by innovating new ways, such as creating street libraries, distributing to community libraries, doing street distribution, and distributing books from Govinda's restaurant and the temple. Last year we distributed 42 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* 8 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets, and 1,952 *Bhagavad-gītās.* This is very, very small, but please bless us so we can improve and distribute more this year. We need your mercy.

Our devotees go out on *harināma-saṅkīrtana* every Friday into the streets of Perth, and we also take opportunities to participate in other events and spread the holy name. Yes, we agree we need to reach out to more and more people, as the holy name is the panacea for all the problems of this world. But Śrīla Prabhupāda, when will we be able to understand this and become convinced first so we can convince others? We need your mercy.

You said when you were in Australia that we should distribute *prasādam,* so we are endeavoring to distribute *prasādam* from our Govinda's restaurant, the temple, and we are also making home deliveries. We have a well-wisher who is very dedicated to this service. He enthusiastically collects the extra *prasādam,* packs it up, and delivers it to the needy in our local area. This activity is creating a good impression of your society in our local community.

Many disadvantaged people who have no shelter come to our restaurant, and we happily give them a free meal so they can start their spiritual journey by honoring *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. Because of the current situation in the world, these numbers are increasing every day, and as many as 150 people are taking advantage of this service every week.

As you have kindly visited this place, and we want to offer a nice temple for the pleasure of you and Their Lordships, we are working on the new temple project, having acquired another block of land. We are trying to finalize the plans and then submit them to the council by the end of June. Hopefully, by the time of your Vyāsa-pūjā day, we will have some more news about the progress.

We are also trying to reach various groups and different political leaders so that they can appreciate your contribution to humanity and recognize your greatness. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always remained at the back and put Kṛṣṇa in front. Now it is our duty to bring awareness of your contribution to humankind and let society know how you are saving them from all bad vices.

We are trying to reach newcomers through programs like Ratha-yātrā and other outreach programs and cultural festivals. We know there are many out there who do not know about Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His teachings, so we have a lot of work to do. We need your mercy.

Through our *Bhagavad-gītā* Intro courses, we're finding that people are showing interest in *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. So after completing the five-week course, they join our *bhakti-vṛkṣa* programs. Many devotees are studying your books through various programs, like IDC, Bhakti-śāstrī, Bhakti Vaibhava, and other such courses.

Many of our youth are coming forward and making a serious commitment to the process of bhakti by taking shelter and initiation and surrendering to the spiritual master. Recently, many of our youth participated in a bhakti festival in the eastern states, and their performance of kirtan, drama, and dance were well appreciated by many. These youth have so many talents – we need to nurture their devotion. Please give us the intelligence to help and encourage them to serve your mission so that they can take responsibility and lead your movement in the coming years. We need your mercy.

So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have a lot of work ahead of us as this world needs a lot of guidance and your books and teachings are the only saving grace. This we can only do if we convince ourselves first. So please give us the intelligence so we can work cooperatively by putting all our selfish motives aside.

Your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Perth

Sydney, Australia

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

You started this movement from small and humble beginnings. The residents of your own hometown did not care to support you, and very few in your home country believed in your mission of bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West. Yet despite this and all other setbacks, you persisted and fulfilled your spiritual master's request to its fullest potential.

And now here we are, against all odds: there are millions all over the world, not just in the West, celebrating your Vyāsa-pūjā 2026 with you residing in their hearts.

Your devotees at Govinda Valley, near Sydney, Australia, are holding you close today. The majority of us have never had the chance to meet you, yet somehow, each one of us has reserved an eternal space for you in our hearts and minds. Our minds are saturated with thoughts of you. Should you enter that space, you would surely hear "Prabhupāda once said," "Prabhupāda used to," "Prabhupāda instructed," "Prabhupāda this," "Prabhupāda that." One can never leave a conversation, no matter the topic, mundane or spiritual, long or brief, without hearing your name at least once from our mouths. Parrots we are, always uttering your name.

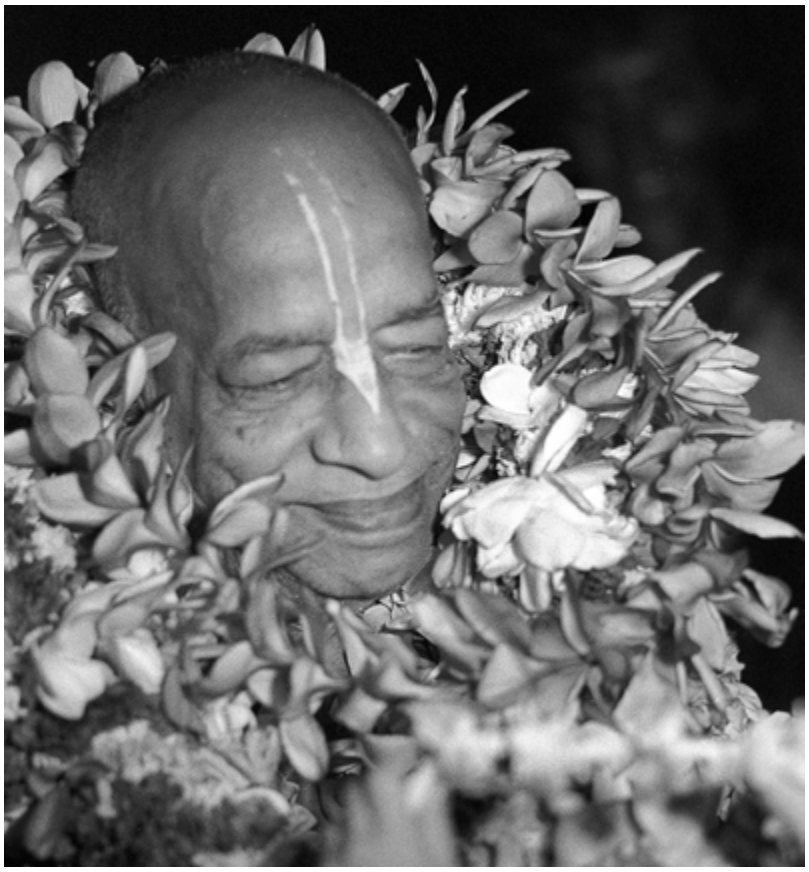
So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on those nights when you were writing alone, struggling to personally fund and distribute *Back to Godhead* on the streets of Calcutta, were you already scheming to steal our unassuming hearts? Did you plan to inundate our minds and change the entire course of our lives? Were you already preparing to become the subject of our thoughts, the topic on our tongues, and the guiding force behind our days?

Somehow, we have happily declared ourselves your puppet boys and girls, ready to offer you love and service without a single reservation in our hearts.

And yet, in truth, it is not that you have taken anything from us, but that you have given us everything. You have given us purpose where there was once wandering, clarity where there was once confusion, and devotion where there was once emptiness.

So, on this day, we simply pray to remain instruments in your hands. To remember your instructions, to carry your mood, and to serve your mission with sincerity and steadiness. Please keep us always engaged in your service, lifetime after lifetime.

On behalf of all the devotees at Govinda Valley,
Your humble servant,
Bhaktin Christine



Homages from Other Sources

Back to Godhead magazine

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

In an early letter to the editors of *Back to Godhead,* you wrote, "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. Nothing nonconclusive can be introduced in *Back to Godhead*. That should be our policy."

These words continue to guide editorial decisions about what articles are suitable for publication in the magazine. The devotees who review the articles received from around the world consider fidelity to the teachings of *sādhu-śāstra-guru* the most important consideration, often summarizing their opinion with a simple "No objection." That means the article is free of philosophical deviations.

One way BTG guards against *apasiddhānta* is to require whoever writes for it to have accepted the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness as you presented it to us, having received it from the predecessor *ācāryas* in our line. An article by an "outsider looking in" may sometimes appear in the magazine, but care is taken to ensure that such articles contain no statements that might mislead readers about our philosophy.

Back to Godhead has a solid group of excellent writers who steadily contribute articles. Not only have they published many books, but their long experience in writing for BTG has made them sensitive to what is appropriate for the magazine.

Because BTG is your magazine, everyone involved in producing it strives to offer their service in a way that pleases you. We know that your satisfaction must be the overriding principle guiding our decisions in all areas related to publishing the magazine.

Since your glorious departure forty-nine years ago, the world has naturally changed in numerous ways, as has your movement, with many thousands of devotees now affiliated with an ever-increasing number of ISKCON temples around the world.

BTG has had to adapt to change over time. Many factors have combined to put BTG in a much different situation than it was in at its height in the 1970s. We servants of yours at BTG are determined to press on, but the future of your magazine is unclear. A small group of devotees have taken on the challenge of increasing appreciation for BTG, endeavoring to inspire more and more devotees in your worldwide movement to support it and distribute it. While they are having some success, including garnering testimonials from ISKCON leaders, much more progress is needed to ensure the longevity of *Back to Godhead*.

We pray that you guide us in our efforts to offer this service at your lotus feet. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants at *Back to Godhead*

Bhaktivedanta Archives

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you and your mercy and legacy.

Another year has passed without your *vapuḥ,* but your *vāṇī* remains clearer and more durable than ever. We here at the Bhaktivedanta Archives continue to conserve and preserve your teachings and legacy. Last year, we released VedaBase®25 along with VaniBase®25 to supplement the teachings and pastimes of those who sat at your feet from 1966 through 1977. These releases once again prove that your mercy continues to inspire the Vaiṣṇava community and those aspiring to be devotees now and into the future.

Another major milestone was achieved in 2025 with the commissioning of the new freezer/cooler for all the thousands of images captured of you, along with the historic pictures of ISKCON and artwork used in your publications.

Of course, we mourn the loss of our friend and colleague, and your loyal and committed disciple, Ekanātha Prabhu, who left us in February, but we take solace in knowing that you called him home and that he sits once again at your lotus feet.

We remain your unworthy yet committed servants here at
The Bhaktivedanta Archives

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North America)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On July 11, 1966, after a meeting in your Matchless Gifts storefront temple at 26 Second Avenue in New York, the incorporation papers for your ISKCON were signed. You had given your society the name International Society for Krishna Consciousness and had personally coined the acronym ISKCON. You also presented seven purposes of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, the last of which reads: "With a view towards achieving the aforementioned Purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, books and other writings."

In a letter to Maṇḍali Bhadra Dāsa (dated 20 January 1972) you wrote: "My first concern is that my books be published and distributed profusely all over the world. Practically, books are the basis of our Movement. Without our books, our preaching will have no effect."

By the time you left this world in November of 1977, your ISKCON had grown to include more

than 108 temples, centers, farm communities, and schools. Now, on the eve of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of its founding, your ISKCON operates over 850 temples, cultural centers, and schools worldwide. Undoubtedly this growth was fueled in large part by distribution of your books!

Your disciples, granddisciples, and followers serving at BBT North America pray that Your Divine Grace will continue to bless and guide us so that we may be successful in the important work of keeping your books in print and readily available for the many sincere devotees distributing them in this part of the world.

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

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North Europe)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You appeared to carry out a highly urgent and divine mission. Your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, inspired and instructed you to preach the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in English, and from your very birth there were predictions that you would cross the ocean, become a great preacher of religion, and establish temples around the world.

But predictions alone do not change the world. You did.

Leaving behind family and comfort, you accepted the life of a renunciant in Vrindavan. From 1959 to 1965, in your small rooms at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple, you prepared yourself for the impossible task ahead through prayer, writing, translation, and deep absorption in the holy name. We have heard how you would cry out loudly while chanting through the night and beg the previous *ācāryas,* Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī and Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī, for the strength to fulfill your guru's order.

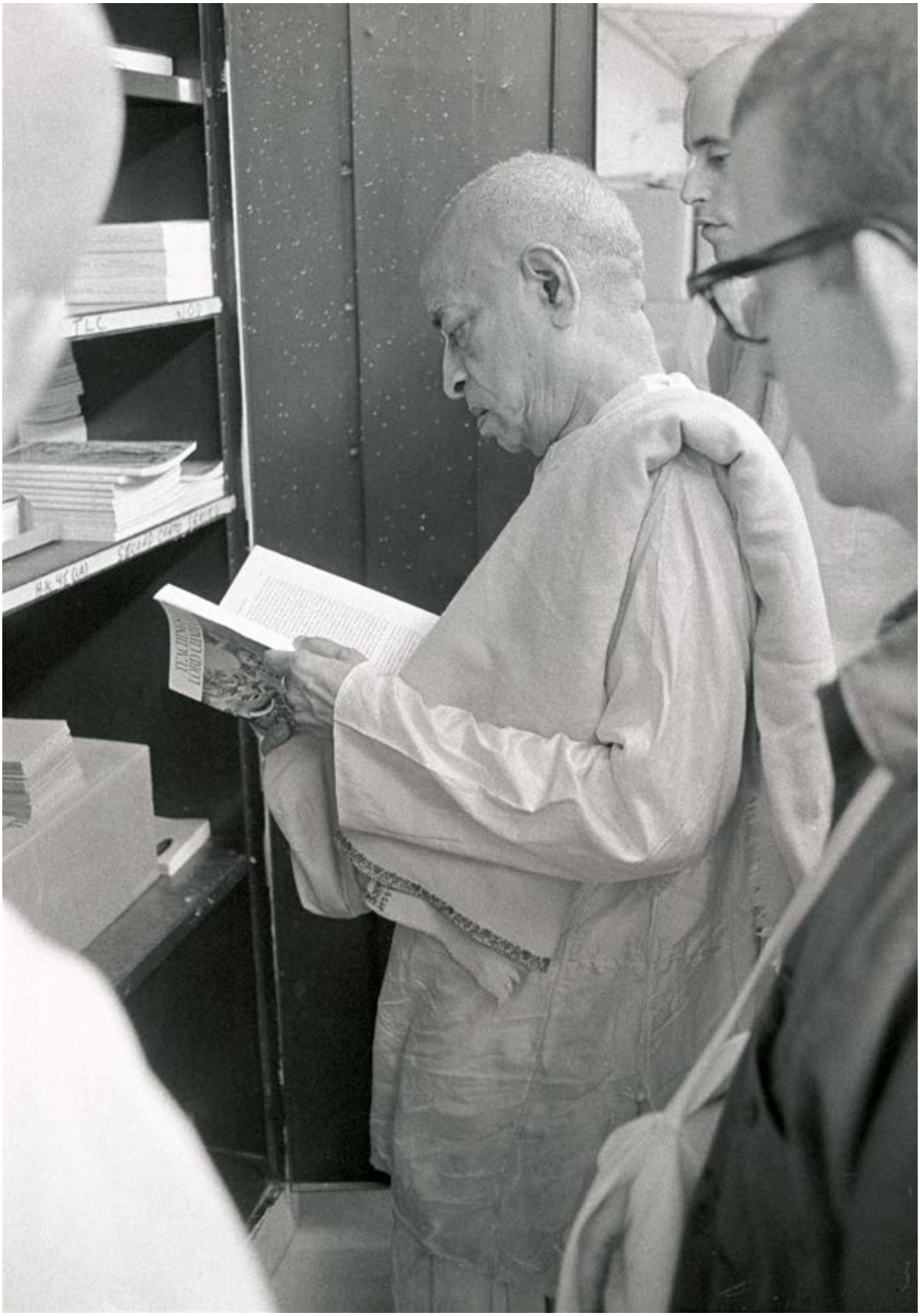
From that surrender came a spiritual revolution.

What the Six Gosvāmīs established in Vrindavan, you carried to the entire world. Within only a few years, temples appeared across the globe, devotees learned Deity worship and *saṅkīrtana,* and millions of your books in a wide range of languages began changing people's lives.

In September 1973, you visited Stockholm, and in one of your lectures you said: "We have got the method of Deity worship. Here we have not yet established, but we worship the picture of Lord Caitanya and guru ... The Deity worship is done by guru himself ... His disciples are engaged. He is always showing, 'Do like that. Do like that.' Or sometimes, if he cannot, the guru shows how to do it. That is the business of guru."

In April 1977, your disciples had found a property just south of Stockholm. They sent you a letter in which they presented it to you, along with an aerial photograph. You wrote back in May 1977: "I am very pleased to know that our activities are going nicely in Scandinavia ... The place as you have described it that they are thinking to get sounds very nice."

That place was Korsnäs Gård, the estate you named "New Rādhā-kuṇḍa" because it already had a pond on the property. By your mercy, this quiet rural place became an integral part of your worldwide mission. Everything here is an extension of your meditation, your desire, your creativity, and your unparalleled preaching spirit.



Three years later, Śrī Śrī Gāndharvikā-Giridhārī were installed here with great joy and celebration. Their names connect this place directly to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's own Gāndharvikā-Giridhārī Deities in Calcutta, where They greeted each sheet of transcendental literature that rolled off the letterpress your Guru Mahārāja had established.

Today, before Śrī Śrī Gāndharvikā-Giridhārī and beside Their *kuṇḍa,* your servants are gratefully engaged in your publishing service, Deity worship, and preaching. From this old estate, now a wonderful temple, a vibrant *dhāma,* a center of intense study of your works and teachings, print-ready files of your books are sent to printers around the world. From New Rādhā-kuṇḍa, with love.

Translators, proofreaders, designers, programmers, researchers, layout artists, audiobook narrators, logistics experts, all devotees and volunteers, across the globe, are taking part in this ecstatic book production program.

And once the books are printed, your amazing book distributors, highly committed and courageous, carry those books into towns, cities, and villages, placing them into the hands of people whose spiritual lives are just about to begin.

May New Rādhā-kuṇḍa always remain your home and office. On your behalf, we invite everyone to come and assist in spreading your teachings all over the world. More and more titles. More and more languages. We need helpers to keep up with your ever-expanding success.

Your slightly sleep-deprived and happy servants at
The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust and ISKCON New Rādhā-kuṇḍa

Bhaktivedanta College (Hungary)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we – the servants at the Bhaktivedanta College in Budapest – wish to lay before you our gratitude, our reflections, and our prayers. Whatever modest service we are able to render in the field of education we render only because you yourself carried the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu across the world, and because you placed in our hands the books, the institutions, the standards, and the spiritual courage by which Kṛṣṇa consciousness may be presented in every sphere of human life.

You taught us that no education deserves its name if it leaves the most essential questions unanswered: Who am I? Am I this body or am I something more? What is the purpose of human life? What is my eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa? You observed that schools, colleges, and universities exist in every direction, yet the most fundamental learning of all – the knowledge that the living being is not the body but the eternal servant of Kṛṣṇa – is nowhere to be found in their syllabi. You put it with your characteristic directness: "Modern education, there is no real knowledge. Real knowledge begins in the *Bhagavad-gītā*." (Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.1.10, Honolulu, 11 May 1976).

These words are at once a warning and a summons. They remind us that a college bearing your name must never settle into being one more academic institution among many. We may keep our

classrooms and lecture halls, our research projects and conferences, our administrative offices and accreditation files – but if these are not bound to your purpose, they remain hollow. Our real work is to help education become whole again: to reunite learning with the soul, knowledge with service, and intellectual cultivation with surrender to Kṛṣṇa.

Yet you did not turn your back on the universities. You urged your disciples to enter them, to speak with care and conviction, to quote your books and to explain their meaning in their own words. You wrote that universities are very important places, because there are people there who can appreciate our philosophy (Letter to Tulsi, Bombay, 9 November 1970). In this you taught us neither to fear the academic world nor to flatter it, but to enter it with purity, intelligence, humility, and courage.

This instruction is especially important for us today. Many devoted scholars serve within secular universities, and we honor their sincere effort. By your mercy, they carry something of your message into places where *śāstra* may otherwise not be heard. Yet we also see that such environments often have their own boundaries, expectations, and accepted ways of speaking. Devotee scholars may be asked to translate the conclusions of *śāstra* into secular categories, to soften their language, or to leave unspoken the very truths that give meaning to their scholarship. Sometimes the language of the academy opens doors; at other times, it quietly asks the servant of *śāstra* to stand at a distance from the full conclusions of the disciplic succession.

It is for this reason that we feel especially grateful that Bhaktivedanta College may exist as a small shelter for scholarship without spiritual compromise. Here, those who follow you are not forced to choose between intellectual seriousness and fidelity to your teachings. They are not asked to disguise their faith in *śāstra* in order to be taken seriously, nor to lay aside scholarly discipline in order to remain faithful. We pray that this institution may always remain a place where rigorous study, devotional conviction, and service to the *guru-paramparā* strengthen one another rather than compete.

You once observed that although every department of human knowledge is represented in the universities, there is generally no department for understanding "the science of God, Kṛṣṇa," and that such a department must therefore be introduced (Letter to Jagadisa, Bombay, 26 November 1970). We see our college as a humble effort to serve that desire. We do not pretend to have fulfilled it; our limitations are clear to us. But we pray to remain faithful to the direction you set: that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not pious sentiment but a complete educational movement, a science, and a culture capable of guiding human life toward its highest perfection.

By your grace, our teachers take part in numerous international conferences and scholarly forums. They engage the wider academic world in its own language, by its own methods, and within its accepted forms of reasoning. Our deeper prayer, however, is that through such engagement the message of the scriptures may travel without distortion. We have no wish to dilute your teachings in order to be accepted. We wish, rather, to present them with such thoughtfulness, responsibility, and clarity that intelligent people may begin to recognize their depth, their inner coherence, and their power to change a life.

In Hungary, where our college works, many people are searching for meaning, for identity, for wisdom, and for a way of living that reaches deeper than material success. Your books contain the answers. Your movement has demonstrated the practice. Your personal example showed how spiritual truth can be spoken with compassion, boldness, and intellectual force simultaneously. Our small service is to make these gifts accessible – through teaching, through research, through personal guidance, and through the formation of students who may one day carry Kṛṣṇa consciousness into their families, their professions, their communities, and whatever future service Kṛṣṇa entrusts to them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we may never grow proud of education, scholarship, institutional standing, or academic accomplishment. Please bless us that we may remember

always that real knowledge begins in surrender, that real learning culminates in service, and that the only true success is to please you and Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Please bless Bhaktivedanta College that it may always remain your instrument. May it never become a place where *śāstra* is studied as a cultural artifact, a historical curiosity, or a philosophical exercise severed from devotion. May it remain a place where your books are honored as living guidance, where students learn not only to think clearly but to live purely, and where teachers speak with both scholarly responsibility and devotional courage.

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, we lay this institution, our studies, our teaching, our research, our shortcomings, and our hopes at your lotus feet. Please allow us to go on serving your educational mission without compromise, with humility, and with an ever-deepening dependence upon your mercy.

Your eternal servants at Bhaktivedanta College
(written by Gaurasundara Kṛpāmaya Dāsa)

Festival of India Tour Team (North America)

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

> We offer our most humble and respectful obeisances unto you. You are the magnanimous servant of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, delivering the message of Lord Caitanyadeva to a world weary of impersonalism and voidism.

Resonance of the Eternal Present

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your living presence. We feel you in every book placed in a curious hand, every grain of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* that nourishes a guest, and every mantra that vibrates through the city streets. At Hare Krishna Festivals of India we do not merely see ourselves as a traveling tour but as a vessel for your voice. When guests return years later, telling us how a single kirtan or a page of your *Gītā* changed their lives, we are reminded of Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's realization: "He reasons ill who says that Vaiṣṇavas die, when thou art living still in Sound!"

A Humble Prayer for Scalability and Vision

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we recognize that the world is changing rapidly, and we beg for the intelligence to keep your festivals relevant. We pray to the Lord in the heart to show us how to make this service effective beyond our current imagination.

- *Empower the youth:* We beg for the mercy to attract and empower the younger generation. Guide us to create a culture where they feel inspired to take up this mission, seeing it not as an ancient tradition, but as the most urgent and exciting service for the modern world.
- *Modern means for ancient truth:* Inspire us to utilize modern technology – digital storytelling, immersive experiences, and efficient logistics – to present Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a way that resonates with today's intellectual and truth-seeking audiences.
- *A neutral and universal platform:* Help us maintain the festival as a "neutral platform" – a sanctuary where people of all ideological beliefs feel welcome, respected, and safe to explore the science of the soul without prejudice.

The Vision of "Autopilot" Sustainability

We beg for the guidance to build systems that are economically sustainable and spiritually enriching – structures so robust they can run with the precision of an "autopilot" system, yet remain fueled by the heat of spontaneous devotion. We do not wish to be a burden to your movement, but a source of strength, expansion, and joy.

Our Indebtedness

Whatever results we see are clearly yours. Without you, the streets would be silent and the hearts would be empty. We remain your indebted servants, praying for the continued strength to "spread the holy Life around" across North America.

Your servants on the North American Hare Krishna Festival of India Tour Team

Food for Life (Hungary)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The material world and so much in it is impermanent. But even in the material world there are things that are eternal, which do not fade with the passage of time. In fact, their value only increases with the number of anniversaries that pass. Such is your person, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Despite the increasing number of generations who have not been able to meet you personally, you still represent the origin, the point of reference, and the basis of reference in terms of theoretical and practical matters in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You are an inspiration, an authentic example to countless souls. On the occasion of your appearance day, please accept my imperfect but all the more sincere, heartfelt offering, which I express to you now in words and through my daily service for the rest of the year.

The accounts I have heard of your years on earth speak of your exceptional brilliance. It is even more evident from the perspective of so many years that it was not a worldly quality of yours, but an eternal characteristic that permeates the movement that you have left behind to this day. Your legacy – the strength of our present and the guarantee of our successful future – is no less than the priceless treasure of our existence: to be in touch with Kṛṣṇa. With deep gratitude in my heart, I try to walk the path you marked out and to continue on it, clinging to your effulgence in

times of difficulty. During my thirty years in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, I have been in various ways, but always connected with the distribution of *prasādam*. On several occasions, I have personally experienced the real power of this devotional service. I have seen how people's hearts change month after month, year after year, simply by eating *prasādam* every day. They do not do any other spiritual activity, but they would take *prasādam* regularly, every day, and even without their knowledge, since they were not the ones offering the food. In many cases, I have also observed how, through the distribution of *prasādam,* someone becomes more and more involved in other forms of devotional service and eventually accepts Kṛṣṇa. I am often reminded of the anecdote in which you told the *sādhus* who were expecting a miracle from you that your miracles, your dancing white elephants, are the devotees.

In one of your lessons, you said that you are just a postman, only a messenger who received a message and passed it on without change. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the miracle you spoke about to the *sādhus* has now taken on a huge dimension, the reason for which is undoubtedly that you are a very special postman. Although you have not changed the message, it has become even more valuable and attractive through your person, through your special brilliance, through your unique qualities, through the love you have for the recipients of the message.

It is an understatement to say that I feel lucky that your message reached me, just as it is an understatement to say that you are just a postman. But this is also part of the miracle, for which words are not enough. Where words end, action, music, dance – that is, the colorful, miraculous life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness itself – begins. Thank you for this life, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servant,
Bhakta-vatsala Dāsa, leader of Food for Life in Hungary

ISKCON Book Distribution Ministry

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

– I –

Śrīla Prabhupāda once said, "Impossible is a word in a fool's dictionary." As ISKCON's global minister for book distribution, charged with carrying forward the mission that was dearest to his heart, I have found no better instruction for the work before us. We are not in the business of counting obstacles. We are in the business of assuming it can be done – and then doing it.

In December of 1969, Śrīla Prabhupāda descended into the basement pressroom of ISKCON

Press in Boston – a former funeral home, unheated in winter – and stood before a large offset printing press. According to the eyewitness account of Patita Uddhāraṇa Dāsa, one of the press's bookbinders who was present that day, Prabhupāda "affectionately pointed to the press machine and said, 'This is my heart.'" When a devotee replied, "You are the heart of ISKCON, Prabhupāda," he said simply: "And this is *my* heart."

That press, in that cold basement, was Śrīla Prabhupāda's heart. From that beginning – which the *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* by Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami documents in full – the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust grew to become, as Patita Uddhāraṇa Dāsa records in his compilation *This Is My Heart* (Bhaktivedanta Archives, 2015), the world's largest Indological publisher, distributing millions of books in over fifty languages. Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote in a letter preserved in the *Līlāmṛta:* "When one book is published, I think I have conquered an empire." He conquered many empires. And he left the maps to us so that we could carry on his conquests.

The tip of the spear – the most penetrating aspect of our entire movement – has always been the literature and the act of distributing it. Śrīla Prabhupāda said plainly: "Producing and distributing books is our most important engagement. All other engagements culminate in this one end." He called the printed book the *bṛhat-mṛdaṅga* – the great drum – whose sound travels farther than any kirtan party, into places no kirtan party can reach. In a 1973 letter he described our method in terms that leave no ambiguity: "Fight with Maya means to drop thousands and millions of books into the lap of the conditioned souls. Just like during wartime, the bombs are raining from the sky."

– II –

Śrīla Prabhupāda did not theorize about covering the earth. He did it. He boarded the *Jaladuta* at age sixty-nine with some volumes of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* the holy name, and the order of his spiritual master – and nothing else. He suffered two heart attacks on the crossing. He arrived without allies, without money, without a plan anyone else would have called realistic. And within twelve years he had founded over one hundred temples, produced over seventy volumes of Vedic literature, and established a global movement on six continents. He did not dwell on the impossibility of the task. His unwavering question was always: "How can I do this?" That question – surrendered, determined, forward-moving – is the question we inherit.

He also left us a principle by which to work: "If you are going to hunt, you should hunt for a rhinoceros. In that way, if you don't succeed, everyone will say, 'Oh, it couldn't be done anyway.' But if you do succeed, everyone will be amazed." We are rhinoceros hunters. Our goals are large by design, because large goals develop large capacity, and because Lord Caitanya's mission is not a modest one. *Pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma sarvatra pracāra haibe more nāma* – "In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard." Every town. Every village. Every language. We take this instruction literally, because Śrīla Prabhupāda took it literally.

The *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi-līlā* 9.29, purport) gives us our operating principle in one sentence: "The only purpose of the preachers of the *saṅkīrtana* movement must be to go on preaching without restriction." No restriction. Not considering who is fit or unfit. Not waiting for perfect conditions. Not keeping a list of why it cannot be done – because what is illegal in this ministry is keeping such a list. We go on. We assume it can be done. And then we do it.

– III –

The vision driving this ministry is what we call the One World Team: a global *saṅkīrtana* community in which every region of the world works together, shares best practices, and moves toward

a common goal. The principle is simple – when we work as one, we do better than when we work alone. A rising tide lifts all boats. Where attention goes, energy flows. And when the entire world gives its attention to the distribution of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books together, the results are not merely additive. They are exponential.

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu is described in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya-līlā* 2.81) as the greatest spiritual capitalist, possessing the touchstone of love of God and distributing it without discrimination to anyone who comes. He does not ask whether the recipient is qualified. He gives. Our ministry takes its operating mood from Him: liberal, prolific, cooperative, and utterly confident in what we are distributing. As Nārada Muni confirms in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.5.11), this literature causes a *viplava* – a revolution – in the consciousness of anyone who encounters it. We are not selling a mundane product. We are delivering a cure. The only question is how many people we can reach.

Śrīla Prabhupāda saw the Sherwin-Williams paint logo – a can of paint pouring over the globe with the motto "Cover the Earth" – and said that should be our motto too. It is. The ministry's work is to cover this earth, systematically and without restriction, using every language, every channel, every method available, cooperating across all regions as one world team, with the confidence that Lord Caitanya Himself is writing the checks. As we say in this ministry: Workarounds bring turnarounds. Your pledge is your wedge. And "touching the pavement" is enough to flip the switch.

– IV –

On this appearance day of Śrīla Prabhupāda, the ISKCON Ministry of Book Distribution is glad to report that the One World Team is working – and working well.

Since the launch of the Bhadra Campaign, the worldwide distribution of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets has grown from 7,007 sets in 2018 to 40,381 sets in 2025 – a 476 percent increase. *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* has grown from 2.1 million copies in 2020 to 5.1 million copies in 2025 – a 143 percent increase. Overall BBT book distribution, as measured by the "World Sankirtan Newsletter," has increased by 33 percent since 2018. *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets are on the rise as well.

These numbers tell a story. The focused, strategic, cooperative campaigns of the One World Team dramatically outperform uncoordinated individual effort. When regions share what works, when leaders set goals together and report to one another, when the entire global *saṅkīrtana* community moves in the same direction at the same time – the results reflect not just organizational efficiency but the direct reciprocation of Lord Caitanya, who, as Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī writes in the *Laghu-bhāgavatāmṛta,* makes everything possible for those who carry out His mission: "Nothing is impossible for the Lord, His dear devotees, His transcendental abode or His pastimes, for all these are inconceivably powerful."

We are either improving or we are getting worse. Staying the same is not tenable. The numbers above represent thousands of devotees around the world who chose to improve – who caught their own *Jaladuta,* stepped aboard, and sailed. The ministry's task going forward is to widen that fleet, to bring more regions and more communities into the One World Team, to set goals that are larger than last year's, and to assume – always, without apology – that it can be done.

*

Śrīla Prabhupāda crossed an ocean alone and changed the world. He pointed to a printing press in a cold basement and called it his heart. He left us that heart, still beating, in every book his followers carry out the door.

The *saṅkīrtana* movement is not a monument to what Śrīla Prabhupāda accomplished. It is a living mission he placed in our hands and asked us to carry forward. The *paramparā* moves only when someone picks it up, and with heart, soul, and intelligence, carries it forward. On this most auspicious day of his divine appearance, the ISKCON Ministry of Book Distribution pledges to carry it: without restriction, without hesitation, as one world team, assuming always that it can be done.

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. *Paraṁ vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam.*

Vaiśeṣika Dāsa
ISKCON Minister of Book Distribution

Indian Continental Committee

Dearest worshipable founder-*ācārya,* Your Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

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

On this sacred occasion of the 130th year of your divine Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the members of the Indian Continental Committee (ICC), offer our heartfelt gratitude and prayers. Whatever we have been able to do in your service is only because of your mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us everything – your books, your teachings, your movement, and a clear path to follow. When we look at ISKCON in India today, we can only feel that it is your work, your vision, and your compassion that are sustaining everything. The *śāstra* reminds us:

yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi

Only by your mercy can we approach Kṛṣṇa. Without your mercy, we have no standing.

ICC is a small attempt to serve your mission in a cooperative way. It brings together ISKCON temple presidents, the general managers of preaching centers, Regional Secretary assistants, Zonal Secretaries, *sannyāsīs* residing in India, and leaders from various ministries, such as communications, education, goshala development, and social initiatives. The intention is simple: to support one another and serve your mission more effectively.

Over time, ICC has helped facilitate working groups in areas such as book distribution, *harināma-saṅkīrtana,* youth outreach, goshala development, and devotee care and other social initiatives. These are all small efforts to strengthen what you already gave us.

We have also tried to support large preaching events and festivals, including gatherings like Kumbha Melā and the Rāma Mandir inauguration, and are now assisting in coordinating efforts for the 60-50 global celebrations of ISKCON in India, working in cooperation with international leadership.

One important aspect of ICC has been that it provides a platform where leaders and devotees can come together, discuss openly, and help one another. Many times, challenges that seem difficult in one center become easier when shared and discussed with others.

We are trying to ensure that these discussions take place in a proper Vaiṣṇava mood – with



respect, patience, and a sincere desire to understand. In this way, ICC helps leaders and devotees express their views in a constructive and respectful manner, while maintaining harmony.

The meetings, held twice a year, have been especially helpful. Leaders from across the country come together and make a sincere effort to discuss preaching, management, and how to improve our service. Recently, we have also begun focusing more on areas like sustainability, land development, and goshala initiatives.

By your grace, ICC has also been able to support efforts to preserve and digitally restore your audio and video recordings. We understand that your *vāṇī* is our life, and it is our responsibility to make it accessible for future generations.

At the same time, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we know that all these efforts are meaningful only if we

remain faithful to your instructions. You gave very clear guidance to temple leaders. You wanted temples to be strong in *sādhana,* clean, and caring toward devotees. You wrote that the temple president is responsible for the spiritual standards of the devotees, and you also emphasized that everything depends on the sincerity of the leaders. Most importantly, you reminded us that our love for you will be shown by how much we cooperate. These instructions remain our foundation. They are simple, but not always easy to follow.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in a country as large and diverse as India, differences in opinion and approach naturally arise. But we understand that such differences should not become obstacles in serving you.

So, on this day, we place a sincere prayer at your lotus feet. Please help us to cooperate. Please help us to listen to one another with respect. Please help us to remain focused on your instructions.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you showed us what real leadership is. You were firm in philosophy, yet deeply compassionate. You worked tirelessly, traveled constantly, wrote extensively, and guided personally – all for the benefit of others. Above all, you lived fully for the instruction of your spiritual master.

We may be trying to serve in different roles, but we know that we are far from your example. Still, we take shelter. India is very dear to you. You wanted that people here take Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously and help share it with the world. If we, as leaders and devotees in India, can truly work together – with sincerity, humility, and cooperation – then your movement can grow in a way that will please you and benefit many.

We therefore pray that you bless all the leaders and devotees in ISKCON in India. Please help us to work together in a cooperative spirit and guide us to follow your instructions carefully. Please help us strengthen book distribution, expand preaching efforts, care properly for devotees, train the next generation, manage temples responsibly, and develop goshalas and sustainable projects in line with your vision.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever has been done is by your mercy, and whatever is lacking is due to our own limitations. On this day, we do not claim anything – we simply pray. If we have made mistakes, please forgive us. If we have not served properly, please correct us. If we are lacking sincerity, please purify us. Above all, please keep us together in your service. Let us not become divided. Let us not become distracted. Let us not forget why you created this movement. Let us remain your servants.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we may distribute more and more of your books so that your message can reach every home and every heart. Please bless us that we may develop consciousness of you – that we may think, act, and serve in a way that reflects your desire. Please help us to keep this movement truly centered on you, where your instructions remain the guiding force in all that we do.

We have no strength of our own – only the hope that by staying connected to your instructions, we may continue somehow in your service. Kindly keep us under your shelter.

Your servants,
Sahadev Dāsa, chairman
Sumithra Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, vice-chairman
Keshav Murāri Dāsa, secretary

ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious day of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your servants at the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry (IDWM), joyfully place this offering at your feet in a mood of deep appreciation and greatest commitment to your mission.

The ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry is sincerely striving to please Your Divine Grace by faithfully maintaining the standards of Deity worship that you so compassionately bestowed upon us by your causeless mercy. These standards are the very foundation of our service. When we formulate position statements on Deity worship for ISKCON centers, or when we advise temples, devotees, and *yātrās* on the sacred processes of *arcana,* your instructions remain our North Star, the guiding light for every decision we make.

You clearly warned in your letter to Dhruvānanda Dāsa, written from Bombay on 4 January 1973: "The greatest danger to our movement will come when we manufacture and create our own process for worshiping the deities."

Holding this instruction at the forefront of our minds, the IDWM is firmly committed to guiding and inspiring devotees to uphold the standards of worship you envisioned for all your ISKCON temples.

By your mercy, we have witnessed steady, global improvement in Deity worship practices over the years. We know that whatever progress has been made is solely due to your transcendental guidance, which we constantly draw upon and strive to present clearly, consistently, and encouragingly to your followers.

Over the past year, the IDWM team has continued to grow, as devotees from around the world step forward, eager to offer their talents and energy in your service through this ministry. We see this expansion as a clear sign of your ongoing kindness and care for your Deities and for the hearts of your devotees, who long to worship Them nicely.

One of our greatest endeavors has been our concerted effort to identify, train, and empower Deity Worship Ministry representatives in every country of the world. We are working diligently to ensure that in each region there are devotees who understand your standards, embody your mood, and can practically assist local temples and communities to implement your teachings on Deity worship.

By your mercy, the most significant achievement of this past year has been the appointment of Regional Ministers in each Regional Governing Body. This has substantially expanded our reach and effectiveness. Through these Regional Ministers, we are now able to connect more personally and more consistently with individual centers and with ISKCON devotees at large. This development has greatly increased our capacity to support, educate, and guide your temples in maintaining the standards of worship required for your beloved Deities.

At the same time, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we also find ourselves constantly dealing with deviations from your established standards. As the modern world rapidly changes, we see a growing tendency toward experimentation, excessive creativity, and the introduction of novel practices, especially linked to technological advancements and new forms of "Deity darshan" and presentation. While we appreciate the sincere desire of devotees to make Deity worship accessible and attractive, we are equally mindful of your grave warning about manufacturing new processes.

Therefore, with as much humility and patience as we can muster, we are actively trying to lovingly yet firmly educate devotees everywhere about what you have given us in Deity worship, and why it must not be altered or concocted. We strive to uphold your standards in all of your

ISKCON temples, reminding ourselves and others that real beauty, power, and success in Deity worship lie not in novelty, but in faithfulness to your instructions.

Over the past year, ISKCON centers throughout the world have continued to install Deities and expand their worship, turning to the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry for guidance, training, and consultation.

We see it as a great responsibility and a great honor to be allowed to assist your devotees in preparing proper facilities, systems, and consciousness to welcome the Lord into their communities according to the standards you envisioned.

All the activities undertaken by the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry, our strategic planning, our training programs, our consultations, our written guidelines, our efforts to correct deviations, and our attempts to encourage and uplift *pūjārīs* and temple leaders are offered unto you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You have made it possible for us to engage in the sublime process of Deity worship within your ISKCON, and we never wish to forget that we are only instruments, completely dependent on your mercy.

On this blessed day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we humbly beg you:

- To kindly continue to bestow your mercy upon us so that we may carry out our services at IDWM with enthusiasm, clarity, courage, and unwavering dedication.
- Please empower our representatives, Regional Ministers, and Core Team members to be genuine servants of your standards, both knowledgeable and compassionate, so that they can inspire others by their example and instruction.
- Please give us the strength to firmly uphold what you have given, while remaining gentle and encouraging with those who are still learning.

We beg you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to kindly forgive any shortcomings, mistakes, or offenses we may have committed in this service. If there is anything of value in our endeavors, it is entirely by your mercy; whatever is lacking or incorrect is our own fault and ignorance.

With grateful hearts, we offer this year's service by the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry at your lotus feet and pray that, year after year, our offerings may become more faithful to your will and more pleasing to you. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your servants at the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

ISKCON Justice Ministry

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the servants at the ISKCON Justice Ministry, offer our heartfelt gratitude, prayers, and reflections. We take shelter in your causeless mercy, knowing that whatever sincerity we have is but a faint reflection of your boundless compassion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you established a society meant to uplift humanity from the darkness of ignorance to the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your vision was not merely institutional – it was

deeply personal, spiritual, and transformative. You taught that every individual soul is a part and parcel of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and as such, we must treat every living entity with dignity, compassion, and fairness, recognizing each being as an eternal servant of Kṛṣṇa.

Within this sacred mission, the work of justice becomes not merely administrative or procedural – it becomes devotional. Justice, in its truest sense, reflects dharma. It protects, corrects, and preserves the integrity of the Vaiṣṇava community. In this way, it becomes an offering to you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are acutely aware that the responsibility entrusted to the Justice Ministry is grave and delicate. We are called upon to address conflicts, hear grievances, and sometimes confront painful realities within the society you so lovingly established. In doing so, we are constantly reminded of our own limitations, imperfections, and shortcomings, and we beg for forgiveness in this regard.

While attempting to serve your mission, we sometimes encounter misunderstandings, criticism, or misrepresentation. These moments test our tolerance and endurance. In such circumstances, we pray for the maturity to respond not with defensiveness, but with integrity, humility, and unwavering commitment to truth. For this we draw strength from your teachings.

You instructed us that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is meant to bring human society to a "sober condition." Sobriety implies clarity, honesty, and accountability. It requires courage to acknowledge truth, even when it is uncomfortable. It requires compassion to respond not with harshness but with understanding and a desire for genuine rectification.

We understand that justice must be guided by compassion, and compassion must be grounded in principles. You taught us to uphold both – acting with appropriate firmness when required. We pray for the intelligence to apply these principles in a complex world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your books we find the perfect standard of leadership and responsibility. Kings like Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira and Mahārāja Parīkṣit exemplified the highest ideals of justice – protecting the citizens, addressing wrongdoing appropriately, and always acting in alignment with dharma. Their example reminds us that justice is not about power but about service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that we may not become hardened by the nature of disputes, nor discouraged by the complexity of situations. Rather, let us remain soft-hearted, yet principled; humble, yet resolute.

We are especially mindful that justice within a spiritual society must always be aligned with the ultimate goal: awakening love for Kṛṣṇa. Any process we undertake must lead to purification, not alienation; to accountability where required, and to care and restoration for those harmed.

Your own life demonstrated the highest standard of fairness and compassion. You gave everyone an opportunity – regardless of background, history, or qualification. At the same time, you maintained clear standards and did not compromise on essential principles. This example is our guiding light.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help us to cultivate the qualities required for this service: the humility to listen deeply and without prejudice; the wisdom to discern truth amidst complexity; the courage to act when action is required; the compassion to understand the pain of others; and the detachment to remain objective.

On this sacred day, we renew our commitment to serve ISKCON with integrity, sincerity, and devotion. May our efforts contribute, in some small way, to the establishment of a society that truly reflects your vision, a society grounded in truth, compassion, and Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We remain your aspiring servants,
ISKCON Justice Ministry
(written by Champakalata Devī Dāsī)

ISKCON Kirtan Ministry

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the servants at the Kirtan Ministry, offer our heartfelt gratitude for your unparalleled gift to the world – the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your divine vision was clear and powerful: that the holy name of Kṛṣṇa would be heard in every town and village. By your causeless mercy, we are now witnessing this prophecy unfold. Inspired by your instructions, our humble endeavor has been to support and strengthen this *saṅkīrtana* movement through organized kirtan culture and education.

With your blessings, we have developed ISKCON kirtan guidelines, presented in simple and accessible formats. These are based on your teachings, instructions, lectures, and conversations with your disciples. We are distributing them to many temples, helping devotees understand and practice kirtan in a mood that pleases you and the previous *ācāryas*.

By your inspiration, we have conducted kirtan seminars in India and Australia, guiding devotees in both the technical and devotional aspects of leading kirtan. In this way, we are trying to preserve the purity and spirit of congregational chanting that you so carefully established.

To further your mission of spreading the holy name, we have been promoting *harināma-saṅkīrtana* through the World Holy Name Festival, now observed by more than eighty centers worldwide. Seeing devotees come together to chant in unity offers a glimpse of your vision of a spiritually awakened world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have also attempted to reach broader audiences through podcasts on *harināma,* sharing realizations, experiences, and encouragement for devotees to seriously take up chanting. Understanding the need for devotional creativity, we have established LOK Studio in Pandharpur, where soul-stirring kirtans are recorded and shared, so that your movement may continue to inspire hearts through transcendental sound.

Recognizing your emphasis on philosophy as the foundation, the ministry has also developed an education department. Through the *Bhagavad-gītā* and other scriptures, many young people are being attracted to the deeper understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you so mercifully gave and are becoming inspired to chant and share the holy name.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever little service we have done is simply an attempt to assist your mission. You are the original source of all inspiration. Without you, there would be no kirtan movement as we know it today.

mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam

You taught us that chanting the holy name is the *yuga-dharma,* and you personally demonstrated how to chant, dance, and engage the whole world in *saṅkīrtana*. If there is any success in our efforts, it is only a reflection of your mercy.

On this sacred day, we pray at your lotus feet: May we always remain instruments in spreading the holy name. May we preserve the purity of kirtan as you gave it. May we inspire others to chant with sincerity and enthusiasm. May the sound of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* resound throughout the world, fulfilling your deepest desire.

Your insignificant servants from the ISKCON Kirtan Ministry

ISKCON Ministry of Cows and Agriculture

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, the eternal captain of the fallen souls crossing the ocean of material existence.

On this most sacred and auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā appearance festival, I beg to place a few insignificant words before your lotus feet. Whatever value these words may possess arises solely from your causeless mercy; otherwise, they are but dry vibrations born from an unqualified servant. I offer this prayer on behalf of all those endeavoring to serve your mission through the protection of Mother Earth, the cows, and the cultivation of a Kṛṣṇa conscious rural life. May these imperfect attempts become purified by your glance and thus worthy to be offered, through you, unto the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

For the past eleven years, I have dedicated myself to assisting your global mission of *go-rakṣa* and regenerative agriculture within ISKCON, praying that your centers may increasingly manifest as true abodes of practical spiritual knowledge – places where divine wisdom is not merely spoken from the *vyāsāsana* but embodied through simple living and high thinking. By developing tangible examples of cow protection, natural agriculture, and devotional community life, we hope to assist in establishing the *varṇāśrama* culture you so compassionately desired for humanity.

In your profound purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.5.37, Your Divine Grace reveals the sacred interdependence of human society and the necessity of organizing civilization around transcendental knowledge: "To speak for the Supreme Lord means to glorify the Lord by means of propagating the knowledge of the Lord as it is … the living being must know his relationship with the Lord. Human life is especially meant for this purpose."

You further explain that the mercantile community must protect the cows so humanity may receive sufficient milk and milk products, "which alone can give the proper health and intelligence to maintain a civilization meant to imbibe knowledge of the ultimate truth."

In these transcendental instructions, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you bestowed upon the world a complete blueprint for a spiritually grounded civilization. Long before ecological collapse, widespread anxiety, poisoned food systems, environmental devastation, and ethical confusion became global concerns, you foresaw the inevitable suffering born from humanity's separation from the Supreme Lord and His natural arrangement. Today the world trembles beneath the burden of industrial exploitation, greed, and forgetfulness of dharma.

By your divine vision, what appears impossible gradually becomes possible. Again and again,

through your exalted disciples and followers, you continue to nourish and encourage this mission. Many great Vaiṣṇavas, nurtured by your divine association, have offered guidance, compassion, and association in these efforts, constantly reminding us that cow protection is not separate from preaching – it is preaching through living an example. It is philosophy expressed through compassion, culture, sustainability, and devotion in action.

Before your departure from this world, you expressed your heartfelt desire to spend time at Gītā-nāgarī to teach practical rural living. Today, that necessity has only intensified. Modern civilization grows increasingly estranged from the natural laws established by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Everywhere people suffer from artificiality, loneliness, exploitation, dependence, and spiritual emptiness. More and more souls now search sincerely for meaningful alternatives and authentic spiritual culture. In your teachings they may find not only eternal philosophy, but practical solutions for human society.

Therefore, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray for the strength to continue serving your mission by helping develop a complete educational spectrum and demonstrating practical examples of simple living and high thinking – communities where transcendental knowledge, protected cows, fertile land, clean food, cooperative living, and the worship of Śrī Kṛṣṇa harmoniously unite into one integrated culture of devotion.

We pray that many of your centers throughout the world may increasingly become places where conditioned souls can directly experience this wisdom – not merely as theory, but as lived reality; where the chanting of the holy name, care for the cows, cultivation of the soil, distribution of *prasādam,* and loving service to Kṛṣṇa nourish both the heart and society.

Whatever little has been accomplished over these years has only become possible through your boundless mercy and the blessings of your followers. We remain tiny and insignificant servants, simply attempting to assist in fulfilling one of your most compassionate and visionary desires for humanity.

Please bless us with the intelligence to serve properly, the humility to cooperate harmoniously, the determination to persevere amidst difficulties, and the purity to remember that all success belongs solely to you.

Praying eternally for engagement in your service,
Your hopeful servant,
Kālakaṇṭha Dāsa (IS)

ISKCON Padayātrā Ministry

Dearest and most worshipable founder-*ācārya,* Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

On this most auspicious occasion of Your Divine Grace's Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the insignificant servants of the ISKCON Padayātrā Ministry, offer our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet again and again.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever we witness today in the form of the *padayātrās* movement is a direct manifestation of your heartfelt instruction that the holy name of Kṛṣṇa be heard in every town and village. You personally entrusted this sacred order to His Holiness Lokanath Swami, and he has dedicated his entire life to carrying it out with unwavering determination and deep dependence on the holy name. Through his tireless *padayātrās* and exemplary renunciation, he continues to guide and inspire all of us to serve as humble instruments in fulfilling your divine desire. By his tireless *padayātrās* across the world, he has shown us what it truly means to depend on the holy name, to tolerate all difficulties, and to compassionately reach every soul. We are simply trying to follow in that path. This year is especially significant as we celebrate sixty years of ISKCON. Inspired by this historic moment, the ISKCON Padayātrā Ministry is striving to expand this movement by organizing:

- 60 Vaiṣṇavī *padayātrās*
- Padayātrās in 60+ temples across India
- 60 international *padayātrās*

Our humble endeavor is to bring *harināma* to as many villages, towns, and hearts as possible. By your mercy, many *padayātrās* are currently traveling and expanding. Some of them include:

- All India Padayātrā
- Maharashtra Padayātrā
- Punjab Haryana Padayātrā
- Produtar Padayātrā
- Prayagraj Padayātrā
- Tamil Nadu Padayātrā
- Uttar Pradesh Padayātrā
- Bengal Padayātrā
- Utkal Padayātrā
- Nepal Padayātrā

And recently, by your mercy, a new *padayātrā* has been inaugurated – the Sisupalgarh Padayātrā, further expanding this preaching mission.

On this sacred Vyāsa Pūjā occasion, we are also launching the *Padayātrā* magazine to spread the glories, realizations, and preaching impact of *padayātrā*. Understanding the need of the times, we are actively engaging in digital preaching. Many devotees are serving as "online padayātrīs," engaged in:

- Creating and editing *padayātrā* reels
- Studying *Padayātrā Worldwide* and compiling insights
- Listening to lectures and transforming them into digital content
- Creating AI-based animated videos to present *padayātrā* in engaging ways

We are also running "ISKCON Padayātrā News," a weekly update platform sharing where the *padayātrās* are traveling and where they will be reaching next so that nearby people can participate and receive the mercy of *harināma*.

Additionally, we are conducting monthly *padayātrā* sessions, sharing stories and realizations to

inspire devotees. For the youth, we are developing experiential learning programs, allowing them to join *padayātrās* and gain practical devotional experience through structured, certified courses.

With folded hands, we also humbly hope that the spirit of *padayātrā* may be embraced more deeply across all ashrams. We pray that even *sannyāsī* devotees may increasingly experience and learn from *padayātrā* preaching and its unique potency.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your boundless mercy and the sincere execution of your instructions by His Holiness Lokanath Swami, this *padayātrā* movement has even been recognized on a global platform. It has been honored in the World Book of Records, London, acknowledging decades of continuous spiritual *padayātrā* – spreading devotion, promoting harmony, and walking thousands of kilometers in service to humanity. This recognition is not merely an achievement, but a testament to the power of your vision and the unwavering dedication of your disciple, who has carried your mission to the roads, villages, and hearts of countless souls.

All these efforts are taking place under the guidance of senior Vaiṣṇavas, including His Holiness Sri Krishna Chaitanya Swami (Padayātrā Minister), Her Grace Jayabhadra Mātājī (Padayātrā PR Head), His Grace Stoka Kṛṣṇa Gopu Prabhu (Padayātrā Managing Director), along with many other followers of Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this *padayātrā* movement is your vision in action. Kindly bless us that we may remain humble instruments in fulfilling your desire to spread the holy name to every town and village.

Your insignificant servants at the ISKCON Padayātrā Ministry

ISKCONResolve

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Looking at the world around us, it seems there is darkness everywhere. There are fights, conflicts, and wars going on in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Iran, the US, and many other places. There seems to be conflict among the devotees in ISKCON as well.

In these difficult times, we seek the shelter of your ISKCON movement, of your faithful and mature ISKCON devotees, and especially of your *vāṇī*.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.18 you write: "Both King Indra and Mahārāja Pṛthu were envious and angry with each other, but since both were Vaiṣṇavas, or servants of Lord Viṣṇu, it was their *duty* to adjust the cause of their envy. This is also a first-class example of cooperative behavior between Vaiṣṇavas." [Emphasis added]

While we celebrate ISKCON's sixtieth anniversary, we meditate on your words spoken in 1966 in New York: "'Yes, I will act according to Your desire.' That is bhakti. This is the difference between bhakti and karma. Karma means to fulfill my desires, and bhakti means to fulfill Kṛṣṇa's desires. That is the difference. Now you make your choice as to whether you want to fulfill your own desires or Kṛṣṇa's. If you decide to fulfill Kṛṣṇa's desire, then your life is successful. That is our Kṛṣṇa conscious life. 'Kṛṣṇa wants it; I must do it. I will not do anything for me.' That is Vrindavan. All the inhabitants of Vrindavan are trying to fulfill Kṛṣṇa's desire. The cowherd boys, the calves, the cows, the trees, the flowers, the water, the *gopīs,* the elderly inhabitants, Mother Yaśodā,

Nanda are all engaged in fulfilling Kṛṣṇa's desire. That is Vrindavan. So you can turn this material world into Vrindavan provided you agree to fulfill the desires of Kṛṣṇa. (Lecture, *Bhagavad-gītā* 16.4, Honolulu, 1975)

Please bless us that we can make your desires, which are Kṛṣṇa's desires, our life and soul and thus become instruments to transform this world into Vrindavan.

We hope that we can show our love for you by cooperating with one another, and inspiring others to cooperate with one another, to keep your desires at the forefront of our consciousness and actions.

By your mercy, ISKCONResolve is gradually becoming more active and better organized around the world. We wish that it becomes something you are proud of.

Please bless us that we can be your willing instruments in creating better understanding and cooperation among devotees. We are unqualified, so please empower us to serve you, your movement, and your devotees in a way that is pleasing to you.

Thanking you,
Your servant,
Ācāryaratna Dāsa, on behalf of the global ISKCONResolve team

ISKCON Vaiṣṇavī Ministry

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

In your commentary on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.5.12, you reveal a fundamental principle for establishing a divine society: that everyone is eligible to serve the Supreme Lord.

> Everyone should be allowed to render service to the Lord to the best of his ability, and everyone should appreciate the service of others. Such are the activities of Vaikuṇṭha [the spiritual world]. Since everyone is a servant, everyone is on the same platform and is allowed to serve the Lord according to his ability.

You teach us that Vaikuṇṭha is not a distant, abstract realm, but a state of consciousness where the service of every soul is valued. The spiritual platform is the great equalizer. In a world obsessed with hierarchy and competition, you remind us that, as servants of the same master, we are all fundamentally unified. You have shown us that the secret to spiritual harmony is twofold: the freedom to offer our unique talents to Kṛṣṇa, and the humility to sincerely appreciate the offerings of others.



As our movement grows, we sometimes struggle to accept one another's differences, but you teach us that the individual nature of the soul is eternal. Rejecting the heresy of impersonalism, you give us a vision of unity in diversity. As personalists, we understand that unity is not forced upon us by conformity. Spiritual unity can only be accomplished by cooperation between different natures and by our appreciation of each other's unique contributions.

We are part of a worldwide family. Please help us to see every devotee's effort as a precious contribution to your mission. Please help us to cultivate this Vaikuṇṭha atmosphere here on earth, making ISKCON a place where everyone feels empowered to serve and truly valued for their devotion. Please give us the inspiration to increase our own service and enough humility and compassion to empower others around us to do the same.

Your servant,
Rādhā Devī Dāsī, for the ISKCON Vaiṣṇavī Ministry

Radio Krishna Centrale

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble and respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet. We adore those lotus feet with the heartfelt desire to only serve them eternally.

The tremendous power of time forcefully keeps turning the blades of the churning mixer that is this material cosmic creation. Anything coming into existence immediately starts to deteriorate with the sun's inevitable dawns and settings till it becomes nil.

But Your Divine Grace's glories do not deteriorate. Not at all! On the contrary, your glories increase and increase more and more – exponentially at every tick-tock of time's clock.

You reside in Kṛṣṇa's heart. Thus, you are merged in that transcendental anxiety felt by Śrī Kṛṣṇa for the condition of the fallen soul, His part and parcel. Forgetting how much He loves us, we uselessly suffer, loitering here and there within the material atmosphere. You feel Śrī Kṛṣṇa's transcendental compassion toward the fallen soul. Unlike the material compassion that only mourns the suffering of the mortal creatures, Śrī Kṛṣṇa's transcendental compassion is manifest in His longing to bring His part and parcel back home to rejoin Him in His eternal, blissful pastimes.

O dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you actually "are" the personification of Lord Kṛṣṇa's intense transcendental compassion – so much so that you infuse that compassion in whomever comes in contact with Your Divine Grace. Please allow us to be your servants in satisfying that longing of the Lord.

*

"Alas!" – cries out the sinful soul –
"Why am I in this hell?
I'm swallowed by this dark black hole,
Where cries as echoes dwell."

Making her way through countless forms
To fill this human frame,
The fallen soul perceives the thorns
Of this material game.

She reaches into empty air
To find a solid hand;
But finds a vacuum of despair
Where ghosts of shadows stand.

Now questions from millions of years
Filling the outer shell,
A tiny spark of thought appears
That could those doubts dispel.

But world's cacophony rings loud;
Allured, she turns astray,
And blinded by the mortal shroud,
Again she falls as prey.

Thus, sinking back in the dark frost
Through endless forms of grief,
Once more that human chance is lost
To find the soul's relief.

Śrī Kṛṣṇa sees the soul depart,
Forgetful of her place;
His sweet eternal, loving part,
Now lost in time and space.

But Śrī Kṛṣṇa's deep connection,
Makes Him feel the soul's strain.
As with a finger's infection,
The whole body feels pain.

That Arjuna's felt compassion,
The one Śrī Kṛṣṇa scorned,
In the world's religious fashion,
Those who suffer are mourned.

It may nourish worldly *sattva;*
It's not for Kṛṣṇa's sake,
Nor for transcendental *tattva*.
The soul does not awake.

The Lord wants us with Him so much,
Much more than we can think.
Sends "you" to break the Māyā's clutch
And thus restore the link.

O dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
You're that Kṛṣṇa's longing;
You're the death of Māyāvada,
Our sense of belonging.

O Prabhupāda, our dear Lord,
If we could but reflect
That true compassion you have poured;
Even a tiny speck.

So many truly need saving!
Make us become your rays,
To sate Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's craving
For souls to join His plays.

Just as a *cintāmaṇi* stone,
Turns iron into gold,
You turn our feeling, sad and lone,
To longing for His fold.

You're here to change our rebel mood
That as a painful dart,
When *māyā* holds the soul subdued,
Keeps piercing Kṛṣṇa's heart.

You are the Lord's compassion's form,
So powerful! So strong!
You drag lost souls just like a storm
To where they do belong.

You're making every soul aware
Of how Śrī Kṛṣṇa feels,
Since you, yourself, are Kṛṣṇa's share
That He Himself reveals.

Without Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's presence,
Gaurāṅga sees all void.
Nonetheless, feeling that absence,
He's purely overjoyed.

We feel that separation too,
We miss your "face to face";
Yet we shall always be with you,
Craving "Your Divine Grace."

*

Holding very dear that intensely unifying feeling of separation, we pray to the most magnanimous Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi to never let us forget your divine instructions and to kindly let us be eternally engaged in serving your divine lotus feet so that, even if we miss you so much, we shall still always be with Your Divine Grace.

Your humble respectful servants at Radio Krishna Centrale, Terni, Italy
(written by Narakantaka Dāsa)

Rūpānuga Vedic College

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You have saved our lives.
You gave us festivals.
You gave us prasāda.
You gave us Gaura-Nitāi.
You gave us *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the *Bhagavad-gītā*.
You gave us the holy name.
You gave us *harināma* at the Plaza.
You gave us devotee association.
You gave us a perfect path.
You have saved our lives.

Please tell us, please guide us, please demand of us, please empower us to understand and execute Your order. What can we give to Your Divine Grace? What could we ever give to Your Divine Grace? How may we serve Your Divine Grace?

Your divine association is affording us the very rare opportunity to cross over the ocean of material existence.

We beg to smear the dust of your lotus feet upon ourselves. Please bless us with this opportunity again and again. Please never let us forget the unlimited ocean of mercy that is your soft heart of thunderous compassion. Please allow us to recruit and train more of your wayward associates. Please look kindly upon each and every one of us.

Your fledgling servants from the Rūpānuga Vedic College,
Kansas City, Missouri, USA

Spiritual Advisors Bhagavata Assembly (SABHA)

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

In 2018, the GBC's Organizational Development Committee created SABHA (Spiritual Advisors Bhagavata Assembly) to strengthen unity among ISKCON's spiritual leaders and provide checks and balances on the authority of the GBC. Your Divine Grace planted the seed for these purposes in March 1976, when you rejected several proposals the GBC had passed that greatly disturbed your Society's temple presidents. Chastened by your action, on March 1, 1977, the GBC formally established a system of review for its decisions:

> After the agenda has been completed, the Temple Presidents' meeting will be held. If by a 2/3 majority the presidents vote any suggested amendments to the resolutions or make new resolutions, these will be referred back to the GBC, who will meet to vote on them, and that decision will be final. Śrīla Prabhupāda will then review these decisions for ultimate decision and/or approval.

As Your Divine Grace knew, your "ultimate decision and/or approval" would not be long for this world. Yet you liked the temple presidents' review of the GBC's resolutions and indicated that it could go on after your physical demise – which it did, until the number of ISKCON temples grew so large that it became impractical for all the presidents to meet and review the resolutions.

Inevitably, Your Divine Grace's departure triggered many disagreements, which years before you had given the key to resolving: "If we keep Krishna in the center, then there will be agreement in varieties. This is called unity in diversity. I am therefore suggesting that all our men meet in Mayapur every year during the birth anniversary of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu. With all GBC and senior men present we should discuss how to make unity in diversity." (Letter to Kirtanananda, 18 October 1973)

To achieve unity in diversity, SABHA offers the GBC an opportunity to hear from other qualified Vaiṣṇavas and tap their collective wisdom. SABHA can also suggest issues the GBC could consider for discussion or solution. Again, there is precedent for this during Your Divine Grace's presence. A GBC resolution dated March 7, 1977, stated: "Concerning topics to be presented each year at the GBC meeting in Mayapur, the temple presidents should submit topics to their GBC representative 45 days prior to the meeting, and the GBC representatives will present those topics 30 days before the meeting to the three GBC officers" (today called the GBC Executive Committee).

Overall, SABHA collaboratively works with the GBC by reviewing and proposing legislation and by suggesting topics for discussion with the aim of improving the quality, legitimacy, and acceptance of GBC resolutions. SABHA adds value to ISKCON's governance by offering sound śāstric advice and expressing the will of the constituencies they represent. Hence, the sacred duty of SABHA is to, together with the GBC, act as an instrument of Your Divine Grace's transcendental will.

As an advisory body, SABHA cannot enact or implement any legislation independently. At the same time, we have the ear of the GBC, Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON's "ultimate managing authority," who want to better understand the needs, interests, and concerns of your Society's members. Indeed, it is only by communicating and cooperating – your final measure of our love for you – that we can give everyone the opportunity to know and love Kṛṣṇa.

As Your Divine Grace told the Rādhā-Dāmodara Saṅkīrtana Party in Mayapur: "It is simply by

cooperation we can do very big thing. 'United we stand; divided we fall' … There is hope in our Society, combination. There are Hindus; there are Muslims; there are Christians; there are black, white. Combine them. That looks very beautiful, just like combination of many flowers … Each and every flower take alone, it is not beautiful, but when they are combined together, it looks very beautiful. It is attractive. And that is wanted." (Room conversation, Mayapur, March 16, 1976)

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for guiding us and your sincere followers to find the cooperation we'll need to please you and take Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village.

Your grateful servants at SABHA

Traveling Saṅkīrtana Party (Bhiwandi and Attapur)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you and to your transcendental books.

We are so fortunate to have been showered by your causeless mercy through this great ISKCON movement. It is so wonderful that anyone irrespective of background can be uplifted to the highest platform of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

You made the instruction your Guru Mahārāja your one-pointed focus in life. Following this instruction, you tirelessly spent sleepless nights to translate these books and distribute them widely. And as a result you not only triggered a global revolution but also developed it further through your wit, love, affection, and expert guidance.

As we read from a letter you wrote to Rūpānuga Prabhu on 27 April 1970, "I used to say to my Godbrothers that when I would begin preaching I shall take two trucks, one for sankirtana party and one for carrying requisites, and I would go from village to village throughout the whole world preaching Lord Caitanya's message. So the time has come as per my dream, by the grace of Krishna you are carrying on this program." Kṛṣṇa fulfills His pure devotees' desires without fail. In your manifest pastimes, there were many such parties that distributed your transcendental books. We are fortunate to be instruments in one such traveling *saṅkīrtana* party for distributing your transcendental books.

We are limitlessly grateful to Your Divine Grace for giving us such a project. Being involved in this project, we feel not only filled with joy, but also get so many realizations. Our appreciation for Your Divine Grace and your great ISKCON movement increases as we travel to remote corners of Bharata.

We confront many dry scholars, yet see they lack the joy of devotion you gave us, and we are reminded of your merciful distribution of the essence of the *śāstras*.

We see yogis at Kumbha Melā who are busy performing weird austere practices, and we are reminded of the fortune you gave us by giving us the joyful *yuga-dharma: harināma-saṅkīrtana*. These yogis perform their practices yet are far away from the essence of the scripture, and here are we, recipients of your mercy who haven't practiced such austerities, yet have been bestowed with the goal of such practices.

We visit many spiritual organizations – some may be richer or better organized, but they are devoid of the concrete substance and philosophy. Most are not connected to any *paramparā*. There again we are reminded of your uncompromising preaching completely in line with the bona fide disciplic succession, carrying solid philosophy and the science of devotional service.

We meet speculators and word jugglers lacking any śāstric evidence and are reminded of the fortune you gave us by teaching everything from the *śāstra*. You taught us to stick to *śāstra* and to not concoct anything. You also taught us to be philosophical and not sentimental.

When will all such people receive your mercy? Please bless and empower us to convince all these people to take up this joyful path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We go to remote places, where we see the decades-old photo of your dear Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī, or your decades-old books somewhere in that remote place, a sign that your followers distributed your mercy long ago. Our appreciation for Your Divine Grace increases when we see that no one in the past has made Kṛṣṇa famous as much as you have done.

You gave us this project, which enables us to get quick realization of the philosophy. By immersing ourselves in it, almost every day we see that we are not the doers. Our false pride crushed, we feel more dependent on Kṛṣṇa. No other *ācārya* has ever given the practice of devotional service so easily and practically as you have done. The potency of your mercy is so great that we have seen even brand-new persons on the street start distributing your books, on the spot, without even any prior background in spiritual life – such persons can serve as preachers by distributing your books.

While traveling and distributing books, we feel almost untouched by *māyā* when we act on your behalf. Days, weeks, months, and years pass, each day bringing a new realization and thrill.

It is just because of our foolishness and ignorance that we cannot foresee the effects of your transcendental books. Somehow, the same spirit we read of in the *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* is not seen these days, especially the street *saṅkīrtana* and book distribution. As day by day your direct disciples are leaving this planet to assist you wherever you are, our current generation is in need of imbibing that '70s mood from your disciples. Please inspire and bless us with the right mood to associate with your direct disciples more and more, and with a sense of urgency, so we can loyally carry your mood and legacy of *saṅkīrtana,* book distribution, and *prasādam* distribution forward. As your dear son His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja once told us that doing street *saṅkīrtana* along with book distribution increases the book score. We are seeing that happening practically.

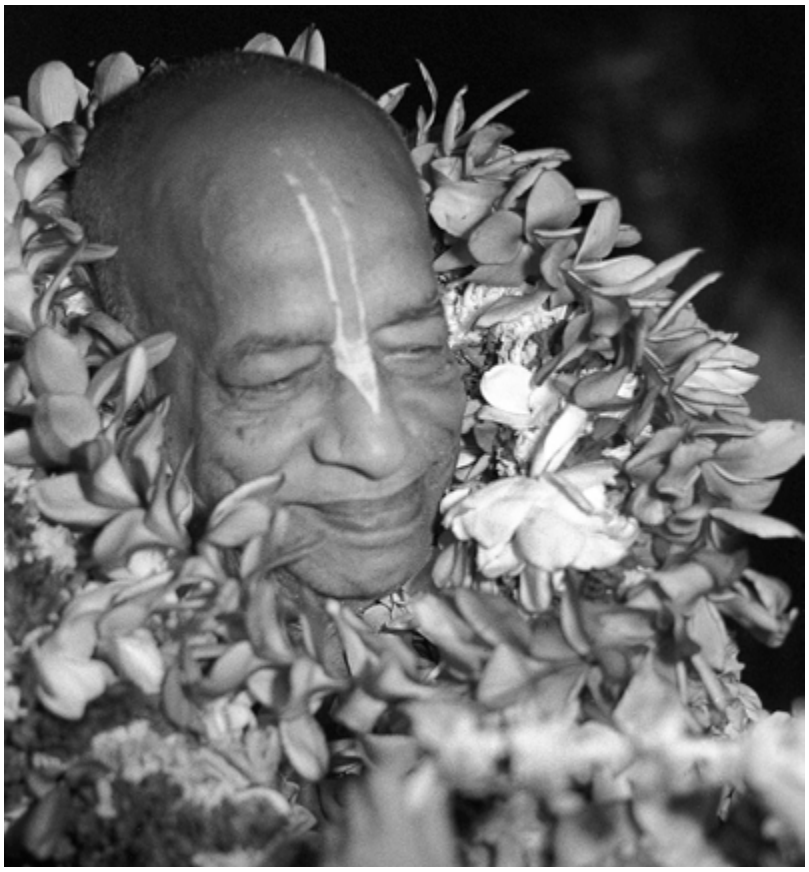
Recently, we traveled to parts of North India, concluding the preaching tour in Haridwar and Badrinath, where we went to Vyas Gufa and showed your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* to Śrīla Vyāsadeva. We are certain that Śrīla Vyāsadeva was happy and blessed us for increasing our *saṅkīrtana*. We also traveled to parts of Maharashtra, covering Nasik and Pandharpur. We traveled to parts of Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, where many are waiting for your books. The main concern is of rubber-stamp religious conversion by Christians.

You sent us many young boys, who have quickly dedicated their lives to book distribution and are very enthusiastic. What started out as a small handful of devotees has grown larger now. As the number of book distributors grows, we got one more *saṅkīrtana* bus with larger book-carrying capacity. We need your causeless mercy to walk every step on the bhakti path. Please bless us to

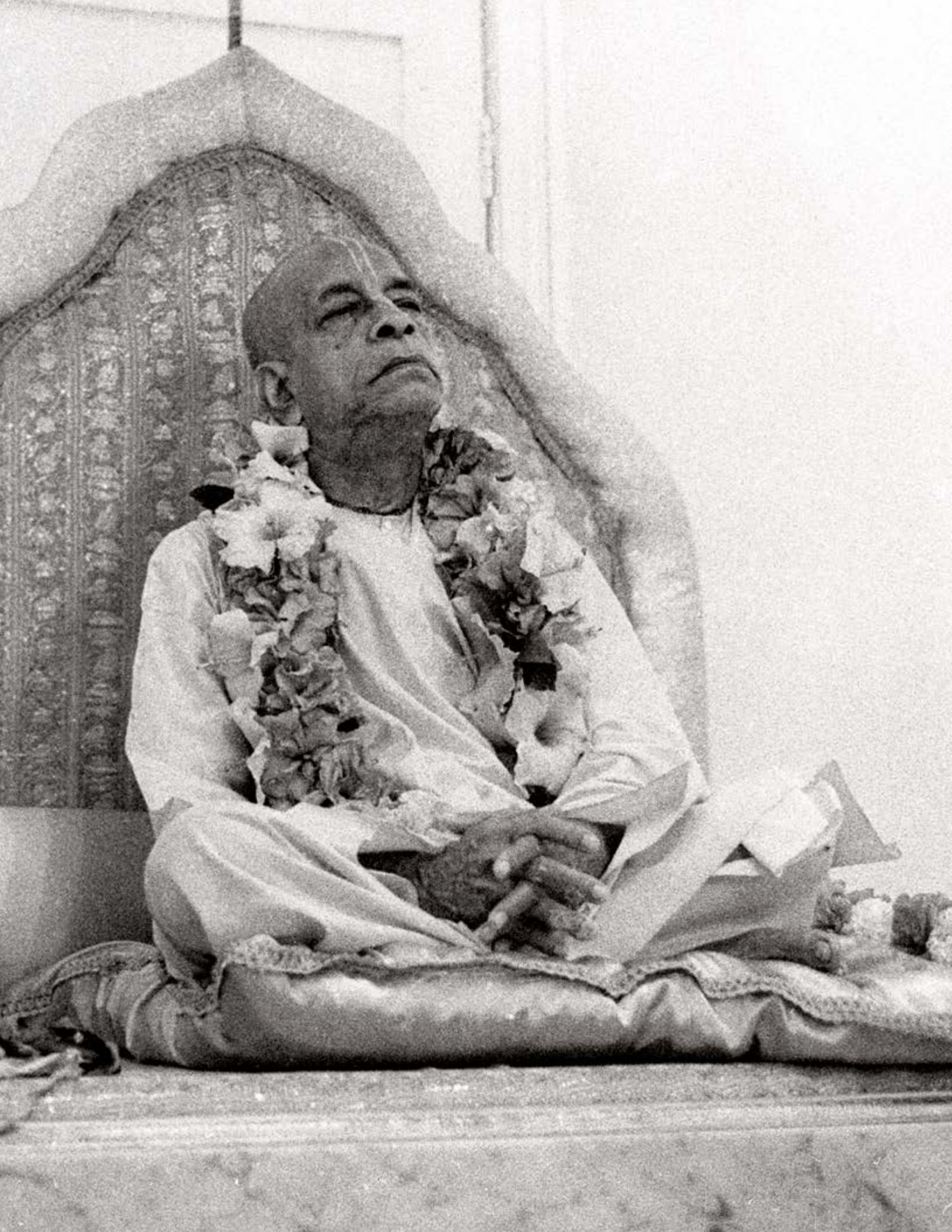
be always loyal to you and to your great ISKCON movement. Please bless us with your mercy that we never deviate from your instructions and thus one day become completely purified in this life, as you urged us to do time and again.

Please bless and empower us that, for your pleasure, we replicate these buses hundreds of times and, if you feel it pleases you, then let there be such traveling *saṅkīrtana* parties worldwide.

Your toddler servants in the Traveling *Saṅkīrtana* Party from Bhiwandi and Attapur



Our Obeisances to You for Your Transcendental Instructions



nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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.

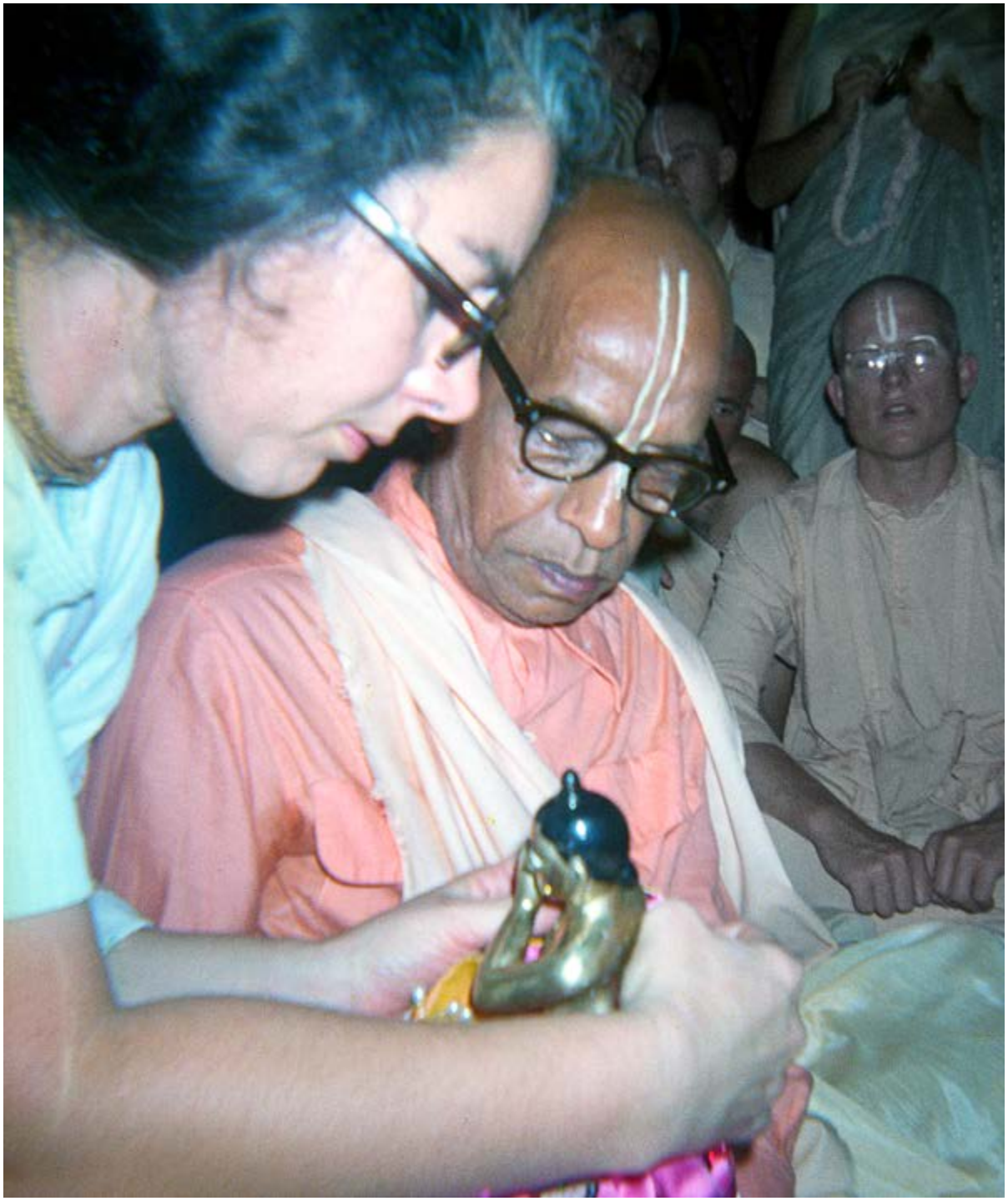
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

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.

When one is engaged in the duties of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, he need not act in relationship to the material world with obligations to family traditions, humanity, or nationality. Fruitive activities are the engagements of one's reactions from past good or bad deeds. When one is awake in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, he need no longer endeavor for good results in his activities. When one is situated in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, all activities are on the absolute plane, for they are no longer subject to dualities like good and bad. The highest perfection of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is renunciation of the material conception of life. This state is automatically achieved by progressive Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Bhagavad-gītā 2.41, purport





The servants of God come to propagate God consciousness, and intelligent people should cooperate with them in every respect. By serving the servant of God, one can please God more than by directly serving the Lord. The Lord is more pleased when He sees that His servants are properly respected because such servants risk everything for the service of the Lord and so are very dear to the Lord. The Lord declares in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (18.69) that no one is dearer to Him than one who risks everything to preach His glory. By serving the servants of the Lord, one gradually gets the quality of such servants, and thus one becomes qualified to hear the glories of God. The eagerness to hear about God is the first qualification of a devotee eligible for entering the kingdom of God.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1.2.16, purport

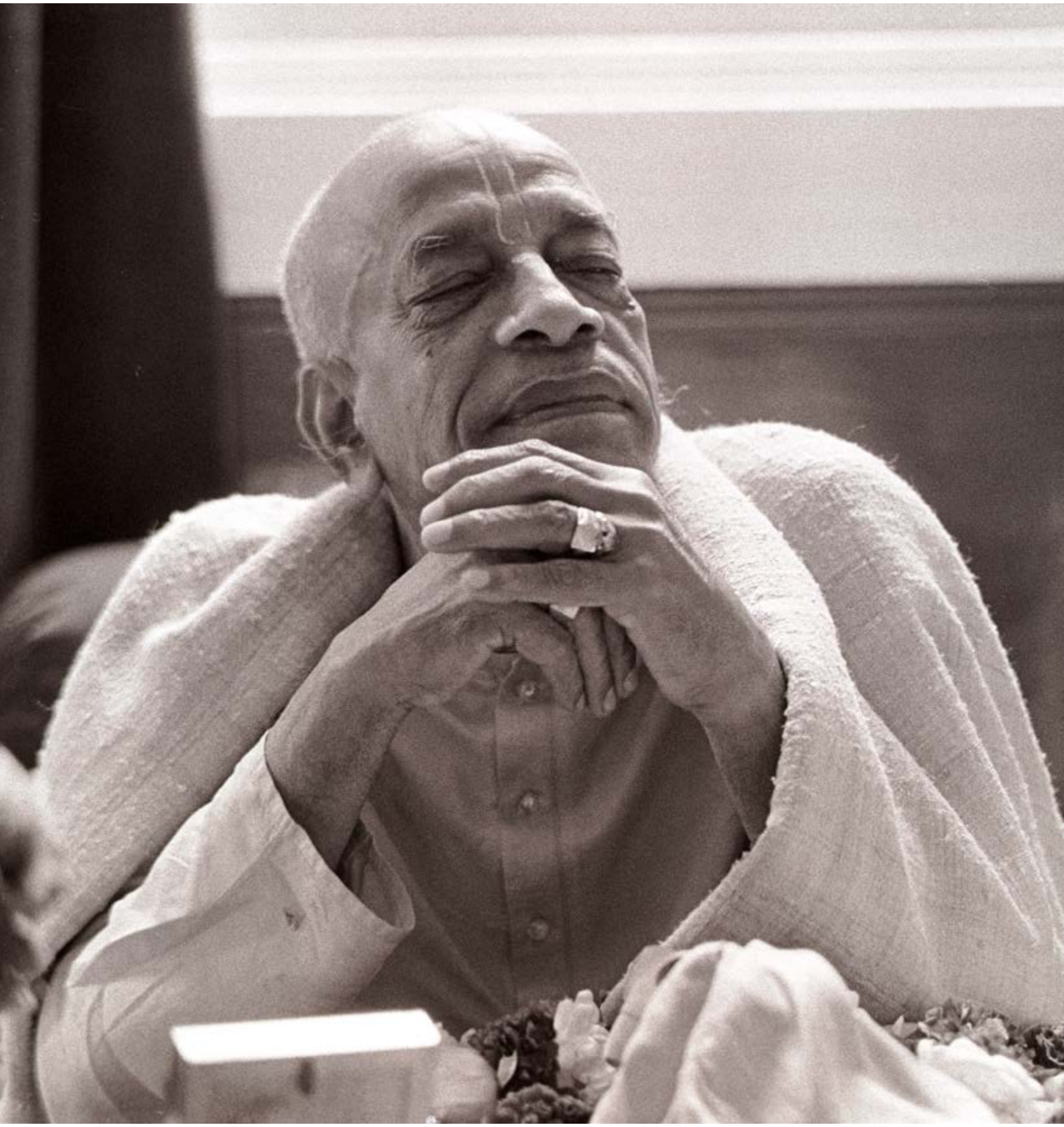
As it is the duty of the parts of the body to serve the whole, it is the duty of Kṛṣṇa's devotees to serve Kṛṣṇa as He wants. Kṛṣṇa's business is to kill the demons, and therefore this should be a devotee's business also. Because the people of Kali-yuga are fallen, however, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, out of kindness for them, did not bring any weapon to kill them. Rather, by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, love of Kṛṣṇa, He wanted to kill their nefarious, demoniac activities. This is the purpose of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Unless the demoniac activities on the surface of the world are diminished or vanquished, no one can be happy. The program for the conditioned soul is fully described in the *Bhagavad-gītā,* and one simply has to follow these instructions to become happy. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has therefore prescribed:

harer nāma harer nāma
harer nāmaiva kevalam
kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva
nāsty eva gatir anyathā

Let people chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra constantly. Then their demoniac tendencies will be killed, and they will become first-class devotees, happy in this life and in the next.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 10.1.64, purport





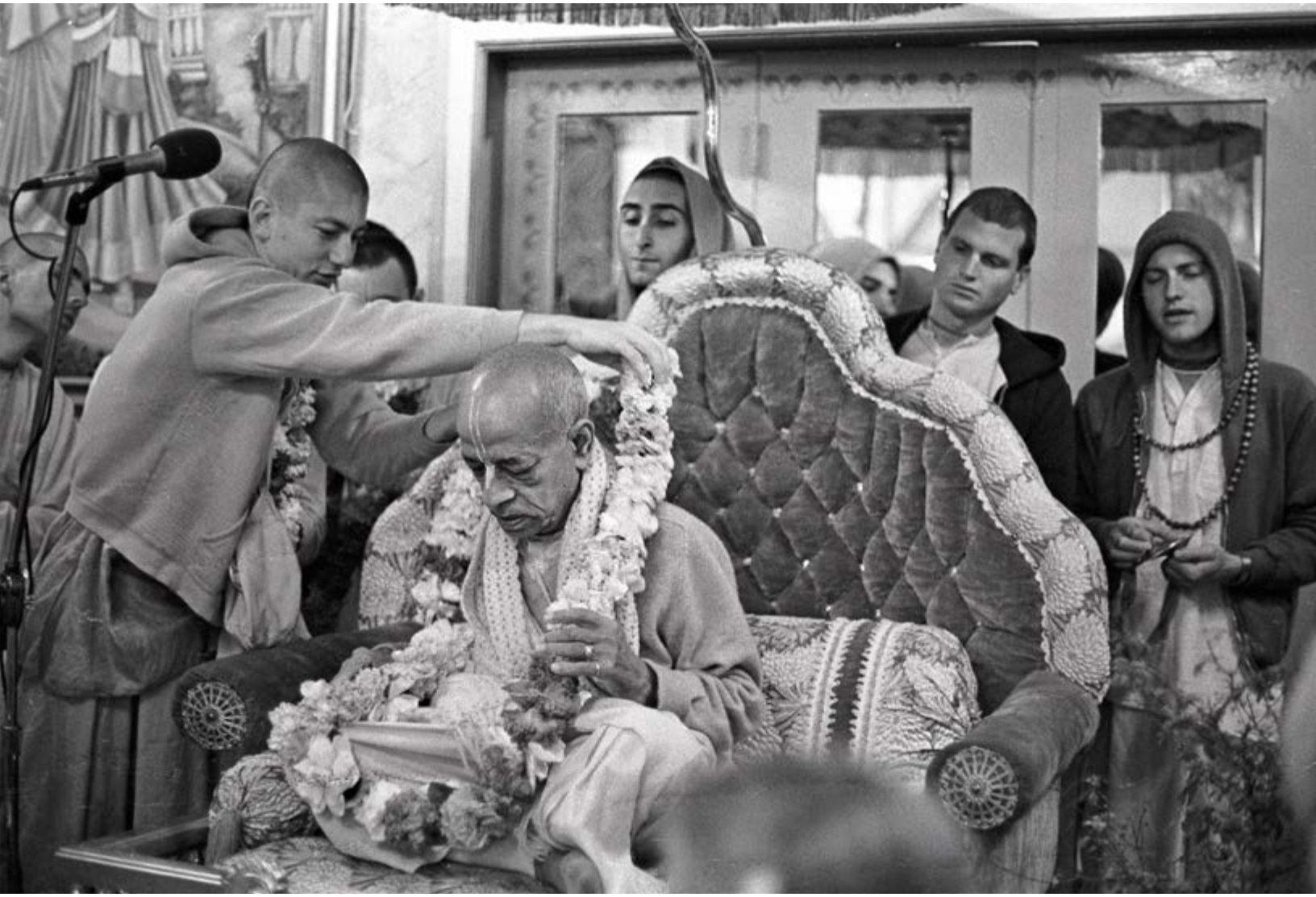
Once we had the opportunity to meet Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, and on first sight he requested this humble self to preach his message in the Western countries. There was no preparation for this, but somehow or other he desired it, and by his grace we are now engaged in executing his order, which has given us a transcendental occupation and has saved and liberated us from the occupation of material activities. Thus it is actually a fact that if one meets a saintly person completely engaged in transcendental duties and achieves his favor, then one's life mission becomes complete. What is not possible to achieve in thousands of lives can be achieved in one moment if there is an opportunity to meet a saintly person. It is therefore enjoined in Vedic literature that one should always try to associate with saintly persons and try to disassociate oneself from the common man, because by one word of a saintly person one can be liberated from material entanglement.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 3.22.5, purport

"Only unto those great souls who have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of Vedic knowledge automatically revealed." – (*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* 6.23)

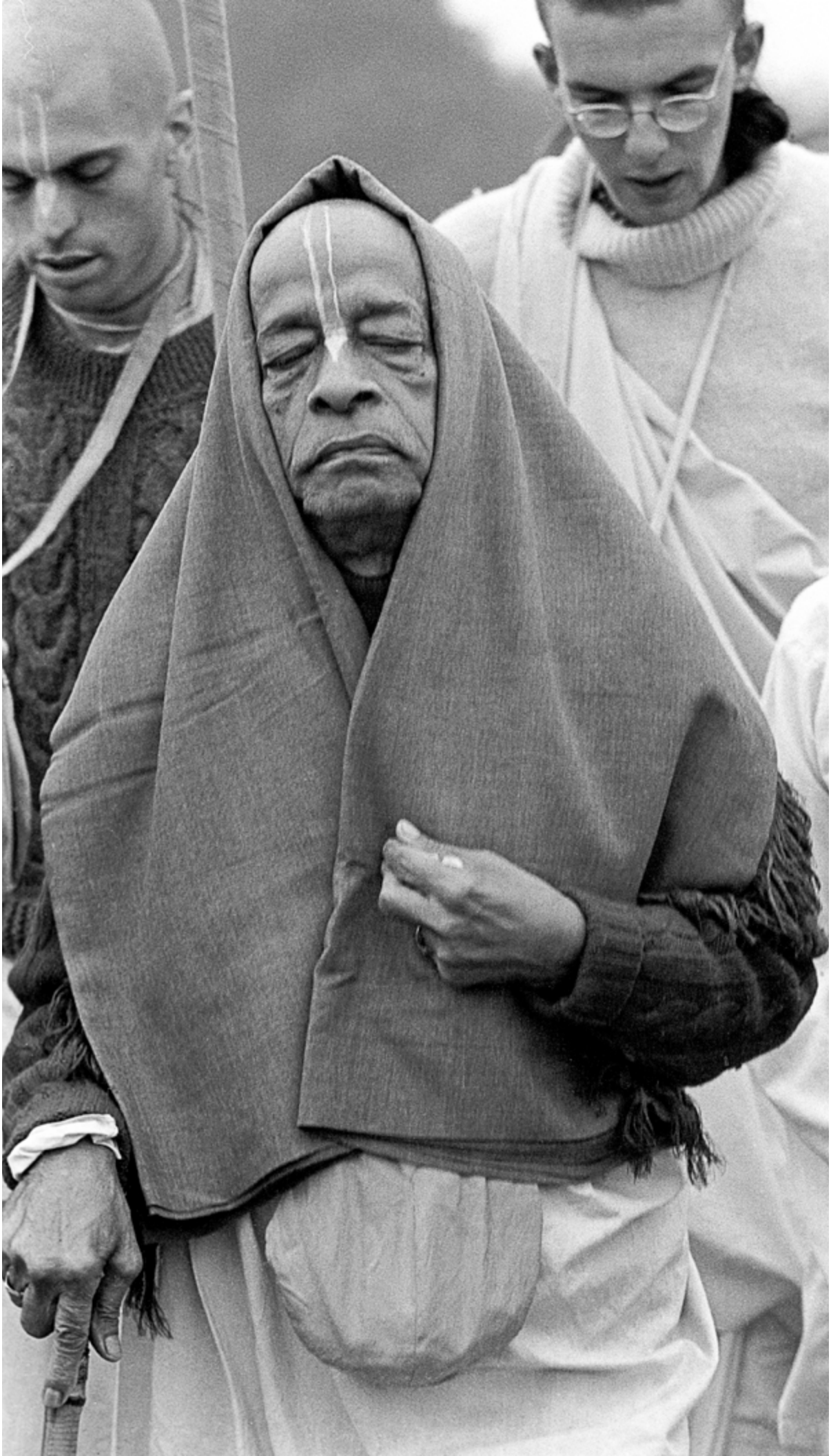
This Vedic injunction is very important, and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu supported it by His personal behavior. Believing in the words of His spiritual master, He introduced the *saṅkīrtana* movement, just as the present Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement was started with belief in the words of our spiritual master. He wanted to preach, we believed in his words and tried somehow or other to fulfill them, and now this movement has become successful all over the world. Therefore faith in the words of the spiritual master and in the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the secret of success.

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi 7.95–96, purport



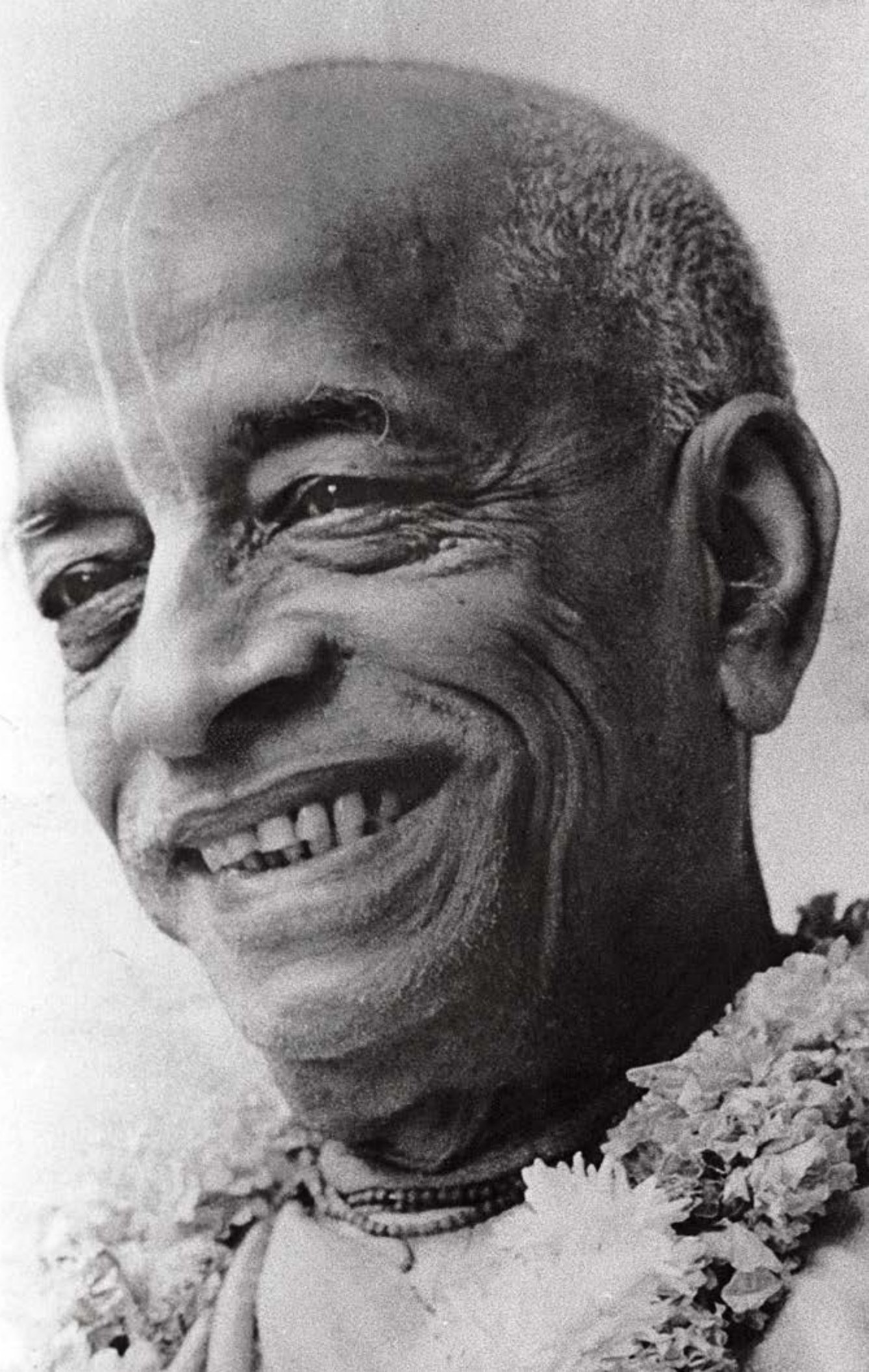
If one simply follows the instructions of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, under the guidance of His representative, and chants the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, teaching everyone as far as possible the same principle, the contamination of the materialistic way of life will not even touch him. It does not matter whether one lives in a holy place like Vṛndāvana, Navadvīpa or Jagannātha Purī or in the midst of European cities, where the materialistic way of life is very prominent. If a devotee follows the instructions of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, he lives in the company of the Lord. Wherever he lives, he converts that place into Vṛndāvana and Navadvīpa.

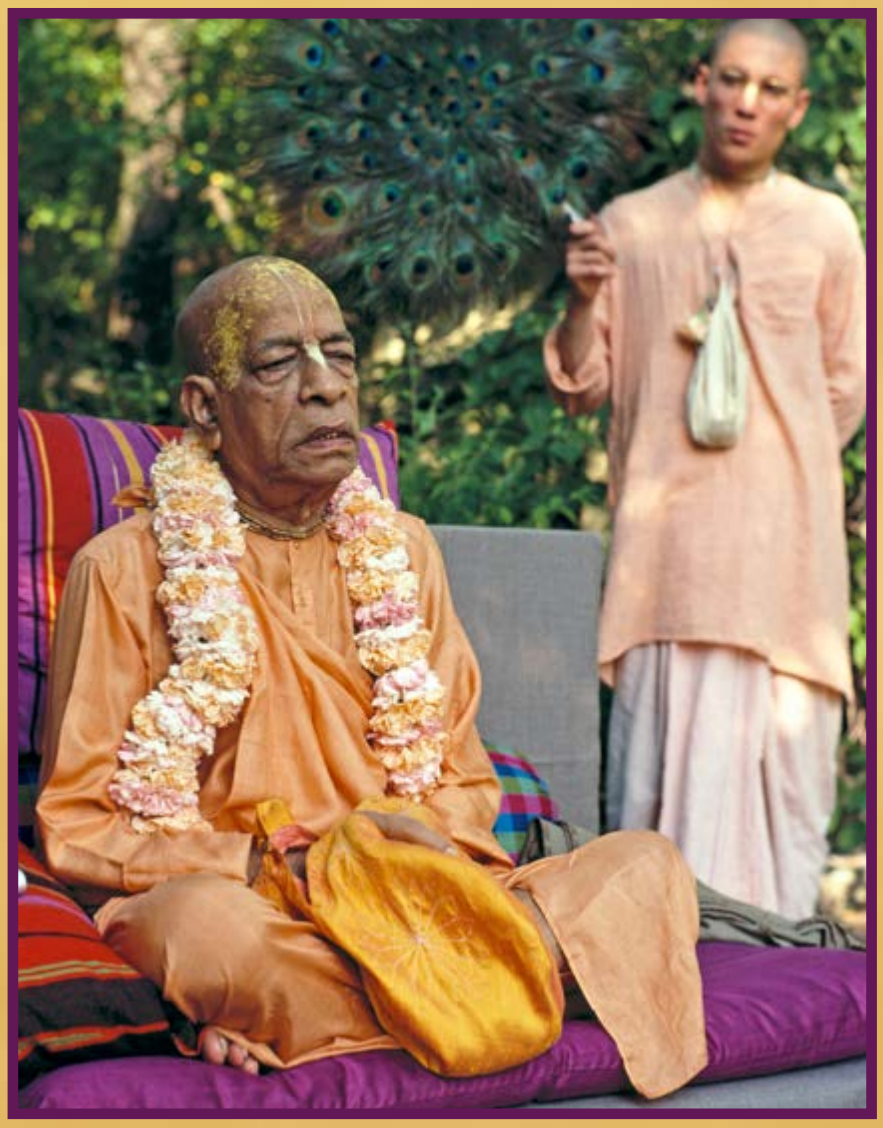
Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 7.129, purport



Regarding your standing in the book distribution as number three in the world, I am very pleased that you have worked so hard to help me in carrying out the order of my Guru Maharaja. Be convinced that you are doing the highest service for your fellow countrymen by distributing books of Krsna Consciousness. Actually in the west there is now no culture, and no brain even for what is the purpose of life. American civilization is finished, except that it can be saved if it takes to Krsna Consciousness. Try to become more convinced of this necessity for Krsna Consciousness and that will enable you to preach even stronger and distribute more books.

Letter to Caru, 28 February 1977





"Krishna will give you timely a suitable place, don't worry about it. Our leader, Sanatana Goswami, was living underneath a tree, and He was keeping His Deity, Krishna, hanging on the branch of the tree, wrapped up in a cloth – and still He was always engaged in the service of the Lord. So place or no place, we must go on with our preaching work. Please keep me informed about your progress, and offer my blessings to all the boys."

LETTER TO CITSUKHĀNANDA, 12 MARCH 1970

ISKCON®