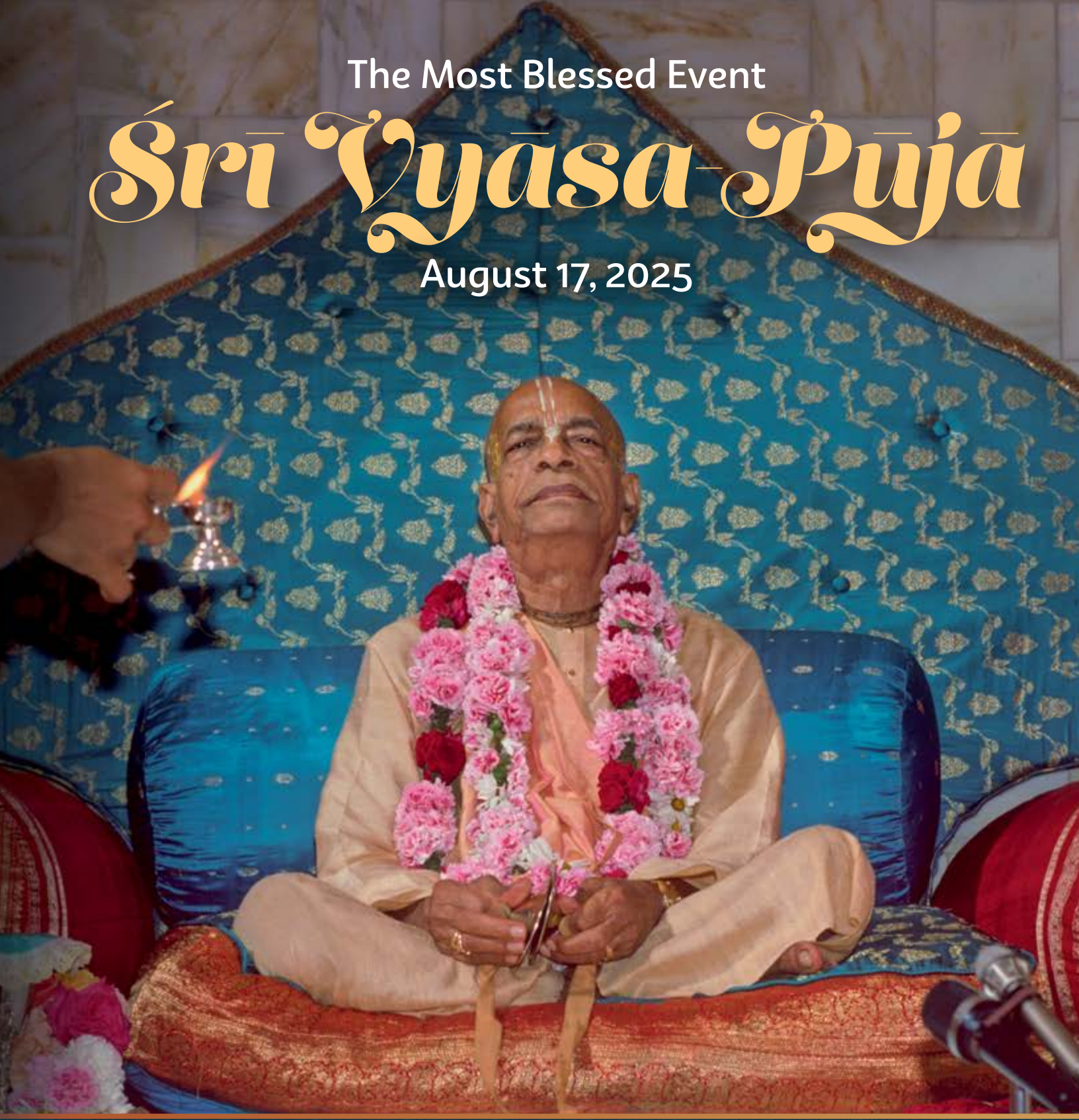
The Most Blessed Event

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā

August 17, 2025



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

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā

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August 17, 2025

Published by ISKCON GBC

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DESIGNED BY EIGHT EYES
www.eighteyes.com

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Introduction

Embracing Śrīla Prabhupāda's Legacy: A Guiding Light through Contemporary Challenges

As we gather to commemorate the auspicious occasion of Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā, we are afforded the opportunity not only to offer our gratitude and reverence but also to collectively immerse ourselves in the timeless wisdom Śrīla Prabhupāda bestowed upon us. The Vyāsa-pūjā book serves as more than a collection of homages; it is a testament to the enduring potency of Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings and a vital resource for the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness as it navigates the complexities of the modern world.

In his purport to text 4 of *The Nectar of Instruction,* we read, "The International Society for Krishna Consciousness has been established to facilitate these six kinds of loving exchanges between devotees." One of the loving exchanges is "revealing one's mind in confidence." The annual Vyāsa-pūjā book encourages and facilitates such a confidential extraction of devotees' feelings for Śrīla Prabhupāda, and for other devotees to absorb themselves in them. So all who composed offerings, and all who will read them, are participants in the most delightful form of *guhyam ākhyāti pṛcchati* – confidential revelation and inquiry specifically for our cherished founder-*ācārya*.

ISKCON, as a dynamic spiritual movement, encounters various challenges in its mission – among them, ensuring the continuity and purity of Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions, fostering unity and a strong sense of community amid a diverse global following, and adapting its presentation in order to resonate better with contemporary society – all while upholding its foundational principles. As we face these challenges, Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā book serves as a powerful tool for revitalization and direction.

For example, in reaffirming foundational principles and fostering unity, you'll see that the offerings in the Vyāsa-pūjā book invariably draw us back to core tenets of Kṛṣṇa consciousness as Śrīla Prabhupāda gave them to us; and in articulating their realizations and gratitude, devotees, from senior disciples to later generations, consistently speak of the critical importance of his teachings in their service and lives. This shared focus is unifying, nurturing a cohesive understanding of our philosophy and how to apply it. The Vyāsa-pūjā book is thereby a vibrant form of *saṅga* for Prabhupādānugas.

Reading the heartfelt glorifications and expressions of indebtedness to Śrīla Prabhupāda is one of the best ways to strengthen our faith in His Divine Grace, and stronger faith in Śrīla Prabhupāda fortifies our collective faith in ISKCON and helps us serve his Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement with greater resolve. When facing internal or external obstacles, reading these offerings can remind us of our founder-*ācārya's* own unwavering devotional resolve, conviction, and spiritual strength. The honoring of Śrīla Prabhupāda's dedication to his spiritual master and determination to serve the mission is a theme in many of the offerings you'll find in this volume.

The Vyāsa-pūjā book also serves as a vital bridge that connects senior devotees, a number of whom had Śrīla Prabhupāda's personal association, with all the devotees who have come after them. The torch of Śrīla Prabhupāda's legacy is being passed down, and in these offerings, we receive it along with an emphasis on the mood, mission, and standards he established for ISKCON. In this way the experience and wisdom of our seniors is passed down to all of us who wish to carry his movement forward.

As we immerse ourselves in these offerings, let's do it with a prayerful heart. Let's honor Śrīla Prabhupāda and imbibe the spirit and letter of his teachings. By collectively focusing on his

instructions and the profound impact he continues to have on our lives, we become empowered to face challenges with clarity, loyalty, and unwavering devotion. May this book be a beacon shining on our collective service to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda and his sacred mission.

Before closing, we'd like to thank the devotees who helped put this year's book together: Bhaktivaibhava Swami chose the many beautiful photos of Śrīla Prabhupāda inside the book. Sītā Ṭhākuraṇī Devī Dāsī and her husband, Don Stammers, from the United Kingdom, and Vasudāmā Dāsa, from Australia, did the proofreading. Kṣameśvarī Rādhā Devī Dāsī, from Alachua, helped edit the offerings. Caitanya Devī Dāsī, from Croatia, chose the quotes for the "Our Obeisances to You for Your Transcendental Instructions" section in the back of the book.

Please note that again this year, the Vyāsa-pūjā book is available in PDF format so you can download and share it with members of your community. It will also be online at vyasapuja.com.

Would you like to offer some service with Śrīla Prabhupāda's Vyāsa-pūjā book? Write to us at vphomages@iskcon.net and let's connect. Thank you.

Your servants on the Vyāsa-pūjā book team,
Satyamedhā Gaurāṅga Dāsa
Ānanda Tīrtha Dāsa
Kaiśorī Devī Dāsī
Praghoṣa Dāsa

The Meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā

Today we celebrate Vyāsa-pūjā, literally the worship of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, the great sage who compiled the *Vedas*. We worship our spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the divine representative of Vyāsadeva because from him we have received the Vedic knowledge, by which we can attain eternal life. This liberating wisdom emanates from the Lord himself.

sarvasya cāhaṁ hṛdi sanniviṣṭo
mattaḥ smṛtir jñānam apohanaṁ ca
vedaiś ca sarvair aham eva vedyo
vedānta-kṛd veda-vid eva cāham

"I am seated in everyone's heart, and from Me come remembrance, knowledge, and forgetfulness. By all the *Vedas* I am to be known. Indeed, I am the compiler of *Vedānta,* and I am the knower of the *Vedas*." (*Bhagavad-gītā* 15.15)

The Lord personally imparts the Vedic knowledge to Lord Brahmā, who initiates our *sampradāya*.

yavan aham yatha-bhavo
yad-rupa-guna-karmakaḥ
tathaiva tattva-vijṣanam
astu te mad-anugrahat

"All of Me, namely My actual eternal form and My transcendental existence, color, qualities and activities – let all be awakened within you by factual realization, out of My causeless mercy." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.9.32)

Brahmā teaches that same Vedic knowledge to his son Nārada, who in turn instructs his disciple Vyāsadeva, from whom it descends in an unbroken line or *paramparā,* eventually reaching Śrīla Prabhupāda, to whom we offer our most profound adulation.

Our debt to Śrīla Prabhupāda and all the previous spiritual masters is incalculable. While instructing Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī, Lord Caitanya said,

kṛṣṇa bhuli' sei jīva anādi-bahirmukha
ataeva māyā tāre deya saṁsāra-duḥkha

"Forgetting Kṛṣṇa, the living entity has been attracted by the external feature from time immemorial. Therefore, the illusory energy [*māyā*] gives him all kinds of misery in his material existence." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 20.117)

We have been languishing in material existence, enduring "all kinds of misery since time immemorial," which means nobody can calculate how long we have been entrapped. We can perhaps get some idea when we consider the current epoch. We learn from the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* that the *jīvas* are injected into the creation through the Lord's glance at the beginning of Brahmā's life:

kāla-vṛttyā tu māyāyāṁ
guṇa-mayyām adhokṣajaḥ
puruṣeṇātma-bhūtena
vīryam ādhatta vīryavān

"The Supreme Living Being in His feature as the transcendental *puruṣa* incarnation, who is the Lord's plenary expansion, impregnates the material nature of three modes, and thus by the influence of eternal time the living entities appear." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.5.26)

At the end of each of Brahmā's days, when he sleeps and there is an annihilation, those souls who have not been liberated enter Lord Viṣṇu's body until the following creation in the next day of Brahmā. Each of those days represents 1,000 cycles of the four *yugas,* equivalent to approximately four billion Earth years, with the ensuing nights being the same length. According to the *ācāryas,* Brahmā has lived approximately half of his life, or around fifty of his years, so it appears we have been dwelling in this universe for over 150 trillion years. However, it is possible we came from another universe before that, where we would have remained for its entire duration. And it is not impossible that we lived through other creations before that. Time itself commences with the commencement of each universe, so we cannot even estimate how long we have been in material existence.

"All kinds of misery" means every type of material body, from germs to gods. In our determined quest to find happiness separate from Kṛṣṇa, we have tried everything possible, repeatedly. Thus, we have suffered every imaginable agony, taking birth and dying countless times, repeatedly plunging into hell, and experiencing an untold number of catastrophes as we endured the cosmic devastations at the end of each day of Brahmā and even during those days. Sometimes, growing tired of the futile attempt to satisfy our senses, we renounced everything and practiced austerity in the hope of achieving liberation. In this way, we might have achieved temporary respite from the furious storm of suffering, only to again return to it when we became jaded with the state of inertia.

The enormity of our stubborn resistance to Kṛṣṇa's will is indeed staggering. For endless eons we have resolutely refused to accept His supreme position and our subordination as His servants, endeavoring to act as would-be lords ourselves. This has presented us with an insurmountable problem, as Kṛṣṇa states in the *Bhagavad-gītā:*

daivī hy eṣā guṇa-mayī
mama māyā duratyayā
mām eva ye prapadyante
māyām etāṁ taranti te

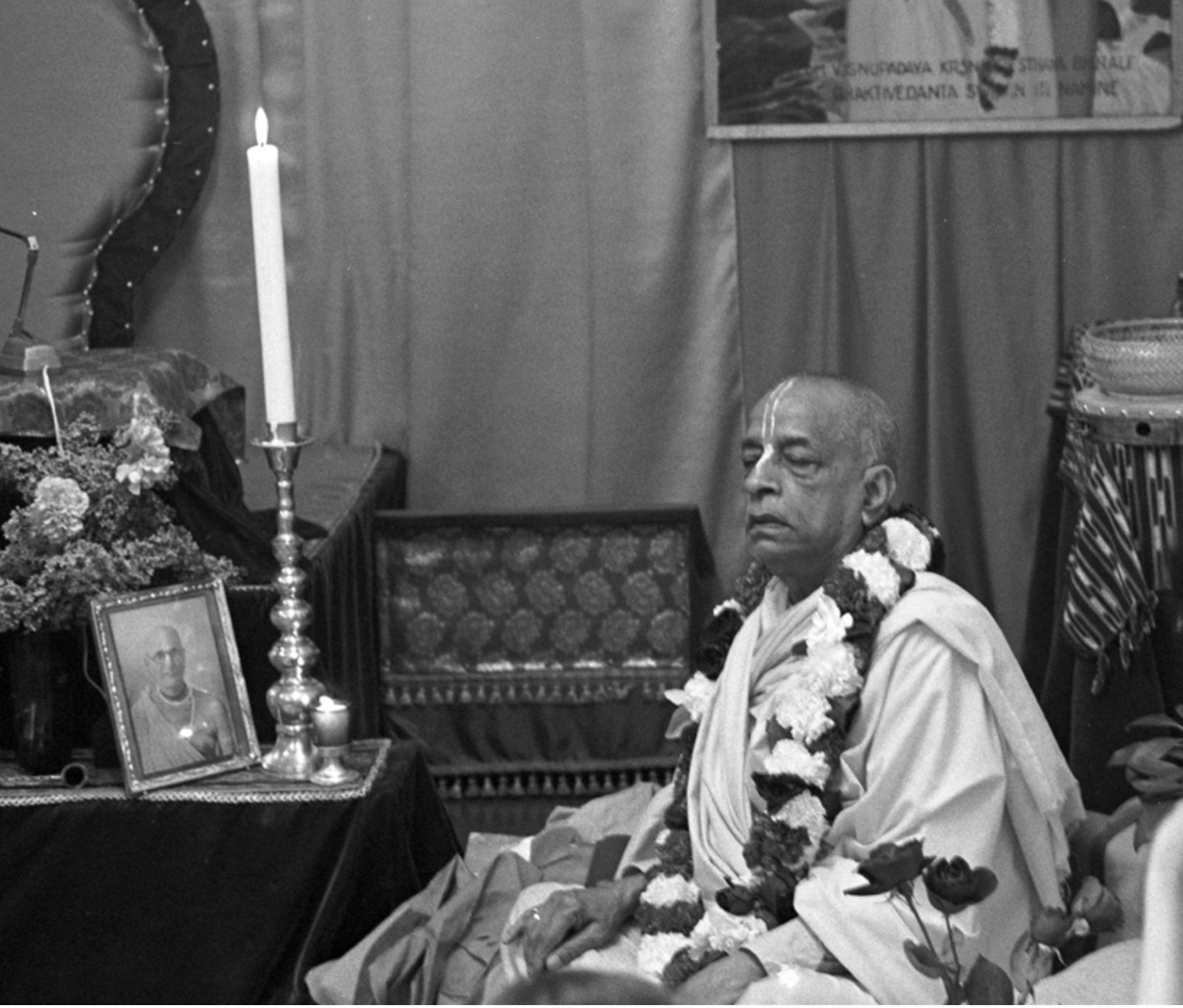
"This divine energy of Mine, consisting of the three modes of material nature, is difficult to overcome. But those who have surrendered unto Me can easily cross beyond it." (*Bhagavad-gītā* 7.14)

Until we surrender to Kṛṣṇa, we must remain in the inescapable fortress of material existence. We cannot extract ourselves by any independent effort. We need the Lord's intervention. Lord Caitanya told Sanātana Gosvāmī:

māyā-mugdha jīvera nāhi svataḥ kṛṣṇa-jñāna
jīvere kṛpāya kailā kṛṣṇa veda-purāna

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

In his purport to this verse, Śrīla Prabhupāda describes our awkward situation of entrapment in material consciousness, mistakenly thinking ourselves part of the material world and thereby undergoing the concomitant vicissitudes. We become the slaves of lust, greed, anger, and envy, and when the inevitable results of that become too much to bear, we serve "mental speculation."



In other words, we try to devise a way to end our misery while remaining averse to the real solution: surrendering to Kṛṣṇa.

Thankfully, the Lord takes pity on us, as Śrīla Prabhupāda goes on to say: "Out of His causeless mercy and compassion, Kṛṣṇa has compiled various Vedic literatures in His incarnation as Vyāsadeva. Vyāsadeva is a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra* of Lord Kṛṣṇa. He has very kindly presented these literatures to awaken the conditioned soul to his senses." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 20.122, purport)

As the means to end our miserable state will never occur to us, Kṛṣṇa comes personally to spell it out in the Vedic literature. However, we still require the Lord's mercy to understand the *Vedas*. As Lord Brahmā says in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam:*

athāpi te deva padāmbuja-dvaya-
prasāda-leśānugṛhīta eva hi
jānāti tattvaṁ bhagavan-mahimno
na cānya eko 'pi ciraṁ vicinvan

"My Lord, if one is favored by even a slight trace of the mercy of Your lotus feet, he can understand the greatness of Your personality. But those who speculate to understand the Supreme Personality of Godhead are unable to know You, even though they continue to study the *Vedas* for many years." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.14.29)

That mercy comes to us through Vyāsadeva's authorized representative, the spiritual master, whose guidance is essential. Only by the guru's grace can we comprehend Vedic truths. As the *Upaniṣads* say:

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

"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)

The *Vedas* themselves confirm this point. Paraphrasing the words of the personified *Vedas* from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.87.33 in his *Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead* (chapter 87), Śrīla Prabhupāda writes: "The personified *Vedas* continued: 'Dear Lord, although great mystic *yogīs* may have full control over the elephant of the mind and the hurricane of the senses, unless they take shelter of a bona fide spiritual master, they fall victim to the material influence and are never successful in their attempts at self-realization. Such unguided persons are compared to merchants going to sea on a ship without a captain. By one's personal attempts, therefore, one cannot get free from the clutches of material nature. One has to accept a bona fide spiritual master and work according to his direction. Then it is possible to cross over the nescience of material conditions."

We thus owe everything to Śrīla Prabhupāda, the authorized representative of Vyāsadeva. Without his grace, we would be rotting in this material world, with no idea how to save ourselves – especially as we now find ourselves immersed in the darkness of Kali-yuga, where ignorance abounds. As the sages of Naimiṣāraṇya said to Sūta Gosvāmī:

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 a human being." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.22)

The spiritual master is the captain of the ship that sails us to freedom, rescuing us from a shoreless sea of suffering in which we have floundered for longer than we can even begin to imagine. Our debt to him and all his forbears is inestimable and can never be repaid. We therefore worship his lotus feet with utmost respect on the auspicious occasion of Vyāsa-pūjā.

– Krishna Dharma Dāsa

"Adore, Adore Ye All The Happy Day"

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

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

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

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

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

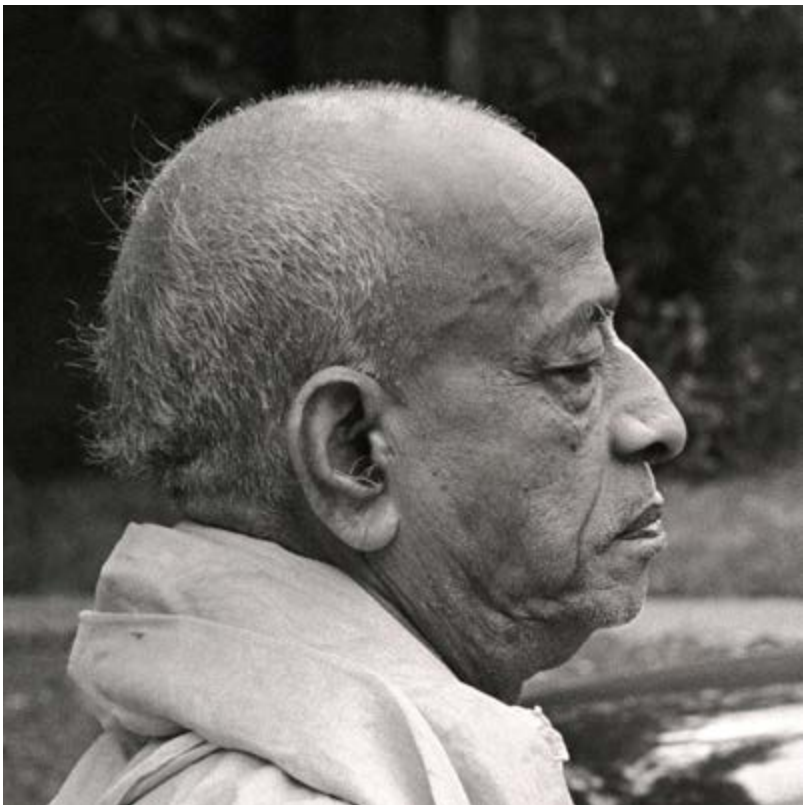
4. Forgotten Krishna,
   We fallen souls
   Paying most heavy
   The illusion's toll.
   Darkness around,
   All untrace.
   The only hope
   His Divine Grace.

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

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

7. Had you not come,
   Who had told
   The message of Krishna,
   Forceful and bold?
   That's your right,
   You have the mace.
   Save me a fallen,
   Your Divine Grace.

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



Homages from the GBC

Acyuta Priya Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. Let me try offering you a few words of worthy glorification.

When I think about what you've done for the mission of Lord Caitanya, it makes me very grave and humble. Your glories will not disappear into the shadows over the coming centuries. Rather, your glories will shine brighter and brighter in the upcoming ages, like a rising sun shines brighter and brighter. The world will see the true value and sweetness of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you brought into it.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is always attractive to the soul – no doubt about it. Examining your mission and legacy, I understand that your ideas can catch the attention of the world. You have genius ideas that can transform the world and make it more susceptible to take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. No external obstacles can stand in the way of the tide of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The only question that rises in my mind in this regard is about my own qualification. I understand that to spread your mission you need some instruments to work through. As your preachers, we have to be up to the mark that your purity demands. You said to your followers that to be a preacher, a guru, is an easy thing: one need only repeat what one has heard from you.

> "I am this, I am that. How can I become guru?" Caitanya Mahāprabhu said, "No, it is very easy thing." *Yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa, āmāra ājñāya guru haṅā tāra' ei deśa*.... You become guru simply by advising everyone the instruction which Kṛṣṇa has given. That's all. You become guru. It is not at all difficult thing. But if you want to cheat others that you are Bhagavān, you are this and that, you are yogi, you are very powerful, and I am God, then you will cheat, because you are neither God; you are less than a dog. You are falsely claiming that you are God. That is not your position. You are servant of God – that is your position. That is real *jñāna*. (Lecture, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.25.43, Bombay, December 11, 1974)

On the one hand it is very easy to become your instrument – it is the easiest thing to do. On the other hand it is most difficult for a conditioned soul used to working under the spell of *ahaṅkāra*.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day of your appearance, I pray at your lotus feet for the strength and ability to always stay chaste to your instructions and standard of purity. Let me become a suitable tool and channel of yours and your followers' mercy.

Your unworthy servant,
Acyuta Priya Dāsa

Acyutātmā Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. Allow me to express my gratitude and appreciation on this blessed day of your appearance!

śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala-bhakati-sadma

How can one attain *kevala-bhakti,* pure, unalloyed devotion? Only devotion to the lotus feet of the spiritual master can detach us from the material concept of happiness and show us the way to a pure abode where love and endless happiness can quench our thirst.

At an advanced age, when you traveled to Western countries, you set an example of faithfulness to the instructions of your spiritual master and the *guru-paramparā*.

By keeping the spiritual master's instructions in your heart as your life and soul, you passed through many trials and overcame many difficulties, spreading the glories of devotional service.

By your example and enthusiasm, you awakened the seed of devotion in the people whom Kṛṣṇa sent you. Defying all material values, you steadfastly resisted the onslaught of material nature, taking shelter of the holy name and the scriptures.

What would we be doing now if you hadn't left us these amazing books that are full of spiritual power? Your voice and your instructions give us shelter and a taste for pure devotional service.

Before you left this world, you many times expressed concern about the future of ISKCON. How would your students be able to carry your spirit and, by cooperating with one another, strengthen the international movement? You said "intelligence and organization," "intelligence and organization"...

You established the GBC and personally trained its first members. You taught them how to manage an organization – how to be leaders. Despite the fact that you were absorbed in writing your books, you checked bank accounts, settled conflicts between devotees, and monitored the development of ISKCON's reputation.

This year, on Rāma-navamī, we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Deities' installation in Vrindavan, at the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple. Your disciples shared their memories of those times. This is your victory!

During that Deity installation, even during your lifetime your *mūrti* was installed. Someone asked you, "Swamiji, people will touch your feet and get rid of their sins." With a heart full of love and compassion, you answered, "This is my mission." Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are so great!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is a real refuge for me to participate in the development and maintenance of ISKCON. Material nature puts so many obstacles and challenges in the way, but your example always inspires confidence and determination in my heart.

Please allow me to continue my efforts to develop your mission, which I have received from the entire *guru-paramparā* and Lord Caitanya Himself! Let me be useful in this service.

The servant of your servants,
Acyutātmā Dāsa

Anuttama Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, with each year that passes it becomes more and more obvious how dependent we are on your mercy, your teachings, and your example.

Thank you for continuing to guide us and nurture us. Thank you for teaching us via thousands of pages of instructions in your books. Thank you for appearing in your *mūrti* form in temples worldwide, where you continue to accept our obeisances and prayers. Thank you for guiding us via hundreds of recorded lectures, in which you at once plead, coach, embrace, and call out to each of us to come closer to you and to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Thank you for instructing us to call out the Lord's name with feeling, to surrender to the Supreme Beloved, to give up our foolish attempts at capturing happiness through our senses, and to stop blindly following our rebellious materialistic minds.

You are so kind to be ever present for us, Śrīla Prabhupāda – year after year after year. You are our constant friend, guru, and example amidst the ocean of material distress.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as this Age of Quarrel gains momentum, we see that all over the world polarization and hatred between peoples and tribes and nations is increasing. We are trying to realize and share your message, the message of our *ācāryas,* that the world belongs to Kṛṣṇa (*īśāvāsyam idam sarvam*) and that peace will only come through living cooperatively as children of God. But it is hard. People are so overcome by bitterness and spite.

By your grace only, Śrīla Prabhupāda, can we have the opportunity to overcome that darkness. By your grace only, Śrīla Prabhupāda, can we become beacons of light – as a society of Vaiṣṇavas, as individual devotees, as citizens, mothers, fathers, neighbors, employers, employees, and as friends and colleagues.

But sadly, the world around us impels us to hurt ourselves and others. The world impels us to cheat. The world impels us to be full of hate and anger and jealously and envy. It is practically demanding that we do so. It is tempting us to do so. It is prodding us to do so. But you have given us the secret to rising beyond all that, the Lord's holy name:

Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rama Rāma Hare Hare

Śrīla Prabhupāda, there are so many religious and spiritual people in this world who do not practice what they preach. It is so common that young people have given up on elders and institutions. They hanker for authenticity. They find instead hypocrisy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were and are the perfect manifestation of authenticity. This is one of your greatest qualities – one that attracted thousands and today attracts millions to take shelter of you. If we want to be counted as among your followers, if we want to preach and teach and serve you and follow you, we too need to become authentic. Not shallow, and not proud – we need to become humble Vaiṣṇavas, trying our utmost to respect all others, to be kind to all others, and to be servants of all others.

This year, as part of the ISKCON Leadership seminar, "Being Guru in ISKCON," the GBC Guru Services Committee members felt obliged to add to the course (which is mandatory for devotees taking up the service of initiating guru) several hours of instruction about "spiritual abuse."

Why did we do that? How can a spiritual organization have abuse? And why would ISKCON need to teach about it, warn against it, guard against it? Some may argue that our needing to do so proves that ISKCON has deviated from your path of purity.

But in reality, the opposite is true. The fact that we "take on" spiritual abuse openly, that we discuss it, teach about it, and try to minimize it – if not eliminate it – is proof of how your pure example continues to motivate us.

This is the dilemma that faces a sincere soul on the path of bhakti. We are by nature pure and eternal servants of God. Endeavoring again to serve Him, we take on greater and greater responsibilities to share His message. But every day, every moment, and at every turn we remain vulnerable to forgetfulness and to trying again to exploit others and the world around us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is because of your purity, and the maturing of our faith in that purity, that we can teach about spiritual abuse – how to avoid it and how to overcome it, and, how we must always be on guard so that our controlling and exploitative tendencies may not overwhelm us, even as we try our best to love and serve the Lord.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you give us the strength to resist these tendencies and the honesty to pray for protection against such tendencies. You have taught us that the soul is originally pure; that the soul is meant to love God; and that each one of your followers must enthusiastically carry that message forward. But we must ever be on guard and never forget that each of us is very small. And *māyā,* illusion, is very strong.

Armed with that knowledge and with the awareness of our need for protection at every moment, we pray that all devotees, starting with ourselves and including even the topmost leaders, may be empowered with a deep understanding of our own limitations. We must have the courage to say to ourselves and to others, "Yes, I can be a messenger on behalf of Śrīla Prabhupāda and Lord Kṛṣṇa. But yes, I can also deviate and harm others if I'm not careful. I must be trained. I must be held accountable. I must hear every day from our founder-*ācārya,* from my gurus, my elders, and my peers to help me remember that I am but a humble servant."

Most importantly, I – we – must remember that we are completely dependent upon the mercy of the Lord and our founder-*ācārya*. It is your example, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your teaching, your grace and your authenticity that keep us safe.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for being present in our lives, in your books, in your lectures, in your *mūrtis,* and in your society, and for reminding us again and again to never mistreat others or misuse our power, our knowledge, our influence, or our status. We are always but insignificant servants of you and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Please keep us eternally in the shelter of your lotus feet.

Your servant,
Anuttama Dāsa

Badrinarayan Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

When Lord Caitanya first met Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī and Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī, they offered the Lord the following prayers (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 1.204–206):

> We are very depressed at being unfit candidates for Your mercy. Yet since we have heard of Your transcendental qualities, we are very much attracted to You.
>
> Indeed, we are like a dwarf who wants to capture the moon. Although we are completely unfit, a desire to receive Your mercy is awakening within our minds.
>
> By serving You constantly, one is freed from all material desires and is completely pacified. When shall I engage as Your permanent eternal servant and always feel joyful to have such a fitting master?

At the time, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī and Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī were known as Dabira Khāsa and Sākara Mallika. Lord Caitanya changed their names, and you explain in the purport that this was their initiation. You write that with the change of name, with initiation, one begins a new life.

Although I am so unqualified and insignificant, you have given this greatest of gifts to me as well. You have given me a new and wonderful life. You expressed this transformation in your 1936 Vyāsa-pūjā offering to your own spiritual master:

> Message of Service
> Thou hast brought.
> A healthful life
> As Caitanya wrought.
> Unknown to all
> It's full of brace.
> That's your gift
> Your Divine Grace.

By your grace, I wake up and look at the new day before me as a fresh adventure. At the end of the day, I go to sleep deeply grateful for the opportunities you have given me to serve.

How can I ever repay you? The answer is: "Only by increasing my gratitude every day for the sublime life you have given me."

May I always remain in your service,
Badrinarayan Swami

Bhakti Caitanya Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to your Divine Grace.

It is only by your divine grace that I am still living in this same body and that I continue to live this amazing life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Where would I be without you? I hate to think, but it would absolutely certainly be somewhere not nice at all, to say the least.

Mukunda Mahārāja tells us that one day, in a meeting with you, you became deeply absorbed in remembrance of your own spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and tears flowed down your cheeks. "My spiritual master," you said, and your voice, he says, choked to gravel. "My spiritual master," you said, "he was no ordinary spiritual master." You paused again and then whispered falteringly, "He saved me."

I have sometimes thought of this amazing transcendental happening and wondered what exactly you meant when you said "He saved me." You were born in a family of devotees and your father was a pure devotee. What was there to be saved from? But this is how you felt, and we respect that, and it is another deep expression of yours that we relish and appreciate.

On the other hand, someone like me was definitely saved. Sometimes people talk of a fate worse than death. They feel that death is the end and there's nothing beyond it. Everything is just finished, and they feel this is the greatest disaster possible. But we know that there is a fate worse than death, and that is to go to the hellish planets and suffer untold miseries for all the terrible sinful activities we have performed. This was certainly the case in regards to me, and you literally saved me from it.

I remember sitting in front of the very large photo of you seated on a *vyāsāsana* in your lounge at the Bury Place temple in Central London. It was January 1973, and I had recently moved into the temple. I was gradually realizing more vividly how you had saved me from hellish existence. The realization overwhelmed me, and tears came from my eyes. I couldn't understand why you had done that for someone as degraded as me, and the feeling of having received causeless mercy swept me away to another realm.

But this is you. You are a savior, and all owe you an incalculable debt. You were no ordinary spiritual master, and you saved us from fates worse than death.

Now our time is running out. Have we done enough to reciprocate with you for the inestimable gifts you have given us? Is it possible to reciprocate sufficiently? Of course not, but let us try our best in these last few years we have left to do something – as much as we can – to show you our gratitude.

My prayer on this most sacred day is that Lord Kṛṣṇa gives me more intelligence so I can appreciate you more and more and reciprocate more and more. Let that be my meditation and the foundation of my life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I thank you again and again for saving me. May your glories be spread throughout the three worlds. You deserve it.

Your humble and lowly servant,
Bhakti Caitanya Swami

Bhakti Puruṣottama Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Thank you for engaging me in the service of the Lord by your causeless mercy. I am one of the most fallen persons, but I am trying my best to please the Vaiṣṇavas and the *guru-paramparā*.

By your causeless mercy, now people from around the world are accepting Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your Divine Grace is empowered by Lord Kṛṣṇa to deliver the people of the whole universe. By your mercy, preaching programs among tribal people are going on very nicely. Recently, we celebrated a tribal convention at Māyāpur, where more than two thousand tribal people participated. More and more tribal people are supporting our endeavors.

Book distribution in Māyāpur is increasing more and more every year. This year ISKCON Māyāpur's *saṅkīrtana* division remitted eleven crores of rupees to the BBT. Your Divine Grace ordered His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja, "I am giving you the kingdom of God. You develop it." His Holiness has worked tirelessly to follow your order, and Māyāpur has developed a lot from what it was when Your Divine Grace left this world. You have given many orders to my Guru Mahārāja, His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja. I am trying my best to help him fulfill your orders.

Please bless me so I can serve Your Divine Grace eternally under the supervision of your dear disciple and my spiritual master, His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja.

Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your servant,
Bhakti Puruṣottama Swami

Bhaktivaibhava Swami

I offer my humble obeisances to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda:

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

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

I remember seeing Śrīla Prabhupāda for the first time at the Paris temple in 1973. I had already been second initiated. He was sitting on the *vyāsāsana,* chanting the *Jaya Rādhā-Mādhava* prayer, and I was sitting right in front of him. The temple room was packed with devotees and guests. The chanting became so intense that I felt a spontaneous urge to stand up and raise my arms. There was a picture of Lord Kṛṣṇa on the wall, and it seemed to come alive. When I turned around, I noticed groups of devotees staring at different pictures on the walls, and it appeared

they were having a similar experience. We strongly felt that Śrīla Prabhupāda was not alone; he was accompanied by Lord Kṛṣṇa. He brought the spiritual world into our temporary world of material reality.

We accompanied Śrīla Prabhupāda every day on his morning walks. I brought my notebook and pen with me to capture every word he spoke. I wanted to write the words down exactly as he said them, as I did not trust my memory. The way he articulated the philosophy was so perfect that I wanted to preserve it for later study and memorization, without any alteration. The practical examples he gave, along with his anecdotes and humor, strengthened our faith in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. He was the perfect example of a spiritual master who opens the eyes of his disciples with the torchlight of transcendental knowledge.

These morning walks, which I later experienced in Germany, Sweden, and other countries, were a great source of inspiration. The close association with Śrīla Prabhupāda – hearing from him, seeing him, asking him questions – was priceless. On one of those morning walks he pointed with his cane to a rain cloud and mentioned that it contained tons of water. Somehow, the water was preserved in the cloud. A small bird, which weighs almost nothing compared to the water in the cloud, will fall to the ground instantly when it stops flying. And when the water falls from the cloud, it does so as small drops of rain or, in the wintertime, as snowflakes. "This is Kṛṣṇa," Śrīla Prabhupāda said, his eyes wide open. He filled our hearts with joy and hope, making us feel that one day, we might be able to be with His Divine Grace in the spiritual world, assisting him in his eternal service to Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's servant,
Bhaktivaibhava Swami

Bir Krishna dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

In your second *praṇāma-mantra* we are informed that your mission is to preach the pure message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the world, which is infected with impersonalism and voidism. Of course, the direct meaning of the mantra indicates the Western world. However, because the whole world is infected with Western values, I can understand that your *praṇāma-mantra* implicitly refers to the entire world.

You taught that the philosophies of impersonalism and voidism are not only incorrect and deviations from the true understanding of the Absolute Truth, but they also constitute offenses

against the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, being insurmountable stumbling blocks on the path of self-realization.

You enabled us to understand and avoid the subtle manifestations of impersonalism and voidism, which often masquerade as bhakti. The *sahajiyā* tendency is a very insidious form of impersonalism. You dealt very strongly with the tendency of neophyte devotees to consider themselves more advanced than they actually are, and their consequent attempt to perform aspects of bhakti that they did not have the right to perform.

> **Prabhupāda:** First of all, *anartha-nivṛtti*. You are accustomed to so many bad habits. First of all, try to rectify it, then talk of *svarūpa*. Where is your *svarūpa*? Simply wasting time. A man is diseased, he's thinking, "When I shall be cured I shall eat, go to this hotel, I shall eat like this." First of all, cure, then talk of eating this and that. *Svarūpa* ... When you are cured, that is *svarūpa*. So long you are not cured, what is the use of talking *svarūpa*? First business is cure yourself. *Anartha-nivṛtti*. That is *anartha-nivṛtti*. (Garden conversation, June 23, 1976, New Vrindavan)

In this connection, we should be careful about the so-called *siddha-praṇālī*. The *siddha-praṇālī* process is followed by a class of men who are not very authorized and who have manufactured their own way of devotional service. They imagine that they have become associates of the Lord simply by thinking of themselves like that. This external behavior is not at all according to the regulative principles. The so-called *siddha-praṇālī* process is followed by the *prākṛta-sahajiyā,* a pseudosect of so-called Vaiṣṇavas. In the opinion of Rūpa Gosvāmī, such activities are simply disturbances to the standard way of devotional service. (*The Nectar of Devotion,* "Eligibility for Spontaneous Devotional Service")

> **Prabhupāda:** Yes. One has to come to that highest stage. It is not forbidden. That may be ideal, but not for the neophytes. You must ... One who does not know A-B-C-D, what he will know about MA degrees? That they do not know. They think that they have already passed MA degree. That is their fault.
>
> **Tamāl Krishna:** There's another statement, I saw them, where it says ... it's a quote, that you can treat Kṛṣṇa as your lover and Kṛṣṇa will reciprocate.
>
> **Hari-śauri:** And they underlined the two words "you can" treat Kṛṣṇa as your lover. Like that. In this way they're taking your quotes out of context.
>
> **Rāmeśvara:** This is one of their main ... the main ideas in their philosophy is that the living entity can desire to have any relationship he wants with Kṛṣṇa.
>
> **Prabhupāda:** That's all right, he can desire. I already explained: first deserve, then desire.
>
> **Tamāl Krishna and Rāmeśvara:** Deserve, then desire. Oh.
>
> **Prabhupāda:** You are rascal. How you can desire? You have no qualification. You desire to high-court judge. What is this nonsense?
>
> **Rāmeśvara:** But then they have an answer.
>
> **Prabhupāda:** What is that answer?
>
> **Rāmeśvara:** That "Let me just try it anyway, to keep my mind thinking ..."
>
> **Prabhupāda:** How you can try it? First of all be qualified, a big lawyer. Then you

become high-court judge. Where is that qualification? You are after illicit sex and *bīḍī* and you want to be associated with the *gopīs*.

Rāmeśvara: They say that "In ISKCON, we do not ..."

Prabhupāda: Let them say all nonsense. They are disqualified. *Sahajiyā bābājīs,* that's all.

You are following in the footsteps of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, who would brook no nonsense deviation. In a similar vein he wrote: "If one still has unwanted material impediments (*anarthas*) present in their performance of devotional service (*sādhana*), then *rasa* can never truly awaken. When the holy name of the Lord is chanted from the platform of pure ecstatic emotions (*bhāva*), then the cheating mood born of pretentious devotional mellows can never be present."

I pray to always remember your words written on the appearance anniversary of your spiritual master: "Personally, I have no hope of 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 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 recollections: 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 humility at my command."

Before obtaining your shelter I had no conception of the difference between personalism, impersonalism, and voidism, or the inherent danger of not being able to discriminate between them. Your teachings have enabled me to avoid the spiritual suicide of accepting anything other than pure personalism. I fully trust that if I always remain in your service and associate with your servitors, I will be protected from this danger.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for sheltering me and always protecting me.

Your eternal servant,
Bir Krishna dāsa Goswami

Chandrasekhara Acharya Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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, 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."

The following well-known verse from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.1.10) sums up the unfortunate condition of the people of Kali-yuga:

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.

Your appearance in this world and your consequent spreading of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement all over the world gave, and continues to give us an opportunity to live an eternal life in Goloka Vrindavan. Your teachings and example guide us through the stormy waters of Kali-yuga. Your association gives us the fortune required to accept the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness as given by Your Divine Grace. By sincerely trying to follow your example and teachings, we will be able to overcome the disturbances of our own mind and of Kali-yuga in general. Your persistent determination inspires us to push through our own lazy nature to serve guru and Gaurāṅga. Your repeated requests that we cooperate with one another to push forward the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya helps us to overcome our quarrelsome habits. In short, everything about you and what you have done for your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, are the guiding lights and inspiration for all your followers now and for many, many years into the future.

Your prayer, *Mārkine Bhāgavata Dharma,* which you wrote upon your arrival in Boston on September 17, 1965, beautifully illustrates the first line of your purport to *Bhāgavatam* 1.1.10: "The devotees of the Lord are always anxious for the spiritual improvement of the general public." Though each and every verse is meaningful and touching, I only include verses 10–15 in this offering to your Divine Grace.

> 10: How will I make them understand this message of Krsna 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.
>
> 11: 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.
>
> 12: O spiritual master of all the worlds! I can simply repeat Your message, so if You like You can make my power of speaking suitable for their understanding.
>
> 13: Only by Your causeless mercy will my words become pure. I am sure that when this transcendental message penetrates their hearts, they will certainly feel engladdened and thus become liberated from all unhappy conditions of life.
>
> 14: O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So, if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like.

15: I have no devotion, nor do I have any knowledge, but I have strong faith in the holy name of Krsna. I have been designated as Bhaktivedanta, and now, if You like, You can fulfill the real purport of Bhaktivedanta.

These verses reveal the appropriate mood we, your followers, should aim to have in order to properly assist you in spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Your humility, compassion, determination, and dependence on the Lord shine forth in this prayer. Your example, mood, and qualities, as illustrated in this prayer, are the guiding lights that better illuminate the path of going back home, back to Godhead, whilst reminding us that we need to help others do the same.

On this day of your appearance in this world, I aim to better and more sincerely remember you, your wonderful qualities, and everything you have done for all of us and the whole world.

Praying to remain a servant at the lotus feet of Your Divine Grace and your followers.

Your humble servant,
Chandrasekhara Acharya Dāsa

Devakīnandana Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Though the passage of time deteriorates everything and everyone in this material world, this same passage of time, over all these years since your blessed appearance and subsequent disappearance, has not diminished the purity of your instructions, your spiritual legacy, or your gift of devotional service to the world.

Throughout your lifetime you reminded us that your legacy will be based on how much we can remember Kṛṣṇa and serve Him in pure devotional service. I pray at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you gift me with your causeless mercy to be an unworthy but enthusiastic instrument in your service.

This material world has become increasing complex, and the living entities are filled with, among other things, disagreements, quarrel and strife. In this connection, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am reminded of an instruction from the *avadhūta* to Prahlāda Mahārāja in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.13.42. This instruction gives me great inspiration and hope. The verse and your superexcellent translation of it read as follows:

nāhaṁ ninde na ca staumi
sva-bhāva-viṣamaṁ janam
eteṣāṁ śreya āśāse
utaikātmyaṁ mahātmani

> Different people are of different mentalities. Therefore it is not my business either to praise them or to blaspheme them. I only desire their welfare, hoping that they will agree to become one with the Supersoul, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as I reflect on your life in this world, I realize that you lived this verse on a daily basis. Your deep compassion for humanity and all living entities was born from this highly elevated mood of accepting diverse mentalities and not condemning or praising them for the sake of the same. Instead, your instructions, your love, your chastisements and firmness in dealing with all living entities arose from a deep desire for their spiritual welfare. Instead of criticizing the living entities or finding fault with them, you *served* them by breaking open the treasure house of the holy names and devotional service and distributing them freely to one and all, in every town and village.

In an instructive purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.18.9, which so aptly describes you and your sincere disciples, you wrote:

> Prahlāda Mahārāja is a typical Vaiṣṇava. He prays not for himself but for all living entities – the gentle, the envious, and the mischievous. He always thought of the welfare of mischievous persons like his father, Hiraṇyakaśipu. Prahlāda Mahārāja did not ask for anything for himself; rather, he prayed for the Lord to excuse his demoniac father. This is the attitude of a Vaiṣṇava, who always thinks of the welfare of the entire universe.

My humble prayer, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is to remain absorbed in your instructions and strictly follow them. Please guide me through your books, your instructions, and the hallowed *saṅga* of the devotees in ISKCON so that I may achieve this state of purity and true freedom from envy that was your hallmark and that you lived by your example.

Your servant,
Devakīnandana Dāsa (MVG)
Singapore

Gaurāṅga Dāsa

Hare Kṛṣṇa! Most respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I consider myself extremely fortunate to write this Vyāsa-pūjā offering, and I request you to please accept it at your lotus feet. I view this as an opportunity to think about you deeply, remember your glorious pastimes, and feel grateful to be serving your *paramparā*.

I pen this Vyāsa-pūjā offering in a year that we celebrated and sought the blessings of the Supreme Lord at the most auspicious Maha Kumbha Mela. I would like to recall your fond association with this holy event.

Quoting from your lecture on *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 20.124–25, given in Bombay in 1971: you called out the statement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu: *bhārata-bhūmite manuṣya-janma haila yāra* and said, "Anyone who has taken birth as a human being in the land of Bhārata-varṣa. Śrī Bhārata-varṣa – the India, India is the land of religion, land of piety. That's a fact. And still, even in this downtrodden condition. We have been in Kumbha Mela. Millions of men, daily coming, without any advertisement, to take a dip in the Ganges and Yamuna. By nature they are. Don't try to cut down, try to utilize it and spread it all over the world. That is His ... (indistinct) ... that is the order of Lord Caitanya: *bhārata-bhūmite manuṣya-janma haila yāra janma sārthaka kari' kara para-upakāra*."

You cited the Kumbha Mela to signify the piety innately present in every *jīva* born in this *puṇya* Bhārata-bhūmi. Even fifty-four years after this lecture, your statement stands true, as more than 660 million devotees participated in the holy Maha Kumbha Mela at Prayagraj this year. The news media was buzzing with stories of the festival, and people from all walks of life took time out from their schedules to participate. You will be pleased to know that your devotees from ISKCON served pilgrims at the holy site. As you are well aware, this year's communion had the highest significance, as it's the Maha Kumbha, a rare occurrence the comes only every 144 years, beyond the Ardh Kumbha and Purna Kumbha festivals. It's the rarest of rare blessing showered upon the bhakta taking the holy dip in the Triveni Sangam.

As I think of this spiritual significance along with the celestial combinations associated with it, I am spellbound by the creations of the Supreme Lord. At the same time, as these festivals come and go, I am also made to think of another analogy.

Over millennia we have had multiple *ācāryas* who have come and gone; they appeared to establish or reestablish dharma, to inspire multitudes of people with the message of the Supreme Lord, to give direction to rudderless minds, and to spread what's most important for their particular audience based on time, place, and circumstances. Śrīpāda Śaṅkarācārya, Śrīpāda Rāmānujācārya, Śrīpāda Madhvācārya, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Śrīpāda Vallabhācārya, the Gosvāmīs of Vrindavan, to name a few – each of them had a purpose, came with a divine cause, and inspired millions of people.

As I think about your appearance alongside this list of *ācāryas,* I feel inspired to say that you are the Maha Kumbha *ācārya,* who appeared on this planet to shower the choicest mercy upon the most fallen condition souls, including me. It's a rarest of rare blessing showered for a few years in a millennium, similar to how this Maha Kumbha Mela window happened for a few days this year.

As the *senāpati* of Śrī Caitanya Mahaprabhu's divine army, you appeared in this golden age of Kali-yuga to spread the holy name to every town and village and shower that choicest mercy onto every *jīva* irrespective of nationality, caste, creed, gender, race, or ethnicity. While people need to

travel to the Kumbha festivities in India to take the holy dip, you are so compassionate that you traveled from India to the Western world to shower mercy there. The holy dip is chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, the *yuga-dharma*. In this age of conflict, you offered the easiest method to attain the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa – the chanting of the holy name:

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

Even if people didn't take the dip (chant), you and your devotees chanted the holy names so loudly that the names entered their ears to make them experience the dip (imagine sprinkling the water). Such was your compassion!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I feel extremely moved when I think of all the physical struggles and mental agonies you had to endure in your late sixties as you set yourself on this mission to establish this International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Any other gentleman at that stage of life would have comforted himself in the divine association of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara in Vrindavan, but you, the most merciful, embraced all these challenges to sprinkle this shower of the holy name of the Supreme Lord on millions of *jīvas* across the globe.

As I recall your life and pastimes, I am reminded of the Vaiṣṇava song: *parama karuṇa, pahū dui jana, nitāi-gauracandra* – you are *parama-karuṇa,* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu, adhama janāra bandhu,
lokanātha lokera jīvana

hā hā prabhu koro doyā, deho more pada-chāyā,
ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tri-bhuvana

> Our spiritual master is the ocean of mercy, the friend of the poor, and the lord and master of the devotees. O Lokanātha Gosvāmī! O master! Be merciful unto me. Give me the shade of your lotus feet. Your fame is spread all over the three worlds.

Thank you very much for your compassion, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your *Līlāmṛta* is an inspiration for me, and I draw lessons from it in my life daily.

Today, on the auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I meditate on your divine appearance, the causeless and rarest of rare mercy you showered upon *jīvas* for centuries to come, and I sincerely seek your blessings. 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

On the Eve of ISKCON's Sixtieth Anniversary

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on the holy occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your overflowing mercy I have survived yet another year in your service. I am deeply grateful and indebted to you for granting me shelter within your glorious ISKCON and for allowing me to associate with your ever-glorious devotees. Your presence is felt in the ringing of every bell and the blowing of every conch shell. Your order is carried in the heart of every follower, and your spirit of love and sharing continues to pour from the pages of your books into the hearts of all who follow you. Your words and writings are the sanctified ghee that will continue to ignite the devotional lives of countless fortunate souls who come to your movement. In this way, you will live forever through your books and instructions.

Both your written and spoken words remain sacrosanct. While on the *Jaladuta,* you prayed to Lord Caitanya:

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you prayed in your mother tongue and preached in the language of those you sought to save. Your transcendental message has certainly gladdened the hearts of millions, and your unparalleled sacrifice and compassion have indeed lifted us out of the unhappy conditions of life.

Humanity has neither currency, words, nor capacity to thank you for the greatest gift ever given. You have given us a sense of purpose and changed the direction of many lives.

Just as the beauty of a mountain is best seen from a distance, your glories will only grow exponentially with the passage of time. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, adorned with the beauty of a golden mountain, opened the storehouse of love of Godhead to share the bliss and sweetness of Kṛṣṇa's holy name. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you delivered that bliss and sweetness to the most undeserving, in foreign lands and without reservation.

This is the unique characteristic of our *sampradāya* – the strong desire to share and share. Even at an advanced age, Śrīla Kavirāja Gosvāmī wrote the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. You, too, at an advanced age, translated those words into the language of the most undeserving. Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura was unable to find a copy of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* despite extensive research. Yet you made it easily available – today and forever – to every human being on the planet.

When the world was asleep, you wrote to awaken it. You gave us the gift of your precious time. Your compassion, captured in the pages of your books, remains available to even the most ordinary person. It continues to touch the lives of people you never met and those yet to be born. There is simply no record in human history of a such a precious gift, prepared and delivered under the most trying of circumstances.

On your thirty-five-day voyage aboard a cargo ship, you endured seasickness and a massive

heart attack, yet you remained unwavering in your resolve to fulfill your spiritual master's order. Your unmatched determination is akin to Dhruva Mahārāja's steadfast commitment and resilience in seeking the Lord. He got a planet. We got ISKCON.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the eve of the sixtieth anniversary of your ISKCON, we thank you again and again. And again.

Somehow, I remain in your service. I pray to Your Divine Grace to kindly allow my lowly self to remain amongst your devotees and within your ISKCON.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year we made some bold decisions to ensure that your *Back to Godhead* magazine remains available forever. The digital revolution has forced the printing industry to redefine its role and find innovative ways to stay relevant in a digital world. We have relocated the printing and publishing functions to Johannesburg, South Africa. Plans are underway to embark on a digital strategy, accompanied by a regular BTG podcast. Kindly bless the BTG team as they bring the moving pieces together to make your cherished magazine – the backbone of your movement – permanently available to the world and your devotees.

This year, I have also intensified my GBC service. I am blessed to serve the devotees in East Africa as a servant of your illustrious son, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, who has inspired and built a spiritual metropolis of farms and temples throughout the region. From one wonderful devotee so many other wonderful devotees have emerged – it is a wonder to behold your magical influence. Another significant project has already been launched in the fast-growing city of Eldoret.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year, we are also celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of your arrival in southern Africa. Devotees have planned a garland of festivals and celebrations to honor your blessed arrival on African shores, for which we remain forever grateful.

After a long struggle, your devotees in Mauritius have legally secured your Krishna-Balarama farm. The Temple of Unity in Phoenix, now in an advanced stage of construction, will stand as a landmark on the island. In South Africa, your young grandson, of African descent, is preparing to take *sannyāsa*. Another bold and dedicated grandson is single-handedly preaching on the island of Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean, home to the world's smallest capital city. And the African Regional Governing Body has now been officially established, promoting a synergistic approach to preaching.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are striving to fulfill your instructions for Africa. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious 129th anniversary of your appearance in this world. May you forever be remembered for your extraordinary benevolence and the priceless gift you gave the world. May your glories be spread across the African continent and throughout the entire world.

Your ever indebted servant,
Govardhana Dāsa

Guru Prasad Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your holy lotus feet. All glories to you, who are an ocean of mercy and performed unfathomable and unimaginable quantities of service.

Recently, I have received a large area of responsibility. For me, it is overwhelming, but for you it would be like picking up a blade of grass. Your ability to do whatever necessary to please Kṛṣṇa and His devotees is my only source of inspiration in performing this service. In this present circumstance, I'd begun to realize to some degree, how much you did for us and how much you were willing to sacrifice to establish your transcendental movement. Yet your compassionate nature encompasses our contributions, and you would simply say, "Thank you very much."

You always walked at very fast gait
Yet by compassion for us you wait
So much service has come my way
But merely a drop for you, like play

I feel like a dwarf trying to reach the moon. Your moonlike demeanor makes those apparently impossible goals attainable. It is simply by your empowerment that I can achieve anything in the realm of devotional service, which is beyond the scope of my material consciousness: *kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana*. By your grace the means to accomplish the seemingly intangible objectives laid down by you and the previous *ācāryas* have been delivered: *kali-kālera dharma – kṛṣṇa-nāma-saṅkīrtana*. You spoon-fed us with the holy name, although we resisted, driven by our conditioning and attachments. But these melt away by the tireless and inexhaustible gift you delivered without any personal expectation and only to please your Guru Mahārāja and Lord Caitanya.

No, it is my duty to accept that incomparable endowment without hesitation and apply it to every aspect of my life, service, thoughts, and words. That can only be gained by adherence to your divine instructions and example. Please infuse that determination in my heart, thereby allowing me to serve you in the best way possible.

Your undeserving but totally dependent servant,
Guru Prasad Swami

Hṛdaya Caitanya Dāsa

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you and to the *guru-paramparā* on your auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day.

At a senior age of 69 years, you started to travel abroad, not because you were attracted by some adventure trip to the US; on the contrary, you were well situated. You considered Vrindavan

your home, and you were very much satisfied with the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple facilities. Although simple and sober, they were very much in line with your lifestyle of simple living and high thinking.

The real reason you went abroad is because your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Prabhupāda, requested you to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. He made this request in 1922, when you were a young householder, age 26, with one child. Many years later, in 1936, two weeks before leaving this planet, your spiritual master repeated his request by responding to your letter: "I think you should try to push our movement in English. And that will do good to you and to the people who will help you."

You took the order of your Guru Mahārāja to heart, and after a lifetime of preparation, renunciation, and a struggle to get your visa documents, you bravely stepped aboard the *Jaladuta* on August 13, 1965, and embarked on an unknown chapter of your life with 100 percent confidence in the protection of Lord Kṛṣṇa and the blessings of the *guru-paramparā*.

Nobody understands the spell of Māyā better than you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and by your great compassion for the conditioned living entities, you desired they be saved from the trap of Māyā through your transcendental weapons – the *mahā-mantra,* the Vedic scriptures, your association, the association of the devotees, and your teachings.

After more than five hundred years, Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's desire for the *mahā-mantra* to be chanted all over the world is slowly coming to pass. The numbers of initiated devotees have increased from about 5,000 in 1977 to an estimated 250,000 in 2025.

The philosophy of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is a science. By sincerely following the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with enthusiasm and determination in the association of devotees, the conditioned soul makes spiritual advancement.

The Kṛṣṇa conscious roadmap given by you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is perfect. When something is lacking, it's on our side, caused by old bad habits, laziness, lack of enthusiasm or determination, or lack of realization about basic things, such as "I am not this body."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you wrote:

> When I first came to America I never imagined that this movement would spread so far and wide. I thought that my Guru Maharaja has ordered me to try to spread his teachings in the English language, so let me try. In a country where everyone is trained from childhood to indulge in sinful activities who will accept these restrictions, no meat fish and eggs, no intoxicants, no gambling, no illicit sex life. These things are the life and soul of Western people, and I never imagined that even one person would accept. But by the mercy of my spiritual master and Krishna the thing has taken shape. I am so much indebted to you nice boys and girls who are helping me in this mission that I always pray to Krishna for your advancement in "Going back to Godhead" more and more. Thank you. (Letter to Śivarāma Prabhu, December 7, 1975)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your following the instructions of your spiritual master sincerely, your making the instructions of your spiritual master your life and soul, pleased Kṛṣṇa so much that He empowered you to do what no human being can do. I pray to my spiritual master and to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to remain in your service until the end of this temporary stay in this body.

Your servant,
Hṛdaya Caitanya Dāsa

Jayapatāka Swami

My dear spiritual father,

Please accept my obeisances.

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given me many orders. While some of them have been completed, I am trying to carry out the remaining ones. This Vyāsa-pūjā homage is like my annual report to Your Divine Grace. Without your mercy, I cannot do anything. I am severely physically handicapped, but I am still trying to do the best I can with the help of many of my disciples and others.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you had a profound desire to honor Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura by developing his birthplace in Birnagar into a significant center for spiritual education and pilgrimage. You also instructed me to do something for Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's birthplace. Your vision for this project included a display of his life history, his writings, an educational center, parks, gardens, guesthouses, and an *āśrama*. You visited his birthplace two or three times, and I accompanied you when you requested the brother of your spiritual master, Śrīla Lalitā Prasāda Ṭhākura, to grant permission for us to render this service. Unfortunately, he passed away without granting permission. Once you told him: "Here is an important place to be developed for Kṛṣṇa. You can't do it, and then, when someone can do it, you won't allow him. Isn't that sinful?" You also told us that it was not an offense because you put it as a question.

Even after fifty-two years, the current Bhaktivinoda Goṣṭhī (managing committee of the Birnagar Dvādaśa Temple) is not giving permission. They say we can develop the place and perform *pūjā,* but they won't give us anything in writing. So to move forward with your instruction, we thought we needed a center. For that reason, we acquired land that was owned by Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's maternal grandfather, located just 300 meters from the current temple, to develop a magnificent temple broadcasting Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's life and other facilities, as envisioned by Your Divine Grace. The cornerstone was installed on April 13, 2025. Simultaneously, our Birnagar committee will continue efforts to negotiate with the present management of the Birnagar Dvādaśa Temple to secure the right of worship of the existing birthplace temple.

ISKCON also acquired the birthplace of Advaita Ācārya, Gadādhara Paṇḍita, and Śrīvāsa Ṭhākura in Bangladesh.

Your Divine Grace has predicted that there would be 50,000 devotees in Māyāpur, half of whom would be residents and the other half guests. We now have around 7,500 residents, so we still have a long way to go to satisfy your vision. There were not so many people coming to Māyāpur when you were here. At present, however, there are at least 30,000 visitors on regular days. On Gaura-Pūrṇimā day we had 231,000 visitors, and throughout the entire Gaura-Pūrṇimā festival (from the flag-raising ceremony to the flag-lowering ceremony), we had a total of 15 lakhs of visitors. So your prediction that Māyāpur would grow is now happening. We are assisted by the other codirectors – Hṛdaya Caitanya Dāsa, Vraja Vilāsa Dāsa, Subhekṣaṇa Dāsa, and Dayārāma Dāsa.

By your mercy, from the West Bengal government, which is now run by TMC and Śrīmatī Mamata Banerjee, we received a vote from the cabinet allowing us a land ceiling of 750 acres. It was your desire to have a bigger land ceiling, and you were trying for it. Now, through the hard work of Dayārāma Dāsa and Akṣaya Rāmacandra Dāsa, this has been done. The Temple of the Vedic Planetarium (TOVP) is nearing completion. We are planning to finish it by 2027. As per your instruction, I am overseeing the exhibitions of the TOVP, which at present is called "The Science Museum of the Vedic Planetarium." We want to show that the *Vedas* are good science, but to ensure that our presentation is scientific and accepted by scientists, we are working with the Bhaktivedanta Institute. His Grace Ambarīṣa Prabhu and Her Grace Svāhā Devī have contributed significantly, and now Vraja Vilāsa Dāsa is going around the world, visiting different places to get donations to fulfill your desire.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda desired to install the lotus footprints of Lord Caitanya at the places the Lord visited. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda established eight or so, but he wanted to have 108. So, on your behalf, we are trying to install the lotus footprints of Lord Caitanya in the places He visited. So far, we have installed 59 *pāda-pīṭhas,* and we are in the process of reaching more than 108.

Last year, with the help of the late His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, His Holiness Giriraj Swami, His Holiness Radhanath Swami, and the assistance of ten other *sannyāsīs,* along with senior devotees, we installed lotus footprints in locations near Mumbai and in twenty-four places in Vraja where Lord Caitanya visited. This year, we installed twenty-four lotus footprints in different parts of South India, assisted by safari devotees. My disciple Balarāma Govinda Dāsa has made major contributions for the lotus footprints and the small temples where they will be installed. During the last Śāntipura festival, we installed the lotus footprints of Lord Caitanya, Nityānanda Prabhu, and Advaita Ācārya Prabhu at Śāntipura.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, under the Bhaktivedanta Swami Charity Trust, one of my disciples, Rāmanipati Dāsa, has been appointed as a new trustee. He is working on multiple projects for the repair/renovation of *śrīpāṭs* (holy places associated with great devotees) in various places around Gauḍa-maṇḍala-bhūmi. He has gotten many temples, congregations, and individuals to sponsor *śrīpāṭs*. Previously, we were working on your 10-lakh fixed deposit, and every year we got the interest. With that we have tried to develop many places, but were not very successful. Therefore, Rāmanipati Dāsa got sponsors for different *śrīpāṭs,* and since then, we have made great progress.

We successfully registered a trust called Sārasvata Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Association (SGVA). Most of the Gauḍīya Maṭhas have joined this institution, and we celebrate together the appearance day of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda and Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura. We are also aiming to collectively honor their disappearance days. After we do our own celebration in the morning, we gather at one Maṭha or another to celebrate the particular event. In this way, we are trying to unify the disciples and followers of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda, as per your wish.

I am encouraging devotees to read your books and take different śāstric courses, as you desired. You said, "I will never die. I will live forever in my books, and you can take advantage." People do not read your books, and you instructed that people who want second initiation should have *bhakti-śāstrī*. I have implemented this requirement so that everybody reads your books. I was honored to receive my *bhakti-śāstrī* degree personally from your hand, and I have since completed *bhakti-vaibhava* and *bhakti-vedānta*. I want to be a good example for all the devotees so they will study your books. Now, I am taking my *bhakti-sārvabhauma*. Every night before going to bed, I read your books. I have completed the reading of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* many times, but every time I read, I get new realizations, and I feel very blissful.

Your Divine Grace gave me the instruction to distribute 10,000 big books and 100,000 small books every month. I am trying to fulfill this instruction of yours with the help of my disciples. I have set up a virtual book table, through which I distribute books all over the world. ISKCON Śrī Māyāpur presented me with an award as the top distributor. Additionally, the Māyāpur *Saṅkīrtana* Department and Māyāpur internal divisions received the top position in the world this year in book distribution.

Also, I am writing a few books, including my memories of Your Divine Grace, entitled *Better to Be in Kṛṣṇa's Army,* which will be printed by the Indian BBT. Additionally, I completed the Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya book, which is like the Kṛṣṇa book and combines not only *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* but also *Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata, Śrī Caitanya-maṅgala,* and eight other books by different associates of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. The book is presented in chronological order, and the editors are now working on it. While in Māyāpur I regularly give classes on Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's *Śrī Caitanya-śikṣāmṛta* nearly every day.

His Grace Janmāṣṭamī Dāsa has started organizing Śrīla Prabhupāda Connect Day in Māyāpur to help devotees develop deep, loving relationships with Your Divine Grace and establish you in their hearts as their foundational *śikṣā-guru* through a series of lectures given by your disciples and senior devotees. The program is conducted in English and Bengali, with simultaneous translations in other languages, and is also broadcast live on Māyāpur TV, enabling devotees worldwide to attend.

In an April 6, 1975 lecture, given in Māyāpur, Your Divine Grace said: "We want to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Simply prepare yourself how to repeat Kṛṣṇa's instructions very nicely, without any malinterpretation. Then, in the future ... Suppose you have got now ten thousand. We shall expand to a hundred thousand. That is required. Then a hundred thousand to a million, and a million to ten million. So there will be no scarcity of *ācārya,* and people will understand Kṛṣṇa consciousness very easily."

Now, about a hundred of your disciples and around fifty of your granddisciples have become *dīkṣā-gurus*. Clearly, your vision extends far beyond this. At the moment, we are failing to fulfill your desire, as we are only having less than two hundred gurus. Devotees need to have a paradigm shift to align with your vision.

I am not able to travel as much as before, so when I cannot physically visit my zones, I connect online. And despite my health limitations, I attend almost all the meetings as part of my managerial responsibilities, including GBC meetings, GBC Executive Property Oversight Committee (GEPOC), Organizational Development Committee (OrgDev), Māyāpur Executive Board (MEB), Māyāpur Codirectors, Māyāpur Master Plan, Indian Bureau, ISKCON Bharat Advisory Council (IBAC), East India Divisional Council (EIDC), South India Divisional Council (SIDC), Science Museum of Vedic Planetarium Executive Committee (SMOVP), Latin American Regional Governing Body (LA RGB), Bhaktivedanta Swami Charity Trust (BSCT), Sārasvata Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Association (SGVA), Māyāpur Vṛndāvana Trust (MVT), Usha Rani Trust (Chatra Temple), World Hindu Federation (WHF), and my zone-related meetings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I would like to inform you that the World Hindu Federation recognized my efforts to serve *sanātana-dharma* by offering me the Hindu Ratna Award on January 3, 2025, in New Delhi. I have also been conferred the opportunity to serve in the capacity of one of its vice presidents.

Despite my health challenges, I am trying to maintain my daily *sādhana*. In 2024, I chanted 9,127 rounds and read Your Divine Grace's books for a total of 115 hours and 25 minutes. Additionally, during festivals, I listen to classes delivered by your disciples and other devotees. I will continue to improve my *sādhana* this year.

Since your Vyāsa-pūjā last year and earlier, from March 2024, I have been continuing with dialysis three days a week. In the dialysis room I have a TV screen, so I attend some meetings while undergoing dialysis. I feel very grateful that I am still able to do some service, and I have requested my disciples to help me in carrying out your orders. Pañca-tattva, Rādhā-Mādhava Māyāpur Candra, Rādhā-Mādhava's *aṣṭa-sakhīs,* and Bhakta Prahlāda Nṛsiṁhadeva are in my constant remembrance. I am thinking how it would be nice if I could fulfill all your instructions.

I realize that you picked me up from the grasp of *māyā* and that I was not practicing any part of Vedic culture before you delivered me. Now I am trying to recognize how I am simply dependent on your mercy.

Your servant,
Jayapatāka 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 Rūpa Gosvāmī Prabhupāda, who has established within this material world the mission to fulfill the desire of Lord Caitanya, give me shelter under his lotus feet?

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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my beloved 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

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.

Every year I have a hard time getting started on the Vyāsa-pūjā offering. I just realized that I was always shy to approach Śrīla Prabhupāda, although I can talk about him at any time. This may be because when I was first living with devotees, we were always told not to disturb Śrīla Prabhupāda so that he could concentrate on his translating. I happily accepted that and carried on "serving in separation."

When Śrīla Prabhupāda gave me beads and my name, he said, "Kavicandra was a great devotee for Lord Nityānanda," so I thought that I should try to always do *saṅkīrtana*. The more time passes I am realizing that I have no qualifications, so I am a good example of the unlimited mercy of Lord Nityānanda coming through the most unlimited causeless mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja expressed my situation eloquently:

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 stool.

mora nāma śune yei tāra puṇya kṣaya
mora nāma laya yei tāra pāpa haya

Anyone who hears my name loses the results of his pious activities. Anyone who utters my name becomes sinful.

emana nirghṛṇa more kebā kṛpā kare
eka nityānanda vinu jagat bhitare

Who in this world but Nityānanda could show His mercy to such an abominable person as me?

preme matta nityānanda kṛpā-avatāra
uttama, adhama, kichu nā kare vicāra

Because He is intoxicated by ecstatic love and is an incarnation of mercy, He does not distinguish between the good and the bad.

ye āge paḍaye, tāre karaye nistāra
ataeva nistārilā mo-hena durācāra

He delivers all those who fall down before Him. Therefore He has delivered such a sinful and fallen person as me.

mo-pāpiṣṭhe ānilena śrī-vrindavan
mo-hena adhame dilā śrī-rūpa-caraṇa

Although I am sinful and I am the most fallen, He has conferred upon me the lotus feet of Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 5.205–210)

At one point I thought I was a devotee, sometimes even thinking I was a "good" devotee. Then I thought that I was *trying* to be a devotee. Now I wonder if I am even trying to be a devotee.

There is one statement in chapter 18 of *The Nectar of Devotion* that I most often remember. It seems that Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī wrote it just for me:

> In this connection, one prayer by Rūpa Gosvāmī is sufficient to exemplify this hopefulness. He says, "I have no love for Kṛṣṇa, nor for the causes of developing love of Kṛṣṇa – namely hearing and chanting. And the process of bhakti-yoga, by which one is always thinking of Kṛṣṇa and fixing His lotus feet in the heart, is also lacking in me. As far as philosophical knowledge or pious works are concerned, I don't see any opportunity for me to execute such activities. But above all, I am not even born of a nice family. Therefore I must simply pray to You, Gopījana-vallabha [Kṛṣṇa, maintainer and beloved of the *gopīs*]. I simply wish and hope that some way or other I may be able to approach Your lotus feet, and this hope is giving me pain, because I think myself quite incompetent to approach that transcendental goal of life" The purport is that under this heading of *āśā-bandha,* one should continue to hope against hope that some way or other he will be able to approach the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord.

Śrīla Prabhupāda has given us so much that I cannot select just one thing to be thankful for. We can never repay what he has given, but fortunately he will accept our efforts to serve. Śrīla Prabhupāda taught us everything from every angle in many different ways.

He gave everything in his books. He wrote so many letters answering so many diverse questions while explaining so many details of how to follow what he wrote in his books. He made sure that all his lectures were recorded. He conversed with so many different people – religious leaders, politicians, scholars, and every other type of person. He could discuss anything with anyone and bring it around to *kṛṣṇa-kathā* and bhakti.

It was astounding that he lived a very public life, exhibiting exactly how to live the life that he described in all his writings and lectures. Kapila Muni describes Śrīla Prabhupāda perfectly:

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.

Now we have so many movies and books from devotees who lived closely with Śrīla Prabhupāda that show clearly how he exemplified all these qualities. I pray that all those aspiring for Kṛṣṇa consciousness will study all of these. I just finished reading the latest book by His Holiness Giriraj Swami, who had so much close association with and guidance from His Divine Grace. The title is *Dancing White Elephants: Traveling with Śrīla Prabhupāda in India, August 1970–March 1972.* This book gives a very intimate view of how His Divine Grace personally trained his disciples in all aspects of preaching and management.

So this is Vyāsa-pūjā, honoring Śrīla Vyāsadeva, who gave us all the scriptures. He divided and wrote the *Vedas* and so many corollary scriptures, such as the *Purāṇas, Itihāsas,* and the *Mahābhārata,* the "fifth *Veda*." He then perfected it all by writing the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the empowered representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva translated and explained the essence of the *Mahābhārata* in the form of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. Then he did the same for *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* thereby giving us the essence of the *Vedas*. He made all this available

and comprehensible for all. While doing all this monumental service, he also established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, where lost souls could congregate and learn to practice bhakti-yoga through *saṅkīrtana,* the congregational chanting of the holy names, the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra:*

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

The prime benediction for humanity at large.

Praying to always be in the association of devotees of Śrīla Prabhupāda and ISKCON,
Kavicandra Swami

Krishna Premarūpa Dāsa

Empowered by Grace to Empower Others

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana: "Unless empowered by Kṛṣṇa, one cannot propagate the *saṅkīrtana* movement." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Antya* 7.11)

Understanding your unique position is crucial for the future of ISKCON. What you accomplished is no ordinary task. Only one who is extremely dear to the Lord and consequently fully empowered is able to spread the holy name around the world. You are the direct *senāpati-bhakta* – the commander in chief of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement, as expressed by Locana dāsa Ṭhākura.

Being a liberated soul who descended into this world solely to save the conditioned souls, you were fully empowered by the Lord and the entire *paramparā*. While staying at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī personally appeared to you and encouraged you: "Don't worry about anything. Go ahead, travel to the West, and preach the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You will be successful. I will be right there with you all the time."

Later, on the *Jaladuta,* on the thirteenth day of your voyage across the Arabian Sea, you suffered a massive heart attack. But that very night you had a vision: Lord Kṛṣṇa appeared along with His incarnations to assure you that you were fully protected and blessed for your divine mission.

Your empowerment by the Lord is as undeniable as the rising of the sun – self-evident to all who have eyes to see.

But there is another aspect that makes you even more glorious: you empowered so many others to engage in Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* mission.

There is a proverb: "True leaders don't create followers; they create more leaders." The way you spread the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement was by creating leaders – by empowering so many of your disciples.

You once remarked, "Just as Lord Rāma had an army of monkeys to help Him, so do I." You transformed hippies into happies, the sinful into the pious, the "spaced out" into the *pakkā,* and the selfish into the selfless. This was your true miracle – not simply producing ashes or a golden egg but empowering your disciples and, with their help, creating a spiritual revolution. Being empowered yourself and empowering others – this was the secret of your success.

I am an insignificant soul with many limitations, yet somehow, I have now been entrusted with great responsibility. My seniors have encouraged me, placing their hope in me to serve your mission.

On this auspicious day of your divine appearance in this world, I pray that you might empower me as well so that I may always remember your instructions and keep your *vāṇī* as my life and soul. You made it clear that you have given us all instructions, both verbally and in your books. Today, I specifically pray for your empowerment so that I may serve as one of your GBC men, with responsibility for the German-speaking countries, always remembering your guidance: "Any person authorized by either the Lord or by His bona fide representative is already blessed, as is the work entrusted to him. Of course, the person entrusted with such a responsibility should always be aware of his incapability and must always look for the mercy of the Lord for the successful execution of his duty. One should not be puffed up because he is entrusted with certain executive work. Fortunate is he who is so entrusted, and if he is always fixed in the sense of

being subordinate to the will of the Supreme, he is sure to come out successful in the discharge of his work.... Anyone who takes pride in doing responsible work but does not give credit to the Supreme Lord is certainly falsely proud and cannot execute anything nicely." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.9.29, purport)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I pray that I can imbibe this mood and, in doing so, one day qualify myself for true empowerment so that I may render my service in a way that pleases you.

Hare Kṛṣṇa, your aspiring servant,
Krishna Premarūpa Dāsa (BSDS)

Madhusevita Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your feet. All glories to your divine appearance day.

In those days when feelings of intense separation from you prevail over the ordinary semiconscious routine life, I recall how elevated souls are present in both *kṛṣṇa-līlā* and *gaura-līlā*.

How wonderful it must be to see you serving your eternal spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, relishing the association of Śrīla Gaura-kiśora dāsa Bābājī, pleasing the heart of immensely dear Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, and being blessed by Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī. Śrīla Viśvanātha and Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa must be smiling sweetly at you, while the Six Gosvāmīs are engaged in churning the ocean of *rasa* permeating the hearts of all. The emotions of Śrīla Rūpa are your eternal inspiration.

Your infinite compassion must have melted the heart of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and forced Her to bring to your feet the loving disciples who gave you their heart during your *prakaṭa-līlā* on this earth.

My feelings of separation are for them as well – those surrendered souls who gave their youth to your mission and loved you beyond bounds. May each of them canvass for the hopeless cause of Madhusevita Dāsa, whose only desire, in the old age of this "plastic body," is to rejoin your family, the loving family of ISKCON, back home, back to Godhead.

Grasping your feet, I remain,
Your useless servant,
Madhusevita Dāsa

Mathureśa Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Your appearance day is the most important event in the universe. You have come at the right time and to the right place to revive Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement and expand it all over the world.

Lord Kṛṣṇa chose his most qualified sweet and powerful servant to conquer the hearts of all the sincere and intelligent souls who were intensely seeking love of God. By observing this auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day, I deeply feel my appreciation and gratitude for your teachings and example. I met you in your books and immediately fell in love with you. Every page I read, every picture of Your Divine Grace I looked at, transported me to the most beautiful place my mind could find and inspired me to practice my bhakti and follow you.

In my first years as a new bhakta, the *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* became more important to me than the *Bhagavad-gītā* itself. I relished every word of each of the volumes that were starting to come out. Your courage, determination, and pure devotion made me your aspiring servant and has kept me loyal to you despite the many challenges I've endured during the more than four decades since I met you.

Please keep me under the shade of your lotus feet and allow me, along with your sincere followers, to contribute to the expansion and development of your glorious ISKCON.

Your humble servant,
Mathureśa Dāsa
Latin America Andean Region GBC Secretary

Praghoṣa Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda;

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I heard quite a famous quote being used the other day, and it made me think of you. Albeit I think we need to update that quote a little, the quote being:

> Never before was so much owed by so many to so few.

My proposed update:

> Never before was so much owed by so many to just one single person: *you,* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

As my life in this body (of ever-increasing misery) accelerates into its inevitable "home straight," I remain ever curious as to why the whole world of more or less eight billion people are not offering an annual Vyāsa-pūjā homage to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

While the fundamental problems of this material world remain a constant – birth, death, old age, and disease – the *ādhyātmikā, ādhibhautika,* and *ādhidaivika* back-up miseries seem evermore prominent and evermore intense. Indeed, it is as if they are operating on steroids at this point in time. So with *ādhyātmikā,* mental health issues are snowballing at a rate we have never even come close to before. Then *ādhibhautika:* aside from the ever-increasing conflict in the world, and particularly the increased viciousness of those conflicts, we only have to consider the cathedral of hate that is perhaps embodied by social media. That cathedral's spire rises higher than any physical spire we can imagine. The social media cathedral is, in many ways, the modern-day spiritual master. Lastly, *ādhidaivika:* these days it seems we are all quite nervous as to whether our area of the world will be hit by the next flood, wildfire, storm winds like never before, or drought.

When I was a teenager in the late seventies, I still held grandiose ideas of having a great life in this world, completing my studies, getting a good job, settling down, and then retiring as early as possible to relax and "have a good time." However, when I was blessed to receive *The Science of Self-Realization,* I realized my grandiose ideas were for the birds.

These days, though, for anyone with half a brain, such grandiose ideas must surely be daft to the extreme. With all that is going on now, people should be flocking to our temples, and particularly your books, in droves, as the world has entered a more chaotic state than ever before, at least in my lifetime. Furthermore, it is clear that this chaotic downward spiral the world is on has only just begun.

For us, as your followers and aspiring servants, this surely presents a wonderful opportunity for us to offer all the souls in this world the solution to all the uncertainty and chaos. That solution, of course, is an ever-constant reality – Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As well as being surprised that everyone is not offering you a homage every year, it also surprises me that everyone who is fortunate enough to come across one of your books does not automatically accept your words as truth, without a second thought. For those who do struggle to accept your words as truth, let them read this purport you wrote, I think in 1976 – so about fifty years ago. As we read it, we can understand that what you were writing fifty years ago could easily be a report on precisely what is going on in the world today!

The word *prophet* tends to be associated with other religious traditions, but in the context of prophesying or predicting the future, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, sit head and shoulders above all others. You wrote:

> Thus Vindhyāvali, Bali Mahārāja's intelligent wife, prayed that her husband be released, by the Lord's causeless mercy. Otherwise, Bali Mahārāja was nothing but a shameless demon, specifically described as *tyakta-hriyas tvad-avaropita-kartṛ-vādāḥ,* a foolish person claiming proprietorship over the property of the Supreme Person. In the present age, Kali-yuga, the number of such shameless men, who are agnostics disbelieving in the existence of God, has increased. Trying to defy the authority of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, so-called scientists, philosophers, and politicians

> manufacture plans and schemes for the destruction of the world. They cannot do anything good for the world, and unfortunately, because of Kali-yuga, they have plunged the affairs of the world into mismanagement. Thus there is a great need for the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement for the benefit of innocent people who are being carried away by propaganda of such demons. If the present status quo is allowed to continue, people will certainly suffer more and more under the leadership of these demoniac agnostics. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 8.22.20, purport)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you. Thank you for being so kind as to bless the existence of this fallen soul with the treasure of transcendental knowledge – the crème de la crème of route maps out of this material world.

Falling at your feet and hoping to be
your eternal servant,
Praghoṣa Dāsa

Prahlādānanda Swami

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

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

Why is Śrīla Prabhupāda, the founder of ISKCON, our *ācārya*?

The *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 1.13) states that Advaita Ācārya is an *ācārya* because he propagated the *saṅkīrtana* movement. The phrase used is *bhakti-śaṁsanāt,* meaning that he is recognized as an *ācārya* because of his effectiveness in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Prahlāda Mahārāja states that one must accept an *ācārya* and follow his example and instructions in order to attain perfection (*Bhāgavatam* 7.5.32). Indeed, the *Mahābhārata* affirms that everyone must choose a leader and follow him (*mahājano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ*, *Vana-parva* 313.117). If one follows a material leader who is influenced by the modes of material nature, one will reach that leader's destination. Conversely, by choosing a spiritual leader, one can attain the same spiritual goal. Śrīla Prabhupāda once said that if you want to find Nārada Muni, follow his footprints, because they will lead you to him.

Prahlāda Mahārāja also tells us that one of the qualities of an *ācārya* is that he is fully engaged in Lord Kṛṣṇa's transcendental loving service. The highest service, as Lord Kṛṣṇa affirms at the end of the *Bhagavad-gītā,* is spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness (*Gītā* 18.69–70). Lord Caitanya confirmed this by telling His followers: "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)

According to Śrīla Prabhupāda, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura has given practical hints that an

uttama-adhikārī Vaiṣṇava and an *ācārya* can be recognized by their ability to convert many fallen souls to Vaiṣṇavism. (*The Nectar of Instruction*, verse 5)

Because of the extraordinary way Śrīla Prabhupāda established the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in this world, he should be accepted as an *uttama-adhikārī*, *mahā-bhāgavata* Vaiṣṇava, and a great *ācārya*. The movement he founded, ISKCON, is dedicated to pure devotional service and spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Śrīla Prabhupāda's unwavering adherence to the example and instructions of his *ācārya*, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Ṭhākura, made him perfect, and by following Śrīla Prabhupāda's example and instructions, we too can attain perfection in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your servant,
Prahlādānanda Swami

Rādhā Kṛṣṇa Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Your lotus feet.

There are so many topics I was about to write to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The glories of the wonderful devotees in the area in which I'm serving and how they are striving to please Your Divine Grace, like the amazing preaching and community development in Romania, or the outstanding *saṅkīrtana* results in Turkey, the dedication of the Cyprus *yātrā* to *kīrtana* and *harināma,* the sincere efforts of the Greek devotees, and of course the inspiring results of the Hungarian *yātrā* – in book distribution, the college, the high standards of Deity worship, festivals, and so much more …

I was also thinking to write about the efforts of devotees amid great challenges, like the war in Ukraine, the earthquake in Myanmar, or even the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in cows in parts of Europe, and how devotees still continued your movement's activities steadily …

But no, I have decided not to write about these now.

There is one topic I *would* like to write about. A concern. A fear. A burden I carry in my heart. And that is the possible mission drift among the intellectuals within ISKCON and what appears to be the gradual dilution of the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. It worries me deeply.

Recently, in an official gathering of devotee scholars, a majority of the speakers supported the idea of theistic evolution. Some even publicly dismissed the Purāṇic account of creation and questioned whether *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* offers a clear picture at all. One well-known devotee speaker claimed that the *Bhāgavatam's* description of the origin of species is vague or metaphorical. Another argued that such topics are not important for today's society, and that accommodating modern scientific views would help make Kṛṣṇa consciousness more acceptable.

But this is not what you taught, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your purports are clear. You repeatedly emphasized that life does not come from matter, that there is no evolution from chemicals, and that all living entities were created by the Prajāpatis, as stated by Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself: *maharṣayaḥ sapta pūrve* (*Bhagavad-gītā* 10.6). In your purport you explain how the universal population came from Brahmā and the Prajāpatis. This is repeated throughout the Second, Third, and Fourth cantos of the *Bhāgavatam*. The process of creation is personal, purposeful, and transcendental, not random or evolutionary.

You also warned against compromising the truth to gain followers. In *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.2 you write: "As soon as the original purpose was scattered by the motives of the unscrupulous commentators … the purpose of the *Gītā* appeared to be lost…. Since there is a great need of an edition of the *Gītā* in English, as it is received by the *paramparā* (disciplic succession) system, an attempt is made herewith to fulfill this great want. *Bhagavad-gītā* – accepted as it is – is a great boon to humanity; but if it is accepted as a treatise of philosophical speculations, it is simply a waste of time." This seems to be happening in subtle ways. The line between thoughtful engagement and selective reinterpretation is being crossed. Some now use terms like "independent thoughtfulness" to justify openly disagreeing with your statements, or to suggest that science and *śāstra* can be balanced by downplaying *śāstra*.

But if we begin to dilute one part of your teachings, where will it stop? Will it one day reach the four regulative principles? Or even the chanting of the holy name?

Freedom of thought does not mean freedom to contradict guru, *śāstra,* and *sādhu*. You never discouraged genuine inquiry, but you never approved of speculation that leads us away from the conclusions of the *ācāryas*. You warned us of this many times. In a class on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.3.24, given on June 22, 1972, you said, "Suppose you write one book, or anything; if it is just according to the Vedic conclusion, then it is also … it is called *smṛti*. By remembering the Vedic conclusion … You cannot go beyond the Vedic conclusion. Then it is useless writing. Vedic conclusion must be there. The guide must be there. On that conclusion, if you write something, that is right, and if you deviate from that conclusion, then it is wrong. So we want to read authorized, right books – not by imagination. You can write so many nonsense things by imagination. That is useless. You must remember what is the Vedic conclusion."

In the name of dialogue or academic acceptance, if we begin to reject the foundational truths of our philosophy, then we may win the respect of the world but lose the shelter of your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I don't write this in criticism. I write this out of concern. I know I am not a scholar, not a preacher of worldwide fame, but I want to be loyal. I want to protect your teachings in whatever little way I can. I want to serve as a guardian of your instructions, to remind myself and others that the foundation of our movement is not up for revision. As one article recently stated: "So, there is no need to fear that by doubting evolution, we will be seen as unscientific; rather, it is science and logic that provide strong arguments against gradual evolution and for a higher origin of species." (ISKCON News: "Vedic Origin Theory Gains Credibility," Īśvara Krishna Dāsa (István Tasi, PhD) The *Bhāgavatam's* fabric of metaphysics and ontology are interwoven; pulling out one thread risks unraveling the whole.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please guide me. Please empower me to stand up respectfully but firmly, with humility but also with clarity. Let me never compromise your words for the sake of popularity. Let me never think I know better. And please bless me that I may inspire others to follow your path with the same loyalty.

Your servant,
Rādhā Kṛṣṇa Dāsa

Ramai Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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 Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

According to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* even the briefest association with a pure devotee can bring one to the perfection of human life. You delivered many conditioned souls from illusion, sometimes just by your merciful glance. For the person receiving your benediction, such moments were experienced in a very personal, individual way; yet you were able to give your blessings even while tending to many persons at once.

Through your instructions, books, mission, and through other devotees, you constantly brought awareness of a disciple's eternal relationship with guru and Krsna. After your disappearance, your association was obtainable in the same way provided the follower was submissive. One time, when a devotee asked whether the spiritual master was in the heart of the disciple, you replied, "Yes, if you let me enter."

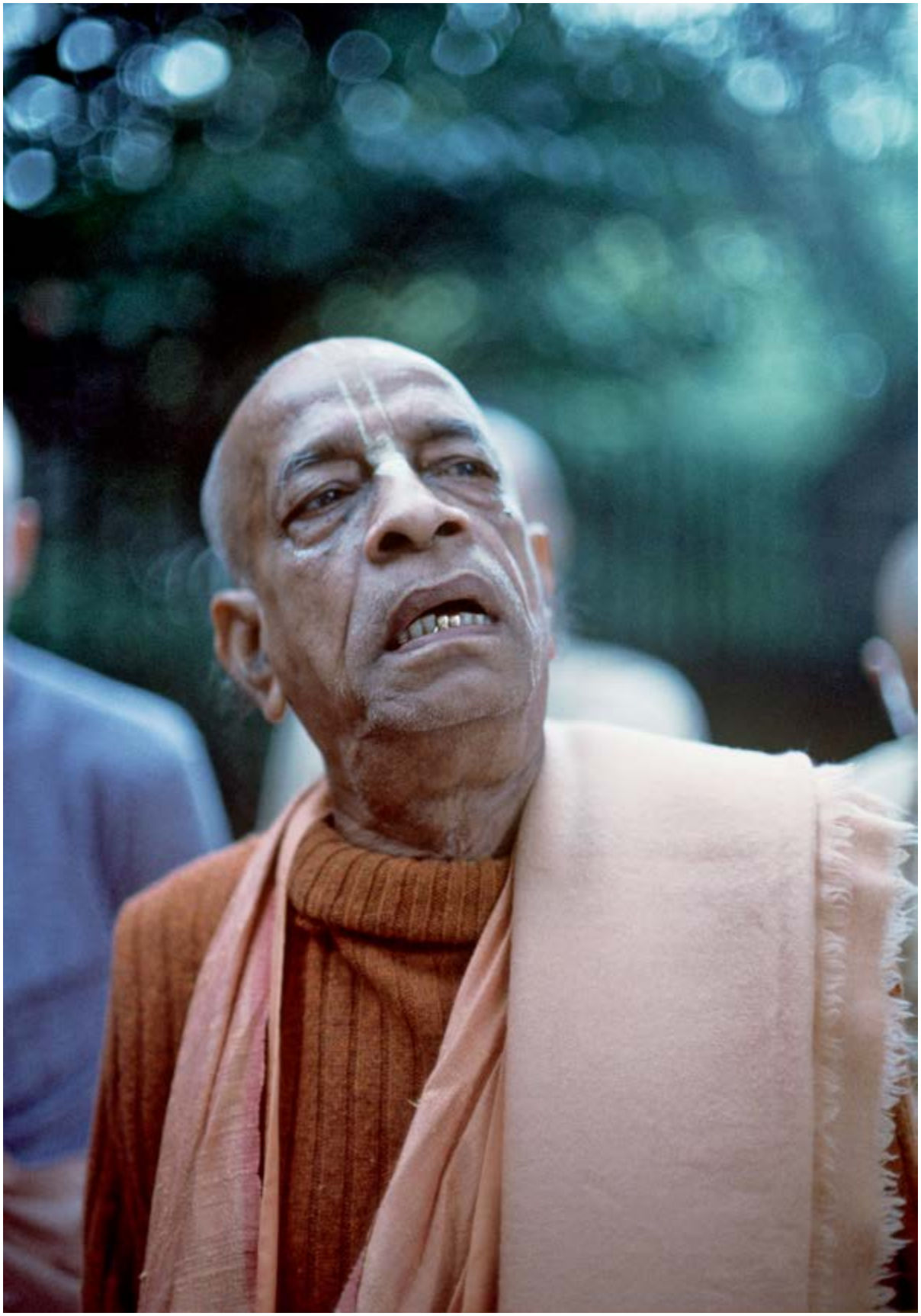
A wonderful sweet exchange, Śrīla Prabhupāda. However, you had many wonderful qualities. When you planned the layout of the temple room in Māyāpur, you allowed your disciples to also take part. "Where can we build a *vyāsāsana*?" one devotee asked. "Should we put it at the other end of the temple facing the Deities?" But another devotee objected, "Isn't that too far for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda? Will you be able to see the Deities from such a distance?"

You replied strongly, "There is no question of separation of distance between me and Kṛṣṇa." So, the *vyāsāsana* was placed at the opposite end from Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava, and you could see Them very nicely.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, there is one quote that I think is very important for your disciples: "If you feel at all indebted to me, then you should preach vigorously like me. That is the proper way to repay me. Of course, no one can repay the debt to the spiritual master, but the spiritual master is very much pleased by such an attitude by the disciple."

An example of this style of vigorous preaching was in Hawaii. You were discussing how you were able to defeat the nondevotees' arguments. "I know the art, like karate," you said, "of pushing on a person's weak spot until he dies. I find their weak point and push until they die."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, even with animals you showed your great abilities. One time, when walking with devotees on a beach in California, a large Doberman pinscher approached, snarling and baring his teeth. You continued walking peacefully, but a devotee stopped and tensely faced the dog. This challenge only provoked the dog into more threatening and growling, until the devotee



turned and ran to catch up to you. But as soon as he ran, the Doberman pinscher pursued him, barking and threatening to attack. Before the dog reached the devotees, however, you suddenly turned. You crouched with your feet somewhat apart, raised your cane high over your head, and gave a loud "Hut!" – and made a growling sound at the dog. At this display the dog turned and retreated quickly back to his home.

Who could do what you did, Śrīla Prabhupāda?

Your task achieved; your time well spent
You went forward with full content.
Teaching even though interest was faint
You were empowered, a mighty saint.

At first, you weren't accepted a holy sire
Resplendent like gold and a burning fire
But then when your noble words began
They thought you must be a sainted man.

Speaking deep from scripture's page
Such sweet speech from a holy sage
Many assembled and sat right down
Listening to a saint of pure renown.

With humble palms together laid
An eager supplication you made
What type of life and suffering is this
When one can gain knowledge and bliss.

Forsake, forsake your mortal lot
And gain a life that withers not
Receive unending youth and be
Immortal, my dear friends, with me.

A fickle thing is youth's brief span
And more than all in mortal man
In many ways you worked and strained
But none of these could be sustained.

And now, I think, has come the time
To surrender to Kṛṣṇa in your prime.
Patience is needed and patience is fame
Especially when employed for eternal gain.

Please go forward without any fear
Do something for the soul that is dear
Wonderful indeed, just, true and brave
Take heed of the counsel I gave.

Beloved friends, never forget
Service to Kṛṣṇa, everyone's debt
All of you go forth the spiritual way
Work to be done and foundations to lay.

Dear Prabhupāda, you earned success
And won high fame which God did bless
And thou hast gained the mead divine
That waits on virtue such as thine.

You rose like the sun's pure bright ray
Powerful that drives the darkness away
And thou did win a glorious name
Which none, O guru, but thou could claim.

And all the world was glad, whereon
Your glorious feats flowed and shone
For sin and stain were banished thence
By your sweet mercy influence.

Dear master, let my prayer prevail
For I always want to hear your tale
As sun and moon adorn the sky
Your amazing qualities we glorify.

Your fallen servant,
Ramai Swami

Revati Raman Dāsa

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga.

By your boundless mercy, the whole of ISKCON is flourishing as a beacon of spiritual light, offering the greatest gift – Kṛṣṇa consciousness – to the world. Your divine vision and tireless efforts have manifested an international movement that continues to uplift countless souls from ignorance to transcendental knowledge.

It is by your compassion that millions today have found their connection with Kṛṣṇa. You traveled tirelessly, enduring great hardships, solely for the benefit of suffering humanity. With a heart overflowing with love, you distributed the most valuable treasure – the holy names of Kṛṣṇa and the message of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

Your books are like transcendental lighthouses, guiding lost souls to the shore of Kṛṣṇa's eternal abode. These scriptures are not just texts; they are living instructions infused with your purity and realization. Scholars, seekers, and devotees alike continue to derive immense wisdom from them. They have transformed the lives of millions, awakening their dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your lectures, spoken with such deep realization, continue to inspire and instruct devotees worldwide. Your conversations provide practical guidance on how to apply Kṛṣṇa consciousness in every aspect of life. The nectar of your words remains ever fresh, carrying the power to change hearts and turn materialists into devotees.

Your disciples, whom you so mercifully trained, are carrying forward your mission in every corner of the world. They are establishing temples, engaging in book distribution, inspiring thousands, and upholding your instructions with dedication. Your granddisciples, too, are actively continuing this preaching mission, ensuring that the chanting of the holy names reaches every town and village, just as you desired.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your ISKCON continues to grow under your divine protection. Devotees are taking shelter of your teachings, spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness through festivals, *kīrtanas, prasādam* distribution, and online outreach. Even in this age of technology, your mercy finds its way into the hearts of people through digital preaching, social media, and online classes – all serving as extensions of your mission.

Every devotee who follows your instructions is proof of your mercy. Every temple, farm community, book distributed, and soul engaged in Kṛṣṇa's service is a living testament to your unshakeable faith in Lord Caitanya's prophecy.

We offer our deepest gratitude at your lotus feet and pray for your continued blessings so that we may serve your mission with sincerity and determination. May we always remain as humble servants of your divine instructions, assisting in your grand mission to make the whole world Kṛṣṇa conscious. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servant,
Revati Raman Dāsa

Romapāda Swami

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

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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 paramānanda-mādhavam

My dear and most respected spiritual master and eternal father,

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

You are Kṛṣṇa's ambassador directly from Goloka Vrindavan, carrying to the world an unceasing stream of reminders of our forgotten relationship with Kṛṣṇa. This is not mere hyperbole, by your own admission.

His Divine Grace told my friend Tamal Krishna Goswami: "In Goloka, Kṛṣṇa told me, 'You go down there and preach.' I replied to the Lord, 'It's such a nasty place. I don't want to go. Please let me stay here.' But Kṛṣṇa persisted and said, 'Don't worry about anything. I will make every arrangement for your comfort. In the meantime, write your books, and when you have finished, then you can return.'" Śrīla Prabhupāda concluded, "Then I said, 'All right.'" (*Nava-vraja-mahimā,* Śivarāma Mahārāja, volume 7, chapter 32)

Who can estimate the great fortune of being your disciple and eternal servant!

Honoring you in this mood, I want to share but a few inspirations which continue to propel me forward in the senior years of my devotional life – a life singularly and exclusively dedicated to you and your mission.

I take much inspiration from your own expression that you had the in-person association with your Guru Mahārāja on only a handful of occasions, yet you never left his association and have never felt separation from him.

To Śatadhanya, in Tokyo, 1972: "So far personal association with the Guru is concerned, I was only with my Guru Maharaja four or five times, but I have never left his association, not even for a moment. Because I am following his instructions, I have never felt any separation. There are some of my Godbrothers here in India who had constant personal association with Guru Maharaja, but who are neglecting his orders. This is just like the bug who is sitting on the lap of the king. He may be very puffed up by his position, but all he can succeed in doing is biting the king. Personal association is not so important as association through service."

There are many of us who, due to providential arrangements, can also attest to the modest number of opportunities we had to be in your personal association. Much of my junior years of *brahmacārī* life were physically distant from Your Divine Grace, yet I remain to this day vibrantly inspired and connected to you, representing Your Divine Grace and your sublime instructions.

I fall at your feet with the earnest prayer for your mercy to always refine and amplify my aspiration to become a qualified instrument in your ongoing mission.

I take as your blessing that, as the years pass, the vitality of my dedication to your mission and to living by your teachings does not waver or fade in the least.

One of those teachings and examples set by you was your emphasis on college preaching, for which I was personally on the receiving end!

For example, in December 1972 you wrote Śukadeva Prabhu in Seattle: "My request to you is that you enter into the universities and colleges wherever possible and preach there with a view to recruiting some first-class devotees for helping me manage and push on this movement all over the world ... That will be the best contribution. Now spread this idea also to the other leaders. Appeal yourself to the high class of men, not the mass. Mass, too, we do not eliminate anyone, but if best men are there to run on things, mass will follow later." You even requested your secretary Śyāmasundara Prabhu to handwrite a note at the bottom of this letter: "Kindly xerox and distribute copies of this letter to all temple presidents, GBC, and sannyasis."

For decades, dedication to this part of your mission has occupied a major role in my life, as has the encouragement to distribute your all-important, life-changing BBT books and your Bhaktivedanta purports.

Both delight and reassurance arise again and again when, over time, all the essential elements as well as the subtle refinements found in your BBT purports trace directly to the writings of the Six Gosvāmīs and other predecessor *ācāryas*. At the same time, your inimitable style of communication makes access to even the most subtle points of philosophy so easy to understand and digest!

Resting upon these and many more inspirations in my relationship with you as your faithful disciple, for whatever days or weeks or years remain in this lifetime, please grant me the strength to remain always aspiring to become your ever-more useful and effective servant.

For that matter, I beg to remain your *eternal* servant!
Romapāda Swami

Tapana Miśra Dāsa

O most merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, whose compassion, wisdom, and tireless service have transformed the lives of millions and awakened the dormant love of Kṛṣṇa in countless hearts. You are truly the *jagat-guru,* the spiritual guide for the entire world, fulfilling the divine mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Your life is an unparalleled masterpiece of dedication and devotion. You manifested ISKCON from nothing but unwavering faith in the instructions of your spiritual master and an unrelenting determination to share the holy names of Kṛṣṇa. Sailing across stormy seas, enduring great personal hardship, you delivered the eternal message of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to the Western world. Through your divine purity and steadfast love, you inspired a global spiritual revolution, igniting the fire of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in places where it had never been known before.

Your legacy is a living testament to the power of your mercy. Whether in the bustling cities of America, the quiet villages of Africa, or even the Islamic countries, where cultural and societal dynamics present unique challenges, your mission thrives. Preaching in these lands has

underscored the universality of your message – a message that transcends barriers of religion and culture, offering the ultimate shelter of Lord Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet to all.

Last year I was deeply honored to serve on the GBC Executive Committee, a role that allowed me to witness the magnificence of your divine mission on a global scale. The intricacy and expansiveness of ISKCON's endeavors stand as a direct reflection of your genius as an *ācārya*. As I look ahead to this service in the coming year, I humbly pray for your blessings to carry out this service with even more integrity, wisdom, and dedication, ensuring your teachings remain the guiding light for generations to come.

Although I have physically left the sacred service in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur, your cherished global headquarters, my heart forever remains connected to that transcendental abode. Your voice, resonating through your books, lectures, and instructions echoes within me, reminding me to always act as your humble servant in spreading the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Truly, it is by your divine grace that this service continues, despite my countless shortcomings.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I rededicate myself to your lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the eternal well-wisher of all living beings, the empowered emissary of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's boundless mercy, and the guiding light leading us back to Kṛṣṇa. May I always strive to be an instrument in your hands, spreading the glories of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and the profound teachings of the *Gītā* and the *Bhāgavatam* across the world.

Your eternal servant,
Tapana Miśra Dāsa
Governing Body Commissioner – Middle East and North Africa

Vīrabāhu Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Prostrated at your lotus feet, paying my humble obeisances, I have come once again to beg for the mercy of Your Divine Grace and humbly request that you accept this new attempt to glorify you. I wish to express my deepest, heartfelt gratitude to you and, for your satisfaction, also to the disciples who, following your request and with great sacrifice, took Kṛṣṇa consciousness even to remote corners of the world.

On the occasion of this year's Vyāsa-pūjā, celebrating your divine appearance in this world – most appropriately termed "The Most Blessed Event" – and now also "The Most Wonderful Day of the Year" – I recall the fortuitous way and glorious day you appeared in my life, making me supremely fortunate.

In so vividly and recurrently relating your first encounter with your own spiritual master, His

Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you taught us by your own example how crucial and significant the meeting was, having come to you fortuitously, in its appearance.

> It is a long story, how I met him. One of my friends, he dragged me. I was at that time Nationalist, and manager in a big chemical factory. My age was about twenty-four years. So one of my friends, he asked me that "There is a nice *sādhu,* Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. He has come in Calcutta. So let us go and see." So I was reluctant. I thought just like so, "There are so many *sādhus*. So I am not very much ..." Because I had very bad experience; not very good. So I said, "Oh, these kind of *sādhus,* there are many."
>
> ... So anyway, it was Kṛṣṇa's grace. I would not go, but their point of view was that unless I certified that *sādhu,* Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, he'll not be accepted. Therefore he dragged me. So I went to see Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura on that day. On the first meeting, just we offer our obeisances. It is the practice. So immediately he began his talking that "You are all educated young men. Why don't you take up Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's cult and preach all over the English-knowing public? Why don't you take up this matter?" So I argued with him in so many ... At that time I was Nationalist. So I told that "Who will accept our message? We are dependent nation. Nobody will care." In this way, in my own way, in these younger days ... But we belonged to the Vaiṣṇava family, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda, Rādhā-Govinda. That is our worshipable Deity. So I was very glad that "Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa cult, Caitanya Mahāprabhu's ... this *sādhu* is trying to preach. It is very nice."
>
> So at that time we had some talks, and of course I was defeated by his argument, my argument. [*laughter*] And then, when we came out, we were offered *prasādam,* very nice treatment, the Gauḍīya Maṭha. And when I came out on the street, this my friend asked me, "What is your opinion of this *sādhu*?" Then I said that "Here is the right person who has taken up Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's message, and now it will be distributed." (Lecture, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta disappearance day, Los Angeles, December 13, 1973)

Śrīla Prabhupada, this recount was made by you at the Los Angeles temple on December 13, 1973. Notably, this was just ten days before I, along with other devotees from the Caracas temple, had the privilege of meeting you in person for the first time and receiving our first initiation on December 25. It is a very moving lecture that underscored your emotions when remembering your Guru Maharaja.

> So this is a memorable day. What he desired, I am trying little bit, and you are all helping me. So I have to thank you more. You are actually representative of my Guru Mahārāja [*starts to cry*] ... because you are helping me in executing the order of my Guru Mahārāja. Thank you very much. (Lecture, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta disappearance day, Los Angeles, December 13, 1973)

In the latter part of 1971, while studying at the University in Caracas, I found myself at a crossroads, questioning the path I was on in life. Like many university students, I began to feel disillusioned with the prospect of my future. Although I was pursuing a degree in chemical engineering for its potential financial stability, my real interest was philosophy.

Drawn intuitively to Eastern philosophy after reading popular books on the topic, I sought answers in the university library. It was there that I stumbled upon a vast collection of books by and about Gandhi, recently donated by the Indian Embassy to commemorate his birthday.

I was instantly fascinated by Gandhi's philosophy and humble demeanor. His writings frequently referenced the *Bhagavad-gītā,* but somehow or other, I never got around to reading it; the title simply registered with me.

On March 5, 1972, while visiting a mutual friend, I met Ilan Chester (who was to become Havi Dāsa), a musician of my age who was popular among young people. He was there with other musicians for a musical session. After it concluded, we were introduced. He then asked if I could give him a ride home. During the ride, Ilan shared his spiritual perspectives with me, as we would later say in ISKCON, "preaching" to me. Śrīla Prabhupāda, that is the day and the way you entered my life.

Ilan asked if I spoke English, and when I replied that I did, he invited me to form a group with some mutual friends to explore a book on Indian philosophy, specifically the *Bhagavad-gītā*. I was startled when he mentioned the *Gītā,* the book Gandhi had cited so often. I readily agreed to his proposal.

It so happened Ilan had recently returned from Israel, where he had been studying music at the university. He was staying there with a friend who also spoke Spanish. One day, a young Argentinean man, briefly passing through from India, was directed to them due to their common language and asked to stay with them. Ilan, who was very interested in spirituality and philosophy, was very attracted to the talks with him on these topics. In particular, the day before he left their visitor spoke about bhakti-yoga, which Ilan marked.

Coincidentally, shortly afterward, he stumbled upon a magazine article featuring an interview with your disciples, where they discussed bhakti-yoga. The disciples were Dinesh Candra Prabhu, his wife Krishna Devi, and their little daughter Vishnu Arti, who had gone to Israel at your loving request. You wrote to Krishna Devi:

> My Dear Krishna Devi,
>
> So far as opening a center in Israel, I have all approval. So make arrangements with the government and go there immediately. I have all blessings for this enterprise. Try and preach Krishna Consciousness in this part of the world. So you go there husband and wife with child and start a center. If you are successful in your effort, then I may stay with you a few days there before going to London.
>
> … Your husband's letter along with yours is very encouraging and I have answered it separately. I'm so glad to know that both of you are enhancing your Krishna Consciousness by mutual cooperation. May God bless you. You are all helping me by abiding the orders of my Spiritual Master, His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Maharaj and He'll be pleased upon you who are His grand spiritual children. So this program to open a branch in Israel has got all my approval. (Letter to Kṛṣṇa Devī Dāsī, Gorakhpur, February 16, 1971)

Fulfilling your instruction, as other exemplary *gṛhastha* couples had done before, they had gone there and opened the center, and were conducting the program as you had indicated Dinesh Candra Prabhu should do.

> My dear Dinesh Chandra,
>
> Please accept my blessings and offer the same to your wife Krishna Devi, daughter Visnu Arati and Kulasekhara Prabhu. I am in due receipt of your very encouraging letter dated 30th June, 1971 and have noted the contents carefully. Your endeavor is very much appreciated. Thank you very much. You have my all good wishes. Success or no success, it doesn't matter; you have come to Israel with your family and that is my pleasure. All blessings upon you.

> So for the time being, you can stay in your apartment, have discourses and hold kirtana and whoever voluntarily may join, no one can object. Whoever comes, give him nice prasadam. For the time being this can be done. There is no need of outside engagements if they are not possible to get. If you can, that's all right. But inside activities should go on. So live peacefully and whatever service you can render is all right. (Letter to Dinesh Candra Dāsa, Los Angeles, July 13, 1971)

Their address was listed there, and Ilan decided to visit them, attending those programs at their apartment for some time before returning to Venezuela. Through their association, he became an avowed devotee of Kṛṣṇa and collected from them all the books and Kṛṣṇa conscious materials they had available so he could preach in Caracas. After his return, I met him on March 5, 1972, as previously mentioned. We then formed a group with like-minded friends interested in the *Gītā* and Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We regularly gathered for *harināma* and private *Gītā* readings in local parks, universities, and a yoga studio. This continued until December 1972, when ISKCON devotees arrived to establish the country's first temple.

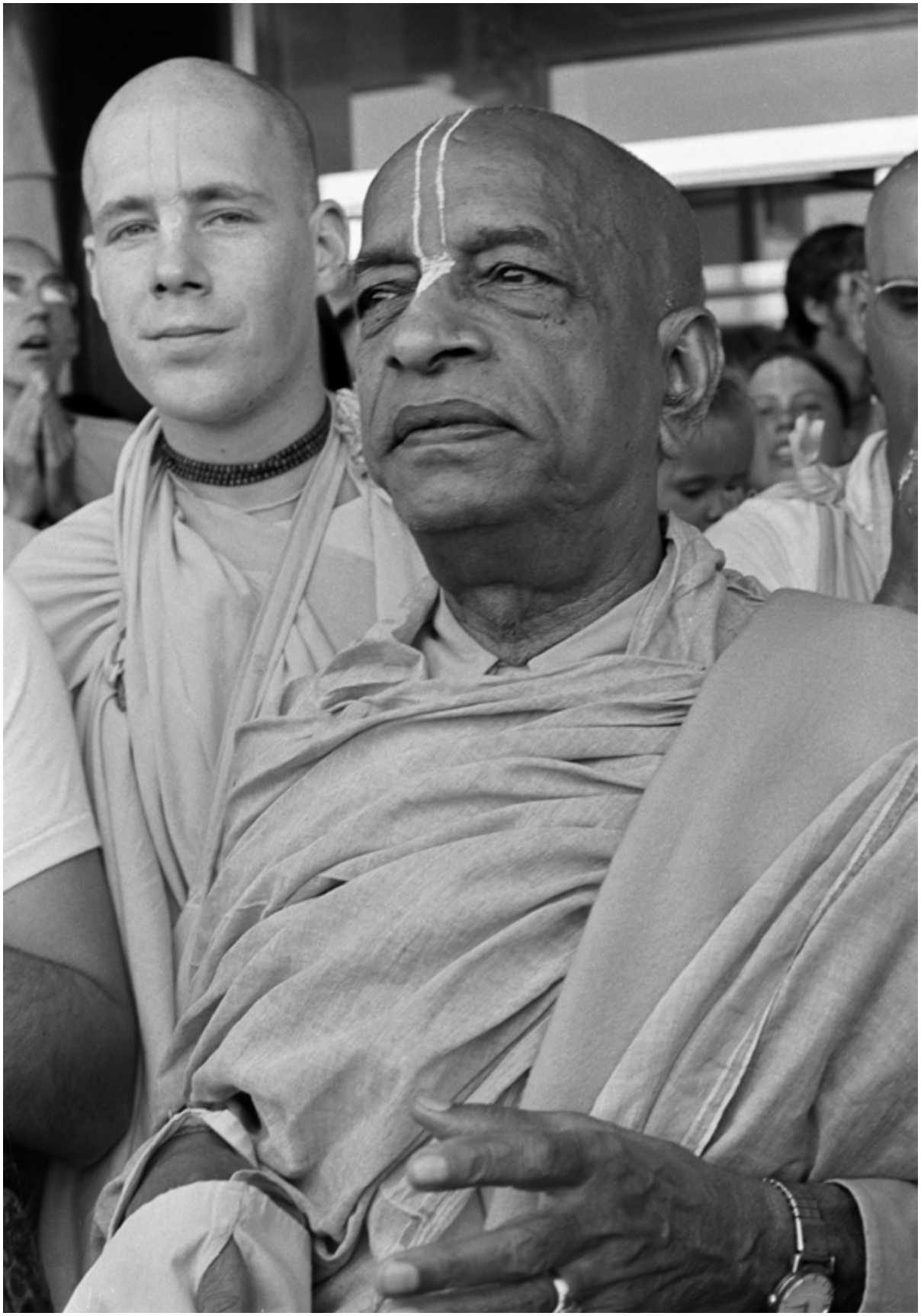
By January of 1973, Citśukhānanda Prabhu had become the first temple president there, developing the Hare Kṛṣṇa community very nicely – so much so that soon, there were devotees ready for initiation. He began arranging for your visit to Caracas at that time.

> Tomorrow I am going to Dallas because the weather here in Los Angeles is not good for my health. It is too cold and cloudy. So I am going to Dallas to get some sunshine. If the weather there is not suitable, I may come at once to Caracas. However, if the weather is good in Dallas I shall remain there until May 30 and then to New Vrindaban for the corner stone laying for our first temple there. Then I shall come to Caracas from Pittsburgh.
>
> Please let me know in Dallas whether or not you can make arrangements for tickets for four to Caracas. (Letter to Citsukhānanda Dāsa, Los Angeles, May 18, 1973)

During the rest of that year, Your Divine Grace was not able to travel to Caracas, so by December it was decided that a group of devotees from Caracas would travel to Los Angeles to meet you and for seven of us to be initiated. Thus you gave us our new names: Viraha Dāsa, Vīrabāhu Dāsa, Havi Dāsa, Tamoha Dāsa, Pramāṇa Dāsa, Kartā Dāsī, Vara Dāsī. In the short lecture, you told us,

> I am not asking individually about the four principles. I suppose you know this. But just I was explaining *sat* and *asat*. These two things are side by side. Just like there is darkness and there is light, you can see merging in the sunlight. You'll see, one side is light, and one side is dark. Similarly, *sat* and *asat,* they are existing side by side. If you don't remain this side, then you come to this side. So it is my choice. So this Hare Kṛṣṇa is the bright side, and the other things, material activities and sinful activities – meat-eating, intoxication, gambling, illicit sex – the dark side. So it is your choice. If you remain the bright side, then your progress is certain, and if you fall down again on the dark side, that is your misfortune. You should always remember that. (Initiation ceremony, Los Angeles, December 25, 1973)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day of your divine appearance, I am reminded of your recollection here in Los Angeles in December of 1968, when you were reminiscing about your own encounter with your Guru Mahārāja and our encounter with Your Divine Grace:



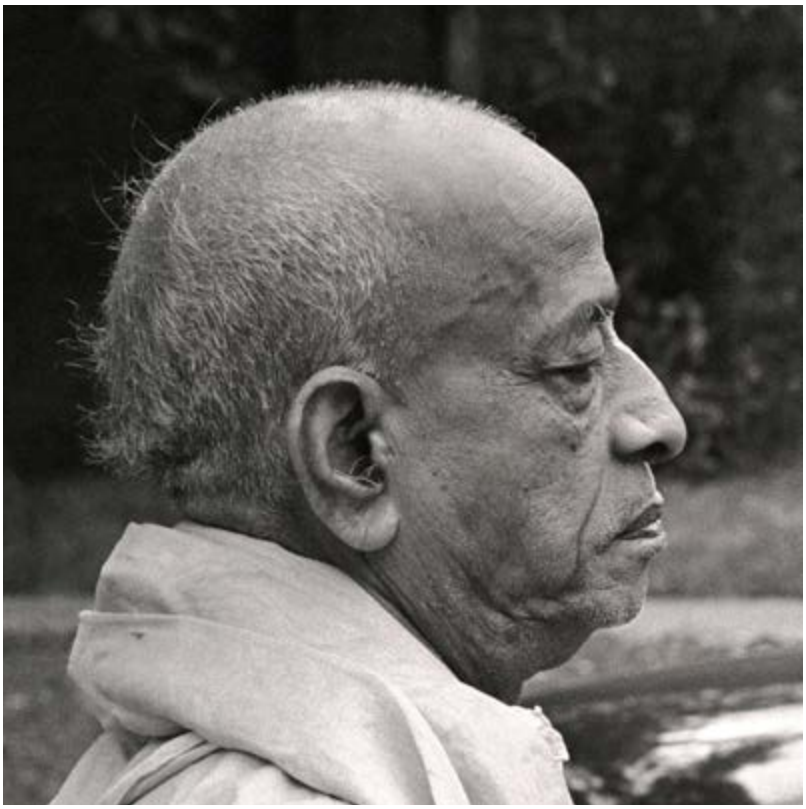
> Fortunately … by Kṛṣṇa's arrangement, we came in contact. I was born in a different family; my Guru Mahārāja was born in a different family. Who knew that I will come to his protection? Who knew that I would come in America? Who knew that you American boys will come to me? These are all Kṛṣṇa's arrangement. We cannot understand how things are taking place. (Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta disappearance day lecture, Los Angeles, December 9, 1968)

By one such arrangement of Kṛṣṇa's, we have come to you and you have most mercifully accepted us. Our prayer is that one day we may have the realization in our relationship with you of the following statement we borrow from your Concluding Words to the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta:*

> I think that His Divine Grace Prabhupāda is always seeing my activities and guiding me within my heart by his words. As it is said in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, tene brahma hṛdā ya ādi-kavaye.* Spiritual inspiration comes from within the heart, wherein the Supreme Personality of Godhead, in His Paramātmā feature, is always sitting with all His devotees and associates.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please keep me always in the shade of your lotus feet. May I always remain there as one of your innumerable and fortunate servants. Eternally grateful, may I go on incessantly chanting your glories in your service, all of which have made me forever fortunate.

Your lowly servant,
Vīrabāhu Dāsa



Homages from GBC Emeriti

Bhaktimārga Swami

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

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

You Have Me Moving

You have me moving
Which is for improving
Qualities of magnitude
In character and servitude

It has been over half a century
Since you ignited my energy
Forward in direction
Behind teachers in succession

I'm asked about enthusiasm
Sparing absolutely no sarcasm
I tell them straight – learned from Dad
But major player – reverent Prabhupād

Where I live in the snow drifts
I've received many of your gifts
They've come to me over the years
In the form of my awesome peers

Your servant,
Bhaktimārga Swami

They shaped me, molded me
Showed me how I should be
Sadly, not all are so active
While Kṛṣṇa is still attractive

I miss them dearly as they pulled me in
Missing their company is a source of chagrin
It's painful, a separation feeling
It's natural in such family dealings

Some have perished, some have stayed
Some are on a climb, some are delayed
Men and women, definitely aged
Surely all will be home, fully engaged

I throw gratitude as prostrations
For the friends, my foundations
It is quite the special experience
You are moving me to transcendence

Bhūrijana Dāsa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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 Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

As Kali-yuga merrily sails its *māyā*-enchanted prisoners toward a seemingly inevitable abyss, I visited an old friend of fifty years, an artist, surfer, and yogi. He has now retired, but for years he worked as the international art director of a multibillion-dollar surf-wear company. But above all else that he has done, he remains a disciple of Your Divine Grace. The beautiful name you entrusted him with is Shyāmānanda Dāsa.

Although 75 plus, he is still strong of body and spirit despite currently suffering the nasty treatment regimen of chemotherapy. Śrīla Prabhupāda, his remembrances of you remain firm, for he has never forgotten you despite a full lifetime of both victories and defeats. He faces an unknown but ultimately inevitable future, and your interactions with him and your instructions to him personally and through your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* have been stored carefully within him as his greatest wealth.

Shyāmānanda appeared awed and illumined when describing the breadth of your influence, from ubiquitous yoga-school chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* to the worldwide acceptances of elements of Vaiṣṇava philosophy, dress, hairstyle, eating, science, and methods of preaching. And he was struck how you left an indelible mark on many powerful souls who met you just once but never formally accepted your shelter. And having a warrior's nature himself, he reveled in your stepping out alone, elderly and penniless, from Vrindavan to the United States, as you began your worldwide movement armed only with your bravery of spirit, a trunk of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* books, and the order of your Guru Mahārāja.

But most of all he reveled in his personal interactions with you. He had observed you cook with your three-tiered cooker, shirtless, just as you must have cooked for yourself in Vrindavan, and how you salted and spiced deftly with your fingers, never measuring, but with the confident flare of an experienced master chef. As he spoke of this, Shyāmānanda moved his arms with the grace of a dancer in his attempt to duplicate your spicing technique.

He remembered you learning that he was an artist, although neither shaved-up nor in devotee attire, calling him to sit next to you behind your low desk as you showed him one by one photographs of the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple and described in detail the look you wanted for your yet-to-be constructed Vrindavan Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir. When Shyāmānanda, knowing his art history, commented to you that the arches you suggested seemed Islamic in design, you

proceeded to explain the cultural assimilation that had occurred in Vraja as a result of the Mogul occupancy of North India.

He also remembered two tense, unanswered challenges you forcefully shot at your devotees. First, while viewing a proposed Third Canto *Bhāgavatam* painting as if seen from above Lord Brahmā, a viewpoint which was philosophically incorrect, you challenged, "Who is above Brahmā?" Nothing else was spoken and no one replied. Second, some tacks mysteriously appeared on your bed. You were angry at the danger they presented and challenged, "Who has done this?" Again, your few but sharp words received only silence in reply.

He remembered with joy your visit to the Cistercian Monastery in near-to-Melbourne Tarrawarra, and your lecture, to his surprise, on demigods. But in Tarrawarra what moved him most was your full relaxation among these serious Christian practitioners, for all were celibate, vegetarian monks.

He somberly also remembered assisting Tamal Krishna Goswami and Upendra during the final months of your sojourn on earth. He recollected that while he sat in your presence in the upper rooms of your Vrindavan home, he witnessed a leading disciple consult you about a complicated financial decision that had to be made. And he recalled your weighty words: "First complete your sixteen rounds before speaking to me about these things."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once even instructed Shyāmānanda's father, who previously had been an active military fighter, to go alone into the forest and chant *oṁ tat sat*! And astoundingly, his father, after that one meeting, would regularly journey to the forest near his home and chant *oṁ tat sat*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, how many souls have you touched as you unfurled Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission to spread the chanting of Kṛṣṇa's holy names throughout the world? In how many hearts have you planted the seed of Kṛṣṇa consciousness? How many still unrecognized souls will rise to prominence in time to fulfill your desire and the desire of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that Kṛṣṇa consciousness be spread throughout the universe?

As you credited your completion of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* to the "authorized order" of your Guru Mahārāja, you referred to him as "His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Gosvāmī Mahārāja, my beloved eternal spiritual master, guide, and friend."

A friend acts for our benefit and forever wishes us well. As your Guru Mahārāja was your "friend," and as Kṛṣṇa is the dearmost friend of every soul (*Gītā* 9.18), you are also the greatest friend of the world, for you have planted the seed of meaning, bliss, and eternity in the hearts of countless souls.

Although Shyāmānanda is my dear friend, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will always remain his greatest friend. And Śrīla Prabhupāda, as my own most beloved eternal spiritual master, guide, and friend, please allow me to forever serve your two ever-moving lotus feet.

Your Bhūrijana Dāsa

Giriraj Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

When I joined the Boston temple in 1969, Satsvarūpa Dāsa was the temple president and also the editor of BTG, and he always wanted articles for the magazine, so I wrote one, entitled "The Genuine Spiritual Master." By the time the issue with my article reached you in February of 1971, I was with you in Gorakhpur, India.

After reading my article you called for me. The temple room was dimly lit – only some narrow shafts of light pierced through the slim openings in the wooden shutters along the side. Sitting alone on your raised cushion at the far end of the room, you were the very image of the eternal spiritual master, and your voice resonated with the truth of eternal time. I sat at your feet, eyes and ears wide open.

"I saw your article in *Back to Godhead,*" you said. "It was very nice. You should write. This is your first business. Go on writing. We require many, many such articles about Kṛṣṇa consciousness. So you should devote yourself to writing."

"I will try," I said. "But why are you asking me? I have no special qualification."

"We require many to do this work, and we need you also. So, you travel with me and I will guide you. You come and stay with me."

I felt thrilled and honored. You had never before given me a direct instruction. In fact, we had hardly ever spoken, and now you were inviting me to stay with you so you could guide me in writing.

Over the years you repeated your instruction for me to write. In a letter to me dated August 12, 1971, you wrote, "In the midst of your heavy duties, go on writing something glorifying the Lord and put our philosophy into words. Writing articles means to express oneself how he is understanding the whole philosophy. So this writing is necessary for everyone."

In 1973 I sent you my Vyāsa-pūjā offering, and on August 23, from Bhaktivedanta Manor, you sent me an encouraging note: "I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter and the nice Vyasa-puja offering you sent. I have sent it to Satsvarupa Goswami for printing in the BTG. Writing is a very important part of our work, and Satsvarupa is always anxious to have new material from the devotees for expanding the BTG. You have a nice talent for writing, and practice makes perfect, so continue. It will be appreciated."

In recent years I have edited *Life's Final Exam: Death and Dying from the Vedic Perspective* and written *Watering the Seed – With Teachings from His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda*; *Many Moons: Reflections on Departed Vaishnavas; I'll Build You a Temple: The Juhu Story;* and *Dancing White Elephants: Traveling with Śrīla Prabhupāda in India, August 1970–March 1972*. This year I submitted two articles to BTG, which have been accepted for publication, and I am in the last stages of completing my latest book, about meeting you and the devotees in Boston, April 1969–October 1970.

On this occasion I pray to you to bless me that I can continue to serve you, the devotees, and the world by writing about Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the right consciousness. As you wrote in your commentary on *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 19.132, "It is certainly not good to write literature for money or reputation, but to write books and publish them for the enlightenment of the general populace is real service to the Lord. That was Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī's opinion, and he specifically told his disciples to write books. He actually preferred to publish books rather than establish temples. Temple construction is meant for the general populace and neophyte devotees,

but the business of advanced and empowered devotees is to write books, publish them and distribute them widely. According to Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, distributing literature is like playing on a great *mṛdaṅga*. Consequently we always request members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness to publish as many books as possible and distribute them widely throughout the world. By thus following in the footsteps of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, one can become a *rūpānuga* devotee."

I am assisted in my work by a team of expert editors, headed by Kālachandjī Dāsa, and I request you to kindly bless them too.

Thank you very much. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your eternal, grateful servant,
Giriraj Swami

Hridayananda dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

As you were leaving this world, you said, "Try to expand our mission. If you cannot expand it, at least maintain it." Sadly, we were not able to do that, and today your Western mission is quite small compared to what it was under your direct leadership. Thus, it is the duty of your faithful followers to join together in a determined effort to expand your Western followers. You often emphasized that if leading Western countries accepted Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the world would follow. This was your global strategy to establish Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement as the *yuga-dharma* for the whole world. I pray that Lord Kṛṣṇa empower us to carry out your clearly stated desire for this planet. You gave your life to achieve this most noble goal, and we should give our lives in the same spirit. This will show that we actually understand the *yuga-dharma* and the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON.

Your servant,
Hridayananda dāsa Goswami

Mālatī Devī Dāsī

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
svāmi-śrī-bhaktivedānta-prabhupādāya te namaḥ

gurvājñāṁ śirasi-dhṛtvā śaktyāveṣa-sva-rūpiṇe
hare-kṛṣṇeti mantreṇa pāścātya-prācya-tāriṇe

viśvācārya-pravaryāya divya-kāruṇya-mūrtaye
śrī-bhāgavata-mādhurya-gītā-jñāna-pradāyine

gaura-śrī-rūpa-siddhānta-sarasvati-niṣeviṇe
rādhā-kṛṣṇa-padāmbhoja-bhṛṅgāya gurave namaḥ

> I offer my humble obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is Kṛṣṇa's beloved associate and who came down to this plane from Goloka. Taking the order of his guru on his head, he is the *śaktyāveṣa* (empowered) *avatāra* of Nityānanda Prabhu personified. He distributed the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra all over the Eastern and Western world, delivering and uplifting all fallen souls. He is the best of millions of *jagat-gurus* because he is the personification of divine mercy. He has distributed the sweet nectar of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the transcendental knowledge of *Bhagavad-gītā* all over the world. He is constantly engaged in exclusive devotional service to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, and Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu. I offer my humble obeisances unto Śrīla Prabhupāda, who is like a bumblebee always tasting the nectar of the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Govinda. (Written by Śrīla Govinda Mahārāja upon request, and edited by Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja)

At the present moment, your intimate disciples have gathered in Śrī Vrindavan-dhāma to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your victorious offering to the sacred lineage of the Brahma-Madhva-Gauḍīya-*sampradāya,* ISKCON's Śrī Śrī Krishna-Balaram Mandir, notably featuring the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu; His personal associates such as Svarūpa Dāmodara Gosvāmī, who was His intimate private secretary; His deputed band of front-line preachers, the Six Gosvāmīs; and Rāmānanda Rāya and other illustrious *ācāryas*. The heartfelt descriptions coming from your own front-line generals, men and women, indicate that the time is ripe for a continuation of Lord Caitanya's *ādi* pastimes via your adroit vision and ardent adherence to the orders of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Who will write that tome from among ISKCON's second generation, while there is still connectivity with some of your original stalwarts? The *Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* even with its faults and inaccuracies, delivers the essence of your transcendental pastimes as you transform from a "Calcutta boy" into a world-recognized and famed *ācārya,* but there remains an incredible storehouse of pastimes to be revealed, pastimes that will expand further, expand on your glories as a *śaktyāveṣa-avatāra*.

The Krishna-Balaram Mandira rose against all odds at the time, being constructed and built by foreigners in a remote part of Vrindavan, Raman Reti, outside the general Vrindavan village itself, while giving leeway for the completion of Hare Kṛṣṇa Land in Juhu, another remotely placed village outside of Bombay, on the seaside. The undeniable crest jewel of your crowning achievements, Śrīdhāma Māyāpur, rising as your indisputable world headquarters, being the most remote, the most off the grid, is the most fantastic part of your vision to spread the cult of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement worldwide. It is the place where a glimpse of the Lord's prophecies would be seen in action during the first international Gaura-Pūrṇimā festival in 1972, where fair- and dark-skinned foreigners alike danced and chanted *haribol*! *haribol*! through the streets of Navadvīpa with youthful abandon.

Only you were not surprised by this occurrence due to your complete faith in the instruction of your guru and full faith in the Lord Himself. You knew, without a doubt, that this would occur, and you brought us along, introducing us to an amazing world outside time that we would have never imagined existed. By your grace, we were given glances into the spiritual world, enough to captivate us and keep us on track as your dancing white elephants, (as we were often called).

I am no longer much of a dancer, but I beg you to allow me to remain engaged in your service during this closing chapter of my life. You told us that Vaiṣṇavas do not "retire," and you were that vivid example. You gave us that "real life, as Caitanya has wrought," filled with a value that can never be bought. You "purchased" our empty hearts with your genuine love, and while we knew that we can never repay your selfless gift, our lives are still molded by our attempts to do so. I have no other purpose for breathing.

May I ever remain your *dāsī,*
Mālatī Devī Dāsī

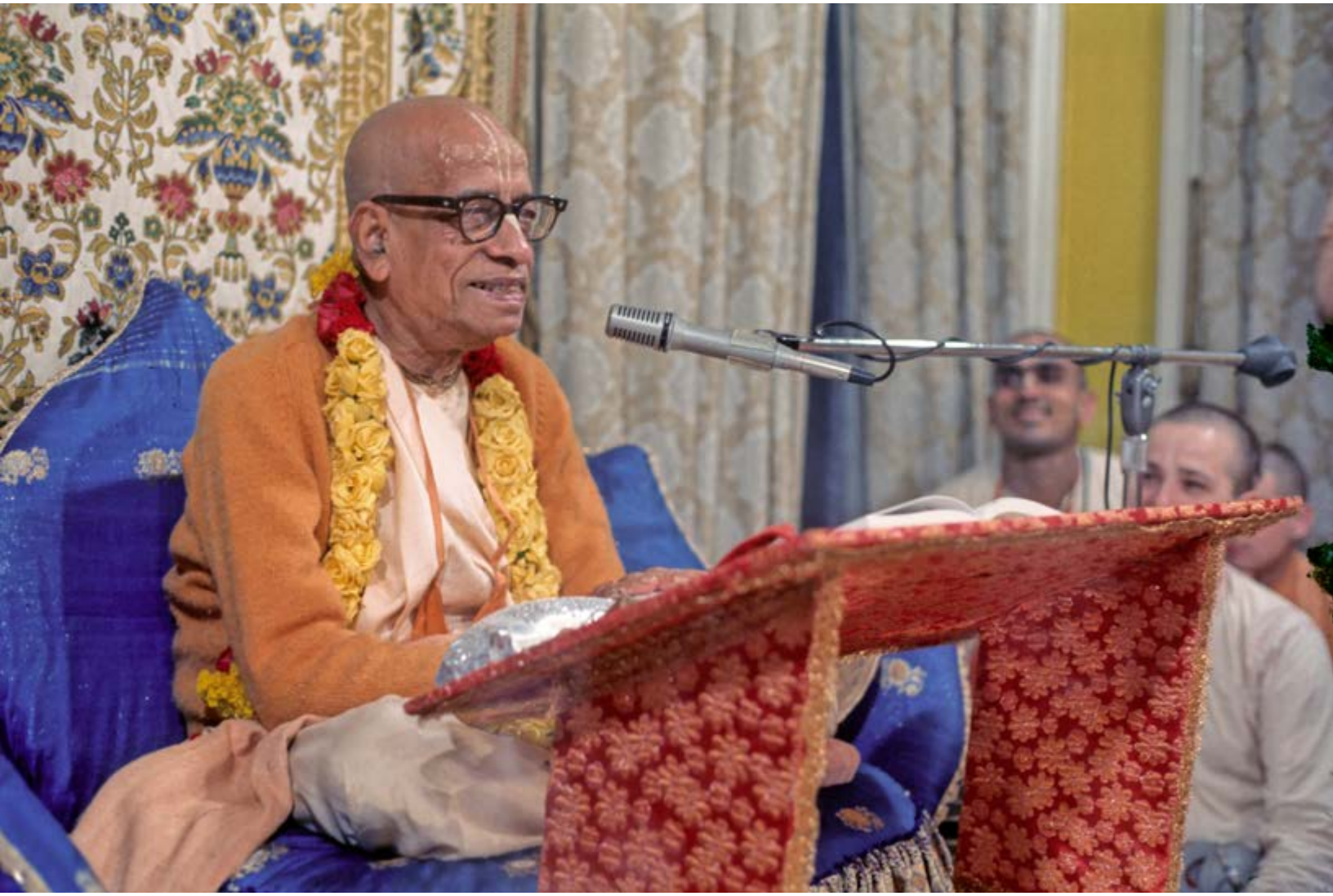
Mukunda Goswami

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

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

Reciprocation

On 13 December 1973, at the Los Angeles temple, on Srila Bhaktisiddhānta's disappearance day, you ended your lecture by saying that you were "horrified" by dreaming several times that Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja was calling you to take *sannyāsa*. At that time, all of the devotees present in the temple room saw tears streaming from your eyes as your voice choked to gravel and you said, "You are helping me." Then there was a short pause. You were displaying some transcendental emotions as these tears of gratitude seemed to take over. The devotees there had never heard or seen anything quite like this – ever. Previously, you had exhibited intense anger when speaking with impersonalists sometimes masquerading as devotional individuals. However, these



emotional displays of gratitude were witnessed only by a privileged few. Your moods seemed to alternate between kindness and friendliness to stern disagreement, depending on who you were speaking with – the age, gender, nationality, and philosophical conviction of the person before you.

One could say that time, place, and circumstance/audience were the determining factors of the mood you adopted on specific occasions.

In the book *The Nectar of Devotion* Kṛṣṇa talks about his indebtedness to Draupadī for calling out to him, "*He Govinda*." This indirectly indicates that Krsna is obliged to appreciate such surrender and points out the psychological need for all people to feel valued. Śrīla Prabhupāda went so far as to indicate that ISKCON leaders should discuss their differences threadbare, until they would reach a deeper understanding. He told us that the movement's leaders should discuss the principle of *acintya-bhedābheda-tattva* (inconceivable simultaneous oneness and difference) each year in Māyāpur. Mutual appreciation was an essential keynote of this instruction.

Without this reciprocation, life can be humdrum and outright depressing. Some have even left the frontline preaching of ISKCON, or ISKCON entirely, because they were either undervalued or not valued at all.

A person who is mindful of his friend's beneficial actions is grateful. In the *Mahābhārata,* Kṛṣṇa says, "When I was away from Draupadī, she cried with the words, '*he Govinda*!' This call for Me has put Me in her debt, and that indebtedness is gradually increasing in My heart."

Although you were often stern, uncompromising, and seemingly cruel and rigid, your kindness and indebtedness were always there – as is the nature of any true *sādhu*. So, you were in a sense the master of reciprocation.

Your servant,
Mukunda Goswami

Nirañjana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The time for your Vyāsa-pūjā is quickly approaching, and we eagerly await this sacred day when a disciple is given a unique opportunity to offer homage to his spiritual master on the day of his appearance. It's a time to express gratitude to you and to take inventory of my heart based on the ever-fresh realizations I should have experienced while serving your instructions in deep separation from your physical presence.

I must sadly admit, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that I have not had any new realizations this year. Instead, I have been consumed by the pain of separation, not only from you but also from your service. This year I have nothing to offer you except my paltry attempts to restore my health.

I could say I offer you my heart, but I should provide you with a clean heart, not a heart still contaminated with unwanted desires. It's been over fifty years since you offered me your service and the holy name, replete with all the cleansing potency required to obtain a clean heart. My heart should be a clean altar for you to sit on by this time. Regrettably, it is not.

The simple fact is that I have nothing to offer except a strong desire to please you someday. To say that I am grateful for this desire would be inadequate. It's what keeps me alive. It gives me hope and a purpose for living.

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I beg you to please find in me the sincerity to say that I am,

Your servant eternally,
Nirañjana Swami

Radhanath Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I bow my head in the sacred dust of your lotus feet.

Today, on the holy day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I pray that I may please you by faithfully following your holy teachings and serving your divine mission. You have mercifully given all of your followers the opportunity to receive your intimate blessings by assisting you in your service to your beloved Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda, and the exalted *ācāryas*.

Recently, I heard a recorded lecture that you had given. It deeply affected my heart. You said, "When a devotee is so advanced that he cannot live without Kṛṣṇa for a moment – then he can see Kṛṣṇa everywhere."

In these simple words you shared a principle that is at the heart of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's teachings. Lord Caitanya prayed, *śūnyāyitaṁ jagat sarvaṁ govinda-viraheṇa me:* "In separation from Govinda the entire universe appears to be a dreary void."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us that a sincere devotee strives to be absorbed in pleasing Kṛṣṇa in both pleasant and challenging conditions, to be so deeply humble that we realize our complete dependence on Kṛṣṇa's mercy at every moment. The true value of whatever we do or say is according to how Śrī Guru and Śrī Kṛṣṇa are pleased with the sincerity of our devotional service. In this way, according to the quality of one's surrender, Kṛṣṇa gives us the vision to see Him and serve Him everywhere and in the hearts of all beings.

Lord Caitanya taught that even the most fallen souls can realize this highest spiritual perfection by sincerely chanting Lord Hari's holy names and living with Vaiṣṇava character. Through the *saṅkīrtana* movement He freely distributed the sweetest revelation of love of Godhead as is exhibited by the inhabitants of Vṛndāvana. While residing in the Gambhīrā, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu revealed the treasure of His heart – expressing Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī's feelings of loving separation from Kṛṣṇa. By His example He taught how to cultivate union with Kṛṣṇa through feelings of loving separation from Him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, serving Lord Caitanya's infinite love is the treasure of your heart. You so mercifully shared this treasure with all of us. In 1965, you departed from your sacred home in Vṛndāvana to beg all people of the world to accept this supreme treasure – *kṛṣṇa-prema-dhana* – unconditional love for the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Alone, in your old age, you ventured into strange lands with no money or any material security. Yet you prayed only to be an instrument of Kṛṣṇa's compassion to bring eternal joy to people in every town and village of the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, with profound urgency you pleaded with all of us to very carefully follow the teachings and culture of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to spread it according to our capacity. Without authentic *sanātana-dharma,* all noble efforts to do good are destined to collapse. *Prema-bhakti* – pure devotional service – is the *jaiva-dharma,* the eternal nature of the soul. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your total absorption in pure bhakti and your compassion for all beings reveals this highest dharma.

In your books, lectures, and interactions, we hear the urgency in your voice as you plead with us to be "serious and sincere" in our spiritual practice.

Your urgent plea is forever relevant, especially in the times in which we are living. The present condition of the world is stricken by brutal wars, devastating earthquakes, and miserable diseases, horrific fires, droughts and floods, heat waves and hurricanes. The tragedy of untimely death … Nations are severely divided with hatred and distrust over ideological, political, social, and

economic issues. Terrorism, stockpiles of nuclear bombs, and man-induced climate change have plagued the world with instability and robbed people's confidence to safely raise their families. Racism, oppression, cruelty, and slaughter are unleashed due to the ignorance of bodily designations. Arrogance, vengeance, greed, and exploitation as well as immoral vices are rampantly being accepted as coveted characteristics of greatness – even in the name of religion.

Yet even in pleasurable times, when there is an abundance of goodness, kindness, security, comfort, and prosperity, we tend to forget the very purpose of life in a world where suffering is imminent: to reconnect with our true self as loving servants of the Lord. The only sustainable solution is genuine spirituality.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you entrusted to us this knowledge and the timeless mercy of the *ācāryas*. You invested your sincere followers with a responsibility to rise above our differences and to infuse the society with the culture of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is above sectarian beliefs and is inclusive with all earnest seekers of God's love.

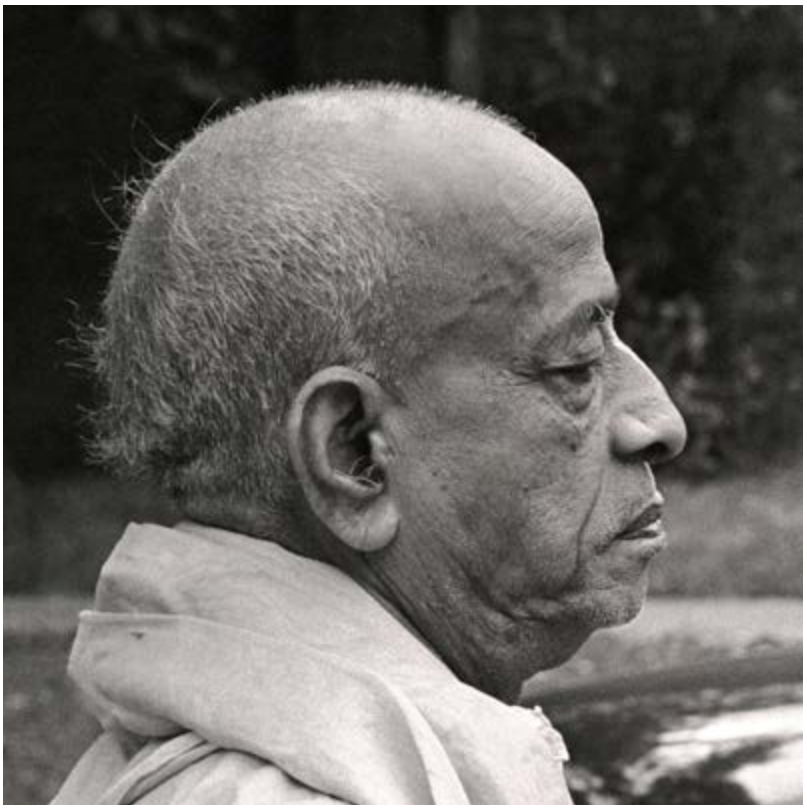
Yet the path of bhakti, as taught by Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda, leads us into the sweetest, most ecstatic pastimes of the Lord, where the all-powerful Absolute Truth, the origin of all existence and the reservoir of all love, reciprocates with His devotees' devotion by becoming their intimate friend, child, or lover.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this is your gift.

We pray for your mercy that we not be depressed, distracted, or indifferent to the heartbreaks of the world. We pray to be ever grateful for the transcendental gift you have entrusted to us. You taught us that where there is great need, there is a great opportunity to serve.

I beg forgiveness for my shortcomings in serving you. I am fallen, unworthy, and unqualified, yet you continue to extend your mercy. The most precious gift in my life is knowing that you have saved me and that you have given me and all of your followers the full mercy of Lord Caitanya. I pray to ever be absorbed in expressing my gratitude to you by faithfully serving your loving servants.

Radhanath Swami



Homages from Non-GBC Sannyāsīs

Bhakti Anugraha Janārdana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances with deep gratitude and utmost humility unto the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on your most auspicious appearance day, being a pure representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva and the disciplic succession. Words are not enough to describe your unlimited mercy and compassion, the immense contribution to the entire human race, and your achievements offered for the upliftment and salvation of the entire world.

Being the most ideal representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, you came into this world to reestablish that same eternal truth in the darkest time, Kali-yuga. As a result, there will be ten thousand years of a golden age within Kali-yuga. Deep within your heart, the divine mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu will be fulfilled, despite the many obstacles and challenges, as is prophesied by our great *ācāryas:*

pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma
sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma

From the four corners of the globe you spread the glories of the Supreme Lord, reviving the dormant love and devotion within countless souls. Who else but a pure devotee and empowered *ācārya* could have done this?

To establish a new religion is not the purpose for which you appeared in this world; rather, you came to revive *the eternal religion,* which is to reestablish the eternal loving relationship every living entity has with Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. It says in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (6.3.19): *dharmaṁ tu sākṣād bhagavat-praṇītam* – real dharma can only be established by God. The direct instructions come from the Supreme Lord. You showed us that our true dharma is bhakti-yoga, loving devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa, and you reestablished this understanding in a world lost to *māyā*.

Your books are the foundation of our movement and will be the lawbooks for humanity for many thousands of years to come. Your temples are embassies to the spiritual world. Your devotees and followers are the messengers, and the only sublime medicine is the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. Therefore this will uplift and inspire the conditioned souls year after year after year.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your most compassionate nature – your feeling for the suffering of all souls – reveals your inner desire to help them get out of this material world. Even though you were in bliss serving Kṛṣṇa in Vrindavan, you did not remain there for your own pleasure. Instead, you took the greatest risk and crossed the ocean, endured hardship, and tolerated rejection – all for the sake of delivering Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the fallen souls.

Like Prahlāda Mahārāja, you could not bear to see others' suffering in ignorance. Like Nārada Muni, you traveled tirelessly, planting seeds of bhakti in every town and village. Like Rūpa Gosvāmī and Sanātana Gosvāmī, you gave us the perfect philosophical foundation on which to base our spiritual lives. Moreover, like Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, you freely distributed the holy names to one and all without discrimination. This is the symptom of a true *paramahaṁsa,* a pure devotee whose only concern is to serve Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga.

The most precious gift you gave the world was the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. This transcendental sound vibration is our direct connection to Kṛṣṇa, and its importance cannot be overemphasized. "There is no difference between Kṛṣṇa and His name. If we chant Hare Kṛṣṇa without offense, then we are immediately transported in the spiritual world."

We are very fortunate to have been introduced to this process of *nāma-saṅkīrtana,* the very essence of the *yuga-dharma*. Through *nāma-saṅkīrtana* you gave us the means to get out of our

material suffering, awaken our eternal spiritual identity, and reestablish our lost relationship with Kṛṣṇa.

You said you will live forever as long as your books are being distributed. Your books are nondifferent from you. They are full of nectarean realizations, saturating us in the knowledge of *tattva-jñāna* and lifting us out of ignorance.

You gave us everything:

- *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* the essence of Vedic wisdom.
- *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* the spotless *Purāṇa* and the ripened fruit of Vedic knowledge.
- *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* the heart of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's divine teachings.
- Countless other books, essays, interviews, conversations, and letters, all infused with your divine realizations.

You assured us, "My books will guide you even after I am gone." Indeed, they continue to guide us, generation after generation, leading us back home, back to Godhead.

You can tell a great leader by the greatness of his followers. You transformed *mlecchas* into dedicated Vaiṣṇavas, purehearted souls willing to sacrifice their lives for Kṛṣṇa's service. Through your mercy, people from all backgrounds – hippies, scholars, professionals, artists – became bhakti-yogis, dedicated to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Even today, your disciples, granddisciples, and followers continue your work, building temples, distributing books, chanting the holy name, and serving ISKCON in countless ways. You established a society that will carry your mission forward for generations to come.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am a fallen soul and have no qualification to approach your lotus feet. However, you have guaranteed that even the most unqualified person can achieve perfection simply by sincerely following your instructions.

On this most auspicious day, with humility, I offer my service and heart to you. With unflinching faith in your words, please bless me. Please give me the strength not to deviate from following your teachings. I pray that you may engage me life after life so that I may serve Their Lordships, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and you and your devotees eternally.

I do not know who you are, but all I know is that I am your insignificant servant. May I always remain at your feet, hoping to surrender one day. I will always be eager to assist in fulfilling your divine mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!
Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!
Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your insignificant servant,
Bhakti Anugraha Janardana Swami
Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir, Vrindavan-dhāma, India

Bhakti Ārjava Prīti Vardhana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

For the past two years, I have had the opportunity to travel and teach devotees in South America, visiting Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Paraguay, and in Mexico. It has been such a deep and rewarding experience for me – meeting so many incredible Vaiṣṇavas everywhere I go. Some places, like Patagonia in Chile, are so remote that they call them "the end of the world!" We even held a Ratha-yātrā there at the start of this year, and it was a truly beautiful and uplifting experience. Among the many other places I have visited are Cusco, Peru, high up in the Andes, and Manaus, Brazil, in the heart of Amazonia. In all these places, Vaiṣṇavas are chanting the holy name and practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and it is truly a reality that the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* resounds in every town and village.

I have been sharing your teachings with the devotees – about Vedic culture, *varṇāśrama-dharma,* and Vaiṣṇava philosophy – all directly from your books, and they are eager for this knowledge. I have been studying *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* with the help of a study guide you wrote in essay form, *An Analysis of Bhagwat Geeta,* based on *sambandha, abhidheya,* and *prayojana,* from Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's *Daśa-mūla-tattva.* It is such a powerful tool, because it truly deepens my understanding of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and I see that many devotees are eager to delve into it as well.

Lately, I have been reflecting a lot on the fourth and fifth verses of the *Upadeśāmṛta.* Rūpa Gosvāmī presents them so beautifully, explaining how we, as devotees, should connect with each other on a personal level to grow in devotion. The fourth verse really struck me – I feel that it embodies the heart of *abhidheya,* the process of devotional service. Then, in the fifth verse, he speaks about how to show respect to devotees, and what stood out to me is his emphasis on associating with *uttama-adhikārīs*. They possess all auspicious qualities, yet Rūpa Gosvāmī highlights just one: they have no propensity to criticize others. That realization deeply impacted me – it is so powerful, and I am striving to live by it myself. I still have so much to learn.

I am deeply grateful for the association I receive through your books and lectures. Please bless me with the strength to deepen my understanding of your mood and realizations so that I may fully grasp and apply them throughout my life with all my heart.

Your humble servant,
Bhakti Ārjava Prīti Vardhana Swami

Bhakti Bṛhat Bhāgavata Swami

My Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Guru-mukha-padma-vākya. In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.25, you write, "The transcendental vibration from the mouth of a pure devotee is so powerful that it can revive the living entity's memory of his eternal relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead.... This awakening voice comes through the mouth of a pure devotee. A pure devotee always engages in the service of the Lord, taking shelter of His lotus feet, and therefore he has a direct connection with the saffron mercy-particles that are strewn over the lotus feet of the Lord."

For the past fourteen years, among other services I have been engaged in the production and distribution of your Vani, Ultimate Audio, which is a 120-GB USB drive with 4,073 audio files. Mādhava Prabhu, from Hare Kṛṣṇa Media in Mumbai, has been serving tirelessly since 2005 with your Bhaktivedanta Archives, a division of your Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT), in producing an Ultimate Audio of your recordings. For more than a decade, we have distributed over 150,000 units. This service is so amazing that it is clear that Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Śrī Pañca-tattva want to give everyone a chance to hear from you – the distribution service has its own transcendental flow.

Guru-mukha-padma-vākya: I also desire that my only wish is to have my consciousness purified by the words emanating from your lotus mouth.

Ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tri-bhuvana. In a letter to Tuṣṭa Kṛṣṇa Prabhu, dated December 14, 1972, you state, "To carry out the teachings of guru is more important than to worship the form, but none of them should be neglected. Form is called *vapuḥ* and teachings is called *vani.* Both should be worshiped."

In my travels, I hear from devotees how they and their family members are adversely affected by the Personality of Kali's chief disciple, Social Media. At times I've felt helpless when I try to support them and have just prayed and prayed how to get them off the internet and other similar types of platforms.

Then for the past three years, Mādhava Prabhu and I began production and distribution of your *vapuḥ,* the Ultimate Video Collection, on a 64-GB USB drive. This drive is comprised of seventy videos – more than fifty-eight hours of the highest-quality footage. We are immensely grateful to Nṛsiṁhānanda Prabhu from ISKCON Television (ITV) and Yadubara Prabhu and Mother Viśākhā from ISKCON Cinema for their blessings and mercy to widely distribute your *vapuḥ.* Thus far we have distributed over 45,000 units. Here again, engaging in this service is definitely Śrī Kṛṣṇa's arrangement – offering your transcendental form to the world.

Ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tri-bhuvana: I also desire to spread your glories to be continuously sung throughout the three worlds.

All glories to your *vāṇī* and *vapuḥ,* our saving grace! Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servant of your servant,
Bhakti Bṛhat Bhāgavata Swami

Bhakti Cārudeṣṇa Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Your divine appearance day is a way for me to reconnect with you. Many times in your lectures you mentioned that devotional service is easy and at the same very difficult and complicated if we make our lives complicated. You assured us that it's even possible to go back to Godhead in this lifetime. The challenge is to shift from practice to realization.

When in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (6.34) Arjuna tells Kṛṣṇa, *cañcalaṁ hi manaḥ kṛṣṇa, pramāthi balavad dṛḍham / tasyāhaṁ nigrahaṁ manye, vāyor iva su-duṣkaram:* the mind is turbulent and very strong, and to subdue it is more difficult than controlling the wind. In His reply, in *Bhagavad-gītā* 6.35, Krishna speaks to Arjuna these important words: *abhyāsena* and *vairāgyeṇa* – "practice" and "detachment."

So the challenge is there, but at the same time the solution is available.

To get to *prema* from *śraddhā* may seem a utopian ideal, but the precious words from the lotus mouth of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the blessings of His special servant like yourself are a guaranteed assurance that we can reach the final goal.

The global situation is getting worse and worse, and this world is becoming more and more a place unfit for gentlemen to live. But we have to find our way to the perfection of life and simultaneously preach to those who have accepted the bad as good and illusion as real. This is another challenge.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, it's my duty to express gratitude to you for revealing this auspicious movement of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the world – a world where everything exists *except* bhakti to Lord Kṛṣṇa. I wish to be a useful instrument in helping to push this mission to my best capacity.

Only your blessings and assistance can save me and help me to always focus on my devotional service the way you and Kṛṣṇa want. I beg to always remain in the dust of the feet of the servants of your servants.

Your aspiring servant of your servants,
Bhakti Cārudeṣṇa Swami

Bhakti Dhīra Dāmodara Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please, I beg to offer my humble and respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.22 purport, you mentioned, "Learned men must be cautious of this age, and if they at all want to cross over the dangerous ocean of Kali, they must follow in the footsteps of the sages of Naimiṣāraṇya and accept Śrīla Sūta Gosvāmī or his representative as the captain of the ship."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the captain of the present ship of *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā* and

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam as no one had ever presented them as you have done. You are not less than the previous *ācāryas*. You are the most powerful and effective *ācārya* of all times.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your purports are perfectly complete in all respects and sufficient to make anyone a fully Kṛṣṇa conscious person. Also, Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your purport to *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 1.218, you mention, "If a Vaiṣṇava, by the mercy of the Lord, is empowered by Him to distribute the Lord's holy name all over the world, other Vaiṣṇavas become very joyful – that is, if they are truly Vaiṣṇavas."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the only one who did the work of spreading the holy name of Kṛṣṇa all over the world and made the whole world dance in the nectar of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa. Please, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly overlook my offenses and mistakes and look at me with mercy, and in this way, give me the treasure of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa.

Your foolish eternal grandson,
Bhakti Dhīra Dāmodara Swami

Bhakti Gauravāṇī Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, I offer my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. Sixty years ago, when you stepped onto the shores of America at Boston Harbor, you carried with you nothing but your unshakable faith in Śrī Kṛṣṇa's holy name and the divine order of your spiritual master to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the English-speaking world. But before addressing the world, you first turned inward – to prayer. You poured out your heart to Kṛṣṇa in the Bengali poem *Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma,* which stands as a revelation of your surrender, your vision, and your boundless compassion for the fallen souls of this age.

Over the past five decades I have often returned to this prayer – reading it, meditating on it, and sharing its message in lectures and seminars. Now, on its sixtieth anniversary, I have tried to explore its meaning more deeply through a book, poetic adaptations in English, German, and Spanish, and a musical setting. This extraordinary prayer stands as a shining example of how to take shelter of the Lord in trying circumstances, offering guidance and inspiration to all who seek to share *bhāgavata-dharma*. On this sacred day of your appearance in this world, I offer a few reflections that have gradually unfolded over the years.

> My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the very first verse you reveal the heart of your entire mission: absolute surrender to Kṛṣṇa and complete dependence on His will. After a harrowing sea voyage, you had finally arrived at your destination, but you did not turn outward in excitement but inward in prayer. "Why have You brought me here?" you asked Kṛṣṇa – not as a complaint, but as the honest cry of a servant stepping into the unknown. Seeing the stark contrast between Vrindavan and Boston, between Kṛṣṇa's abode and Kali's domain, you wondered how you could possibly fulfill your mission. Yet in that moment of uncertainty, you didn't retreat – you offered yourself

unconditionally: "Now You can do whatever You like with me." That line, simple and profound, sets the tone for the entire poem – a prayer born of dependence, humility, and faith. It is your heart speaking directly to Kṛṣṇa, and through it, our hearts begin to awaken too.

> But I can guess that You have got some business here, otherwise why should You call me here to such a terrible place?

You saw Kṛṣṇa's hand in everything – even in an unfamiliar city full of superficial glamor. Boston's skyline and polished lifestyle were not signs of progress to you, but evidence of degradation and entanglement in illusion. Still, you weren't discouraged. You knew Kṛṣṇa had a purpose. Your prayer reminds us that a devotee trusts the Lord's plan. You weren't impressed by the American dream – or nightmare – you were moved by the Lord's mission.

> 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.

In this verse, your clear vision shines. Where others saw prosperity, you saw bondage: people lost in passion and ignorance. You acknowledged the challenge of reaching them, yet your faith in Kṛṣṇa's mercy surpassed every obstacle. You made no compromises. You trusted that purity would draw out sincerity – and it did. Your words found fertile ground in unexpected hearts. What once seemed impossible became reality through your unwavering devotional determination.

> But I know Your causeless mercy can make everything possible because You are the most expert mystic.

This line fills me with hope. When I doubt my own capacity, I remember your unshakable faith – not in yourself, but in Kṛṣṇa's limitless power. Yogeśvara, the master of all mystic power, can make the impossible possible. You knew Kṛṣṇa could empower even the unqualified. You came alone yet confident that transcendental sound would accomplish everything. And it did. America didn't know it, but a challenger of illusion had arrived – carrying within his heart the divine empowerment to change the world.

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

Through this verse, your deep humility shines. Though certain of Kṛṣṇa's power, you again wondered how those immersed in unrestrained sense pleasure could grasp the mellows of devotional service. You would not preach mere doctrine – you would offer taste: *rasa*. You knew that awakening hearts required mercy, not just knowledge. You prayed for that mercy – and soon, the rain of that mercy would begin to fall.

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

You affirmed that even bound souls can draw Kṛṣṇa's response through sincere desire. When the soul turns to Him, He sends His devotee. You came as His instrument, bearing the key of

devotion to unlock our bondage. This verse teaches us to release frustration and to trust in time and mercy. You helped me see that even the hardest hearts can yield to grace.

> If You so desire, I wish that You may deliver them, and only by Your such desire all of them will be able to understand Your message.

In this verse, you lay everything at Kṛṣṇa's feet. You knew that the outcome of your efforts rested entirely on the Lord's will. Still, you prayed – not for yourself, but for us. Your prayer was surrender in its purest form. Like Prahlāda, you wanted nothing but the well-being of others. And because your desire was pure, Kṛṣṇa fulfilled it. You showed that understanding is born not of intellect but devotion. And so, the Lord chose you to spread His message to the world.

> The words of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* are Your incarnation, and if they receive it in submissive aural reception, repeatedly, then they will be able to understand Your message.

You taught that Kṛṣṇa remains in this world as sound – through His name and the *Bhāgavatam*. You opened temples not for ritual, but to give people the chance to hear about Kṛṣṇa. You trusted that sincere hearing alone would bring inner transformation. And because you lived what you spoke, your voice carried that divine vibration. You made the *Bhāgavatam* come to life. In you, Kṛṣṇa's sound took form.

On *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.17–21:

> 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.
>
> By regular attendance in classes on the *Bhāgavatam* and by rendering of service to the pure devotee, all that is troublesome to the heart is almost completely destroyed, and loving service unto the Personality of Godhead, who is praised with transcendental songs, is established as an irrevocable fact.
>
> As soon as irrevocable loving service is established in the heart, the effects of nature's modes of passion and ignorance, such as lust, desire and hankering, disappear from the heart.
>
> Then the devotee is established in goodness, and he becomes completely happy. Thus established in the mode of unalloyed goodness, the man whose mind has been enlivened by contact with devotional service to the Lord gains positive scientific knowledge of the Personality of Godhead in the stage of liberation from all material association.
>
> Thus the knot in the heart is pierced, and all misgivings are cut to pieces. The chain of fruitive actions is terminated when one sees the self as master.

O Prabhupāda, by quoting these verses you guide us into the sacred heart of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* where the transformative power of hearing *kṛṣṇa-kathā* is revealed. You often quoted these five foundational verses from the second chapter of the First Canto, for they trace the entire path of spiritual awakening. You taught that everything begins with a sincere and eager desire to hear – *śravaṇam* – and when Kṛṣṇa, as the Paramātmā, sees that desire, He begins to cleanse the heart from all unwanted things. You reminded us that this is not a mechanical process; it requires eagerness, sincerity, and the shelter of a bona fide spiritual master. Through regular hearing and a humble service attitude, the knots of ignorance and passion are cut, and loving service arises – firm and unshakable. O Prabhupāda, you gave us both the message and the method: sit,

hear, chant, and serve. You made the *Bhāgavatam* a living reality, and through your voice, Kṛṣṇa entered our hearts. You gave us hope that real happiness and liberation are within reach.

> This is the process of becoming liberated from the influence of the modes of ignorance and passion, and thus they can become freed from all inauspicious things accumulated in the heart.

It was your firm conviction that transcendental sound was sufficient to purify the heart. You had no doubt that simply by hearing Kṛṣṇa's name, form, qualities, and pastimes, even the most burdened heart could be relieved and enlivened. Passion and ignorance – so dominant in the modern world – would recede when touched by that divine vibration.

You taught us that the desire to enjoy matter is not merely a distraction – it is *abhadra* (inauspicious), the root of our misfortune. Only by uprooting this unwanted desire could we be free.

But how to make people hear? That was your burden, your prayer, your mission. You gave your life to plant that sacred sound in our hearts. And by your mercy, we began to listen.

> But because I am very unfortunate, unqualified, and the most fallen, therefore I am seeking Your benediction so that I may be able to convince them about this (Kṛṣṇa Consciousness).

In this verse, your profound humility finds its most touching expression. Despite your vast scholarship and firm faith, you saw yourself as unqualified, fallen, and powerless to convince your audience without Kṛṣṇa's help. Yet, like Arjuna, you stood ready to become the Lord's instrument. And because your humility was sincere and deep, Kṛṣṇa responded with full empowerment. He made your words potent. He made your mission victorious. You showed us that the Lord helps the humble, uplifts the lowly, and fulfills the desires of those who want nothing for themselves. May we cultivate that same conviction and become instruments in your mission.

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

What an expression of unconditional surrender! It is the Lord who brought you to this foreign land, and He alone will decide what becomes of your efforts. This is the essence of devotional service: to try our best while leaving the results in Kṛṣṇa's hands.

You embodied this perfectly, seeing yourself only as an instrument in the Lord's will. Just as He sent you to New York, so you inspired others to follow your example, crossing oceans and borders to share the holy name. You gave us the courage to try, even when we felt unqualified or alone, reminding us that success is not ours to produce, but Kṛṣṇa's to grant.

May I always remember that my only task is to serve, and let Kṛṣṇa decide the outcome.

> You are the Lord of the whole creation, so if You like You can make my power of speaking as suitable as they can understand.

When I struggle to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness – through personal example, words, or music – I think of this prayer. You never relied on your own eloquence, yet Kṛṣṇa empowered your words to awaken devotion in thousands. That gives me hope. I have so little to offer, but if I depend on the Lord like you did, my voice too can become a channel for His mercy. Your prayer has helped me overcome fear and self-doubt, and encouraged me to speak, trusting that Kṛṣṇa can make the message understood.

> By Your causeless mercy only my words may become transcendentally pure, and I am sure when such transcendental message is penetrated in their hearts certainly they will feel engladdened, and thus become liberated from all unhappy conditions of life.

This verse reminds me of how your words have entered my heart and lifted me out of darkness. You speak from a place of purity, and that purity is transformative. Your voice – recorded, written, and living in your followers – has brought me joy, clarity, and connection to Kṛṣṇa. I've experienced firsthand what you describe here: the heart flooded with transcendental sound, the deep relief from inner sorrow. You have shown us that true liberation begins in the heart.

> I am just like a puppet in Your hands, and You have brought me here, now You can make me dance as You like.

This may be one of the most beautiful expressions of surrender ever written. You became the Lord's puppet – without resistance, without fear. And your dance brought light to the world. I want to follow your example, and so I pray to also become a puppet – responsive, willing, and free from false ego.

> I have no devotion, nor I have any knowledge, but still I have been designated as Bhaktivedanta, now if You like You can just fulfill the real purport of Bhaktivedanta.

These final words echo with your extraordinary humility. Though you were the greatest teacher of bhakti and the embodiment of *vedānta,* you claimed nothing. You entrusted even the meaning of your name to Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your Boston Harbor poem is not just an entry in your diary, a record of your arrival – it is a sacred invocation of surrender, a living prayer that continues to shape our lives. Each verse speaks to the heart, reminding us what it means to serve, to depend on mercy, and to live by Kṛṣṇa's desire.

As we mark sixty years since you set foot in America, I prostrate myself before you in gratitude for your sacrifices, your love, and your unwavering faith. Your words have not only entered my ears – they have entered my heart. And by your mercy, may I continue to walk the path you have so clearly shown.

Your eternal servant,
Bhakti Gauravāṇī Goswami

Bhakti Karuṇāmayī Vanamālī Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Today is the most auspicious day, the most spiritual day, most divine day, most transcendental day, most holy of days, the most pure day, because today is *Bhadra-māsa kṛṣṇa-pakṣa navami:* today is Śrīla Prabhupāda *navami,* the most auspicious appearance day of His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda! Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your appearance in this material world marks the appearance of the most benevolent and most merciful personality appearing in this material world! Today the world is recognizing you as the greatest spiritual ambassador by honoring you with the title, *viśva-guru*!

Many great saints of today from East India, West India, North India, or South India, Rajendra Mahārāja, Premānandjī Swami Mahārāja, and many others, are glorifying and appreciating you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the secret of your success is your love for your spiritual master and your love for fulfilling the instructions of your spiritual masters by spreading the message of Caitanya Mahāprabhu in foreign countries, and printing and distributing this message in book form.

Today, if we go to any place in this world, whether Australia, Kenya, Singapore, Nepal, Uganda, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Fiji, New Zealand, and so many other countries, we will find ISKCON devotees and your books. Thus we see that you have fulfilled the prediction of Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

prithvī te āche yate nagar ādi grām
sarvatre pracher haibe more nāma

You are the most powerful spiritual ambassador, a Vaikuṇṭha man, a transcendental personality who has come into the material world where the conditioned souls are in a hopeless, helpless, and useless situation. When one comes in touch with you, one finds oneself in a hopeful, helpful useful situation.

You have made the process of going back home, back to Godhead, very simple. You have mentioned the way two or three times: chant sixteen rounds every day, follow the four regulative principles, and do not leave ISKCON. At the end of life, an airplane will come from Vaikuṇṭha and take us back home, back to Godhead.

And in case this airplane does not come to take us to the spiritual world, you promised very kindly and in a humble way that *you* will come and take us back home, back to Godhead, saying that you have a key to the back door of Goloka Vrindavan. This shows that you have a special connection with the Supreme Personality Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and with Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. So in this way you are very kind to the conditioned souls of this world.

For another ten thousand years your ISKCON organization, books, lectures, instructions, conversations, and letters will be the guiding force of the people of this world.

Hare Kṛṣṇa. All the devotees under your divine shelter in ISKCON are individually trying to please you by book distribution, book studying, book reading, preaching, temple cleaning,

fund-raising, life membership, Food-for-Life, scientific preaching, social media preaching, etc., etc., and collectively we try to please you by fulfilling one of your final instructions: "Your love for me will be shown by coming together after I leave." "Unity in diversity" and "Cooperation, cooperation, cooperation" are the *sūtras* and mantras we follow to please you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, personally you are very kind to me because you gave me a place in ISKCON and a wonderful spiritual master and wonderful devotees.

On this very special day, I beg at your lotus feet that you shower your mercy on this useless soul! Hare Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, *kī jaya*!

Your servant,
Bhakti Karuṇāmayī Vanamālī Swami

Bhakti Padma Saurabh Pracharaka Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, beloved founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness,

I, Bhakti Padma Saurabha Pracharaka Swami, humbly offer my obeisances unto your lotus feet on this sacred occasion of Vyāsa-pūjā. As I sit in the sacred land of Vrindavan, I am filled with gratitude and joy, for it is here that you established one of the first temples in ISKCON, fifty years ago. Today, as we celebrate this golden jubilee, I am honored to offer my humble Vyāsa-pūjā offering to you.

By your divine mercy, I have recently been initiated into the revered order of *sannyāsa* by Vedavyāsapriya Swami Mahārāja, a distinguished disciple of yours. This sacred ashram, offered by your devoted follower, has given me the privilege of serving your mission and executing your divine desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness globally.

As I travel around India's various temples, teaching and sharing the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness from the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* I feel an intense need among devotees to study and experience the depths of Kṛṣṇa's love in the pages of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. I sincerely pray to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, to make me an instrument through which Kṛṣṇa's love can flow, inundating the hearts of all people and subduing the *anārthas* in our minds.

Today, as I stood before the *samādhi* of my spiritual master, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, I was reminded of the unwavering devotion of Hanumān to Lord Rāmacandra. Similarly, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami has been like a Hanumān to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, serving you with unalloyed dedication. I pray that you empower me to become like Hanumān toward my *dīkṣā-guru* and my *sannyāsa-guru,* carrying out their instructions and spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness with unwavering devotion.

I am eternally grateful for this opportunity to be an instrument in your noble endeavor. As I embark on this sacred journey, I fervently pray to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, to empower me with your divine guidance, wisdom, and strength. Kindly bless me that I may fulfill your cherished desire of establishing temples and *gurukulas,* where the sacred teachings of Kṛṣṇa consciousness can be imparted to humanity. May I be a worthy instrument in your hands, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and may your divine mission continue to flourish under your guidance.

I offer my heartfelt prayers and obeisances unto your lotus feet, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious occasion of Vyāsa-pūjā. May your divine blessings be upon me, and may I remain forever committed to your noble cause.

Śrī guru-caraṇam, namo namaha.

Your servant,
Bhakti Padma Saurabh Pracharaka Swami

Bhakti Prabhāva Swami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.24.12, Lord Brahmā tells Kardama Muni: "My dear son, since you have completely accepted my instructions without duplicity, showing them proper respect, you have worshiped me properly. Whatever instructions you took from me you have carried out, and thereby you have honored me."

You emphasize in the purport that honoring the spiritual master means executing his instructions fully and without deviation. Your fulfilling of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja's order is the cause of our mercy today and for generations to come. "Empowerment comes from faithfully executing the order of the spiritual master. The order of the spiritual master is the active principle in spiritual life. Anyone who disobeys the order of the spiritual master immediately becomes useless." (*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 12. 8–10)

In the purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.9.12 you explain that one who cooperates with the Lord's will, follows the guidance of bona fide *brāhmaṇas* and Vaiṣṇavas, and adheres to religious principles need not fear any difficulties. Bhīṣmadeva assured Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira that he would always be protected by *brāhmaṇas,* God, and religion, even in times of tribulation. Similarly, by strictly following your instructions, we remain protected.

Your Divine Grace set the example, as you stated in a January 19, 1974 letter to His Holiness Hridayananda Goswami: "So far as my Guru Mahārāja is concerned, I have never at any time deviated from His order. I was only concerned with carrying out His order to the best of my ability, even in the face of so many difficulties."

You recalled your Guru Mahārāja's final instruction: "Whatever you have learned, try to expand it – preach in English." (Māyāpur, March 1974) In your Vyāsa-pūjā address in 1969, you declared: "Personally, I have no credit for this. But I have full faith in my Guru Mahārāja. I simply tried to execute his order without deviation, and that is my only qualification. And he has given me all success." (Vyāsa-pūjā address, Hamburg, September 5, 1969)

On Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's appearance day in 1961, in Vrindavan, you lamented:

> Even now, my Godbrothers, you return here on the order of our master and together engage in this *pūjā*. But simply a festival of flowers and fruits does not constitute worship. The one who serves the message of the guru really worships him.

> Oh, shame! My dear brothers, aren't you embarrassed? In the manner of businessmen, you increase your disciples. Our master said to preach! Let the neophytes remain inside the temples and simply ring the bells …
>
> But just take a good look at the terrible situation that has arisen. Everyone has become a sense enjoyer and has given up preaching …
>
> From the seas, across the earth, penetrate the universal shell; come together and preach this Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
>
> Then our master's service will be in proper order. Make your promise today. Give up all your politics and diplomacy. (quoted in *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* vol. 1, p. 249)

ISKCON remains dedicated to worldwide missionary activities under its collective leadership, yet faces many challenges in continuing your Guru Mahārāja's mission. Just as Brahmā prayed for protection and empowerment (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.9.22–27), today I pray to Your Divine Grace. I pray to engage in your service and that of your dedicated followers, and that we may not be affected by the material energy nor misled by false prestige as leaders and give up all unnecessary politics and diplomacy. May we never deviate from your instructions. ISKCON is your instrument in delivering Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the world.

When my spiritual master, His Holiness Bhakti Cāru Swami Mahārāja, asked me at Bhaktivedanta Manor to address his aspiring disciples, I hesitated. A disciple does not usually speak in front of his guru, but as he insisted, I asked for his blessings. He pointed to your *mūrti* and said: "This is where all blessings come from."

On this auspicious day of your appearance, I pray that we may never forget this truth and eternally take shelter at your lotus feet.

Your servant,
Bhakti Prabhāva Swami

Bhakti Prabhupāda-vrata Dāmodara Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. Hare Kṛṣṇa!

In 1966, my father somehow found his way to you at 26 Second Avenue. He wasn't knowingly searching for Kṛṣṇa, but rather had a personal agenda related to his son, who had "lost it" (gone crazy) due to a neurosis compounded by the effects of LSD. On that occasion, you expressed your

underlying and profound compassion in a simple acknowledgment: "There is something wrong with that boy." You then immediately reassured your visitor: "But we can fix him up!"

(This confident statement calls to mind the title of Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami's third volume of his *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta: Only He Could Lead Them*.)

So, let's count how many years have passed up to the present? All right, 2025 minus 1966 equals 59 years since those wild beatnik/hippie days in downtown NYC! (From the bodily perspective, I was twenty years old and am now seventy-eight.)

Five years later, in 1971, by the intercession of the devotees, you permitted me one more personal darshan. This took place in another sacred enclave, namely the second ISKCON temple, in Boston, Massachusetts, at 38 North Beacon Street. The bottom line of that exchange, or the takeaway from it, was your concluding words: "I only ask one thing of you – simply try to understand Kṛṣṇa!"

Another five years later, in April 1976, I was formally initiated to become your disciple. Up to the present I have been chanting at least the minimum sixteen rounds daily and have not broken any of the four regulative principles. But it was only in 2013 that I felt steady and strong enough to accept the order of *sannyāsa*.

Of course, my humble story repeats in thousands of ways, with many variations, for each one of your fortunate disciples. After your departure, so many others would yet become initiated by your disciples, and thus your ISKCON movement continues to spread throughout the world. This was foreseen by the previous *ācāryas,* notably Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, while I still mentally struggle with the challenges of the awful impressions from my youth and, now, with the inevitable miseries associated with old age, I am thankfully aware of my extraordinarily good fortune to have met you and to find myself in the process of surrendering unto your lotus feet – and thereby to the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, also known as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious celebration of your divine appearance on this earth.

Your yet aspiring servant,
Bhakti Prabhupāda-vrata Dāmodara Swami
(now based at New Raman Reti, Alachua, Florida, USA)

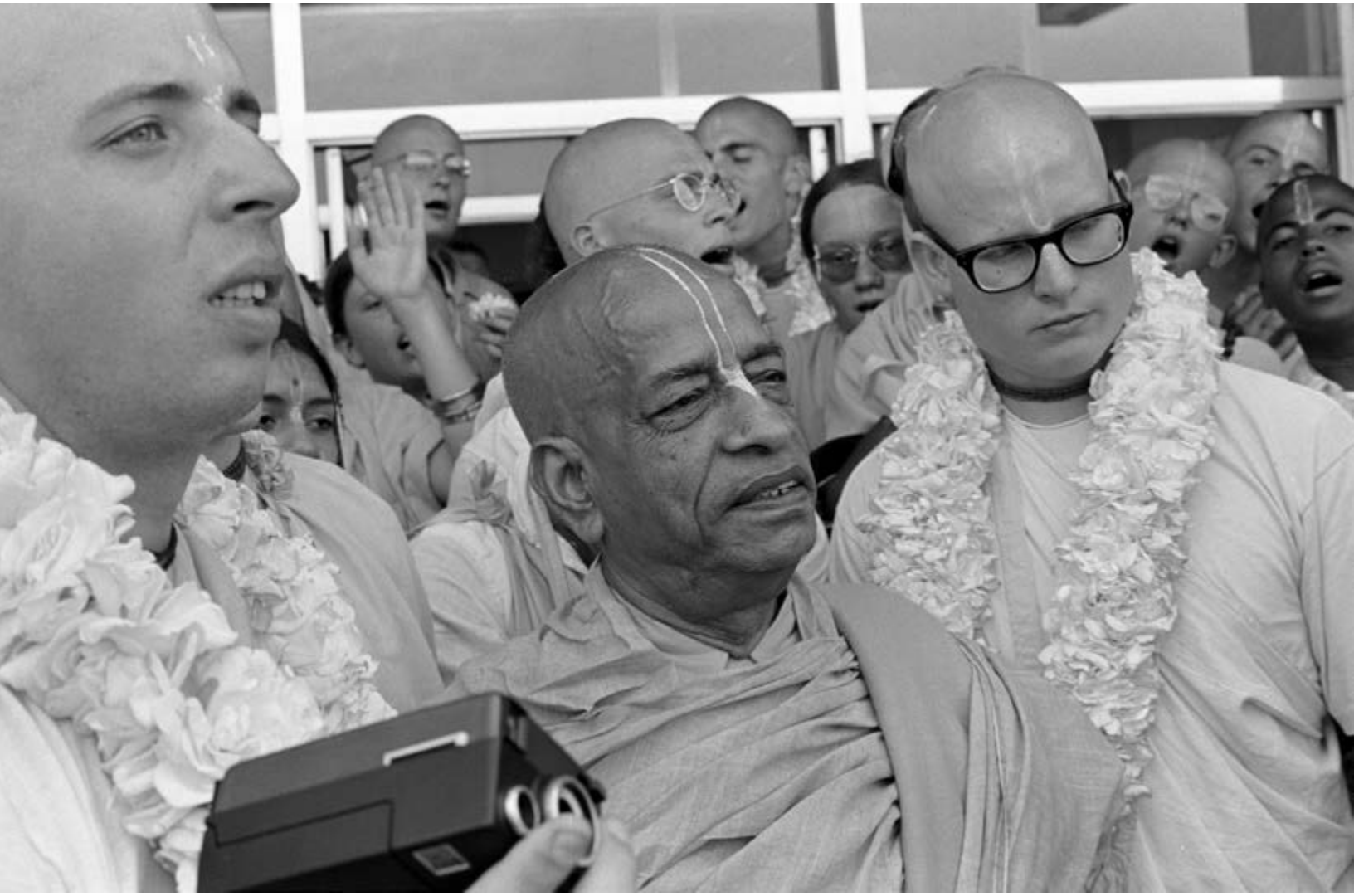
Bhakti Prachar Parivrajak Swami

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You are the *senāpati-bhakta* – the chosen commander of Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* army – who fulfilled the impossible mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness beyond India. You crossed oceans, faced countless hardships, and awakened the sleeping souls of the Western world. What no one could imagine, you made a reality by your firm faith in the holy name, in the instructions of your spiritual master, and your deep compassion for the fallen conditioned souls.

You gave us your books – not ordinary books, but eternal scriptures meant to guide humanity



for the next ten thousand years. They are the lawbooks for the world, full of spiritual wisdom, hope, and direction. Just by reading your books, lives are transformed. Nations can change by your books.

Yet despite doing so much you never took credit. You always said, "I am simply a servant of my Guru Mahārāja." You gave all glories to your spiritual master and the *paramparā*. This humility is your greatness. This humility of yours is the source of inspiration for many, including myself.

You had a grand vision for Śrī Māyāpur – the World Headquarters of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. You wanted it to be a spiritual United Nations, where people from all over the world could come and understand who they really are and what the purpose of life is. Your vision for Māyāpur is unfolding and becoming a reality.

You also warned us about internal conflicts. You said that once the movement grows, we must be careful not to lose our purity. "Boil the milk," you said, meaning, deepen the quality of devotees, not just increase our quantity. You desired cooperation, not unhealthy competition. You

wanted all of us to work together under the guidance of the GBC body, with unity and trust. ISKCON must remain united under one umbrella or your mission will suffer.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am praying at your lotus feet, please give me your mercy so that I can always remain a loyal servant to you and your ISKCON. Please empower me to help spread the message of Lord Caitanya across the world, as you taught us. Please forgive all my offenses, done knowingly or unknowingly.

I am forever your unworthy but hopeful servant,
Bhakti Prachar Parivrajak Swami

Bhakti Prema Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet.

Day by day your glories are exponentially progressing. Thousands of devotees have been writing your newer and newer glories as offerings to you for many, many years. But owllike persons like me can't understand your unlimited transcendental glories. Like the Lord, you are the well-wisher of all:

(a) *Atheists.* You gave them sufficient proof so they can believe in God and affectionately called them "rascals."
(b) *Impersonalists and members of other religions.* You explained Lord Caitanya's philosophy of *acintya-bhedābheda-tattva*.
(c) *Karmīs.* You showed them that devotees enjoy more than *karmīs* enjoy and that the enjoyment of devotees is eternal.
(d) *Demigod worshipers.* Whatever benefits these persons can get by worshiping demigods, you showed them that more benefits can be gotten by worshiping the Lord. Even professional *Bhāgavatam* reciters and other types of businessmen can earn a lot of money, by your mercy, by propagating *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and developing the holy *dhāmas*.
(e) *Scholars.* You gave them so much literature to read.
(f) *Scientists.* You gave them the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and defeated the false propaganda of scientific claims like the moon landing and Darwinism, especially proving that life comes from life.
(g) *Viṣṇu worshipers.* By explaining Lord Caitanya's *acintya-bhedābheda,* you made it possible to understand that Lord Viṣṇu is an *avatāra* of Lord Kṛṣṇa, and you gave them a most respected place in society.
(h) *Kṛṣṇa devotees.* You taught that *mādhurya-rasa,* Kṛṣṇa's *rasa* of conjugal love, is topmost according to the Gauḍīya-darśana.
(i) *People throughout the world.* You fulfilled the meaning of "Jagannātha" by introducing Lord Jagannātha to people everywhere in the Ratha-yātrā festival.
(j) *The most fallen.* You gave us, the most fallen, a most respectable position as Vaiṣṇavas after giving us everything – even *rāgānuga-bhakti,* which your dear disciple His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami taught so clearly.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your causeless mercy, the Ujjain devotees, with the help of the Madhya Pradesh government, conducted an online *Gītā* contest based on your Introduction to the *Bhagavad-gītā,* in which 646,240 students took part.

This year we want to perform Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā in all the schools of Madhya Pradesh with the help of the government. This will only be possible if Your Divine Grace showers your causeless mercy upon us.

Your name is indirectly mentioned in the *Gopī-gītā* where the *gopīs* cry and call you "*bhūridā.*" Please give me the vision to appreciate your glories. Our bhakti is directly proportional to realizing your glories. That is why those who are broadcasting your glories are also *bhūridā*. Please allow me to remain as an insignificant servant in your holy movement.

Servant of your eternal servant,
Bhakti Prema Swami

Bhakti Raghava Swami

You Are the One

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Giving me hope, giving me strength
Setting me free, making me happy

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Opening my heart, abating my fear
Showing me light, making me fight

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Gentle and kind, serene and grave
Eager to serve, giver of *prema*

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Humble and meek, fearless and pure
Giving your life, so all can live

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Words of wisdom, forever to hear
Beacon of hope, my true savior

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Servant of the servant,
My master and eternal guide

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Savior of the most fallen
My ever well-wisher

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Fleeting of time, weak in bhakti
Wanting to weep, at your lotus feet

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda
You are the one
Your Divine Grace, my only love
Seeking your shelter, your beloved Raghav

Bhakti Vāsudeva Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Your books have broadened and deepened my knowledge of culture, thereby facilitating an applied Vaiṣṇava knowledge-sharing culture. Thank you, Your Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your causeless mercy.

By casting your sidelong glances on a reckless brute such as myself, the applied Vaiṣṇava Vedānta could be shared with management and leadership scholars at a recent International Conference on Business, Management and Finance held on March 27–29 in Oxford, United Kingdom. Here is a list of the presentations:

> Das, V. (2025). Preventive strategies for heropreneurship. Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Business, Management and Finance. https://www.dpublication.com/abstract-of-8th-icbmf/74-imf7-7142/
>
> Das, V. (2025). Leadership trust strategies for change management. Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Business, Management and Finance, March 27–29, 2025, Oxford, United Kingdom. https://www.dpublication.com/abstract-of-8th-icbmf/78-imf7-7115/
>
> Das, V. (2025). De-escalation strategies for felonocracy. Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Business, Management and Finance, March 27–29, 2025, Oxford, United Kingdom. https://www.dpublication.com/abstract-of-8th-icbmf/79-imf7-7117/
>
> Das, V. (2025). Preventive strategies for legislative octogenarian gerontocracy. Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Business, Management and Finance, March 27–29, 2025, Oxford, United Kingdom. https://www.dpublication.com/abstract-of-8th-icbmf/74-imf7-7062
>
> Das, V. (2025). Strategies for preventing genderwashing leadership. Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Business, Management and Finance, 74-IMF7-7086, March 27-29, 2025, Oxford. United Kingdom. https://www.dpublication.com/abstract-of-8th-icbmf/74-imf7-7086/

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the members of the academic community warmly embraced our presentations by your special grace. Thank you for using us as instruments of positive change.

Your servant of the servants,
Bhakti Vāsudeva Swami (Vasudev Das)

Bhakti Vighna Vināśa Narasiṁha Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I had the good fortune to be accepted as your disciple in the year 1971, in London. At that time, we were at Bury Place, and the initiation was conducted in front of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara. That is now over fifty years ago, and there have been many changes in the London center and the standards of worship. But Lord Kṛṣṇa is the same Supreme Personality of Godhead, and you are the same founder-*ācārya* of the Society. The goal of our lives has also not changed: we would all like to develop love of God, *kṛṣṇa-prema,* and there should be sweet *kīrtanas* and tasty *prasādam*. These basic elements of Kṛṣṇa consciousness are still the goal and mission of the devotees.

I am still a long way from achieving these things, but my desire is still there. In fact, my desire has intensified over the years of service, and I want to continue my efforts in the hope that one day in the coming crores of my births in this material world I may somehow achieve a semblance of love for Kṛṣṇa and a complete desire to please the Lord and His devotees.

I thank you again and again for coming into my life and bringing some meaning and purpose to my existence.

With profuse obeisances at your lotus feet, I remain the most insignificant beggar,
Tridaṇḍi Swami Bhakti Vighna Vināśa Narasiṁha

Bhakti Vinoda Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace and your unimaginably fabulous contributions to conditioned souls of this world, for their true welfare and progress, for all times to come.

While I write this, wars and terrorism are tearing through several places in the world and also looming over India and its belligerent neighboring nations. School kids below ten years of age are becoming drug addicts and shocking their parents and society, right here in Kerala. Watching the world go through various challenges from the social, political, and religious angles, it's becoming increasingly clear that the solutions in your books, lectures, and conversations are *the only way* to go – they are the most practical and sustainable model. But many don't like to hear this, as they lump us in as religious dogmatic and fanatic blind followers who have no place in the world of free speech and rational seekers of the truth. Kṛṣṇa consciousness is far from being only a religion, especially in terms of the definition of *religion* evolved within the history of the Western world of aggressive evangelism and colonization of the world, using religion as a mere tool. You presented it in such a unique fashion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in one of my Q&A sessions at a program, I was challenged about faith-based Kṛṣṇa consciousness pitted against reason-based rationality and modern science. I realized while

I answered that it's only Kṛṣṇa consciousness that has a wholistic, all-round, solution to all questions of humanity on life, living and the truth, well connected, conscious, personal, relational and pulsating with reality. Other philosophers and scientists have flashes or patches of a solution, which remain in waiting for someone to connect the dots, and make sense of the whole picture. Your bold proposition to the whole world of thinkers, leaders and the like about leadership and governance based on a Kṛṣṇa Conscious solution is no ordinary relative alternative, but the absolute truth applied successfully in the world of relativities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the world plunges forward, lead by such personalities, there is increased challenges to our presentation of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and we need to hone and tweak our outreach detail, often, without affecting the principles you taught us. These moments create differences among devotees due to different perceptions according to cultures of the land and the individuals themselves. There is a tussle between recognising a principle and a detail. There is thus groupism and rifts. All are sincere souls eager to serve you and expand your mission, but it is painful to see these differences leading to misunderstandings. But then you also told us not to expect utopia and consider personalities who are independently thoughtful. That sure needs a lot of spiritual maturity, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and you were full of it.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an advanced visionary who told us that you have set principles for the next 10,000 years in your books. You also told us to read it again and again when we do not understand, and we will then be able to understand soon. I wish and pray to you that you bless all your sincere followers with the understanding most relevant for the times from your books, so we can go forward in the true spirit of *saṅkīrtana,* tolerating, chanting carefully and serving with the best of intentions.

Devotees at ISKCON West Tamil Nadu and Kerala are endeavoring to satisfy you through book distribution, outreach, festivals, projects, etc. I pray for your mercy on all of them, for their sincere following of your instructions and endeavoring to expand your mission against all odds.

At Coimbatore a massive ambitious project of nearly 200,000 square feet is getting ready albeit slowly. Many devotees have put their shoulder to the wheel of the project, making sacrifices and enduring austerities to see this offering for Your Divine Grace become a reality.

At Guruvayur, Kerala, we have battled court cases for many years and have now cleared the air for a very interesting project to trumpet the mission of Lord Caitanya amidst followers of Śaṅkarācārya, communists and a highly literate and intelligent populace.

There are other projects in several places being carried out by sincere devotees to expand your mission of Lord Caitanya's teachings and messages.

Almost all of your books have been published under the Kerala BBT and are being actively distributed, making their way into the libraries of the best of institutions and homes, as well as given to scholars and thought leaders. The influence is ground breaking.

I humbly beg of your Divine Grace's blessings on all these devotees and the projects for a successful completion and expansion of your mission in these areas of my responsibility.

I have increasingly understood from the Bhaktivedanta purports that the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement bears the most important message for humanity for all times to come and there is an urgent need to propagate this message all over the world. You have championed this cause and have shown us the way. May we never deviate and continue to enthusiastically contribute to your mission and thus help you save conditioned souls from their miserable plight.

Oṁ tat sat. Begging again at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your divine grace.

Your lowly servant,
Bhakti Vinoda Swami

Bhakti Vikāsa Swami

Most dear, revered Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Fifty years ago, on Janmāṣṭamī, you formally accepted me as your disciple. I have made many mistakes in my life, but taking shelter at your lotus feet was one thing I did right for sure. Everything else I did before that was all a mistake, one after another. Even after formally coming to your shelter, I continue to make mistakes, moment after moment, by not fully applying myself to your instructions.

But you already know of my weaknesses and struggles, and you like to hear good news, so I hope you will be pleased to know that in the last year I published *The Mood and Mission of Śrīla Prabhupāda,* which I hope will be a significant contribution to your mission, now and into the future. I also partook in the installation of splendorously beautiful Śrī Gaura Rādhā-Vallabha in your temple in Bhopal, run by my disciples, in a ceremony expertly conducted by members of the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry. I also completed, in 670 lectures, a series of talks on *Viṣṇu-sahasra-nāma*. Even though my recorded lectures are deliberately nonpopulistic and aim to transparently convey the message you gave "as it is," they are reaching an ever-increasing audience of mostly serious listeners.

I can be sure that the farm projects and book distribution I oversee are pleasing to you, because you repeatedly stressed the importance of these programs.

Construction of a magnificent stone temple in Salem, Tamil Nadu, is nearing completion, and we envision opening it next year, if Kṛṣṇa permits. Already a community of around one hundred families live close by.

My disciples are heading three *saṅkīrtana padayātrās:* in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and a tribal area of Maharashtra.

I pray these endeavors may bring you some satisfaction.

On behalf of the devotees who are working hard to push these programs, I offer you these efforts, in a mood of grateful service, as contributions within the worldwide propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you inaugurated.

The previous year has seen more ups and downs in my life and in projects I oversee in your service; some progress amid inevitable struggles and challenges, all on the background of my perennial anxiety about the ongoing state of your movement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your personal presence, your followers were united and animated by your prediction that the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement would save the world in its darkest hour. The world has become unimaginably darker since then, but your books, instructions, movement, and vision can still save it.

In my Vyāsa-pūjā offering to you last year, I quoted:

> Book distribution and farms: these are our solid programs. They can change the whole world. The whole foundation of animal civilization can be destroyed.*

* TKG's Diary, August 9, 1977.

> If these farms become successful then the whole world will be enveloped by Kṛṣṇa consciousness.*

I then stated: "If we, your followers, take these words to heart (*guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete kariyā aikya, āra nā kariha mane āśā*), the world will change, people will experience the benefits of your wisdom, and automatically, rightfully, the whole world will glorify you."

Your books and instructions are still there, but your movement is not very united, and its members have largely forgotten your vision for saving the world. Book distribution is going on, but I am distraught, considering how much more we as a movement could have done had we not jettisoned your instructions regarding farms and *varṇāśrama-dharma*. We could have been a major world force in alternative living, with thousands, if not millions, on your farms. At least we could have saved so many good souls who came to Kṛṣṇa consciousness but then left or severely slackened their practices because we have no arrangement for them to live a decent family life.

But it can still be done. I am simply praying that *The Mood and Mission of Śrīla Prabhupāda* can be instrumental in waking up your followers to the legacy you bequeathed them and their responsibility to fulfill it. That would be the most important service I have offered you so far.

May my words and actions ever be faithful and pleasing to you.

Aspiring to eternally remain,
Your servant,
Bhakti Vikāsa Swami

Bhaktipāda Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you!

It is an uplifting and extraordinary blessing to write an offering for Vyāsa-pūjā. This sacred occasion grants us the opportunity to express our profound gratitude and glorify Kṛṣṇa's pure devotee.

We are unimaginably fortunate to have the privilege of reading your wondrous, love-filled books. No less precious is the treasure of your countless audio and video recordings. Your biography is an unparalleled gift, vividly portraying every chapter of your life – your meeting with your spiritual master, your selfless preaching in India, your preparations for the voyage to America, your dedication to writing and publishing books, and even personally distributing *Back to Godhead* magazine. How sublime and transcendental was that time when your first disciples began to join you in America!

Please allow me to share with you a brief account of our preaching mission over the past year, a humble offering from the devotees to you, our spiritual master, and to Lord Caitanya.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, one of the most vital aspects of your mission was to give the holy name to as many people as possible and to engage them in chanting it. Your disciple, Śivarāma Swami Mahārāja, who so mercifully guides us in understanding your transcendental desires, has

* Secretary's letter, August 10, 1977.

instructed us to hold a monthly holy name festival in Budapest. Over the past year, we have organized this event each month under the name Kirtan Fest. The halls have always been filled with guests, all joyfully chanting, dancing in dynamic *kīrtana,* listening to lectures, and finally, honoring delicious *prasādam*.

Following in the footsteps of your lotus feet, Śyāma Lāl Prabhu goes out to the streets five times a week, chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* for four to five hours – 90 percent of the time he does this alone, relying solely on the power of the holy name.

When you chanted in the park in New York, your aim was not merely to spread the holy name but also to inspire young Americans to become practicing devotees. And you were remarkably successful. As you yourself recounted, this was possible because you earnestly endeavored to follow your beloved spiritual master. The Budapest devotees are striving to learn from you in the same way. Thus, one of Śivarāma Swami Mahārāja's key instructions is to encourage young people to move into the temple. To this end, we have established an entire program operating three to four days a week. Our small downtown preaching center is surrounded by universities, offering young people the opportunity to come for lunch, honor *prasādam,* participate in *kīrtana,* and listen to spiritual discourses. By the mercy of our spiritual master and by sincerely striving to follow your perfect example, five new devotees moved into the temple ashram last year.

For you, the most essential aspect of the *saṅkīrtana* mission has always been book distribution. In this as well, your beloved disciple Śivarāma Swami Mahārāja has guided us, emphasizing that when devotees distribute *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets on the streets, we can truly satisfy your lotus feet.

At the beginning of 2024, many thought this mission was impossible. Yet the intense desire to please your representative – and thereby please you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda – helped us build this wonderful *saṅkīrtana* mission step by step.

During last year's Prabhupāda marathon, the devotees achieved remarkable results. Many devotees distributed three, four, five, or sometimes even seven Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam sets per day. As an offering for the 2024 marathon, the devotees distributed a total of 152 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, with deepest gratitude, we humbly thank you for saving the entire world!

Your insignificant servant,
Bhaktipāda Goswami

Bhakti Ratnakar Ambarish Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept my humble obeisances!

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 11.20.17 states (as quoted in the purport to *Bhāgavatam* 4.23.28):

nṛ-deham ādyaṁ sulabhaṁ sudurlabhaṁ
plavaṁ sukalpaṁ guru-karṇadhāram

mayānukūlena nabhasvateritaṁ
pumān bhavābdhiṁ na taret sa ātma-hā

When one wants to cross a large ocean, he requires a strong boat. It is said that this human form of life is a good boat by which one can cross the ocean of nescience. In the human form of life one can obtain the guidance of a good navigator, the spiritual master. One also gets a favorable wind by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, and that wind is the instructions of Kṛṣṇa. The human body is the boat, the instructions of Lord Kṛṣṇa are the favorable winds, and the spiritual master is the navigator. The spiritual master knows well how to adjust the sails to catch the winds favorably and steer the boat to its destination. If, however, one does not take advantage of this opportunity, one wastes the human form of life. Wasting time and life in this way is the same as committing suicide.

In 2020, when there was a lockdown, we organized an online reading group and have now read all of your books over these two and a half years. We are now reading your books for a second time. Many devotees from this group had been thinking that they would not be able to read all of your books in their lifetime. It's much easier to read your books together! Also, after reading, the book distributors shared their stories, and many devotees in this group became inspired and now also distribute books!

Devotees in Russia are making a big effort to distribute books in a more organized way – we are actively participating in the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign and making an educational program for *saṅkīrtana* leaders. We made a list of all the book distributors in Russia – we have seven hundred of them – and are trying to help them in any way possible. On this most auspicious day, I want to ask for your blessings to continue this effort for your satisfaction!

The servant of your servants,
Bhakti Ratnakar Ambarish Swami

Candramauli Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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

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

kaler doṣa-nidhe rājann asti hy eko mahān guṇaḥ
kīrtanād eva kṛṣṇasya mukta-saṅgaḥ paraṁ vrajet

> My dear king, although Kali-yuga is an ocean of faults, there is still one good quality about this age: simply by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* one can become free from material bondage and be promoted to the transcendental kingdom.

The chanting of Kṛṣṇa's holy name, the *mahā-mantra,* is that bright light that dispels the all-pervading ignorance (darkness) in this Age of Kali. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have taken Kṛṣṇa's holy name around the globe.

> After five thousand years My *mantra-upāsaka* [worshiper of the holy name] will appear in this world and spread the chanting of My holy name everywhere. (Lord Kṛṣṇa to Gaṅgā Devī, *Brahma-vaivarta Purāṇa* 4.129.50–51)

> Even if the sinners reject religion or flee to foreign countries, I will send *mor senāpati-bhakta* [My military field commander] to go there and deliver them. (Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to Nārada Muni, *Śrī Caitanya-maṅgala, Sūtra-khaṇḍa,* song 12, texts 564–65)
>
> A personality will soon appear in order to preach the teachings of Śrī Caitanya and move unrestrictedly over the whole world with His message. (Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *Sajjana-toṣaṇī,* circa 1885)

Taking the teachings of Lord Caitanya and focusing on the essence of bringing the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* a spiritual revolution is continuing to engulf the lives of millions of living entities worldwide. Regarding the holy name for your followers, you taught us what was your most important instruction: "Out of all my instructions to my disciples, my most important one is to every day chant sixteen rounds of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* on beads."

We find innumerable śāstric statements on the supreme glories of the holy name.

nāma-yajño mahāyajñaḥ kalau kalmaṣa-nāśanam
kṛṣṇa-caitanya-prityarthe nāma-yajña-samarpaṇam

> The sacrifice of the name is the highest *yajña,* which destroys the contamination of Kali-yuga. In order to please Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, I offer this sacrifice of the holy name.

There is no vow like chanting the holy name, no knowledge superior to it, no meditation which comes anywhere near it, and it gives the highest result. No penance is equal to it, and nothing is as potent or powerful as the holy name. Chanting is the greatest act of piety and the supreme refuge. Even the words of the *Vedas* do not possess sufficient power to describe its magnitude. Chanting is the highest path to liberation, peace, and eternal life. It's the pinnacle of devotion, the heart's joyous proclivity and attraction, and the best form of remembrance of the Supreme Lord. The holy name has appeared solely for the benefit of the living entities as their lord and master, their supreme worshipful object, and their spiritual guide and mentor. Whoever continuously chants Lord Kṛṣṇa's holy name, even in his sleep, can easily realize that the name is a direct manifestation of Kṛṣṇa Himself, in spite of the influences of Kali-yuga.

> There is no knowledge as pure as the name; there is no vow as powerful as the name. There is no meditation more effective than the name, nor is there any fruit greater than that attained by the name. There is no greater renunciation than the name; there is no greater peace than the name. In this world there is no greater pious activity than taking the name, nor is there any quicker progress than in the name. The name is the highest liberation, the highest freedom, the highest destination, the highest peace, the point of no more searching. The name is the highest devotion, the name is the purest inclination of the *jīva*, the name is the highest love, and direct remembrance of the Lord. The name is the cause of all causes, the Supreme Lord, most worshipable, and is a form of guru to bring one to the Lord. (Spoken by Śrīla Haridāsa Ṭhākura, excerpted from Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's *Harināma Cintāmaṇi*)

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 3.33.7 states:

aho bata svapāco 'to gariyān
yaj-jihvāgre vartate nāma tubhyam

tepus tapas te juhuvuḥ sasnur āryā
brahmānūcur nāma gṛṇanti ye te

"Oh, how glorious are they whose tongues are chanting Your holy name! Even if born in the families of dog-eaters, such persons are worshipable. Persons who chant the holy name of Your Lordship must have executed all kinds of austerities and fire sacrifices and achieved all the good manners of the Āryans. To be chanting the holy name of Your Lordship, they must have bathed at holy places of pilgrimage, studied the *Vedas,* and fulfilled everything required."

In the *Kali-sāntarana Upaniṣad* Lord Brahmā says:

hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare
iti ṣoḍaśakam nāmnām kali-kalmaṣa-nāśanam
parataropāyah sarva-vedesu dṛśyate

"After searching through all the Vedic literature, one cannot find a method of religion more sublime for this age than the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have ignited a spiritual revolution of devotion to the Supreme Lord, and these holy names of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa are driving that fire of devotion to all corners of the globe. We are hearing that people everywhere are accepting this great chanting, becoming happy, and are deriving freedom from material suffering.

enechi auṣadhi māyā nāśibāra lāgi'
hari-nāma-mahā-mantra lao tumi magi'

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have brought that medicine of Kṛṣṇa's holy name that is awakening all the sleeping living entities who are asleep in the lap of ignorance of who they are and the actual goal of life.

Falling at your lotus feet, begging to develop the strong desire to chant more and more and to spread this mercy for the benefit of the suffering living entities.

Your happy servant,
Candramauli Swami

Candraśekhara Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

For many years I tried to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. I knew that it was the main pillar of our purification. I had heard many classes on improving the quality of chanting. I have even given many classes on the importance of chanting and why perfection of chanting is so important. However, from the very day of my joining the temple in Berkeley, and later being initiated, the process of chanting with attention seemed beyond my grasp.

There is always so much service to do. A true Kṛṣṇa conscious day is at least thirty-six hours long. Everything has to fit in there somewhere. There are devotees monitoring our progress and accomplishments. "Did you make it to *maṅgala-ārati*?" "Are all the dishes washed?" "I didn't see you in *Bhāgavatam* class." "What was your book score?" "How much *lakṣmī* did you bring in?" On and on it goes. "We need volunteers for cut-up in the kitchen."

We know that to follow the rules that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, laid down is not easy, and there seem to be something upward of ten thousand of them. After a while we learn which ones we are measured by, at least by our authorities. Rarely do they ask, "How is your chanting?" Yes, once every year or six, some leader may ask about our chanting, but all we have to do is mumble an "OK" or "Pretty good" and that will be that. Luckily, there is no evidence. Heh, heh. No one can check your chanting. We are safe there. So much rot underneath the floorboards.

The strange thing is that chanting is said to be an indicator of our spiritual health and to count for 90 percent of our progress. That idea is always there, and that idea kept bumping around in the back of my mind like a loose pop can in the back of a traveling van.

It is possible to just read *Bhāgavatam* and think, One day, I will magically develop an attraction. Or we can joke about how attraction will come in one million births, and actually, that is pretty soon, when compared to eternity.

I always seemed to be "trying to get through my rounds." Just trying to get through them. For me, success was completing my allotted sixteen. The mind *never* stays still, *never*!

When I was a young devotee, I told myself that later, when I get some devotional service under my belt, when I become advanced, I will surely, by that time, be able to chant better. Someday it will improve. Someday never comes, as the song goes. When you get into your sixties, or worse yet, your seventies, you start thinking, "When is this magic moment going to happen?" And then it dawns on you: Unless you make some change in your life, unless you *make* it happen, it ain't gonna happen.

It is an interesting thing that the process of bringing the consciousness to focus on Kṛṣṇa in His holy name can be so taxing, so laborious. Why should that be? Will it always be that way? Here, I am speaking for myself. I have no way of knowing what is going on in other devotees' minds and hearts. Sometimes it feels as if my head will break open with one more mantra. This is proof positive that I don't love Kṛṣṇa, not even a little bit. Yet I am engaged in devotional service and have "to some percentage" been engaging in that service for more than forty years. There must be *some* kind of attraction there.

If I increase the quality of my chanting, no one is going to know, no one is going to ask –

except maybe Ādi Puruṣa and Mithuna. Well, there are two on my team. Well, then how in the blue blazes can *japa* be upgraded? How can I really chant with more focus?

Here is what I did. Your mileage may vary.

First, I prayed to the Deities that They would help me to chant better. I tried many small strategies that were recommended by other devotees. I found that some of these strategies didn't work, at least for me. I believe that perfecting *japa* is a personal path. What works for one, might not work for others. Personally, I never sit down while chanting; it never works for me – I am off to dreamland in moments. My body is too MOI (mode of ignorance). Heck, I have even struggled to stop nodding while walking at a good clip, what to speak of being a "Lotus Podder."

I try to find very, very boring places to chant so I won't be distracted. Turning down the lights helps me. I took to waking up early to chant, which seems to give me the spacious feeling that I won't be invaded by some imperative in the next second.

I tried to work at getting a *good start*. If the first few rounds are good, it sets the stage for the entire sixteen. I have disabled all notifications on my cell phone. I heard a class by Ravīndra Svarūpa Prabhu about how Śrīla Prabhupāda once said that you should just try to hear yourself sincerely chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. Somehow, that simple statement meant something to me. It spoke to me.

Chanting is like riding an ocean wave. It is easy to fall off and, as surfers say, "Eat the bottom." Another statement that speaks to me is, "Imagine you are talking to Kṛṣṇa." Kṛṣṇa is personally present on your tongue. I am speaking to Him, asking Him to hear my mantras.

I came across the interesting realization that one of the reasons that my mind was so active and preoccupied during *japa* is because I am planning some type of "service," and I hope, then, that that "service" will make me outstanding in the society of devotees. Like the Supersoul, my false ego is also my constant companion.

It is fair to say that my *japa* is way, way better than it used to be. See? See? You can make your *japa* better by just wanting, praying, and working at it. Forty wasted years – well, can't do anything about that now.

In case you are wondering, no tears come to my eyes, or any of that really Haridāsa Ṭhākura type stuff, but hey, my *japa* is way, way better than it was. That means a lot to me. Maybe, even, one day I will become a real devotee or something. I will love Kṛṣṇa even more than pizza. Imagine!

Your servant,
Candraśekhara Swami

Dānavir Goswami

Dearest spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On September 1, 1896, in Calcutta, a child named Abhay Charan was born. An astrologer predicted: "When this child reaches the age of seventy, he will cross the ocean, become a great exponent of religion, and open 108 temples."

From the time in 1922 when your Guru Mahārāja, His Divine Grace Oṁ Viṣṇupāda *paramahaṁsa parivrajakācārya aṣṭotara śata* Śrī Śrīmād Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda, requested you to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness through the English language, you became completely convinced and never wasted a moment. You demonstrated that a *gṛhastha* can also perform great service for the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

In July 1935, when Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī visited the Bombay branch of the Gauḍīya Maṭha, some of the leading disciples recommended that Abhay Caraṇaravinda Dāsa become the president of the Bombay branch. Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī cryptically replied: "He will do. When the time comes, he will do everything himself. You don't have to recommend him." As a perfect disciple, you executed all of your spiritual master's orders and beyond.

On this most auspicious day marking the anniversary of your divine appearance on earth, I humbly pray that a tiny particle of your unlimited causeless mercy drown me eternally in devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, under your blissful direction.

Your unworthy servant,
Dānavir Goswami

Dayānanda Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

I have been reflecting on just how fortunate I am to have received the gift of being able to engage in devotional service. Lord Caitanya instructed Rūpa Gosvāmī (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 19.151):

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

We come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness after many lifetimes in this material world, and by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa we get a spiritual master, and by the mercy of both guru and Kṛṣṇa we can go back to Godhead.

How we get this mercy is explained in the *Mādhurya-kaḍambinī,* where it references *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.20.8: "If somehow or other one develops faith in hearing and chanting my glories…." "Somehow or other" is also explained as good fortune, and that good fortune is coming from the mercy of a devotee.

In my case, it was by your mercy that I became fortunate – by reading one of your books. By reading we get your personal association. You set the standard for all devotees as *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī*. This is mentioned in the purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 8.7.39, where it says, "A Vaiṣṇava is always unhappy to see the conditioned souls unhappy."

I was unhappy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and by your mercy I am now becoming happy.

Another point, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that many times you said, "Devotional service is so nice." I have appreciated this point especially when listening to your lectures. *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī* – you tirelessly preached the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness at every opportunity. "Kṛṣṇa consciousness is so nice." (Morning walk, December 25, 1976, Bombay) In this respect my realization is that, "It is so nice that just by hearing your lectures every day, one will become firmly fixed in the process of devotional service."

Another way you exhibited the mood of *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī* is when you first arrived in the USA at Commonwealth Pier, Boston Harbor. You had come to the conclusion, after visiting the city, that the people were too absorbed in the mode of passion and ignorance, and how then would they be able to understand the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness? Yet you still underwent the enormous sacrifice to give them Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I sometimes ask your disciples what they found attractive about you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Usually, they don't answer straightaway, as if they don't know, and what I have understood from their answers is that everything about you was and is still attractive.

If I ask myself what *I* find attractive, I would say that your mercy is the most attractive quality. My life has changed so much, and I am in a position to fulfill my deep desires to work in a certain way according to my nature while at the same time take credit for service rendered, although I am completely unqualified. You said, "Chant and be happy." That is what is happening. The Christian faith has a Psalm (23:5–6, of the King James Bible): "My cup runneth over." in other words, because of your compassion, I have no need for anything. This is your quality of *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī*.

Your humble servant,
Dayānanda Swami

Devamrita Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupada,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

When Sanātana Gosvāmī met Caitanya Mahāprabhu at Vārāṇasī, they shared an exchange that deeply relates to what you've done for me (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 20.62–64):

> My dear Sanātana, please hear from Me. Kṛṣṇa is very merciful, and He is the deliverer of all fallen souls.
>
> My dear Sanātana, Kṛṣṇa has saved you from Mahāraurava, life's deepest hell. He is an ocean of mercy, and His activities are very grave.

In the purport you relate that Caitanya Mahāprabhu thanked Kṛṣṇa for His mercy upon Sanātana. How extraordinary – Kṛṣṇa, as Lord Caitanya, thanking Kṛṣṇa for His magnanimity in setting Sanātana free.

Meditating on all I owe you I ponder: will my words, one day soon, ever convey the gratitude you deserve? You stopped my descent not only into "life's deepest hell" but also into the lower species. My human form was surely lost. You masterfully salvaged this New York pseudo-enjoyer and Ivy League peacock from the global rubbish heap that poses as culture today.

Sanātana Gosvāmī's remarkable response to Mahāprabhu I wholeheartedly embrace: "I do not know who Kṛṣṇa is. As far as I am concerned, I have been released from prison only by Your mercy."

Because your boundless, steadfast compassion defied all odds, your apprentices and trainees can break free of the most severe penal servitude – no longer chained by lust, anger, greed, and envy – in the ultimate maximum-security prison that is the material nature.

Giving what far surpasses mere liberation, you grant the lowest the highest opportunity – to eagerly assist Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and thereby attain the rare service of the Divine Couple (*rādhā-kṛṣṇa prāṇa mora yugala-kiśora*).

The impossible can be accomplished, by your divine grace.

Your servant,
Devamrita Swami

Dhanvantari Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

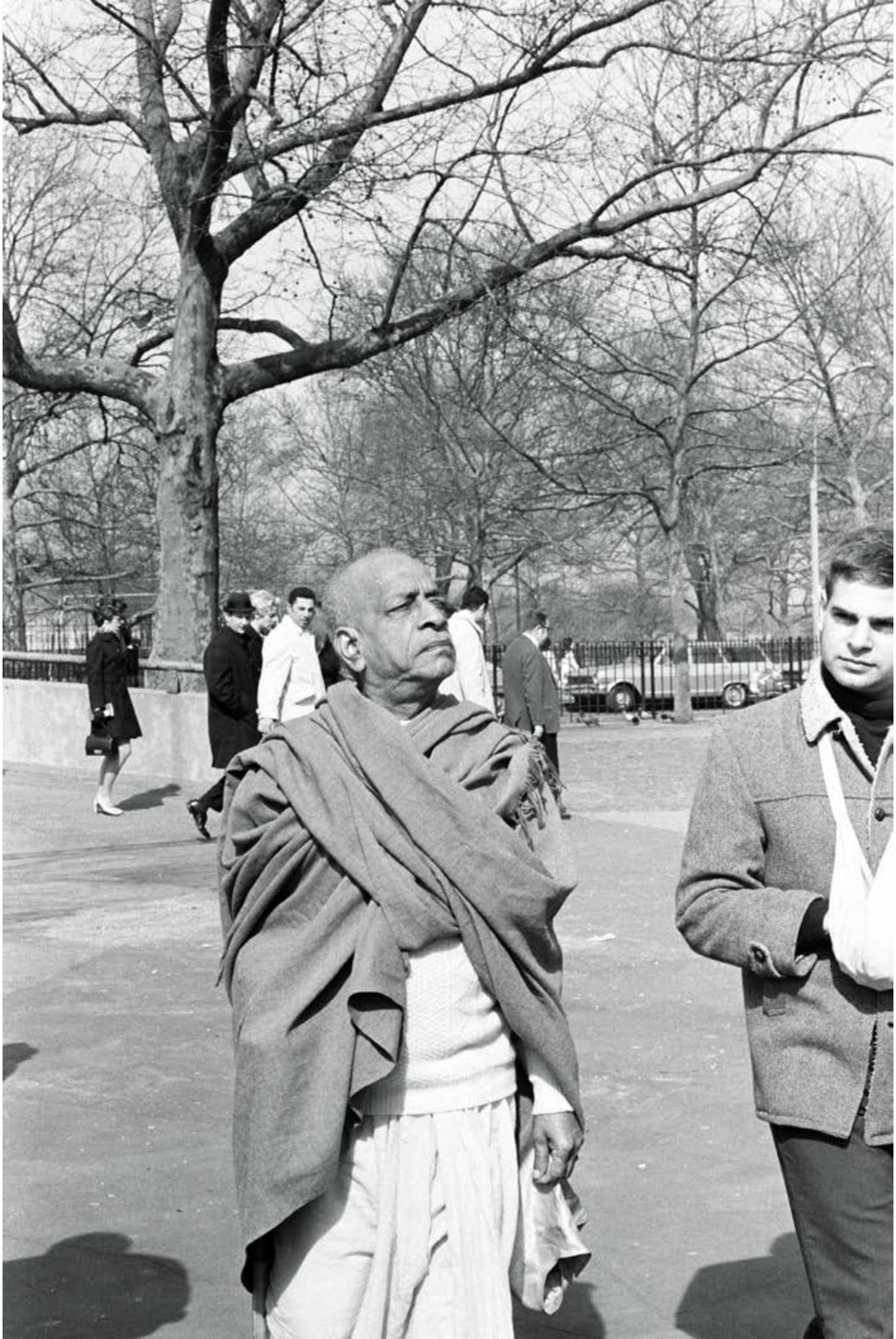
Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances. All glories unto you, who are most dear to Kṛṣṇa and forever sheltered at His lotus feet.

For your Vyāsa-pūjā this year, I come, perhaps a bit shy but resolute, to offer you humble service in the field of education for young adults. This service is carried out through the Instituto Jaladuta, named in honor of the vessel that once crossed oceans to carry you to the West, with the *summum bonum* of all Vedic literature, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* in your hand luggage.

This year, the Instituto Jaladuta celebrates its Silver Jubilee, twenty-five years of dedicated service inspiring and guiding the systematic study of your books among the sons and daughters of ISKCON members, as well as among new bhaktas and bhaktins who are coming closer to your movement.

Our curriculum is the *Bhakti-śāstrī* course, which you established as the foundational academic degree within your ISKCON. As students spend approximately nine to ten months immersed in the ashram environment, we also offer strong *sādhana-bhakti* and personalized guidance in human development through *sadācāra* and other tools to equip them to become leaders and opinion-shapers in society.

Throughout these twenty-five years, our team, composed exclusively of your faithful followers, has continuously refined this service as an offering to you. Now at this mature stage, having



already graduated around five hundred young men and women as Bhakti-śāstrīs, having established three advanced campuses in Brazil and Argentina, and having launched a distance-learning department that offers both Bhakti-śāstrī and Bhakti-vaibhava levels, we have finally found the courage to formally present this service to you.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we also wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the instructions you gave us regarding the vital importance of śāstric education, both for the members of ISKCON and for society at large. It is these instructions that empowered us to overcome inertia and serve our students with renewed enthusiasm.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, accept this humble offering for your pleasure and satisfaction, and kindly allow us to continue forever as your humble servants.

Your eternal servant,
Dhanvantari Swami
Brazil

Ganapati Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

vāñchā-kalpatarubhyaś ca
kṛpā-sindhubhya eva ca
patitānāṁ pāvanebhyo
vaiṣṇavebhyo namo namaḥ

If there was an integral formula behind the success of Śrīla Prabhupāda's campaign, it certainly consisted of the chanting of the holy names, the dissemination of spiritual knowledge, and the distribution of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*.

Most devotees will attest that reading Prabhupāda's books played a pivotal role in their initially embracing Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and that it remains central to their ability to hold firm to the process. And who will argue about *prasādam*? "You go on simply eating, that's all. And all of my devotees, they have come to me simply by eating *prasādam*." (*Līlāmṛta*) My personal conviction, however, is that the transcendental sound vibration emanating from Śrīla Prabhupāda's lotus lips was (and still should be) the overriding inspiration behind his movement. Ralph W. Emerson visualized an institution as "the lengthened shadow of one man"; in a similar way, ISKCON could be seen as the expansive manifestation of Śrīla Prabhupāda's pretenseless *kṛṣṇa-prema-viraha kīrtana* – his pining to once again "wander about the cowherd pastures and fields. Running and frolicking in the many forests of Vraja, I will roll on the ground in spiritual ecstasy." (*Jaladuta Diary*). His *kīrtana* "raised God from the dead" for the brain-dead of Kali-yuga and revealed Kṛṣṇa's presence as *śuddha-nāma* (*'bhinnatvan nama-naminoh*). No one chants like Śrīla Prabhupāda! He affirmed his secret in his purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.25:

> Although when a pure devotee speaks the articulation of his voice may resemble the sound of this material sky, the voice is spiritually very powerful because it touches the particles of saffron dust on the lotus feet of the Lord. As soon as a sleeping living entity hears the powerful voice emanating from the mouth of a pure devotee, he immediately remembers his eternal relationship with the Lord, although up until that moment he had forgotten everything.

Such sound is not of this mundane realm (*golokera prema-dhana, hari-nāma-saṅkīrtana*), and when it remains readily available to all via recordings, only a fool will not take advantage of it on a regular basis!

I'll close with two more quotations from Śrīla Prabhupāda, the first from a purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (3.26.32), the second from a lecture:

> It is understood from this verse that by agitation of the element of egoism in ignorance, the first thing produced was sound, which is the subtle form of ether. It is stated also in the *Vedānta-sūtra* that sound is the origin of all objects of material possession and that by sound one can also dissolve this material existence. *Anāvṛttiḥ śabdāt* means "liberation by sound." The entire material manifestation began from sound, and sound can also end material entanglement, if it has a particular potency. The particular sound capable of doing this is the transcendental vibration Hare Kṛṣṇa. Our entanglement in material affairs has begun from material sound. Now we must purify that sound in spiritual understanding. There is sound in the spiritual world also. If we approach that sound, then our spiritual life begins, and the other requirements for spiritual advancement can be supplied. We have to understand very clearly that sound is the beginning of the creation of all material objects for our sense gratification. Similarly, if sound is purified, our spiritual necessities also are produced from sound.

From a lecture dated January 10, 1968:

> Now, the whole material world is produced from sound. That is scientific fact. Scientists are researching the importance of sound, physical science. Sound, light, and transmission of sound and light. There are so many things, electronics. So this sound vibration, this is material sound. They have got so much wonderful power. And just try to understand what is the power of the spiritual sound. Real sound is coming from the spiritual world. It is simply just like gramophone. The sound is coming originally from the person; the gramophone is reproducing. That is not the original source of the sound. Similarly, whatever sound is there in this material world, the original sound is produced by God. Just like in your Bible it is said, "Let there be creation." It is, simply it was sound and there was creation. So spiritual sound is so powerful. And we are trying to catch you directly from that sound vibration, Hare Kṛṣṇa, and I am sure it is acting. Simply, *śabdād anāvṛttiḥ*.

Seeking the blessings of all those who have been blessed by His Divine Grace,
Your *dāsānudāsa,*
Ganapati Swami

Hanumātpreṣaka Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your good self, who are so kindly delivering the whole world from darkness by your unlimited kindness and austerity.

Though you have accepted us as your disciple, we are full of substantial disqualifications. Yet we humbly hope to offer a few words of gratitude on the anniversary of your appearance in this material world.

Very prominent is that at 77 years old, our body is quite naturally failing. We are losing sight, hearing, mobility, memory, etc., but we remember again and again hearing you say that old age is a good friend to a devotee. It seems very, very true.

Old age is pushing us off the gross platform of life onto the intellectual, *buddhi,* platform and making the purely spiritual platform more and more visible, accessible for practical reform.

We feel that we have been a rather insincere disciple, but have been making some effort for a long time. The result is amazing. We feel like your comment that even a dog can take part in this movement and dance in ecstasy is being proven to us. Some more advanced aspects of devotional service seem to be opening up to us (or else we are becoming seriously senile). We feel that we can say that your process, by your mercy, really works.

There is so much more to say, but we have the chance to communicate with you daily during *maṅgala-ārati, saṅkīrtana, japa,* etc., so we will end here and listen to the comments by other members of the chorus.

Thank you.

Maybe next time we meet, Your Divine Grace and all members of ISKCON will be in Navadvīpa with Nimāi.

Hanumātpreṣaka Swami

Janānanda Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

My obeisances again and again at your lotus feet.

This is the fiftieth anniversary year of your setting foot in New Mayapura, France on August 11, 1975. In December this year we also have the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of Gaura-Nitāi at New Mayapura – on the *tirobhāva* of your own Guru Mahārāja.

One of your instructions was to "at least maintain what I have given you." After so many years I feel sad that we are a long way short of that, or of fulfilling your vision for New Mayapura.

Still, dedicated efforts are being made by the devotees at New Mayapura – trying to fix the buildings as per your desire and construct new ones using as much local material as they can. They are also, albeit somewhat reduced, maintaining the worship of the Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda Mādhava, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma (installed by you in 1976). Over the past few years, the goshala has been resurrected – we now have two young sets of bullocks learning to plough and work. Milk is provided, at least for Their Lordships' offerings, and the excess goes to the devotees. Slowly, efforts to produce more food from the land are underway. A restaurant was opened a few years back in the nearby city, and this year one young Vaiṣṇavī, who joined at New Mayapura just a few years back, has started a weekly preaching program there. It is already attracting dozens of youngsters. Hundreds of young volunteers from all over the world stay annually at New Mayapura.

Festivals have been revitalized, attracting devotees and guests from all over Europe, including many from the local area. The young managers are heart-and-soul dedicated to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and will do whatever you want. I pray that you guide them and protect them.

Young French devotees are now working alongside the elders on completing the translations and commentaries of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* into French. After all these years, it has never been finished. The book distribution has been slowly growing over the past eight years, with young and old devotees working together.

A year or so back, after much effort, the movement in France was finally accepted as a religious nonprofit, tax-exempt association. Efforts are underway to again establish a school for the devotee children and also to provide facilities to serve the elderly devotees in their final journeys or when in dire need.

On another front, in Paris there is daily *harināma* and book distribution going on in the city center. Undermanned we are, but again, the dedicated young devotees there are doing all they can to please you. We pray that as soon as possible your beloved Rādhā-Parisīśvara can be housed in a wonderful facility suitable for Their worship and pleasing to you. Many Indians are also coming to the temple, and programs are underway to guide them to your lotus feet.

I hope this little report brings a glimmer of happiness to you in this far distant place.

From my side I wish to offer you my obeisances in a practical way. I pray you kindly accept them. From your 1961 Vyāsa-pūjā offering, *Vaiśiṣṭyāṣṭakam:*

> But simply a festival of flowers and fruits does not constitute worship.
>
> The one who serves the message of the guru really worships him.
>
> The service of the message is the real meaning of the *Vedas*.

Neophyte that I am, I am still attached to do what I want to do and have still not surrendered to your essential message of surrendering to Kṛṣṇa's will. You are so mercifully accepting the efforts of egotistic followers like myself. I pray that my heart will somehow transform and truly follow your path.

> My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me.
>
> O Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So, if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, O Lord, make me dance as You like. (*Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma*)

Somehow you have placed me in France to serve your mission. I pray that I can live by your words and dedicate this good-for-nothing body and mind in your service, to dedicate this lifetime and future ones, if need be, to fulfilling your desires. It seems this is the real way to offer obeisances (the dictionary definition of *obeisance* being the "act of obeying" or something you do that expresses that).

> The disciple should not consider whether he is going back home, back to Godhead; his first business should be to execute the order of his spiritual master. Thus, a disciple should always meditate on the order of the spiritual master, and that is perfectional meditation. Not only should he meditate upon that order, but he should find out the means by which he can perfectly worship and execute it. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.24.15, purport)

I can only say I am trying to execute your will in at least some small way or other. Please give me the strength that I do not desist, no matter what the challenge, and become the instrument of your will.

> So, I thank you very much for inviting me in your temple, and I am very much pleased there are so many young boys and girls, they are chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. That is a new thing in the history, in a city like Paris, younger generation will chant Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. We are making history. That's a fact. So do it sincerely. In all circumstances, trials, do not give up. (Arrival address, August 8, 1973, Paris)

If you desire, I am willing to come back again and again. Your example of sacrifice sustains me, maintains me, and remains with me always. Reflecting on the years when you walked the streets of Delhi and New York alone distributing Kṛṣṇa conscious literature gives me the strength to soldier on.

I often have my own meditation, strange at it seems, to be in Paris – in the heart of the city, Chatelet Les Halles, the "Gates to Hell" (*chatelet* means "the fortified gateway," *les halles,* "the hell" – my play on words). I think of being there chanting, dancing, distributing books till I drop at your lotus feet with my last breath.

> "Either you put me in the hell or heaven or this or that, [it] is all the same." Because he is always with Kṛṣṇa, chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa is always with him. So, where is the cause of being afraid that "This place is not good; this place is very good"? No. Wherever Kṛṣṇa is there is very good. That's all. (Initiation lecture, August 27, 1969, Hamburg)
>
> It doesn't matter where it is. Even if we ... We can go to the factory. Anywhere. We can go to the hell even. (Room conversation with John Papworth and Schumacher, August 4, 1973, London)

You have given the simple formula of transforming these hellish places into Vaikuṇṭha. Chant, dance, and distribute books and *prasādam*. The street becomes our temple, and all the conditioned souls there are coming to worship the Lord, even without their knowledge, particularly when they take the mercy in the form of your books. You have truly given us this gift of seeing Kṛṣṇa in everything and everywhere through this *saṅkīrtana-yajña*. We just have to do it. You have given us the most joyful austerity. This "austerity" is the means of transforming our intent from "what I like" to "what you like" – what Kṛṣṇa wants, the essence of our mission. The austerity is not the activity but the attitude in which we act. You again and again encouraged us to always

chant – but to also hear the sound when we chant, to put Kṛṣṇa in the center. Such a sublime process.

> In Kṛṣṇa consciousness, our recreation is dancing and chanting, and when we get tired, we take *prasāda*. Is dancing difficult? Is chanting difficult? (*The Path of Perfection,* "Yoga as Action")

> Simply our prayer should be, My dear Krishna, please remind me to always chant Your Holy Name, please do not put me into forgetfulness. You are sitting within me as Supersoul, so you can put me into forgetfulness or into remembering You. So please do not put me into forgetfulness. Please always remind me to chant, even You send me into the hell, it doesn't matter, just so long as I can always chant Hare Krishna. (Letter to Devānanda *Dāsa,* November 23, 1968)

I have no other hope than this – that you please always remind me to chant, and as long as this body works, to dance. I have no qualification for anything, but out of your causeless mercy you have given me and everyone else this divine lifeline of *saṅkīrtana*.

> May I dedicate this lifetime to serving you wherever you put me, to sacrificing everything at my disposal. To hell with personal desires for satisfying my temporal so-called needs. The only thing of value in my life is the privilege to surrender to your will. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for this greatest gift of allowing me to associate, if only from a distance, with the topmost *līlā* of *harināma-saṅkīrtana*. This is my only *sādhana,* and you are my only hope.

May you cast your glance on France and make us dance. I pray you please shower your glance of mercy on us all that we can continue on the path of becoming your unalloyed servants – fulfilling your desires to preach the *saṅkīrtana* movement without the self-aggrandizing false ego that drives me on.

Your lowly begging servant,
Janānanda Goswami

Krishna Kshetra Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I take this occasion of again celebrating your blessed appearance in our midst as an opportunity to offer prostrated, heartfelt obeisance to your lotuslike feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, of your countless wonderful qualities, one stands out for me in my present reflection on your glories, namely, that you always put forward a grand vision of Kṛṣṇa consciousness for the whole world, a vision full of hope. You always radiated confidence that this vision would become a reality. In this spirit, you anticipated a historiography that would acknowledge the realization of your vision when you wrote in a letter to Jayaśrī (November 13, 1969),

> Our movement is the greatest gift to the human race. They may not immediately appreciate it, but time will come and history will give evidence that this movement saved the human society from being fallen into barbarianism.

Thus, you anticipated a radical change in civilizational direction, from a steady decline into "barbarianism" to an elevation toward widespread engagement in devotional service. In a *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* purport (*Madhya-līlā* 25.121) you further envisioned that "[e]veryone has an equal right to execute devotional service. That is the platform of oneness and the basis for a classless society." In referring to "equal rights" in relation to devotional service as the "platform of oneness" that becomes "the basis for a classless society," you hinted at the practical enactment of how the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is "meant for bringing about a revolution in the impious life of a misdirected civilization" (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, preface). By hearing, reading, reflecting on, and sharing the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* our minds and hearts can be incrementally transformed. This transformation is inclusive: Recognizing all human beings as having "equal rights" means that everyone should have the opportunity to hear the message of *Śrīmad-Bhaāgavatam*. This was always your firm conviction.

Reflecting on the notion of "revolution" as the expected result of engagement with the *Bhāgavatam,* I like to think of reading and sharing it as a *subversive* act. In a quiet, nonconfrontational manner, everyone has the right to participate in the slow and steady erosion of materialistic consumerism, replacing it with humble acts of devotion that nourish the soul, honoring all living beings as sparks of divinity.

In a further reflection on your anticipation of "history giving evidence" that this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is to be credited with turning the tide toward a favorably directed – rather than a misdirected – civilization, I was inspired this last February to give a presentation at the ISKCON Leaders' Saṅga in Māyāpur titled "'History Will Give Evidence': Writing Our History to Prepare ISKCON's Future." After raising questions about the nature, process of gathering, archiving, accessing, and presenting of historical "evidence," and pointing out some efforts already being done in this direction, I and my co-presenter Lokarāma Prabhu urged devotees to develop oral history projects that would document the experiences of individual devotees and groups of devotees.

I concluded the short presentation by noting three benefits of gathering and writing our history. First, it can help foster a sense of mission continuity for Vaiṣṇava communities over multiple generations. Second, it can inspire present and future generations of devotees to enthusiastically preserve and spread the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. And third, it can positively direct our future, enabling your prediction to come true, namely, that "history will give evidence that this movement saved the human society from being fallen into barbarianism." Responses to our presentation were very positive.

With your kind blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as your follower and humble student, I will continue to be a small instrument to encourage everyone to pursue and persist in the subversive act of hearing, reading, and sharing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and to encourage your followers to record the history of how this "revolution in the impious life of a misdirected civilization" is becoming a reality.

Always your servant,
Krishna Kshetra Swami

Lokanath Swami

My dearest and beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this auspicious and momentous occasion of your 129th Vyāsa-pūjā, as I bow before your exalted presence, I am filled with profound gratitude, awe, and reverence for the immeasurable mercy you have bestowed upon this world. You, the divine *senāpati-bhakta* of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, descended into this material world to fulfill His divine mission, to awaken the souls of the world to their eternal, loving relationship with Śrī Śrī Radha-Kṛṣṇa. As I reflect upon the countless blessings of this past year, I am filled with immense joy and eagerness to share with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the inspiring progress that we have achieved in your mission, especially in India.

The 2024 December book marathon was historic – both in India and worldwide. Especially in India, it has reached a new global benchmark and can be considered an unparalleled achievement in the history of ISKCON. Together, we, your devoted followers of ISKCON in India, distributed a staggering 6,676,509 books, setting a new global standard in sharing the transcendental knowledge you so mercifully gave us. Śrīla Prabhupāda, from the very inception of ISKCON, book distribution has been at the core of your mission. This monumental accomplishment is a direct offering of love and devotion to you. The credit and inspiration for this year's book distribution goes largely to His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, a lifetime trustee of the international BBT. Mahārāja was a steadfast pillar of support and guidance, and a tireless distributor of your books. It is a fulfillment of your instruction, "The success of your preaching will be substantiated by how many books are sold. If we just depend on temple collections, that will not be very satisfactory. We should make our program so strong that book-selling alone will maintain our economic situation." (Letter to Rameśvara, Los Angeles, December 9, 1974)

I vividly recall the December 10, 2018 disciple retreat at Sri Krishna Goshala, in Durban, South Africa. There, amidst a gathering of dedicated devotees, we brainstormed new ways to enhance our collective chanting and increase the reach of the holy name in different ways. It was in that moment that the idea of a virtual conference platform for global chanting emerged, which ultimately led to the creation of the "Zoom Temple." What began as a simple idea with ten devotees blossomed into a revolutionary initiative, quickly uniting more than two thousand devotees daily from around the world. Six years later, in July 2024, the World Book of Records, London, officially recognized our "Zoom Temple" for its unprecedented contribution to spiritual outreach. The "Zoom Temple" now connects over two thousand login locations globally, reaching more than five thousand devotees, and inspiring one of the most innovative and far-reaching initiatives in online spiritual engagement: chanting together and concluding with a *japa* talk.

When you were with us, ISKCON had under ten temples in India, and your vision of a thriving Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in the land of Bharata (India) was still unfolding. Today, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that vision has been realized in the most magnificent manner. ISKCON India has expanded to over three hundred ISKCON centers, including outposts, extension centers, preaching centers, and full-fledged temples. The growth is staggering.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I remember a striking conversation we had back in 1973 at Mr. Mahadevia's home. You asked me how many visitors attended our evening *ārati* and *kīrtana* at Hare Kṛṣṇa Land in Juhu. I humbly answered, "Fifty to sixty visitors, Prabhupāda." You exclaimed with great satisfaction, "Oh, so many!" Śrīla Prabhupāda, I knew how concerned you were when you observed that the Indian population was slow to embrace Kṛṣṇa consciousness in those early

years. At one point you said to me, "We need more men like you." And now full-time *brahmacārīs* are filling ISKCON ashrams, and countless congregational devotees are daily visiting temples in India. The participation of the youth and congregational members has surpassed all expectations. Thousands of young men and women are embracing Kṛṣṇa consciousness with fervor, dedicating themselves to chanting, studying your books, distributing literature, serving in temples, and joining *padayātrā,* especially the one-day *padayātrās*. ISKCON's youth groups, Bhakti-vriksha programs, and *nāma-haṭṭa* initiatives are flourishing, with millions participating in congregational activities all over India. I feel a deep sense of reassurance that the Lord is fulfilling your wish and sending sincere souls who are eager to serve in your mission. This exponential growth is proof to the causeless mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the power of your divine mission: *paraṁ vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam*. India has awoken, Śrīla Prabhupāda! Your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has taken deep root in its homeland, and the wave of devotion continues to rise, unstoppable and ever-expanding. Good will continues to grow, and our relationship with the

government has reached new heights – evident from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in the recent inauguration of the Navi Mumbai temple.

As I reflect on the most recently concluded Māyāpur festival, a moment of great significance comes to mind. During the flag-hoisting ceremony, I was reminded of your words in New York when, as you were passing by the United Nations, you asked, "If the United Nations truly stands for unity, why are there so many separate flags?" But in Māyāpur, the transcendental headquarters of your movement, we witnessed true unity. Devotees from over fifty nations stood together under one spiritual flag, united not by artificial borders but by the shared mission of love and devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your words resonate so powerfully: "We are creating the real United Nations on the basis of spiritual understanding." In Māyāpur, that vision is being realized. We raise the flag of Lord Caitanya's mercy, the flag of His *saṅkīrtana* movement. That flag, soaring high, has become the symbol of your vision. Devotees from fifty nations celebrated the festival together, chanted and danced together in ecstatic joy, walked side by side on the Navadvīpa *maṇḍala parikrama*. We honored *prasādam* together, sharing love, laughter, and spiritual camaraderie like a true united family. In the spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (One world, One family), we stood together as servants of the Lord, bound by the eternal bonds of bhakti.

This year, on April 6, we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple. It is not just a milestone, Śrīla Prabhupāda, but also a testament to the unbeatable strength and endurance of your divine mission. In the sacred land of Vrindavan, you inaugurated a magnificent temple. For half a century this temple has been a lighthouse of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This temple is your heart. On that auspicious day of Rāma-navamī, you personally offered the very first *ārati* to Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, inaugurating Their glorious temple. The temple was overflowing with devotees. I found myself standing right at the altar's edge, witnessing this historic moment, meditating on Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma and Your Divine Grace. I distinctly remember the divine smile on your face as you offered *ārati*. It was an expression of pure devotion, fulfillment, and boundless joy. That moment remains etched in my memory forever. It is this memory that reminds me of December 6, 1975, in the very same Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma courtyard, that you awarded Śrīdhara Swami, Pṛthu-putra Swami and myself *sannyāsa,* instructing us to become traveling preachers. This year is also my fiftieth *sannyāsa* anniversary. You emphasized the importance of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide, reminding us of the *paramparā* tradition of great traveling preachers: "A *sannyāsī's* duty is to travel and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness. He should never remain stagnant, but must move from place to place, distributing the mercy of Lord Caitanya."

Little did I know that this instruction would lead me to many years of traveling by bullock cart *padayātrā,* bringing Lord Caitanya's movement to every town and village. One year after receiving *sannyāsa,* in the autumn of 1976, again in Vrindavan, you inaugurated our first *padayātrā* bullock cart traveling party, which would cover the pioneer route from Vrindavan to Māyāpur. You instructed: "The basic principle is this: induce them to chant and take *prasada*. You'll be successful … Yes, go village to village. It is a very noble attempt." You further instructed me in a letter dated December 23, 1976: "*Prasada* distribution and chanting and book distribution is sufficient for your program."

Last year on Rādhāṣṭamī, in Jagannātha Purī, we joyfully celebrated forty glorious years of the All-India Padayātrā – the mother of all *padayātrās,* which commenced in 1984. Traversing the length and breadth of India nearly six times, it has brought Kṛṣṇa consciousness to countless villages, towns, and cities. The All-India Padayātrā, and *padayātrās* in one hundred countries, including the one-day *padayātrās* and so many other occasional walking festivals – put together we have covered an astonishing 300,000+ kilometers – the equivalent of circling the earth close to eight times.

You said, "Kumbha Mela is the largest spiritual gathering in the world, and we must be there to preach Krishna consciousness. This is the duty of ISKCON devotees, to bring the message

of Lord Caitanya to the seekers who come searching for spiritual truth." ISKCON has a steady presence at every Kumbha Mela, distributing *prasādam,* books, and the holy names. Initially, we were not recognized. We had no official place and no standing. Despite these challenges, your disciples endured the harsh conditions to distribute your books and spread the holy names among the millions of pilgrims attending this momentous gathering. However, everything has changed. Your ISKCON has been formally recognized and honored with a prestigious position within the Kumbha Mela setup. ISKCON has now been officially acknowledged as a legitimate and respected spiritual organization within the vast network of traditional *akhaḍas* and religious groups. Śrīla Prabhupāda, on February 10, 2025, during the Maha Kumbha Mela in Prayagraj, the Akhila Bharatiya Akhara Parishad bestowed the prestigious Vishwa Guru title on Your Divine Grace, marking the first and only time this recognition has been bestowed upon anyone in history (*India Currents,* February 18, 2025). ISKCON is now inseparable from the great spiritual traditions of India. They are embracing ISKCON and honoring your legacy. This is the ultimate victory, a truly glorious moment Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Close to ISKCON Pandharpur we have established a Prabhupāda Ghata on the banks of the Chandrabhaga River. It has become a major attraction, drawing hundreds of thousands of pilgrims. It stands as a spiritual landmark in Pandharpur Dhāma, glorifying Your Divine Grace.

The new Bhūvaikuṇṭha temple project is progressing steadily, guided by your vision, instruction, and desire.

In your letter to me, dated July 30, 1977, you wrote: "The whole of India, and specifically your Maharashtra, are enthused with Krishna. Now you have to revive their Krishna consciousness. This is Tukaram's country, but now they are becoming bad politicians. So revive them by the process of the sankirtana movement. I am very glad that you are preaching village to village and will cover all of Maharashtra. You should train one farmer from your native village so that he can actually become an ISKCON representative there. I am especially pleased to see how you are pushing forward the book distribution … Now you are also doing this all over India. Organize very solidly and thus increase the number of books distributed, the number of devotees made, and develop centers of Krishna consciousness everywhere."

Inspired by this instruction, we continue to revive Kṛṣṇa consciousness through the process of devotional service. The Bhūvaikuṇṭha project, conceived under this vision, is making remarkable progress. With construction advancing steadily, it stands as a significant step in fulfilling this mission, providing a sacred space where people can awaken their devotion.

Alongside all this progress, there is also one observation of concern. As I reflect on the eternal glory of your ISKCON and your instructions about unity, we must remain vigilant against internal discord (infighting, groupism, politicking). I remember a particularly distressing incident from the early days at Hare Kṛṣṇa Land, when a devotee in a moment of intense agitation pursued the temple president with a tree branch, determined to strike him. The scene was deeply unsettling, and I found myself overwhelmed with sorrow as I sat before your *vyāsāsana*. With tears in my eyes I was mentally appealing to you. Where have you brought me? Is this the Vaikuṇṭha world? This was the last thing I was expecting to happen in your spiritual movement. So, now I lovingly appeal that differences be amicably resolved to keep your institution together. We must remember your instructions more than ever and address disputes with humility and love, remembering your call for unity in diversity. You wrote to Kīrtanānanda on October 18, 1973: "The materialist without being able to adjust the varieties and the disagreements makes everything zero. They cannot come into agreement with varieties, but if we keep Krsna in the center, then there will be agreement in varieties. This is called unity in diversity."

My godbrothers and godsisters are leaving us behind to join Your Divine Grace and Gaurāṅga. It is your gain and our loss. I miss them all deeply. I especially wish to remember Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, your "right-hand man," who recently departed. His departure weighs on my

mind. I was fortunate to be with him during his final moments. His dedication to you and his guidance were a constant source of inspiration and support for me. This year would also have marked fifty years of us serving shoulder to shoulder in your mission. Now I once again turn to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and to the memory of His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, seeking your divine strength and blessings. May I continue my service to you with the same resolute dedication that he so tirelessly exemplified throughout his life.

Whatever I have done and continue to do is simply a manifestation of your will. I again offer everything – my body, mind, and soul – at your divine lotus feet on this most sacred day of your appearance. May I continue to serve you with sincerity and dedication. May I carry forward your mission with the same relentless spirit of perseverance and devotion that you instilled in us all. The legacy you bestowed upon us is not just for today but for countless generations to come.

You are my eternal master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and I will always remain your eternal servant.

Your insignificant servant,
Lokanath Swami

Mahādyuti Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Recently, your disciple Swarup Dāsa, posted on social media that he often asks himself how it's possible to express and show his gratitude for what you have given him. He wrote that you've "taken me from the darkness of ignorance to the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, from suffering, misery, and hopelessness to a life of joy and happiness, from bondage to freedom." His words struck a chord in my heart, as he had eloquently expressed exactly what I was thinking.

Swarup Prabhu goes on to say that he found his answer in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.22.47: "A joker's activities simply arouse laughter, and a person who tries to repay the spiritual master or teacher of the transcendental message of Kṛṣṇa becomes a laughingstock just like a joker because it is not possible to repay such a debt. The best friend and benefactor of all people is one who awakens humanity to its original Kṛṣṇa consciousness."

Indeed! You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are certainly that "best friend and benefactor" saving suffering humanity. Though humanity in general has not yet understood that, and despite various attempts of the demons to impede Lord Caitanya's mission, your teachings continue to spread like wildfire, and huge numbers of sincere souls continue to join!

When you were physically with us here, you seemed to me, in your lectures and purports, to closely identify with Prahlāda Mahārāja, who famously said that he was concerned only "for the

fools and rascals who are making elaborate plans for material happiness." (*Bhāgavatam* 7.9.43) That seems to be also your only concern, and in fact, anyone who is not a devotee of Kṛṣṇa certainly is an unfortunate fool or rascal. You taught us, therefore, that our duty as Vaiṣṇavas is to try to make the unfortunate fortunate by bringing them closer to Kṛṣṇa. Without Kṛṣṇa, there's no consciousness, as without the sun, there's no shining.

Though we, your disciples and followers, are the "laughingstock" you mentioned who are trying to repay our colossal debt to you, nonetheless we try, "hope against hope," to do something useful to direct the misled human beings off the highway to hell and onto the path back home, back to Godhead.

Our tremendous thanks to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us, unqualified though we are, this ecstatic opportunity to try to help you. All glories to you!

Your grateful servant and disciple,
Mahādyuti Swami

Nava Yogendra Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotuslike feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, who saved the whole world by spreading *sanātana-dharma* and the holy name, Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare, all over the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Your Divine Grace appeared on this planet to fulfill the prophecy of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu that His name will be chanted in every town and village on this earth planet. You are empowered (a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra*) by the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and you showed by example worldwide how to make the lowest among the lowest creatures remember Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's name and chant in ecstasy. So Your Divine Grace established the *yuga-dharma*. You are the embodiment of Lord Caitanya's teachings.

I, your insignificant servant, beg on this day of your appearance that you please bless me with a drop of your mercy so that I become a strict follower of your nectarlike teachings and become instrumental in your mission to save humanity and the entire world from the effects of Kali-yuga.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are my everything. Please give me the shade of your lotus feet.

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 advancement. Therefore I should continually remember and praise the spiritual master [you, Śrīla Prabhupāda]. At least three times a day, I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master," Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Please give me the strength to bear all troubles and fulfill your order. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. All glories to Śrī Śrī Gaura Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

Your insignificant servant,
Nava Yogendra Swami

Pārtha Sārathi Dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

choṭa baḍa bhakta-gaṇa, vandoṅ sabāra śrī-caraṇa,
sabe more karaha santoṣa

> I worship herewith the lotus feet of all kinds of devotees, both advanced and neophyte. I request all of them to be satisfied with me. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 2.93)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your dear first generation of *dīkṣā* disciples is gradually fading away, like stars being covered by a cloud. You are like the brilliant Pole Star shining next to the moon of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and our *guru-varga*. I believe these early followers were directly sent by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to assist you in establishing your personal preaching mission, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. This mission is your personal contribution to our Gauḍīya *sampradāya*.

Everything is going on by the inconceivable *śakti* of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. That which was impossible has now become possible by the *aghaṭa-ghaṭana-patīyasī sakti* of the Lord (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 17.304). How else could we, your followers, continue to cooperate in this dark age of confusion, misinformation, and mistrust? An important part of our bhakti includes the ability to cooperate with one another. In other words, it is a yoga of cooperation.

After Śrīila Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura departed from this world, the preaching continued but some potency had been lost. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you write, "Amongst Vaiṣṇavas there may be some difference of opinion due to everyone's personal identity, but despite all personal differences, the cult of Kṛṣṇa consciousness must go on." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.28.31, purport)

Fifty-years ago, on October 5, 1975, you placed your divine lotus feet on the land of South Africa. Arriving from Mauritius, you came with your secretary, Harikeśa Prabhu, and our own GBC representative, Puṣṭa Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja. Apartheid South Africa immediately became blessed by your presence. This is confirmed in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.13.10:

bhavad-vidhā bhāgavatās
tīrtha-bhūtāḥ svayaṁ vibho
tīrthī-kurvanti tīrthāni
svāntaḥ-sthena gadābhṛtā

> My lord, devotees like your good self are verily holy places personified. Because you carry the Personality of Godhead within your heart, you turn all places into places of pilgrimage.

This year, the South African *yātrā* is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of your visit here. Your Divine Grace stayed in South Africa for nineteen days and was the esteemed guest at seven large hall programs in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, and Johannesburg. At that time, we (about ten disciples) had a rented house in Yeoville, which was a "Jewish suburb" in Johannesburg. I was designated the *pūjārī,* gardener, handyman, and book distributor – a jack of all trades but master of none. Though I saw myself as a fool, my godbrothers kindly tolerated me.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura said, "Why do I always forget that I am the most insignificant and meanest of all living beings?" Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu states in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 7.77), "My Guru Mahārāja said I am a fool, therefore, I should just chant Hare Kṛṣṇa."

Now, fifty years later, even though I am a *sannyāsī* and *dīkṣā-guru,* I still feel foolish.

ISKCON South Africa now has twenty temples and preaching centers, with over two thousand initiated granddisciples. The *yātrā* hosts eleven Ratha-yātrās, has twenty-eight Food-for-Life branches, and five Govinda's restaurants. Most importantly, we are distributing fifty to sixty thousand of your transcendental books annually.

The obvious question is, how is this happening in the Age of Kali? The answer is: by your desire. You have invoked the *aghaṭa-ghaṭana-patīyasī sakti,* which means that special *śakti* of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that allows the impossible to become possible. Since your divine departure, we have not only maintained your mission but increased it. Your beloved first generation of direct disciples are gradually fading, and our original South African congregational members from the 1970s and 1980s are also gradually leaving their bodies.

Many of your senior disciples have already "shuffled off their mortal coil." (*Hamlet,* William Shakespeare). You referred to this old age when you visited Jagannātha Purī with your disciples: "I came to Jagannātha Purī after appearing for my BA exam. And because I was jubilant, I was jumping. When the waves came, I was jumping, but now I am walking with a stick. The body changes but I remain the same." (*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* volume 6, p. 240)

Forty-eight years after Your Divine Grace's departure, we, as an institution, are still cooperating. This spiritual cooperation is preparing us for birth in *prakaṭa* GolokaVrindavan. The Lord's eternal pastimes are going on in some *brahmāṇḍa* at this very moment. In Lord Kṛṣṇa's *prakaṭa-līlā* and *aprakaṭa-līlā,* all the residents of Vrindavan are serving one another in a mood of *anugatya-bhava*. I pray that someday I can also become one of those followers.

It is stated in the *Ujjvala-nīlamaṇi* (4.1), "Rādhā and Candrāvalī are the best among the leaders. Their groups contain ten million *gopīs* each. The scriptures say that the *rāsa* dance took place on the bank of the Yamunā River with one billion *gopīs*."

My dear spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are kindly giving your sincere followers entrance into this sublime *līlā*. I hope that one day in the future, walking behind Your Divine Grace and behind my godbrothers, godsisters, and our *guru-varga,* I can also be counted as one of those ten million.

I would like to offer my humble obeisances, *koṭi koṭi* times, to all the Vaiṣṇavas throughout the world, whether advanced or neophyte.

I remain,
Your servant eternally,
Pārtha Sārathi Dāsa Goswami

Prabhodānanda Saraswati Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories, all glories to Your Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

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

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

This year we are observing the fiftieth anniversary of your Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple, ISKCON Vrindavan. You installed Deities of Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Lalitā, Viśākhā, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and a *mūrti* of your Guru Mahārāja, on the auspicious occasion of Rāma-navamī in 1975. You installed your own *mūrti* also. You explained that you are ready to accept the sinful reactions of whoever takes shelter of your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I was appointed in 2024, by your ISKCON GBC body, to serve as a *dīkṣā-guru,* an initiating spiritual master. I am a granddisciple of Your Divine Grace. My initiating spiritual master, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, one of your dearest disciples, disappeared last year on May 5, 2024, to join you in the spiritual world or wherever you are now engaged in the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Now I pray at your lotus feet to be merciful to me.

yogyatā-vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi,
tomāra karuṇā—sāra
karuṇā nā hoile, kāndiyā kāndiyā,
prāṇa nā rākhibo āra

When I examine myself, I find nothing of value. Your mercy is therefore essential to me.
If you are not merciful, I will constantly weep and will not maintain my life any longer.
(*Śaraṇāgati, Gurudeva* (4), Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura) Your lotus feet are my only shelter.

Your instructions and your books are the only hope for me. By regularly reading your books and hearing your lectures I am trying my best to be in your association. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Keep me always in your association, and guide me to serve you perfectly, life after life.

Your most fallen granddisciple,
Prabhodānanda Saraswati Swami
ISKCON Vrindavan

Rāma Govinda Swami

Param Pūjya Param Gurudeva,

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

Param Gurudeva! How can a small insignificant person like me describe the glories of a spiritually elevated personality like Your Divine Grace? Still, with your mercy, I will try to do so.

Param Gurudeva! I always feel your presence and mercy. Sometimes while reading *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* I don't properly understand some passages in your purports. Then I offer prayers to your lotus feet and read again. Surprisingly, I understand the intent of your explanations. This assures me of your divine presence.

Śrī Rāma-navamī is approaching as I write this – on April 6, 2025. I was reading the *Śrī Rāmāyaṇa* of Śrī Vālmīki Maharṣi, where in the *Bāla-kāṇḍa* (18.28) sage Śrī Vasiṣṭha was explaining the qualities of Śrī Lakṣmaṇa. Śrī Vasiṣṭha Maharṣi says, *lakṣmaṇa lakṣmi sampanna.* He did not use the same comments to Lord Śrī Rāma. I could not understand why he was talking about *lakṣmī* –money, as a quality of Śrī Lakṣmaṇa. I prayed to Your Divine Grace to help me understand the intent. I could understand that *Śrī Rāmāyaṇa* has nothing to do with the material *lakṣmī*. So, here it means devotional service is the treasure, Lakṣmī, for the devotees. Lord Lakṣmaṇa, being *jīvācārya, ādi-guru,* will bless the devotees in development of devotional service, bhakti.

Param Gurudeva! You introduced so many spiritual festivals in ISKCON, so the devotees have always engaged in celebrating and hearing the transcendental pastimes of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. This enthusiasm in celebrating helps the devotees to remember (*smaraṇa*) the pastimes of the Supreme Lord. These celebrations are certainly helpful tools in *lakṣmi vardhana,* the development of spiritual life. Universally appreciated, with your blessing, is the yearly Lord Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā. People love it and chant the Hare Krsna *maha-mantra,* knowing or without knowing its glories, and get the mercy of Lord Jagannātha. This is part of your mission of propagating the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and the teachings of Lord Caitanya.

Param Gurudeva! Not many *ācāryas* from other *sampradāyas* gave the depth of philosophical explanations that enable everyone, irrespective of caste or creed, to understand the Vedic teachings. But Your Divine Grace, even in the advanced stage of your life and health, wrote many

commentaries in English on our Vedic scriptures, like the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Śrī Bhagavad-gītā, Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* and others, something no one had done before. Your efforts helped establish ISKCON centers throughout the world. One may preach, but on what basis? Can devotees understand, practice, and preach if we don't have supporting explanations or commentaries on the scriptures? But because of your efforts, the preaching and establishing of new ISKCON centers is flourishing. In ISKCON, everyone can see your blessings and mercy in action.

I feel proud to be a member of your International Society for Krsna Consciousness, where we get, by your mercy, to learn a lot about devotional service and the wonderful pastimes of the Supreme Lords Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Please bless me so I may continue to serve this wonderful preaching mission of yours.

The servant of your servants,
Rāma Govinda Swami

Śacīnandana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

As the years go by, we can't help but marvel at your unwavering quality of always taking shelter at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet, which makes you absolutely fearless. "Kṛṣṇa never gives up anyone who takes shelter and serves Him. All others die in vain," writes Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura.

Taking shelter is based on the firm conviction that only Kṛṣṇa and no one else – not the doctors, not modern inventions in medicine, not wealth, nor connections – only Kṛṣṇa is capable of offering full protection and maintenance. When, in June 1967, a stroke brought you down, you gave an endearing example of what it means to take shelter. You requested three things from your disciples that would help you:

1. Bring me a painting of Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva
2. Chant the Nṛsiṁhadeva prayers and the *mahā-mantra* for my protection
3. Additionally, you asked your servant to recite the prayers of Queen Kuntī to you, where Śrīmatī Kuntīdevī urgently and famously requested that all the calamities she had to face would happen again because Kṛṣṇa would unfailingly come to her side during those severe tests. And in this sheltering presence, even the greatest obstacles and misfortunes would miraculously evaporate, like dewdrops on the arrival of the morning sun. These are Queen Kuntī's words:

vipadaḥ santu tāḥ śaśvat
tatra tatra jagad-guro
bhavato darśanaṁ yat syād
apunar bhava-darśanam

> I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.8.25)

A few years later, after another health crisis, you expressed your gratitude to Brahmānanda for praying for you, saying, "Whatever the material condition may be, we should just cling to Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet." (Māyāpur, October 7, 1974)

You have consistently exemplified throughout your life the importance of taking shelter at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet, which serve as a protective umbrella against the unavoidable showers of difficulties that come to everyone in this world. Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet are not only protecting but they simultaneously rain down nectar – healing, nourishing, life-giving nectar.

Throughout your life, your supreme shelter never left you, and thus, you were never alone. "What is this alone?" you once wrote to a disciple. "A Vaiṣṇava is never alone. When I first came to the United States, I was seemingly alone for one year. But I never felt alone. I always felt the presence of my Guru Mahārāja … Actually, you should know this: you are never alone." (Letter to Trivikrama, December 1974)

Once, in Vrindavan, I was driven by a friend through a narrow, winding lane. Suddenly, he slammed on the brakes – three children were playing with marbles in the middle of the road, fearless. My driver laughed and exclaimed, "Children! They are fearless because they know the parents are nearby, watching."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when I think of you I see a sheltered devotee whose protective guardian is always close by and keeping an eye on His dependent servant.

On your divine appearance day, I request you for your blessings. I can see that the great wave of life will bring many unexpected changes into this world. Let me learn from you to be fearless by always seeking the shelter of your lotus feet. Thus I can be sure that the Lord will watch over me. And what can go wrong when your eyes and the eyes of the Lord are upon me?

Let me end by saying that I am forever grateful to have been accepted by you and that you have blessed me with three types of faith that I consider my real shelter: 1. the taste for your service; 2. the profound *sādhana* you introduced; and 3. the hopeful life you have given me, with the prospect of one day attaining the Divine Couple, pleasing Them, and establishing a loving relationship with Them.

Thank you a million times and more for being compassionate and patient with your slow disciple.

Your humble servant,
Śacīnandana Swami

Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

You are the dearmost person in my life. You are the representative of Kṛṣṇa, and you saved me from great calamity. Before I met you, I was a lost soul. But you came to me and pulled me out of the well of material suffering. You turned me into a respectable person. Before I met you, I had many sinful habits, like the four sinful activities – illicit sex, meat eating, intoxication, and gambling. I was a lost cause. But the first night I attended your class in the storefront on Second Avenue, I tasted bliss and felt I had been saved. Chanting in *kīrtana* with you brought me ecstasy. I was able to give up all my sinful activities in one night, and from then on I have always tried to be a faithful servitor to you. I became your servant. I became your disciple after one night. Just by meeting you and joining you in *kīrtana* and listening to your lecture (although I couldn't understand your accent so well) I became sworn to serve you always.

I have sworn my life to you. I beg you to please always protect me and never kick me away. I always want to be true and faithful to you.

Offering obeisances to you in your presence is a great thrill. One imbibes your holy spirit by being close to you and bowing down with full hands and feet. To be near you and bow down with hands and feet brings one the great pleasure of being a worshiper of the greatest spiritual master. You convey your full blessings to one who sincerely bows down to you and offers you love from the heart. For the devotees who truly surrender to you, you reciprocate with them and bless them, accepting their worship when offered in all sincerity. It is truly bliss to worship you and pledge to surrender to you with one's life.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I want to be a surrendered soul. Please forgive this fallen soul who only wants to take shelter at your lotus feet and never commit any wrong acts again. You are my only savior, and I take shelter in you.

Begging to remain your surrendered disciple,
Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami

S. B. Keshava Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Placing my head at your lotus feet again and again, please accept these humble words of gratitude.

The Touchstone

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura explains that the ultimate confirmation of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's divinity lies in the transcendental love that He exuded and was able to awaken in others. The Lord, and those empowered by Him, have unfathomable transformative power. They turn

people's lives downside-up, shift their paradigms by quantum leaps, and awaken qualities within them they never knew they had. When asked what miracle you could show, you pointed at all your disciples and beamed, "*They* are my miracle!"

Vaiṣṇavas are more valuable than gold. They are the touchstones that turn everything into gold. Perhaps they are even more valuable; special touchstones that transform others into touchstones. I was touched by you, touched by your example, touched by your vision, and I continue to be touched by your glorious movement.

Your teachings have touched my life. Every day they bring a shy, introverted, and reserved personality to life. I never envisaged being a public speaker, but your teachings are so powerful that even a quiet individual who lacks confidence finds the drive and desire to share this wisdom with the world. I'm ready to go anywhere, enter any arena and speak to anyone. Nobody can argue with these teachings, even when delivered by an imperfect instrument. Just too good.

Your mission has touched my life. I was heading for the monotonous, run-of-the-mill, humdrum existence, where fitting in and finding comfort is the gold standard of success. Who dares to veer away from the prevailing narrative? When I heard of your sacrifice, your willingness to shed gallons of blood for the upliftment of others, it awakened me to a life of transcendental adventure and excitement. You activated me in this electrifying movement. It wakes me up every morning – purpose is the best alarm clock in the world.

Your gift of book distribution has touched my life. Being on the street, up and down the country, every town and village, rain or shine, meeting people from practically every walk of life, dealing with disappointment and rejection, and simultaneously seeing the miracles and magic before our eyes, changed my life. This simple adventure – what I call the "school of life," turned an impractical person into someone who learned deep lessons about commitment, communication, and kindness. Sometimes I close my eyes, think of mystical moments on book distribution, and become emotional. This activity has softened my heart like none other.

Your followers have touched my life. I was so impressed when I saw them, working hard day and night, ready to go the extra mile with no time to waste. These were individuals who believed in something! Finally someone who really *believes* in what they do! They were bold but also humble, smart but also simple, charismatic but also deep, transcendental but also completely down-to-earth. These saintly individuals had been touched by you, and they touched me by their dedication. They instilled within me a desire to touch the hearts of others. Bhakti awakens bhakti, heart to heart.

Your *kīrtana* touched my life. I still remember that mystical, deep, resonant voice, magically descending from another dimension of reality. This wasn't music, but more like a cry of love. That melody, the one everyone sings, emanating from underneath the tree at Tompkins Square Park, continues to reverberate around the world, reaching the most remote places. The eternal vibration echoes through your sincere followers, and their *kīrtana* makes me dance. That's a miracle – I was never one for dancing! The holy name touches our hearts and takes us beyond our mind.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you turn crows into swans. You're a spiritual disruptor, a game-changer, and a transcendental magician of the highest calibre. I'll consider my life a success if I can touch many people's hearts, just as you have touched my heart. May I always be in touch with you, the transcendental touchstone whose spiritual status is untouchable and incomparable.

Your servant,
S. B. Keshava Swami

Śivarāma Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my most respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, a perfect instrument of your predecessors.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is well known in your ISKCON that you have fulfilled the preaching desires of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His Gauḍīya *ācāryas.* For example, in offering you our respects, we blissfully say,

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.

You and you alone took the message of Caitanya Mahāprabhu all over the world. Others only tried to follow in your wake. Tried!

The full message of Lord Caitanya is clearly delineated in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. The foundation of that worldwide mission is distributing Kṛṣṇa's holy names and the teachings of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* both of which we, your followers, are fortunate to have received and framed our lives around. And just as every activity has a purpose, a *sādhya,* so too does the mission of Lord Caitanya.

In His meeting with Śrī Rāmānanda Rāya, Caitanya Mahāprabhu's first inquiry was to hear a verse from the revealed scriptures concerning the ultimate goal of life and the means to attain it. Śrī Rāmānanda replied that offering one's activities through the *varṇāśrama* institution would be the best means to please Kṛṣṇa – the former the means, the latter the goal.

Caitanya Mahāprabhu, however, rejected this answer, as He did subsequent answers, until Rāmānanda offered pure devotional service as the means to please Kṛṣṇa. Thereafter the Lord desired to hear about the stages of pure devotion, including the ascending stages of loving devotion – servitude, fraternity, parental love, and conjugality. These forms of *vraja-prema* enable devotees to enter Kṛṣṇa's eternal pastimes of love.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your followers will readily confirm that our destination is Goloka Vrindavan. However, Rāmānanda Rāya says that such Vraja perfection can only be attained through spontaneous love. Regulative devotion is insufficient to that end. The *nāyaṁ sukhāpo bhagavān* verse – which Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura calls the *paribhāṣā-sūtra* of the Tenth Canto – is further evidence of this.* Thus, while your followers begin their *sādhana* in a regulated way, at a certain stage of maturity they too acquire greed for *vraja-bhakti* and so evolve in spontaneous devotion.

Throughout your books and teachings, you have further elaborated upon this very same goal and the very same forms of practice. If we return to the exchange with Rāmānanda, we find that both *sādhana* and *sādhya* are summarily revealed in the *nibhṛta-marun-mano* verse cited and explained by the Rāya:**

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* *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.9.21

** *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.87.23

nibhṛta-marun-mano-'kṣa-dṛḍha-yoga-yujo hṛdi yan
munaya upāsate tad arayo 'pi yayuḥ smaraṇāt
striya uragendra-bhoga-bhuja-daṇḍa-viṣakta-dhiyo
vayam api te samāḥ sama-dṛśo 'ṅghri-saroja-sudhāḥ

> Great sages conquer the mind and senses by practicing the mystic yoga system and controlling the breath. Thus engaging in mystic yoga, they see the Supersoul within their hearts and ultimately enter into impersonal Brahman. But even the enemies of the Supreme Personality of Godhead attain that position simply by thinking of the Supreme Lord. However, the damsels of Vraja, the *gopīs,* being attracted by the beauty of Kṛṣṇa, simply wanted to embrace Him and His arms, which are like serpents. Thus the *gopīs* ultimately tasted the nectar of the lotus feet of the Lord. Similarly, the *Upaniṣads* can also taste the nectar of His lotus feet by following in the footsteps of the *gopīs*.*

It may be asked why Rāmānanda Rāya cited an example relating to *mādhurya-rasa*. The answer is that Lord Caitanya asked about the ultimate goal of life, and that goal is found in conjugal love. In a purport, you confirm that conjugal love is the ultimate goal for most Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas:

> There are different types of devotees – those in *śānta-rasa, dāsya-rasa, sakhya-rasa, vātsalya-rasa*, and *mādhurya-rasa*. Although all the *rasas* are on the transcendental platform, *mādhurya-rasa* is the supreme transcendental mellow. Consequently it is concluded that the worship of devotees engaged in the Lord's service in *mādhurya-rasa* is the supreme spiritual activity. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His followers mainly worship Lord Kṛṣṇa in *mādhurya-rasa*.**

Since a *sādhana* must correspond to its *sādhya,* Rāmānanda Rāya says that mature devotees should accept the mood of the *gopīs* in their service and think of the pastimes of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. The word *sama-dṛśaḥ* in the *nibhṛta-marun-mano* verse is the essence of this *sādhana:* to follow the mood of the *gopīs*. Similarly, the word *samāḥ* defines the *sādhya:* to attain a body like the *gopī(s)* whom one follows.

I should make clear that hearing and thinking about one's role model *gopī(s)* is accompanied by standard practices, such as chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa and reading *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Moreover, devotees should undertake such *sādhana* only when they are qualified with greed for *mādhurya-rasa,* and when they have the guidance and blessing of their spiritual master(s).

Rāmānanda Rāya concludes his dissertation, saying,

> After thinking of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa and their pastimes for a long time, and after getting completely free from material contamination, one is transferred to the spiritual world. There the devotee attains an opportunity to serve Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa as one of the *gopīs*.***

In books detailing the path to *vraja-bhakti,* and more specifically to *mādhurya-rasa,* the Lord's followers – notably, *ācāryas* in Rūpa Gosvāmī's line – have followed the *sādhana* taught in the *nibhṛta-marun-mano* verse.

An extensive study of the Śrutis' prayer shows that the scriptures explain the process of *rāgānuga-bhakti* as the exclusive means to attain the perfection of *gopī-bhāva*. Moreover, Caitanya

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* Cited in *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 8.224.

** *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 11.31, purport

*** *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 8.229

Mahāprabhu's acceptance of the verse and of Rāmānanda Rāya's subsequent explanation is, of course, the ultimate validation of the topmost *sādhya* and the *sādhana* by which that goal is to be attained. After hearing from his newly found associate, the Lord embraced Rāmānanda Rāya and told him,

> Now that I have actually seen your glories, what I heard about you is confirmed. As far as the pastimes of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in a loving mood are concerned, you are the limit of knowledge.*

However, neither scriptures nor the conversation between the Lord and Rāmānanda detailed the exact goal and the means for future practicing Vaiṣṇavas, for us. Thus, just as he had empowered Rāmānanda Rāya with the responsibility of elaborately illustrating the truths of mellows, *rasa-tattva,* Caitanya Mahāprabhu empowered His immediate followers to write books that would present His teachings in further depth.

In his *Jaiva-dharma,* chapter 39, Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda clearly describes the specific duty assigned by Lord Caitanya to His principal followers. The following is a paraphrase of the Ṭhākura's words.

Svarūpa Dāmodara

The Lord's most intimate associate, His personal secretary and His second body, was Svarūpa Dāmodara Gosvāmī. To such a qualified devotee Caitanya Mahāprabhu entrusted the responsibility of teaching the process of worship endowed with transcendental mellows, *rasamayī upāsanā*. Svarūpa Dāmodara fulfilled the Lord's order by presenting his treatise in two parts – the internal path, *antaḥ-panthā,* and the external path, *bahiḥ-panthā*.

The exoteric path of *rāga-sādhana* was taught to Vakreśvara Paṇḍita, who in turn taught it to his disciple Gopāla Guru, and he to his disciple Dhyānacandra Gosvāmī. The latter wrote a book describing his disciplic succession's systematic, step-by-step method of practice known as *Śrī Gaura-govindārcana-smaraṇa Paddhatiḥ*. That book exists today and is followed by the students of Vakreśvara Paṇḍita's line.

Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī

Svarūpa Dāmodara taught the internal or esoteric path to Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī. Caitanya Mahāprabhu entrusted the young Vaiṣṇava to the great Gosvāmī and requested him to "Accept Raghunātha Dāsa as your son or servant."

Dāsa Gosvāmī thus became the personal assistant of Svarūpa Dāmodara. Indeed, the Lord gave him the name Svarūpera-Raghu, or "the Raghu of Svarūpa Dāmodara," which is how the young Gosvāmī became known in Jagannātha Purī.

When Raghunātha Dāsa inquired from the Lord about a *sannyāsī's* duties, Caitanya Mahāprabhu replied, "I have appointed Svarūpa Dāmodara Gosvāmī as your instructor. Learn from him what your duty is and how to discharge it. I do not know as much as he."

Following Caitanya Mahāprabhu's order, Dāsa Gosvāmī accompanied Svarūpa Dāmodara in rendering very confidential service, described as *antaraṅga-sevā* – service performed in one's spiritual body. Svarūpa Dāmodara Gosvāmī's spiritual identity is Lalitā-devī, and Dāsa Gosvāmī's is Rati-mañjarī, Lalitā's assistant. Guided by Svarūpa Dāmodara, Raghunātha Dāsa began to

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* *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 8.239

serve Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa within his mind according to the above-mentioned internal path. This meditation was recorded in Svarūpa Dāmodara's notes, his *kaḍaca,* and then expanded upon by Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī in his writings.

The following books of Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī describe how to put into practice the principles of bhakti taught by Rūpa Gosvāmī:

- *Vilāpa-kusumāñjalī* describes the activities and moods that define the practice of spontaneous practitioners.
- *Vraja-vilāsa-stava* outlines how, in their meditations, practitioners should maintain friendly relationships and dealings with *gopīs* and other Vraja-vāsīs.
- *Viśākhānandādi-stotram* teaches *sādhakas* how to contemplate the variegated pastimes included within the eightfold pastimes.
- *Manaḥ-śikṣā* guides devotees on how to absorb their minds in Kṛṣṇa's pastimes. It should be the first book, along with *Sva-niyama-daśakam*, that an aspirant assimilates.
- *Sva-niyama-daśakam* defines the moods required to maintain the resolute determination needed to follow the rules and regulations of spontaneous devotion.

It is significant that Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura gives more emphasis to the role of Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī and his books than to other *ācāryas* and their works. Needless to say, Raghunātha Dāsa and his teachings play a pivotal role in every *sādhaka's* spiritual life, but especially in the lives of those on the path of spontaneous devotion. For this reason, his books should be studied attentively by devotees who have diligently studied your own books, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Rūpa Gosvāmī

In his pastimes, Caitanya Mahāprabhu first entrusted the principles of *rasa* to Rāmānanda Rāya and requested him to elaborately illustrate the same. The Rāya disclosed these truths in his talks with the Lord on the banks of the Godāvarī. However, Lord Caitanya more fully accomplished this aspect of His mission through Rūpa Gosvāmī. In their talks at Prayāga, Caitanya Mahāprabhu instructed Śrī Rūpa for ten consecutive days. These teachings of the Lord are found in Rūpa Gosvāmī's books, especially in the *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu* and *Ujjvala-nīlamaṇi*.

Subsequent *ācāryas* like Narottama Dāsa and Your Divine Grace have also emphasized the writings and teachings of Rūpa Gosvāmī and Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī. For example,

rūpa-raghunātha-pade hoibe ākuti
kabe hāma bujhabo se jugala-pīriti

> Only if I become attached to the instructions given by the Six Gosvāmīs, headed by Rūpa Gosvāmī and Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī, will it be possible for me to understand the conjugal love of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.*

Similarly, Kavirāja Gosvāmī ends every chapter of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* with a request for the blessings of Rūpa Gosvāmī and Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī – certainly a telling prayer.

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* *Lālasāmayī Prārthanā* 4

Sanātana Gosvāmī

Caitanya Mahāprabhu continually instructed this seniormost of the Six Gosvāmīs while they were residing in Vārāṇasī for two months. At the conclusion of their talks, Lord Caitanya gave Sanātana Gosvāmī the responsibility to elaborately illustrate the relationship between regulative and spontaneous devotion, and between the manifest, *prakaṭa,* and unmanifest, *aprakaṭa,* Gokula. The *ācārya* fulfilled the Lord's order by composing the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* and *Bṛhad-bhāgavatāmṛta*.

Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī

Gopāla Bhatta Gosvāmī is credited with collating the information for the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa,* which Sanātana Gosvāmī later reorganized and completed. The *ācārya* also wrote *Sat-kriyā-sāra-dīpikā* and *Saṁskāra-dīpikā*. These literary efforts fulfilled Caitanya Mahāprabhu's request to protect and

preserve the purity of *mādhurya-rasa,* conjugal love, while also maintaining the standards of regulated devotion.

Prabhodhānanda Sarasvatī

The uncle and spiritual master of Gopāla Bhaṭṭa, Prabhodhānanda Sarasvatī was entrusted with the service of making known that the most elevated *sādhana* is cultivating spontaneous loving attachment for *vraja-rasa.* His best-known works are *Vṛndāvana-mahimāmṛta* and *Rādhā-rasa-śuddha-nidhi.*

Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa

Although not known to have written any books, Caitanya Mahāprabhu entrusted Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa with teaching the glories of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* because of his attachment to reading it and his expertise in reciting it.

Jīva Gosvāmī

The most prolific and the youngest of the Six Gosvāmīs, Śrī Jīva was guided by Caitanya Mahāprabhu through His associates. Through Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya's disciple, Jīva Gosvāmī was entrusted with the responsibility of teaching the philosophical conclusions of the Gauḍīyas. Then, in Māyāpur, Nityānanda Prabhu, and in Vrindavan, Sanātana Gosvāmī, ordered Śrī Jīva to put into writing the philosophy of Lord Caitanya's disciplic succession. Jīva Gosvāmī thus described *sambandha, abhidheya,* and *prayojana* in his six *Sandarbhas.*

Lord Nityānanda also instructed the young *sannyāsī* to study *Vedānta-sūtra* and learn how to defeat its impersonal commentaries. After taking Jīva on a *parikramā* of Navadvīpa, Nitāi told his student,

tomā-prati ājñā ei vārāṇasī giyā
vācaspati nikaṭete vedānta paḍiyā

> My order to you is this: go to Vārāṇasī and study *Vedānta* under Sārvabhauma's disciple, Madhusūdana Vācaspati.*

Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭa

Known as the greatest scholar of his time, Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya abandoned his monistic ways and became a firm follower of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. The Lord then entrusted the Bhaṭṭācārya with the responsibility of teaching the philosophical truths, *tattva,* regarding the Absolute Reality. In addition to converting many scholars, Sārvabhauma wrote poems and prayers about Lord Caitanya, Nityānanda Prabhu, and Advaita Ācārya. Through his disciple Madhusūdana Vācaspati, Sārvabhauma conveyed the Lord's desires to Jīva Gosvāmī.

Nityānanda Prabhu and Advaita Ācārya

Caitanya Mahāprabhu entrusted His two confidential expansions, Nityānanda Prabhu and Advaita Prabhu, with the responsibility of preaching the glories of chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. Since

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* *Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmya* 4.52

both great souls lived in Bengal, that place was their assigned base for preaching. Taking the initiative, Lord Nityānanda also made known the truths about Lord Caitanya and the benefit of chanting His name.

Gauḍīya Mahāntas

Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura concludes by revealing that the responsibility of the Gauḍīya *mahāntas* was to establish faith in and illuminate the truths of the *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* that Caitanya Mahāprabhu had initiated. Furthermore, Mahāprabhu entrusted some of the *mahāntas* with composing and propagating a new form of *kīrtana*.* Thus ends Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's explanation.

According to verses like *anarpita-carīṁ cirāt,* Caitanya Mahāprabhu descended from Goloka to offer the world the most confidential *sādhana* by which devotees can attain the perfection of *gopī-bhāva.* He personally inspired people to chant Kṛṣṇa's names as the foundational practice that would lead them to this most confidential goal.

To Vaiṣṇava scholars like Vyeṅkaṭa Bhaṭṭa He explained the truths of *mādhurya-rasa,* and to his confidential associates named above He assigned corresponding missions. In these ways the Lord ensured that the purpose of His descent would be fulfilled and that devotees for all time could know and perfect the conjugal mellow:

anarpita-carīṁ cirāt karuṇayāvatīrṇaḥ kalau
samarpayitum unnatojjvala-rasāṁ sva-bhakti-śriyam
hariḥ puraṭa-sundara-dyuti-kadamba-sandīpitaḥ
sadā hṛdaya-kandare sphuratu vaḥ śacī-nandanaḥ

> May the Supreme Lord who is known as the son of Śrīmatī Śacī-devī be transcendentally situated in the innermost chambers of your heart. Resplendent with the radiance of molten gold, He has appeared in the Age of Kali by His causeless mercy to bestow what no incarnation has ever offered before: the most sublime and radiant mellow of devotional service, the mellow of conjugal love.**

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Caitanya Mahāprabhu empowered you to spread His mission throughout the world, a mission that you fulfilled through your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

As a pure devotee, you carried the duty assigned to all the above-mentioned saints. Through your books, Your Divine Grace revealed the literary duties Caitanya Mahāprabhu assigned to His associates, specifically to the Six Gosvāmīs. And through your worldwide preaching and *nāma-saṅkīrtana,* you fulfilled Lord Gaurāṅga's other desires, thus becoming the glorious representative of your predecessors.

The following anecdote is confirmation that you are the emissary of Lord Caitanya and His associates: Once, Tamal Krishna Goswami was taken for a hernia operation to a Bombay hospital, where Śrīla Prabhupāda later visited him. While under sedation Goswami Mahārāja had a dream, which he recounted as follows:

> Before the operation began, they gave me an anesthetic and said, "Count from ten down." I got to about seven and that was it. I was meditating on Rādhā-Rasabihārī in the *ārati,* and then I had a very good dream.
>
> In my dream, Śrīla Prabhupāda had been called by the previous *ācāryas* to make a

* The specific empowerment of the *ācāryas* is described in *Jaiva-dharma* 39.

** *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ädi-līlā* 1.4

report on his preaching mission on this planet. The previous *ācāryas* asked Prabhupāda, "What is your report?"

Prabhupāda said that he had studied the people of this planet and had found that they had no capacity for any type of austerity. Nor were they very capable of studying, nor were they very pious. He said the only thing that they were able to do was "somehow take shelter at my feet."

After the operation, they wheeled me to my assigned room. Prabhupāda was sitting there. He said, "I came here as fast as I could. I wanted to stop the operation because I think you should have had this operation in America. But anyway, it is done now."

He had come all the way from Juhu in a jeep in the middle of the rush hour to try to stop the operation. I told Prabhupāda about the dream. Śrīla Prabhupāda listened very intently and said, "Actually, this is so."*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you derived the phrase "Kṛṣṇa consciousness" from the words *kṛṣṇa-bhakti-rasa-bhāvitā matiḥ,* a verse by Rūpa Gosvāmī that describes the urgency to acquire greed as the basis for spontaneous devotion. This is a verse you would often quote.

In other words, when one speaks about Kṛṣṇa consciousness, one speaks about that devotional practice that awakens greed for the service of the residents of Vrindavan, especially for the service of Rādhā's maidservants. Your Divine Grace comments upon this verse, which was spoken by Rāmānanda Rāya to Caitanya Mahāprabhu:

kṛṣṇa-bhakti-rasa-bhāvitā matiḥ
krīyatāṁ yadi kuto 'pi labhyate
tatra laulyam api mūlyam ekalaṁ
janma-koṭi-sukṛtair na labhyate

Pure devotional service in Kṛṣṇa consciousness cannot be had even by pious activity in hundreds and thousands of lives. It can be attained only by paying one price – that is, intense greed to obtain it. If it is available somewhere, one must purchase it without delay.**

Purport: The previous two verses are included in the *Padyāvalī* (13, 14), an anthology compiled by Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī. Verse 69 [the earlier verse] refers to devotional service in faith, and verse 70 [the above verse] refers to devotional service rendered out of intense greed. The first is devotional service rendered in accordance with the regulative principles, and the second refers to spontaneous loving service of the Lord without extraneous endeavor. Henceforward the basic principle underlying the talks between Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Rāmānanda Rāya will be spontaneous loving service to the Lord. The regulative principles according to the injunctions of the *śāstras* are necessary insofar as one's original dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not spontaneously awakened. An example of spontaneous action is the flowing of rivers into the ocean. Nothing can stop this flow of water. Similarly, when one's dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness is awakened, it spontaneously flows to the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa without impediment. Whatever will be spoken henceforth by Rāmānanda Rāya based on spontaneous love will be agreeable to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and the Lord will ask him more and more about this subject.***

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* Vānipedia, Prabhupāda Memories 11

** *Padyāvalī* 14

*** *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 8.71 and purport

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! Perhaps like most of your followers I was a fallen, destitute soul, blind to the meaning of life. You came into my world and charmed my soul with your sweet words, divine countenance, and the soothing shelter that are your lotus feet. Gradually my eyes open, and as they do, I see that within my grasp you have placed the perspective of perfection and the path to it. Please help me reach out and accept your gift, the gift of our *ācāryas,* the gift of Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!
Your servant,
Śivarāma Swami

Smita Krishna Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Today we celebrate your appearance. The *Bhagavad-gītā* manifested Himself for me at that time –1971 – when I first met your disciples in Hamburg, Germany. As Arjuna confirmed, the *Bhagavad-gītā* dispelled his illusion and convinced him to be firm and prepared to act according to Kṛṣṇa's direction. Thanks to *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* I was delivered from illusion. Thank you.

When at age 17 I read a 1910 Swedish translation of the *Bhagavad-gītā,* I felt I had intelligently worshiped the Lord by reading that conversation with Arjuna. Your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* gave me a much deeper understanding. Thank you.

There is now a wave of illusion upon me coming from a Parkinsons disorder, I am sorry to say. I am not sure how I can serve you. Please have compassion upon me. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servant,
Smita Krishna Swami
Almviks Gård, Sweden

Sri Kṛṣṇa Chaitanya Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā!

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

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

As I write this offering, I am reminded of the countless ways your teachings have touched my life and the lives of so many others. Your compassion and wisdom are like a gentle river, nourishing the hearts of those who seek shelter in your words.

This past year has been a journey of growth and learning. As I traveled from the sacred lands of Vrindavan to the bustling streets of Mumbai, I was constantly reminded of your vision to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide. Each step I took on the *padayātrā,* each *kīrtana* I led, and each class I gave was a humble attempt to follow in your footsteps.

In the sanctum of devotion, where the lotus blooms,
A soul finds respite amidst the existential glooms.
With each sacred incantation, the heart's burdens lift,
In the ocean of bhakti, the soul is no longer adrift.

Guided by the master's benevolent hand,
We traverse the path to the transcendental land.
In the effulgence of his wisdom, we find our way,
To the eternal abode, where the soul shall stay.

I recently received a heartfelt message from Stephen Niland, a devotee in the UK, who shared how your books and teachings have transformed his life. He wrote: "Dear Swami, I've not long discovered ISKCON, and I'm so happy. I'm reading A. C. Bhaktivedanta's books, and I chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra between my lorry drops. I've turned vegetarian and stopped drinking alcohol. Your videos have really helped me. Whenever I need inspiration, I chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy. The change in me is really shocking in a few weeks. Thank you."

Stephen's journey is a testament to the power of your teachings and their transformative impact on individuals worldwide. His gratitude and newfound joy remind me of our profound responsibility to share your message with sincerity and humility.

As I look to the future, I am committed to furthering your mission through new projects, including developing the ISKCON Pandharpur Bhūvaikuṇṭha Temple Project, ISKCON Australia Bhaktifest Youth Festival, and promoting "Kirtan Guidelines." Your life and teachings remain a beacon of hope and inspiration, empowering me to carry forward your mission with unwavering dedication.

On this auspicious day, I recommit myself to your mission. May I always remain an instrument of your compassion, spreading the nectar of the holy name and your teachings to every corner of the world. I pray for your continued blessings that I may serve with increasing dedication and purity.

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 fulfill the desire of Lord Caitanya, give me shelter under his lotus feet?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us the greatest gift – the opportunity to serve Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission. May your glories be sung in every town and village, and may your compassion continue transforming hearts for eternity.

With eternal gratitude,
Your humble servant of your servants,
Tridaṇḍi-bhikṣu Sri Kṛṣṇa Chaitanya Swami
ISKCON Kirtan and Padayātrā Minister

Śukadeva Swami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

My most prostrated obeisances at your transcendental lotus feet.

The more we continue to practice devotional service, the more we try to preach to others the path of devotional service, the more we are becoming realized about our real identity, our real purpose, our real fulfilment. We see from your personal life how if one is really happy and fearless, compassion for others is the natural outcome. Like Your Divine Grace, we start thinking how to bring anyone or everyone into devotional service – devotion for Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in the footsteps of Guru and Gaurāṅga.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you haven't stopped us from anything going on in our lives or whatever is going on in the world. You taught us and showed us practically how and why to do everything for the pleasure and satisfaction of Guru and Gaurāṅga.

I am lost in material existence. I have forgotten my identity, my relations, and my activity. Caught up in material sense gratification and temporary body-based relationships, I have made my life more miserable and complicated. All levels of leaders, starting from parents, teachers, elders, bureaucrats, and lawmakers, are all in total darkness and are clueless as to how to tackle the myriad problems of life that are inevitable and integral to worldly existence.

You didn't tell us to improve our material situation. You have taught us how to improve our consciousness from the material modes to soul consciousness and Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You taught us how to dovetail our activities in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you lifted our consciousness to our original Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and this is simply and exactly the only business of the human form of life. The way you have given us the highest perfection in a simple practical way is possible only for a pure devotee, an empowered devotee like Your Divine Grace. Your glories are unfathomable and uncountable. You have shown us how to go over the problems by seeing things in their real perspective, seeing things from a

total perspective, and seeing things from a transcendental perspective: be Kṛṣṇa conscious and be in one's natural blissful state.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were the perfect instrument in the hands of the Lord to bring about the spiritual explosion, the Hare Kṛṣṇa explosion. You showed us how valuable is the association of devotees, how essential is reading your books, how determined one has to be in chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* how one should pray to Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu to develop the qualities of a devotee, being humble, simple, kind, grateful, and prayerful.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is you who made human beings live like human beings by practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You have drilled into us how everything is there in the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. We cannot repay you for what you gave us in life: eternal, blissful devotional service unto Lord Kṛṣṇa. I fall at your divine lotus feet and beg, bless us to not forget you, your glories, your stories, your teachings, your mission, and our eternal indebtedness to you.

Your aspiring servant of your servants,
Śukadeva Swami
ISKCON, Nellore, AP, India.

Trivikrama Swami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Thank you for being aware of me and taking the trouble to guide me. You once wrote to me, "A Vaiṣṇava is never alone, just like I was apparently alone for one year when I first came to your country, but I was never alone, as I was always feeling the presence of my Spiritual Master."

In your last days in Vrindavan, you gave us three important instructions: (1) Keep the *ācārya* [meaning you] in the center; (2) Cooperate together for pushing on this movement; (3) Strictly follow [the regulative principles].

Seems simple enough, but this is Māyā's kingdom. Please help me to withstand her onslaught. Without your help, I will not be able to remain Kṛṣṇa conscious. That is a fact! Please therefore continue to cast your loving glance in my direction so that in my old age, I don't do something foolish.

Aspiring to remain securely at your lotus feet,
Yours sincerely, with awe and reverence and a little love,
Trivikrama Swami

Varṣāṇa Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

To properly glorify you poses a unique challenge, given our conditioned limitations. Yet, without this attempt, our inadequacy would simply remain. Though our understanding and praise may fall short, we trust in your boundless love to shine through our shortcomings.

This humble offering, therefore, awakens hope that our devotion will foster a deeper reliance on your guidance. Only through cultivating such *guru-bhakti* can we truly please Kṛṣṇa and thereby comprehend and share His divine grace.

*

Prior to meeting you, my arduous journey of empiric theology had reached an impasse due to a fundamental contradiction: the very act of seeking Truth through intellectual ascent is inherently flawed. Academically analyzing God's attributes mistakenly separates knowing from serving – a distinction that simply does not exist.

This misconception further suggests that we might understand God without the essential component of serving His representative. As we overcome such impersonal paradigms and develop a relationship with Kṛṣṇa through *guru-sevā,* we catch a glimpse of the profound, intimate depths of the Lord's own mysterious heart.

Safeguarding the inner sanctum of His loving abode and the selfless purity of relationships found there, the Lord establishes servitude as the means and goal of spiritual perfection. He emphasizes devotion to Śrī Guru as the invocation for His personal grace and involvement in our lives. When Kṛṣṇa smiles upon us with pleasure, we become eligible to experience an inner sunrise.

My first introduction and interaction with you was through your books, which revealed to me the nature of spiritual relationships. Your analogy of seeking the sun with a candle – the inadequacy of empirical understanding – resonated profoundly. It mirrored my own life's journey, capturing the essence of my inner struggle: yearning for a vision of Kṛṣṇa, a luminary forever shining beyond the grasp of independent striving. The candle's feeble light, representing my own efforts, could never illuminate the sun. Kṛṣṇa's darshan is revealed only by His own radiant glance and grace.

Contrary to conventional knowledge, the sun's brilliance – Kṛṣṇa's light and love – is perceived not with open eyes, but through the inner ear, when it is attuned to the divine message transmitted by the unbroken lineage of *paramparā*. Enlightenment dawns upon us as the Lord's internal energy expands, illuminating our souls when our hearts are submissive and directed toward Him in service attitude.

Kṛṣṇa then awakens our sleeping spirits, inviting them into the radiant warmth of His love, heralding a dawning within the heart. Gazing beyond the limitations of our earthly understanding, we glimpse our utter dependence on Śrī Guru's grace. This dynamic is honored as Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, so prominently portrayed during our first experience of the occasion in 1972, setting a precedent to follow for all time.

That year, here at New Vrindaban, the Janmāṣṭamī festival abounded with providential grace. Your personal invitation for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vṛndāvanacandra to accept Their new temple as a birthday gift, followed by your leading the celebration of Kṛṣṇa's appearance, surcharged the

atmosphere, heightening the devotees' expectations for the following day. Nandotsava marked the perfect occasion for your appearance.

After the morning program concluded in the rustic valley – where Their Lordships reigned in pastoral splendor – all eyes turned eastward, to the hilltop pavilion. There, final preparations for your celebration were well underway.

Campfire smoke and the fragrant haze of morning cooking drifted through the meadow below, while the first crimson blush of the new day revealed the pandal. Its silhouette emerged against the brightening sky.

All paths converged on the trail leading to the hilltop, creating a confluence of many individuals' journeys. Each was unique, yet all arrived in this exact place, at this precise moment, as if guided by a collective destiny. Before us was a most vibrant landscape of colorful arrangements and festively decorated cows. It was as though everything was conspiring to joyfully express eager anticipation of our big Lord Jagannātha's arrival. The visiting Rādhā-Dāmodara Deities, too, took Their places on the altar, eager to preside over the day's events.

Engulfed in the expanding ambiance, we felt the touch of your homeland's blessed groves, as if they too had descended to rejoice. As we ascended the hill, the pavilion emerged like a radiant portal, catalyzing a vibrant spiritual awakening. Bathed in the glow and gentle current, we felt a profound opening, a deeper attunement to absolute wisdom. It connected us to the fundamental Truth – in Kṛṣṇa consciousness we are held, protected, and loved by Kṛṣṇa's internal potency.

How perfect was this scene, falling most appropriately in the midst of your Bhāgavata Dharma Discourse lecture series – the first of its kind in the Western world? That clear August morning we experienced a hint of the inner meaning of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā as you both explained and personified the significance of the occasion.

*

The light, life, and love emanating from the *śāstra* became so vibrantly real, so palpably present, that everything felt utterly fresh, as if we were experiencing it for the very first time. Hearing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* from the very embodiment of the *bhāgavata,* we found ourselves face to face with the outer manifestation of Paramātmā. We finally saw, seated before us in your mortal form, the eternal guide who had always accompanied us. It was you who had constantly watched over us, walked beside us, and held us fast, even when the shadows of past conditioning tempted us back into illusion.

A deeper unfolding began within us, a shift that was reflected through our surroundings. The assemblage of wonderful events, elements, setting, and devotees was most heartwarming. It was like a scene lifted from the pages of the *Kṛṣṇa* book, granting us privileged entry into the scripture's inner essence. You were the source of that potency. You channeled the full influence of Śrīla Vyāsadeva to illuminate new vistas of existence. In doing so, you became more intimately present to us than we were even to ourselves.

Kṛṣṇa's love, like a joyous current, began to cleanse and reshape us. Deep within, immortal impressions of His Divine Grace took hold. The elusive dynamics of God realization became self-evident in your association, a radiant testament to the truth that only through loving Kṛṣṇa can we truly know Him.

Remembering you, we find ourselves ever increasingly inspired by your teachings. Through them, we experience a genuine connection with Śrī Kṛṣṇa, forged in the resonant vibration of the *mahā-mantra*. This sacred hymn is the innermost heart of all inspired scriptures.

With this *sambandha* – connection – we receive a lifeline to sustain us through long decades of seeming separation. It overcomes the misconception that in your departure from this earthly sphere we have lost ourselves yet again. The truth is you were never lost to us.

The paradoxical truth – that the deepest separation holds the highest communion within it – is reconciled in your teachings. You live in them forever alongside your devoted followers, who remain always with you. Therein your legacy endures and expands.

As we cling to this lifeline by assimilating your instructions, your presence prevails within the sacred, eternal realm of transcendental sound. Your enduring influence carries us into ever deeper intimacy with you.

Following your guidance, trusting implicitly in your words, our faith deepens. We know you as the founder-*ācārya* because your presentation of the eternal truth is comprehensible to all humankind, even when people speak, hear, and act under the influence of diverse conditionings. In your collective body of ISKCON, we have the ongoing privilege of displaying our love and loyalty by cooperating among ourselves.

*

Today, we fondly recall the golden opportunity to host you here at New Vrindaban, where your explanation of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā breathed new life into our understanding of the book *Bhāgavatam*. Serving you then, a *mahā-bhāgavata* – the very personification of *śāstra* – allows us to relive that experience even today. Indeed, your mission affirms the truth expressed in that cherished benedictory verse: "This *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* is as brilliant as the sun, and it has arisen just after the departure of Lord Kṛṣṇa to His own abode, accompanied by religion, knowledge, etc. Persons who have lost their vision due to the dense darkness of ignorance in the Age of Kali shall get light from this *Purāṇa*." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.3.43)

That Vyāsa-pūjā, nestled within your Bhāgavata Dharma Discourses, became the very crux of our spiritual journey. The morning ceremony, though externally brief, ushered in a pivotal and extended epiphany in our spiritual lives. A revelation that blossoms anew each year with every approaching Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā.

Your words, a torch of knowledge, anointed by the salve of your love, reveal a glimpse of the world's true source and goal. Listening to you, we discern a deeper harmony within the diverse melodies of devotion sung across cultures and epics by gurus, *sādhus,* and *śāstras* alike.

Exemplifying the ideal disciple, taking your guru's teachings to heart, even at your first meeting, you are the perfect master. You are the culmination of all who came before, their contributions paving the way for your teachings and actions, your pastimes and precepts, to unveil the *summum bonum*. What a vibrant reality it is, a landscape of touchstones where all movement is dance and every word blends with the most sacred, enchanting song!

By descending from that supreme abode and coming before us, you planted a seed in the heart of my former empiric self. Sprouting, it grows into the understanding that our unconditional commitment to your perfect guidance offers the only means to realize scripture's true import.

Now, at last, we understand the proper application of the ascending process. As our prayers rise up to you, Kṛṣṇa consciousness descends in response. This reciprocal exchange, the very quintessence of spiritual striving, is perfected in devotion to Śrī Guru and culminates on the blessed occasion of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā.

As the empowered representative of Lord Nityānanda, you expand the holy name of Kṛṣṇa and the love of Vrindavan to the farthest corners of the world, supplying the most munificent welfare service to all souls.

Today, as dawn breaks over that same eastern hill where we celebrated our first Vyāsa-pūjā, the stillness of night transitions into a chorus of birdsong, setting the scene for echoes of the *mahā-mantra* to perpetuate the spiritual life you breathed into this community.

In quiet reflection, I dwell upon your presence within the instructions you imparted to us here. This practice anchors my soul even during life's darkest storms. It ensures that your love shines forth in all we say and do, to the extent we surrender unconditionally to serving your mission.

I see the *ārati* lamp of *guru-pūjā* on this most blessed day with more significance than my empirical self could ever have conceived. Now, the gentle flicker of the flame has expanded into a metaphor, representing the warmth of devotion in our hearts, a humble gesture to offer you a welcoming reception.

For those of us striving to follow in your footsteps, the same imagery brightens our path, allowing us to see our shadows and shortcomings anew, in the light of awareness and compassion, kindled in the spiritual realm of *vāṇī-sevā*.

Your eternal servant,
Varṣāṇa Swami

Vedavyāsapriya Swami

My most revered spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most fallen obeisances. All glories to you, who kindly demonstrated unflinching faith in the words and order of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Prabhupāda. Subsequently, you also desired from your disciples to demonstrate to your granddisciples, and thus the flow of pure devotional service to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa will continue without hesitation and confusion.

Spiritual success can include material success, but material success cannot be counted as spiritual success. Yet, if the subject matter comes from your explicitly expressed desire, that can be inspiring to a dull *sādhaka* like myself. I believe it will be pure devotional service I can be rendering. What to speak of when my godbrothers are encouraging and blessing me to such an endeavor in Thailand, I feel that many times your divine hands are sheltering me and showering your mercy. I have vowed for your pleasure to remain enthusiastic, determined, and to inspire your granddisciples and acquaintances to fulfill your desires in Thailand.

There is a significant surge in preaching activities. *Harināma* and book distribution in recent years after the COVID epidemic, and I am happy to say that a significant breakthrough has come in Indian preaching. It is your mercy on crows like me that I am engaged in preaching to the "locally domiciled crows."

Please bestow your merciful blessings upon this insignificant disciple of Your Divine Grace that I can meditate only on your desires yet to be fulfilled at New Vrindaban as well after the completion of this present project and offering at your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant who is but a speck of dust clinging to your lotus feet,
Vedavyāsapriya Swami

Viśvāvasu Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you. All glories to your service to your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda and to Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu!

At the end of your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 9.4.68 you write: "The devotee does not do anything not sanctioned by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. As it is said, *vaiṣṇavera kriyā mudrā vijñeha nā bujhaya.* Even the most learned or experienced person cannot understand the movements of a Vaiṣṇava, a pure devotee."

This is the description of a Vaiṣṇava that best suits you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Over the years, I am gradually becoming more aware of how much your actions are dictated by Kṛṣṇa Himself. Here are some examples of this:

When you read your books with your purports, sometimes you asked your disciples, "Why am I reading my own books? Have you seen any author reading his books? No, they don't read. Why

is that?" And you answered yourself: "Because they write their own books. I don't write my own books. I write what Kṛṣṇa dictates to me. That's why I read my own books with interest."

For several years you told your disciples, "There's going to be a World War, so you have to distribute a lot of books to try to fix this situation." But afterward you said, "There will be no war." The disciples were surprised: "Why, Prabhupāda? After all, you used to talk about its inevitability." Then you replied, "Yes, that's what Kṛṣṇa thought. But you, my disciples, distributed the books so well that He changed His mind."

When you were preparing to leave your body in 1977, your senior disciples came to Vrindavan and begged, "Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, don't leave us! Stay with us! We can't live without you!" You started eating again and gradually came back to life. It was another miracle that you showed them. The disciples were happy and thought that now you would stay with them for a long time. But you said, "Kṛṣṇa is calling me." After that you stopped eating again and gradually left in full Krsna consciousness in Vrindavan.

Yes, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you acted, are acting, and will act on the direct orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

I was lucky enough to meet you in my life, and I am infinitely happy about it. I am making my humble attempts to realize the greatness of your personality, the meaning of your books, and even trying to participate in some aspects of your preaching mission, but I realize that my lack of understanding you is bigger than my understanding of you.

I try to accept you with my Kali-yuga-like heart, as much as it is possible for me. I don't stop trying to do this. Just before going to bed yesterday I again listened to an excerpt from *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* a book about you written by your beloved disciple, Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami. A few hours earlier I was studying your books and purports as part of the Bhakti-vedanta course that you personally established. I tried not only to understand philosophy, logic, and the sequence of events, but also with my heart to imbibe you and your devotion to the Lord.

I'm also trying to preach. I tell devotees the *sambandha,* inspire them to follow the *abhidheya,* and discuss *prayojana* and how it can be achieved. By your grace, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year in Māyāpur, your beloved disciple Śrīla Nirañjana Swami mercifully initiated me into the *sannyāsa* ashram along with other *sannyāsīs* present, such as Bhakti Caitanya Swami, Prahlādānanda Swami, and Candramauli Swami. The next morning, at Ekachakra, I performed an *abhiṣeka* with water from the Lord Nityānanda's lake, bathing the little *mūrti* of you my Guru Mahārāja presented to me at the ceremony. I hope I was able to please you. Please be merciful to me and let me always remember that my service as an ISKCON *sannyāsī* is my personal service to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. And all the results of this service – enlightening Vaiṣṇavas, preaching in society, and so on, are not my results but yours.

Please, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, remain my *param-guru* and always continue to bestow your blessings on me, your unworthy servant, like a thundercloud. You are the main part of my spiritual life. I read your books every day. I chant sixteen rounds of *japa* every day, as you ordered. Every day I sing *kīrtanas,* which you established as daily *sādhana.* Every day I take *prasādam* because you said that "we must eat our way home to the spiritual world." I cooperate with other devotees in various countries. I preach in various countries. For the past twenty years I have been traveling with your *mūrti* and trying to talk to, listen to, and read about you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Please mercifully continue to reveal yourself to me in my heart, even if I am not qualified for that. Without you, I'm not even interested in spiritual life. I would not want to be left without you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please don't reject me.

Trying to serve your lotus feet in some way,
Viśvāvasu Swami

Yadunandana Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

My primary service to you and your representatives is to cooperate with fellow devotees in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every province of Spain. This year, I humbly offer you a reflection on your instructions – given in letters to your dear disciples – which I also embrace as personal guidance.

All generations of devotees in the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement are meant to become instruments, according to their capacity, to assist you in fulfilling Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's desire: to deliver the holy names of Kṛṣṇa to every town and village in the world. Moreover, we aspire to please you, for as you taught us, "satisfaction of the self-realized spiritual master is the secret of advancement in spiritual life" (*Bhagavad-gītā* 4.34, purport).

In 1976, you wrote: "I approve your plan to combine together with Kesava to lead a party of Spanish speaking devotees with nama-sankirtana to every town and village in Spain." (Letter to Citśukhānanda Dāsa, December 24, 1976)

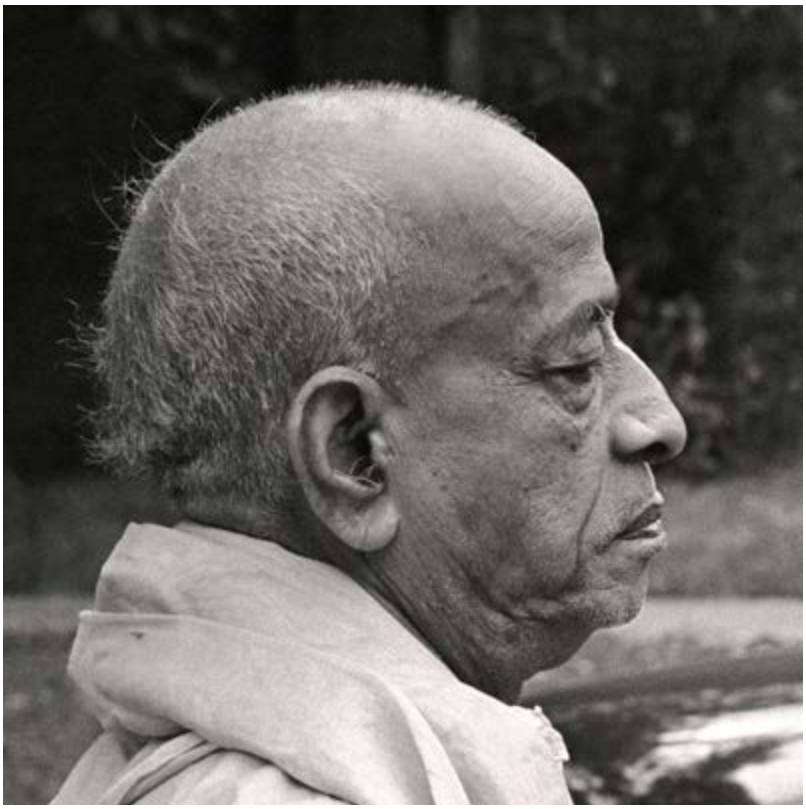
I carry on my head the instruction from my *dīkṣā-guru,* your Satsvarūpa Mahārāja, to focus on preaching in Spain as my *prabhu-datta-deśa*. Inspired by this, I strive to contribute, alongside other devotees, to bringing *nāma-saṅkīrtana* not only to every province, but – as you are empowering us in this letter – to every town and village in Spain.

That same year, 1976 – when ISKCON was legally registered in Spain – you also wrote: "Your desire to please me is very pleasing, and your preaching program in Spain sounds very nice. Please push on this movement in the Spanish and Portuguese languages with great enthusiasm, and certainly Krishna will bless you for taking so much trouble to preach His glories. A Vaisnava always feels himself incapable to repay his debt to his spiritual master, therefore he works very hard in order to try and repay that debt. He knows that without the mercy of the spiritual master one cannot preach this Krishna consciousness, and therefore he always tries to act in such a way that he may please his guru. Please continue in this way and keep very strictly the regulative principles and chanting the prescribed number of rounds on the beads, and you will clear the way for success in your preaching work." (Letter to Catur-mūrti Dāsa, August 9, 1976)

Here, you reassure us that any service offered to please you – especially through preaching – is deeply cherished. You remind us that Kṛṣṇa will bless every endeavor and austerity we undertake to spread His movement, even when we feel unqualified or the task seems daunting. Most crucially, you reveal the key to success: sincere adherence to chanting the prescribed rounds and strictly following the regulative principles.

I surrender at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and pray for your guidance, blessings, and empowerment to deliver Kṛṣṇa's holy names and teachings to every corner of Spain, in harmony with the community of devotees.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Your eternal servant,
Yadunandana Swami



Homages from ISKCON Centers

Abentheuer, Germany

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

When you first set foot on the European continent, it was 1969 and you came to Hamburg, Germany, from New York. You landed on an early Sunday morning, August 25, 1969.

As always with you, that was the beginning of many, many firsts. You were the very first spiritual master to grace Germany from the long line of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas going back thousands of years, with the most recent appearance in 1486 of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Supreme Lord Himself, who had descended to spread the *yuga-dharma* of this age: the congregational chanting of the Lord's holy names.

Although in 1933 your Godbrother Bon Mahārāja had been in Berlin and met a professor, who later also went to India and became an initiated disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja, it was upon your arrival that the mission of Lord Caitanya first took significant hold in Germany.

By August 1968, you had already sent a young disciple of yours ahead – a boy you'd met in Montreal. His name was Śivānanda Dāsa. Alone, but blessed with the determination to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Europa, Śivānanda had been refused entry into London, so he'd gone on to Amsterdam, and finally ended up in Hamburg, Germany, where you confirmed he should stay and preach. By the time you arrived in August 1969, he had gotten assistance from some of his godbrothers and also attracted the very first German-born devotees. On September 3, 1969, on the first Janmāṣṭamī that you celebrated on the European continent, you initiated some of those first German devotees.

As you once told your disciples about your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, "My Guru Mahārāja was tenth in the line from Lord Caitanya. That makes me the eleventh." As you were talking to your young devotees, using a grave tone to capture the gravity of your point: "You are all disciples and you are the twelfth generation in the line of disciplic succession from Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu."

Not only were you the first *ācārya* in the Gauḍīya line to come to Germany, but you also carried – in your hand luggage – the very first Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Deities to be installed on the European continent.

After staying with the devotees in Hamburg for two and a half weeks, you boarded a plane for your next destination – London – again carrying, in your hand luggage, the Deities you had hoped to install in Hamburg. You felt that the temple and the devotees were still not ready to receive Their Lordships, even though you had had the Deities worshiped with an *ārati* on the day you arrived in Germany. This *ārati* was performed in your flat, with most of the devotees seeing this kind of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa worship for the very first time.

Still, in Germany, you introduced a devotee to the Deities, taking him into your room and showing him Their makeshift altar in a closet. You told him, "You should know that you are actually cooking for Them, not for me." At that time, there were only a few installed Deities in the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, so the concept of Deity worship was very new, but you, Śrīla

Prabhupāda, were so merciful to the devotees at that time to let them in on a deep secret: that the Deity is nondifferent from Śrī Kṛṣṇa!

This happened a little more than a month after you had installed the small Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārakādīśa in Los Angeles, on July 16, 1969. Now, as the devotees in Germany got really serious about finding a better place, they informed you in the middle of September 1969 that they had indeed found a better place and were preparing for the arrival of Their Lordships.

As you were still in London and very much engaged in getting the Bury Place temple ready, you sent Tamal Krishna Goswami with those very same Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Deities you had brought and then taken away. He was to install Them – which he did on November 23, 1969. Another first: an American-born devotee preforming a Deity installation.

These Deities had been with you in your rooms as you traveled. Yamunā Devī had learned to dress, paint, and decorate Deities by serving these very Deities, and now They had been installed as the first Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Deities in Europe in your budding International Society for Krishna Consciousness in Hamburg.

Later, when the devotees found a castle and moved to Schloss Rettershof, these Deities became the central attraction of our new German headquarters temple. You also personally came there in 1974 and held a grand initiation of devotees from many European countries in Their presence.

Although these Deities are small – only ten inches tall, made of brass – They are still the main *yātrā* Deities of Germany, even after fifty-six years. Here in Goloka Dhāma They are served and worshiped with the marble Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

As the story goes regarding the larger set of marble Deities, one of your female disciples was sent to Jaipur to get a set about forty or fifty inches tall. These were to be installed in Paris. But as this devotee saw a gorgeous Rādhārāṇī who was just sixteen inches tall, she felt she had to take Her. It took her a few days more to find the right Kṛṣṇa for Her – He had to be about twenty inches tall. As these Lordships came to Paris, it was clear that They were much too small to become Rādhā-Parisīśvara! They were kept in a box for some time, until Haṁsadūta Prabhu, at that time in charge of management at Schloss Rettershof, saw Them and simply brought Them with him to Germany.

Back at the Schloss, he asked you more than once over the course of a year if these Deities could be installed, and more than once you answered no. Then, in 1975, without real authorization, Haṁsadūta arranged for the Deity installation. He did not even inform you that he had done it at the time. He considered Their worship an addition to the already installed and worshiped Deities.

At the Māyāpur festival one of the following years, there was an expo, with pictures of Deities from around the world. As you toured the expo you stopped in front of the picture of these beautiful marble Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana Deities and asked, "And who are They?" You were informed that this was Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana at the Schloss, in Germany. You said, "Oh, They are very demanding Deities! They need nine *pūjārīs*!"

These Deities are the heart of our Goloka Dhāma. They are mesmerizing, attractive, and expert at engaging all the devotees in Their service.

This year we will be celebrating a festival for the fiftieth jubilee anniversary of Their installation. Since it is not so easy for the devotees living there and performing the daily worship of these gorgeous Deities to understand the full significance of Their story and your personal involvement in bringing the *choṭa* Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa Deities here, we are trying to get whoever attends from among your disciples to speak of the significances of both sets of Deities. (Note to the reader: if you have more information or corrections to what I've written here, please let us know.)

The reason I have written this historical account about you and the Deities we worship is because all the devotees serving here at the Goloka Dhāma community today should know the significance and connection that their daily service has to you.

At the last meeting in Māyāpur in 1977, where a report of the books printed and distributed in various languages was presented to you, Germany had distributed 2,125,000 books. How pleased you were to see your books printed and distributed – nothing pleased you more. So toward this end, to increase the mood of the devotees at our temple to do nothing but please you, we have installed a book room we call the Brihat Mridanga in our newly built extension. Now every devotee and guest can pick up a stack of your books for a very reasonable price for further distribution.

For us, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are simply trying to maintain and expand on what you have personally started. That is our main connection to you.

Devotees serving in all capacities at Goloka Dhāma are all (except one, your initiated disciple Viṣṇujasa Prabhu) devotees in the thirteenth and fourteenth generations, as you described it, in the line of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We know you from your books, your lectures, and from being engaged in your mission. By now, more than fifty-five books have been written by your disciples about you and their personal time with you, and we take great solace in reading about you. That is all we want – to be connected to you and absorbed in your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We want to represent you to the very best of our capacity.

Thank you for all the beginnings and firsts you brought to this place and for all the devotees you sent and inspired between then and now. You and the devotees who served you sincerely are the reason we have everything here and can serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana at Goloka Dhāma, ISKCON Abentheuer, Germany, today.

Your servant,
Mañjula-maṇi Devī Dāsī, on behalf of all Goloka Dhāmīs

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa

Dear *jagad-guru, param-guru,* Śrīla Prabhupāda, savior of the whole world,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at your holy feet.

Every problem has its solution ... An expert doctor can cure a patient who has the most complicated health issue. You gave the analogy in your teachings of a snake charmer who can extract snake venom from the body of someone who is in a coma after a snake bite. There are many expert people in various fields of activities in this world.

You, as a *dakṣa,* or expert at everything, know the remedy for this sick society. Your teachings from the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and other works are the remedy for the madness of ignorant people attacked by the highest degree of fever, leaving them in chaos.

Your proposal is captured in the Seven Purposes of ISKCON, and you emphasized important points like:

- Cultivating brāhmiṇical culture
- Cow protection
- Agricultural development

In short, you introduced *daivi-varṇāśrama-dharma* as the only solution to all problems. With the

three broken legs of Dharma, the society is imbalanced and unnecessarily creating many sinful people.

You established the ISKCON society to give specific instructions to your disciples and grand-disciples to propagate your divine mission all over the world, engaging in glorious activities like *harināma-saṅkīrtana,* transcendental book distribution, Food-for-Life – activities that can bring sustainable, real peace and harmony to society.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we want to be an effective part of these activities. Therefore, we are ever grateful to you and continuously pray for your mercy and compassion on us so that we may be better able to serve the ISKCON society for your pleasure.

Your granddisciples from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa

Abids, Hyderabad

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you! All glories to your transcendental mission! On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we bow down in deep gratitude, reflecting upon your boundless mercy and the ever-expanding impact of your divine instructions in our lives.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the very heart and soul of ISKCON. Your unflinching devotion to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, your matchless compassion for fallen souls, and your unwavering commitment to the mission of Lord Caitanya continue to inspire and guide us at every step of our spiritual journey. Today, as we offer this humble report at your lotus feet, we acknowledge that every achievement is solely due to your causeless mercy and empowerment.

By your grace, Bhaktivedanta Rajavidyalaya (BVRV) has been inaugurated, offering structured *śāstri* courses to deepen devotees' understanding of your teachings. This institute stands as a beacon of transcendental education, nurturing the next generation of devotee preachers in our community.

With immense joy, we also report that the Honorable Chief Minister of Telangana inaugurated our grand Ratha-yātrā this year, bringing the divine darshan of Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā Mahārāṇī to thousands of fortunate souls. The streets of Hyderabad echoed with the holy names, as devotees danced, chanted, and distributed your books, carrying your transcendental message far and wide. In total, about thirty-five Ratha-yātrās were conducted during the Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā festival, spreading Kṛṣṇa's mercy to numerous towns and villages.

On Janmāṣṭamī, more than two lakhs of people visited our temple, receiving Kṛṣṇa's mercy through darshan, *prasādam, kīrtana,* and your transcendental books. Your movement is truly fulfilling Lord Kṛṣṇa's prophecy that His holy names will be spread to every town and village!

With your divine inspiration, we have also established a goshala on our new land, ensuring loving care for Kṛṣṇa's dear cows. The opening of a new section at the Matchless Gifts stall, at our main gate, now welcomes visitors, offering them spiritual books, devotional paraphernalia, and sacred gifts to strengthen their Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Furthermore, the north gate of the temple has been opened to the public and is now adorned with beautiful devotional dioramas and chandeliers. This creates a spiritually uplifting experience for all visitors.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your divine mission of youth empowerment continues to flourish. We are humbled to report that our fifteen VOICE centers, including the Mahajan Flats around the temple, now connect over five hundred young boys, with two hundred of them staying as resident youth members and engaging in daily Kṛṣṇa conscious practices. Simultaneously, our Girls VOICE programs reach over five hundred young women, guiding them on the path to spiritual success. Additionally, our congregation has now grown to around fifteen hundred members, including all the devotees in all our preaching centers, and they are being nourished in their spiritual journeys.

Your merciful vision for training children in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is bearing fruit through regular Sunday School programs on weekends, where young hearts are molded into future devotees and leaders. Moreover, the *brahmacārī* ashram now has thirty-five dedicated *brahmacārīs,* who serve tirelessly to spread your mission.

We are particularly grateful, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your boundless blessings upon us in the field of book distribution. In the recent marathon, we distributed 1.5 lakhs of *Bhagavad-gītās,* securing second rank among all ISKCON medium temples worldwide. Additionally, the value education contests in schools attracted 40,000 active student participants, all of whom received Kṛṣṇa's message and spiritual wisdom. This glorious success belongs to you alone, as your books continue to transform the lives of countless souls across the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we remain ever dependent on your mercy as we continue to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohanajī and all the members of our ISKCON Abids community. We humbly pray for your blessings so that we may serve with greater sincerity, dedication, and love, pushing forward your divine mission in every way possible.

On this sacred occasion, we reaffirm our pledge to uphold and spread your teachings with unwavering faith and devotion. May our lives be nothing but an instrument in your hands while we serve the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu under your divine shelter.

Your humble servants,
Varada Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, Rādheshyām Dāsa, Sītārām Dāsa
The HTMC members of ISKCON Abids

Accra, Ghana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

All glories to Your Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we feel endlessly indebted to you. Your message, your preaching effort, and your deep sacrifice, even at an advanced age, has delivered us. We were swimming in abject ignorance, but your divine message brought light and life to us. How fortunate can we count

ourselves? Just imagine what our existence would have been if you had not come with this timeless message. But by divine arrangement, you came, casting this most blessed net, and it caught us up from our deep slumber in darkness and ignorance.

Now, by your mercy, we are hopefully swimming in the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Please give us the blessings and strength to serve you under the lotus feet of your dear sons, who are now helping us gradually evolve in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, particularly His Holiness Bhakti Tīrtha Swami, His Holiness Kavicandra Swami, and other senior Vaiṣṇavas.

Your most insignificant servants,
In Accra, Ghana
(written by Rāsavana Dāsa)

Adelaide, Australia

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to you.

By your mercy, on December 7, 2024, we humbly offered at your lotus feet the newly constructed temple extension hall at the Bhaktivedanta Ashram, ISKCON Adelaide, South Australia. The grand inauguration of the Bhaktivedanta Ashram marked a significant milestone for devotees and the local community. The atmosphere was filled with devotion as the sound of Hare Kṛṣṇa *kīrtana* resonated throughout the temple premises. The event was graced by GBC members, dignitaries, and many devotees who gathered to witness the auspicious occasion.

Among the distinguished guests in attendance were Mr. Steve Georganas MP, the sitting Member of Parliament for Adelaide; The Honourable Russell Wortley MLC, South Australian Legislative Council; His Holiness Rāmāi Swami and His Holiness Devamrita Swami, the GBCs for Australia; His Grace Nṛsiṁha Kavaca Prabhu, ISKCON Deity Worship Minister; members of the National Executive Council; *yātrā* leaders; devotees; friends; and well-wishers. In his address, Mr. Steve Georganas expressed gratitude to ISKCON for establishing a spiritual sanctuary for the people of Adelaide. Russell Wortley also acknowledged the efforts of the local ISKCON community in presenting a beautiful hall to the people of Adelaide.

We performed the installation of Ananta-śeṣa nearly three years ago, and during this long-enduring journey we encountered numerous challenges and hardships. However, by your mercy we persevered and triumphed. As the temple opens its doors to the public, it stands as a testament to your unconditional mercy upon all.

Our state-of-the-art temple room, the largest in Australia, features backlit niches, advanced LED lighting, elegant chandeliers, a dedicated foot wash area for the *pūjārīs,* two paraphernalia rooms (wet and dry), a brand-new Deity kitchen with a transfer station, and a spacious altar area equipped with underfloor heating, in preparation for the new altar from Bali.

Additionally, we have constructed a new *sannyāsī* bathroom, a dedicated pot room, a modern laundry facility, an upgraded dishwashing area, the finest *tulasī* house in Australia, a second cool room, a substantial rainwater collection system, and a spacious undercover *prasādam* serving area.

The significance of this temple extends beyond its architectural beauty. In alignment with your vision, we seek to develop this temple as a center where everyone from every conceivable

background is welcome and integrated. We aim to create an atmosphere of inclusivity, openness, and a welcoming spirit, empowering everyone to tap into and unleash their spiritual potential at Bhaktivedanta Ashram, ISKCON Adelaide.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, with deep gratitude for your unwavering dedication and tireless work in spreading bhakti-yoga across Australia, we offer you this. We began from scratch, and today have four thriving *bhakti-vriksha* groups, with plans to establish several more over the next year. Our vision is to expand youth outreach, enhance book distribution, strengthen children's spiritual education, launch a dedicated Vaiṣṇavī program, and introduce initiatives specifically designed for the local Australian community.

In 2025, we're also working on securing Council approval for a new *prasādam*/multifunction hall, which will be four times the size of the current temporary marquee.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your tireless efforts in spreading the message of devotion and Kṛṣṇa consciousness have inspired millions worldwide. With the successful inauguration, Bhaktivedanta Ashram is poised to become a hub for spiritual enrichment, aligning with your vision of establishing temples as centers of spiritual education and service to guide and uplift devotees and foster cultural and moral values among future generations.

Your servants at Bhaktivedanta Ashram, ISKCON Adelaide

Akola, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we humbly offer our prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, the Vishwa Guru, the *ācārya*! It is with immense gratitude and reverence that we celebrate your unparalleled contributions to the world of spiritual enlightenment.

This year, we are particularly blessed to acknowledge the special honor bestowed upon you by the Akhila Bhartiya Akhada Parishad, recognizing you as the Vishwa Guru. This title is not merely a formality; it is a testament to your tireless dedication and the profound impact you have made in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness across the globe. You are truly the only one deserving of this esteemed title, for you have selflessly devoted your life to sharing the teachings of Lord Kṛṣṇa with every corner of this world, transcending boundaries and cultural barriers.

Your mission has been nothing short of miraculous. Today, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is flourishing in every town and village, thanks to the various programs you initiated. Your vision and guidance have inspired countless devotees to come together in devotion and service, creating a vibrant community united by love for Kṛṣṇa.

As humble servants residing in Akola, we are fortunate witnesses to your boundless mercy and grace. In our region, where knowledge of Kṛṣṇa is limited and awareness of Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu is almost nonexistent, we have seen a remarkable transformation. By your divine intervention, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is steadily taking root in Akola.

Last year, for Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, we were overjoyed to host nearly seven thousand devotees at our center – a testament to your influence and the growing interest in spiritual practices. Similarly, we welcomed close to one thousand devotees for Gaura-Pūrṇimā, and another thousand for the

Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā. These gatherings are not just events; they are celebrations of your teachings and a manifestation of your love for all living beings.

The dedication of our devotees continues to grow, even in the absence of specific programs tailored for them. This organic blossoming of devotion is a direct result of your mercy and the spiritual atmosphere you have created. We are inspired by your example and strive to nurture this growing community with care and compassion, much like how you would boil milk to ensure it thickens perfectly.

In our efforts to expand your movement in Akola, we are excited to announce that this year we are constructing a grand chariot for Lord Jagannātha. This endeavor is not merely about building a physical structure; it is about following in your footsteps and organizing a magnificent Ratha-yātrā that will attract even more devotees. We hope that through this festival we can bring the blessings of Lord Jagannātha closer to the hearts of the people in our community.

As we reflect on your teachings and the path you paved for us, we remain committed to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness with sincerity and dedication. Your legacy inspires us daily, and we are eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve you and share your message with others.

With heartfelt gratitude and unwavering devotion, we pray for your continued blessings and guidance as we endeavor to expand your glorious movement in Akola and beyond.

Your humble servants at the Akola Extension Centre of ISKCON Amravati

Almviks Gård, Järna, Sweden

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda!

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

I was asked to write this offering on the evening before the deadline, so it will be very spontaneous – straight from my heart.

Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote to Bhūrijana Prabhu: "Unless there is loving feeling, how is it possible for you to always make offerings to me? The spiritual master is always instructing his disciples and they in turn are always trying to serve their spiritual master. It is a reciprocal relationship of love."

And from a letter to Śravānanda Dāsa's mother: "Yes, our Society is depending on love and respect; we are bound by love."

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, this worldwide ISKCON society, with all its temples, Deities, book production and distribution, and varieties of preaching projects, is your offering of love to your spiritual master and Lord Kṛṣṇa. Thus your brainchild has made – and continues to make – a lasting impact on the world. Your monumental task to travel alone to America, over the ocean and in your old age, with only a trunk of your first volumes of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* you translated, to start a preaching movement and spread bhakti all over the world, leaves us ever in awe.

Thank you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the sacrifice you made. Thank you for being an ocean of mercy and letting us take shelter of your lotus feet. Thank you for all the love, devotion, patience, and tolerance with which you started this movement and trained your disciples. Thank you for giving us the refuge of your temples. Thank you for giving us beautiful Deities to worship. Thank you for the amazing treasure of your books full of transcendental knowledge that you gave us. Thank you for giving us the ever-protective shield and sweetness of the holy name. Thank you for the worldwide company of spiritual brothers and sisters to serve and celebrate Kṛṣṇa and our joyful life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness with. Thank you for saving us from the ever-worsening onslaughts of Kali-yuga and giving us a pure, enlightened, and meaningful life. Thank you for giving us Kṛṣṇa, and for placing the seed of bhakti in our hearts.

I once saw a video recording of one of your lectures. Somebody asked you a question, to which you answered: "You have to learn to love Kṛṣṇa in His absence." That answer somehow stuck in my mind, and I meditate on its meaning every now and then. We can actually feel and experience Kṛṣṇa's presence everywhere. His divine spirit is penetrating everything in the universe – He's in all of creation. Without His divine spirit, nothing can come to life or exist. He is with us always as the Supersoul in the heart, and a small atomic particle of Him is our own individual soul within us. However, we might be longing for Kṛṣṇa's personal company – the company the devotees had

when He was present here on earth in His strikingly beautiful, two-armed form. He promises us in the *Bhagavad-gītā* that if we surrender unto Him, He will take us back to His spiritual world to be with Him. We are fully dependent on His mercy. He can also reveal Himself to us while we are still here on earth. We simply have to have faith in Him and increase our love and longing for Him.

Hari Śauri Prabhu, who traveled with you a lot, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and who has a close, loving relationship with you, told us how in Bombay in January 1977, you spoke to him regarding our preaching task in ISKCON: "You should always remember that You have taken a very, very difficult task. *Manuṣyāṇāṁ sahasreṣu kaścid yatati siddhaye.* It is not a very easy task, but one thing is sure: if you be successful or not successful, it is your victory. Because you try for this, and Kṛṣṇa will be very much pleased." (The *Bhagavad-gītā* verse is chapter 7, text 3: "Out of many thousands of men, one may endeavor for perfection, and of those who have achieved perfection, hardly one knows Me in truth.")

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we now face the challenge of upholding and carrying the Almvik Ecovillage project into the future. It is a complex but attractive project, with potential but also a currently deteriorating old temple building, beautiful Pañca-tattva deities, cows to protect, and a surrounding forest, land, and a lake – and a village on the temple grounds filled with devotees. At present we are raising funds to finance the necessary renovations for the temple building, although we dream of a new, nicer temple in the future.

Please bless us with the determination, strength, and innovative, cooperative spirit to keep up and develop this peaceful spiritual oasis for ISKCON's preaching mission, despite any impediments that come our way.

Hari Śauri Prabhu gave us this statement by Śrīla Prabhupāda: "Your love for me will be tested by how, after my departure, you maintain this institution. We have glamor, and people are feeling our weight. This should be maintained."

We are fully dependent on you and humbly ask you to kindly grant us your blessings for our task ahead.

Your humble servants at the Almvik Ecovillage
(written by Aṣṭasiddhi Devī Dāsī)

Amravati, Maharashtra, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

On this sacred occasion of your 129th Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees and well-wishers of ISKCON Amravati, humbly offer our heartfelt obeisances at your lotus feet. We express our deepest

gratitude for your unparalleled contribution to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness across the globe, fulfilling the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu with unwavering determination.

At the age of 69 you embarked on an unprecedented journey to the West, carrying the order of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, within your heart. In the most challenging circumstances, you single-handedly ignited a spiritual revolution, firmly establishing ISKCON as a global beacon of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Your mission was not just to construct temples but to transform hearts by distributing the holy names of Kṛṣṇa. You gifted us the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* not merely as books but as the guiding light for millions. Your transcendental literature continues to nourish and sustain ISKCON, keeping it eternally vibrant in the face of time.

You are the *jagad-guru,* the world's foremost spiritual teacher, rescuing conditioned souls from the ocean of material suffering. Like a fearless spiritual warrior, you planted the seeds of bhakti worldwide. Today, ISKCON stands as a testament to your boundless mercy, sheltering millions under its branches.

Here at ISKCON Amravati, we recognize ourselves as but one small leaf on this great tree, striving to serve your mission. Inspired by your instructions to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in every town and village, we remain committed to preaching, book distribution, and youth engagement. The spiritual foundation of our efforts is the congregational chanting of the holy name, which you emphasized as the *yuga-dharma:*

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

This *mahā-mantra* resonates within our temple walls, uniting devotees in the bliss of *kīrtana.* It is through *harināma-saṅkīrtana, prasādam* distribution, and Vaiṣṇava *saṅga* that we share Kṛṣṇa's mercy with others. Our Sunday feasts, home programs, and *bhakti-vriksha* gatherings allow more people to experience *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* in a structured and supportive environment.

Preaching Efforts in Amravati and Maharashtra

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once wrote to His Holiness Lokanath Swami Mahārāja: "Our Lokanath Swami is just like Saint Tukaram. The whole of India and specifically your Maharashtra are enthused with Krishna. Now, you have to revive their Krishna consciousness. This is Tukaram's country, but now they are becoming bad politicians." (Letter to Lokanath Swami, Vrindavan, July 30, 1977).

Inspired by your prophetic vision, we continue to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Maharashtra. Recognizing the spiritual heritage of this land, we strive to counteract impersonalism and materialism, ensuring that pure Vaiṣṇava teachings illuminate every heart.

Silver Jubilee Celebration – ISKCON Amravati (1999–2024)

This year, ISKCON Amravati celebrates twenty-five years of service to your mission. We humbly offer the following key milestones as our service at your lotus feet:

- Book distribution: Recognizing your books as spiritual time bombs, we actively distribute them, ensuring they reach seekers hungry for Kṛṣṇa's message.
- *Harināma-saṅkīrtana:* We regularly organize *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in Amravati and nearby *talukas,* spreading the holy names far and wide.

- *Prasādam* distribution: Through our free *prasādam* distribution programs, we aim to spiritually nourish thousands, bringing them closer to Kṛṣṇa.
- Temple-based outreach: We conduct weekly *bhakti-vriksha* programs and home gatherings, strengthening devotee communities.
- Youth engagement:

  Ten dedicated youths from Amravati are actively serving through Māyāpur's Bhaktivedanta Academy for Culture and Education (BACE), chanting sixteen rounds daily and following the four regulative principles.

  Thirty engineering students are engaged in Kṛṣṇa consciousness through our Discover Yourself (DYS) course.

  Our Gita for Youths initiative gathers fifty college students every Sunday, of whom twenty have started chanting sixteen rounds daily.
- Land donation for preaching expansion:

  By your mercy, ISKCON Amravati has received a generous donation of one acre in Achalpur, which will serve as a future preaching hub.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly acknowledge that our efforts are insignificant, yet we pray for your continued mercy to serve your mission with greater sincerity and determination. Please bestow upon us the strength to uphold your teachings, resisting distractions and deviations; the intelligence to work cooperatively, ensuring that ISKCON's growth remains aligned with your mood and mission; and the purity to become true representatives of your instructions, keeping the flame of bhakti burning brightly in Amravati.

Our pledge on your Vyāsa-pūjā day: On this sacred occasion, we, the collective devotees of ISKCON Amravati, solemnly renew our commitment to follow your instructions with unwavering faith; prioritize preaching and book distribution as our primary duty; expand our *bhakti-vriksha* networks to reach more souls; strengthen our youth engagement efforts, cultivating the next generation of ISKCON leaders; and serve Maharashtra with greater vigor, reviving its devotional roots.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your pleasure is our only goal. We beg for your guidance, protection, and shelter so that we may one day become worthy instruments in your hands.

All glories, all glories to Your Divine Grace! Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your eternal servants,
the devotees at ISKCON Amravati

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Hare Kṛṣṇa. On behalf of the devotees of Amsterdam, please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your divine lotus feet.

Although unqualified, we would like to present you this humble offering for your wonderful appearance day. We are truly blessed that you offered us the chance to be part of your ISKCON family, which is saving us from being attracted and attached to the distractions that the material world brings forth to us. You once mentioned that Amsterdam is a very good place for your movement. During your visit to Amsterdam, you were pleased when you saw so many cows in the country. But you also saw a lot of frustrated young people in the streets. Being merciful and compassionate toward them, you advised the Amsterdam devotees at that time to let them chant with us. Go on *saṅkīrtana,* you said, and that will for sure purify them. And if they are interested in philosophy, sell them books.

Inspired by your instructions and trying to help you fulfill your desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness everywhere, in a humble way we made some endeavors to attract people to the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. Although very small compared to your accomplishments, we hope it will be pleasing to you, and we'd like to offer this to Your Divine Grace.

For a few years we've been celebrating big festivals like Janmāṣṭamī in a big hall or church, which attracts hundreds of devotees. The program is varied, with *kīrtana,* dance, drama, *ārati, abhiśekha,* and *prasādam*. Next to that, we organize an annual Kirtan Mela, with *kīrtana* for the whole day, again held in a church building close by. And the highlight of the year, the Rathayātrā festival, is growing bigger and more professionally organized each year. With the most important square of the Netherlands as the venue, the festival attracts thousands of people who are looking for something worthwhile to live for. In an attempt to spread the holy names to every town and village we regularly go on *harināma,* each month in a different city or village close to Amsterdam itself, of course. In the meantime, we distribute your valuable books, which can save all humankind from the most miserable and abominable circumstances and situations. And we run multiple weekly *nāmahaṭṭa* and monthly large programs in nearby cities, like Alphen aan den Rijn, Amstelveen, Eindhoven, Hoofddorp, and Uithoorn, where we cultivate families in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and bring them to the temple for service.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, this would not have been possible without all the efforts you made for us. We will always remember that whatever we do it is thanks to you and is meant to please you and Lord Kṛṣṇa, whose names you brought so mercifully to the Western world for us to benefit from.

Our congregation is still in development, and we still have much to learn. Please bless us that we stay strong in your service and that we'll be able to continue serving your lotus feet. For your pleasure, we are very eager to find a building that will be owned by the temple so that we can serve you and the devotees in a better way. We have much trust that with your blessings this will eventually happen.

Thank you so much. Haribol!

Your servants from ISKCON Amsterdam,
Toṣaṇa Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, Jayaśrī Devī Dāsī, Nīlāmbara Dāsa,
Bhaktin Rajeshwari, Bhakta Vidjay, and Bhaktin Premiela

Angul, Odisha, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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 special occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees at ISKCON Angul, would like to submit our heartfelt offering to you.

Fifteen years have passed since preaching started in Angul City, under the guidance and blessings of His Holiness Bhakti Gaurava Nārāyaṇa Swami. Angul is an industrial hub of central Odisha. After years of struggle, we received one acre of land near Benagadia Village, and we have gradually purchased more land adjacent to it. Now we have nearly five acres of land.

A magnificent temple of Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Mahārāṇī, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, and Śrī Gaura-Nitāi is now under construction. This year, around mid-April, we are planning to cast the ground floor slab. There are around eleven cows and bulls in our goshala, including three milk-giving cows. There is a beautiful flower garden on the temple campus that produces fragrant and colorful flowers, and we offer fresh garlands to the Lord every morning.

During last year's *Gītā* marathon, we distributed about 8,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* for your pleasure. This year we will try to distribute 10,000 *Bhagavad-gītās*. This year we are also planning to expand congregational preaching, village preaching, youth preaching, corporate preaching, and school/college preaching to a higher level.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, today we are just enjoying and living a comfortable life in the ISKCON temples built by your hard labor. Please bless us so that one day we may understand your heart and imbibe the compassion you had for the suffering material world. Please bless us so we can all love and serve in a cooperative spirit and make you happy. There are countless suffering souls out there who are just waiting to receive your mercy in the form of your books. Please empower us so that we may go out on *saṅkīrtana* every day to distribute your books.

Finally, we are all listening to your lectures and reading your books each day so we can have your association, which is our only shelter in this dangerous Age of Kali.

Please keep us at your lotus feet always,
The devotees of ISKCON Angul

Ankushpur Village, Brahmapur, Odisha, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our crores of humble obeisances at your lotus feet. O Śrīla Prabhupāda, may you always be the object of our vision, by which we can increase our inclination toward the holy name of the Lord and destroy our pride and delusion.

O spiritual master of the entire world, Your Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, whose glance is full of mercy and who are the bestower of transcendental bliss, by your causeless mercy we are trying our best to serve Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda.

This year, the construction of our new *brahmacārī* ashram is in its final stage. The new temple is almost ready to welcome Their Lordships, and the inauguration is planned for the most auspicious occasion of Śrī Rāma-navamī in 2026.

Many agricultural activities are going on on the remaining tract of land. The cows are very well taken care of in the goshala. This year we are focusing on adding more devotees to our congregation. The Love Feast programs are held on the third and fourth Sundays of the month, and the temple and youth preaching in the city is growing rapidly. Last year we conducted Ananda Utsava in Hinjilicut, attended by more than eight hundred devotees.

Devotees are more enthusiastic about regular book distribution and performing *nāgara-saṅkīrtana*. Preaching activities are going very well in Surada, Hinjilicut, Khallikote, and Aska under our temple management. We are planning to organize Śrī Rāma-navamī for more than seven thousand devotees.

The preaching plans for this year are:

- Gita Championship League in schools, with a thousand students registered.
- Organizing monthly *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and book distribution on a large scale.
- Conducting youth festivals at the temple and doing effective preaching at colleges.

O *kṛṣṇa-kṛpa-mūrti,* kindly shower your mercy upon us again and again so that we can spread your divine *vāṇī* all across the globe. And bless us to always remain fixed in the assembly of Vaiṣṇavas who are sincerely serving the lotus feet of Śrīmān Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Yours in service,
Hari Prasād Dāsa
IYF Director, ISKCON Brahmapur (at Ankushpur)

Aravade, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We humbly pay our prostrated obeisances unto your divine lotus feet with hearts filled with gratitude, reverence, and love. You are the eternal well-wisher of all souls, the messenger of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's mercy, and the shining beacon of light that illuminates our path in this material world. Your teachings, your dedication to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and your compassion have transformed the lives of millions and continue to inspire us every day.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your causeless mercy and boundless blessings, the ISKCON Aravade temple is thriving as a spiritual sanctuary for devotees and newcomers alike. The temple activities, including book distribution and preaching programs, have been running smoothly and have borne wonderful fruit. The enthusiastic efforts of our preachers have brought many souls closer to Kṛṣṇa and enriched their spiritual journeys.

We cannot thank you enough for the divine gifts you gave us – a legacy of transcendental knowledge, a global family of devotees, and the unwavering example of your surrender to the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Your mercy empowers us to carry forward your mission, and it is only by your grace that we have initiated new projects to expand our service.

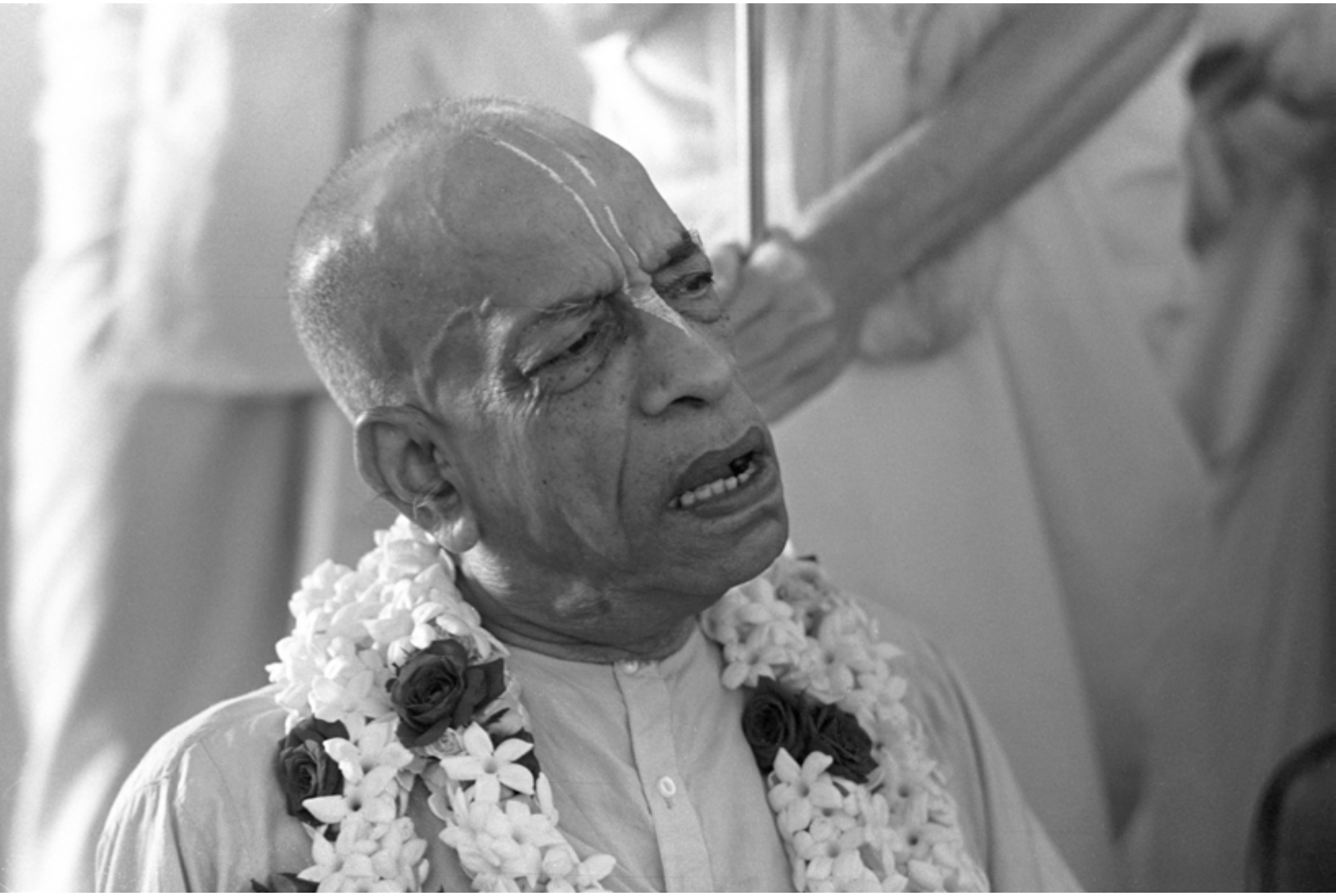
Under your guidance, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are excited to share that construction of a *brahmacārī* ashram is underway. This ashram will provide a nurturing environment for *brahmacārīs* dedicated to practicing and propagating Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In addition, plans for a new Govinda's restaurant and a new bookshop are in progress. These projects will serve as avenues for connecting with the wider community and sharing the treasures of your books and teachings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, none of this would be possible without your divine presence and blessings. We offer our heartfelt gratitude for everything you have done for us and everything you continue to do through your spiritual instructions and the association of devotees who carry forward your mission. May we always remain steadfast in serving your divine vision and in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every corner of the world.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we bow down and offer our lives, words, and actions to your lotus feet. Please bless us with the strength, humility, and devotion to fulfill your instructions and bring glory to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

All glories to Your Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to the eternal service of Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!

Your humble servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Aravade



Ashti, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Your Divine Grace has blessed every nook and corner of the world – not only with your *vapuḥ* but with your *vāṇī*. You touched millions of souls across the globe and brought them to Kṛṣṇa's shelter.

ISKCON has established vibrant devotee communities in India's large cities, and we always prayed to have a similar setup in small villages as well. Our community is a newly formed center

in a small village called Ashti, located in the tribal district called Gadchiroli, in Maharashtra. This center was begun by His Grace Parmeśvara Prabhu (your dear disciple, who leads the Chamorshi center, 35 kms from Ashti). Because of his tireless preaching under the guidance of His Holiness Lokanath Swami Mahārāja, many people from Ashti also become favorable toward Kṛṣṇa consciousness – especially the many displaced Hindu and Bengali families who left Bangladesh in 1965–71 and settled in this area. These persons have reverence toward Lord Caitanya, but had become misguided by many *asampradāyas*.

We were doubly blessed when His Grace Hari Kīrtana Prabhu, a senior disciple of His Holiness Lokanath Swami Mahārāja, was given responsibility for this zone. His constant support, guidance, and blessing through daily *japa* meetings gave us proper inspiration. We felt so deeply connected to him and to His Grace Parmeśvara Prabhu that both of their blessings and guidance helped us establish and maintain this center.

With this support, on Gītā Jayantī in December 2022, we started a *satsaṅga* program to discuss the *Bhagavad-gītā*. About thirty people – which has since grown to between forty and sixty people – attend every Saturday. We discuss *Bhagavad-gītā ślokas* and have *kīrtana* and *prasādam*.

Last year, our Janmāṣṭamī celebration was attended by about seven hundred well-wishers. The event was graced by a talk by His Grace Hari Kīrtana Prabhu. After this, Hari Kīrtana Prabhu declared Ashti a satellite center of ISKCON Nagpur.

Recently, a few devotees have started connecting for morning *japa* sessions as well. We have a long way to go before everyone in this territory becomes a vibrant and happy devotee.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the embodiment of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mercy. You fulfilled not only Mahāprabhu's prophecy but that of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (2.4.18):

kirāta-hūṇāndhra-pulinda-pulkaśā
ābhīra-śumbhā yavanāḥ khasādayaḥ
ye 'nye ca pāpā yad-apāśrayāśrayāḥ
śudhyanti tasmai prabhaviṣṇave namaḥ

> Kirāta, Hūṇa, Āndhra, Pulinda, Pulkaśa, Ābhīra, Śumbha, Yavana, 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.

This prophecy was made even before Mahāprabhu appeared. You came in the form of the *senāpati-bhakta* and delivered all people from all the mundane categories of human existence, such as nationalism, caste, creed, race, ethnicity, etc. You were ordained to fulfill the desire of Śrī Mahāprabhu by spreading His holy name to every town and village. Our village is no exception, and by your divine grace, your disciples are extending themselves to deliver fallen souls like us.

Your mercy is not just in your *vapuḥ* and *vāṇī* but also in the form of your disciples and grand-disciples – those who are tirelessly, sincerely trying to preach till their very last breath out of compassion for the suffering souls of the material world, who are bereft of bhakti. Please be merciful to us by giving us strength, courage, determination, and the enthusiasm to become humble instruments in the hands of our authorities, His Holiness Radhanath Swami Mahārāja, His Holiness Lokanath Swami Mahārāja, His Grace Parmeśvara Prabhu, His Grace Hari Kīrtana Prabhu, and others. All these persons are striving to bring the fallen souls back under your care and Kṛṣṇa's shelter.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Ashti

Athens, Ohio, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

Today, on the most auspicious day of your appearance, we are remembering you with great reverence and humility as we honor your life's achievements. We are remembering how you worked tirelessly in order to give the conditioned souls of this world an opportunity to achieve self-realization and enlightenment in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We are remembering your countless personal sacrifices. We are remembering your struggles, in sickness and health, to carry out the orders of your Guru Mahārāja and how you made it seem almost effortless!

Now that we are older, we are understanding and realizing more fully the extent of your efforts and the intensity of your desire to fulfill those orders. With each passing year, we are better able to understand and appreciate you and your amazing accomplishments. Now that most of your disciples are well past the age when you left India and came here to America to begin your mission, we are getting the full taste of the challenges of older age.

> I have come here in this old age neither for sight seeing nor for any personal interest. It is for the interest of the entire humanity that I am trying to implement the science of Krishna which will actually make them happy. So it is the duty of every devotees of Lord Krishna to help me by all means. (Letter, March 18, 1966)

Your perseverance and your unflinching faith in the instructions of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja and Lord Kṛṣṇa serve as our shining example of pure devotion and fierce determination. Even as you struggled alone in the early days here in America, you fought on. You knew in your heart that somehow, victory was coming! May we also have such faith, determination, and spiritual energy to carry on in the absence of your physical presence.

We are forever in your debt. We can never thank you enough, nor can we repay you for all that you have given us. By our efforts here, we aspire to please you and the entire *guru-paramparā*. We pray for your mercy and your continued blessings on our collective endeavors so that we may be able to help you "by all means" and to serve the mission of Lord Caitanya here in Athens, Ohio.

All glories to His Divine Grace, Śrīla A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda!

Your aspiring servants and codirectors of Athens Kṛṣṇa House,
Dr. Ashok K. Gupta
Prem Vilās Dāsa
Rāsalīlādevī Devī Dāsī

Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of your historic visit, in February–March 1975, to the Atlanta temple (New Pānihāṭi Dhāma, a temple you personally named). Your visit was and remains the most significant event in the history of this temple, and we are eternally indebted to you for bestowing this blessing upon this community. We will continually strive to keep the memory of your visit in our minds and hearts.

Your congregation here in Atlanta is ever expanding by the humble efforts of all of the devotees. Recently, one devotee said that the "electricity" that he felt during your visit "is still here in the temple room and around the temple property."

Our strong desire here at New Paṇihāṭi Dhāma is to humbly work together to preserve the memory of your visit and to support one another, as you stated in your third purpose of ISKCON: "To bring the members of the Society together with each other and nearer to Krishna, the prime entity, thus developing the idea within the members, and humanity at large, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Krishna)." ("Seven Purposes of ISKCON")

Our sincere prayer is that we can fulfill this purpose and, in so doing, please Your Divine Grace. Our only desire should be to please you in all of our activities, but also personally and collectively as a family of devotees.

What you bestowed upon us by visiting this temple in 1975 is the greatest blessing and sacred responsibility any congregation of devotees could ever wish for. It is a holy responsibility because we now have to work together to enlighten the people in this area by informing them that such a great *ācārya* like you visited and blessed the greater Atlanta community.

Just as in India as well as other places sacred to the world's many religions, people journey for thousands of miles to see, touch, and experience the holy atmosphere of these sacred places; we anticipate that as people become more aware of the significance of this sacred *dhāma,* New Paṇihāṭi, they will come by the thousands to see the place where your holy lotus feet traversed and hear about all of the amazing pastimes you performed during your brief stay over the course of three and a half days. Every year at our Ratha-yātrā and Chipped Rice Festival, we set aside a few hours before the main *ārati* to hear from various devotees who were here for your visit.

It is also significant that while in Vrindavan you were remembering your visit to our temple, and you said in a lecture: "So our only request is that this simple thing: *harer nāma harer nāma harer nāmaiva kevalam kalau nāsty eva nāsty eva nāsty eva gatir anyathā* … this formula of the Vedic *śāstra*. And you will be surprised – I invite you to come to our different centers in Europe and America – how they are chanting, dancing before the Deity, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda, or Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Recently, I had been to Atlanta for the first time. But the boys and the girls there, they have taken three big, big houses. The middle house has been transformed into a temple. How nicely they are chanting and dancing. You will be surprised if you go." (Lecture on *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 19.53, April 20, 1975, Vrindavan)

It is well known throughout ISKCON that your arrival address here is the shortest one you

have ever given. In that address you spoke about the relative difference between the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, which is conditional, based on surrender, and the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who makes no demands:

> So, Caitanya Mahāprabhu is very kind. *Parama karuṇa, pahū dui jana*. Two Lords, Nitāi-Gauracandra, Nityānanda Prabhu and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, are very kind, you see? They have appeared just to reclaim the fallen souls of this age. So They are more kind than Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa, He is also very kind. He comes to deliver. But Kṛṣṇa demands that first of all surrender. Caitanya Mahāprabhu even does not demand surrender. He is so kind. [*voice choking*] So take shelter of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and be happy. Thank you very much [*weeping*].

These and many other of your Atlanta pastimes are forever etched into the minds and hearts of the hundreds of devotees who were fortunate to be here for your visit.

One of your pastimes was observing the Vyāsa-pūjā of your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. You performed the *ārati* for your Guru Mahārāja and gave a beautiful and instructive lecture that day. Here are a few excerpts from that historic lecture:

> So now, by the grace of Kṛṣṇa and Caitanya Mahāprabhu and in the presence of my Guru Mahārāja, you are so nice boys and girls. So in front of Caitanya Mahāprabhu you are chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, and you are taking part in it very seriously. So my Guru Mahārāja will be very, very much pleased upon you and bless you with all benefits.
>
> *
>
> So you are hearing this philosophy daily. Try to understand more and more. We have got so many books. And this is the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and, by disciplic succession, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, then my spiritual master. Then we are trying our level best. Similarly, you will also try your level best on the same principle. Then it will go on. Same principle. It doesn't matter whether one is born in India or outside India. No. When Caitanya Mahāprabhu said, *pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi-grāma,* "As many towns and cities and villages are there," He did not say it to make a farce. He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
>
> *
>
> So as far as possible, we are trying to lead you in this line, and you kindly follow. Then your life will be successful. That is the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. He wanted to deliver these fallen souls, the conditioned souls rotting in this material world. So Kṛṣṇa Himself … Kṛṣṇa comes Himself, Kṛṣṇa sends His devotees, Kṛṣṇa comes as devotee – just to execute this mission to reclaim the fallen souls from the clutches of illusory energy, material world. Thank you very much. (Lecture on the Appearance Day of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, March 2, 1975, Atlanta)

The devotees responded, "*Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!"

You created a template for us to follow by performing the Vyāsa-pūjā *ārati* and giving the lecture. Each year since your visit, for Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's Vyāsa-pūjā day we follow your example by setting up a life-size painting of your Guru Mahārāja – the same one to which you offered *ārati* – and either playing the recording of the lecture you gave on that day or reading the transcript and discussing its meaning.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the devotees and the general congregation of the Atlanta temple have worked together for the last fifty years to preserve the memory of your historic visit. We humbly pray at your lotus feet that we will continue in this tradition and work together to enshrine the memory of your visit for all future generations – not only for the Atlanta *yātrā* but also for devotees and members worldwide.

On behalf of ISKCON Atlanta
Your servant,
Balabhadra Bhaṭṭācārya Dāsa

Attapur, Hyderabad, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, the most merciful messenger of the Lord.

Hyderabad is blessed by your stepping onto this land, transforming it into a place of pilgrimage, as confirmed by *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.13.10):

bhavad-vidhā bhāgavatās
tīrtha-bhūtāḥ svayaṁ vibho
tīrthī-kurvanti tīrthāni
svāntaḥ-sthena gadābhṛtā

> My Lord, devotees like Your good self are verily holy places personified. Because you carry the Personality of Godhead within your heart, you turn all places into places of pilgrimage.

We are witnessing the potency of this place as a sign of your unlimited mercy, seeing how so many souls are benefitting and taking shelter at the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Attapur has completed just four years, yet within this short span, we have striven to fulfill your instructions – book distribution and *prasādam* distribution. Last year, we also began daily *nāgara-saṅkīrtana,* and in doing so, we experienced your empowerment. We can see how the fame of Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava is spreading far and wide as we endeavor to follow your three key instructions for running a temple.

Apart from this, our temple devotees engage in various outreach programs, such as:

- Engaging influential members of society – every day our devotees meet various leaders and high-net-worth individuals in Hyderabad and inspire them to serve Their Lordships.
- Youth preaching – many devotees visit areas with large youth populations, encouraging them to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Currently, we have four youth centers with more than 140 boys attending weekly classes.

- *Bhakti-vriksha* programs – congregation leaders connect with families, inspiring them to commit to temple services.
- Traveling *saṅkīrtana* – in addition to our regular *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and book distribution, we organize traveling *saṅkīrtana* three to four times a year, extending your mercy beyond Hyderabad.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, following your instructions, we strive to make the worship of Their Lordships very gorgeous. The enchanting darshan of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava is attracting many people. You struggled so much to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but by your mercy, we now have the resources to facilitate our preaching – vehicles, media tools, and audiovisual equipment. However, despite these facilities, we are incapable of achieving anything without your guidance. Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, like a crawling child dependent on its mother, we seek your direction at every step so that we may contribute meaningfully to your movement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said that you cannot think small. Our temple leader, His Grace Sītārāma Prabhu, constantly inspires us to think big in order to please you. At ISKCON Attapur, we have started implementing all the activities and festivals prescribed by you, attracting thousands of participants – further testimony to your being an empowered *ācārya*.

During festivals, ISKCON Attapur draws so many devotees that our current temple hall can no longer accommodate them. Therefore we have recently begun our temple extension project to make the Lord's mercy accessible to even more people.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bestow your causeless mercy upon us so that we, the devotees of ISKCON Attapur, may continue serving to the best of our capacity, without deviation from the uncompromising principles.

Your servants,
Caitanya Avatāra Dāsa and the devotees at ISKCON Attapur

Auckland, New Zealand

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year marks the auspicious 129th anniversary of your holy appearance day, and we, at ISKCON Auckland, your disciples and granddisciples, are bowing 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!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the embodiment of eloquence, style, and finesse. Your profound

concern for the condition of the fallen souls is what drove you to save us. Your every action and instruction were an act of love and ultimately meant for our own benefit.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by the mercy and blessing of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Giridhārī, ISKCON Auckland is now fifty-five years old. The congregation members here in Auckland are more and more enthusiastic to be engaged in devotional services, serving your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in many towns and cities in New Zealand.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Auckland continues its best effort to perfection in regular activities. These activities include, among others:

Hare Krishna School: By your mercy, the Hare Krishna School continues to grow as a center for Kṛṣṇa conscious education. This year, we have taken significant steps to strengthen both the spiritual and academic foundation of our students. We opened a new classroom block to support our high school program, enabling students to earn their National Certificate of Educational Achievement while remaining in a devotional environment. Our teaching staff has expanded, allowing us to deepen our delivery of both secular and śāstric education.

A particularly significant milestone has been the integration of our *śāstra* curriculum with the NCEA Level 1 Religious Studies course, meaning that students are now using your transcendental books as the foundation for earning state qualifications. Additionally, we have introduced Sanskrit education across years 1 through 8, ensuring that students can access our sacred texts in their original language from an early age.

With your blessings, we are now preparing for further expansion. We have submitted a change of class application to the Ministry of Education to extend our enrollment to years 11 through 13, allowing our students to complete their secondary education in a Kṛṣṇa conscious environment. To facilitate this growth, we are also planning for three new classrooms and a library. We pray for your continued guidance and mercy as we strive to realize these goals in service to your mission, ensuring that future generations develop both academic excellence and deep, unwavering devotion to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Giridhārī.

RISE (Rupanuga Institute of Spiritual Education): RISE was founded as an educational institute under ISKCON Auckland in 2017. Over five hundred devotees have participated in our courses, seminars, and workshops to date. Over one hundred devotees have enrolled for the Bhakti-śāstri course in three batches; so far, twenty-five devotees have graduated successfully.

The RISE graduation ceremony takes place as an offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on your appearance day each year.

RISE has conducted four IDC courses, three retreats, two workshops, and three seminars. Many visiting Vaiṣṇavas, such as His Holiness Devamrita Swami, His Holiness Rāmāi Swami, His Holiness Subhag Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Mukunda Swami, His Grace Praṇeśvara Dāsa, His Grace Devakīnandana Dāsa, His Grace Amarendra Dāsa, and His Grace Caitanya Caraṇa Dāsa have also provided their valuable insights to the students.

The fourth batch of the Bhakti-śāstrī course (online and offline) commences in April 2025, just after Rāma-navamī.

The Bhakti-vaibhava course also commences after Janmāṣṭamī this year. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for gifting us this eternal knowledge and enriching our spiritual lives. Diving deep into these spiritual books gives us so much spiritual nourishment.

Book distribution: Knowing how dear book distribution is to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we at ISKCON Auckland endeavor to make this important activity prominent.

We participated in the BBT's Bhadra Pūrṇimā and Live to Give campaigns. We display books at all our major programs and at the Sunday feast, and we have an honesty book table always available in our reception area so that anyone visiting will have an opportunity to purchase your books and thus gain your association.

Also, outside the temple we have seen our *śāstra-dāna* program strengthened. We have had more people in correctional facilities contact us through the chaplains, who are asking for *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets, and the chaplains are also taking initiative to contact us, saying they've finished their stocks of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and please send more because the prisoners are asking for them.

In our ongoing Motel Gita mission, we have seen moteliers who have never seen or heard of the *Bhagavad-gītā* holding them to their hearts with tears in their eyes, saying this is precious knowledge and placing *Gītās* in all their rooms.

We are pleased to report, by your mercy, that since your last Vyāsa-pūjā, we have distributed:

- 58 full sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*
- 1,796 *Bhagavad-gītās*
- 2,304 other titles

That's over 5,000 individual books. Please empower us that we may continue and expand this service to you.

Ratha-yātrās: Once again, last year, mid-November till mid-December, ISKCON Auckland traveled to the various suburbs of Auckland and conducted Ratha-yātrās. Altogether we performed eleven Ratha-yātrās within a month, as we took the opportunity of Christmas parades. Thousands of curious people line up to see their Lordships Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā sitting on the beautiful chariot. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for allowing your mercy on so many lost souls who, just by taking the Lord's darshan get so much spiritual benefit.

Harināmas: Our *harināmas* have expanded, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We have a new location in West Auckland, and our congregation is out doing *harināma* fortnightly on Thursdays. In South Auckland, we do Saturday *harināmas* weekly, going to different suburbs. Each Friday we do *harināma* in Auckland City – this has been happening for more than fifty years. Please continue to shower your mercy so that we can be steady in this wonderful service to Lord Caitanya.

Prasāda distribution: We go to Auckland City every other Friday. We go to South Auckland every other Saturday. Many people look forward to our coming and line up to relish the mercy of the Lord, which you made accessible to all regardless of the religion or faith they follow.

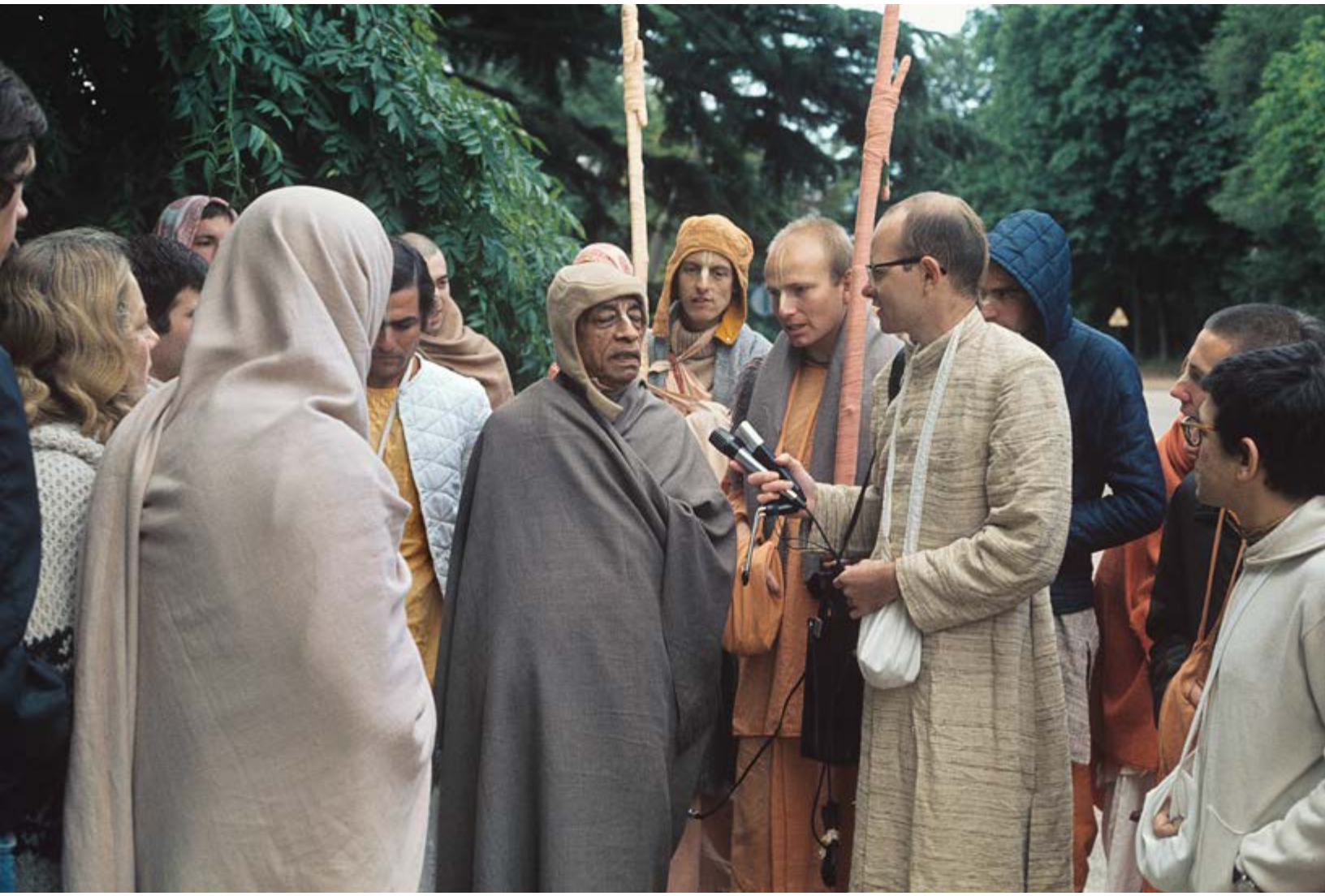
We also hold a food festival once a year. Many thousands of people attend our food festival and get to relish many varieties of restaurant-style *prasāda*.

Krishna Holi: Śrīla Prabhupāda, our Krishna Holi is our mega preaching event. We target those audiences that would never come to the temple. It was a great pleasure for ISKCON Auckland to serve the thousands of visitors to New Varṣāṇa, but the icing on the cake was to welcome the Honorable Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Right Honorable Christopher Luxon, to the great festival of colors. The Prime Minister, accompanied by the Minister of Police and a few local members of parliament and other dignitaries, also relished the vibrant cultural affair. Temple president Kālasamvara Dāsa warmly received the Prime Minister and dignitaries into the temple. They had darshan of the Deities and, following an inspiring explanation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and ISKCON's origins, had the pleasure of garlanding Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The Prime Minister then made his way to the main outdoor stage, where the cheers of thousands greeted him. To the delight of festivalgoers, Prime Minister Luxon released a cannon full of vibrant Holi powder over the excited crowd – a moment that quickly went viral, amassing over 15.5 million views on Instagram. The dignitaries were then escorted to our small *prasādam* hall, where devotees served them a sumptuous, delicious lunch.

Before leaving the event, each was gifted a set of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books! All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. This was only possible by your mercy!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please shower your mercy on us so we can continue to host this grand event and infuse Kṛṣṇa consciousness into those souls.



Śrīla Prabhupāda, please always keep us under the protection of your wing. Please give us strength so we can, on your behalf, as caretakers of ISKCON Auckland, take this huge responsibility to serve and expand your mission. Your mercy acts in mysterious ways. Please give us the enthusiasm not to waver when faced with challenging situations, but give us faith that you are always with us, guiding us, overseeing us, and blessing us so we can realize that you are our commander in charge, and we are your menial soldiers.

Begging to remain always and eternally in the shelter of your lotus feet,
Your servants at ISKCON Auckland

Bali, Indonesia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you did not personally come to Bali, one of the islands in Indonesia, but in 1973 you did come to Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. You encouraged us to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness here in Indonesia. You also wrote:

> Please accept my blessings. I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 13, 1971, and I am very pleased to note that you are so determined to spread this Krishna Consciousness movement, that you are remaining alone in Djakarta just to seize the wonderful opportunity we have got there for preaching. That is the sign of the first-class devotee, that he is always willing to sacrifice everything to please Krishna by preaching His glories, even under all sorts of difficult conditions. I am very encouraged by your attitude of sincere Krishna Consciousness. In this way you go on perfecting your life more and more, and very soon, I promise you, you will go back to Home, back to Godhead. Know it for certain. (Letter to Amogha Dāsa, December 25, 1971)

Now, there are many temples in Indonesia. In Bali itself, there are six major temples and some *nāmahaṭṭas*. Each one of them has their own preaching program. We are from Rādhā-Gopīnātha temple, which is located in Werdi Bhuana Village, Badung regency, Bali. Because of restrictions by our local government, we cannot preach publicly like we once did. Still, our Food-for-Life program can go on publicly, and we do book distribution as best as we can either offline or online. Despite all the restrictions, we still hold our temple program, like the Sunday feast and festivals, inviting people to join once they're inside the temple. Some of our devotees can distribute books in schools, to friends, and outside of Bali, as well as at the Food-for-Life program.

Recently, some devotees went to meet the seventh president of Indonesia to give him *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. You can see this event at https://iskconnews.org/indonesian-president-jokowi-receives-bhagavad-gita-praises-lord-krishna/. We offer these programs for your pleasure and the pleasure of the previous *ācāryas*.

We also have intern programs for our devotees, such as small farming, a weekly school for the kids, monthly workshops, etc. These three programs are now our main programs. Related to the workshops, we hold three workshops on *japa, kīrtana,* and *śāstra*. The main goal of the workshop is to strengthen the quality of *japa* and *kīrtana* and to encourage the devotees to study Śrīla Prabhupāda books regularly. These programs are inspired by your letter about "boiling the milk." We also want to say that currently, we have nine families who live around the Rādhā-Gopīnātha temple. In the future, we hope we can develop a larger Vaiṣṇava community.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg for your mercy so that we can develop the Rādhā-Gopīnātha temple in Bali in such a way that more people come here to perform *nāma-saṅkīrtana,* study your books systematically, and be Kṛṣṇa conscious in this one lifetime.

Your insignificant servant,
Gadādhar Prāṇa Dāsa
on behalf of ISKCON Śrī Śrī Rādhā Gopīnātha

Ballarpur, Maharashtra, India

Our dearest savior, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious occasion of your 129th appearance anniversary, we, your servants at ISKCON Ballarpur, bow at your divine lotus feet with deep gratitude and reverence. You are the empowered representative of Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga, the beacon of transcendental wisdom, and the tireless servant of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

You gave the world the matchless treasure of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, making the sublime teachings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu accessible to every soul, regardless of nationality, caste, or creed. With your unshakable faith in the holy names and your boundless compassion, you crossed oceans and continents to establish a global movement that continues to illuminate the hearts of millions.

Your books, your words, and your example continue to guide us on the path of pure devotional service. Every verse of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* every syllable of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* and every instruction in your letters and lectures is a lifeline for sincere seekers of the Absolute Truth. Your vision was not merely to build temples and communities but to transform the hearts of men and women, turning them into dedicated servants of Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly acknowledge our limitations and shortcomings, yet we pray to remain steadfast in your mission. May we develop the sincerity, humility, and unwavering determination that you embodied. May we become instruments in fulfilling your cherished desire to flood this world with the chanting of the holy names:

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

On this Vyāsa-pūjā day we reaffirm our commitment to serve your mission with all our heart and soul. Please bless us with the strength to follow in your footsteps, to protect and expand this movement, and to remain always under your divine shelter.

Your eternal servants at ISKCON Ballarpur

Bambra, Australia

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Here at Hare Krishna Valley, nestled in the foothills of the Otway Ranges, we strive to manifest your vision of simple living and high thinking. You taught us that a life in harmony with Kṛṣṇa's creation, centered on devotional service, is the foundation of true happiness.

Your words, your example, and your tireless preaching continue to inspire us to develop this project as a sanctuary for spiritual life, a place where devotees and guests alike can reconnect with Kṛṣṇa through chanting, *prasādam,* and service to the land.

Your mission is our mission. You wanted to establish self-sufficient farm communities, where devotees could live free from material anxiety and engage in Kṛṣṇa's service while protecting the cows and the earth.

We see this vision coming to life here as we cultivate the land, care for the cows, and create a spiritual atmosphere that nourishes all who visit. Every program, every *kīrtana,* and every plate of *prasādam* served at Hare Krishna Valley is an offering to you – a humble attempt to assist in your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave the world the greatest gift – love of Kṛṣṇa. You empowered even the most fallen to rise above illusion and engage in devotional service. By your mercy we are striving to develop not only our external environment but also our hearts, cultivating the humility, patience, and devotion necessary to serve you properly.

On this most sacred day, we pray for the strength and intelligence to continue serving your mission with sincerity and determination.

Please bless us so that Hare Krishna Valley may flourish as a beacon of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, attracting sincere seekers and providing them with the spiritual shelter that you envisioned. May we always remain united in service to you, following your instructions with unwavering faith.

Your servants at Hare Krishna Valley

Baramati, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you accomplished the magnificent task of delivering the nectar of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a remarkably short period to a humanity engulfed in darkness. You showed the world the simple path of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Through your conduct, you taught the lessons of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*.

We see the fulfillment of the prophecy made by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu through Your Divine Grace. India, a land sanctified by the thoughts of saints, witnessed numerous invasions that led

to the decline of the culture and faith of the common people. The country was under foreign rule when, by the will of God, you were born in India.

Initially, various paths to attain God were being preached in India and the world, excluding *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. However, the message of God was not reaching the common people in its pure form. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you conveyed this pure message of God to the world and triggered a massive spiritual revolution.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were nurtured in *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* from a young age. Your father desired for you to become a devotee of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, so he taught you the lessons of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* from an early age. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you established *gurukulas* to impart *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* to children from a young age. Today, thousands of *gurukulas* worldwide are sowing the seeds of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in young minds.

Initially Śrīla Prabhupāda, you wanted to participate in the Indian freedom struggle to free India from foreign rule. You were influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's principles of nonviolence and Satyagraha. However, after receiving your guru's orders, you undertook the monumental task of freeing humanity from the clutches of *māyā*.

The year 1922 holds immense significance in human history, as it was the year you met your guru, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. You were previously undefeated, but you were vanquished by your guru's words, and this defeat turned out to be the greatest victory for humanity.

Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura prophesied that a Vaiṣṇava would be born who would spread the name of Caitanya Mahāprabhu worldwide and create a buzz of *harināma* in the Western world. We are witnessing the fulfillment of this prophecy. Today, the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra resounds across the globe in millions of homes, temples, streets, and public meeting places.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your writings are the greatest treasure for humanity. Your books are like beacons guiding us on the path of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Before you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, many had attempted to spread the message, but none had clearly stated that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. However, you explicitly conveyed this message, and your books have been widely accepted by people worldwide. So far, nearly 500 million books have been distributed globally.

In the initial days, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you put immense effort into book writing and distribution. Not a single day passed when you didn't write. This year, our Baramati center distributed more than 13,000 books. It is our highest record till now.

Your instruction that no person within a 40-km radius of a temple should go hungry has been a significant contribution to the well-being of many. Today, millions of people receive free *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. During the COVID-19 pandemic and other natural calamities, devotees serve as many people as possible, following your instructions.

At the age of five you began the Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā at your home. You were fascinated by Jagannātha Purī from a young age. After starting your preaching mission in the Western world, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were the first to take Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Mahārāṇī out of India. Today, the Ratha-yātrā is celebrated on a massive scale in many countries, and millions have received the mercy of Lord Jagannātha. We also started holding Ratha-yātrā in Baramati, and this has created a joyful atmosphere among the devotees. As in the verse *guru-mukha-padma-vākya,* Śrīla Prabhupāda, you accomplished this task with the blessings of your guru and Lord Kṛṣṇa.

To spread *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* you had to navigate extremely challenging times. You didn't receive significant cooperation from Indian society, the government, materialistic life, or your godbrothers. Even before traveling to America, you faced struggles, which continued after your arrival there.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, initially you showered your mercy on those rejected by society – the hippies,

who had only one rule: break all the rules. You educated these young people, who came from the lower rungs of society, in the scriptures.

Lord Kṛṣṇa says in the *Bhagavad-gītā* that out of thousands of people, hardly one can understand Him, and out of them, only one rare soul can understand Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead. But by your mercy, millions of people today have accepted Śrī Kṛṣṇa as their everything. We repeatedly offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your servants at ISKCON Baramati

Barcelona, Spain

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

With a heart full of gratitude, I turn to you to express my deepest appreciation for your incomparable sacrifice and mercy.

Despite all the difficulties – your advanced age, lack of resources, and the uncertainty of success – you crossed the ocean with unwavering faith in the instructions of your spiritual master and Lord Caitanya's mission.

Thanks to your courage, millions of souls, including us, have received the most precious jewel: Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

When I reflect on your dedication and tireless struggle, I feel such inspiration and admiration. You faced challenges that would have discouraged anyone, yet you never lost faith in the words of Lord Kṛṣṇa and the potency of the holy name. Your example is my greatest inspiration, and yet I see how far I am from the necessary level of dedication and purity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in these times of so much global instability and generational change, I feel deep concern for the continuity of the movement. The new generations seem increasingly distant from spiritual institutions and are immersed in a world that promotes materialism, distraction, and skepticism. It pains me to see that so many souls are losing the opportunity to receive this transcendental knowledge.

I beg you to grant us your grace to develop the capacity to inspire others in the mission of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. May we serve with sincere hearts, intelligence, and determination, and may we help, even in a small way, to continue your glorious mission in this world.

Without your mercy and Kṛṣṇa's, I know I have no qualifications, but I trust that with your blessing, anything is possible. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, allow me to be an instrument in your hands.

Your aspiring servant,
Dvārakā Dāsa
ISKCON Barcelona, co-president

Barrie, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are profoundly grateful to you for illuminating our lives with meaning and purpose amid the complexities of this material existence. Through your timeless teachings, we have learned to skillfully balance our material responsibilities with the ultimate goal of spiritual advancement. By your mercy, we have humbly taken the first steps toward establishing ISKCON Barrie.

Under the inspiring leadership of His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami, we have also been blessed to organize grand festivals such as Ratha-yātrā, Janmāṣṭamī, and Govardhan-pūjā, bringing the community together in joyous remembrance of the Lord.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we earnestly seek your continued blessings upon ISKCON Barrie. Please empower us to serve steadily and expand this sacred mission, nurturing the spiritual family here in the Simcoe region.

With deep reverence and gratitude,
Your humble servant,
Nimāi Nitāi Dāsa, director-servant for ISKCON Barrie

Beed, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you and to the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, which you preached and expanded so perfectly all over the world.

We are running a small temple, established in 2003, and serving you in a small village. Since 2003 we have accomplished some great achievements and reached milestones, especially in the past year. We distributed about 4,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* and 20 sets of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* for your pleasure. Also, we have fourteen cows in our goshala serving Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda Dev. And we conducted a *Bhagavad-gītā* contest in Kaij *taluka,* serving 900 students connected to the *Bhagavad-gītā* competition.

We are conducting youth preaching on the temple campus, including training the youth to play *mṛdaṅga,* harmonium, and *karatālas*. The *brahmacārīs* are also trained to do preaching in various places in Beed and the Ahilyanagar District to assist in the Nagaradi Gram project.

Finally, by your grace, we are able to preach as well as manage the small temple. Please have mercy on us so that we can serve you well.

Thank you very much!

Your servant,
Viṭṭhalānanda Dāsa, (temple president)
On behalf of the devotees of ISKCON Beed

Benin Republic

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have changed the landscape of this material world by your wonderful preaching based essentially on your books.

Before you began your noble mission, quite a good part of the population of this world was sunk in total ignorance. In particular, the Western world and Africa were heading toward future births in lower species. Now, many people come into contact with you through your wonderful books and change the management of their lives toward the divine route.

You taught not only the ways and means of observing the four basic principles of spirituality, but you also brought the pure understanding of sacred texts, such as *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Caitanya-caritāmṛta, The Nectar of Devotion, The Nectar of Instruction,* and other titles. In addition to that, you also established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness to help train everyone in Vaiṣṇava standards and the way of spiritual life.

You left countless instructions for the application of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to any situation and to anyone in any culture. This Kṛṣṇa awareness is developing more and more in Africa and, in particular, in Benin, where we have just opened an ISKCON AICK preaching center thanks to your mercy and that of your sons and grandchildren on the spiritual path.

Our only desire is to see this movement for Kṛṣṇa consciousness developing in Benin to the point where we can see our following future projects realized. These are:

- A large temple
- An agricultural farm
- A free bilingual school
- A goshala for breeding and protecting cows
- A medical center to offer free healthcare services
- A dairy and agricultural products processing plant
- A craft training center

And with all this, to properly conduct preaching activities through your books and to attract people through the practical execution of these forementioned projects.

While we study the knowledge you gave, our faith is deepened and our conviction developing, our determination to see that your desire for Kṛṣṇa consciousness to flood the world becomes stronger. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, bless our efforts, our good intentions, and our development projects, and put us in a position of strength to attain success.

Hare Kṛṣṇa,
We are at your service and pray that you help us remain your humble servants,
The devotees in the Benin Republic

Bergamo, Italy

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Messenger of Beauty

Rūpa Gosvāmī writes in his *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 Kṛṣṇa conquers the hearts of all living entities. His beauty is the most outstanding among the six magnificent qualities that characterize Him, and His pure devotee, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is the messenger of such beauty.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have beautified our dull, dry lives by adorning them with a great variety of precious gems, whose value we cannot even imagine.

First, you gave us yourself, a unique personality, full of countless exceptional qualities. You gave us the vision of your beautiful, timeless face, a face simultaneously old and young . You gifted us your oceanic smile and your seriousness, your humor and your gravity.

Among your innumerable qualities stands out, unchallenged, your power, which you received directly from Kṛṣṇa, Himself the Almighty. This power enabled you, thanks to your total surrender to your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, to perform real wonders.

Let us not forget that from a humble little shop, Matchless Gifts, located on a small street in New York City, you came to build some of the greatest temples in India – the Vedic Planetarium temple in Mayapur, the Śrī Śrī Krishna-Balaram temple in Vrindavan, the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī temple in Mumbai, and more – and in many large cities around the world there are now magnificent temples, where the gorgeous Deities of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, Gaura-Nitāi, and Jagannātha-Subhadrā-Baladeva are served with exquisite devotion.

By chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa for four hours each day, you filled Tompkins Square Park in New York with the sound of the *mahā-mantra,* and from there you reached every corner of the planet and revolutionized the consciousness of millions. By your sublime chanting of the names of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, you permeated the lives of us all, illuminating them with the conclusive understanding that the Divine Couple is the Absolute Truth.

You gave us the precious jewel of *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*. In other words, you gave us Kṛṣṇa as He was in the past, as He is now, and as He will always be. You explained every word meticulously, so that everything is very clear to us.

Then, by accepting the onerous task of translating and commentating other sacred texts, such as the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* which you worked on at night, you gave us the sound incarnation of the great *avatāras* who descended to Earth, connecting us to the most recent and most magnanimous of all, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

You shared with us the immense wisdom of the *paramparā,* starting from the magnificent Six Gosvāmīs and on to the incredible personalities, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and his son Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, who taught us to erase the ugliness of atheism, impersonalism, sahajiyism, and superficial religiosity, which leads nowhere.

You showed us how to recognize the false beauty of *māyā* and replace it with the real beauty of Kṛṣṇa, how to free the mind from illusory thoughts and desires and replace them with spiritual ones, how to laugh and cry for the soul and not the body, and how to remember transcendence even in our dreams.

Another beautiful gift you gave us is our names. You gave each of us new names to call one another so that we could remember our true origin and the bond that unites us.

You enhanced our talents. Everyone is talented, and you told us, "Whatever you can do, do it for Kṛṣṇa." In this way you enriched our lives. If we had not employed our talents in the service of Kṛṣṇa we would have employed them in the service of unworthy masters and remained mediocre individuals, as we were before we met you.

You made us look beautiful even if we weren't. You made the girls look elegant by dressing them in colorful saris, and you made the boys shine, with clean-shaven heads and faces, and dressed in clean, bright clothes.

You promoted the Vedic arts, like dance and drama, gave us the musical Sanskrit language, with its transcendental poems and melodies, showed us Vedic architecture, and many other artistic aspects of life.

You made us understand that one must water the tree at its root – that is, if we want to serve humanity, we must serve the Supreme Person.

By giving us *prasāda,* delicious food offered to Kṛṣṇa, which sustains us without violence, you taught us to respect animals, to love cows in particular, and to feel responsible for preserving our planet and taking care of it.

Until the very end, leaving your worn-out body, you taught us by your personal example how not to fear death, focusing instead on the service of Kṛṣṇa and giving up false attachments.

You were an example of great power because even when you were physically incapacitated, not only were you alert, but you were still productive. You continued giving gifts that would last throughout time. That is power!

You went beyond the boundless to leave us a priceless legacy. Isn't that the true meaning of a friend and well-wisher? Is there anyone else who could have given us such an incredible array of beautiful things? Are there any words to express gratitude for such an ocean of beauty? This and so much more is Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Now it is up to us to maintain all this beauty and try to expand it.

Our most humble and respectful obeisances, dear teacher, father, friend, and benefactor.

Your servant,
Ali Krishna Devī Dāsī

Bhaktivedanta Manor, England

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Over half a century has now passed since, due to the desire of Your Divine Grace, His Grace Śrīmān George Harrison Prabhu gave us Bhaktivedanta Manor.

The devotees moved into the Manor on Tuesday May 1, 1973. As soon as Your Divine Grace had been informed that we now had proprietorship of the estate, you immediately wanted to travel to your Bhaktivedanta Manor. Hence, on Wednesday, May 23, 1973, you appeared at the Manor most majestically, your helicopter landing on the front lawn. You remained here for over four months.

And now after almost fifty-two years, there has been tremendous growth, expansion, and development. As we come down Dharam Marg after entering through the grand main gates on the left, we observe the horticultural fields, where we engage our WWOOFers. This initiative has, over the years, made many devotees. Thereafter, we see our *kalpa-vṛkṣa* cows. We take darshan of them as they happily graze upon the evergreen fresh grass fields. Dharam Marg itself is 802 metres in length, servicing and welcoming all Vaiṣṇava devotees and pilgrims alike. Halfway down, we begin to observe the New Gokula Goshala, which is our "Hilton for Gomata" with its substantial barns. We then come to the *japa* garden on the right, which is perfect for encouraging devotees to chant *japa*. From there we can see the children's playground, the main feature being Aghāsura, where the children are so very happily playing.

We then turn left and are now right in front of the Sri Krishna Haveli facility building, which has a footprint of just over two thousand square metres. The two magnificent *tulasī* greenhouses and the *tulasī* gardens are most beautifully prominent as we enter the north carpark. At the top of the old driveway toward the right is our George Harrison Garden. Next to it is the elegant garden dedicated to Your Divine Grace. This then takes us around the lake, with its boathouse – at which point we can take full darshan of Bhaktivedanta Manor, home of Their Supreme Lordships. We end by entering the south carpark.

All this and much more you have so kindly given us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. To have an estate consisting of 80 acres within the London area is indeed remarkable. To my knowledge, no other religious institution has such a thing.

On behalf of all the Vaiṣṇava devotees of Rādhā-Gokulānanda, we are indeed most very grateful and indebted to Their Supreme Lordships and to Your Divine Grace for providing so much facility.

However, we wish to increase and expand further and further, so within the next two years, by the time of your fiftieth *tirobhāva* celebrations, we will have revealed our plans, and so we sincerely pray to Your Divine Grace for more and more facility in order to expand Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your eternal servant,
Nīla Mādhava Dāsa, managing director of ISKCON Bhaktivedanta Manor

Bhaktivinoda Asan, Kolkata, India

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Though 1, Ultadanga Junction Road is the place where the institutionalized propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness was begun by your beloved Guru Mahārāja, as a center, we are very new, and this is our first offering to you as a center. On behalf of all the devotees I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for choosing us to serve here, though we are unqualified in every respect.

We inaugurated the center almost three years back, yet some of the detail work remained to be done. Recently, we finished it completely. From all over the world many of your disciples and many other senior devotees from ISKCON as well as the Gauḍīya Math are coming to this place and spending time with us each day. We are trying to serve them to the best of our ability.

We are also worshiping Gāndharvikā-Giridhārī here with eight offerings and subsequent *āratis* every day. So, though our center is very small, it is very dynamic. We have both congregation and youth outreach from this place. Local people are taking interest in it, and some are responding very quickly. Many are interested in its history. We are soon going to make a full-length documentary film depicting the history of this place of pilgrimage.

As of now, we are celebrating two festivals very elaborately, the Vyāsa-pūjā of your Guru Mahārāja and the Brahmotsava of the Deities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we wish to tell you that we did not do anything on a big scale here because the place is very small, the Deities are very small, and our manpower is also comparatively small. Yet, we try to do every small thing with attention to detail and the best possible quality.

I, on behalf of all the devotees here, seek your empowerment and blessings so that we can maintain the quality and increase the quantity of our service at this divine place in a spirit of love and cooperation.

Your servant,
Parānanda Dāsa, manager
1, Ultadanga Junction Road

Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You provided fallen conditioned souls the opportunity to go back to Godhead by giving the holy names and the sublime process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You are the fountainhead for fulfilling the prophecy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu: *pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma, sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma* – "In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard."

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we express our heartfelt gratitude to you and humbly report our performance over the past year, at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us the importance of building temples. Once, you were questioned about your desire to build new temples when so many already existing ones lay neglected,

abandoned, and in disrepair. Your response was illuminating: "Just as parents desire to have their own offspring even while so many children are in need of adoption, we too long to have our own temples."

Your Divine Grace will be pleased to know that a new ISKCON temple project is underway in Panvel, Navi Mumbai. It is a two-hour drive from your beloved Hare Krishna Land in Juhu. This land has been registered in ISKCON's name, and the construction of this new temple will commence soon. Also, three plots of land adjacent to our ISKCON Bhiwandi temple have been acquired, and we are working toward expanding the existing temple building along with the preaching activities, which are so dear to you. Please bless these endeavors and empower us to succeed.

You described festivals as "mothers of devotion." In line with this mood, we are celebrating all the major festivals in a grand manner, deepening visitors' experience at the temple and thus enhancing the community's spirit. This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of visitors to the temple. Visitors to ISKCON Bhiwandi have increased from two lakhs in 2023 to more than 3.5 lakhs in 2024.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you told us that for the general masses, there should be *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and *prasādam* distribution. Keeping your instructions in mind, we continue *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and *prasādam* distribution daily. More than 1,000 plates of *prasādam* are distributed daily in the Bhiwandi area. In 2024, a total of 1.18 lakhs of *mahā*-big books were distributed.

Compared to your magnanimous activities, our report is insignificantly tiny. You were asked at various places during your travels around the world if you could perform miracles, to which you replied that your true miracle was your devotees – referring to the miracle of transforming people's hearts. Those who were considered *mlecchas* became Vaiṣṇavas, and hippies turned into happies. If that wasn't a miracle, then what was! Your life is tangible proof of a spiritual miracle that defied all odds to serve Kṛṣṇa without a tinge of selfishness.

Long before the modern concept of globalization became popular, you were already a global *ācārya,* bringing the wisdom of the East to the hearts of the West, straightforward philosophical discourses without any compromise, all for the glory of Kṛṣṇa. You circled the globe fourteen times, established 108 temples as spiritual oases in the deserts of the material world, as you like to call it, and overcame financial struggles, legal battles, and opposition from local authorities, resistance from rigid communities of different faiths, and triumphed over Māyāvāda philosophers. You launched an array of spiritual welfare projects, authored volumes of transcendental books, and created a publishing empire. You made genuine spirituality practical and accessible to one and all, without discrimination.

No amount of social commentary, historical analysis, or anthropological speculation can fully explain the magnitude of your extraordinary achievements. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your message transcends the limitations of time and space, speaking to us even today. Your life and teachings remain the main pillar of strength, inspiration, and a guiding light for members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

On this most auspicious occasion of your appearance day, we feel greatly indebted to you. We humbly seek your blessings to continue serving your mission enthusiastically and fulfilling your instructions to the best of our capacity. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your insignificant servant,
Narottama Priya Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Bhiwandi

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

With great joy and gratitude, we present this annual report of ISKCON Bhopal BYC, sharing the wonderful activities and progress we have made in the past year in service to you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda Dev.

One of the most historic milestones for ISKCON Bhopal BYC this year was the grand *bhūmi-pūjān* ceremony held on March 2, 2025, for our new temple land. This auspicious event was graced by the presence of His Holiness Guru Prasād Swami Mahārāja, the GBC Chairman, His Grace Mahāmān Prabhu, and the Honorable Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Following this divine ceremony, we successfully started all temple activities on this new land, where devotees are enthusiastically engaging in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh named an important major road Swami Prabhupada Marg.

In 2024, we were blessed to conduct Jagannātha Ratha-yātrās in two major locations in Bhopal. Thousands of devotees participated, making these festivals grand successes. The streets of Bhopal echoed with the holy names of the Lord as Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Subhadrā Mahārāṇī mercifully showered their blessings upon all.

Our outreach efforts have expanded significantly. Weekly programs are being conducted in seven different places across Bhopal, bringing more people closer to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We humbly pray for your blessings so that this new project flourishes and becomes a beacon of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this region.

Furthermore, we have established four student hostels dedicated to college youth preaching – something we are striving to expand further. Our Vaishnavi Forum classes and camps are progressing nicely, providing a nurturing environment for women devotees. Many devotees are growing in their spiritual lives, regularly participating in classes and book-reading sessions, deepening their understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Our goshala, with its ten cows, has now been relocated near the temple, ensuring the cows' proper care and well-being in a spiritually enriched environment.

Our devotees have actively participated in various *yātrās* to holy places and other service initiatives. About forty of our devotees traveled to Prayagraj Kumbha Mela, rendering a week of dedicated service in various capacities. Looking ahead, a group of 120 devotees is set to embark on a Nepal *tīrtha-yātrā* in 2025. Additionally, a group of a hundred devotees successfully completed a sacred pilgrimage to the four holy *dhāmas* in Badrinath. Such spiritual journeys continue to uplift and inspire our congregation, strengthening their faith and devotion.

We regularly invite your disciples, ISKCON *sannyāsīs,* gurus, and other senior devotees to regularly guide and enlighten us with their divine wisdom. Last year we had the great fortune to associate with His Holiness Lokanath Swami Mahārāja, His Grace Mahāmān Prabhu, His Holiness Guru Prasād Swami Mahārāja, His Holiness Bhakti Kevala Gopendra Mahārāja, His Grace Rādheśyama Prabhu, and many other senior devotees. We humbly pray for your continued blessings so that, united as a team, we can further expand your movement. Our aspirations include establishing more centers in nearby areas, constructing a larger temple, and providing better facilities for all the devotees who visit the temple. Your causeless mercy remains our beacon of hope and inspiration. May we always walk the path illumined by Your Divine Grace.

With hearts filled with gratitude and determination, we pray for your continued guidance and blessings. May ISKCON Bhopal BYC continue to serve your mission with unwavering enthusiasm, and may the new Kolar project grow into a thriving center of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, bringing countless souls to the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda Dev.

Your humble servant,
Rasānanda Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees of ISKCON Bhopal BYC

Bogotá, Colombia

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement!

On this auspicious day of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, on behalf of our ISKCON Bogotá community we want to give enormous thanks for your mercy and compassion toward us and all conditioned souls in this material world. In this year 2025, we are celebrating eight years of having started this humble preaching project which, thanks to your blessings, we have been able to carry out throughout these years. We have managed to build a beautiful community, which has become established as the main axis for the distribution of your transcendental books, the congregational chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, and the transcendental distribution of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*.

We are around one hundred people or more who make up this vibrant community, and for three years we have been operating from a beautiful house located in an exclusive sector of our city of Bogotá – a place we consider an attempt to worthily represent the caliber of your position as founder-*ācārya*. We take this auspicious opportunity to humbly plead for your blessings to overcome all the challenges that currently arise and that could jeopardize the continuity of this preaching project. We know that any difficulties that arise are nothing more than the result of our lack of experience and low level of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but since we also know that your heart is unlimitedly merciful, we beg you to forgive our mistakes and allow us to continue to have the great privilege of representing your glorious ISKCON mission in this city.

Always aspiring to remain your servants,
ISKCON Community in Bogotá
(written by Harināma Gaurāṅga Dāsa, temple president)

Bon Acceuil, Mauritius

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

All glories to you. All glories to the most auspicious celebration of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

129 years ago, in the year 1896, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, to fulfill the prediction He made as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that His holy name would be chanted in every town and village, sent you, one of His close associates, to this material world.

You met your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, when you were a *gṛhastha,* age 26, and during your very first meeting with him, he gave you the instruction to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the English-speaking people in the Western countries. This instruction you took to heart and made it the mission of your life.

Despite the many challenges, you always had this instruction kept with all seriousness within your heart, and you spent a lifetime preparing to fulfill your spiritual master's instruction. And among those instructions, the instruction to print spiritual books was the mission of your life. You started printing BTG magazine in 1944. Singlehandedly, you conceived, wrote, edited, and typed the articles for the magazine. Not only this, but you alone distributed this magazine to the people of Delhi. Now by the grace of your disciples, BTG magazine is printed and distributed in millions of copies around the world and in several languages.

In 1965, at the age of 70, you took the bold decision to fulfill your Guru Mahārāja's instruction and went to America to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness. At that time, you were residing at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara Mandir, one of the most desirable places one can imagine to live. You had every reason to remain there for the rest of your life, especially at your advanced age, when one normally thinks of a peaceful retirement. However, you chose to sacrifice your comfort and take all risks and trouble to travel to America aboard a cargo ship – it wasn't even a passenger ship. You had two heart attacks along the way, but these did not prevent you from pursuing your mission.

While in America you encountered countless obstacles in your mission, but because you had full faith in Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and His holy name, you were able to surpass all difficulties and successfully establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness in America and around the world. You are indeed the greatest personality of the modern era.

By your grace, we were also touched by this most contagious Kṛṣṇa consciousness through your devotees and have thus been saved from going down into the dark pit of ignorance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we also are trying to share Kṛṣṇa conscious philosophy with the people around us through *harināma* and other means here in Mauritius, and we feel ourselves blessed to be part of this most important mission, which was inaugurated by Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself in the form of Lord Caitanya.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we can pursue this most noble mission and share the fortune of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the people of Mauritius. Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*! Śrīla Prabhupāda Vyāsa-pūjā *mahā-mahotsava kī jaya*!

Your servant,
Rasika Chandra Dāsa,
Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir, Bon Acceuil, Mauritius

Brahmapur, Orissa, India

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

I am very grateful to you for everything. Getting the human form of life is a great fortune, and getting an opportunity to practice spirituality is a bigger fortune. But practicing spirituality under your guidance by reading your books, hearing your lectures, and following your disciples is the greatest fortune.

You came to this material world only on Kṛṣṇa's request, as you yourself said. Delivering modern conditioned souls is very difficult. But when we see your techniques – how you preached to people – we get a lot of inspiration and encouragement.

Presently, we are serving at ISKCON Brahmapur under the guidance of His Grace Pañcaratna Prabhu (the disciple of His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja). This year we will try to finish our work on the bookstall, the panel room, security room, office room, and small snacks room. We will also try to do more book distribution and try to finish whatever pending construction work there is.

Please forgive us our offenses. Please be merciful to us by showering your blessings. We promise to try to work harder to fulfill your mission.

Your servant,
Manikishore Dāsa

Bratislava, Slovakia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

It is always difficult not only to find words but also to keep the mind calm and focused in sincere remembrance of you. It is often appropriate, when remembering you, to reflect on what would have happened to this world if you had not graciously appeared and traveled from India to America.

In the light of the ideas of your teachings, the daily efforts of those who want to enjoy this world with the dogma of a concept of human happiness focused only on the duration of one human life are a sad demonstration of their perverted values.

Every intelligent person who understands the value of your message, which you brought like a gem to a market of ordinary stones, must immediately consider, if not glow with joy, that there is a much better world and way of thinking, thanks to which we are not forced to suffer under the pressure of the threefold miseries of *ādhidaivika, ādhyātmikā,* and *ādhibhautika* (*Bhāgavatam* 5.14.25). No one escapes this suffering, and each of us has to bear it day by day, without knowing how much we will suffer. The temples you established and the disciples you initiated are like oases of peace, tranquility, and transcendental happiness.

The more I identify, after years of devotional service, with the teachings you left us, the more I realize how important the change is that must take place in each of us so that we can at least, to some extent, teach others who are still searching and do not have the answers to their life's problems.

This change is important also so that we can fulfill among ourselves the vision you carefully instilled in ISKCON. The vision is clear only when we fully understand it, and this can only be achieved by sincerely following your teachings.

The power of taking refuge at your lotus feet also allows sufferers to see their suffering in a different context and sequence of events. You have always been there for all who have questions and are searching in this lost world, and you have had the incredible understanding and patience of a loving father who endlessly explains to his children so that they understand and mature.

We want to be happy, but if we do not surrender to what you have taught us, what hope is there? Surrender means constantly realizing that our desires and actions are not independent.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura writes in one of his songs in *Śaraṇāgati:*

mānasa, deha, geha, yo kichu mora
arpiluṅ tuyā pade nanda-kiśora!

If we are serious about Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then we must surrender, as you taught us by your own example. We must surrender with everything we have – mind, body, home, and everything else.

Now, as I conclude this description of celebrating your grace, I realize how easy it is to lose the right direction by the right example when we are not fully determined and prepared. If we forget you, we are lost.

An insignificant servant of your servants,
Īśvara Candra Dāsa, on behalf of ISKCON Goloka
Bratislava, Slovakia

Brunei

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our dearest ever well-wisher,

śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala-bhakati-sadma,
vandoṅ mui sāvadhāna mate
yāhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava toriyā yāi,
kṛṣṇa-prāpti haya yāhā haite

> The lotus feet of our spiritual master are the only way by which we can attain pure devotional service. I bow to his lotus feet with great awe and reverence. By his grace one can cross the ocean of material suffering and obtain the mercy of Kṛṣṇa.

The *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 7.83) states:

kṛṣṇa-nāma-mahā-mantrera ei ta' svabhāva
yei jape, tāra kṛṣṇe upajaye bhāva

> It is the nature of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* that anyone who chants it immediately develops his loving ecstasy for Kṛṣṇa.

In your purport you write, "A neophyte disciple begins by hearing and chanting, associating with devotees and practicing the regulative principles, and thus he vanquishes all of his unwanted bad habits. In this way he develops attachment for Kṛṣṇa and cannot forget Kṛṣṇa even for a moment. *Bhāva* is the almost successful stage of spiritual life."

Its only by your boundless kindness, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that our small, diverse group here in Brunei, a tiny, almost invisible speck on the world, finds the inspiration to take up the process of chanting and hearing.

With your divine blessings and grace we started a second weekly *Bhagavad-gītā* study session on Tuesdays for another group of expat colleagues from the oil industry and their families. We come together to read the profound verses, translations, and nectarean purports by Your Divine Grace, and to hear one another's reflections. Now, we have two such *Bhagavad-gītā* study sessions each week – on Saturdays and now Tuesdays – where new members, friends from the expat community, join with eagerness and devotion.

And it's only through your causeless mercy that we've also started small congregational Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* sixteen-round *japa* sessions on Ekādaśīs. It's a humble attempt to encourage our new members from the expat community to deepen their spiritual connection

Through your boundless grace a new endeavor has blossomed: interactive, fun, storytelling *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes designed for children ages 6–12. Every Friday evening, with the enthusiastic support of mothers from among the new members of the expat community, we gather to share the wondrous tales of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in a fun and engaging way. These Friday evenings are a delight, with both children and their mothers utterly captivated by hearing and discussing the enchanting *līlās* of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, followed by the honoring of much-awaited snack *prasādam*.

The auspicious month of Dāmodara continues to be the most joyful and busiest time of the year. Last Kārttika, more than 200 ghee lamps were offered to Lord Dāmodara in various home gatherings. These personal gatherings have stirred enthusiasm to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* bringing a quiet but deep sense of connection among the new members in the expat community.

Just as in years past, our Govardhana-pūjā celebration was filled with devotion, where we offered our deepest respects to Lord Giridhārī, who, in the form of the Annakūṭa, cast His loving gaze and mercy upon each member of our diverse expat family. This indoor gathering is something our new members look forward to each year.

Our Sunday evening gatherings continue to grow, especially among our Bangladeshi expat community, who enthusiastically offer *tulasī-ārati,* Gaura-*ārati,* and Nṛsiṁha-*ārati* and hold soulful *kīrtana*. Together, we chant a round of the *mahā-mantra,* share a brief reflection on the *Bhagavad-gītā,* and partake in a delicious *prasādam* meal. It warms one's heart to see some new attendees feeling inspired to turn away from meat-eating, and others eagerly asking for *japa* beads, ready to embark on their own personal journey of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* in their homes.

And truly inspiring is the heartfelt devotion of some members among the Bangladeshi tradesmen community. Despite their long and arduous workdays, sometimes ending as late as 11 P.M., they gather in small groups of up to ten persons and sing *harināma kīrtanas*. Their sincerity, their simple but deep faith, is truly humbling and inspiring.

With a deep-seated commitment, vibrant eagerness, and sincere enthusiasm, we dedicate ourselves to the task of fulfilling your instructions, recognizing that even within the stringent rules and regulations of the conservative Islamic country in which we live, our ability to partake in the aforementioned, entirely indoor initiatives is solely by your grace. We sincerely offer our heartfelt prayers for your benevolence to guide our steps in the way you have shown, as it is only through your compassion that any progress is made in these unique circumstances.

On this sacred and auspicious day of your appearance, we humbly seek sanctuary at your feet, which is the only true shelter and our sole source of strength and ability.

Your insignificant servants of the servants of your servants,
Cakradhārī Kānāi Dāsa and devotees of the Brunei *yātrā*

Bucharest, Romania

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you!

Thank you for everything you did and are doing for us, your children. By your mercy we are growing to understand the limitless good fortune you bestowed upon us simply by your sincere endeavor to serve your beloved spiritual master. It is due to you that we have come to understand the real meaning of *causeless* mercy. It is clear that we don't deserve anything you gave us only because we have done some pious or spiritual activities in the past. Now we bow down at your lotus feet and pray that we shall be able to represent you and distribute, according to our limited capabilities, this great ocean of bliss, Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

You established yourself as an actual authority for everyone. Nobody is used to submitting to others; they submit only to their own senses and concoctions. Most people have a sense that there is more to this world than quarrel and hypocrisy, but there is no actual proof of this. Everyone wants to believe there is, but when you were present, the world was getting more and more difficult. That's still happening. In these times, voices rise to declare that reality bends to personal will, and each soul claims the throne of divinity. The name of Kṛṣṇa, once exulted, is cast aside, while fleeting pride takes its place upon the altar. Without the grace of your divine descent into this world, such illusions would have ensnared us, leading hearts astray into shadows of falsehood and despair. Without your divine presence in this world, the supreme treasure – Śrī Kṛṣṇa – would have remained hidden from our hearts. The path to liberation from the shackles of the material realm, the escape from all that binds us to death, would have remained a distant dream.

It is through your infinite grace that the truth of an eternal life of unending joy alongside our most cherished friend and beloved Śrī Kṛṣṇa has been revealed. To your lotus feet, radiant with boundless blessings, eternal gratitude and devotion flow, for they grant the highest benedictions to all who seek shelter.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as we strive to continue the mission you began, we are often struck by the magnitude of your courage and brilliance. You ventured into uncharted territory, coming to the West in 1965 with no support, no resources, and only a typewriter, some books, and a firm conviction in Kṛṣṇa's mercy. The audience you faced was unfamiliar and, in many ways, indifferent or even resistant to spiritual ideas. Yet you fearlessly spoke the eternal truths of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Against all odds, you ignited hearts, transformed lives, and established a worldwide movement that still flourishes today.

For us, in an age when spirituality seems to have gained more mainstream interest, we find a peculiar challenge. Though there are more seekers, it feels harder to connect with them, harder to find our public. This paradox humbles us, reminding us of your divine vision and grace. You were not a normal person; you possessed extraordinary strength, intelligence, and compassion.

When we look at examples from your life – such as how you began the first ISKCON temple at a small storefront on New York City's Second Avenue, or how you turned hippies into "happies" through your loving engagement, it becomes clear that your success was not simply a matter of human endeavor. It was your unwavering faith, your deep love for Kṛṣṇa, and your boundless mercy toward humanity.

You are not only our spiritual master and eternal guide, but in the depths of our hearts, you are cherished as the loving father who gave the most precious gift: the gift of purpose and true direction in life. Your unwavering compassion and dedication shine as the ultimate example, a divine wellspring of inspiration that fills our lives with meaning.

Without the treasure of your words, spoken through your books and lectures, our existence would be adrift, lost in the vast ocean of material delusion. The nectar that flows from your divine lips nourishes our souls, providing solace, strength, and clarity in this world clouded by ignorance.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, grant even the faintest glimmer of your unshakable courage and boundless wisdom, so that we may become humble instruments in fulfilling your sacred desire – to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every corner of the world. To your lotus feet, the ultimate refuge, we offer our eternal gratitude and pray for your blessings.

By observing your life and conduct, we can so easily purify ourselves from the contamination of the modes of material nature. Every breath you brought to this world was full of inspiration to serve the Lord and strength to learn how to love Him. What can be said about your glorious glance, which sends Māyā very far from our hearts? We yearn to see your glance more than we yearn for another breath!

You transformed our conditioned life from being driven by our selfish desires to being driven by the love of Kṛṣṇa and His devotees. By your love, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are now standing straight and tall, overcoming our material desires and transforming them into sincere spiritual feeling. You made the impossible possible. You made our original, natural state of being natural again. We pray only to get your association more and more, life after life, and become more intimately connected with Your Divine Grace.

But beyond everything you have done for us, we really love you for your personality. We do appreciate that you were never a person who thinks small, but we are also grateful for your simplicity, great intelligence, sense of humor, ability to create remarkable relationships not only with spiritual people but also with ordinary people. Independent of all your realizations, I am very happy that I have come to know that a person like you has lived in this world. A person who simply wanted to live for the pleasure of the Supreme Lord, without selfish desire does not come from this world. In this world, everyone is motivated to do things with a desire to satisfy themselves, but your very life is a great example of someone whose life-breath was for pleasing his spiritual master. For this reason, we shall forever celebrate your presence in our lives.

I shall remain forever grateful and prostrate at your wish-fulfilling lotus feet, begging for your mercy to first and foremost bless our community in Bucharest, Romania, and the entirety of Romania, to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide and to establish your divine mission, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that every Romanian may come to know the grandeur of your movement. Please keep us under your divine care and gaze and bestow upon us the strength to preach naturally, lovingly, and with humility. On behalf of the Bucharest *yātrā* in Romania, I offer my most humble and respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your humble servant,
Śyāmasundara Dāsa

Burlington, Ontario, Canada

Our dearest ever well-wisher, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the 129th anniversary celebration of your appearance.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (10.22.35), spoken by Lord Kṛṣṇa, beautifully describes the qualities of a tree, especially patience, tolerance, and selflessness:

aho eṣāṁ varaṁ janma
sarva -prāṇy-upajīvanam
su-janasyeva yeṣāṁ vai
vimukhā yānti nārthinaḥ

> Just see how these trees are maintaining every living entity! Their birth is successful. Their behavior is just like that of great personalities, for anyone who asks anything from a tree never goes away disappointed.

Your Divine Grace, on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we submit this humble offering in a mood of tolerance and surrender, exemplified by a tree: *taror api sahiṣṇunā.* The tree is the perfect symbol of tolerance, as it provides shelter, fruit, and shade to everyone without distinction, despite being cut, pruned, or harmed. In a similar way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you showed the utmost tolerance in your service to Kṛṣṇa and surrendered yourself completely to His will.

The tree is a symbol of patience, tolerance, and mercy. Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the same way, you tolerated so many hardships in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness across the globe, never showing any signs of anger or resentment, always focusing on the higher goal of pleasing Kṛṣṇa and guru. You embodied the qualities of the tree in your life of service to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for ISKCON Burlington, we humbly submit three key challenges and three opportunities over the course of last year:

Challenges:

1. Lack of active participation in temple activities: getting the congregation to be more involved in planning/executing festivals, and to be more enthusiastic in giving their time, service, or donations.
2. Not many initiated devotees, which puts more load on initiated devotees to do more frequent *āratis,* classes, and *kīrtanas*.
3. Smaller congregation compared to most other centers – meaning more responsibility falls on the temple council.

Opportunities:

1. New families visit each week: encourage them to become regulars.
2. Utilize social media to attract attention: a great opportunity to develop and connect through social media.
3. Organize volunteer initiatives that involve serving the local community and attract the attention of potential devotees.

One often overlooked quality of a tree is that it always stands naked. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, like the tree, in front of you we are "naked" – that is, we are devoid of any good qualities or qualifications to serve you as per your desires. As such, our main goal at ISKCON Burlington is to imbibe the sublime mood of united cooperation in devotional service and unalloyed commitment to your instructions.

By your grace, since writing last year's Vyāsa-pūjā offering, ISKCON Burlington has progressed in its outreach efforts. Your center held a successful fourth Ratha-yātrā. Devotees go out monthly on book distribution, and our book scores have increased over last year's. Further growth has occurred in terms of numbers of in-person and virtual Vedic classes, and in the children's Vedic fun school.

We humbly pray for your blessings so that we may assist you, with unwavering determination, in fulfilling the mission of Lord Caitanya. Thank you very much for the greatest benediction: the opportunity to serve ISKCON's worldwide family. Hare Kṛṣṇa, our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The insignificant servants of your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Burlington

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On behalf of all Calgary devotees, please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

As we gather on this sacred day of your divine appearance beneath the same stars that witnessed your arrival in this world 129 years ago, our hearts overflow with gratitude. In the harsh Canadian winters, where temperatures plunge to -30°C, your teachings burn like a spiritual fire that warms our souls and illuminates our path back to Kṛṣṇa – our eternal home.

You transformed what seemed impossible into divine reality – bringing Caitanya Mahāprabhu's teachings from the ancient streets of Vrindavan to the modern skylines of cities worldwide. When you arrived at Boston Harbor in 1965 with only forty rupees and your unwavering faith, who could have imagined that your movement would one day flourish even in the remote western provinces of Canada? Yet here we stand, living proof of your spiritual vision manifested against all material odds.

Learning about your struggles, including rejection, multiple setbacks, and suffering heart attacks provides us with immeasurable strength. When we face challenges in our spiritual

practices amid the distractions of modern Calgary, we remember how you typed or dictated your manuscripts through the night despite all obstacles, and our resolve is renewed.

An ancient Sanskrit verse perfectly describes your divine compassion:

mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ
paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande
paramānanda-mādhavam

By the mercy of the guru, the dumb can speak eloquently and the lame can cross mountains. Just as you transformed hippies into happies, you continue to transform ordinary Calgarians from diverse backgrounds – engineers in the oil industry, students at the universities, families in the suburbs – into devotees seeking Kṛṣṇa's love.

On this auspicious occasion marking your appearance in this world, ISKCON Calgary humbly presents our annual offerings at your lotus feet:

The bitter cold of Alberta winters does not deter our book distributors, who have increased their distribution by 10 percent each year. Your transcendental literature is now distributed in corporate towers and rural communities alike. We've placed your books in unique locations, including major hospitals, provincial correctional facilities, senior care facilities, and university campuses.

Following your explicit instruction that "books are the basis," we have established many new study circles focused on systematic reading. During the darkest winter nights, when the sun sets before 5 P.M., devotees gather in homes across the city to illuminate their consciousness with your words, creating islands of spiritual light in the snow.

As promised during last year's Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, ISKCON management has secured a spectacular property for our new temple of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava and Śrīnāthjī. We are happy to report that we have seen overwhelmingly positive response from the local congregation and received support from local organizations. There is still a long way to go, but we are confident that through your boundless mercy, we will succeed in this most important project that will ensure that ISKCON Calgary's vision is realized and we will continue to nourish the souls of countless current and future generations.

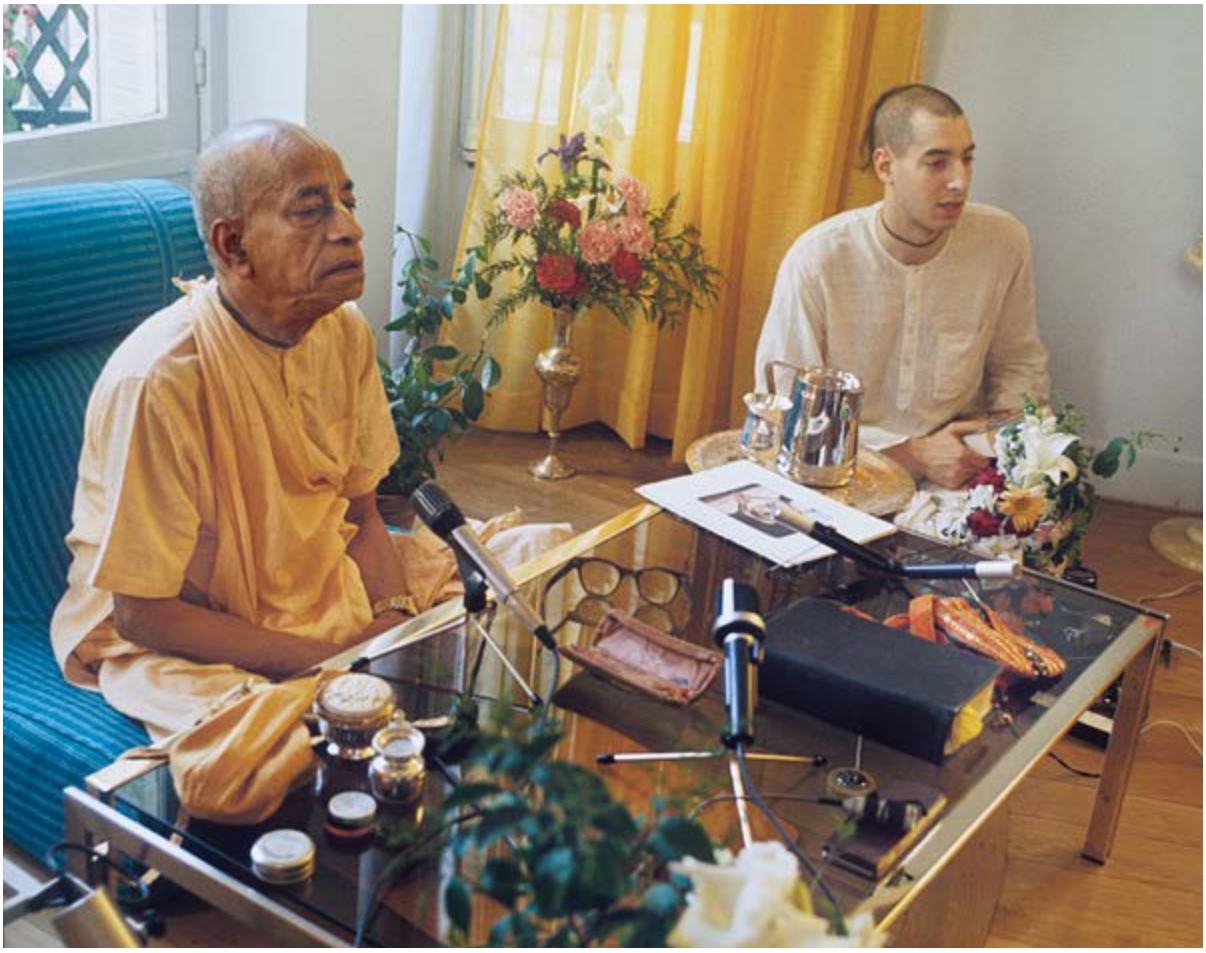
The Calgary Vedic Academy has become recognized for excellence even among nondevotee educators. Our six concurrent programs now serve devotees from toddlerhood through adulthood, with specialized curricula for each age group. The 130 current students represent various nationalities, reflecting your vision of a spiritual movement transcending all material designations.

Our outreach has expanded to include weekly *saṅkīrtana* parties, where hundreds witness the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra resounding among the downtown skyscrapers – creating scenes reminiscent of your first public *kīrtana* at Tompkins Square Park.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam classes now regularly attract many attendees weekly, with online viewers occasionally joining from across the globe. We've welcomed distinguished speakers, including senior disciples who share memories of you, creating a living connection between generations of devotees.

Our Janmāṣṭamī festivities last year drew over 5,000 attendees, many of whom were experiencing Kṛṣṇa consciousness for the first time. The annual twenty-four-hour and monthly six-hour *kīrtanas* have continued without pause, with devotees participating with utmost enthusiasm and devotion to maintain the unbroken chain of divine sound vibration – a testament to the dedication you inspired.

As taught in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (9.27), "Whatever you do, whatever you eat, whatever you offer or give away, and whatever austerities you perform – do that, O son of Kuntī, as an offering to



Me." In this spirit, ISKCON Calgary remains steadfastly dedicated to offering all our activities in service to your divine mission.

tvaṁ gopikā vṛṣaraves tanayāntike 'si
sevādhikāriṇi guro nija-pāda-padme
dāsyaṁ pradāya kuru māṁ vraja-kānane śrī-
rādhāṅghri-sevana-rase sukhinīṁ sukhābdhau

O beloved spiritual master, ever present with Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, daughter of King Vṛṣabhānu, please grant us service at your lotus feet, the bestowers of devotional service. Place us in the ocean of transcendental joy through the nectar of serving Śrī Rādhā in the groves of Vraja-dhāma. (*Guru-stuti*)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when the first snowfall blankets our city each year, transforming it into a glistening white landscape, we are reminded of your pure devotion, which transforms hearts. Like those snowflakes – each unique, yet part of a beautifully unified display – we are individual souls united in your service.

We are mere pebbles carried by time's current. Without you, we have no shelter, no capacity, and would be utterly lost in this world of darkness and ignorance. Though separated by time and space, we feel your presence guiding our community with each sunrise. Please keep us at your lotus feet and bless us to continue serving your mission for generations to come.

Your most fallen servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Calgary

Caracas, Venezuala

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! Dear father, only refuge of fallen souls,

Your divine appearance is a new hope, a great wave in the flood of *gaura-prema* that will cover the entire universe.

O ocean of mercy, thanks to you we have met Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, Nityānanda Prabhu, and all Their associates. It is thanks to you that we have met Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

You have come from the divine land of Vrindavan to these Western countries to fulfill the wish of your divine spiritual master. You dazzled us with your absolute and beautiful devotion to his instructions, uniting each of your breaths with Lord Caitanya's relief mission to the fallen souls.

Please hear our prayer and forgive our offenses. Lead us to purely chant the holy name of the Lord. Your Divine Grace is like a drop of nectar upon our dry hearts, a lightning bolt that illuminates our dark consciousness, a balm upon our wounds. You accept our insignificant and unworthy offerings and bring them to the feet of the Lord. Purify our hearts so that we may be better instruments in your mission. Grant that we may serve you birth after birth. Turn your gaze upon us and accept the humble offering of those of us who aspire to be your eternal servants at the Caracas *mandira*.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your fame extends throughout the three worlds.

Your servants in Caracas

Carriere, Mississippi, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We wish to offer our most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet, which traversed this land of New Tālavana on August 1, 1975. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

As this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of your visit to New Tālavana, we reflect on our great fortune in having your recorded words from that day still extant – both from the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class you gave and from the walk you took around the farm – along with many

photos, including the iconic one of you spontaneously cooking a simple lunch with the few garden vegetables that were available. You gave us directions for farming and *varṇāśrama-dharma* – instructions we're still trying to implement.

In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class that morning (on 6.1.49), you said:

> So they are simply interested in the present body: does not care what is going to happen, and has no knowledge what he was before.... *Pramattaḥ*, just like madman.... So this civilization, modern civilization, is just like madman civilization. They have no knowledge of past life, neither they are interested in the future life. *Nūnaṁ pramattaḥ kurute vikarma*. And fully engaged in sinful activities, because they have no knowledge of the past life.... So our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is to raise a person from ignorance to knowledge.... By the association of devotee we awaken our inquisitiveness about God.... Therefore those who have got enlightenment, they should try to raise these rascals who are in ignorance. That is Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission.... So take this knowledge seriously and at least distribute this knowledge properly for the benefit of your people. Otherwise the world is in very, very precarious condition, and although the human form of life is obtained for the success of life, they are being kept purposefully or ignorantly in darkness.... So those who are devotees of Kṛṣṇa, they should take charge, that "These rascals are suffering. Let them have some idea about Kṛṣṇa." That is wanted. This is Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.... Now, this place I see, although I have not seen all, is a nice place. And the *gṛhasthas* may come here, have some small cottage, and grow your own food grains, vegetables, and have your cow's milk. Get nice foodstuff, save time.... Stick to this spot and grow your own food, your own cloth, and live peacefully, save time, chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. Very nice program. This is actual life.... So if you show practical example that how you are living simple life and how you are advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then people will learn from you. You American people, if you show example, people will try to follow you, and they will be happy. So I am very glad to see this farm. Develop it nicely, live peacefully and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Although we are an understaffed (and aged) group, we have faith in your instruction to "stick to this spot and ... show practical example that how you are living simple life and how you are advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then ... people will try to follow you."

We cannot claim to be advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but we sincerely pray to be your loyal servants, even birth after birth, to bring your vision for New Tālavana into the focal point of the public. Then your unlimited mercy and compassion can be known to all as they discover that your teachings are the only solution for a madman civilization which is increasingly in a very precarious condition.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your causeless mercy upon us, despite our shortcomings and inadequacies.

Your aspiring servants at your New Tālavana farm community

Cebu, Philippines

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi

> By the mercy of the spiritual master one is benedicted by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your humble servants at the ISKCON Cebu *yātrā,* offer our humble obeisances unto your divine lotus feet. It is by your mercy alone that we have come in contact with this most rare and precious gift: Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our *jagad-guru,* the savior of the fallen, the expert and merciful captain who has guided the fallen souls of this world across the ocean of material existence. You have fulfilled the prophecy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu that the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* would be heard in every town and village. By your divine grace, even in this distant land of Cebu, the glorious *saṅkīrtana* movement has taken root. Your mercy is unfathomable, and our debt to you is beyond measure.

When you set foot in the Philippines in the 1970s, you planted the seeds of bhakti that have flourished slowly but never dissipated. It is evident that the influence of Kali-yuga is very strong in our region. However, your disciples, imbued with your spirit of compassion and unwavering dedication, have tirelessly carried your mission forward. Through their service, we – unworthy and fallen as we are – have found our connection to the *guru-paramparā* and been given the opportunity to serve in Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* mission. It is only by your divine mercy that a region such as ours, a land of *mlecchas,* could receive such immense great fortune.

As I reflect on my childhood, having been born and raised at ISKCON Philippines I have seen the struggles, growth, and development of our *yātrā*. The Cebu *yātrā* is where ISKCON was first established by your disciples after meeting two locals. One of these was my mother, Jayaśrī Devī Dāsī. Having witnessed the Philippine *yātrā's* history, I am extremely humbled and grateful for having been given the opportunity to grow up in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Through four decades of trying to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness, I have fallen countless times and gone astray. But by the mercy of your faithful disciples and other local senior Vaiṣṇavas, your loving society has continued to give me and many similar individuals at the Cebu *yātrā* countless chances to rectify and continue to serve you and ISKCON. Through these years I have developed such a deep respect and appreciation for what you have established for our *yātrā* and feel eternally indebted, like so many individuals in our region.

Despite the challenges of establishing Kṛṣṇa consciousness in a land steeped in material struggle, your mercy is a ray of hope that helps us to persevere, helped by your beloved disciples, who reflect your expertise and training and who faithfully execute your instructions. The path to perfection is not easy. The forces of *māyā* constantly test our resolve, and the burden of low birth and past conditioning weighs heavily upon us. But through your divine guidance, and by the strength of your instructions, we take shelter in guru, *sādhu,* and *śāstra,* finding solace and courage to continue this sacred spiritual journey. Your books are our eternal lighthouse, illuminating the darkness of ignorance and guiding us toward the ultimate goal of life: pure devotional service to Kṛṣṇa.

As we offer this homage, we reflect on the unimaginable grace you bestowed upon us. Who could have thought that Kṛṣṇa consciousness would reach a place like Cebu? That temples,

nāmahaṭṭa groups, and devotee communities would emerge here, enabling so many souls to chant the holy names of the Lord? This is your miracle, Śrīla Prabhupāda. And we, as your children, pray that we may remain forever engaged in serving your ISKCON family, never faltering in our determination to advance in spiritual life and follow your instructions.

On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we humbly beg for your continued blessings and offer two humble projects. The first, is the acquisition of a 7,600-sqare-meter property donated by Ācārya Dāsa, a disciple of Tamal Krishna Goswami, to develop a Kṛṣṇa conscious farm community in Bogo, Northern Cebu Province, where we worship our former *padayātrā* Deities, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. The second is a newly established preaching center in Mandaue City, Cebu, where devotees and guests worship newly installed twelve-inch brass Deities of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

We have also established *harināmas* and *bhajanas* two or three times a week at the Plaza Independencia Park and Fort San Pedro, with the official support of the local authorities and the interfaith organization of Cebu City, inspired by the most glorious story of how you began to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Tompkins Square Park in New York City. We are humbled to see how much sacrifice you underwent just to save all of us. Please give us the same strength, inspiration, and impetus to bear all trials and tribulations that come with practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness and developing these projects. Please allow us to remain steadfast in our *sādhana,* unwavering in our faith, fearless in spreading the glories of the holy name, and confident in distributing your books, for without your mercy and guidance we cannot succeed due to our very unfortunate material conditioning.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are forever indebted to you. From the depths of our hearts we offer you our sincerest gratitude, our most heartfelt and humble obeisances, and our unwavering pledge to serve your divine mission. We beg you to use us as instruments in Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement.

All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to the eternal servant of Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga!

Aspiring to always be in your service,
Gopāl Kṛṣṇa Dāsa
Cebu, Philippines

Central New Jersey, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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 our *param-guru,* Śrīla Prabhupāda.

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. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 1.45)

śikṣā-guruke ta' jāni kṛṣṇera svarūpa
antaryāmī, bhakta-śreṣṭha, – ei dui rūpa

> One should know the instructing spiritual master to be the Personality of Kṛṣṇa. Lord Kṛṣṇa manifests Himself as the Supersoul and as the greatest devotee of the Lord. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 1.47)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and the preeminent teacher (*śikṣā-guru*) and ultimate authority in our Society, you have a unique relationship with every ISKCON devotee. You left a legacy of instructions through your books, lectures, and letters on each and every aspect of devotional service to the Supreme Lord and the practical aspects of running an organization.

You left behind key systems of spiritual practice, governance, and community engagement, emphasizing bhakti-yoga, or devotion to Kṛṣṇa, performed through profound and clear processes of chanting, temple worship, and the distribution of literature.

Śrīmān Mahāprabhu chose you to be an ambassador of His mission and vision (*mora senāpati*) because you are an ocean of fine Vaiṣṇava qualities. We can experience these good qualities in your personal interactions with your disciples, followers, and the people in general. By coming in touch with your transcendental books, your *vapu,* we became very fortunate. In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.1.15), Śaunaka and other sages glorify Sūta Gosvāmī by describing the potency of a pure devotee:

yat-pāda-saṁśrayāḥ sūta
munayaḥ praśamāyanāḥ
sadyaḥ punanty upaspṛṣṭāḥ
svardhuny-āpo 'nusevayā

> O Sūta, those great sages who have completely taken shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord can at once sanctify those who come in touch with them, whereas the waters of the Ganges can sanctify only after prolonged use.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are very proud of being your warriors. Recently, at the Kumbha Mela, the *sannyāsī* community gave you the title *jagad-guru* – the one and only spiritual master for the whole world – seeing how you have changed the entire world, and no other guru had ever done this before. Even Rāmānujācārya, the most renowned spiritual master recorded in history, couldn't achieve what you achieved within such a short time.

Your glories are unlimited. Your divine BBT purports – your transcendental ecstasies – touched my heart, and many millions of living entities are being transformed by them. These purports and your divine classes on the *Gītā, Nectar of Devotion, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* are so electrifying that they propel us deeper and deeper into Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your words make us more surrendered and give us much renewed energy to serve your mission in the association of your disciples, granddisciples, great-granddisciples, and other Vaiṣṇavas in loving, humble cooperation. We are learning so much from your personal letters and the purports of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. Your concern that devotees work cooperatively to serve the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu is touching to our heart and soul. We experience that without cooperation, neither we nor the community grows. That is the success of disciplic succession. As you wrote, "There is only one guru, who appears in an infinity of forms to teach you, me, and all others."

In the *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad* (1.2.12) it is said:

tad-vijñānārthaṁ sa gurum evābhigacchet
samit-pāṇiḥ srotriyaṁ 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.

A few lines from your homage to your spiritual master are reflective:

> Absolute is sentient
> Thou hast proved.
> Impersonal calamity
> Thou hast removed…
>
> Had you not come,
> Who had told
> The message of Krishna
> Forceful and bold?…
>
> The line of service
> As drawn by you,
> Is pleasing and healthy
> Like morning dew.
> The oldest of all,
> But in new dress.
> Miracle done,
> Your Divine Grace.

At ISKCON of Central New Jersey, as a humble offering to you and our spiritual masters, we started our center in 2004 – from a once-a-week rental facility to a full-fledged temple by 2015. This year on Balarāma Pūrṇimā we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara. We are blessed with the manifestation of the most beautiful Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, *choṭa* Śrī Śrī Rādhe-Śyāma, and *choṭa* Śrī Pañca-tattva.

We are a vibrant community with more than one hundred initiated disciples. We celebrate all major festivals, including three Ratha-yātrās each year; have weekend warriors, who go out on book distribution, with an offering of more than five thousand hardbound books distributed in 2024. More than ten *bhakti-vrikshas* cultivate two hundred congregants each week. We have daily morning and evening virtual śāstric *saṅgas,* a vibrant Sunday school consisting of five classes, with more than one hundred students taking advantage of spiritual education from their childhood. The youth coordinate *kīrtana* events, and there is a Bhakti club at the university that attracts thousands. Govinda's catering and restaurant provides sanctified food to hundreds; fully installed solar panels support the temple's Go Green initiative; and an upcoming *tulasī* room will be built later this year. These are some of the humble offerings at your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us about the four pillars of our Society: "Purity is the force," "Utility is the principle," "Books are the basis," and "Preaching is the essence." Every day we try to strengthen these pillars. However, due to our inability and weakness, our progress is very slow. Our preaching activities attract many new devotees to our center. We distribute books in new venues. We finish our rounds in the morning and utilize our facility to serve communities. We are eagerly seeking your mercy. Please guide us, bless us, show us the path. We just want to follow you – only you – your words, your instructions, your standards, and your footsteps. Without your mercy, nothing is possible. But with your mercy, everything is possible.

The savior of the whole world, Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

The devotees at ISKCON of Central New Jersey

Chandigarh and Panchkula, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. On this most blessed and auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā we bow our heads in gratitude for your immeasurable mercy upon the entire world.

One does not ordinarily begin practicing bhakti-yoga unless he has cultivated it in previous births. Moreover, one can only truly take to devotional service by the mercy of both the spiritual master and Kṛṣṇa: *guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja* (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 19.151). The seed of bhakti is received by the grace of guru and Kṛṣṇa, and in this age, you have been the most merciful instrument of the divine will. You made the rare and precious gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness easily accessible to all, transcending barriers of nationality, race, and background. Though the teachings of bhakti were always present, it was through Your Divine Grace that Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission spread so widely and powerfully across the globe.

You are the *senāpati-bhakta* – the great commander of Lord Caitanya's army – leading the charge in spreading the glories of the holy name. By your mercy alone, the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* is now chanted in every corner of the world. Even people in influential fields are recognizing and actively participating in this divine movement with great respect.

As per your desire and by the untiring efforts of your dedicated disciples and granddisciples, we are witnessing history in the making. Year after year, the number of temples, initiated devotees, books distributed, Govinda's restaurants, and *harināma-saṅkīrtana* parties continue to grow exponentially. Even after the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, temples worldwide have seen a resurgence in attendance and enthusiasm.

Your teachings are being disseminated through innovative and modern means, ensuring that no soul is deprived of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. When asked why you embraced the latest technology in Kṛṣṇa's service, you profoundly responded: "If a thief is escaping on a motorbike, and the police chase him on foot, how will they ever catch him?" Following your example, your disciples are utilizing every available resource to fulfill your mission.

Here in Chandigarh, your branch is also witnessing a surge in preaching, especially among congregational members and the youth, teens, and children. Festivals are being celebrated with great pomp and devotion. By your blessings, four *saṅkīrtana* parties are going out into the streets and markets of Chandigarh, Panchkula, and nearby areas daily to distribute *prasādam,* books, and the holy names.

By your mercy, we are planning to expand our altar to include Śrī Rāma Darbar and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitai. We humbly seek your blessings for this endeavor. An additional preaching facility is under construction in Panchkula. College preaching has seen a great impact, and in IIT Ropar, especially, we have an official *Gītā* course apart from Chandigarh University and Panjab University.

This year we also experienced a great loss with the departure of one of your most beloved generals, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja. His passing left a deep void in our hearts, but in this difficult time, we felt the necessity of taking even greater shelter in your divine instructions. Your constant presence through your books, lectures, and the loving guidance of your disciples has given us the strength to move forward.

On this sacred day, we pray for your continued blessings and guidance. Please empower us to faithfully carry out the desires of the *ācāryas* and serve your mission with unwavering dedication.

Your granddisciples at Chandigarh and Panchkula

Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you. We wish you a very happy Kṛṣṇa conscious 129th Vyāsa-pūjā, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura sent his first book to the West in 1896, and you appeared that same year to fulfill the prophecy that a *senāpati-bhakta* would appear and spread the holy names of the Lord to all towns and villages of the world. We are receiving the causeless mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu through you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We are trying to please you through our efforts to establish your movement here in Chandrapur, in the eastern part of Maharashtra. We started as a small center in 2018, and by your divine mercy we are now able to have regular youth and congregational programs each weekend. We also celebrate the major festivals throughout the year. This year, your 129th Vyāsa-pūjā falls on August 17, and we will be celebrating Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī on the same day in Chandrapur. We seek your constant blessings to keep our standards moving in the right direction.

Here are the highlights of our service for your pleasure and to seek your blessings:

- Every year we try to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with people through the celebration of Nityānanda-trayodaśī, Gaura-Pūrṇimā, Rāma-navamī, Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, Balarāma Pūrṇimā, Janmāṣṭamī (large-scale), Rādhāṣṭamī, Kārttika *dīpdān, puṣpa-abhiśeka,* and the boat festival.

- We celebrate our annual Janmāṣṭamī festival on a grand scale, attracting nearly two and a half thousand devotees from various walks of life.
- 25 youths attend our IYF and IGF programs each weekend.
- Our Sunday feast program is attended regularly by 60–70 devotees, and on some occasions, we reach 100 attendees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you worked so hard day and night to give us the treasure of spiritual wisdom through *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* and so many other books. These nectarean teachings guide and help us progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This year, we distributed nearly two thousand *Bhagavad-gītās* and some *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are eternally grateful to you for giving us such beautiful devotees with whom to associate, devotees who show genuine compassion for all of us. We are deeply thankful to His Grace Hari Kīrtana Prabhujī for his constant guidance and care.

Just as the Lord was pleased by the cooperation between the Pracetās in devotional service, so we pray to you to beg for your blessings. We too hope to develop a beautiful loving congregation filled with love, respect, and cooperation with one another so that the Lord and his pure devotees are pleased, and more and more souls are attracted to this most magnanimous movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu under your shelter.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees of the ISKCON Chandrapur community

China

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances unto 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-svāmin iti nāmine

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for having fearlessly descended to this material world to compassionately distribute the mercy and love of Goloka Vrindavan in all directions!

His Holiness Śivarāma Swami Mahārāja writes in his work *Nava-vraja-mahimā,* volume 7, chapter 32:

> His Divine Grace told my friend Tamal Krishna Goswami: "In Goloka, Kṛṣṇa told me, 'You go down there and preach.' I replied to the Lord, 'It's such a nasty place. I don't want to go. Please let me stay here.' but Kṛṣṇa persisted and said, 'Don't worry about anything. I will make every arrangement for your comfort. In the meantime write your books, and when you have finished, then you can return.'" Śrīla Prabhupāda concluded, "Then I said, 'All right.'"

Having taken the mission that Lord Kṛṣṇa empowered you to do, you were willing to brave the fire of ordeal to convey the transcendental message of the spiritual world, Goloka Vrindavan, to the fallen souls in the midst of material existence, launching your heroic life journey as the *senāpati-bhakta* of the Lord.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our most respected *senāpati,* you crossed the seven continents with your divine love, the pure holy name, your transcendental knowledge your weapon, and using modern means of transportation as your chariot, and you built a powerful *saṅkīrtana* army. You gave the ungodly the opportunity to bathe in the vibration of the holy name, to drink the nectar of transcendental knowledge, to experience pure devotion, and to finally return home to Vrindavan. All this has come to pass because of your sweet will.

One of your early disciples, Govinda Dāsī, found an old Indian newspaper from the 1970s in a box in her attic. In it was an article about you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, written by an astrologer. It read, "Nobody can read this chart; if they say they can, they are lying. This personality comes and goes by his own sweet will; he is not bound by anybody or anything. The stars are lined up perfectly. There is no question of karma. He is working directly under the will of God. And when he writes, his pen does not have ink in it. His pen has fire in it, which will burn the ignorance of the whole world."

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, whose heart is as soft and sweet as a rose, thank you for having resolutely sent a resourceful, vigorous, considerate, humorous, down-to-earth, caring *saṅkīrtana* soldier to Khasadeśa to spread the seeds of bhakti throughout this land of voidism and impersonalism. With the blessing of your beautiful wishes, the spiritually dormant land of China, like an awakened lion, has begun to rise in the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. The Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* is spreading all over the land. A wide range of quality *prasādam* is attracting more and more young people. Your books, *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* and others have entered countless homes in towns and villages and now flow into the veins of countless people, transforming the hearts of many, because you inherited and presented these sacred teachings exactly as they are. As Kong Ji, a grandson of Confucius, said: "A filial person is one who inherits the will of the ancestors and spreads their activities and contributions."

Dear far-sighted Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for having raised so many heroic sons and daughters that we now have the privilege of consulting and serving. In this way we can truly feel the value of a moment of personal association with pure devotees and the extraordinary power of your presence through them.

Dear merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda, may you, who are always in the mood of Goloka Vrindavan, bless us to unite closely as you wished and to keep moving in the direction of the sweetest Goloka Vrindavan, no matter what storms we may encounter in this world. Dear affectionate Śrīla Prabhupāda, may you bless the Khasadeśa *yātrā* to be prosperous in Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Your indebted servants,
The Chinese devotees
(written by Surabhi Devī Dāsī)

Chowpatty, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our obeisances. All glories to you.

Among the many projects you established in ISKCON, we know how book publication and distribution is close to your heart. You expressed on multiple occasions that transcendental book distribution can bring about the desired revolution in the impious lives of a misdirected civilization. Every year, devotees from all over the world try their best to please you by distributing as many books as possible.

Last year, in 2024, your dear disciple Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja left this world to join you in your service. He was the one who pioneered book distribution in India on a mass level. He had truly imbibed your spirit of book distribution, and he pushed for it wherever he went, encouraging devotees to "double it," just as you would do.

At ISKCON Chowpatty, Radhanath Swami Mahārāja felt that to honor such a tireless warrior, we should do something extraordinary. He said that the best way to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, would be to glorify his sincere followers like Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, and the best way to glorify Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja is to accomplish big results in book distribution. He told us that we should double last year's score, and then he said we should come first in the entire world during this year's book marathon.

All these years, ISKCON Chowpatty never came first in the book marathon. We always stood far behind the top book distribution temples of the world, so we wondered how we could ever come first in the marathon? It would take a herculean effort.

Radhanath Swami Mahārāja himself led the endeavor by rallying the entire congregation to put in their best efforts at distributing the maximum number of books. He fervently appealed to the entire community to sacrifice all their comforts and other services and focus entirely on this service for the one month of the marathon. He constantly called the temple leaders and got the updates about the latest scores.

We also invited many other senior leaders to give inspirational talks to our community, and that helped. Knowing that our community was trying their best to glorify such a stalwart devotee like Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, everyone was deeply touched, and they showered their blessings upon us.

The result was we were able to achieve the unthinkable result: we distributed more than 600,000 books and stood first in the entire world. Again, it was proved that the most ordinary can achieve extraordinary results if we try to honor great Vaiṣṇavas. We are convinced that we were able to achieve this result only by your blessings coming to us through your sincere followers.

We hope and pray that we continue to remain the recipients of such divine blessings so we can continue our service in your divine mission.

Your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Chowpatty

Dadri, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of ISKCON Dadri and the ISKCON Padayatra Press, come before you with hearts filled with gratitude and reverence. Your life, mission, and teachings continue to be the guiding light of our collective efforts to serve and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

By your divine mercy, we have been empowered to engage in various services – managing centers, organizing preaching programs in villages, corporate circles, and among the youth, and facilitating book distribution and *saṅkīrtana*. Through these endeavors we witness firsthand how your instructions cut through all social and cultural barriers, awakening dormant devotion in countless hearts. Whether addressing villagers with simple faith or professionals navigating the complexities of material life, your timeless words resonate deeply and inspire transformation.

Your vision to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village continues to guide our efforts. Book distribution, which you described as the "heart and soul" of this movement, remains central to our mission. We have seen how your transcendental books act as silent preachers, transforming lives in unimaginable ways. Under the spiritual guidance of His Holiness Lokanāth Mahārāja, ISKCON Padayatra Press continues to publish and distribute literature that furthers your divine mission.

Additionally, our outreach has expanded to include collaboration with corporate entities, enabling us to introduce Kṛṣṇa consciousness to professionals in various fields. By presenting the timeless principles of the *Bhagavad-gītā* in a relatable and practical manner, we have witnessed how even those immersed in the complexities of corporate life can develop an appreciation for devotional service.

Your life of complete dedication to Kṛṣṇa's service teaches us how to mold our own lives in the same spirit. Your example of detachment from material allurements and unwavering focus on spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness inspires us to cultivate the same mood in our personal lives and collective service. As we strive to follow the principles of ashram life and maintain our commitment to devotional practices, we experience a growing detachment from material pursuits and a deeper attachment to Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

We are blessed to have the dedicated service of Rādhā-Govinda Darśana Dāsa, who is tirelessly assisting in the ISKCON Dadri project. Kauśalendra Dāsa and Mahā-Narasiṁha Dāsa play vital roles in the management of the ISKCON Padayatra Press. Amala Govinda Dāsa has been instrumental in nurturing and strengthening the congregation, while Atri Ṛṣi Dāsa continues to serve with great sincerity in communications and providing valuable personal assistance.

However, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would be remiss not to acknowledge the countless other devotees whose names may not be mentioned here but who are selflessly engaged in various aspects of service. Whether they are performing Deity worship, maintaining the center, cooking *prasādam,* participating in *saṅkīrtana,* supporting managerial tasks, or contributing behind the scenes, their dedication is an integral part of this collective offering. Their sincere efforts, often unnoticed by the world, are certainly seen and blessed by you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda Dev.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, without your boundless compassion, we would have remained entangled in the complexities of material existence. But through your mercy, we have been given a higher taste and a purpose that transcends this temporary world. We collectively pray that we may always remain instruments in your hands, serving with sincerity, humility, and determination.

On this sacred occasion, we beg for your continued blessings so that we may deepen our commitment, overcome our shortcomings, and dedicate our lives fully to fulfilling your desires. May we always remain connected to you through your instructions and the association of your sincere devotees.

Your aspiring servants,
Puṇḍarīka Vidyānidhi Dāsa and
the devotees of ISKCON Dadri and the ISKCON Padayatra Press team

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our sincere, respectful obeisances. All glories to you.

When we were asked to offer our glorification to you, we were at a complete loss for words. First, we are not competent, with little capacity, and we are also short of imagination to be able to comprehend the contribution you made to uplift the confused and godless human society from their sufferings and revive their God consciousness. In essence, any offering will not justify your contribution to the fallen humankind of Kali-yuga.

Your unconditional surrender to your Guru Mahārāja in obeying his instructions is unparalleled in current history. You embarked upon a journey across seven seas to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness without any material resources but only with unflinching faith in your guru's instructions and the mercy and teachings of Nityānanda Prabhu and Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu.

We in ISKCON Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, are a small congregation trying to carry out as many activities as we can with your blessings and under the guidance and blessings of your disciples and granddisciples. Whenever we feel low, your books, lectures, and the sacrifices you made through your immeasurable hardships to spread the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu inspire us to uplift our consciousness and energy to improve our *sādhana* and serve by spreading the mission of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your teachings you keep clarifying that the purpose of our existence and the goal of life is to attain the eternal service of the Divine Couple, Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. You have already engaged us in such pure service through missionary activities, starting with book distribution, preaching, and Food-for-Life. You have given us a pure purpose, pure activities, pure understanding of the scriptures, and the pure faith needed to attain the ultimate perfection of this human life.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all that you gave us. We will be indebted to you forever in this as well as our future lives. We all beg for your eternal mercy. *Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your fallen servants,
ISKCON Dar es Salaam
(written by Parīkṣit Hari Dāsa and Vijaya Gopīnātha Dāsa)

Davao City, Philippines

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, Your Divine Grace,

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

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

Your appearance has given birth to a new world – a world that has no night or day but is perpetual wakefulness; a world that has no past, present, or future but only dharma, duty; a world that has no days, weeks, months, or years but only darshan of the lotuslike abode of your beloved Lord, the all-merciful Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the darling of Mother Yaśodā and Nanda Mahārāja; a world where dry arguments have withered away under the effulgent luster of your transcendental form reflected on your dearest devotees; a world that breaks individual circles and restores them to that original circle of devotional service to Śrī Rādhe-Śyāma; a world where the shady characters of impersonalists, voidists, and atheists in the garb of theists are at once exposed by the illuminating light of your *Bhāgavatam* purports; a world where the deceitful fruitive workers, speculators, salvationists, and meditators run away, scattering hither and thither, by once hearing the thunderous roar of your preaching, a manifestation of your unwavering devotion to protect and serve the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, which you received from Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, your beloved Guru Mahārāja; a world that was once upon a time puffed-up with its so-called material advancement and is now fallen to its knees, losing all its power when hearts feel the vibration and dance to the beat of your *bṛhat-mṛdaṅga*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this world that once attracted those who have deluded themselves, thinking themselves enjoyers, has now taken a new form, after your appearance – one of *yukta-vairāgya* (actual, proper renunciation) after receiving a tiny fraction of your *mahā-bhāgavata prasādam*.

Your appearance has given birth to a new world – a world that was once filled with the agitations of persons acting like *śva-viḍ-varāhoṣṭra-kharaiḥ* has now dramatically evolved to a purer platform of accepting initiation, simply observing the four regulative principles of not eating meat, fish, or eggs, taking no intoxication, not gambling, and not having illicit sex, and chanting sixteen rounds of the *mahā-mantra*. These persons will fast on Ekādaśīs and *mahotsavas;* a world that was heavily peopled by *sahajiyās* and those desiring to become sole masters is at once revolutionized by the collective, undeterred missionary activities headed by one-pointed valiant *mahārathīs* from your *saṅkīrtana* movement, whose loyalty and adherence to the ultimate managing authority of ISKCON, the Governing Body Commission, is remarkably exemplary. Harmonious cooperation at its best.

There will be a new world – one that once succumbed to crumbling is at once raised on a rock-solid foundation of undeniable strength, which can only be derived from the association of your Vaikuṇṭha-effulgent devotees. This world, which was bombarded by chaos, frustration, and hopelessness is now reborn through the vigorous chanting of the blissful holy names of Kṛṣṇa: Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma Hare Hare.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, a world where work is binding will now involve learning the art of performing liberating work as a sacrifice to please the Supreme Lord Viṣṇu; a futile world is becoming a world developing affinity for hearing the messages of Vāsudeva, Kṛṣṇa. And, once a lost world, we're now attaining this rarest opportunity, access to the via medium, the spiritual master who is a

pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa, whom if pleased, will take one to that Supreme abode of the Lord, Goloka Vrindavan.

I utter today my earnest prayer, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to very kindly grant me shelter at the soles of your lotus feet, where I can humbly serve in the association of your dearest devotees.

On behalf of my beloved wife, Mālikā Devī Dāsī, and our daughter Nandinī, the devotees and students in our local Bhāgavata Saṅga online study group, and the devotees, well-wishers, and friends of the Davao Hare Kṛṣṇa Centre, Philippines, I would like to thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. I beg to remain forever indebted to Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*! Founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, *param-guru* Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your insignificant servant,
Nārada Ṛṣi Dāsa

Delaware, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you.

I am delighted to offer this tribute on behalf of the devotees and congregation members of ISKCON of Delaware. There is no limit to your glories. In this world of chaos, anxiety, and uncertainty, you are like an oasis. We cannot imagine what life would be like without your transcendental presence. It is only by your mercy that we are able to continue, beginning each new day with the hope that you are always there for us.

Through the blessing of your causeless mercy, ISKCON of Delaware has acquired two properties to better serve the devotees here. The first, located in Bear, Delaware, has been operational since 2013 and, as of 2024, is owned outright by ISKCON of Delaware. The second property, located in Magnolia, Delaware, is dedicated to serving cows and providing care for senior Vaiṣṇavas who have dedicated their lives to your service. Please continue to bless us so that we may overcome all obstacles in our efforts to serve you and further fulfill the mission of ISKCON.

This year, we are launching a free *prasādam* distribution program for senior citizens in Delaware. Through this initiative, we hope they will come to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and, in turn, support the growth of our mission.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are still full of passion and ignorance. Please bestow your mercy upon us so that we may at least rise to the platform of goodness, sincerely practice our daily prescribed *sādhana,* and enthusiastically share your teachings with others.

On this auspicious occasion of your appearance day, we humbly pray for your blessings so that we may flourish in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, remain joyful in your service, and continue spreading your glories through your teachings and mission.

We remain your eternal servants,
Kṛṣṇa Kīrtana Dāsa (temple president)
on behalf of the devotees of ISKCON of Delaware

Denver, Colorado, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

In a lecture of yours, given on Gaura-Pūrṇimā in 1976, you say, "Kṛṣṇa is prepared to be appreciated by you in any condition of life if you take His instruction how to realize Him." You elaborate that remembering Kṛṣṇa even in everyday activities, like drinking water or seeing the sunshine in the daytime or the moonshine in the nighttime is devotional service, or *smaraṇam*. It can be that simple.

Always ready to reciprocate with the living entities wherever they're at, the Lord appears according to our individual qualifications for understanding Him. You say, "If you want to understand the Absolute Truth, you can realize Him.... You can realize the Absolute Truth in any way. He is prepared to manifest Himself as you desire."

This broad accessibility to Kṛṣṇa is your signature offering. Our prayer on this Vyāsa-pūjā day is that we live as active agents of this offering.

Your servants, with love, at New Badarikashram

Detroit, Michigan, United States

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our respectful obeisances at your lotus feet with utmost gratitude for giving us shelter. All glories to your continued causeless mercy on humanity.

In 1976, you came to Detroit and showered the greatest blessings on all the residents of Michigan by installing the most merciful Deities, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. You instructed us to worship Them like two princes. Until then we were worshiping a beautiful painting of Śrī Pañca-tattva on the altar. We humbly beg your blessings to celebrate the whole year of 2026 as the grand celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi's installation. We have already started preparing to repaint the magnificent temple room, keeping the most beautiful architecture intact. In continuation, we would like to refurbish the elegant historical home of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārījī.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were so happy when this mansion was bought for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārījī's new home. You stayed here and gave detailed instructions on what to do. It has such a glorious history here, with so many great leaders of our movement having participated in loving services to you and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārījī.

At this moment, all the devotees who are currently serving here feel fortunate and blessed to be able to participate in your mission at Devasadhan Mandira.

O savior of the whole universe, we are begging you to give us the good fortune to continue to participate in loving service at your lotus feet and our most merciful Deities Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārījī while we are in these bodies. Please hold our hands tightly, because we have a tendency to run away from you.

Begging for forgiveness for our unlimited offenses to the Vaiṣṇavas,
Your humble servants at Devasadan Mandir,
(written by Jagad-guru Dāsa)

Dharwad, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 19.151 states:

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

> 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.

After many years of hard struggle, by your kind mercy we have finally got a wonderful opportunity to experience the spiritual world at ISKCON Dharwad. Many years of continuous Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī celebrations have gradually transformed into monthly festivals, weekly Sunday feasts, and daily worship of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Nīla-mādhava.

Out of the many thousands of people who attended these programs, a few have come forward to sincerely dedicate their lives to your mission and have received formal initiation from your disciples. Following your teachings we all try to cooperate with one another, with a successful model of multiple *dīkṣā-gurus* in the community. We are also very fortunate to receive the enlivening association and constant guidance of many of your granddisciples, especially His Holiness Bhakti Rasamrita Swami and His Grace Sadayogi Prabhu.

Today we have a thriving community of Bhakti Kutir programs, a Hubli outpost center, and other facilities. We have more than 250 dedicated devotees who sincerely follow the four regulative principles and chant sixteen rounds of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* rigidly every day. They also actively participate very enthusiastically in all the temple services, such as setting up for festivals, organizing book distribution, cooking for Their Lordships, making flower garlands, and decorating and worshiping Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Nīla-mādhava.

Every year we try to distribute your books to the best of our ability and capacity. Last year we distributed 2,500 copies of your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in the local language, Kannada, and 60 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

Now we have secured a 4.5-acre piece of land near the NH48 National Highway. This will be transformed into a beautiful community, by the mercy of Your Divine Grace and the sincere, humble efforts of your granddisciples. We have also started a preschool named Bal Gopal Shishu-vatika, which we hope to transform into a *gurukula* in the near future.

At ISKCON Dharwad's new temple project, we have completed our phase 1 construction, meant to facilitate our preaching activities. It consists of a temporary grand temple hall, kitchen, and offices. A Govinda's restaurant and Annapurna catering services will also be built there. You created a roadmap for how to make temples financially self-sufficient in the long term through projects like Govinda's restaurants. We also need your blessings for starting a farm project connected to this temple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept our sincere efforts to please you and shower your divine blessings upon us so that we may continue to serve enthusiastically in a healthy, cooperative spirit in this community and cultivate pure love of God for Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Nīla-mādhava in this worldwide ISKCON movement.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Dharwad

Dhenkanal, Odisha, India

Our dear Founder-*Ācārya,*

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

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

Please accept our humble and prostrated obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet on the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. We fallen souls in this part of the universe will try to glorify you, O ambassador of the spiritual realm of Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Caitanya Mahāprabhu predicted: *pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma.* You are the gratifier of Caitanya Mahāprabhu's desires. Your Divine Grace, by your grace and your vigorous *harināma-saṅkīrtana* movement here in Dhenkanal, Odisha State, we have recently opened an ISKCON center. By doing *nāgara-saṅkīrtana* we want to satisfy you. Your Divine Grace, your words in your lectures are potent and important for us as we grow rapidly in this movement.

To fulfill your desire for Food-for-Life, we are distributing food to the needy in rural areas each month, and also distributing your divine books in a grand number. Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy we were recently gifted land to construct Kṛṣṇa's temple in the town of Dhenkanal. We wish to fulfill the construction task by your mercy, Your Divine Grace.

We are continuing our efforts toward perfection in our regular preaching activities of the center. These activities include book distribution at a *melā* in a grand way, one of which we did

last November and December. Every week we have programs for the children and youths, as well as *bhakti-vriksha* programs. The Sunday feast is held in the town hall (in the central part of Dhenkanal city). There is also regular *harināma-saṅkīrtana* accompanied by a preaching vehicle throughout the city.

Your struggles to plant this ISKCON movement worldwide, although you were one person, was ideal. That's why we will soon make a public drama of your life history in the local language of Odisha.

In this material world, the maze of *māyā* is very strong, so at last we beg to remain faithful servants of ISKCON. All glories to you on your appearance day, our dear founder-*ācārya* Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Dhenkanal

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you. All glories to our spiritual master, who crossed continents to teach us transcendental knowledge. There are no words to express the immense gratitude that both I and the Vaiṣṇava community of ISKCON Dominican Republic feel for Your Divine Grace. It is a great mercy to be able to practice and continuously learn from your teachings in my home country, the Dominican Republic.

All glories to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who, at an advanced age gathered the strength to sail to the West with the intention of helping the conditioned souls learn how to return to Kṛṣṇa's abode.

All glories to our *śikṣā-guru,* who tirelessly dedicated years to translating the books that allow us to understand transcendental knowledge. Without his efforts, we would not have been able to learn about Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Without seeking wealth or any reward, he embarked on a journey by ship that transformed the lives of countless spirit souls. The spread of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to numerous countries is proof of the authenticity of his mission, which started when he arrived in America to propagate this knowledge.

On the sacred day of his Vyāsa-pūjā, we honor his unwavering dedication and his mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every corner of the world.

Your servant,
Rādhā Sumukhī Devī Dāsī,
temple president

Durban, South Africa

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā. On behalf of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha temple and our congregation, we take this opportunity to glorify you, our lord and master.

Fifty years have passed since you physically walked the South African land. So much has changed since then, but what remains firm and growing exponentially is the faith of your followers, your glory, and with it, your mercy!

Your vision for South Africa was to build a temple in Chatsworth and preach to the intelligent class at the universities. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will be pleased to know that the message of Lord Caitanya is still going strong here in Durban, Chatsworth. In fact, our *yātrā* celebrates two significant milestones this year.

The first is the fortieth anniversary of the installation of Their Lordships, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha. The second is the fiftieth anniversary of Your Divine Grace visiting Durban, South Africa.

We are having grand celebrations to commemorate these most auspicious events, which changed the face of the South African *yātrā* forever! As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your arrival in South Africa, we remember the countless lives you touched and transformed through your compassion and selflessness.

We are actually having programs throughout the year to celebrate your fiftieth anniversary of visiting South Africa, and scores of devotees are engaged in preaching events and awareness campaigns to commemorate this most glorious event, which changed our lives.

Secondly, we are increasing our outreach activities, for your pleasure. More particularly, we are most honored to report that now, fifty years after your vision was communicated, we have finally made substantial inroads in preaching to the university students, with our first module in bhakti-yoga accepted into the curriculum and recognized at one of the biggest universities in South Africa.

We are begging for your blessings so that we continue to uphold the standards of Deity worship for Their Lordships, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha, as we have for the past forty years. By your mercy, the various Vaiṣṇava festivals are being observed, we are also doing book distribution, *nāmahaṭṭa* preaching, Food-for-Life, and the Sunday Love Feasts – all are going on from the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha temple.

We feel your constant presence now, even fifty years later, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and Your Divine Grace remains our beacon of hope, guiding us on our spiritual journey and in endeavoring to bring you pleasure.

We beg for your mercy so that our temple management and congregation remain enthusiastic in their services to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha, and we pray for your glories to spread to every heart in South Africa.

Your humble servants,
Management team on behalf of the devotees
of the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha temple

Durham, Ontario, Canada

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this most sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of ISKCON Durham, offer our deepest gratitude and reverence for the priceless gift you have given to the world – the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

By your boundless mercy, we find ourselves blessed to be engaged in the sacred mission of spreading Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's teachings in Durham, Ontario. Your unwavering sacrifice, compassion, and devotion have made bhakti-yoga accessible to every soul, transcending borders, backgrounds, and barriers.

This past year, by your grace, ISKCON Durham has taken meaningful steps forward. On January 25, 2025, we hosted a Blissful Kirtan Evening in Durham, where devotees came together in joyful *kīrtana,* glorifying the holy name. The event inspired us to launch, starting on February 1, 2025, weekly Saturday programs that are now nurturing and connecting devotees and newcomers alike. With each gathering, families, children, and seekers are coming closer to Kṛṣṇa, drawn by the warmth of devotee association, *kīrtana,* and *prasādam*.

Your divine vision continues to manifest as more souls are drawn to the path of bhakti. We are grateful to receive the loving support and guidance of His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami Mahārāja, Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Prabhu, and Indreśa Gaura Prabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your mercy is boundless, and we pray for the strength to serve your movement with purity and sincerity. May ISKCON Durham flourish into a beacon of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, attracting thousands of sincere seekers to the shelter of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we rededicate ourselves to your mission. May our every thought, word, and action bring glory to your lotus feet and pleasure to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Your eternal servant,
Shyāma Mohinī Devī Dāsī
on behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Durham

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our most humble and most respectful obeisances at your most revered lotus feet. All glories to you!

We consider ourselves very fortunate to write a few lines to glorify you. You are a *mahātmā* and a *paramahaṁsa* who came into this material world to give us *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. We are extremely fortunate to offer our humble homage to you and be able to submit a few thoughts at your most revered lotus feet on the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. You are the special messenger of the Supreme Lord who came to this mundane world at the Lord's bidding to give us Kṛṣṇa consciousness and deliver us from our miserable lives.

Although you went back to Lord Kṛṣṇa, you live forever through your precious books. You have gone through all the scriptures, including the *Vedas* and the *Upaniṣads,* and then quoted them in your wonderful purports. Your books are treasure troves of deep knowledge about Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Despite being at an advanced age, in 1965 you undertook a monumental journey to the West, with limited resources and without any guarantee of success. Your vision to create a global spiritual movement inspired millions all over the world. By establishing ISKCON, you provided a platform for people from all walks of life to connect with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The global ISKCON movement, founded by you, provides a sense of belonging and spiritual community to millions. Temples, festivals, and online platforms offer spaces for people to come together, share their faith, and support one another.

Your life was characterized by your steadfast devotion to spreading the teachings of Lord Kṛṣṇa. From an early age, you embraced a life centered on spirituality and adhering to the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. This unwavering dedication fueled your mission to make Vedic knowledge accessible to people across the globe through your precious books.

You had an exceptional ability to explain complex spiritual concepts in a way that resonated with people of different cultural and intellectual backgrounds. Your lectures, books, and conversations bridged the gap between ancient Vedic knowledge and the modern world. Your translations and commentaries on sacred books, such as you created in *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* continue to enlighten and guide seekers worldwide.

Your emphasis on studying sacred books like the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* helps modern seekers connect with ancient wisdom in a relevant and accessible way. Your commentaries provide practical guidance for applying timeless spiritual principles to contemporary challenges.

Your teachings emphasized the universality of spiritual practices. You believed that the path to self-realization and devotion was open to all, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, color, or social status. Your efforts to establish temples, farm communities, and educational institutions were motivated by your deep compassion for humanity. Many farm communities are thriving today by your mercy and your guidance.

Your inclusive approach to spirituality transcends religious boundaries, emphasizing that

anyone can practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness regardless of their background. This universality makes your teachings appealing to people from diverse cultures and faiths.

You embodied the principle of selfless service. You viewed yourself as a humble servant of your spiritual master and Lord Kṛṣṇa, dedicating your life to serving others like a true exalted Vaiṣṇava. Your humility and genuine concern for others endeared you to many followers and set an example of true leadership.

Inspired by your example, today we engage in various charitable initiatives, such as food distribution programs (like ISKCON's Food for Life), educational projects, and outreach activities. We are distributing *prasādam* to less fortunate people every week from our temple. These acts of service embody your teaching that true fulfillment comes from helping others.

Your life and teachings continue to inspire millions around the world. Your special qualities – dedication, vision, communication skills, compassion, resilience, and humility – are a reminder of the transformative power of spirituality and service. Through your efforts, you not only spread the timeless wisdom of Vedic culture but also fostered a global community united in devotion and love for Kṛṣṇa. Your legacy is one of hope, faith, and the boundless possibilities of human potential when guided by higher principles.

You emphasized the transformative power of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra:* Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare, Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. You taught that chanting purifies the heart and mind, helping individuals connect with the divine and attain inner peace. Your "chant and be happy" transforms everyone and makes them nice devotees. Thus you have fulfilled the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra is a cornerstone of your teachings, and it has gained popularity as a powerful mindfulness practice. Many individuals incorporate this mantra into their meditation routines to experience inner peace and a sense of connection to the Divine.

A central teaching in your philosophy is the understanding that Lord Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. You explained that Kṛṣṇa is the source of all creation and the ultimate object of love and devotion. You taught that true fulfillment comes through bhakti, or loving devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. You encouraged your followers to offer their daily activities, work, and relationships to Kṛṣṇa as acts of devotion.

You stressed the importance of studying sacred texts like the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. You emphasized that these scriptures contain timeless wisdom that can guide individuals toward self-realization and Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

You advocated for a lifestyle centered on spiritual growth rather than material accumulation. You encouraged simple living, sustainable practices, and prioritizing spiritual development over material wealth. Your principle of "simple living and high thinking" resonates deeply in the modern era, especially as people seek minimalistic lifestyles and sustainable living. ISKCON communities and farm projects exemplify eco-friendly practices and self-sufficient living inspired by your teachings.

Vegetarianism, as advocated by you, aligns with increasing awareness of ethical eating, animal welfare, and environmental concerns. Your teachings inspire a compassionate approach to life, emphasizing nonviolence (ahimsa) as a spiritual and moral responsibility.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.24.34 you explained that the conditioned souls are agitated by six transformations: they become agitated when they are hungry, when they are thirsty, when they are aggrieved, when they are illusioned, when they grow old, and when they are on their deathbed. You further explained that although conditioned souls become very easily illusioned by these conditions in the material world, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, as the Supersoul, Vāsudeva, is never agitated by these transformations. You also explained that the individual soul, although within the illumination of the Supreme, sometimes falls down from that

illumination because of his tiny position, and when he falls, he enters into material, conditional life. You further explained that the Lord is not subject to such conditioning; therefore He is described as self-illuminated. Consequently, any conditioned soul within this material universe can remain completely perfect when he is under the protection of Vāsudeva, or engaged in devotional service.

Although you were on your deathbed, you dictated your purports to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. No ordinary human being could accomplish such a miraculous feat; other people would be incoherent under such circumstances. Only you could do what you did because you had the special unlimited mercy of the Supreme Lord.

You emphasized that the practice of bhakti-yoga, or devotional service, offers modern individuals a way to channel their energy into acts of love and devotion. This is especially appealing to those seeking deeper connections and purpose beyond material achievements. Thus, you said, devotional service is the only way to reach the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa.

You are the special envoy of Lord Kṛṣṇa from the transcendental world, sent to deliver the fallen souls on this planet. You are an ocean of mercy and filled with the auspicious qualities described below:

saṁsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka-
trāṇāya kāruṇya-ghanāghanatvam
prāptasya kalyāṇa-guṇārṇavasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam

> The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire to extinguish it, so the spiritual master delivers the materially afflicted world by extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities.

You are the instructing spiritual master for everyone, the *jagad-guru*. As *jagad-guru* you are extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence and showing the path to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and ultimate bliss.

Whatever we say in praise of you is not enough. It is like holding a candle in front of the sun. Please continue to shower your blessings on us and lead us from this illusory material world to the Absolute Truth.

We have a life-size banner of your most highly respected self in our temple, and we pay our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet every day. We derive great inspiration from your smile and compassion as you look upon us and shower us with your blessings.

Everything about you is excellent and unique. All people must follow your teachings to become better human beings and better devotees and make their lives successful and peaceful. All glories to your ISKCON! *Jaya, jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your most humble servants,
Bala Krishna Dāsa and the devotees at ISKCON Edmonton

Fond du Sac, Mauritius

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Hare Kṛṣṇa. Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you.

In December 2023, in a heart-warming celebration marked by devotion and unity, our ISKCON temple witnessed the auspicious installation of new Pañca-tattva deities, a significant

milestone inspired by your vision and propelling the temple into a new era of spiritual prominence.

This grand initiative was part of a four-day festival, the first of its kind in Mauritius, drawing thousands of visitors, including ministers, Members of Parliament, leaders of Indian social-cultural associations, and other distinguished guests. The temple was also graced by the presence of eminent spiritual leaders and GBCs such as Giriraj Swami, Bhakti Caitanya Swami, Bhakti Dhīra Dāmodara Swami, Bhakti Nṛsiṁha Swami, Sundar Caitanya Goswami, Nṛsiṁha Kavaca Prabhu, and others.

The festivities included a variety of rituals and Vedic fire ceremonies, the installation of the beautiful Śrī Pañca-tattva, feasts of sumptuous *prasādam,* and a spectacular flower *abhiśeka* display. The event was broadcast live on social networks, ensuring it reached a wider audience, both locally and globally.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this initiative to install Pañca-tattva deities at our temple dates back to your visit to Mauritius on October 1, 1975, when you expressed a dream that Mauritius would become the first Kṛṣṇa conscious island in the world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the eternal confidential associate of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. By Mahāprabhu's order we are trying to distribute the knowledge you gave us through *harināma-saṅkīrtana*.

Today, with the temple's expansion, it can easily accommodate two thousand standing devotees. The temple is also strategically positioned in a tourist area so it can reach a broader audience. This serves as a testament to your vision and desire for global dissemination of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The installation of Śrī Pañca-tattva has brought the spiritual journey of our devotee community to a new chapter, invoking a deep sense of responsibility, respect, and rigor. The impact of this milestone was indeed very profound, fostering a sense of joy, belonging, dedication, and solidarity among our community of devotees. Today, we all feel the love, enthusiasm, and energy to serve their Lordships, Śrī Pañca-tattva.

Looking ahead, the temple envisions becoming a cultural touchpoint for tourists visiting the north of the island, collaborating with hotels for cultural and spiritual activities. We also remain fully committed to training our *brāhmaṇas* in the śāstric rules and regulations involved in Deity worship, and especially about brahminical culture and values. This training is in line with your vision, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

On this auspicious day of your divine appearance, we seek your blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that one day, by your mercy, we each can reach the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa. By the mercy of Lord Caitanya and our service to you, we hope that everybody at the Śrī Pañca-tattva temple can develop their natural love for Lord Caitanya. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our shelter and our support. Please bless us so we can become tiny instruments in serving your mission. We also pray that you forgive our offenses and give us the strength to carry out this mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, as you have taught it.

Your forever grateful servants at the Śrī Pañca-tattva temple, Mauritius

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Devotees at the ISKCON Fredericton Center, 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 2025 Vyāsa-pūjā day.

On September 1, 1896, long before any of us arrived in our current bodies, you were born in Calcutta, India. It was the day after Janmāṣṭamī, and an astrologer made the following prediction: "When this child reaches the age of seventy, he will cross the ocean, become a great exponent of religion, and open 108 temples."

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 also for those of us who have read accounts of that wonderful event.

ISKCON Fredericton is a small Hare Kṛṣṇa center that is slowly and gradually growing. Devotees are always excited to distribute your books, chant the holy names, prepare and serve *prasādam,* as well as teach people about Kṛṣṇa and His pastimes. In the past year, ISKCON Fredericton has moved its programs to The Maritime Geeta Bhawan, which has led to an increase in attendance. The Gopal Krishna Children's School, a weekly program named after one of your most dedicated disciples, has also been established. A small Food-for-Life program has been initiated and provides *prasādam* to clients at a local homeless shelter. An outreach program, designed to hold programs in other communities in New Brunswick, has been created.

ISKCON Fredericton has had much help and support over the years. Your disciple Bhaktimārga Swami has provided an unlimited supply of guidance, inspiration, and encouragement. Devotees from ISKCON Halifax and your Montreal and Toronto temples have also been instrumental in helping your small Fredericton center prosper.

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.

We look back in amazement at the austerity you faced, the challenges you overcame, and the many great things you accomplished. It is our wish that in some small way we can continue to be servants of the servants of your servants, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and servants 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 serving 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 our humble obeisances. As we glorify you, we pray to please you on your appearance day and every day.

Out of your kindness, you eased our material suffering and bestowed us with so many wonderful spiritual gifts.

You filled our ears with sweet *kīrtana* and *bhajanas* and taught us to accompany them with robust *mṛdaṅgas,* rhythmic *karatālas,* and melodious harmoniums.

You filled our material eyes with the incredibly beautiful *arcā-vigraha* forms of Lord Kṛṣṇa and engaged us in Their service.

You fed us samosas, kachoris, rice, dal, *sabjis,* chapatis, ladoos, kheer, and Simply Wonderfuls.

You invited us into the eternal and liberating pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

As Kṛṣṇa's representative, you opened our minds to the reality of Kṛṣṇa through your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

You gave us so much more joy than we imagined possible. You gave us adventure, challenge, and purpose. We don't know where we would be without your kindness.

Most of all, you gave us the holy name, which made everything else possible. All you asked is that we chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy.

The wisdom Lord Kṛṣṇa has taught us,
a treasure that never shall end,
the ecstasy bhakti has brought us,
the service, *prasādam,* and friends,

the many long roads we have traveled,
the many digressions we made,
a tapestry coming unraveled,
exposing an empty charade,

the pains and the pleasures of living,
the bodies we soon shall not need,
all fall to the side as we're giving
our hearts to the very next bead.

At any moment, that which we see as so important in this world will become irrelevant. However, your gift of the holy name will always stay with us. Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we remain eternally connected to you by chanting with attention and without offense.

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare / Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

Your servants at ISKCON Gainesville (Krishna House)
(Written by Kalakaṇṭha Dāsa)

Govardhan Ecovillage (GEV)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Today, we fall short in words – but not in inspiration. You envisioned spiritual farm communities where Kṛṣṇa is the center – where cows are protected for Kṛṣṇa, the land is cultivated for Kṛṣṇa, festivals are celebrated with devotion, spiritual knowledge is shared, and bhakti is woven into daily life. At GEV this vision is not just remembered but lived.

Your vision and desire are reemphasized and manifest through your dedicated disciple, His Holiness Radhanath Swami Mahārāja, and we are fortunate to serve in fulfilling this desire under his esteemed guidance.

A Day at GEV: Vrindavan Is Lived

Before dawn, devotees gather for *maṅgala-ārati* at the beautiful Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vrindavanbihārī and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana temples. The deep call of conch shells breaks the silence of the night. Voices rise, singing the *saṁsāra dāvānala* prayers, as *mṛdaṅgas* and *karatālas* carry the offering of devotion.

Then, the first darshan. The Deities stand resplendent, merciful, and effulgent. "If one attends *maṅgala-ārati* at the temple, he is supposed to be transcendentally situated." (Lecture on *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.44, Paris, 1974) This is not merely the start of the day; it is the realignment of the heart. It reminds us that life is meant for Kṛṣṇa's service – everything else is secondary.

As the sun rises, Girirāja Govardhana stands smiling, watching over the sacred waters of Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Śyāma-kuṇḍa. Devotees sit nearby, chanting on their beads, their fingers moving in rhythm with the holy name.

By evening, as the sun sets behind the banks of the Yamuna, the temple hall fills with devotees for the *sandhyā-ārati*. The flickering ghee lamps, ecstatic devotees, waves of *kīrtana,* and the Deities bathed in golden light – all come together in an experience that is not different from Śrī Vrindavan-dhāma.

A Place of Learning that Leads to Realization

You taught us that knowledge should lead to devotion. At GEV, this is happening. People from all over the world arrive for the Yoga Teachers Training Course (YTTC), expecting to master

postures and breathwork, but what begins as a pursuit of wellness eventually leads to a shift in consciousness. They come seeking asanas and leave yearning for *āśraya,* shelter at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. They enter as students of posture and breath and leave as seekers of transcendence. This is your gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to them, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Not Just a Retreat – A Life Centered on Kṛṣṇa

GEV is not just a temple, retreat, or wellness center; it is a living demonstration of Kṛṣṇa's culture in action. Here, bhakti is not theory but is woven into daily life.

Visitors, villagers, and devotees come together to celebrate Vaiṣṇava festivals like Janmāṣṭamī and Govardhan-pūjā – not as spectators, but as active participants in *abhiśekas, yajñas, go-sevā,* and other devotional offerings. *Prasādam* is freely distributed, nourishing both body and soul. Several people, including the local villagers, partake in festival feasts, darshans, guided Vrindavan *parikramās,* and explore Kṛṣṇa's *līlās* through the dioramas that dot the property. Cows graze freely with their calves, reflecting Kṛṣṇa's eternal pastime: *lakṣa-vṛteṣu surabhīr abhipālayantam* (*Śrī Brahma-saṁhitā* 5.29).

A Deep Cultural Impact: Bhakti Rooted in Rural Life

GEV is not just a temple but a way of life. It transforms the lives of rural villagers through both material and spiritual empowerment:

- Employment in Kṛṣṇa's service: villagers are engaged in goshala service, garland-making, cleaning, cooking, and gardening, not just as work but as devotional offerings to Kṛṣṇa.
- A new generation growing up in bhakti: the children of villagers who once knew little about Kṛṣṇa now grow up hearing His names, participating in festivals, and chanting the *mahā-mantra*. They are learning that education is not just to develop a livelihood; it's to learn devotion.
- A shift in identity: first-time visitors are startled to be addressed as Prabhujī or Mātājī – a reminder of the humility and respect that define Vaiṣṇava culture.
- Skill center: at the Govardhan Skill Centre rural women are trained in handicrafts, devotional arts, and sustainable vocations, making them financially independent while keeping them rooted in Vedic values.
- Village preaching and *nāgara-saṅkīrtana:* villagers receive the *Bhagavad-gītā, mahā-prasādam,* and Kṛṣṇa consciousness through regular *nāgara-saṅkīrtana* and rural outreach.
- Attracting thoughtful seekers: The simple kurta-dhoti attire of GEV residents, combined with scientifically advanced projects like the bio-water treatment plant, attracts people to simplicity and deep thinking.
- Ayurveda for holistic well-being: The Ayurveda Centre provides authentic Vedic healing to those seeking holistic treatments, bridging ancient wisdom with modern needs.

Your Mercy, Our Aspiration

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you did not just build temples, you built a way of life. You taught us that:

- Prosperity is not industrial; it is spiritual.

- Sustainability is not just ecological; it is devotional.
- Progress is not measured by material gain but by Kṛṣṇa's pleasure.

The world searches for solutions, but you already gave them.

Your servants at ISKCON's Govardhan Ecovillage

Gītā-nāgarī Farm, Pennsylvania, USA

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, the greatest well-wisher of humanity!

On this most sacred and auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees at Śrī Gītā-nāgarī Dhāma, bow before you in deep gratitude and reverence, attempting in our small way to glorify your immeasurable mercy and sacrifice, through which you saved humanity on this earth planet. Your arrival in this world was the greatest blessing for all conditioned souls, as you carried within your heart the boundless compassion and divine mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Through your tireless service, you gifted us the supreme treasure of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, illuminating the path of bhakti for all suffering souls in this dark age of Kali-yuga, allowing them to attain true happiness and eternal shelter at Lord Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

This year marks sixty years since your historic arrival in the United States, when you fearlessly set foot on these foreign shores with nothing but your unwavering faith in guru and Kṛṣṇa and an unbreakable determination to fulfill the sacred order of your Guru Mahārāja – to spread Lord Kṛṣṇa's glories among English-speaking people and uplift the fallen souls of Kali-yuga. Your pure devotional service and boundless compassion have 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 ever done:

- You established ISKCON, creating a global family of sincere Kṛṣṇa devotees whose mission is to share the divine message you brought with the whole world.
- You translated and commentated the most sacred Vaiṣṇava scriptures, making the essence of Vedic wisdom accessible to all.
- You built temples, *gurukulas,* farm communities, and centers of spiritual education all over the world.
- You gave guidance and established the principles of *daivī varṇāśrama-dharma,* directing society toward Kṛṣṇa conscious living.
- You delivered countless lectures and taught by your own divine example, demonstrating the purest standard of devotion, humility, and selfless love.

Here at Gītā-nāgarī, we feel particularly honored and blessed to serve in a place you personally envisioned as a model for *daivī varṇāśrama-dharma*. Though you physically departed before

witnessing this vision fully manifest, we remain determined, under the loving guidance of your dear disciple, His Holiness Devamrita Swami, to bring aspects of it to fruition. With hearts full of gratitude, we are humbly striving to:

- Provide loving care for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara's cows and land.
- Develop sustainable agriculture and self-sufficient natural healthcare.
- Expand and upgrade accommodations for guests and devotees.
- Strengthen the Kshatriya Academy, training all devotees in martial arts and cultivating courage, integrity, and dedication.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg for your causeless mercy. Please empower us to become your humble instruments, working in harmony to serve your divine mission with unshakable faith, determination, and love. May we always remain united in devotion, assisting one another in fulfilling your sacred desires and sharing the sublime gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the world.

From the depths of our hearts, we thank you, we glorify you, and we offer ourselves at your lotus feet, praying to forever serve in the great legacy of bhakti that you so mercifully gave us.

Your eternally indebted and aspiring servants at Gītā-nāgarī
(written by Surapāla Dāsa)

Glastonbury, Connecticut, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. We humbly pray for your guidance so that we may serve as instruments in your hands, assisting in the propagation of your profound teachings and mission.

This year marks the 129th anniversary of your auspicious appearance. With each passing year, we gain newer insights into the limitless depths of your glories and transcendental qualities. Your Vyāsa-pūjā is a divine opportunity for us to reflect on your deeply inspiring, oceanic personality and rededicate ourselves to your service. This year also marks the sixtieth anniversary of your arrival in the United States. In just six decades, by your sincere and strenuous efforts, the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has expanded exponentially, touching millions of lives and establishing a global spiritual revolution.

In the purport to *The Nectar of Instruction* (3), you imparted a vital lesson: "Devotional service is not a matter of sentimental speculation or imaginative ecstasy. Its substance is practical activity."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you did not merely write these words – you lived them. Tirelessly, without concern for personal comfort, you served Kṛṣṇa and the *guru-paramparā* with unwavering determination. It would be an understatement to say that without your relentless efforts, millions of devotees like us would be bereft of bhakti and any true understanding of the self.

By your mercy, this past year has been exceptionally fruitful in book distribution. In 2024, we increased our remittance to the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT) by an inspiring 56 percent, building upon a 27 percent increase the previous year. We are striving to surpass this in the coming year.

One of the most significant milestones in our book distribution efforts has been the distribution of Braille *Bhagavad-gītā* sets. Inspired by your vision, devotees have published the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in Braille for the visually impaired, and we successfully placed these sets in nine public libraries. We remain committed to expanding this initiative, ensuring that more libraries across the United States house these sacred texts.

In total, we distributed 410 *Bhagavad-gītās* and 41 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets last year. By comparison, the previous year's distribution totaled 19 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and 1,024 *Bhagavad-gītās*.

Beyond book distribution, we have been striving to expand our preaching efforts. Pyāri Mohan Prabhu has initiated classes on *Śrī Īśopaniṣad,* with the goal of holding at least two sessions each month. The response so far has been promising.

Additionally, we have established two new *bhakti-vriksha* programs in West Hartford and Glastonbury, complementing the existing program in Hartford we initiated last year. We pray for your blessings so that these programs continue to grow and inspire more souls toward devotional service.

By your divine grace, attendance at our Sunday feast programs and Vaiṣṇava festival celebrations has steadily increased. This year, we eagerly anticipate an even greater turnout at our Rathayātrā festival on June 7.

During your lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.9.15, given in Māyāpur on February 22, 1976, you stated: "My Guru Mahārāja used to say that this material world is not fit for living for any gentleman. No gentleman can live here." Again, during a morning walk in Vṛndāvana on April 9, 1976, you declared: "Anyone who has not surrendered to Kṛṣṇa is not a gentleman. That is the test."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, with impeccable logic and compassion, you demonstrated how surrender to Kṛṣṇa is the true mark of a gentleman. During your physical presence, you transformed countless unrefined souls into exemplary gentlemen and mercifully revealed the process by which anyone can attain such refinement.

On this auspicious occasion, we pray that by your mercy, we may become true gentlemen in the highest sense – fully surrendered servants of Kṛṣṇa. We also seek your blessings to help others embrace this process, as there is nothing more pleasing to you than seeing more and more people take up this path of devotion, following in the footsteps of the great *ācāryas*.

Please continue to guide us, as you always have, and remove any obstacles on our spiritual journey, by your boundless mercy.

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

Your humble servants at ISKCON Glastonbury, Connecticut
(written by Gaṇapati Govinda Dāsa)

Gopīnātha Dhāma, Perth, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble and most unworthy obeisances.

I want to share with you something that has been on my mind since reading the first chapter of the Sixth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* about the story of Ajāmila. It is the difference between sinfulness and offensiveness, and how powerful destiny (or latent karmic influences) are upon those of us living here within this material world.

Ajāmila began his life's journey as a serious young man – a *brāhmaṇa* – with all disciplines, ideal character, heritage, and good training. Yet, when he encountered explicit sensuality he could not prevent his downfall – in fact, he welcomed it. He made a decision to bring a prostitute into his intimate association, and from there, everything good was forgotten. Thus his life sped by.

Having committed all kinds of crimes, in his old age he was given a gift of inspiration to name his son Nārāyaṇa, and due to affection for the child, he repeatedly called out the name of the Lord while calling his son. He was extreme in his sinfulness, extremely divorced from his religious upbringing, and yet his calling the name of Nārāyaṇa was effective because he did not know what he was doing! Hence his chanting was inoffensive and the chanting acted. It purified him. Because he was inoffensive. Such a sinful person was now considered pure, and he was saved.

And then there is myself. Clearly, you personally came, like the servants of Nārāyaṇa, to save sinful, ignorant people like me from so much nonsense by giving us the light of the *Bhāgavatam*.

Yet clearly, we too are free to fall back into our previous bad habits and, like Ajāmila, forget the greatness of our good fortune. That freedom is always there. And whilst in my case I act to avoid such a disaster, I daily witness so many subtle offenses I continually commit, and thus my chanting remains offensive. Previously I was simply ignorant or sinful, but now I am simply offensive. Ajāmila was not offensive because he did not know what he was doing incorrectly, whereas I recognize the weight which is upon me to act as a deeply genuine Vaiṣṇava and share the gifts that you have given me.

So here at Vrinda Valley, where I am blessed to reside, we all have a deep yearning to share with others. Our Sacred India Gallery was praised by the Prime Minister of India, which in itself is quite astonishing, and we are planning how to serve cooperatively in bringing others with us on the journey toward purity and offenseless acts of devotion.

Please continue to bless us all, and please continue to strengthen my efforts to become a genuine devotee.

On behalf of all the devotees who reside here in your service,
Jagattāriṇī Dāsī

Govinda Valley, Sydney, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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, 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.

Please accept our humble and respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you.

We are in the year 2025, which marks sixty years since you first set your lotus feet on Western soil to fulfill the instruction of your Guru Mahārāja. Oh, how blessed are we all to have somehow or other come in contact with your message of the Supreme Absolute Truth.

The world has turned dramatically ever since you departed from it. The only way we can keep ourselves sane and focused is by staying close to you and your words and advice. You came to the West and carried the torchlight of knowledge in three volumes: your translated *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* an endless truth and incarnation of the Supreme for this Age of Kali.

You gave the message of Kṛṣṇa's love for us freely, as did Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda. The only request you made is for us to stop entangling our minds with this material world. However, as Arjuna already says in the *Bhagavad-gītā,* the mind is harder to control than the wind. We do struggle to control our mind, to loosen our attachment to Māyā in all her seemingly pretty facets. She is waiting on every corner, ready to snap us up, making us question ourselves and even your movement. The Age of Kali is progressing, and distraction is the new normal if we are not careful.

Why am I saying all these things that should not affect a devotee? Because the truth is, we are all affected in one way or another, whether it be by questioning our path to Kṛṣṇa, measuring what other devotees do, or being tormented by our thoughts and the mind's activities – the clutches of Māyā are so manifold.

But the actual truth is that this is harm done unnecessarily, as you made your way to America to bring us the knowledge that can untangle us from these clutches of the material world. Now, sixty years later, we have to also make use of it. Daily *sādhana* is the medicine you brought us, but like many children, we don't like to take that medicine. Still, we all know how healing and relieving it is to be free of pain.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this special day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, and indeed *every* day, let us remember what kept you going in your first year in America: your firm faith in your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, and your unalloyed devotion to Kṛṣṇa.

Although often you didn't know how to pay your rent for the next week, and you didn't yet find people who were eager to get out of their darkness, you always stayed true to the instruction of your spiritual master to help the people in the Western world out of the clutches of Māyā. You

showered them with the light of the *Bhāgavata*. We are here only because of you, and we can only share what you gave us.

In the name of everyone here at Govinda Valley, I pray to you to keep us always close to your lotus feet. Let us always share the light of knowledge with those whose hearts are open to receive it, and please let us always be engaged in your service, for this is our life and soul and all we want for this life.

As I was describing before, life seems overwhelming at times, distractions can be huge, but our hearts are calling for Kṛṣṇa deep inside. Please grant us your mercy to get free of these conditions, become deeply attached to Kṛṣṇa's holy names, and develop a heart full of compassion so we can help you in your mission and always stay faithful to you and Kṛṣṇa. We thank you from our hearts for the life you gave us.

Your servants,
the *sādhakas* at Govinda Valley
(written by Mālinī Devī Dāsī)

Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

In the purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.8.5, you very beautifully mentioned:

> It is said that a single pure devotee of the Lord can deliver all the fallen souls of the world. Thus, one who is actually in the confidence of a pure devotee like Nārada or Śukadeva Gosvāmī and thus is empowered by one's spiritual master, as Nārada was by Brahmājī, can not only deliver himself from the clutches of *māyā,* or illusion, but can deliver the whole world by his pure and empowered devotional strength.

Whenever we read this purport, the only person we can think of is Your Divine Grace. How true it is that you delivered the fallen souls of the world. And it is by your mercy that even today we are able to move forward your mission. Although we are a small center here in Greater Noida, near Delhi, India, still we have experienced how Your Divine Grace is still helping us continue the good work of preaching. We would like to cite an incident that proves the above.

In our Janmāṣṭamī program, we invited a few influential personalities. Among them was one very wealthy person. He said he had met Your Divine Grace in America as a student and been highly impressed by your knowledge and compassion. He told us that he was searching for an ISKCON center so he could donate some amount. And on that day, he promised to give a large sum for purchase of land for our new temple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we can clearly see how even today you are present among us to guide us, help us, and inspire us to dedicate our lives in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are trying to establish a temple here, and for that purpose we have started a small center. We have all the programs going on in the center, and at the same time we are trying our best to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness by organizing festivals, courses, regular

preaching programs, book distribution, *nāgara-saṅkīrtana,* and so on. Our big festivals are drawing thousands of people who appreciate our philosophy and organization.

We are trying our best to procure a good piece of land for temple construction, and we are fully aware that nothing can happen without the mercy of Your Divine Grace. So on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we beg you to shower your mercy upon us so that soon we can offer a temple to Your Divine Grace for the glorification of the Supreme Lord.

We would like to offer our gratitude to you for giving us the shelter of your lotus feet and the association of your illustrious disciples, who are guiding us in our journey toward Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Greater Noida

Gurabo, Puerto Rico, USA

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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 Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.8, you mention that "The secret of success in spiritual life is in satisfying the spiritual master and thereby getting his sincere blessings." This is a wonderful transcendental secret that you mercifully revealed to we fallen conditioned souls who are trying to revive our love for Kṛṣṇa. This secret would be useless unless we get the opportunity, by Kṛṣṇa's mercy, to find a bona fide spiritual master. Fully aware of our hopeless condition, you founded ISKCON so that we would have a real and practical opportunity to find a bona fide spiritual master in disciplic succession and surrender unto him. You have opened this magnanimous window of mercy built on the principles taught by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His *saṅkīrtana* movement.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for this wonderful matchless gift of ISKCON, from where we can find our way back home, back to Godhead in the holy association of Kṛṣṇa's devotees. Kindly

bless us so that our humble, insignificant efforts to maintain, preserve, and expand your beloved ISKCON are a complete success.

Hare Kṛṣṇa. Thank you very much,
Your eternally grateful and aspiring servants at New Govardhan Hill

Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

At this juncture in time, it is an undisputed fact that you are Kṛṣṇa's most precious gift to the whole world. And for we who are striving to become devotees, the greatest benediction is the opportunity to be an instrument within your mission. By causeless mercy and some inconceivable good fortune we became connected with your devotees and books, and this initiated our journey on the path of bhakti.

Today, on your auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day, we plead with you to inspire and guide us as we confront the many challenges faced in furthering your mission here in Guyana. Please give us the strength to follow your divine instructions very honestly and faithfully, and bestow on us the capacity to cooperate despite the challenges. Kindly bless us so that we can chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra with proper mood, attention, and concentration, regularly study your books, and listen to your classes with rapt attention.

ISKCON's main purpose is to help devotees become absorbed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We pray that all our programs and activities be of such quality that they enhance advancement in pure devotional service. In this way, we can constantly be absorbed in deepening our loving remembrance of Kṛṣṇa. ISKCON's actual wealth and treasure is the devotees' selfless and loving commitment to your mission. Kindly help us preserve all the priceless gifts you left us with. Please bless our Guyana *yātrā* so that we overcome setbacks and remain pure, potent, productive, and ever progressing.

That said, we must also come to face the reality that the first generation of your disciples is passing and that the next generation has the monumental task of upholding your vision. Therefore, we must be careful not to let the pursuit of formal initiations (*dīkṣā*) be motivated by external validation in place of true spiritual growth. Please bless us not to be sidetracked into a religious mindset focusing on external identity markers, like rituals, status, and organizational hierarchy, but instead kindly give us the intelligence to push this movement on the basis of a scientific spiritual mindset, emphasizing personal transformation, deep scriptural study, and conscious devotion.

Please guide us in a way that ISKCON temples in Guyana prioritize deep scriptural education over superficial preaching tactics, being careful that our projects not remain ritual hubs. You always emphasized Kṛṣṇa consciousness as a science, not just a faith-based tradition. Please give us the intelligence to always uphold this principle along with the strength to work together with your other followers to accomplish these values.

Last February, your Legacy Museum was inaugurated on one floor of the TOVP in Māyāpur. The world of ISKCON must endeavor to ensure that your legacy will remain prominent all over. This requires that the understanding of your words, example, vision, and intention be etched into every ISKCON center. Each of us must learn to apply it in changing times. In so doing, there is every guarantee that your legacy will live on deeply into the future.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly continue to infuse us with the ability to carry forth your mission here in Guyana. Only by your blessings can we get the strength to overcome difficulties. We need your blessings to remain strong and free from the clutches of *māyā*. On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, we offer our prostrated *daṇḍavats* at your lotus feet and repeatedly beg for your kind mercy so that we may never deviate from the goals you set for ISKCON.

Your servants at the ISKCON Guyana *yātrā*
(written by Paramātmā Dāsa)

Habibpur, West Bengal, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

We feel extremely fortunate to write this offering on this occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. We at ISKCON Habibpur are trying to practice and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness as per your desire.

Your books and lectures are the guidelines by which we conduct our daily lives in devotional service. We feel protected and confident when we follow your instructions. Your life and teachings are our inspiration. We are regularly reading your books such as the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in our daily and weekly classes in the temple and *bhakti-vriksha* groups.

By reading your books we feel nourished and gain strength in devotional life. All the problems created by the agents of Kali are resolved by studying your books and following the instructions in your teachings. It is true that you still live in your books and preach through your purports. Thank you so much Śrīla Prabhupāda for creating ISKCON so that we can practice and preach *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* together. It's unimaginable for us to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness without your constant support in the form of ISKCON and your books.

Please bless us that we can strive to sincerely, seriously, and without ulterior motives practice devotional service as per your desire and thereby please you.

Your servant,
Sundar Nimāi Dāsa, president,
on behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Habibpur

Halifax, Nova Scotia

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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 most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the members of ISKCON Halifax, offer our heartfelt gratitude and love. We are eternally indebted to you for your boundless compassion and the transformative power of your teachings, which have illuminated our lives and guided us on the path of pure devotion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your divine presence is deeply felt in Halifax. We recall with great joy and reverence the visit of your beloved disciple, His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami Mahārāja, during his first Canada walk in 1996. At that time, Mahārāja expressed a profound desire to establish an ISKCON temple in Halifax. By your immeasurable grace, that transcendental desire has now manifested!

On behalf of His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami Mahārāja and the entire congregation of ISKCON Halifax, we are overjoyed to present to you the first and largest ISKCON temple in Atlantic Canada. This temple, located at 29 Westwood Blvd, Upper Tantallon, is a 7,700-square-foot, 23-year-old former Anglican church on nine acres of beautiful land. Its strategic location, close to major Highway 103 and an upcoming affluent suburb, ensures accessibility for devotees from all corners of the city, with a convenient 25 or 30-minute drive.

The temple features a simple yet elegant layout, including a spacious main hall capable of accommodating three hundred devotees, a *prasādam* hall and kitchen, with a capacity of 180 devotees, and several rooms that will serve as *pūjārī* quarters, *brahmacārī* quarters, a children's school, and other essential facilities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the acquisition of this property was a testament to your divine intervention. Initially, when this property was on sale, our local realtor devotee, Nikhil Kapoor, informed us about it. Due to its extraordinary features, numerous religious organizations and investors were eager to purchase it. The seller received six offers, including ours. When Maṅgalānanda Dāsa and Savyasācin Dāsa visited the property with us, they established an amazing and respectful connection with the seller. Along with our offer of $1.5 million (the asking price was $1.9 million), we included a letter written by Vyāsa Dāsa to the church owners, explaining what ISKCON is and our sincere intentions for using this sacred property. That letter, combined with ISKCON's esteemed reputation, sealed the deal for us. Despite receiving higher offers, the church owners chose to accept our offer, recognizing the purity of our purpose.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are deeply moved by the extraordinary support we have received from our ISKCON family. ISKCON Toronto has generously offered $350,000, His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami Mahārāja has contributed $150,000, ISKCON Brampton has provided $30,000, and ISKCON Montreal has extended $2,000. It was monumentally inspiring to witness the unity and collective spirit of all the temples in Zone 1 coming together to support this sacred endeavor. His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami Mahārāja and His Grace Indreśa Gaura Dāsa were very instrumental in igniting this wave of support.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have set both short-term (1–3 years) and long-term goals to ensure the temple's growth and the continued spread of your mission:

Short-term goals:

- Install a decent-sized altar (7.5 feet wide and 8.5 feet tall) and establish the worship of home Deities, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi Sagarīśvara.
- Encourage 7–10 devotees to take *hari-nāma* initiation in 2025 and train them in your standards of Deity worship.
- Encourage 4–5 devotees to take *brāhmaṇa* initiation in 2026.
- Strengthen our congregation's relationship with you by keeping your seven purposes of ISKCON in the center and encouraging regular study of your books.
- Establish effective management policies for progressive development and appoint sincere devotees to lead various departments.
- Renovate the existing kitchen to effectively cook for 300–500 devotees.
- Create an exclusive room for your transcendental literature, with a proper inventory system, and increase the book distribution so we can become one of the top five book distribution temples in Zone 1.
- Start a Sunday school for children.
- Develop strategies for youth, Vaiṣṇava, and Vaiṣṇavī empowerment.
- Develop plans to generate a continuous stream of rental income.
- Develop preaching strategies to increase attendance among the Western community.
- Increase our outreach presence into local universities.

Long-term goals:

- Develop a congregation of devotees who practice strong daily *sādhana* and selflessly serve to please Kṛṣṇa and you, Śrīla Prabhupāda – a congregation that understands the mood of this movement and cooperatively works toward your seven purposes for ISKCON.
- Make this temple the ISKCON headquarters for the Atlantic Canada region, where smaller centers can receive training to spread our movement and eventually establish their own temples.
- Start a full-fledged Govinda's restaurant.
- Install an opulent altar (21 feet wide and 17 feet tall) and install Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, Jagannātha, Balarāma, Subhadrā, and Gaura-Nitāi Deities.
- Make this temple financially stable, with surplus funds to support other temples.
- Make this temple one of the top five well-managed temples in Zone 1.

This temple stands as a testament to your divine vision and the unwavering dedication of your followers. We pray that it will become a vibrant center for spreading the glories of the holy name, a sanctuary for devotees, and a beacon of spiritual light for the entire community.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I want to summarize the heartfelt expressions from a few congregational members who attempted to write an offering to you. This summary includes the offerings from Bhaktin Simran, Bhaktin Morin, Bhakta Rohan, Bhakta Neeraj, Bhaktin Kruti, and Bhaktin Manish.

> Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have fundamentally changed our lives, revealing the path to Kṛṣṇa and spiritual understanding. You have provided answers to essential questions about the soul, our purpose, and true happiness. You are a direct conduit to Kṛṣṇa's mercy and guidance, a spiritual master, caretaker, friend, mother figure, and guide. We have immense gratitude for your teachings, books, and the community you have established. We aspire to deepen our Kṛṣṇa consciousness, follow your teachings, and serve you and your devotees. We desire to make you proud.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly beg for your continued blessings and guidance. May we always remain faithful to your teachings and strive to fulfill your mission. Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma Hare Hare.

Your servant,
Ambarīṣa Dasa
on behalf of your servants at ISKCON Halifax

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA

To our most beloved spiritual grandfather, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. On this most auspicious day of the 129th anniversary of your appearance, we offer our heartfelt and deepest gratitude as an expression of our love to you.

As your granddisciples at ISKCON Harrisburg, we are forever indebted to the immeasurable mercy you bestowed upon us. We can't thank you enough for all that you have given us. You have truly built a house in which the whole world can live.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, here at ISKCON Harrisburg we have been focusing on the "Seven Purposes of ISKCON" you wrote in 1966. Currently, we are in the process of:

- Educating, teaching, and training devotees in the techniques of spiritual life through your instructions, books, and the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.
- Gradually, our *sādhu-saṅga* has been increasing, which is encouraging devotees to come closer to the Lord and to take to the chanting of the holy name.
- Helping devotees see that the temple is the embassy to the spiritual world.
- Encouraging devotees to read the books you so tirelessly wrote for us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, since the appearance of Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gauracandra in 2023, devotees have become inspired to engage in more service for the pleasure of Their Lordships.

We started local university preaching at Penn State Harrisburg called the Bhakti Club. It started at a grassroots level in late 2024, but now it's gradually and organically picking up – all by your mercy.

This year, we started our first training workshop: Journey to Self-Discovery. It was a success, and the devotees are looking forward to more such opportunities. We will be starting more spiritual educational workshops for the devotees to develop their Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In 2024, we held our first Paṇihāṭi festival. Both adults and kids were enthusiastic about making preparations for the Lord in clay pots. We hope to celebrate Paṇihāṭi every year for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gauracandra and make it better each year.

Our Ratha-yātrā festival continues to invite and excite people – we have over a thousand attendees each year – giving the public the opportunity to hear the holy name and to see Lord Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā. This year we will be celebrating our fifteenth annual Ratha-yātrā, and we hope to make it even more special.

Our morning *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes have doubled in attendance and participation. The daily morning *japa* call has continued consistently, and devotees are keener to join the congregational chanting. With this, we are seeing a rise in commitment and dedication.

Our book distribution team of devotees is making extra efforts to spread the knowledge and your transcendental books at every Monthly *Saṅkīrtana* Festival. We ask for your blessings and mercy upon the devotees as they continue to distribute your books, which will plant the seeds of devotion within the hearts of those who will touch, feel, and read them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we hope and pray that these humble efforts in preaching are pleasing to you. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to engage our minds, bodies, and senses in devotional

service at your lotus feet. It is only by your mercy that we have been able to assist you in a small way for Lord Caitanya's mission.

We are beggars at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please help us to continue serving you – with determination, enthusiasm, and lifelong commitment – now and always, until our last breath.

Dāso 'smi,
on behalf of ISKCON Harrisburg
Anasūyā Devī Dāsī

Heidelberg, Germany

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, O master at whose feet all other masters bow. By your mercy, a lame man can cross mountains, a blind man can see the stars in the sky, a dumb man can recite eloquent poetry, and the most fallen can return home, back to Godhead.

On this most glorious occasion of your appearance day, we want to thank you immensely for all the mercy you are giving us. You are very much present in the form of your wonderful *mūrti* and very alive in our *mandir*. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

In this Kali-yuga, the *yuga-dharma* is the *saṅkīrtana-yajna* taught by Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You spread this *saṅkīrtana* movement all over the world by traveling fourteen times around this planet. You are a very dear servant of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, who came to establish the true teachings of Śrīla Vyāsadeva for the benefit of suffering humanity. Your greatness is constantly increasing as your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement continues to expand day by day.

All glories to you and the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu!

Looking back at the past years of your ISKCON Heidelberg temple, by your mercy, all the departments have improved considerably.

By Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi's arrangement, many devotees are now coming to our temple from different parts of the world. Russians and Ukranians enhance your *saṅkīrtana* movement here in Germany – twice a month we go on *harināma* through the streets of Heidelberg, Mannheim, or Karlsruhe. We also go to Baden-Baden and Frankfurt, distributing your books along the way as well as *prasādam,* for your pleasure. The people, by your mercy, are more receptive to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your books are distributed on *harināmas* and in the temple, where we have *Bhagavad-gītās, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatams,* and other books in many languages. The distribution of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* gives the people a taste of the nectar for which everyone hankers.

Our community has grown by the affluence of the Indians working in enterprises near our temple, and by the divine plan, they are very happy to come to the temple and revive their lost culture as well as to find a spiritual family.

Our *pūjārī* and kitchen departments have built up very nicely, with many *pūjārīs* and many cooks serving you and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi with a high standard and devotion.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for giving us this wonderful Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. We are eternally indebted to you! Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!

Your servant,
Śrījī Devī Dāsī
on behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Heidelberg

Hillsboro/Portland, Oregon, USA

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most heartfelt and humble obeisances. All glories to you on this divine day of your appearance!

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

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

We are humbled to have this opportunity to be able to express our heartfelt gratitude to you on this most auspicious occasion of your appearance.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us the path of bhakti and for establishing ISKCON, a home in which we all can live. During your pastimes on this planet, you provided us with amazing wealth in the form of your books, lectures, articles, letters, personal teachings, and interactions. You introduced the Western world to the teachings of Lord Caitanya, festivals, *kīrtana,* philosophy, Deity worship, *prasādam,* and so much more. As the years pass, we continue to realize more and more how precious this gift is that you have so mercifully given us.

On behalf of your disciples, granddisciples, and followers here at ISKCON Hillsboro/Portland, we humbly offer you a short description of the activities that devotees have been working on for your pleasure and the pleasure of our beloved Deities, Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śacīnandana! Please continue to bless us, so we may all remain in your service.

Our devotees have been working together on book distribution, as well as ensuring that your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* is available in hotel rooms. A number of devotees have facilitated local weekly *bhakti-vriksha* groups (online and in-person), *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes, as well as Bhakti-śāstrī studies. Every morning and evening, devotees join a call where your books are read together. It has been so wonderful to see the devotional enthusiasm of our *yātrā* increase by associating with you in the form of your books!

We have welcomed many newly initiated devotees and new congregation members. The devotee community has been blossoming, and everyone serves together in a spirit of joy, encouragement, and cooperation. The weekly Sunday Love Feast program, as established by you, is held, as well as programs on all festival days.

We have a very enthusiastic youth group who engage in *kīrtana* at every opportunity, and our youngest devotees continue to share with one another and everyone else what they learn in Sunday School. At every festival we try to have single-minded focus on the *saṅkīrtana* of the holy name, and we encourage everyone to join in the singing for the pleasure of the Lord, as per your example.

We have enlivening festivals, including two wonderful Ratha-yātrās in prime locations. So many new people are able to join in the chanting of the holy name. Many plates of *prasādam* are distributed, and many of your books are distributed as well. Our Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī festival continues to attract thousands of people, with books, *prasādam,* dramas, *kīrtana,* and dance. We observe an annual Deity welcoming ceremony, where devotees gather to lovingly make beautiful flower outfits and accessories for our Deities and to shower Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śacīnandana with rose petals – a Portland specialty, since this is called the "Rose City."

Devotees have come together to develop a drama team, and their performances of the Lord's pastimes capture everyone's hearts. Amazingly, young teenagers are writing heartfelt scripts after reading your descriptions of the Lord's pastimes. We hold these dramas on a monthly basis, and the entire community looks forward to seeing them with great excitement.

You will also be happy to know that by your compassionate instructions, weekly *prasādam* distribution to the homeless community continues in the Portland downtown area. We started it at the beginning of the COVID pandemic and continue it still. People look forward to receiving this special form of the Lord's mercy.

Inspired by the beauty of our Deities, Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Śacīnandana, devotees have formed a decoration team that makes darshan of the Deities a feast for our eyes on a weekly basis as well as at festivals. We have been fortunate to welcome new full-time *pūjārīs,* trained in the holy *dhāmas,* who kindly teach the rest of us more aspects of Deity worship. Inspired by their encouragement, devotees have also started sewing and crocheting groups so that more outfits can be offered to our Deities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, from your example of extending Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone, we have developed a wider social media presence. Our content across social media platforms has been enhanced by our new website, which is welcoming and informative for newcomers as well as for practicing devotees. We are also using other social media to rapidly reach out to the community beyond our small group, to attract them to what your Society has to offer them. Our devotees have dramatically enhanced the attractiveness of the content by forming a talented audiovisual devotee team.

We aspire to always engage in your service to the best of our abilities. We pray for the continuous flow of your mercy and thus to become worthy of serving you in a pleasing manner. On this auspicious occasion, we ask humbly for your blessings so that our community can continue to reciprocate in gratitude to your earnest and ceaseless efforts to uplift everyone.

Thank you for giving every second of your earthly presence for our benefit!

Your aspiring, loving servants at ISKCON Hillsboro/Portland

Hillsborough, North Carolina, USA

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Our heartfelt obeisances at your lotus feet, which we know are always moving. We can recognize the great fortune you have bestowed on us – and continue to bestow – as we live our lives trying to appreciate this matchless gift, the multifaceted gem of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We have been graciously granted another precious year to distribute this unimaginable treasure of bhakti-yoga to whomever will receive it, and we are meeting with some success. Given the turbulence in our society and the world, not unlike when you were present in our midst, the suffering of Mother Bhūmi's inhabitants is almost tangible. Many humans are looking for the silver lining, seeking the truth, and for lack of spiritual knowledge they are disappointed, confused, bewildered, and bereft. So we are attempting to reach out to them, offering them some little glimpses of the beauty of bhakti, that thing which is eternally real, which will relieve their tremendous suffering. As Kali-yuga progresses, we see the increased degradation of human society; indeed, it appears as if Father Dharma's last leg is about to crumble and collapse. As you have so kindly relieved our intense suffering, Your Divine Grace, we pray that you will empower us to deliver your loving message to others.

Time is a very elusive thing to fathom; however, we do know that there never seems to be enough of it. As you told us again and again: (1) Not one moment should be wasted; and (2) We can never buy back any "unused" time. We can practically see that the whole world is on fire. You have tasked us to be the fire brigade insomuch as we should attempt to spread the holy names around, distribute your precious literatures, and interact exceptionally with the various souls we meet. The impetus to fight the creeping forest fire of Māyā has been instilled by your mercy alone, O Patita-pāvana! How else could we reasonably function in this phantasmagoria? Your faithful adherents witness many miracles whereby a momentary meeting with your local representative has irrevocably changed the life of an unsuspecting spirit soul. Please give us presence of mind in all such encounters so we may impress a bit of bhakti on those sincere spiritual seekers.

The assembled Vaiṣṇavas lead very busy lives, supporting their families and themselves someway or other while endeavoring in their real business in this world: *sādhana-bhakti,* outreach and sharing Kṛṣṇa with others, worshiping the *arcā-vigraha,* and keeping body and soul together to do all of the above. Somehow all of this seems minuscule in scope compared to your life's work. When we remember that you sacrificed your very self to bring us all salvation, we can only pray to be so surrendered in the service of others. You are incomprehensibly selfless, and your abject humility in all interpersonal dealings seems unattainable to us, so we can only persist in chanting the *mahā-mantra,* as you instructed, to neutralize our false ego. We have understood: purification is perceivable and palpable if we persevere in our practice. We beg you to shower us with your inconceivable mercy to follow you closely, as a small child enjoys following their loving father. O Vaiṣṇava Ṭhākura, we beg for the spiritual strength and discrimination to continue our journey down this difficult and uncommon path, which is also very sweet, simple, and sublime. We are deeply indebted to you, as well as eternally grateful to have been gifted this most divine of all boons, pure devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Your eternal servant,
Līlā-śakti Devī Dāsī, temple president
on behalf of the devotees at New Goloka Dhāma

Hong Kong

Hare Kṛṣṇa, our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances. All glories to you! All glories to all the great Vaiṣṇavas!

I can't imagine how fortunate I am – such an insignificant, fallen soul like me – to be given a chance to write a homage to you for your Vyāsa-pūjā day. I am writing on behalf of the Hong Kong *yātrā*. I believe my personal feelings and experience of your mercy toward me is similar to what the other devotees have experienced in Hong Kong and so also represents their feelings and appreciation.

When I initially came to your ISKCON Society, it was an extremely difficult period in my life. I had a hard time with myself, my health, and my family. In short, I was in complete darkness and my life was messy. However, after I read your books – books like *The Science of Self-Realization, Beyond Birth and Death, Chant and be Happy,* and finally, the *Bhagavad-gītā* – I was certain that Kṛṣṇa consciousness was the medicine for my diseases. You gave me – and all of us – light and hope through your books, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

You then appeared in my dreams – three times. These dreams are still vivid in my mind. They gave and continue to give me much strength and confidence on the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I recall one of the dreams in this offering.

This dream took place after I had watched *The Final Lesson,* the documentary video of your final pastimes in this world. I dreamed of you that night. You were very sick and fragile. The setting was in the countryside. Many disciples and devotees had come to pay their loving respects to you. Everyone was too sad to say anything. I remembered that I was also there, and so I also paid my sincere respects to you. When I came out of the room, I choked up and told myself, "Śrīla Prabhupāda has done so much for me, for all of us, for the world. We must do our very best to continue his mission."

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you so much for giving me such loving, intimate, and personal association through my dreams. Thank you for also giving me such loving and intimate association through your followers, your books, and everything else you gave us. They are the impetus that continues to enable me to hold fast to my dream of going back home, back to Godhead. They are also indispensable in helping me go through so many trials on my spiritual path.

On behalf of the Hong Kong *yātrā,* all of the devotees have gained much from your mercy, kindness, and teachings. We miss you greatly and will try our best to continue your mission in whatever small way we are able. Śrīla Prabhupāda Vyāsa-pūjā *kī jaya*!

Your humble and insignificant servant,
Gāyatrī Devī Dāsī,
on behalf of the Hong Kong *yātrā*

Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra, India

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of ISKCON Ichalkaranji, offer our heartfelt obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

You are the transcendental gardener who has planted the seeds of Kṛṣṇa consciousness across the barren fields of this material world, nurturing them with your boundless mercy and unfathomable love. Your spiritual vision, wisdom, and compassion illuminate our path as we humbly strive to carry forward your glorious mission.

The distribution of your transcendental books remains one of our greatest sources of joy, touching countless souls and awakening their eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa. Preaching programs have also become a powerful instrument in spreading the divine message of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to every corner of our community, inspiring new devotees and profound transformations.

In addition to these efforts, we are deeply humbled and overjoyed to share an update that fills our hearts with hope and unlimited excitement. By your divine blessings, a new temple for Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara is under construction. This temple is envisioned as a spiritual sanctuary, where devotees and newcomers alike will experience the warmth and presence of the Divine Couple. Our aspiration is to complete this sacred project within the next year, offering it as a humble service to Your Divine Grace and the community. This endeavor is a testament to our collective dedication to fulfilling your mission and establishing a haven where bhakti flourishes.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the guiding force behind all that we do, the eternal well-wisher of every soul. You have given us everything – knowledge, purpose, and a loving spiritual family. We remain forever indebted to you for your gift of causeless mercy. We earnestly pray that you empower us with devotion, courage, and humility so that we may continue serving your divine mission with sincerity and determination. May your words forever remain the guiding light of our lives.

On this sacred day, we renew our commitment to spreading the glories of the Supreme Lord, serving the devotees, and immersing ourselves in the nectar of Kṛṣṇa's holy names. Please continue to guide us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we may one day become true instruments of your boundless compassion and love.

All glories to Your Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your tireless endeavor to awaken the dormant spirituality within us all!

Your humble servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Ichalkaranji

Indore, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

At the recently held Kumbha Mela in Prayag this past January and February, one prominent organization emphatically proclaimed your divine self as Vishwa Guru, spiritual master of the entire world. The same organization appreciated and acknowledged all of your many contributions – in particular, your brilliant, beautiful, comprehensive, easy-to-understand and authentic commentary on the *Bhagavad-gītā*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you yourself attributed your unprecedented success to two causes: (1) *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is;* (2) your total surrender to your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīpāda Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Indeed, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are most worthy of being the Vishwa Guru and do not require any certification from anyone, as this would be like offering a candle to the sun. But it is encouraging to see our movement so widely accepted.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, every sentence, every word you ever spoke, is important nectar and full of meaning. Yet we feel one sentence is a *sañjīvanī,* a life-giving tonic, to our hearts. You spoke this sentence in a conversation with an American reporter:

> **Reporter:** What will happen when you die?
>
> **Śrīla Prabhupāda:** I will never die. I will always live in my books and they will utilize.

Indeed, the publication and distribution of your books has changed and continues to change the demography and destiny of this world.

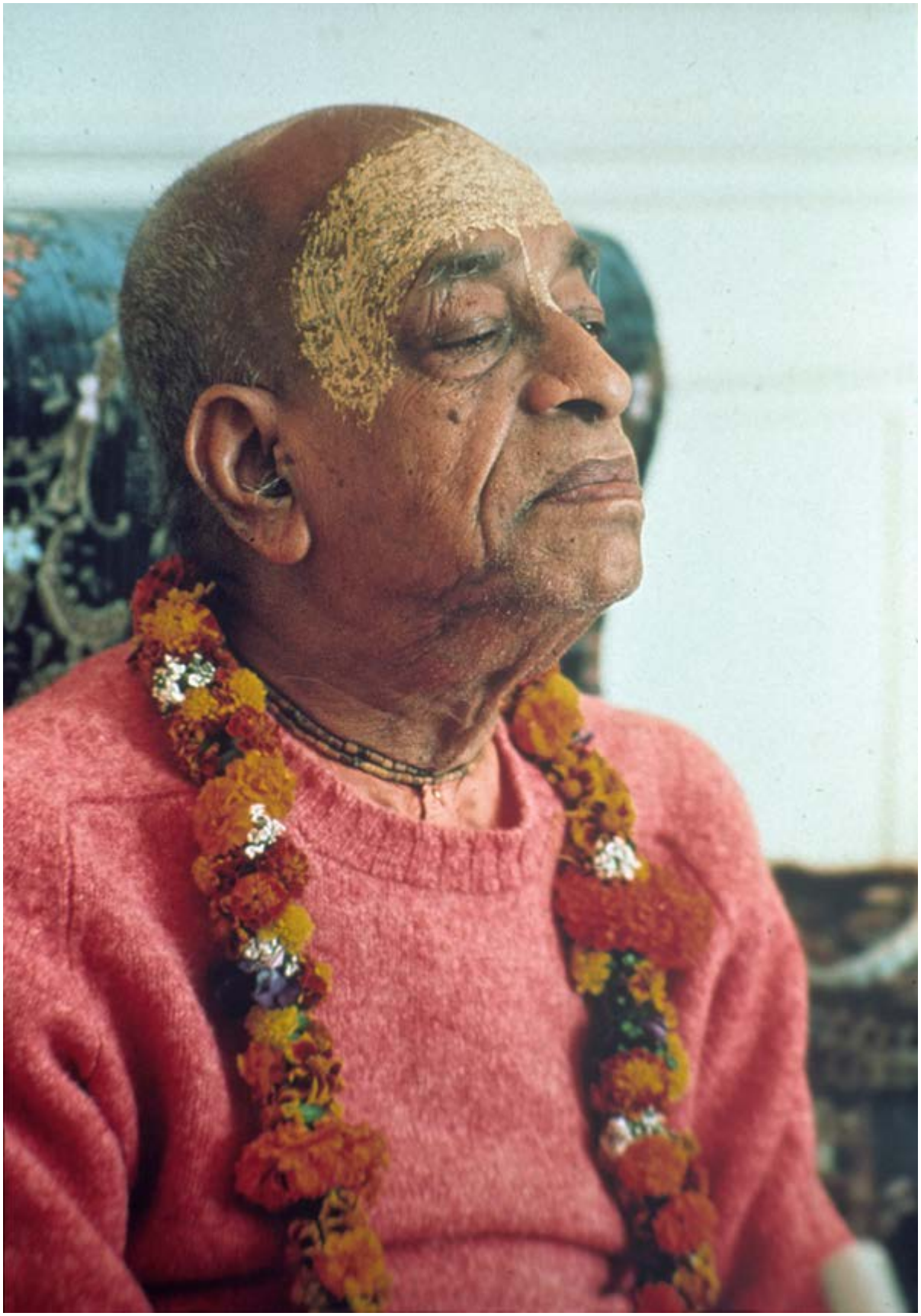
Śrīla Prabhupāda, if we could only understand and appreciate even a tiny drop of your glories and magnanimity, we would consider our lives successful. We pray fervently to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa to give us the intelligence to understand your glories. This is the only benediction we would ever seek from dear almighty Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Both individually and as Society we will never be able to repay the debt we owe you.

You are Vishwa Guru because *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* is planted in the hearts of all through your books, darshan, *prasādam,* etc., etc.

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta (*Ādi* 1.44) states, "Although I know that my spiritual master is a servitor of Śrī Caitanya, I know Him also as a plenary manifestation of the Lord."

On this occasion of your divine Vyāsa-pūjā, we appreciate your mercy and pray to have the strength to go on in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, life after life. Thank you for saving us, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Indore,
Mahāmān Dāsa, Viśala Dāsa, Praṇeśvara Dāsa, Kṛṣṇa Candra Dāsa, Acyuta Gopāl Dāsa, Lakṣmaṇa Dāsa, Giridhara Gopāl Dāsa, Param Haṅsa Devī Dāsī, Satya Prema Devī Dāsī, Sukhī Devī Dāsī, Pārvatī Devī Dāsī, and many other devotees serving at ISKCON Indore



Japan

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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.

We devotees in Japan hear about your pastimes from your disciples and know that your first books were printed in Japan. We also know how you visited the center and different places in and around Tokyo, and that you also visited Kobe. We feel blessed that somehow we are engaged in serving your mission in the land of the rising sun, following in your footsteps.

Devotees here are trying to set up small centers and preaching programs in different parts of Japan, according to their capacity. Our intent is to reach to more and more people.

This year, the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda Deities you kindly installed in Japan about fifty years ago will return to the Tokyo temple. This shall surely provide us clear vision for the Japan *yātrā*.

We take this opportunity to beg your guidance on how to move ahead in this fast-changing digital revolution. The principles remain the same, but how to apply them in this materially opulent part of the world is a challenge. The devotees are trying their best, but your visionary ideas will help us boost progress.

The second-generation devotees are now becoming senior citizens, and we have to provide them with care facilities. They have sacrificed their precious years of life to sustain the *yātrā* for so long. Now we also look forward to the next generation taking responsibility and carrying the baton forward. Your unique ways of encouraging devotees and making them the driving force for the movement is our inspiration.

Printing Japanese translations of your books is in the pipeline, but we have not yet been able to reach a consensus on the finer details – such as whether to print the book or make it available digitally online, or whether we should use a horizontal or vertical Japanese font style. And there are other details. But by your mercy we should soon reach a conclusion. Your Divine Grace managed several initiatives at the same time, so please guide and instruct us so we can fulfill your vision in Japan.

Your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Japan

Juhu, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances on the occasion of your 129th appearance day. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

In a *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* purport, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you beautifully explain that Kṛṣṇa is the CSO, the Chief Sanctioning Officer, because nothing happens without His will. Even a blade of grass doesn't move without His sanction

Today's corporate world is filled with CEOs, CIOs, CXOs, and buzzwords like "strategy" and "servant leadership." Yet true leadership, as shown by you, isn't about titles but impact. Without corporate backing you inspired a global movement (ISKCON) through selfless service, genuine care, and unwavering dedication. Founded in 1966, ISKCON is presently the fastest-growing spiritual movement, with over six hundred centers worldwide. And it continues to expand, establishing new temples, farm communities, and cultural centers each year. An example modern leaders can learn from!

By fully surrendering to the order of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, Kṛṣṇa empowered you to achieve the impossible: building a global spiritual movement with zero investment. No venture capitalist can dream of launching even a small business without seed capital, yet you established a billion-dollar spiritual empire, where followers work tirelessly not for salary but out of love for Kṛṣṇa. This is the greatest success story the world has ever seen!

While organizations sell products for profit, Lord Caitanya's followers like you distribute the rarest treasure – love of God – freely. This divine gift, unattainable even by great yogis after lifetimes of meditation, is given to all sincere souls without cost, purely out of compassion

You redefined success not as wealth, beauty, or power, but as striving to attain love for Kṛṣṇa. No management consultant could ever offer such an extraordinary vision of true success! Your life itself was the perfect demonstration of this divine way of life!

You exemplified extraordinary servant leadership by personally cooking *prasādam,* cleaning floors, and tolerating all difficulties simply to fulfill Lord Caitanya's vision of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village. This selfless service was your divine strategy to attract conditioned souls to Kṛṣṇa, proving that true leadership is expressed through humility and love.

Another perfect example is the construction of your beloved Juhu temple, built purely by the power of *harināma* and book distribution. This proves that Kṛṣṇa's mission thrives on devotion and preaching.

After countless debates, arguments, and struggles to secure the Juhu temple land, when your opponents finally surrendered, you rejoiced, saying: "The fight was worth it!" Your determination turned an impossible battle into a glorious victory for Kṛṣṇa!

After winning the Juhu land, a day came when all the food supplies ran out. You calmly instructed Mr. Sethi to arrange *khichdi prasādam* for the devotees. And that very evening, as you sat on the *vyāsāsana,* you spoke with unwavering determination, describing in detail how the temple should be built: white marble, red-bricked towers, and a majestic altar for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rasabihārī. Your unshakable faith and vision by which you fulfilled your promise to the Deities remain truly phenomenal!

Your approach wasn't based on corporate jargon but selfless service, deep wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to your spiritual master's mission. Unlike modern executives focused on profit and market dominance, you distributed something priceless: love, devotion, and genuine spiritual transformation. Your "strategy" wasn't driven by analytics or shareholder value but by an unshakable faith in Kṛṣṇa and the power of pure bhakti.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you led not for power but to uplift others, giving the world Kṛṣṇa consciousness through love and care. Your legacy lives on at the Juhu temple through multiple initiatives like:

- Sunday Love Feasts: the program you initiated continues to grow and thrive.
- Youth outreach: we reach out to young people and support their spiritual growth alongside their studies through the BACE setup. This year's Tarang festival attracted 6,000 young boys!
- Value education contests: ISKCON Juhu's nonprofit initiative of hosting a *Bhagavad-Gītā* open-book contest and rewarding students for their study.
- *Japa* stalls: we offer a pamphlet about chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra on beads, with a take-home *mahā-mantra* card. An inquiry pamphlet also guides visitors on the Kṛṣṇa conscious lifestyle, benefiting many.
- Devotional gift stall: the gift shop carries a wide variety of devotional items, from *pūjā* paraphernalia to clothes to aromatic incense sticks, of which the Rasabihārī variety is highly sought after.
- Vegetarian cuisine: Govinda's Restaurant, Govinda's Bistro, and *prasādam* at the sweets stall and bakery attract many. Visitors leave with cherished memories of Deity darshan, delicious *prasādam,* and enriching experiences, drawing them back.
- Farm community: as an extension of our temple, Nilachal Vedic Village, in Talasari, Palghar, promotes sustainability through its farm and goshala. We offer day tours, overnight stays, and sell farm produce at our temple stall.
- *Harināma* and *Shobha yātrās* at Juhu Beach are held regularly.
- Grand festivals throughout the year – spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness just as you envisioned!
- Food-for-Life: you introduced Food-for-Life at the Juhu temple, where millions still receive *prasādam,* nourishing body and soul!
- Bhaktilata Ladies Forum: empowering women to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness in their daily lives.
- Life Membership program: the program you introduced in the 1970s still offers members a chance to join ISKCON's family, stay at temples, and attend spiritual programs. This program continues to expand. Today, over 50,000 Life Members are part of our growing community.
- Sri Rupa Manjari Institute: ladies from all walks of life are welcome to learn more about ancient Vedic philosophy and culture.
- Bhaktivedanta Institute: started by you, the Bhaktivedanta Institute is attempting groundbreaking work within the field of Consciousness Studies. The Institute's research aims at offering a new perspective on foundational problems in allied fields of modern science.

The Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rasabihārī temple, as envisioned by you, our beloved *ācārya,* has proved to be more than just a place of worship; it's a spiritual oasis for people seeking refuge from the material world.

You perfectly embodied *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.41 – *vyavasāyātmikā buddhiḥ* – by staying resolute in your mission. Your single-minded focus on spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness made the impossible

possible. Your unwavering determination was the key to your success. You fulfilled your promise to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rasabihārī by building a marble palace for Their pleasure.

We pray to align our temple's activities with your divine strategy, creating a win-win for all – bringing true peace and auspiciousness to the entire world.

Thank you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the greatest Chief Strategy Officer the world has ever and will ever see! Let your divine love and compassion continue to guide and uplift us all at your office – ISKCON Juhu, Mumbai, home of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rasabihārī!

Please also accept this poem as an offering to you:

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are an embodiment of compassion, a messenger of love.
By your wisdom and teachings of the realm above,
You thwarted our miseries and delusions,
which clouded our vision.
You gave us the language of devotion,
Freely distributing experiences of higher emotions.
With a heartwarming smile and merciful glance,
You captured our heart, giving us the chance,
To utilize this lifetime in service of Kṛṣṇa,
Through the joyful means of *arcana, vandana,* and *saṅkīrtana.*

Thank you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
For extricating us from the material roundabout!

Your servants at ISKCON Juhu, Mumbai

Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our most humble and heartfelt obeisances at your divine lotus feet. You are one of the most intimate associates of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

tomāra milane bhāi ābāra se sukha pāi,
gocāraṇe ghuri dina bhora
kata vane chuṭāchuṭi, vane khāi luṭāpuṭi,
sei dina kabe habe mora

> O dear friend, in Your company I will experience great joy once again. In the early morning I will wander about the cowherd pastures and fields. Running and frolicking in the many forests of Vraja, I will roll on the ground in spiritual ecstasy. Oh, when will that day be mine? ("Prayer to the Lotus Feet of Kṛṣṇa," onboard the ship *Jaladuta,* September 13, 1965)

For all of us, you are the true *ācārya,* who has illuminated the world with the light of transcendental knowledge.

The *catuḥ-ślokī Bhagavad-gītā* (10.8–11) encapsulates the essence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and through your life's example you demonstrated how these verses manifest in the world through the actions of a pure devotee. Today, we meditate on your divine glories through the lens of these four foundational verses.

Bhagavad-gītā 10.8: You revealed the Supreme Source and our supreme object of love

ahaṁ sarvasya prabhavo mattaḥ sarvaṁ pravartate

I am the source of all spiritual and material worlds. Everything emanates from Me.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us *the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.* In a world filled with impersonalists, atheists, and speculative philosophers, you boldly declared the truth: Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In the extended title to the *Kṛṣṇa* book, you wrote, "The Supreme Personality of Godhead." Even during ISKCON's incorporation, when others were suggesting you use in the name of your new society "for God Consciousness," you said, "No! It should be 'for Krishna Consciousness.'"

Born in India but far from spiritual life, we hardly cared about gods, and even if sometimes we went to a temple, it was all confusion. Who was supreme? And do any of these deities have a role in our lives?

In the purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 10.8 you gave a number of references, meant to convince us that Kṛṣṇa is both our source and our maintainer, and therefore our love should be directed toward Him: He is the object of our love

"Yes. If we can understand ... Just like if you are affectionate to your father, then you naturally become affectionate to your brother. They are preaching universal brotherhood, but 'Where is the father, sir?' 'Oh, Father is missing.' 'Then where is the question of brotherhood?' If you don't find your father, then how do you select your brother? These are the imperfectness. If you actually want to do something for your brother in universal brotherhood, first of all establish your relationship with father which you have lost." (Lecture, *Bhagavad-gītā* 5.17–25, Los Angeles, February 8, 1969)

Your simple conclusion is to *love God, love all,* because He is the origin of all of us. It is He who is maintaining us. The *Kaṭha Upaniṣad* (2.2.13) states:

nityo nityānāṁ cetanaś cetanānām
eko bahūnāṁ yo vidadhāti kāmān

It gives so much peace to the heart that at the top is a very sweet, compassionate personality who is always loving us and caring for us. He is our real *suhṛt,* our most intimate friend. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura states in this regard that Kṛṣṇa operates bhakti through His pure devotees. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the perfect example of this.

iti matvā bhajante māṁ
budhā bhāva-samanvitāḥ

The wise who know this perfectly engage in My devotional service and worship Me with all their hearts.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in this regard your own devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa is unparalleled.

pragāḍha-premera ei svabhāva-ācāra
nija-duḥkha-vighnādira nā kare vicāra

> This is the natural result of intense love of Godhead. The devotee does not consider personal inconveniences or impediments. In all circumstances he wants to serve the Supreme Personality of Godhead. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 4.186)

In 1965, at the age of 69, you boarded the *Jaladuta* alone, suffering sea sickness and vomiting and later two heart attacks at sea, simply to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This is possible only out of intense love for guru and Kṛṣṇa: "The symptom, the prime symptom, most important symptom of love is that the devotee wants to see that his Lord's name, fame, etc., become widespread. He wants to see that 'My Lord's name be known everywhere.' This is love. If I love somebody, I want to see that his glories are spread all over the world." (Lecture, New Vrindaban, September 5, 1972)

For us, apart from your own example of devotion, you gave us direct instructions in the purport to this verse 8 from the *Gītā's* tenth chapter:

- Redirection of head (*budha*): "One who understands Kṛṣṇa in such a way from a bona fide spiritual master, with references from Vedic literature, engages all his energy in Kṛṣṇa consciousness…. A Kṛṣṇa conscious person should not be bewildered by fools; he should avoid all unauthorized commentaries and interpretations on the *Bhagavad-gītā*.
- Redirection of heart (*bhāva*): "[P]roceed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness with determination and firmness."

Bhagavad-gītā 10.9: You united devotees in loving service to Lord Kṛṣṇa, giving us the real joy and satisfaction to life.

mac-cittā mad-gata-prāṇā bodhayantaḥ parasparam
kathayantaś ca māṁ nityaṁ tuṣyanti ca ramanti ca

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you transformed scattered, lost individuals (hippies) into a worldwide spiritual family, where devotees constantly discuss *kṛṣṇa-kathā* and serve Him together. You made a house in which the whole world can live.

The messages of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* were your secret weapon to fight against Māyā.

bhāgavater kathā se taba avatār dhīra haiyā śune jadi kāne bār bār

> The words of Ś*rīmad-Bhāgavatam* are Your incarnation, and if a sober person repeatedly receives it with submissive aural reception, then he will be able to understand Your message.

In 1966, at 26 Second Avenue in New York City, you personally guided the first devotees, engaging them in *kīrtana, kṛṣṇa-kathā,* and *prasādam* distribution. The simple yet powerful life you gave the devotees united their hearts and focused them on Kṛṣṇa through you. When we see the pictures of devotees from that time, their faces are lit with beautiful smiles and so much joy.

You introduced the morning program with daily *Bhāgavatam* classes, *Bhagavad-gītā* classes, and *harināma-saṅkīrtana* on the streets, ensuring that devotees would always remain engaged in glorifying Kṛṣṇa. You showed by your own example that we should always be engaged in glorifying Kṛṣṇa.

> Read *Kṛṣṇa* book regularly. Why these books are written? Only for selling? Taking statistics, "How many books you have sold?" You learn, read. Always read, twenty-four hours. As soon as you get time, read. I do that. I do that. Reading, writing or chanting. But when there is no other way, you sleep little. Not to enjoy sleep, but because it is not possible to continue, all right, sleep one hour, two hour, three hour, four hour, five hour. Not more than that. (Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.9.1–8, Tokyo, April 25, 1972)

You always made Kṛṣṇa the center of every conversation; you inspired devotees to discuss Kṛṣṇa at every moment. Whether in temple halls, street *harināmas,* or press interviews, you always brought the discussion back to Kṛṣṇa. Even during casual morning walks you engaged devotees in profound discussions on Kṛṣṇa consciousness, answering every philosophical question with scriptural evidence.

Bhagavad-gītā 10.10: You gave us the divine intelligence to choose Kṛṣṇa over Māyā.

teṣāṁ satata-yuktānāṁ bhajatāṁ prīti-pūrvakam
dadāmi buddhi-yogaṁ taṁ yena mām upayānti te

> To those who are constantly devoted to serving Me with love, I give the understanding by which they can come to Me.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your books provided millions with spiritual intelligence, awakening them to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

> Home to home, place to place, man to man, this literature must go there. If he ... If one takes one book, at least one day he'll read it: "Let me see what is this book I have purchased the other day." And if he reads one line his life will be successful, if he reads one line only, carefully. This is such literature. (Lecture on *Bhagavad-gītā* 16.9, Hawaii, February 5, 1975)

Example: Many devotees, such as His Holiness Bhakti Tīrtha Swami Mahārāja and His Holiness Jayādvaita Swami Mahārāja, were transformed simply by reading your books, realizing that Kṛṣṇa consciousness was the ultimate goal of life. Your books leave no doubt that we should make the spiritual world the goal of our lives. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us a real goal of life.

"The ultimate goal of progress is Kṛṣṇa. People do not know this; therefore the association of devotees and a bona fide spiritual master are important. One should know that the goal is Kṛṣṇa, and when the goal is assigned, then the path is slowly but progressively traversed, and the ultimate goal is achieved." (*Bhagavad-gītā* 10.10, purport)

Bhagavad-gītā 10.11: You removed our ignorance.

teṣām evānukampārtham aham ajñāna-jaṁ tamaḥ
nāśayāmy ātma-bhāva-stho jñāna-dīpena bhāsvatā

> To show them special mercy, I, dwelling in their hearts, destroy with the shining lamp of knowledge the darkness born of ignorance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in this Age of Kali, where the darkness of ignorance is everywhere, you showed us Vaikuṇṭha living – simple living and high thinking. Dhoti, kurta, sari, and *tilaka, kaṇṭhi-mālā* and a beadbag in hand – your devotees look just like Vaikuṇṭha men and women.

With the shining lamp of knowledge, you destroyed our misconceptions about what is right and what is wrong. What we perceived as normal in a life of intoxication, meat eating, gambling, and illicit relationships, you showed as a sinful life. It was your great compassion on us that you spent sleepless nights under lamplight translating your books in order to show us the lamp of a true life of devotion and joy.

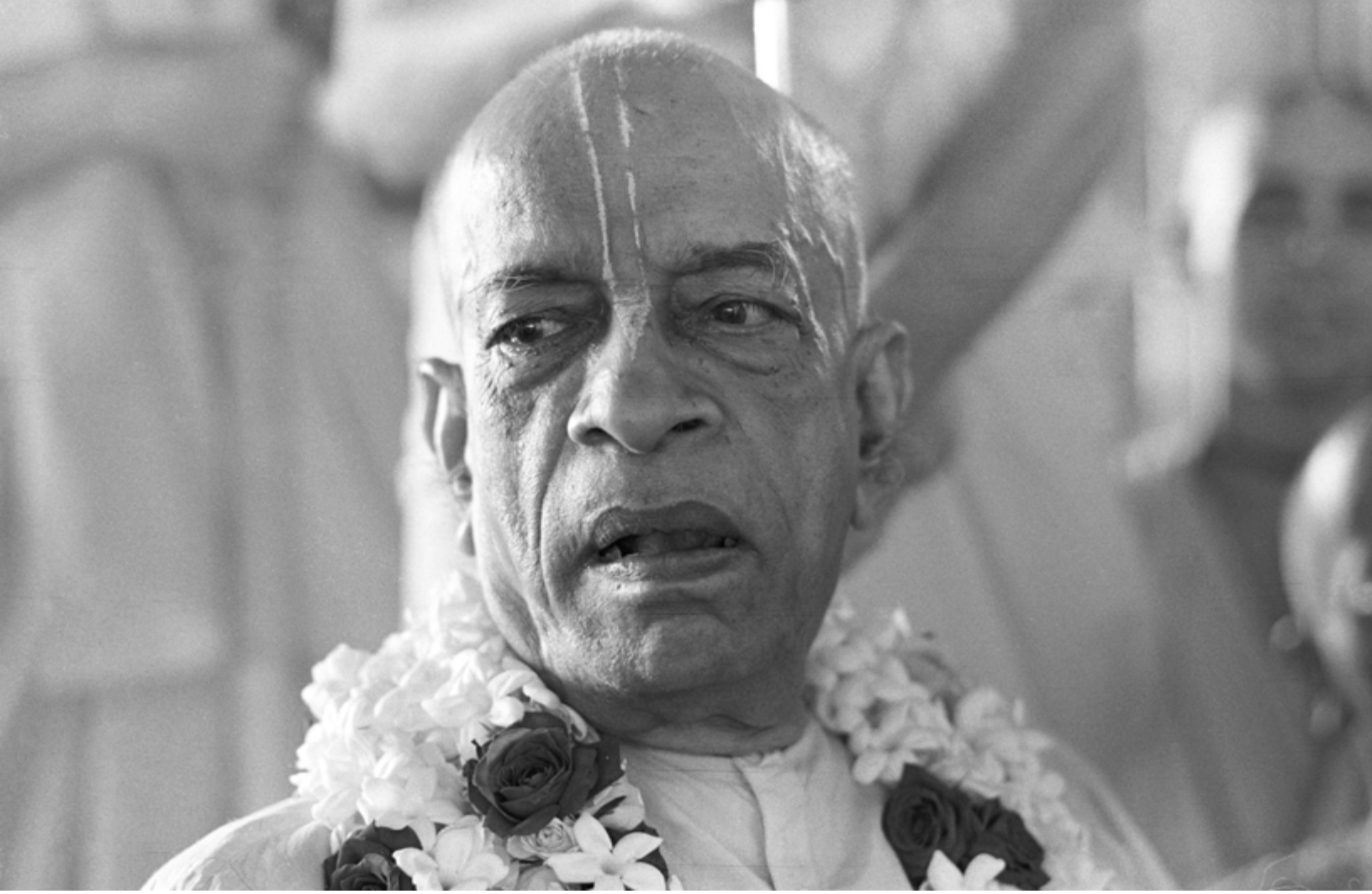
Even in Soviet Russia, where there was the dense darkness of having no clue about God consciousness, those who read your books secretly developed unshakable faith in Kṛṣṇa, proving that your knowledge continues to enlighten souls.

Your glories, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are unlimited. It is impossible for conditioned souls to even begin to describe the unlimited glories of a pure devotee.

Here, at ISKCON Kanpur, by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are trying to assist you in your service to your spiritual master. Preaching has been growing steadily. Youth preaching, preaching to children, congregational preaching, and preaching on campuses are all increasing under the direction of your beloved disciples. Recently, we held a youth camp with over 250 students attending, chanting sixteen rounds. The temple is vibrant with energized morning and evening programs and many visitors coming. Deities, *kīrtanas,* devotees, *prasādam,* and festivals are special attractions for all. Recently, we held a Holi Milan festival with over 40,000 people hearing and chanting the holy names. It was the biggest in the history of Kanpur. Book distribution has reached a new height by the hard endeavors of all the devotees – 1.08 lakhs of books distributed. ISKCON Kanpur won sixth place worldwide in book distribution. The congregation team is trying to develop a Kṛṣṇa conscious school. Many devotees are dedicating their full time to serving your mission. Kanpur has always been an important center for you. We seek your kind blessings so that we may eternally assist you in your service. We pray that we may become humble instruments of compassion in the hands of our superiors in service to you.

Our prayer at your lotus feet: Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you perfectly embodied the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. On this Vyāsa-pūjā day, we humbly pray for your mercy so that we may serve you sincerely. May we always engage in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, as you so tirelessly did. May we always remain faithful to your teachings, submissive to your beloved disciples, and carry forward your mission with determination.

Your humble servants,
Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava's family at ISKCON Kanpur



Rupanuga Vedic College, Kansas City, MO, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are so much indebted to you for your kindly picking us up out of the ocean of birth and death. You have revealed the teachings of Kṛṣṇa, which grant eternal life to those who submissively hear them, try to understand them, and strive to implement them in their lives.

We are desperately begging to be considered in the above groups. We simply want to please Your Divine Grace by our every thought, word, and deed.

Please forgive us for all our shortcomings. Please rectify us as you see fit. We are your property. We are your property. We are your property. Do with us as you wish. We trust you. We believe that you are our ever well-wisher. We believe that you will always try to help us to grow ever nearer to the will of Their Lordships, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

Your eternal servants and family members,
The residents and congregation of RVC

Kenya

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your glories are unlimited, and your mercy flows for generations eternally.

In the early '70s you visited Kenya with a desire to preach to the locals. Here is an update of the last fifty years grown from the seeds you planted.

In the early '80s a number of temple presidents and foreign devotees came and left Kenya and East Africa because conditions were too austere and they were not having much luck developing an Indian congregation or spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness among the local African community.

A couple of years later, the Nairobi temple was about to close due to lack of management and no funds. In 1983, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Mahārāja became GBC for East Africa. He sent one of his disciples, His Grace Umāpati Prabhu, to Nairobi. At the same time, Her Grace Mānasī-gaṅgā and her mother, Tulasīpriyā Mātājī, came here from the UK. This was the turning point for ISKCON East Africa.

In 1991, I remember we hardly had enough money to buy fruit, vegetables, or flowers for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Baṅkebihārī, and ISKCON, at that point, had a very bad reputation, especially within the Gujarati community.

Gradually, by the humble efforts of His Grace Umāpati Prabhu, Her Grace Mānasī-gaṅgā Mātājī, and Her Grace Tulasīpriyā Mātājī, standards started to improve. Funds started coming in, and the congregation started to grow.

In 1994, we saw the opening of a magnificent and beautiful temple, and in 1996, Śrī Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān were installed. Gradually, surrounding properties were acquired by the temple, and a residential complex was built behind the temple in 2006 that now houses twenty *gṛhastha* devotees.

We acquired farm land in 2015, and we now grow our own organic vegetables. The Deities are offered A2 milk from our own grass-fed cows. We have a very successful and renowned sweet shop. In 2024, the temple acquired another forty acres of farmland for expansion.

In 2015, Kenya opened its first hostel service for local students, and that program is now thriving, with over eighty students at a time who follow part of the morning or evening program, eat *prasādam* daily, and associate with devotees. This year, 2025, we have seen the opening of Yogi Plate, subsidized lunch *prasādam* for students at a very affordable rate.

There is a truly stunning temple near the beach in Mombasa, and the old temple in Ganjoni is still open and very active with local preaching. The Mombasa temple has also acquired adjoining land, and a housing project is in the pipeline.

Over the past four years we have opened three preaching centers – one each in Eldoret, Nakuru, and Juja, and these focus mainly on local African preaching – thus trying to fulfill your desire to preach to the locals in Kenya. Both the Eldoret and Nakuru centers have acquired land for new temple construction.

We have had one of the best records for book distribution in the whole of Africa, and for five years in a row Nairobi has been leading the marathon.

This year, His Grace Umāpati Prabhu was selected to serve as the GBC representative for East Africa and also as an initiating spiritual master, thus fulfilling the chain of *paramparā* as envisioned by Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you visited Kenya in 1971, and all this expansion and growth has happened within the last fifty years. ISKCON in East Africa is thriving and growing at an exponential rate, and we have an active and engaged congregation. Śrīla Prabhupāda, this is all due to your mercy and vision.

We feel so fortunate to be part of this community. Please bless us that we may expand with more enthusiasm and vigor than ever before. Your vision was to see the local Africans become devotees. Kindly bestow your mercy upon us so that we can all follow your specific instructions for East Africa. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Your servant,
Aiśvarya Līlā Devī Dāsī
Vaiṣṇavī Minister for Kenya

Khamgaon, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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! All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to your sacred day of appearance! O dear master, we have no qualification to glorify Your Divine Grace, but it is only for our purification that we are trying to do so.

It is said in *Śrīmad-Bhagavatam* 3.22.21: "Pure devotees are so absorbed in thought of Kṛṣṇa that they have no other engagement; although they may seem to think or act otherwise, they are always thinking of Kṛṣṇa. The smile of such a Kṛṣṇa conscious person is so attractive that simply by smiling he wins so many admirers, disciples and followers."

It is your smile that has conquered the hearts of many, and even today we see its impact. Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your own behavior you taught us how devotees, despite being in this material world, are not affected by this world because of their constant engagement in the service of Kṛṣṇa.

Years are passing and your movement is flourishing. This shows how exalted a teacher you are! You are the most compassionate *ācārya* ever, and you have been showering unconditional mercy upon fallen souls like us and giving the treasure of your heart generously – love of Kṛṣṇa.

By your divine mercy, an ISKCON center in Khamgaon has been opened. We hold weekly programs and celebrate festivals like Janmāṣṭamī, Nityānanda Trayodaśī, Gaura-Pūrṇimā, and others. These are attracting the hearts of many residents of Khamgaon. We are trying our level best to please you by being instruments in the transcendental movement of Lord Caitanya.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so we can serve you in unexpected ways in this upcoming year, increasing both the quality and number of devotees. May the whole town swim in the blissful ocean of *kṛṣṇa-prema*! Please bless us with your merciful glance so that we can reach out to each soul in town and engage them in Kṛṣṇa's service somehow or other.

O dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us with your divine smile, which alone can deliver the many fallen souls. Please give us the spiritual strength to carry out your orders, distribute your books, the holy name, and *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* profusely. Let us offer you the best offering ever in upcoming years by remaining humble instruments of your movement. Please bless us so we always remain faithful servants at your lotus feet and of this Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, ISKCON.

Your most insignificant servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Khamgaon

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. On this sacred day of your appearance, we offer our deepest gratitude for your boundless compassion in bringing the holy names of Kṛṣṇa to Africa and for carrying Lord Jagannātha's mercy to every corner of the world. Your worldwide *saṅkīrtana* mission keeps planting the seed of bhakti to the extent that soon, no land shall remain untouched by the sweetness of devotional service, and for this, we are eternally indebted.

This year, the Vyāsa-pūjā celebration is happening under particularly troublesome situations around the world, and our country is no exception. We fervently pray for your divine intervention to protect the devotees and the *saṅkīrtana* mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where strife and suffering weigh heavily upon the people. Fearlessness – that's what we pray for. You transformed hearts through the power of *harināma*. May your blessings bring peace, protection, and the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to this troubled land and its people.

As we prepare for the upcoming Ratha-yātrā festival in June, we recall how the ancient Opet festival of Egypt – where the sacred procession of Amun-Ra fostered unity and divine connection – mirrors the unifying power of Lord Jagannātha's chariot. The *Skanda Purāṇa* (*Puruṣottama-kṣetra-māhātmya*) proclaims that wherever His chariot rolls, the influence of Kali diminishes and divine grace flourishes. In keeping with these ancient traditions, may this year's Ratha-yātrā in the DRC become a beacon of spiritual harmony, dissolving discord and awakening pure love for the Lord in every heart. Glories to your *saṅkīrtana* movement – the lifeline for all fallen souls!

On behalf of ISKCON Kinshasa,
Your unworthy aspiring servant,
Yugala Kiśora Dāsa

Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please kindly accept my most respectful obeisances. All glories to your most magnanimous lotus feet. All glories to all our *ācāryas* in the disciplic succession.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for your love, kindness, and divine grace. It is only by this causeless mercy that we have been blessed with the association of your pure and enlightened devotees. I cannot imagine a world without you and your empowered representatives. You have mercifully drawn us close to the curtain of Mahāprabhu's *nitya-līlā,* granting us a glimpse into the spiritual world.

O divine architect, you built countless temples across the planet that are embassies and portals to the spiritual realm. We were born in the darkness of ignorance, with no conception of the soul or Kṛṣṇa, yet you have so creatively and ingeniously filled our lives with all auspiciousness.

You taught us how to sleep, eat, sing, dance, and work for Kṛṣṇa. You molded our lives in such a way that we would not stray into Māyā's illusions. You made God accessible – even to a fool like me, who once had no clue what to do in this life or the next. You are indeed one of a kind, the object of Kṛṣṇa's divine glance, teaching the world to sing and dance to the sound of Kṛṣṇa's name, which has the power to uproot the tree of sinful life.

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for teaching us that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is simple for the simple – by your own life's example. You showed us that simplicity, without duplicity, is a necessity in our society.

Yet despite your boundless mercy, I am sorry that I have not been a worthy or responsible servant. I have not taken seriously the family business of happily and scrutinizingly reading your books and distributing them to others. I am sorry for not relating more consciously and cautiously with those most dear to you – my spiritual family.

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, though I am weak, dull, and pretentious, please do not let go of me. I know I have failed you more times than I can count, but please – do not look at me as I am but as you want me to be. Having taken shelter of you through your dear son, I am confident that by your causeless mercy, I will learn to grow and uphold your instructions in the highest esteem.

Thank you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all you have done and continue to do for us. Words alone are not enough to express our gratitude. We pray that our actions and thoughts – not just our words – will reflect our appreciation.

We remain forever indebted to you for your divine grace. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your most unworthy servant,
Caitanya Bhāgavat Dāsa
Kumasi, Ghana

Kurukshetra, Haryana, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On December 1, 1975, you visited Kurukshetra with your disciples, walking the sacred grounds of Brahma Sarovar and Jyotisar – the very place where Śrī Kṛṣṇa spoke the *Bhagavad-gītā*. At this divine site you envisioned a grand Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Arjuna temple. Now, by your causeless mercy, under the guidance of your dear disciple Gopal Krishna Goswami and through the humble efforts of your disciples and granddisciples, this sacred vision is manifesting before our eyes.

We express our deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve this monumental project on the holy land of *dharma-kṣetra,* Kurukshetra. It is only by your causeless mercy that we can contribute in some way to the fulfillment of your divine vision.

The temple, designed as a grand chariot, symbolizes the divine chariot of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna. It features six massive wheels, three on each side, each measuring 25 feet in diameter, with four majestic horses standing in the front, each 28 feet tall. By your mercy we are striving to complete the first phase of this sacred project by December 2026.

With your blessings, ISKCON Kurukshetra has been actively engaged in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, inspiring thousands to embrace the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. We humbly present before you a brief account of the various preaching activities, outreach programs, and temple developments undertaken in the past year.

Preaching initiatives:

- Ratha-yātrās were organized in eleven cities across Haryana, with over 100,000 participants glorifying the holy names through *kīrtana* and *prasādam* distribution.
- *Bhāgavata-kathās* were conducted in fifteen cities, immersing more than 25,000 people in the glories of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the holy name.
- We recently inaugurated a new center at Karnal.
- Construction of a new preaching center in Jind is underway.
- We also purchased a *saṅkīrtana* bus and conducted over 300 *saṅkīrtanas* and preaching programs across various cities in Haryana, including at Kurukshetra, Karnal, Ambala, Panipat, Jind, Sonipat, among others.

Youth and online preaching:

- The International Gita Olympiad witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 46,000 students across the world.
- Throughout the year, many youth camps were organized, drawing participation from over 1,000 students. These camps helped strengthen their faith in the process of bhakti and brought them closer to the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā*.
- We opened a dedicated student center at Kurukshetra University to nurture the spiritual growth of aspiring youth.
- Our online preaching platform reached and benefitted over 100,000 people worldwide, helping them connect with the *Bhagavad-gītā* and Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Festival celebrations:

- Grand festivals like Janmāṣṭamī and Gaura-Pūrṇimā saw thousands of devotees participating.
- ISKCON was invited to conduct Janmāṣṭamī celebrations at schools and colleges, introducing students to the joy of bhakti.
- On Gītā Jayantī, a *mahā-yajña* was performed, with over 2,000 devotees participating.

Education and academic outreach:

- 100 devotees completed the Bhakti-śāstrī course; the Bhakti-vaibhava course is now commencing.
- The official *Gītā* Course at NIT Kurukshetra completed its fifth batch, with 120 students receiving copies of the *Bhagavad-gītā* after their final exam.
- Inspired by our outreach, many universities have signed Memorandums of Understanding with ISKCON to introduce the *Bhagavad-gītā* officially into their curriculum.

Tourism and pilgrimage:

- The Ministry of Tourism recognized ISKCON's major contribution to spiritual tourism, and the upcoming temple is officially listed as a major attraction in Kurukshetra.
- Even before the temple's completion, 11,500 Indian devotees and 2,500 international devotees from thirty-seven countries visited Kurukshetra and experienced the spiritual vibrancy of this *dhāma*.

Public relations and government appreciation:

- The Chief Minister and Education Minister of Haryana participated in *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and publicly appreciated ISKCON's efforts.
- The Chief Minister was presented with a copy of the *Bhagavad-gītā*.
- On the occasion of his swearing-in celebration, the Chief Minister of Haryana invited our devotees to his residence and personally acknowledged ISKCON's contributions to the state.
- ISKCON was invited to the British Parliament, where twenty copies of the *Bhagavad-gītā* were distributed and ISKCON's mission was highly appreciated.

Temple construction progress – by your divine inspiration and the humble efforts of devotees:

- The temple, designed as a grand chariot, is progressing toward completion of Phase 1 by December 2026.
- The *brahmacārī* ashram is completed up to the third floor, and the superstructure of the guesthouse is completed up to the second floor.
- A 4-acre basement has been constructed, and interior design work is in progress.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once wrote: "I may take up one project of constructing a Varna Ashrama College and Temple in Kurukshetra in India. I am presently negotiating for this, and if we get the opportunity, I shall spend the money here first." (Letter to Gurukṛpa Dāsa, June 21, 1975)

In another place, you said: "We are trying to establish an International Institution in Kurukshetra to teach Bhagavad Gita in practical life and inviting students from all over the world." (Press conference, August 17, 1976, Hyderabad)

In line with these desires, we are also working toward establishing Gita University in Kurukshetra – an institution that will attract seekers from all over the world to study and live by the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* in this sacred land. We humbly seek your blessings for this endeavor.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so we may continue to expand the preaching mission, always remain aligned with your instructions and desires, and dedicate our lives to serving your mission with sincerity and devotion.

Your servants at ISKCON Kurukshetra

Kuwait

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

oṁ namo bhagavate vāsudevāya

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave everything that can spiritualize the world. Whoever sincerely follows the path you set is worshiped and respected by everyone because they are dedicated to spreading your instructions and teachings to every *jīva* in this world. All over the world, temples are increasing, along with *gurukulas,* goshalas, *varṇāśrama* projects, book distribution, and *prasādam* distribution. Your followers are getting great respect all over the world by dedicatedly working for the ultimate benefit of the conditioned souls. Your teachings and conduct are the great inspiration and strength of your followers. Your teachings are so potent that they can save humanity for the next ten thousand years.

As stated in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi-līlā* 2.86):

bhrama, pramāda, vipralipsā, karaṇāpāṭava
ārṣa-vijña-vākye nāhi doṣa ei saba

> Mistakes, illusions, cheating, and defective perception do not occur in the sayings of the authoritative sages.

Simply by following your instructions makes the lives of the condition souls successful. Out of the many instructions you gave your followers, I want to thank you by meditating on two of them.

1. "My only desire for my disciples is that they chant Hare Krishna Mantra at least 16 rounds,

follow the rules and live in association of devotees then you will be happy and peaceful and not disturbed." (Letter to Bhavatāriṇī Devī Dāsī, April 3, 1974)

2. The world situation has completely deteriorated. The world's current leaders are not qualified to lead us. They are simply interested in their own selfish aggrandizement – how much they can take advantage of their so-called leadership positions to maximize their own personal sense gratification. Thus, if there is any hope for genuine peace and happiness on this planet, we must have a new caliber of enlightened leaders who are fully dedicated to Kṛṣṇa, or God. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is offering this training around the world, teaching how one can be a pure devotee of God and utilize his leadership propensity to render the highest service to all living beings on this planet, even to plants and animals. Let everyone take advantage of this movement right now and make their lives successful.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this world is full of challenges. It is even becoming difficult to maintain minimum services and *sādhana* in some parts of the globe. We need the rain of your mercy to follow your instructions.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for building such a glorious community where the whole world can stay as one family. Your mercy is the only ray of hope in this world, which is an ocean of faults.

Your insignificant servants of the servant,
The devotees at Kanhaiyadeśa *yātrā,* Kuwait

Kyiv, Ukraine

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

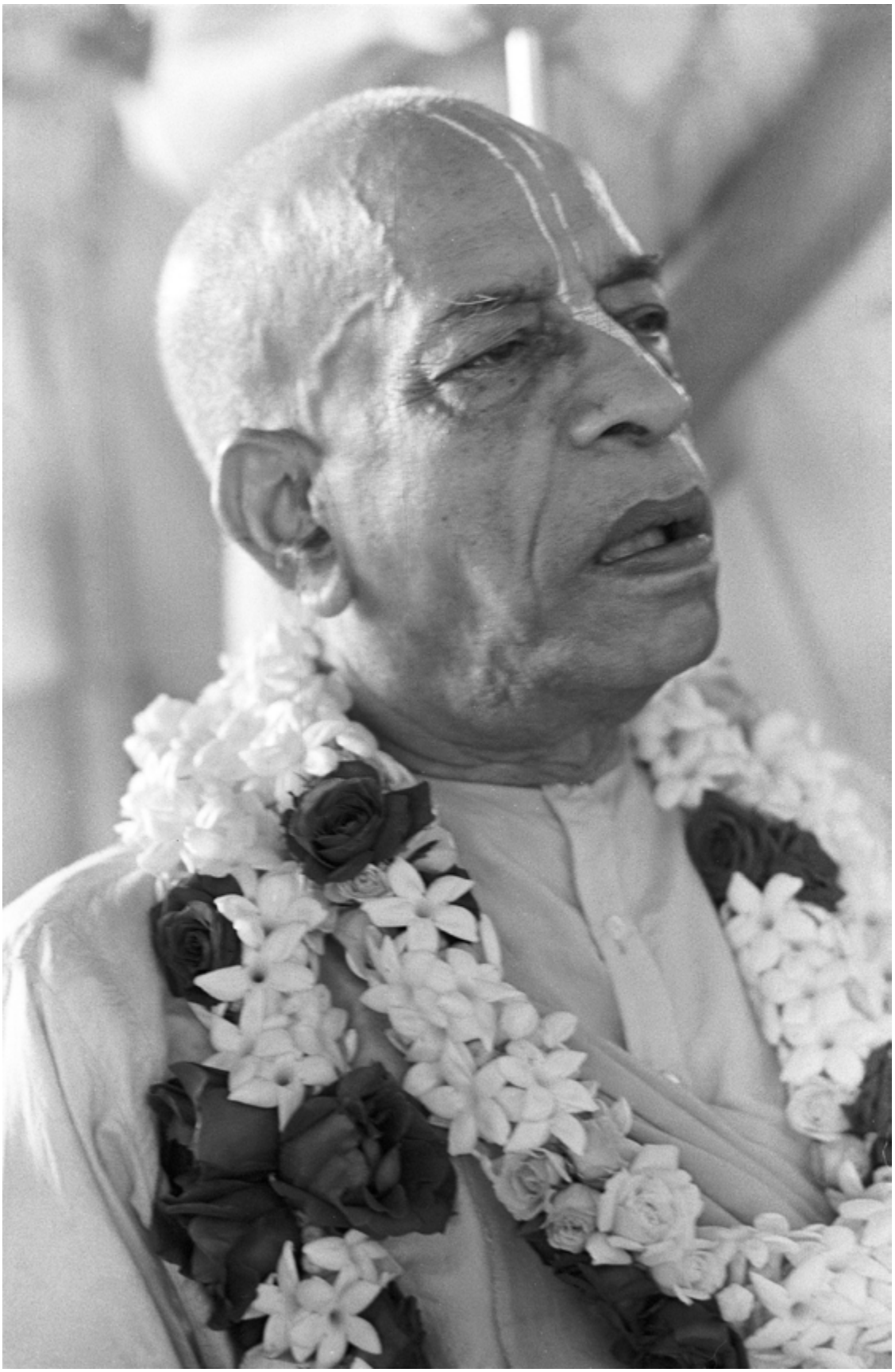
Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet! All glories to your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this glorious and auspicious day of your divine appearance, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to you for what has become the foundation, substance, and ultimate goal of our lives – the opportunity to study, explore, discuss, and distribute your books.

In the *Bhagavad-gītā* (4.38), Kṛṣṇa says: "In this world, there is nothing so sublime and pure as transcendental knowledge." Śrīla Prabhupāda, you transformed the spiritual sound of the *paramparā* into the printed word, making it easily accessible to us. Reading your purports on the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Śrī Īśopaniṣad,* and more than sixty other books inspires and strengthens our faith.

By illuminating our lives with the light of knowledge, your books embody your mercy and magnanimity. Out of deep compassion you wrote these books at night, when no one was with you except Kṛṣṇa and His most intimate associates. You became the eastern horizon where the sun of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* has risen, dispelling the darkness of Kali-yuga.

Your books are filled with the love that Lord Caitanya has brought, and they also embody the desire of your spiritual master. Just as Śrīla Vyāsadeva compiled the *Purāṇas* to attract people from all walks of life to transcendental knowledge, your books attract everyone, making the deepest, most elevated truths accessible. For every verse of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* you provide an exact Sanskrit word-for-word translation, a literary translation, and illuminating purports which, like a lens, focus and clarify the message of the previous *paramparā* teachers.



Your purports are *tīrthas,* sacred places where the streams of the highest philosophical teachings converge, allowing us to bathe daily in transcendental wisdom. Your books are *bhava-auṣadha* – the medicine to cure material existence – and the catalyst for renouncing futile material ambitions. They offer shelter and support. They are a mirror reflecting the state of our own hearts. They are not merely representations of the ideal of life but also a source of joyful, invigorating strength that help us move toward that ideal.

Just as the Kumāras were drawn by the fragrance of *tulasī* leaves from the Lord's feet, so the liberating fragrance of knowledge from your books gives relief from the burning miseries that surround us. Furthermore, the pain of separation from you, as well as the suffering of material existence, is soothed by the experience of your presence in your books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to you to develop a deep appreciation for your books, which are our true friend, teacher, refuge, companion, treasure, salvation, good fortune, and solace.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.2.16), Sūta Gosvāmī declares:

śuśrūṣoḥ śraddadhānasya
vāsudeva-kathā-ruciḥ
syān mahat-sevayā viprāḥ
puṇya-tīrtha-niṣevaṇāt

We humbly hope that by serving you, a resident of the transcendental world free from any sin, we may develop a taste for hearing the message of Vāsudeva. Your books extinguish the fever of material life, halt the relentless march of time, and serve as both the ultimate goal and the very essence of life itself. There is no greater joy than simply studying your books in the association of your followers.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you mercifully outlined a structured program for studying your books, guiding us toward the highest perfection of life. In your letter to Aniruddha on February 4, 1969, you wrote: "Our theological school will regularly teach our published books, such as *Bhagavad-gita As It Is, Srimad-Bhagavatam, Teachings of Lord Caitanya, Nectar of Devotion*.... We wish to hold examinations and award titles such as *Bhakti-sastri, Bhakti-vaibhava,* and *Bhaktivedanta*. The whole program will continue for seven years."

Following your desire, we have organized a course in our Academy for studying your books according to the plan you approved. We are also actively engaged in translating your books into Ukrainian. In your letter to Brahmānanda Dāsa on December 12, 1967, you wrote: "When one book is published I think I have conquered an empire."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the true emperor, and we aspire to be your devoted assistants in your most important service to your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī. The publication of each book, each volume of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* is an eagerly awaited event not only for the devotees of ISKCON but also for people from various backgrounds in Ukraine who long to meet you through the pages of your books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your books are our true wealth. They are the treasure of our hearts, the light of our lives, our ornaments, the source of transcendental taste, and the fulfillment of all desires. They are the essence of all teachings, and they are so potent that they awaken devotion and allow us to see things as they truly are. Your books are, in fact, the only true shelter.

With deep gratitude,
Your servants, the devotees of the New Navadvīpa community,
Kyiv, Ukraine

Lagos, Nigeria

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

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

On this sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, humbly offer our heartfelt obeisances unto your lotus feet. You are the embodiment of the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and an empowered representative of the Brahma-Madhva-Gauḍīya-sampradāya.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your unparalleled dedication to spreading the teachings of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, as it is revealed in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* has transformed the lives of countless souls worldwide. Your Divine Grace has awakened humanity to the true purpose of life: to develop pure love for Kṛṣṇa and serve Him with devotion. As the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, you have selflessly worked to establish a global community of devotees, providing a shelter for those seeking spiritual growth and enlightenment. Your remarkable achievements, despite facing numerous challenges, stand as a testament to your unwavering faith, compassion, and wisdom.

You have given us all we need to know and do to have a fulfilled and successful Kṛṣṇa conscious life. Your teachings and examples are our guiding light, and whoever follows them will surely go back home, back to Godhead.

On this 129th Vyāsa-pūjā celebration of your divine appearance in this mortal world, we are recommitting ourselves to making the best use of all that you have given us, and we pray for more of your divine blessings, love, and guidance in all that we do to maintain and expand your mission and legacy.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!
From the most insignificant servants of your servants at
ISKCON Rādhā-Śyāmasundara's temple, in Lagos, Nigeria

Laguna, Philippines

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We, your servants at Vraja Ecovillage in the Philippines, would like to express to you our deepest gratitude on this most auspicious day of your appearance. We pray for your continued mercy in our lives, for without it we would struggle with the challenges of this dark age.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your unwavering perseverance and dedication teach us to move forward in all circumstances. We are grateful for your teachings, which cover the following important points:

1. *Translation and writing:* Your efforts to translate and write scripture have enabled us to share these sacred texts with people around the world, making spiritual knowledge accessible to all.
2. *Establishing temples and communities:* You laid the foundation for temples, communities, and educational institutions globally, fostering spiritual growth and connection.
3. *Outreach:* By traveling the world you set a remarkable example of sharing Lord Kṛṣṇa's teachings, creating opportunities for others to engage in service and deepen their spiritual practices.
4. *Promoting bhakti-yoga:* Your emphasis on practicing devotional service has encouraged countless individuals to cultivate a meaningful relationship with Kṛṣṇa.
5. *Prasādam distribution:* You emphasized the significance of sharing *prasādam* and educational programs, which cultivate compassion and unity among devotees.

Without your books and the diaries of your disciples, which chronicle your kindness in spreading Lord Caitanya's mission, we would be lost in darkness and ignorance. Your teachings, your devotees, your temples, and the spiritual wisdom you impart provide us with shelter and guidance.

We humbly ask for your continued mercy to help us glorify you together and to embrace Your Divine Grace. May our farm community have the opportunity to actively participate in the *saṅkīrtana* movement in your honor!

With deep respect and devotion,
The servants at Vraja Ecovillage
(written by Lalitā Sundarī Devī Dāsī)

Laguna Beach, California, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Recently, at a North American leadership meeting, we were asked a profound question during a breakout session: What motivates us most deeply in our hearts to serve in ISKCON? As we reflected, two distinct answers emerged.

The first was our deep sense of indebtedness to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The second was our heartfelt desire to help others.

Upon deeper contemplation, we realized that these two answers are, in essence, one and the same. You envisioned spreading Mahāprabhu's flag far and wide, manifesting the global flood of love of Godhead – like that Sherwin-Williams logo you once appreciated. You brought this vision to life through your missionary activities, which were a natural expression of your own ecstatic love for Kṛṣṇa.

We have all been swept up in that flood and are profoundly grateful to you. In appreciation, this year and every year, we rededicate ourselves to carrying forward your mission – blessing the world with His Divine Grace.

Your servants at ISKCON Laguna Beach

Latur, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are happy to celebrate your appearance day, the most auspicious day in the life of the ISKCON devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, only by your causeless mercy are we here, trying to become devotees. ISKCON Latur, Jagannātha Dhāma, really feels proud to be part of your movement. Only by your mercy can we distribute books, *prasādam, harināma,* and make our lives successful.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are thankful at your lotus feet for giving us Guru and Gaurāṅga and introducing Kṛṣṇa into our fallen lives.

We are trying to offer a big Jagannātha temple so we can introduce and propagate ISKCON philosophy to the people of Latur city and its surroundings. Here, there are so many students, working people, and an educated population. Please be merciful upon us so we can unitedly do this noble job of preaching at your lotus feet.

We have one cow, Kālindī, and her calf, Balarāma, so we pray we can expand our goshala and try to please Nitāi-Gauracandra.

Every Sunday we do *nāgara-saṅkīrtana,* with a very nice response from about thirty devotees in different areas of the city. People welcome Nitāi-Gaurasundara by coming out on the road to join us, accepting books, *harināma,* and *prasādam*.

Please be merciful to us and forgive us our faults. Please engage us in transcendental loving service at your lotus feet.

Yours obedient servants,
ISKCON Jagannātha Dhāma

Lenasia, South Africa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet, and our prayers on this auspicious day of your divine appearance that we may remain actively engaged in the service of your mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of your visit to South Africa, in October 1975, and to commemorate this event, which brought auspiciousness to the entire country, we at ISKCON Lenasia would like to renew and strengthen our commitment to remembering your pastimes and your instructions, and to create a community that exemplifies the devotional principles you came to teach.

It was in Yeoville, South Africa, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you first received the second volume of the Fifth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and at that time you instructed your followers, "I give you permission to read my books twenty-four hours a day."

In the past year we achieved a number of milestones at ISKCON Lenasia. We established a Govinda's *prasādam* restaurant, which distributes *prasādam* to the public and brings people to the temple, which is a place of Kṛṣṇa's transcendental pastimes. We took steps toward greater self-sufficiency by tapping and utilizing borehole water for our daily functions. We are continuing to improve our facilities for receiving guests and devotees, and have made improvements in the construction of the Deity department. There has been an increase in the number of temple residents and congregation members who are engaged in the worship of Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurahari, which is a testimony to our commitment to creating a community of devotees who are happily engaged in your preaching mission, expanding Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town, village, and household in South Africa.

This year, we at ISKCON Lenasia would like to renew our commitment to community outreach, book distribution, and education in our *yātrā*. To this end we have established a Book and BTG *Saṅkīrtana* Team to focus on increasing book distribution and *saṅkīrtana* throughout our *yātrā* as an offering of gratitude to Your Divine Grace for bringing Kṛṣṇa Consciousness to South Africa and blessing our lives with auspiciousness.

Finally, we would like to pray at your divine lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that all our efforts at Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurahari Mandir be dedicated to your great mission of making the whole world Kṛṣṇa conscious, because that is the best welfare work for humanity and the only means of making everyone happy.

Your aspiring servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Lenasia

León, Mexico

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our obeisances at your lotus feet.

On this momentous day of your glorious appearance, we cannot but express our eternal and profound gratitude for your having rescued us from the darkest ocean of ignorance. Without you, our lives would literally be meaningless, and our destiny would be inevitable: to continue in the cycle of suffering and *saṁsāra* birth after birth. You are so pure and powerful that the mere introduction to your *Gītā* can immediately lift us out of ignorance and give us the opportunity to perceive our eternal reality.

There is no way we can ever repay you for even a tiny fraction of what you gave us, for which you undertook so many austerities and risks. Our gratitude is boundless; how can we repay having been given the opportunity, if we are sincere toward you and your teachings, to aspire to attain a life filled with knowledge, eternity, and bliss? On one occasion, you asked a little boy in the *gurukula,* "Who is God?" The boy replied, "God is Kṛṣṇa." You asked him again, "And who are you?" The little boy replied, "I am a servant of God, of Kṛṣṇa." You emphatically asserted, "This boy has attained the fulfillment of all the Vedic scriptures." Only you had the power to make even little children develop unwavering faith in Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

We earnestly pray that we may eternally perform some service that in some way satisfies you, and through that service remain faithful eternally, and sincerely sheltered in the shadow of your lotus feet.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you!

Your insignificant but faithful servants at ISKCON León

Lesmahagow, Scotland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, we want to express our deep gratitude and love for everything you have done – not only for the world but for us here in this small corner of Scotland.

It's hard to believe sometimes that your message made it all the way to the quiet hills of Lesmahagow. But it has, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we know it's only because of your mercy. You are not just a teacher; you are the spiritual master for the whole world. You didn't just preach; you lived the teachings of the *ācāryas* with such conviction and compassion that even today, decades later, we feel your presence guiding us.

Who would have thought that a little farmhouse in the Scottish countryside would become a spiritual oasis for so many seekers? You transformed our lives with your books, your example, and your fearless love for Kṛṣṇa. Your books, your instructions, your example – these are what sustain us here. Whether we're singing *harināma* on the streets of Glasgow/Edinburgh, tending the gardens, or gathering for *kīrtana,* we feel your hand behind everything.

With hearts full of gratitude, we continue worshiping our beloved Deities, Śrī Śrī Khoda Nitai-Māyāpur Śaśi, Śrī Tulsināth, Śrī Giridhārīlāl, and Śrīmatī Vṛndādevī. We go out regularly on *harināma,* distribute your books, host wonderful preachers, retreats, and well-being events, and try to live simply and serve sincerely, growing food on the land and trying to grow bhakti in our hearts.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your instruction to feed people with love and devotion has especially shaped much of our service here. Through our Food for Scotland project, we've been distributing hot, sanctified vegetarian meals to those in need across Glasgow and the surrounding areas. Our Sunday community feasts have become a beautiful gathering point, where newcomers can experience *prasādam, kīrtana,* and your philosophy in a warm and welcoming way.

And, by your grace, we've now held Ratha-yātrā festivals in Glasgow and Edinburgh on two consecutive years, taking Lord Jagannātha to the streets of Scotland with dancing, *kīrtana,* and *prasādam* for all. Our dream is to take the Ratha-yātrā to more cities and more hearts in Scotland, so that more people can have darshan and be blessed by your divine vision.

Looking ahead, we want to do more. With your blessings we hope to strengthen our congregation, helping more people take the next step on their spiritual journey by building a nourishing community rooted firmly in your teachings. We want to develop children's programs to inspire the next generation, support one another better as a community, and train more devotees to confidently share this philosophy. But we know we can't do anything without your mercy.

You quoted *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo, yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi* and said that by the guru's mercy, everything is possible; without it, nothing is. So please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Help us stay sincere, united, enthusiastic, and determined in our desire to serve your mission here. Thank you for everything. All glories to you.

Your grateful servants,
The devotees at Karuṇa Bhavan, Scotland

London, England

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-svāmin iti nāmine

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

During my frequent *japa* walks in and around Regents Park, Russell Square, and other areas where you were known to walk, an old song from school sometimes pops into my head:

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green

The fact that your lotus feet walked here in London makes it a holy place. Externally, it appears that you left Vrindavan to come to the West to preach the glories of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement, but the devotees understand that internally, you brought Vrindavan with you.

bhavad-vidhā bhāgavatās
tīrtha-bhūtāḥ svayaṁ vibho
tīrthī-kurvanti tīrthāni
svāntaḥ-sthena gadābhṛtā

> My lord, devotees like your good self are verily holy places personified. Because you carry the Personality of Godhead within your heart, you turn all places into places of pilgrimage. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.13.10)

Further evidence is provided in the miraculous pastime of the appearance of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Londonīśvara. Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa followed you to London, and you rescued Them from Mr. Goyal to lovingly install Them for perpetual worship by the devotees you initiated in your fledgling ISKCON branch at Bury Place.

We have since relocated to Soho Street, and the worship continues to this day with ever higher standards, and by daily darshan of your favorite Deities in ISKCON, the devotees remain inspired and encouraged to sacrifice their youthful energy for the betterment of the world. Kṛṣṇa is so attractive that we regularly receive important guests, celebrities, and wealthy persons from the highest rungs of society to bathe in Their splendorous beauty.

Your transcendental restaurant, Govinda's, continues to go from strength to strength, and Kṛṣṇa willing, we are planning to open a second restaurant this year for your pleasure. Your perfect vision of combining restaurants with temples is a model that works and will always work, because all we have to do is simply follow your instructions.

By your mercy, we have become the top temple in Europe for book distribution, even defeating far bigger temples like Bhaktivedanta Manor. The new devotees coming through from our famous outreach center, Studio 108, are now taking up positions of responsibility and have developed a great appetite for distributing your transcendental books.

Following in your footsteps, we are attempting to capture your mood of unlimited compassion to all fallen souls by regularly reading your books and explaining them to anyone who will listen to your message.

Although we are in one sense helpless, without realization or qualification, we are not hopeless because every time we hear your classes, sing for you as we worship you during *guru-pūjā,* or listen to one of your pastimes, great hope and spiritual optimism fill our hearts. Your books are the light in an otherwise dark world, and we want to share this light with everyone.

Thank you for the life you gave us – a life we in turn dedicate to you.

Always praying for your divine mercy,
Your servants, the devotees at ISKCON London

Longdonville, Trinidad and Tobago

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you on this divine day of your appearance.

A criticism that comes up again and again in different generations of Lord Caitanya's movement is that the devotees seem sentimental, not thoughtful or reflective. Here in Trinidad and Tobago, for many years the devotees would be invited to functions to chant and lead the attendees in *kīrtana*. One year we were asked to put together a group of devotees to have *kīrtana* with one organization; however, we thought we have much more to offer than ecstatic *kīrtana* – we

also have a deep philosophy that is practically unmatched. We therefore asked the organizer for a few minutes to make a presentation at their program. They reluctantly agreed, but at the end they remarked that for so many years they had known the Hare Kṛṣṇas to be just a group of persons who chanted and danced in the streets and had had no idea that we had any philosophy. They subsequently invited us to do a full presentation with them, and this relationship still exists today.

In reflecting on you and your contribution to the world, we thought of Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī and his contributions, and how you are his modern-day representative.

Literary contribution: It is estimated that Jīva Gosvāmī wrote and compiled at least 400,000 verses in his own works. He was even instrumental in getting paper for the books to be printed on. Not only did he produce the books of the Gosvāmīs along with his own books, he arranged for them to be distributed.

You received the instruction from your own spiritual master to publish books. Armed with the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* you came to the West in 1965 and, until your departure in 1977, you contributed at least sixty volumes, with original artwork – books that would be given high praise by scholars around the world.

Leadership: Jīva Gosvāmī lived at an important turning point in the history of our *sampradāya,* just after the departure of Lord Caitanya. He served to consolidate the movement after Lord Caitanya's departure and establish a foundation upon which it would spread.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you also established a foundation upon which the movement would spread by building on the work that was begun by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and then furthered by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

Establishment of a legal framework: Jīva Gosvāmī was able to navigate the political climate of the Mughal rule in India. He received legal guarantees from that government through his alliances with the Rajput kings that the property of the Gosvāmīs would always remain in the hands of the Gosvāmīs and their descendants.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you saw that the first step in establishing a worldwide preaching movement was to establish it legally. This day is marked on our calendar as the "Incorporation of ISKCON." You also did not waver in your determination when devotees were taken to court to defend the authenticity of ISKCON, or when unscrupulous persons tried to cheat you out of land, such as in Bombay.

Teaching: Jīva Gosvāmī was instrumental in teaching the next generation of devotees, who would go on to establish Lord Caitanya's movement in Bengal, Purī, and other parts of India.

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught your disciples by your example and instruction how to continue the mission both in your presence and after your departure.

It is easy to find a person who excels in one or even two of these areas, but it is rare to find a person who is superlative in a multitude of them. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are indeed a person who deserves the title *ācārya*. You demonstrated thoughtfulness, tenacity, and excellence in so many significant areas that it set a solid foundation for us to carry your mission forward.

We pray to you on this occasion of your appearance that we may at least develop competence in one area of need to continue to spread and consolidate your mission.

Your servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha Mandir in Longdonville
(written by Jaya Lalitā Devī Dāsī and Śānta Vigraha Dāsa)

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I wish to offer my deepest gratitude at your lotus feet. You are the beacon of transcendental wisdom, the ever-compassionate guide, and the savior of fallen souls like myself. Without your mercy, I would be completely lost in the darkness of material existence. By your boundless compassion and the matchless gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you so tirelessly distributed, my life has found true meaning.

Your books are the foundation of my spiritual journey. The first time I read *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* it was as if my soul had been awakened from a long slumber. Your words were not merely explanations – they carried the power of divine realization. Through your purports, you revealed Kṛṣṇa's teachings in their purest form, and by your mercy I began to understand that life's ultimate goal is to surrender unto the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

As I continued to read your books – *The Nectar of Devotion, Śrī Īśopaniṣad, The Science of Self-Realization* – each page deepened my understanding of bhakti-yoga. Your instructions are not abstract philosophies but living truths that guide every aspect of my life. You taught that devotional service is the essence of real happiness and that chanting the holy names of the Lord is the most effective way to purify the heart. By following your teachings, I have personally experienced the transformational power of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your divine mission to spread the glories of the holy name has inspired me in my service as a preacher. As the president of ISKCON Lucknow, I strive to uphold your vision by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in every possible way. Through book distribution, *kīrtana*, lectures, and *prasādam* distribution, we are reaching many sincere souls who are yearning for true spiritual connection. I see firsthand how your teachings are transforming lives, just as they transformed mine.

Your emphasis on *nāma-haṭṭa* and the power of *saṅkīrtana* has been a guiding force in our efforts. I have witnessed the miraculous effect of the holy names in purifying hearts and awakening dormant devotion. It is solely by your mercy that we are able to engage in these preaching efforts and offer something in service to you and Lord Caitanya's mission.

Your concern for the suffering of humanity extended beyond philosophy; you demonstrated practical compassion through initiatives like *prasādam* distribution and community welfare. Inspired by your instructions, we have undertaken various service projects, including food relief programs, medical camps, and educational outreach to share Kṛṣṇa's mercy with those in need. Your teachings remind us that true service to Kṛṣṇa also means serving His devotees and all living beings in a spirit of selflessness and love.

Despite my many shortcomings and imperfections, I pray that you will always keep me engaged in your service. I know that my only real shelter is in your instructions and in following the path you showed. On this sacred day, I rededicate myself to your mission, praying for the strength to serve with sincerity, humility, and unwavering faith.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I offer my heartfelt obeisances at your lotus feet. Please bless me so that I may never deviate from your teachings. May I always remain your humble servant, life after life.

Your servant,
Aparemaya Shyām Dāsa, president
on behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Lucknow

Málaga, Spain

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Dearest Gurudeva, we wish to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making such wonderful arrangements in our temple, ISKCON Málaga. Even though we were unfortunate not to be in your physical presence, we feel your presence in your *mūrti* form every single minute, every single hour, every single day. You have been guiding us in our management of one small particle of your huge body, ISKCON.

Last year was a very difficult year for us regarding the management, and we expressed it in our letter. You made such wonderful arrangements, which have given us huge relief. Here is a short poem, written by a local devotee, to express our gratitude to you:

O blessed Gurudeva, beacon in the night,
you came from the East with a transcendental light.

Your words, like nectar, awaken the soul,
opening the path to the eternal goal.

Through your mercy, ignorance fades away,
the holy name in every heart now sways.

You revealed that life's true aim
is a journey toward love for God's name.

In your books, the Supreme Truth shines bright,
you taught us love as our guiding light.

Through your sacrifice the world has grown,
and Kṛṣṇa's message is now well-known.

O Prabhupāda, sacred shelter divine,
may your legacy forever shine.

From this heart,
I offer my life to serve and never part.

Your humble servants at Villa Varṣāṇa, Málaga, Spain

Mangalore, Karnataka, India

Our dear Oṁ Viṣṇupäda Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

On this auspicious occasion of your 129th appearance day, please accept these humble offerings at your lotus feet.

Thank you very much for coming to this material world in this very dark age of Kali-yuga and helping us realize the causeless mercy of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We, being near the holy land of Udupi, are trying to spread the holy names in every town and village to become part of the legacy you created to fulfill the prediction of Lord Caitanya.

We are trying to renovate the temple building, making it into a magnificent castle for Lord Śrī Jagannātha, and we want to offer this to your lotus feet by 2027. We seek your blessings and guidance in this effort. Our contributions to this great society of yours are very insignificant, yet as Lord Rāma recognized the small efforts of a squirrel when building the bridge from Bhārata-varṣa to Śrī Laṅkā, we also feel you will recognize our sincere efforts and bless us with more and more enthusiasm to serve more.

We face lots of challenges in the spreading of your mission here in Mangalore, mainly the absence of stable, inspiring leadership, good working systems, and the commitment of devotees to dedicate themselves to your lotus feet. By your mercy, things are improving and we are now going ahead slowly and steadily. We each pray at your lotus feet that we continue to serve you in a spirit of cooperation, with our senses controlled and our attention focused. As you mention in the introduction of your masterpiece, *The Nectar of Instruction,* "Advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness depends on the attitude of the follower." We beg you to give us intelligence to have the right attitude to serve the Vaiṣṇavas and all humankind, who will become Vaiṣṇavas in the time to come.

We sincerely pray at your lotus feet that we can be of some use to you and your mission and therefore please you and Lord Caitanya.

Your insignificant servant,
Sutapā Dāsa
on behalf of the devotees and well-wishers at ISKCON Mangalore

Manila, Philippines

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances, all glories unto you.

On this 129th anniversary of your appearance day, we, the humble servants of the ISKCON Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Mandir, Philippines would like to express our sincerest gratitude for Your Divine Grace's merciful birth on this lowly planet in this dark age of Kali-yuga to enact the fulfillment of the holy names being chanted in every town and village.

You set your divine feet on this far-flung country on October 11, 1972, a time of political turmoil here, when martial law was implemented by a corrupt dictator, the kind of leader that is prevalent during this age, as prophesied in the Twelfth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

His Grace Bhūrijana Prabhu describes the Philippines as a materialistic place, and Śrīla Prabhupāda understood the struggles of being alone and struggling in such a materialistic environment. Seeing this, Your Divine Grace simply said, "Just give them *prasādam*." Your powerful words have resonated, and the mass distribution of this sacred food has been the biggest and most important outreach activity here in the Philippines to benefit the many suffering souls in this part of the world.

You also sent one of your dearest disciples, Tamal Krishna Goswami, and accepted disciples here. You realistically saved many of us from our march toward hell.

Likewise, you sent His Holiness Giridhārī Swami and His Holiness Janānanda Goswami to bestow more mercy on truth-seeking souls. They continue your work of saving the whole world and helping to usher in the 10,000-year Golden Age period for the beginning of Kali-yuga.

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, we can only beg that you accept our humble offering in words and most of all, the new temple for Their Lordships, the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Mandir, which rises in the heart of the Manila metropolis.

His Holiness Janānanda Goswami had a big hand in securing the property and has continuously supported its completion. Hopefully, the project can be completed before this year's Janmāṣṭamī and Your Divine Grace's appearance. This project has been supported by the local Indian community, and we would also like to thank you for sending them to help realize this dream of having a temple, which will be the center for more *harināmas, prasādam* and book distribution, university and college preaching, and bringing the lost souls of the Philippines to the fold of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, the house you built where all can come and take shelter.

Please continue showering us with your blessings and guidance, and I hope I can be with you and my initiating guru to perform more service for Their Lordships.

Your servant,
Mahendra Dāsa
on behalf of the devotees at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava Mandir

Maputo, Mozambique, Africa

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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 Your spiritual sons and family.

On every trip to Mozambique, we count our blessings and are grateful to Your Divine Grace. Traveling the long distance gives us the opportunity to reflect on our fortunes as bhaktas. How fortunate are we! Although, we did not meet Your Divine Grace, due to your deep ocean of compassion for all the Jagāis and Mādhāis of this material word, we are given the opportunity to travel with Your Divine Grace.

The potency of your glance is revealed at every step in our travels. On our first trip to Mozambique, the security officials at the border wanted your passport and visa. On the second visit and on our visits thereafter, we were granted entry without constraints. The security officials' comments were: "*Por favor, deixe-os passar. Eles estão com Deus e seu professor.*" ("Please let them pass. They are with God and their teacher.") This can only be made possible by the mercy of Your Divine Grace. This removal of impediments is only made possible due to the potency of Your Divine Grace.

On another occasion, we planned to do a *harināma* through the streets of Maputo with Your Divine Grace and Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurasundara. Due to some political bureaucracy, we were not allowed to take our vehicles on the procession. We decided to leave Your Divine Grace with Their Lordships in a sheltered area in front of the venue, which was our starting and endpoint. Some devotees remained in attendance to take care of you and the Lords. Before proceeding on *harināma,* we performed *ārati* accompanied by an ecstatic *kīrtana,* showered flowers on Your Divine Grace and the Deities, then proceeded on our *harināma*. In that area, hundreds of the local Mozambiqueans witnessed the offering. When we got back, we noticed that Your Divine Grace and the Lords had been inundated with flowers.

It was the first time the public had come into contact with Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurasundara. Just a glimpse of you had softened their hearts. We were told that when our *kīrtana* party left, the locals had inquired about the offering ceremony. They were mesmerized and wanted to also offer flowers. Luckily, we had flowers in abundance. How fortunate all those souls were! They had the opportunity to do some devotional service, by the mercy of Your Divine Grace. That is why Your Divine Grace is the *jagad-guru* of this world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this material world is full of obstacles and suffering at every step. We are confident that by taking shelter of the lotus feet of Your Divine Grace we will be successful in bringing more fallen souls to take shelter of the *mahā-mantra*.

We humbly pray that Your Divine Grace please be merciful upon us, fallen souls that we are, so that we can represent Your Divine Grace and continue to assist Your Divine Grace in whatever minute way possible to fulfill the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Thank you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your blessings.

Your servants,
The ISKCON Mozambique team

Mauritius

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your good self and all glories to your ISKCON movement.

2025 is a special year for Mauritius. It marks the fiftieth anniversary of your setting your lotus feet on Mauritian soil, on October 1, 1975. Your granddisciples and well-wishers will be commemorating this transcendental event.

As an offering I would like to present to you a report of what is going on in the Mauritius *yātrā* in terms of preaching fifty years after your arrival.

Book distribution is most pleasing to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. For your pleasure, the Mauritian *yātrā* distributed about 53,500 books in the last two years. And in 2024, Mauritius came out first in Africa in the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign (181 out of 485 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets distributed) as well as in the Live to Give campaign (6,744 out of the 17,167 *Bhagavad-gītās* distributed). We have about fifty devotees engaged in book distribution *sevā*.

We currently have five temples and nine preaching centers. There is regular Deity worship taking place in eight of them. Thirty-two new outfits were offered to the Deities in 2024. We have a congregation of between 10–15,000 and about 800 initiated devotees. In 2024, we had four devotees receiving first initiation and nine receiving second initiation.

Food-for-Life distributed over 50,000 plates of *prasādam* in 2024. Also, ISKCON owns three cows and one bull in Mauritius.

We have started a fledging Devotee Care system, with a staff of about twenty-five to take care of your devotees. We also have at least five regular Sunday schools operating, with a staff of twenty-three devotees and 171 students. We shall put in the effort to expand on this, as training children in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is a priority, as you say in your *Bhāgavatam* purports. We have Bhakti-sādacāra and Bhakti-śāstrī courses ongoing. Online *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* courses are also conducted for newer audiences.

Devotees here are pretty much into distributing the holy names on the streets. Last year we had seven Ratha-yātrās, and each week we have at least three or four regular *harināma* parties in different locations on the island.

Among the major projects we are working on is the completion of the new temple for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Golokānanda, which is right in the center of the island. This will be the biggest temple complex in the region. Two new temples that were inaugurated – New Nīlācala-dhāma, with beautiful Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā deities, and the magnificent Śrī Śrī Pañca-tattva Mandir extension both in the north of the island. The new Bambous preaching center is a small yet vibrant place, with ongoing preaching programs. At least two preaching centers are in the pipeline – The Gita Center at Rose Belle, and another one at Poudre D'Or. We are very grateful to the devotees taking responsibility for the different projects.

Our priority for 2025 is a leadership training program, which we have already started working on with the leadership team in the country.

On this auspicious occasion of your 129th Vyāsa-pūjā, we pray that you will be extra merciful to

the Mauritian *yātrā* and inspire us to work cooperatively to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness across the island. We would like the Mauritian public to see ISKCON as a unified and impactful movement.

We pray that the humble attempts at serving your mission will be pleasing to you.

Your granddisciple,
Harideva Dāsa,
on behalf of the Mauritius *yātrā*

Māyāpur, West Bengal, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

On Vyāsa-pūjā 2025, we want to offer you the milestones we have achieved in fulfilling your desires. On behalf of the codirectors, His Holiness Jayapatāka Mahārāja, His Grace Hṛdaya Caitanya Prabhu, and His Grace Śubhekṣaṇa Prabhu, I am offering this to you at your lotus feet Śrīla Prabhupāda. Kindly continue to guide us.

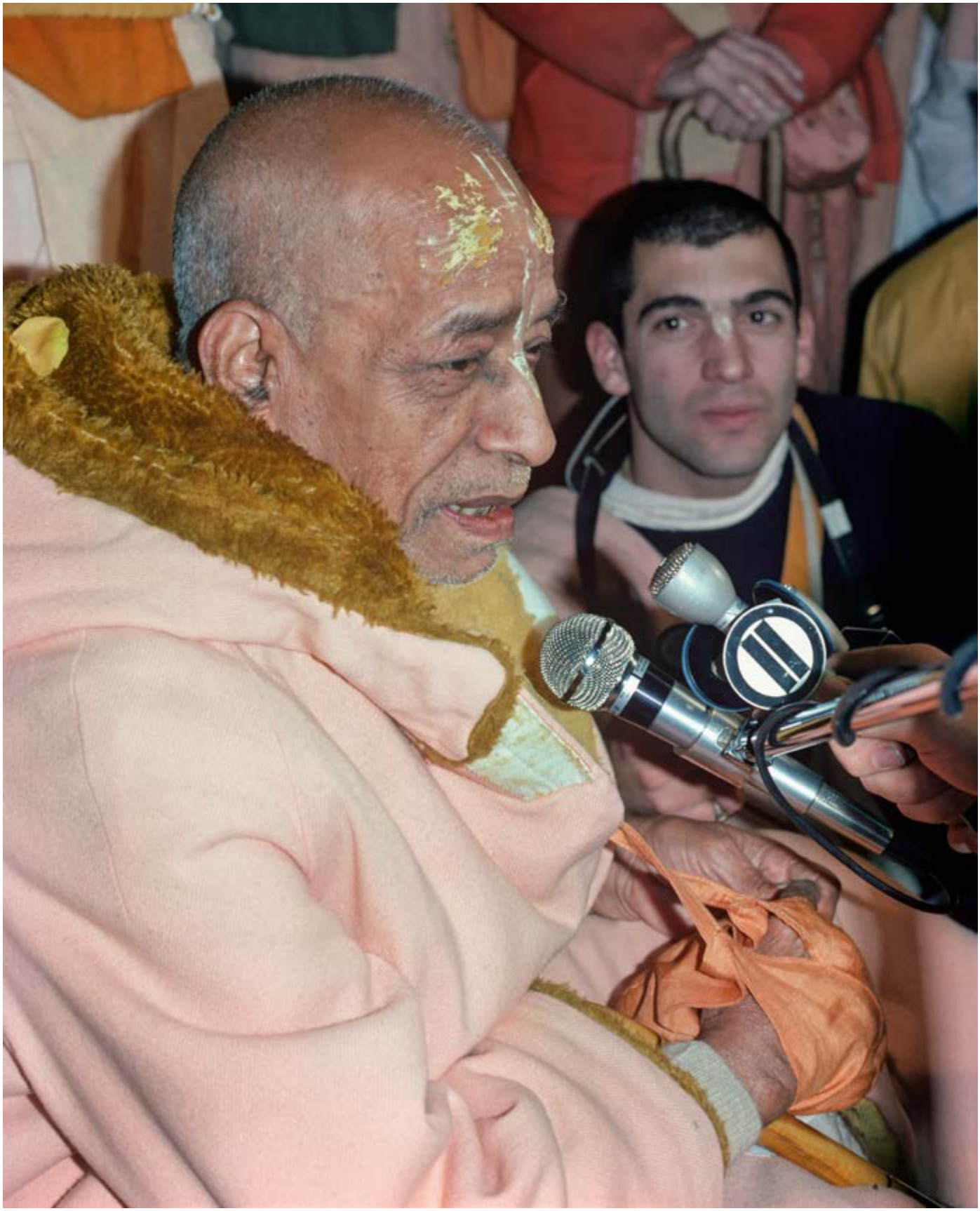
As you have told His Holiness Jayapatāka Mahārāja, "I am giving you the kingdom of God, now take it and develop it." We have inherited this kingdom from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we are now in this beautiful phase of development.

Here are the highlight achievements of 2024–2025, bringing us one step closer to making your dream come true. All this is happening and possible only by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Śrīla Prabhupāda! We are working tirelessly, making a great endeavor to develop Śrīdhāma Māyāpur, as per your desire.

TOVP: We opened the first phase of the largest legacy museum in the world – the Śrīla Prabhupāda museum – dedicated to Your Divine Grace. For the next ten thousand years, the devotees can come and see how you spread the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to every town and village. They will feel your presence and have an encounter with Your Divine Grace that they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

This museum has been made possible with the help of His Grace Ambarīṣa Prabhu and Her Grace Svāhā Mātājī, who supported this. This first phase is 1,000 square feet; the second phase is another 1,000 square feet; and the third phase will be more than 21,000 square feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda, several of your disciples came forward and gave artefacts, paraphernalia, books, and magazines, and we will try to preserve these things for the generations to come. I would also like to mention Her Grace Daiviśakti Mātājī and Her Grace Śrutirūpa Mātājī, who spent a lot of time curating this project.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray at your divine lotus feet that we can open the TOVP for your pleasure in 2027. The construction work is progressing rapidly to achieve the target. This can happen



only by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we are very, very grateful that you have given us an opportunity to do some *sevā* during our lives for Your Divine Grace.

Also, Ambarīṣa Prabhu and Svāhā Mātājī are doing everything possible to build this large Temple of the Vedic Planetarium by the due date of 2027. Their sacrifice will set an example like generals who lay down their lives to satisfy their commander. They are in your army, along with Jayapatāka Mahārāja, and we would also like to mention the MEB members, who are making sure that Māyāpur is developed as per your instructions. Their contribution in the development of Śrīdhāma Māyāpur, along with that of the codirectors, is an example of unity in diversity – managing Māyāpur together with good intelligence and skill.

Deity: His Grace Jananivāsa Prabhu, who created a standard famous all around the world and who is making darshan possible for millions of pilgrims who come to Śrīdhāma Māyāpur simply to take darshan of these Deities, He has given more than fifty-three years of service, following your instructions, as he will for the rest of his life. His Grace Jananivāsa Prabhu, His Grace Mādhava Hari Prabhu, His Grace Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Prabhu, and others on the Deity team are not only facilitating darshan for pilgrims but have earmarked 250 calendar days for festivals. They are trying to fill in the rest of the days in the calendar so that when the TOVP opens, we can have a festival on each of the 365 days of the year in Māyāpur. Every day will be a festival here at Śrīdhāma Māyāpur, Śrīla Prabhupāda. This will be the greatest preaching, as you envisioned. This is the kingdom of God you wanted, the kingdom of God we inherited from Your Divine Grace. We will make sure your desires and instructions are fulfilled, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Our Gaura-Pūrṇimā festival is the largest gathering, like a Kumbha Mela, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We bathe Śrī Śrī Pañca-tattva in an open pandal, and this year more than two lakhs of people witnessed the appearance festival of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu. Every festival in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur is celebrated very, very grandly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and in the future the leaders of our society will come to Śrīdhāma Māyāpur and learn the standards, the festivals, the culture – as you instructed. His Grace Jananivāsa Prabhu established the Māyāpur Academy for this purpose, and it has been running now for decades to teach devotees how to worship the Deities. The Māyāpur Academy is well known in ISKCON, and thousands of devotees have been trained here under the leadership of Jananivāsa Prabhu and Nṛsiṁha Kavaca Prabhu and the entire team of devotees. The devotees and *pūjārīs* are trained in all aspects of worship, including dressmaking, jewelery making, cooking, yajñas, mantras – the devotees are trained to keep the bhakti culture alive in every temple of the world. Māyāpur is number one in training something foundational for the future of ISKCON's Deity worship culture.

Community Hospital: The next milestone we have achieved is the Māyāpur Community Hospital, where we have completed the superstructure, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are trying to finish building a 110-bed hospital, under the leadership of His Grace Harilila Prabhu, by 2026.

For the good work that is being done, we received CSR funding of more than 5 crores this year, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We want your blessings so that this hospital is completed soon and we are able to serve many Vaiṣṇavas and others who need medical support.

Govinda's Prasadam and Govinda's Express: These are the next milestone as per your vision to make Māyāpur the number-one pilgrimage destination. As this is your international world headquarters and your place of worship, we are trying to improve on each and every aspect of our operations, ambience, environment, and culture. Therefore we renamed the Mahaprasadam booth Govinda's Prasadam, since we were not selling *mahā-prasādam* there. We created a separate Mahaprasadam booth in front of Rādhā-Mādhava's courtyard, which will serve the

mahā-prasādam offered to Rādhā-Mādhava, Pañca-tattva, Narasinghadeva, and Your Divine Grace. So we have separated this Mahaprasadam and the other *prasādam* facilities.

We then renamed other prasādam outlets Govinda's Prasadam, and the small counters, Govinda's Express. All this is being handled nicely under the young leadership of His Grace Lalita Mādhava Prabhu. We also would like to thank the previous head of this area, His Grace Rādhā Vinoda Prabhu, for holding the area well up until now.

We are also consolidating some of the kitchens so we can have operational efficiency, better service, improved hospitality, less waiting time, and with better controls on the inventory, point of sale, and standardized recipes. There are a lot of improvements being planned; some are ongoing. We also wanted to make the facility suitable for our devotee cooks, who can cook the *prasādam* comfortably in a hygienic, safe environment and a more devotional atmosphere.

Gauranga Supermart: We have renovated the CPD Gaurāṅga Supermart and have made it on par with other supermarkets. It is the largest shopping facility for devotees, and we are making sure whatever groceries and other necessities we carry are being sold within a devotional atmosphere, giving a good shopping experience. This again is being led by a young and promising devotee, His Grace Sadānanda Vrajeśvara Prabhu.

Guesthouses: Śrīla Prabhupāda, about the hospitality and guesthouse we have, as per your vision, under the leadership of His Grace Susakha Kṛṣṇa Prabhu and His Grace Saṅkīrtana Nitāichand Prabhu and his team, created a pilgrim shelter in front of Gada Bhavan and improved the ambience of the Gada Bhavan overall with parks, gardens, fountains, and a rest area. We have renovated the washing area in Gada Bhavan.

So that pilgrims can have a spiritual experience while honoring *prasādam,* we've opened a new restaurant for the devotees staying at Ishodyan Bhavan. Now they don't have to stand in the queue and thereby save energy and time. They can dine at the Ishodyan restaurant, an amazingly beautiful restaurant with a seating capacity of over 100. At the moment it's open on weekends, but it will slowly be made available seven days a week. To attract various ethnicities we're serving a variety of cuisines. We have also introduced a *thali* named after Your Divine Grace, the Prabhupāda *thali,* where the items you like most are served. Our whole life is centered on you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and this is one of our offerings to you. So, over the next 10,000 years, the Prabhupāda *thali* will become famous, and pilgrims from around the world will come to Māyāpur to taste the preparations on it – and by tasting, will become devotees. This is our desire. You are our only hope.

Also, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the temple now has an increasing number of pilgrims day by day, year by year. You used to say, "Why they are not coming? Why they are not coming? Why they are not coming?" Now, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy, we can't even stand in the temple room today because millions of visitors come each year. Our latest count is almost 11 million visitors who came to have darshan of your Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava, Pañca-tattva, and Prahlāda-Narasinghadeva, Śrīla Prabhupāda. His Grace Jananivāsa Prabhu, is making this darshan the most famous in the entire creation on your behalf. Beautiful darshan in the morning – an amazing experience, a spiritually divine experience.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you said, "My idea is to attract the people of the whole world to Śrīdhāma Māyāpur," and it is happening, Śrīla Prabhupāda – it is happening by your mercy. We could not really visualize what you wanted, but as we sincerely follow your instructions, we are able to see what you saw manifest before our own eyes. This gives us a lot of faith and hope in the process.

To accommodate the millions of pilgrims safely, we have added emergency doors at the various sites, even in the temporary temple, as everybody eagerly awaits to move to the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium. Your biggest gift to the world, the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium will

protect *sanātana-dharma,* stand for the philosophy of the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* giving hope to the misdirected civilization, which is facing the greatest calamity of its existence. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are providing the guiding principle for the next ten thousand years. Therefore devotees are eagerly waiting for our move to the finished temple. In the meantime, to facilitate the pilgrims and give them a better devotional experience, we are trying to make the environment safe for them. We are taking other measures besides the emergency doors. We are trying our best, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to fulfill your desires.

Book Distribution and preaching: Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will be proud to know that Māyāpur stands number one in book distribution, a service you said was your only solace. We are expanding our book distribution on a massive scale.

Saṅkīrtana: We also aimed at distributing 5,000 sets of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* during Gaura-Pūrṇimā. We did not make our goal, but you will be pleased to know that we distributed 3,243 sets. The *saṅkīrtana* devotees are putting their lives on the line to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You said you could be pleased by our distributing your books. Your pleasure is the life and soul of the *saṅkīrtana* devotees. Every second, every minute, every hour they want to please you.

And they also wanted Māyāpur to be number one in the book distribution marathon. By your mercy, His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja has also taken book distribution as his life and soul, and he inspires all the devotees to distribute books. Following in his footsteps, His Holiness Bhakti Puruṣottama Swami Mahārāja and His Holiness Bhakti Vijaya Bhāgavata Swami Mahārāja are taking book distribution to the next level by distributing not only in every town and village but also in the mountains, caves, and forests to the tribal people. They don't consider whether or not someone is qualified. Their aim is to distribute your books, Śrīla Prabhupāda. His Holiness Bhakti Puruṣottama Swami Mahārāja wanted to establish 108 booths on the Māyāpur campus and also establish 108 bus parties. Currently, we have eleven buses, so everything is manifesting slowly.

His Holiness Bhakti Vijaya Bhāgavata Swami Mahārāja is spearheading book distribution on a massive scale with his team of *saṅkīrtana* devotees, like Gour Dhāma Prabhu and his team. His *saṅkīrtana* army is making sure Māyāpur is always number one.

Nāmahaṭṭa preaching: This preaching effort is headed by His Holiness Bhakti Gaurāṅga Prema Swami Mahārāja, His Holiness Gauracandra Mahārāja, and His Grace Padmanetra Prabhu, and others are making sure that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is spread through *nāmahaṭṭas* to every town and village. They have made thousands and thousands of devotees, who now follow the process of bhakti-yoga, following your instructions, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Today in Bengal, we are considered a very important organization. The government officials take an interest in ISKCON, recognizing that ISKCON is one of the major spiritual organizations spreading *sanātana-dharma*. That credit goes to the *nāmahaṭṭa* devotees who preach in every village and who are expanding their preaching year after year. The day will come, Śrīla Prabhupāda, when at least in Bengal and the neighboring state of Orissa, every house will have at least one devotee, and they will definitely have your books on their shelves. This is amazing, and it has been achieved under the leadership of His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja. The program is making many villagers devotees.

ISKCON tribal preaching: After village preaching, His Holiness Bhakti Puruṣottama Swami Mahārāja, through his tribal initiative, preaches, opens schools, distributes *prasādam* and books, and provides shelter to the tribals in ten of India's states. *Pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi-grāma sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma* – "My name will be spread in every town and village." This was the instruction of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and that vision was also your mission, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The tribal preaching fulfills your vision in spreading the holy name to all the tribals in mountains, caves, and forest areas. This is a very significant milestone in our preaching endeavors, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Māyāpur master plan: Also, to facilitate the opening of the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, we need to pay attention to many facilities so that the people of the whole world can come to Śrīdhāma Māyāpur. There are several projects that have been approved and are awaiting development. The master plan is headed by His Grace Hṛdaya Caitanya Prabhu, with the assistance of Nandana Prabhu and his team, who is putting his full life into developing the plan according to your vision, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

There are several projects we expect to develop in the next two or three years. These are the Gada Bhavan extension, the Sulabh Kitchen, and the Gita extension. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the master of all plans for us. You gave us the kingdom of God, and we have inherited it with all your plans. You are the master, and we are sincerely endeavoring to fulfill your desires.

Life Member guesthouse: Śrīla Prabhupāda, as we are growing bigger, as you desired for us, our true potential as the International World Headquarters is manifesting day by day, every minute and second. Facilitating, maintaining, and managing the pilgrims, visiting devotees, and the Life Members and other donors takes a lot of management and coordination. His Grace Śubhekṣaṇa Prabhu is making sure all these persons have a Hare Kṛṣṇa experience so that they can give their lives to your movement, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The life-member cultivation begun by you was meant to enable these Life Members to support ISKCON and also to give their lives to ISKCON. This is also being taken care of by Śubhekṣaṇa Prabhu. He makes sure these persons have a comfortable stay in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur. The Life Member guesthouse is being led by His Grace Varuṇa Gopāla Prabhu.

We also built the Śrīla Prabhupāda Kitchen. We wanted all Life Members to have the experience of honoring *prasādam* in your kitchen, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Gītā Course preaching: We have *Gītā* preaching being managed by His Grace Lakṣmī Govinda Prabhu and his team. They've taken the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* to every home in Bengal. We are developing a new facility to expand their preaching, meant to cater to those who have been preached to by the *Gītā* team. The team wants to build a Gita University. This is Bhakti Puruṣottama Mahārāja's vision. Your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* is being widely distributed, and also taught and practiced, shared, and lived by the larger congregation, not only the *Gītā* devotees and the congregation they have developed, but also by whoever has received your book. In general, the idea is that everyone who has read at least one sentence or one page wants to live life according to the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. This can only happen by your divine grace.

Treasury: Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have given the responsibility for the treasury to His Grace Vraja Vinod Shyam Prabhu, who executes his duty according to your instructions on dealing with money in the development of Śrīdhāma Māyāpur. Also, the previous in-charge for the treasury, His Grace Akshaya Rāmachandra Prabhu, has now taken greater responsibility in the land department. He did a very good job in creating accountability, transparency, and productivity in the treasury, and we are confident that he established an accounting foundation that Vraja Vinod Shyam Prabhu can carry forward. Your mercy and blessings are the guiding principle for these devotees, and we pray you will shower your causeless mercy on them all.

Land: Currently ISKCON Māyāpur holds 700 acres, but we are sure that one day your desire will be fulfilled that we hold all the land in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur. At least we have the opportunity to

bear testimony to whatever land we have already acquired has been done by the stalwart leadership and efforts of His Grace Dayārāma Prabhu and his team. Dayārāma Prabhu has again taken responsibility for the land department to ensure that ISKCON Māyāpur is able to hold all the land it needs to develop its master plan and, beyond, to develop the whole Vedic city, as per your instructions and desire, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Pushpa Samādhi: Śrīla Prabhupāda, your Pushpa Samadhi has been excellently taken care of by His Grace Bhaktajanapriya Prabhu. We are trying to improve the footfall to your Pushpa Samadhi, Śrīla Prabhupāda. And I am sure after the temple of Vedic Planetarium is opened, we are very confident that the footfall will be such that whoever comes to the temple to see the temple first, they will go through the Pushpa Samadhi and visit and take darshan of the temple. Because it will be integrated, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the temple and Pushpa Samadhi. And we will make sure either while entering or exiting, they have to visit and pay respects to your Pushpa Samadhi so that their life can be perfected. Only by your grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is there any hope in this Kali Yuga.

Sulabh Kitchen: Sulabh Kitchen is under the devotional organization of His Grace Rādhā-dyuti Prabhu. This program facilitates very tasty *prasādam* at a very affordable price for the pilgrims. Sulabh Kitchen has been running for decades. Now Rādhā-dyuti Prabhu is expanding the project to five stories to serve the needs of the growing number of pilgrims. The design has been completed, with a capacity to serve 5,000. You mentioned that we should have a facility like Tirupati's, and so Sulabh's Kitchen will have that same style of management and facility. You wanted devotees to go to Tirupati to learn how things are managed. This facility is our humble attempt to follow your instructions on how to better facilitate the pilgrims.

Schools: The schools, under the leadership of Her Grace Racitāmbara Mātājī and His Grace Ramaṇīpati Prabhu have been a great source of education for our devotees' children. As Navadvīpa was once the center for learning, so our schools, as per your instructions, are trying to educate children who can stand for the times and recreate the center for learning. That was our desire, but we are far from achieving that goal to make ISKCON Māyāpur the center of learning in Bengal. Still, we are trying our best, starting children from a young age. We have faced many challenges and are learning our lessons. We know we have a long way to go, but we know that one day, by your blessings, we will please you with this endeavor

We have appointed Racitāmbara Mātājī the divisional head for *gurukula* in Māyāpur, and His Grace Rādhikā Nāgara Prabhu administrative dean for SMIS. They are doing a great job.

Māyāpur Institute: The Māyāpur Institute, under the leadership of His Grace Padmanayana Prabhu, continues to play a vital role in preserving and propagating your teachings. The Institute provides systematic education in *śāstra,* equipping devotees with a deep understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Recently, the Māyāpur Institute celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary between February 14–16, 2025, marking two and a half decades of dedicated service to your mission. This milestone is a testament to the commitment of the devotees who tirelessly serve to uphold and expand your vision for Māyāpur as a center of spiritual learning.

Māyāpur Community Services: Our community is growing, and currently we have more than 7,000 devotees. We want to have 50,000 devotees in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur. This creates a great challenge in terms of building a community focused on your teachings. The co-directors have given the responsibility of this to His Grace Nanda Kṛṣṇa Prabhu and his team of sector leaders. They are working to create a community focused on your teachings and instructions and to solve the challenges in a devotional manner. But there are a lot of challenges in this regard, Śrīla

Prabhupāda. We are trying our best to create an atmosphere of unity with the commonality of following your instructions in building the community.

Goshala: Śrīla Prabhupāda, we currently have four hundred cows, bulls, and bullocks grouped into four herds. They are well taken care of by His Grace Dāma Gopāla Prabhu. We are trying to come up with a master plan for the goshala. We want to practice cow protection as per your instructions, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Currently, all the milk that is produced is used to serve the Deities in all the temples, including Rajapur Jagannātha. We are trying to engage the bulls and bullocks. This is an amazing experience for pilgrims and devotees alike who come to Māyāpur – doing *go-pūjā* and feeding the cows, cuddling the cows, and having an experience with the cows is most pleasing for the pilgrims. It attracts them to visit Māyāpur again and again and to make Māyāpur the number-one pilgrim destination.

Tīrtha: Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us a *tīrtha,* a place of pilgrimage, to develop. Cows play a significant role in developing such a place, and we are trying to remember that everything in Māyāpur is preaching. We want to preach through all aspects of our Māyāpur facilities, and the protection of the cows is one of our biggest preaching endeavors, because so many pilgrims come to take darshan of the Deities and of the cows. We are improving our facilities for the cows. By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are sure that we will make the goshala in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur wonderful.

We have also built a new goshala stall in front of the CPD, where we sell goshala products. The stall has a good ambience and creates an awareness of the cows and the goshala. We needed to promote our goshala for a long time, but we are now slowly progressing in that direction.

Māyāpur elephants: Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is with great pain in our hearts that we have to let our elephants go to Vantara in Gujarat. These elephants have served Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava, Śrī Śrī Pañca-tattva, and Śrī Prahlāda-Narasinghadeva for many decades. Lakshmi Priya and Vishnu Priya were the greatest preachers at Śrīdhāma Māyāpur just by carrying Their Lordships on a *parikrama* where millions of devotees and pilgrims took part. So Lakshmi Priya and Vishnu Priya are now in a sanctuary, safely cared for by the Vantara people. We are very, very grateful to Her Grace Hrimati Mātājī, for taking excellent care of the elephants and giving her life in spreading the culture. As you always say, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is a cultural revolution, and Mātājī was instrumental in spreading the culture through the elephant procession. By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we hope to bring two more elephants, younger, smaller ones, 6–8 months or a year old, so that we can train them not as sanctuary-based elephant but as temple-based elephants.

Tourism: Śrīla Prabhupāda, His Grace Gopījana Vallabha Prabhu is putting a lot of effort into coming up with more and more ideas to make Māyāpur the best destination in the creation. There are several packages designed for pilgrims to visit the various holy places in and around Navadvīpa to help them understand the significance of Lord Caitanya's movement and how it will change the entire world.

And I again have to say that any of these milestones or achievements I'm mentioning have only been possible by the stalwart leadership of His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja. He is the force behind everyone's efforts and the inspiration for developing this land into the kingdom of God, as per Your Divine Grace's instructions. He has sacrificed everything for your mission.

Divine Threads: We feel deeply grateful for the opportunity to offer new outfits to the Deities in Māyāpur, Śrīla Prabhupāda – a service begun in 2024. Through this service, we pray to bring

joy to you and your beloved Lordships, and so feel blessed to continue this offering. Under the leadership of Her Grace Ānandalīlā Mātājī, Māyāpur Divine Threads has been creating beautiful Deity outfits for temples across the world, adding many new temples to the list from the USA, Europe, and Asia and spreading the glories of Māyāpur far and wide. We are dedicated to upholding your legacy by providing high-quality, handcrafted outfits with devotion and care.

Māyāpur Academy: This past year has also been a milestone for the Māyāpur Academy, which is expanding its spiritual education through onsite and online courses apart from the regular diploma and short courses which have benefited students across the globe. Programs like the online jewelry-making course and the children's Deity worship course reflect your vision for practical devotional training, while courses such as the Gāyatrī and online mantra course deepen understanding of Vedic traditions. As we grow, we remain committed to making spiritual education accessible and impactful, all in service to your mission. Her Grace Ānandalīlā Mātājī, along with the cofounders His Grace Nṛsiṁha Kavaca Prabhu and His Grace Jananīvas Prabhu, have put a lot of thought and effort into these programs, trying to improve the courses, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We hope and pray that you will continue to bless this team.

Legal & Compliance: Under the able and intelligent leadership of His Grace Akshay Ramachandra Prabhu, the legal and compliance department have also achieved many things in the past year Śrīla Prabhupa – I am highlighting a few here:

(1) We have ensured that our litigation is minimized by taking proactive measures for compliance with tax and statutory obligations.

(2) We have ensured timely filing of processes/returns to avoid penalties.

(3) We have helped preaching departments focus on preaching activities while we comply with taxation and property laws.

Central: Śrīla Prabhupāda, His Grace Śubhekṣaṇa Prabhu is the co-director who is taking care of the Central Division. He is well supported by the head of the Central Division, His Grace Purānanda Nitāi Prabhu. Two managers, Jagatguru Jayadeva Prabhu and Ashraya Govinda Prabhu, are heads of multiple departments under Central. In this division, we have been able to create many facilities that have benefited all the devotees and pilgrims, Śrīla Prabhupāda. This team supports all other divisions in Māyāpur by taking care of the utilities, like water, electricity, cleaning, temple upkeep, etc., in addition to the scheduling for morning programs, coordinating the *pūjās* to be done, dealing with the internet, internal communication, etc. – the list is long. It is only by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we are able to do many things in this division, and it is because of this team that all others are able to do their *sevā* well.

VIP: VIP cultivation is now under the guidance of Dayārāma Prabhu. His Grace Kṛṣṇa Vijaya Prabhu has been leading our efforts in cultivating all the VIPs, Śrīla Prabhupāda. He has been helped by Śānta Gaurāṅga Prabhu and his team. In the past year we have had seven to eight hundred groups of VIPs visit and stay in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur. Our relationship with the government and nongovernment VIPs is becoming stronger by the day, by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Māyāpur TV: His Grace Antardvīpa Prabhu and his team have worked very hard and achieved many things this year, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Starting by acquiring two Canon DSLR cameras dedicated to live-broadcast work, they also helped earn a good name at the Chennai Kirtan Mela,

developed a dedicated team and equipment for big festivals, improved the cable TV customer base, to name a few.

The broadcast room and temple have also been undergoing a complete rewiring, which began in December. The work is now halfway complete.

Social media keeps developing at a steady rate – the YouTube MayapurTV channel has consistently grown by 100,000 subscribers per year over the past seven years, and is now at 700,000 subscribers.

This year, we also added Hindi online preaching to the English, Bangla, and Russian preaching going out from Śrīdhāma Māyāpur – the Hindi community has been leading with organizing Hindi *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā* classes on a daily basis. We also just started a daily online Tamil *Bhagavad-gītā* class.

Concluding remarks: Lastly, we humbly pray at your lotus feet, Your Divine Grace, that we dedicate our lives more and more to serving your lotus feet. Fulfilling your vision for Māyāpur is our only goal in life, and this can only happen by your unlimited mercy upon us, with you always guiding us and working through us to get your vision fulfilled. We can't express our gratitude in words. By following your instructions, by your mercy, then we can show real gratitude.

Thank you so very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

On behalf of the Codirectors
Your humble servant,
Vraja Vilāsa Dāsa

Melbourne, Australia

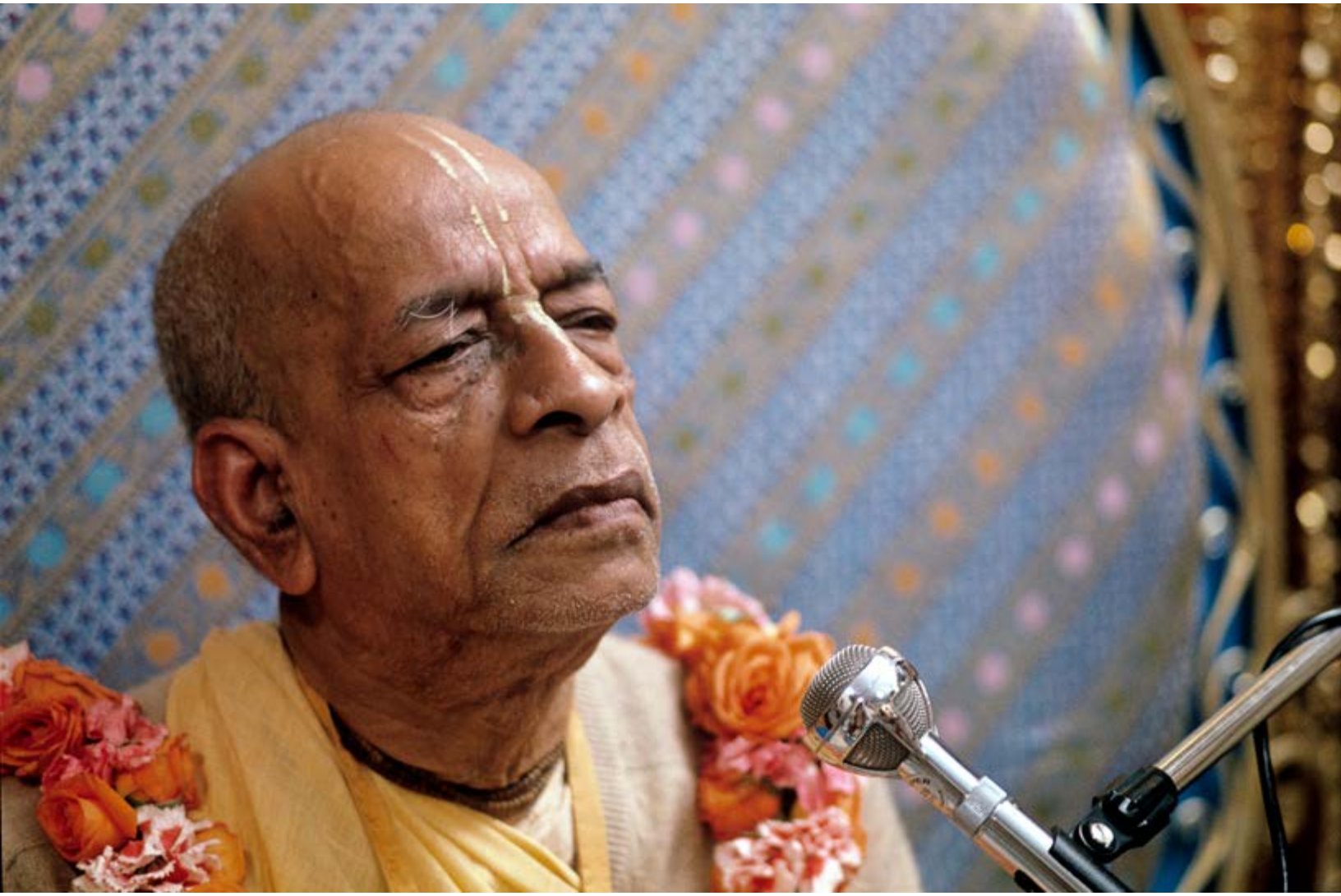
Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, the Founder-Ācārya of ISKCON, the unparalleled servant of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, who illuminates the world with Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

As we gather on this sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, the Hare Kṛṣṇa Melbourne community offer our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your monumental contributions in the form of your writings, vision, purpose, and the results of your tireless efforts to fulfill the order of and please your Guru Mahārāja.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your books are your most significant gift to humanity. Through your translations and purports of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, The Nectar of Devotion,* and other sacred texts, you have opened the doors to the timeless wisdom of Vedic scriptures for millions worldwide. Scholars have praised your works for their depth, clarity, and fidelity to tradition. They are not just books – they are living scriptures that guide us toward self-realization and devotion to Kṛṣṇa.

In Melbourne, we witness daily how your books transform lives. Whether it is a seeker picking up *The Science of Self-Realization* or a devotee diving deep into *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* your writings continue to inspire and educate us. Your words are our lifeline, connecting us to Kṛṣṇa and his eternal teachings.



We derive great pleasure and satisfaction in regularly reading, studying, and distributing your books. Your emphasis on book distribution has become the heartbeat of our community.

Your vision is nothing short of extraordinary: to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village across the globe. You saw beyond cultural and geographical boundaries, recognizing that Kṛṣṇa's message is universal. By establishing ISKCON in 1966 with its Seven Purposes, you created a movement that not only propagates spiritual knowledge all over the world but also fosters unity, compassion, and service to people from all walks of life.

Here in Melbourne, we strive to uphold this vision by building a vibrant community centered on devotional service. Your vision has given us purpose and direction, inspiring us to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others through book distribution, *prasādam* distribution, *kīrtana* festivals, and educational programs.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you dedicated your life to reviving *sanātana-dharma,* the eternal religion of devotion to God. You taught us that true happiness lies in reconnecting with Kṛṣṇa through chanting His holy names and living a life of simplicity and purity.

In just eleven years you achieved what no one else could – establishing 108 temples worldwide, initiating thousands of disciples, publishing over seventy books in multiple languages, and selflessly traveling around the globe fourteen times to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your impact is immeasurable; millions have chanted the holy names because of you.

In Melbourne, we see your results every day in our thriving temple community. From vibrant Sunday Feasts to grand Ratha-yātrā festivals that bring joy to thousands, your legacy lives on in every devotee's heart.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as we reflect on your life and teachings today, we reaffirm our commitment to serving your mission with sincerity and dedication. We pray for your blessings so that we may continue spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Melbourne and beyond with humility and enthusiasm.

On this auspicious day of Vyāsa-pūjā, we bow down at your lotus feet in gratitude for everything you have given us. You are our eternal spiritual guide – the light that leads us back home to Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants at ISKCON Melbourne,
(written by Aniruddha Dāsa, president)

Melukote, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

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

Today is the most auspicious day in the entire creation for us, because you appeared in Calcutta (on the sacred banks of the mighty Ganges) to again establish the spiritual teachings of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya on this planet. How could this be anything but the supreme divine will of Śrī Gauracandra?

After the departure of His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, the movement was once again at sea for various reasons. Your Divine Grace has kindly explained this in a song called *Viraha-aṣṭaka*.

In due course of time, Your Divine Grace took up the herculean task of reviving the cult of Caitanya Vaiṣṇavism and single-handedly achieved the impossible task of establishing 108 temples, along with *gurukulas,* goshalas, and farm communities, and you created so many devotees from various nationalities, races, religious beliefs, without discriminating against them in any way whatsoever. Certainly, your heroic efforts are mind-boggling to even the sharpest minds.

We at ISKCON Melkote are meditating and trying our best to stay faithful to your simplest of instructions on cow protection as well as growing our own produce for the pleasure of Lord Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrādevī. Our humble efforts are giving some small results, by your mercy, and we hope to expand this in the near future. With great difficulty we were able to get the land converted for use in religious and social causes by the local authorities, as the ISKCON land is in an eco-sensitive and protected forest zone. We are endeavoring to erect a small temple and make some simple facilities for devotees to come and continue their *bhajana* in the sacred land of Melukote.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and loyalty to Your Divine Grace's instructions life after life. We shudder to think what would have been our fate had you not preached the

message of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and changed the destiny of our lives and the lives of many millions of other souls. We beg your divine self for the spiritual energy to follow your teachings without deviation.

Your followers at ISKCON Melukote

Miami, Florida, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It was an open secret that your greatest priority was to write, print, and distribute your Kṛṣṇa conscious books. You were so intent on blessing the world with the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and other books that you would write tirelessly throughout the night, every night, regardless of what time you arrived at a temple or rested.

In 1965, you came to the United States with nothing but some trunks filled with three-volume sets of the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. When planning your upcoming mission to preach in the West, you were uncertain, due to the frailties of old age, if you could successfully complete your Bhaktivedanta purports for the entire *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Consequently, you included all of the essential philosophy in those first three volumes.

Once established in the United States, and in the same mood as with the first printing of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* you wrote, *Kṛṣṇa, The Supreme Personality of Godhead* (the *Kṛṣṇa* book), a summary study of the Tenth Canto and a collection of the Lord's most intimate loving Vrindavan pastimes. Normally, we are recommended to study the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* from its beginning and only gradually make our way to the Tenth Canto, but in the same mood of urgency that prompted you to concentrate on the essential philosophy in the First Canto, you summarized the Tenth Canto to give us an opportunity to become attracted to the Lord's intimate Vrindavan pastimes.

We did not understand until years later, when you also gave us the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* that in fact one of Lord Caitanya's confidential reasons for appearing in this world was to give us fortunate human beings of Kali-yuga a chance to associate with Him (Lord Kṛṣṇa) in a pure, intimate way, without any sentiment of awe and veneration. As Lord Caitanya's representative, you gave us that same opportunity through your teachings.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* it is described that after ending His earthly pastimes, Lord Kṛṣṇa, contemplating appearing as Lord Caitanya, considered as follows:

> If one regards Me as the Supreme Lord and himself as a subordinate, I do not become subservient to his love, nor can it control Me. In whatever transcendental mellow My devotee worships Me, I reciprocate with him. That is My natural behavior. In whatever way My devotees surrender unto Me, I reward them accordingly. "Everyone follows My path in all respects, O son of Pṛthā." If one cherishes pure loving devotion to Me, thinking of Me as his son, his friend or his beloved, regarding himself as great and considering Me his equal or inferior, I become subordinate to him. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 4.17–22)

Lord Caitanya only appears in this world once in a day of Lord Brahmā, or once every one thousand Kali-yugas. Considering the duration of both the day and night of Lord Brahmā, this would be a total of 8,640,000,000 years. We are so fortunate that Lord Caitanya's divine appearance took place only about five hundred years ago. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have made us even more fortunate by delivering His message to the world. And your message was not restricted or confined to only a few, but rather has become accessible to everyone through the internet, mass printing, your lectures, and the tireless work of many of your disciples and granddisciples who have been inspired and empowered by you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help us at ISKCON Miami to increase our study, hearing, and teaching of Lord Caitanya and the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Throughout the world there are many devotees who have developed proven methods of selling your books, inspiring new people to advance on this path, and methods to care for and enliven devotees who have already come. These successful devotees have not created anything new in principle; they have simply applied the principles given to us by yourself and the previous *ācāryas*. One of those principles for success is to be enthusiastic, and enthusiasm means "To make some endeavor, using your intelligence in Kṛṣṇa consciousness."

We pray that at ISKCON Miami we may also enthusiastically endeavor to do our part in this glorious mission of propagating the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement all over the world.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Miami

Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to your International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

On this most auspicious day of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, I would like to express my deepest, heartfelt gratitude to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your love for your spiritual master and the sacrifice you made has resulted in so many centers around the world. We will always be indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West.

Over the years, your temple here at ISKCON Midrand has grown and expanded nicely. We have recently also purchased a second property, for your pleasure. The devotees are committed and serve sincerely. By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have also allowed us to serve and accommodate your loving disciples when they're traveling. We consider this a fortune.

We feel your love, care, compassion, and strength, and are confident that your temple will continue to attract new devotees. I continuously pray that you will be merciful to us and allow us to continue in our services selflessly and without offense. I further pray, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that your International Society for Krishna Consciousness continues to grow strong and that more and more people get attracted to it. The purity of this process has been evident through the past years in seeing how many are attracted.

Your servant always,
Siddha Svarūpa Dāsa, temple president

Milton, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

As we gather to celebrate your auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony, we are humbled by your compassionate preaching. At an advanced age, you traveled to a foreign country without money, contacts, manpower, or physical strength – driven solely by one purpose: to serve your Guru Mahārāja.

You did not come to gather mundane followers, earn money, gain fame, seek a job, or pursue a degree. Nor did you come to start a business or establish a large following, as many yoga teachers did. You came not to take but to give pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, who valiantly spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness across India, wanted so much to spread the message overseas. He sent a couple of disciples to London with instructions to preach Mahāprabhu's message in English to the Western world. Unfortunately, those disciples returned after some time and proclaimed that Westerners were not interested in the message. So your Guru Mahārāja instructed you to print books and spread the message. You took his instruction to heart, and to fulfill the desire of your Guru Mahārāja you charted a plan to execute his tall order.

After immense struggle, the long-awaited day of your departure for the West finally arrived. You took your meager possessions – a suitcase, an umbrella, a supply of dry cereal, and a trunk of your books. You didn't know what you would find to eat in America, but you were determined to serve your guru to the best of your ability.

Here are some memories we've heard from your disciples:

Śrīla Prabhupāda had his own style of answering questions: Once, a middle-aged, well-to-do Indian businessman challenged Śrīla Prabhupāda, "Why are you building new temples when there are so many old temples in need of renovation and repair?" Śrīla Prabhupāda didn't answer the question directly. Instead, he asked the gentleman, "Who is that lady sitting next to you?" The man said, "She's my wife." Prabhupāda asked, "Why did you get married?" The man was flabbergasted and couldn't answer, so Prabhupāda said, "You got married because you wanted to have children. But why have children when there are so many children loitering in the streets? Just as you want to have your own child, similarly a devotee wants to build a temple, install the Deity, and offer the temple to Kṛṣṇa."

Śrīla Prabhupāda taught true compassion: Śrīla Prabhupāda was strict, but also compassionate and concerned. For example, for at least two months before he passed away, he wasn't eating anything. Occasionally he accepted some fruit juice or a little diluted milk, but still, he regularly inquired, "How are the devotees eating? How is the devotee *prasādam*?" One day, Śrīla Prabhupāda asked me to check out the devotee *prasādam*. I came back and told him that the *prasādam* was not so nice. Śrīla Prabhupāda called the temple president and reprimanded him. He asked, "Why is the *prasādam* not nice?" Śrīla Prabhupāda himself hadn't eaten for two months, but still he was concerned about how the devotees were eating.

Śrīla Prabhupāda teaches true advancement: In Juhu, a senior godbrother was annoyed with me and was chastising me heavily. I felt bad that he chastised me. When I went to Śrīla Prabhupāda, Prabhupāda said, "The sign of one's spiritual advancement is not the big position one has. The

real sign of advancement is how humble and tolerant one has become." That instruction took away all the heaviness in my heart and I often remember it. The sign of our advancement is not in our position but in how humble and tolerant we have become.

Śrīla Prabhupāda (guru) knows all: One morning in Vrindavan, Śrīla Prabhupāda asked me to prepare two varieties of spinach – green and red – as well as pumpkin, radish, eggplant, and bitter melon. I went to the market to buy everything. When I came back, I told Śrīla Prabhupāda, "Prabhupāda, I got everything." Śrīla Prabhupāda asked, "What did you get?" "I got two varieties of spinach, eggplant, pumpkin, and radish." Then I remembered that I had forgotten to get bitter melon. It was stupid of me, but I lied to Śrīla Prabhupāda and told him I'd also purchased bitter melon. I thought I'd arrange to get the bitter melon later.

To my surprise, Śrīla Prabhupāda told me to bring the vegetables. I ran out. At that time there was an employee in the guesthouse named Kishan. I gave him some money and said, "Go to the market and get some bitter melon." I thought he'd take ten or fifteen minutes, and in the meantime, I went to the kitchen and started to prepare everything. Kishan came back and said, "There is no bitter melon in the market." I knew that there was also no bitter melon in any of the temple kitchens. I felt as if the whole world was crumbling. I prayed to Kṛṣṇa, "Please save me! Now I have to tell Śrīla Prabhupāda that I lied to him and that I forgot the bitter melon." I was thinking, "Prabhupāda is going to get annoyed with me, and who knows what kind of chastisement I'll get." I was so dazed that instead of taking the usual passage next to the temple to Prabhupāda's kitchen, I started to go through the *gurukula* building, and there, on the balcony of the *gurukula* was a green bitter melon. I pounced on it and ran, thanking Kṛṣṇa in every possible way. Prabhupāda was taking his massage when I went into his room with all the vegetables. He told me how to cut them, and finally I said, "Prabhupāda, and the bitter melon?" Prabhupāda looked at me and said, "Bitter melon?" Just the way Śrīla Prabhupāda said "bitter melon" convinced me beyond any doubt that he knew what had happened.

Śrīla Prabhupāda brought Vrindavan: Śrīla Prabhupāda's presence was so powerful that when you came into his presence you felt as if you were no longer part of the material world. You felt that you were in some kind of a spiritual, transcendental environment. I didn't know about Vrindavan then, but nowadays we would say that Prabhupāda brought Vrindavan with him. We felt the Vrindavan mood whenever we came into Prabhupāda's presence. He was carrying Kṛṣṇa in his heart.

Śrīla Prabhupāda was most merciful: Once, Śrīla Prabhupāda was giving a lecture about how we have to be cent percent Kṛṣṇa conscious. He was ramming home the point that we have to surrender to Kṛṣṇa one hundred percent. At the end of the class, the devotees were serious, looking down, thinking, "Who can come up to the standard of complete surrender?" As if he could read their minds, Prabhupāda relaxed his mood a little bit and said, "If you can be ninety percent Kṛṣṇa conscious, then you can also go back to Godhead." He was on a large, high *vyāsāsana,* four feet tall, and he had to climb down some steps to get off the *vyāsāsana*. As he started down, he said, "Even if you are eighty percent surrendered, Kṛṣṇa will still take you." Then he got off the *vyāsāsana* and started walking away. His chaddar was flowing behind him, dragging on the ground. He stopped, looked at the devotees, and said, "Even if you are seventy percent Kṛṣṇa conscious, still Kṛṣṇa will take you." He threw his chaddar over his shoulder and walked off with his head high.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is protecting us: Śrīla Prabhupāda was walking down the stairs in Calcutta. Many devotees were there. He slipped a little, and it looked like he was going to fall. One of the senior devotees said, "Watch out, Śrīla Prabhupāda." Prabhupāda stopped and said, "It is your responsibility to watch out. You have to take care of the body of the spiritual master. The spiritual master looks out for your spiritual well-being, but as far as whether I fall or not, that you have to guard against."

Today is set aside for deep reflection on the immense sacrifices you made for us, Śrīla

Prabhupāda. Contemplating your sacrifices helps guide us on our journey both in this life and beyond, as we strive to keep Kṛṣṇa at the center. In our lives, we must strive to imbibe your true teachings with unwavering sincerity, free from deviation and distraction. Śrīla Prabhupāda, embodying Kṛṣṇa's compassion, you came to rescue us just as Kṛṣṇa saved the cowherd boys from the deadly mouth of Aghāsura, who represents the powerful grip of the material energy in this Age of Kali. We humbly offer our obeisances at your lotus feet, praying for your mercy and blessings so that we may remain firmly committed to the principles of your ISKCON.

Your humble servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Milton

Minnesota

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

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

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

On behalf of our Minnesota temple and Kṛṣṇa conscious community, I consider myself profoundly honored to pen this Vyāsa-pūjā offering – a humble gesture of gratitude for the transformative blessings of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in our lives. This sacred mission has become a guiding light amidst the turmoil of Kali-yuga, providing clarity, purpose, and joy in service.

The thought of your courageous journey to the United States, armed only with a typewriter, a few books, and your unshakable trust in Kṛṣṇa's plan, fills us with awe and reverence. The powerful image of you chanting under the tree in Tompkins Square Park is a constant source of inspiration, reminding us of the beauty and strength of surrender to Kṛṣṇa's divine will.

Your teachings continue to guide and illuminate our path. These are not merely philosophical principles but living truths that you embodied with every step, word, and action. Through your example, we learned that to serve Kṛṣṇa is to serve others, and sharing His glories brings the greatest joy and fulfillment. Your immense sacrifice and compassion have changed countless lives, and we are eternally grateful to be among the blessed recipients of your legacy.

In our small attempts to honor your vision, under the guidance of my spiritual master, His Holiness Romapāda Swami, the ISKCON Minnesota community has taken meaningful steps to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We organized our first university program for students at the University of Minnesota, joyfully planting the seeds of Kṛṣṇa's message among young hearts. Our Monthly *Saṅkīrtana* program brings the holy name to our local community, spreading joy and spiritual upliftment. We also encourage children to participate in *kīrtana* and temple activities, nurturing their spiritual growth and fostering a deep connection to Kṛṣṇa from an early age. Witnessing their enthusiasm fills our hearts with hope and gratitude for the future of this movement.

Personally and as a community, we feel truly blessed to have found spiritual shelter, guidance,

and purpose within the movement you created. We humbly pray for your blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we may carry this mission forward with faith, determination, and devotion. May we honor your legacy in every thought, word, and deed, and may our collective efforts contribute to the fulfillment of the beautiful mission you envisioned – a world united in Kṛṣṇa's loving service. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all that you have done for us.

Your servant of the servant,
Śauri Dāsa, temple president

Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya.

On this sacred day of your glorious appearance, we wish to express our deep gratitude to you for bringing the eternal words of Śrī Kṛṣṇa to these forgotten countries. Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to perform loving devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead through the ancient system of bhakti-yoga. Thank you also for giving us your inspiring books, which contain precise instructions for purifying and liberating all souls. Thank you very much for giving us the Deities to worship and the merciful *prasādam* distribution program.

May your blessings reach this humble place, enlightening all beings through the mass distribution of your books. Please bless us so that the *saṅkīrtana* movement may flourish ever more with renewed enthusiasm. We humbly ask for your powerful blessings for the spiritual health of all of the devotees in this *yātrā* and that the *nāmahaṭṭa* programs that have been established may continue united and strong. May the expansion of the movement be consolidated with beautiful future *bhakti-vriksha* groups and Ratha-yātrās. Bless us so that the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness may triumph in all educational and social spheres of these lands.

We also beg for your blessings so that the Kṛṣṇa conscious self-sustaining farm project may also be a success. All for your transcendental pleasure, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to your beloved International Society for Krishna Consciousness, our original consciousness. We bow down again and again in the dust of your lotus feet.

We remain insignificant servants of the servants of your beloved devotees,
Sundara Śekhara Dāsa
on behalf of ISKCON Montevideo

Mumbai (Mira Road), India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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, 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.

We find this verse in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya* 22.34, spoken by Lord Rāmacandra and quoted from the *Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha-kāṇḍa* 18.33:

sakṛd eva prapanno yas
tavāsmīti ca yācate
abhayaṁ sarvadā tasmai
dadāmy etad vrataṁ mama

It is My vow that if one only once seriously surrenders unto Me, saying "My dear Lord, from this day I am Yours," and prays to Me for courage, I shall immediately award courage to that person, and he will always remain safe from that time on.

When Vibhīṣaṇa comes to surrender to Lord Rāma, He promises complete shelter by quoting the above *śloka*. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you give anyone and everyone who joins ISKCON at any level immediate shelter by connecting them to the *guru-paramparā* of thirty-two *ācāryas* and the Supreme Lord Himself.

Lord Rāma declared Vibhīṣaṇa as Laṅkeśa, coronating him king of Laṅkā, while promising to protect anyone who surrenders. And Lord Rāma declared that if Rāvaṇa surrenders, He would make Rāvaṇa king of Ayodhyā. On being questioned about Bharata, Lord Rāma stated He would give Him a Vaikuṇṭha planet to rule. When He was questioned where He would stay, Lord Rāma very happily said He would stay in the heart of Hanumān.

Similarly, we see, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead always stays in your heart. You have converted practically every city in every state in every country in the world into an abode of the Lord and gifted Kṛṣṇa consciousness to unlimited souls.

All the qualities of Hanumān are found in Your Divine Grace.

Devotion: Hanumānjī represents the epitome of devotional service. Lord Rāma expresses His indebtedness to Hanumān, stating, "I don't know how it is possible to ever repay the debt to you." At that time Hanumānjī asked, "Let me also be affectionate toward You – that is all I want." And Lord Rāma reciprocated. Similarly, you are blessed with unalloyed devotional service.

Service: Lord Rāmacandra Himself on occasion says to Hanumān, "Even if I sell myself

completely, still I cannot, because your service makes me bankrupt." This is the reciprocation of the Lord with the devotee. Similarly, Lord Kṛṣṇa is always indebted to Your Divine Grace.

Nonenvy: Hanumānjī crossed the ocean to find Sita, and on his way entered Surasā's body and came out again by shrinking himself. He escaped without being touched by her enviousness. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you crossed the ocean aboard the *Jaladuta,* facing various challenges to fulfill your guru's mission.

Self-control: Hanumānjī was not affected when he saw Rāvaṇa's wives. Similarly, although you possessed so much opulence, you were never attracted. Rather, you used everything for serving the Lord.

Commitment: When Hanumānjī returned after his mission to find Sītādevī, the Lord said, "My dear Hanumānjī, I am in exile and have nothing with which to reward you for what you have accomplished. The only thing I can offer you is My embrace, dear Hanumānjī. Please accept it." Lord Rāma then offered Himself to Hanumānjī. Similarly, Lord Kṛṣṇa has offered Himself to Your Divine Grace.

Glorious moments: As Hanumān meeting Lord Rāma is glorious, so your first meeting in 1922 with Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura is glorious. At that very first meeting, he gave you an instruction: "You are all educated young men. Why don't you take up Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's cult and preach it all over to the English-speaking public? Why don't you take up this matter?"

Lord Rāma's order to Hanumān to find Sītādevī was his life and soul. Similarly, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's order, "If you have money, print books," was your life and soul.

When Mount Maināka offered Hanumānjī rest during his flying-journey to Laṅkā, Hanumānjī said, "I am an arrow shot from Lord Rāma's bow and can accept no rest until I reach my destination." Saying this, Hanumānjī showed humility, giving importance to Lord Rāma's bow. Similarly, to fulfill your guru's order, you never rested.

Although Hanumānjī could have accomplished the whole mission by himself, he gave all credit to Lord Rāma. Similarly, whenever you were glorified, you gave all credit to your spiritual master.

Hanumānjī brought out the importance of Lord Rāma's name by writing His name on each and every stone while building the bridge to Laṅkā. In the same way, you glorified the *mahā-mantra* throughout the universe.

On May 5, 2024, you called His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami back to you to join your pastimes in the spiritual world. It has been a time of great separation for us here. On February 23, 2025, our temple president, His Grace Kamalalocana Prabhu received *sannyāsa* initiation and became His Holiness Bhakti Padma Saurabha Pracharak Swami Mahārāja.

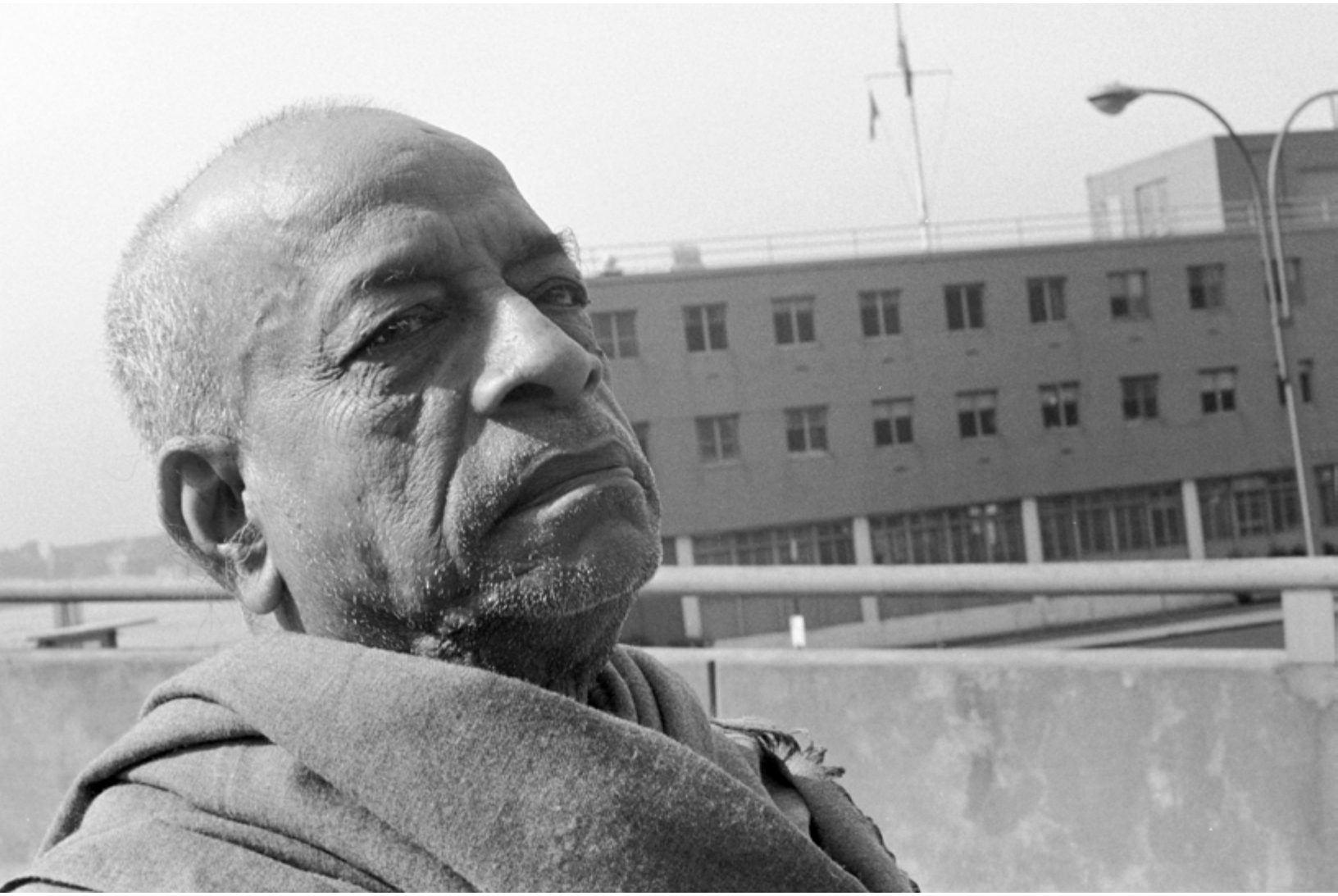
Here we share the offerings for the 150th appearance day of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura by devotees at ISKCON Mira Road:

- 150 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets were distributed for Bhadra Pūrṇimā.
- 65,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* were distributed for the Prabhupāda marathon.
- 150 summer camps were conducted, offering stories and descriptions of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, along with a list of thirty-six qualities, with stories from chapter 12 of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. These were shared with hundreds of children in residences and schools.
- 1,500 *bhoga* offerings were made on Jagannātha Rath-yātrā.
- 150 devotees glorified Śrīla Prabhupāda on Vyāsa-pūjā day.
- 1,500 devotees joined in on a *harināma kīrtana-mela*.

- 150 devotees chanted sixty-four rounds on *nirjala-ekādaśī*.
- 150 students learned to sing the *guru-paramparā bhajana* written by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.
- 150 students participated in stage performances, enacting the pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa through dramas and dance performances, opulently costumed, to celebrate Janmāṣṭamī in an auditorium of ICSE board schools N. L. Dalmia, Kapol Vidyanidhi, and Shailender School.
- 80 schools celebrated Diwali in their schools by doing *deepdhan* to Lord Dāmodara.
- Bhaktivedanta College has started short courses apart from the Journey of Self-Discovery course and Bhakti-śastrī. These are Teachings of Lord Caitanya (TLC); Four Books Are Enough; Teachings of Queen Kuntī; and Science of Self-Realization. This course announcement was done on Nityānanda-trayodaśī, and His Holiness Bhakti Padma Swami began the TLC course on March 3 this year.
- The Deity department has been functioning perfectly, with *pūjārīs* serving the Deities by dressing in innovative ways, making the Deities flower outfits on festival days, and performing divine *āratis* at all times with great devotion. *Mātājīs* cook regular offerings, and on festivals offer fifty-six types of bhoga. *Mātājīs* also make the flower garlands with great love every day.
- Govinda's is attracting huge crowds on weekends and holidays.
- On Ekādaśīs we hold twelve-hour *kīrtanas*.
- *Upāsanā* festivals for boys from our youth group attract numerous boys from different areas.
- Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, Janmāṣṭamī, Rādhāṣṭamī, Brahmotsava, Nityānanda-trayodaśī, Gaura-Pūrṇimā, Balarāma Jayantī – all these festivals attract huge crowds from in and around the Mira Road area. The Deities are dressed opulently, and thousands attend and go home happily after a grand feast.
- The Food-for-life department serves *khicadi* daily to visitors, and opulent *prasādam* on Sundays.
- *Harināma-saṅkīrtana* is done daily for one hour in the streets around Mira Road.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please protect us from the narrow-mindedness and divisiveness that pollute the world today. Please empower us, your humble servants, to carry forward this great mission of love and redemption. Let us remain fascinated and inspired by your boundless compassion, remembering that all souls are the Lord's servants and that there is "no bar for anyone in the world" to go back home, back to Godhead. We pray to develop the determination you had for serving Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura and thus please Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Mira Road



Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

On this most sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet in deep gratitude and reverence. You are the empowered messenger of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the dedicated and sincere servant of your spiritual master, His Divine

Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda. You are the most compassionate deliverer of the fallen souls. You brought the message and mercy of Nitāi-Gaura all over the world!

By your matchless devotion, courage, and unwavering faith in guru and Kṛṣṇa, you fulfilled the prophecy of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and the instructions of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda by carrying the holy name and the message of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Lord Gaurāṅga across the oceans. You founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), offering the entire world the shelter of the *mahā-mantra:*

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

Your books, written with the purity of a surrendered heart, continue to transform lives, illuminating the path of bhakti with clarity and wisdom. Your mercy flows through your words, your temples, and your devoted followers, guiding us back home, back to Godhead.

On this day, we humbly pray for the strength to serve your mission with sincerity and dedication and to practice unity in diversity. May we always remain faithful instruments of your divine will, striving to share the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the world. We have just opened a new center in Mississauga, Ontario, in September 2024. We seek your blessings in this endeavor, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami, one of your early disciples, said that when we offer prayers to our spiritual master, we get his blessings, but we get a thousand times more blessings from you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our grandfather! All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your divine service! All glories to the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu!

Your humble servant,
Mahāviṣṇu Dāsa
For ISKCON Mississauga

Miyapur, Hyderabad, India

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda!

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

With hearts full of gratitude, we want to offer this humble report of our services at ISKCON Miyapur over the past year. With boundless support and blessings from senior Vaiṣṇavas and our sincere devotees, we have been able to carry forward your mission to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in numerous ways.

This past year, one very grand festival we celebrated was Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī Mahotsava. It was held with great spirit and devotion, attracting thousands of devotees, who attended *maṅgala-ārati,* nonstop *kīrtana,* the *Bhāgavatam* discourse, a number of cultural programs, and other events. Many children recited *Gītā ślokas,* which gave us hope that the next generation will continue to carry your mission with great devotion.

Another glorious and successful event was our Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, during which the streets resounded with the chanting of the holy names and devotees eagerly pulled the chariot, offering their heartfelt prayers.

Our Food-for-Life program has been successfully going on. We distribute *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* to those in need, praying that no one in the temple's radius goes hungry – not just for lack of food but also lack of Kṛṣṇa's mercy. During each auspicious festival we distributed more than one lakh of free meals, ensuring that many people receive Kṛṣṇa's blessings in the form of *mahā-prasādam*.

Our ISKCON Youth Forum is a place of transformation for young minds, who come to learn the wisdom of the *Gītā,* participate in beautiful *kīrtanas,* and develop a sense of purpose. Many are actively participating in all Kṛṣṇa consciousness activities with so much trust and joy. Our weekly *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and book distribution has spread the holy names to the areas surrounding ISKCON Miyapur, reminding us always that chanting the Lord's names along with distributing books in the streets is priority one and meant to please you and Lord Gaurāṅga.

During the Bhadra Pūrṇimā festival, we encouraged devotees to take a *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* set into their homes. It was heartwarming to witness so many families happily accepting this greatest treasure, which will connect them much closer to the Supreme Lord. With your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and your blessings, we distributed 150 sets.

During the *Gītā* marathon we distributed 108 sets of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* 9,000 small books, 150 medium books, 600 big books, and 2,500 *mahā* big books. Every book we sold felt like a small offering at your lotus feet. We pray that these books have reached sincere souls and will transform their hearts to help them take shelter of Kṛṣṇa. We wish, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you bless the entire ISKCON Miyapur team so that we can continue distributing more and more books.

ISKCON Miyapur also participated in the Kumbha Mela at Prayagraj, and we distributed 5 lakhs of free meals to the pilgrims as well as held ecstatic *harināma-saṅkīrtana.* We also distributed more than 50,000 books.

Serving in various ways at Prayagraj reminded us all of how you tirelessly traveled and distributed transcendental knowledge, ensuring that every soul got the chance to reconnect with the Supreme Lord.

Every Sunday, there will be a special class by a senior Vaiṣṇava on the *Bhāgavatam, Bhagavad-gītā, Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* and on special spiritual concepts. In this way many devotees have been regularly attending every Sunday and getting the blessings of Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. Nearly one hundred devotees have begun chanting sixteen rounds a day, and many more are gradually becoming inclined to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Whatever we have achieved is only due to the divine inspiration and strength that you have given us through your books, instructions, and the association of your devotees. We pray for and seek the blessings of Guru and Gaurāṅga that we continue to serve with sincerity and enthusiasm, never forgetting that your mission is your gift to the world.

Your humble servant,
Śrī Rāma Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Miyapur

Mombasa, Kenya, Africa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to Your Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda! On this auspicious day of Vyāsa-pūjā, I offer my humble obeisances at your lotus feet, expressing my deepest gratitude for your unparalleled mercy and guidance.

In the serene coastal town of Mombasa, where the Indian Ocean meets the African shores, your teachings have illuminated the hearts of many. Through your books, lectures, and the establishing of ISKCON centers, you have brought the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to this part of the world.

I recall the first time I encountered your books. The words leaped off the pages, resonating with a truth I had always sought. Your translations and purports opened the doors to a deeper understanding of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* offering a clarity and wisdom that transcends time and space.

Your unwavering commitment to spreading the holy names of Kṛṣṇa has inspired countless souls in Mombasa to chant the *mahā-mantra* with sincerity. The simple yet profound practice of chanting has brought peace and solace to many hearts, transforming lives and fostering a community bound by devotion.

Your divine *yātrā* to Mombasa, on September 8–13, 1971, makes the place a *dhāma* (pilgrimage site). At that time, you told Brahmānanda Prabhu, "Mombasa is Svargaloka now." I feel your words manifested in the form of the New Dvārakā-dhāma temple here. You also mentioned in a letter written July 23, 1975, that there should be two temples in Mombasa. Now, by your divine blessings, we have two fully fledged temples here, one in Ganjoni and the other near the Nyali beach. We also have a Hare Krishna Community Center in the heart of Mombasa for the students' preaching programs. Students also stay at the center.

I am particularly grateful for the establishing of ISKCON Mombasa. The temple has become a sanctuary for devotees, a place where we gather to worship, learn, and grow together in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The festivals, *prasādam,* and *kīrtanas* – all are manifestations of your love and mercy, nurturing our spiritual lives.

In moments of doubt and difficulty, your teachings have been a beacon of hope. The practice of *sādhana,* the association of devotees, and the study of your books have provided strength and direction. Your example of dedication and service continues to inspire me to strive for greater devotion and humility.

As I offer this homage, I pray for your continued blessings. May I always remain under your shelter, serving with sincerity and dedication. May the light of your teachings continue to shine brightly in Mombasa, guiding all souls towards the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servants of the servant of your servants,
Ānanda Dāsa and Śyāmavṛndā Devī Dāsī
on behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Mombasa (Nyali and Ganjoni)

Muskoka, Ontario, Canada

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

My dear eternal spiritual grandfather, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, please accept my respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet on the auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration.

As a person born in a Gujarati Hindu family I always knew Lord Kṛṣṇa, but you made me realize that Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and instead of simply worshiping Him, you taught us to love Him unconditionally and spread His message so that everyone can go back home, back to Godhead. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you went through many hardships to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness so we could enjoy the bliss of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. You are the savior of all, and you came to preach the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and to distribute and spread the holy names in this age so that everyone could have a chance to get out of this material world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please always keep me at the shelter of your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are about to complete our first year of serving in the new ISKCON temple in Muskoka, Canada. It is your mercy that we are able to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Muskoka Īśvara in this Western world. I beg for your mercy so that we can follow in your footsteps and make this little northern area fully Kṛṣṇa conscious. Please help me to progress in my *sādhana* and services and protect me from *anarthas*.

I am always eternally indebted to you for showing me the way back to Godhead. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servant,
Vyāsa Ācārya Dāsa
ISKCON Muskoka

Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of ISKCON Nagpur, bow our heads in gratitude for the boundless mercy you have showered upon us. We are nothing but tiny sparks in the vast universe, yet through your compassion you gave us the shelter of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's holy name, the association of devotees, and the path of pure bhakti.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you left the comfort of Vrindavan and traveled across the world so that lost souls like us could find meaning and purpose in our lives. What have we done to deserve such mercy? We look at ourselves and see so many shortcomings, yet you continue to uplift us through your books, your words, and your example. You have given us everything – Kṛṣṇa, His devotees, His service – and asked for nothing in return except our sincerity and devotion.

We do not know how to serve you properly, but we pray that we may always hold tightly to your instructions and try, in whatever little way we can, to assist in your mission. You taught us that the greatest offering is the sincerity of the heart, and so, with all our limitations, we offer our hearts to your service. Please bless us that we may always remember that we are simply instruments in the hands of Śrī Guru and Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Nagpur is a small place in this vast world, but even here, your mercy has touched so many lives. Devotees come together to chant, to hear, to serve, and to share what you gave us. Whatever little we do is only by your grace. We pray that we may never take this mercy for granted.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are your children, and we take shelter at your lotus feet. Please bless us that we may always remain servants of your servants, humbly carrying forward the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you so mercifully gave us. May we never forget that our true purpose in life is to serve you, and through you, to serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Your eternal servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Nagpur

New Delhi, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

This year we are celebrating your 129th appearance anniversary. Because of your purity and determination, the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has spread to every corner of the world. In the purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 7.164 you stated, "The Gosvāmīs not only engaged in writing books but also constructed temples, because both are needed for preaching work." You wrote that both the distribution of books and the construction of temples should continue side by side, on parallel lines.

In the next few days, on the auspicious occasion of Rāma-navamī, we will be celebrating the twenty-seventh anniversary of your ISKCON Delhi, and the fifty-second anniversary of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pārtha-sārathi. It will also be marking the first anniversary *brahmotsava* of the last ever temple inaugurated by your dear spiritual son, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, at Rohini, New Delhi.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you spent considerable time in Delhi. Residing at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple in Vrindavan, you regularly traveled to Delhi to get your books published and to distribute them. As you did not have enough funds, you would travel from Mathurā to Delhi in a third-class compartment. After establishing ISKCON in the West, you returned to India to preach to the Indians who had forgotten their Vedic culture. Your vision of Delhi focused on the fact that Delhi was the most important city in Asia. According to Tejas Prabhu, who was president of the Delhi temple until 1976, "Śrīla Prabhupāda wanted to do programs every week in different parts

of Delhi. Prabhupāda kept increasing his desire to have temples in Delhi from eight to eighteen centers! He wanted influential people to be invited to these programs."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, due to your causeless mercy, we have almost achieved the target you gave us. During the 1975–77 period, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja went with you to many locations to obtain land for temples. After a long struggle, we obtained a very significant piece of land in South Delhi. Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pārtha-sārathi were first installed by you at Ananda Niketan, in a rented facility. Later, They were moved to another rented house in Bengali Market. Finally, a beautiful temple was built for the pleasure of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Pārtha-sārathi, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Śrī Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān. This project was inaugurated on Rāma-navamī 1998 by the late Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who praised you and your movement.

Then we obtained a second temple in Punjabi Bagh. This temple has also attracted thousands to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Gradually, your movement went on expanding, and ten temples were opened in different locations. Currently we have six major temples under construction.

Presently, we have temples under construction at Kurukshetra, Dwarka, Ghaziabad, and two other locations. By your causeless mercy and the inspirational leadership of His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, devotees of Delhi NCR achieved the target you gave – that of constructing temples in New Delhi, gradually, growing from eight to eighteen!

Often, devotees are amazed by the number of temples we have in Delhi. All this has become possible only due to your purity and the *tapasya* you performed in this city. This *tapasya* was further developed by the labor of love undertaken by His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami.

By your mercy, the devotees of ISKCON Delhi distributed more than 6.74 lacs *mahā* big books throughout the year, standing second in the world in book distribution and also during the book marathon!

Nearly fifty new bhaktas joined us as resident devotees. They distributed 56,000 *mahā* big books, including 125 *Bhāgavatam* sets and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets on the road during your December book marathon. We are so inspired by these results that we have called our new bhakta program at ISKCON Delhi the *saṅkīrtana* devotee training program!

We have now started active college preaching programs across Delhi, including regular programs at three of the premier global institutions: Delhi School of Economics, AIIMS, and IIT, besides many of the nationally acclaimed colleges from Delhi University.

In Delhi University's famed Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium/Auditorium, nearly eight thousand students took a pledge not to use drugs and other intoxicants before several luminaries in the Udgaar Youth Festival, organized by the enthusiastic preachers of the ISKCON Youth Forum.

Every single festival at ISKCON Delhi was attended by a packed temple hall, auditorium, or pandal, as the case may be.

Your communications team commendably ensured that the ambassadors of eight Latin American nations visited the temple together, and each of them went back, inspired by the grandeur and purity of your ISKCON Delhi!

We are merely reaping the fruits of the seeds planted by you.

The much-lamented departure of the light of our lives and the life and soul of ISKCON's activities in Delhi NCR, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, on May 5th, 2024, has made us more responsible, united, and committed in your service, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Under the able leadership of His Holiness Guru Prasad Mahārāja, the entire team has ensured that we persist in "doing the needful."

The entire ISKCON Delhi is a memorial for His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja and his service to your divine lotus feet. He once remarked, "Don't try to please me; try to please Prabhupāda."

In his last will he instructed us to work together under ISKCON's ultimate managing

authority, the GBC, in the shelter of senior Vaiṣṇavas, and the entire *yātrā* – the more than eight-thousand-strong congregation, the thousands of youths, the hundreds of social luminaries who are well-wishers, the scores of *brahmacārīs,* and everyone else connected to this *yātrā,* seek your blessings on this 129th Vyāsa-pūjā of Your Divine Grace. On this auspicious day we each beg you for your mercy that we may continue to serve you with even more surrender and with complete cooperation, organization, and intelligence.

Your Servants at ISKCON New Delhi, East of Kailash

New Dwaraka, Los Angeles, California

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

I was requested to write your Vyāsa-pūjā offering on behalf of the New Dwaraka temple. After several tries, yesterday, when I went out on book distribution, what I had wanted to say became clear.

So much becomes clear when there is your book distribution. Having the opportunity to present your Bhaktivedanta translations and purports to the *Bhagavad-gītā* to the students at the colleges is a very rich and satisfying experience. They seem to be dismayed about what is going on in the world. It is very easy to see that the quality of their lives is not the same quality of the lives of young people fifty years ago.

Everything you predicted is coming true. You predicted that the American people would lose all their pious merit because they have thrown out God and embraced science for the purpose of improving sense gratification. You predicted an increasing lack of protection of the weaker citizens, such as old men, women, young people, and animals. Today's young people cannot expect stability – not from the economy, their leaders, their employers, not even from the weather. I feel relieved and grateful when your beautiful *Bhagavad-gītā* is placed in their hands or it goes into their homes. Even if they do not look at it for years, there is no better insurance for their future.

Evidently, other distributors feel the same way, because so many, many of your transcendental books have been distributed. The amount more than triples the amount distributed when you were physically present! Currently, entire sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* are received by delighted people every day. Millions of your books are warehoused for this purpose all over the world. ISKCON educational institutions, teaching Bhakti-śāstrī and Bhakti-vaibhava classes, as well as massive *prasādam* distribution programs, serve tens of thousands of people daily on this planet. All of this is due to the expertise of your disciples and granddisciples in a truly grand cooperative effort.

When I first became a devotee, just after your departure, I witnessed how the initial enthusiasm

in your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement fell into some chaos and lack of clarity. Then a fire of purified and refined feelings of love and undeniable gratitude for Your Divine Grace burned up all the confusion and hesitancy. The result? In our community we have seen amazing expertise in handling all forms of deviation with single-minded attention to your instructions, at any cost! I think this must have happened all over the world, because we see the same result everywhere. This *vyavasāyātmikā-buddhi* determination has endowed us with an atmosphere for beautiful, expansive temple communities and congregations at hundreds of locations.

As you envisioned for your devotees, the quality of our lives is ever increasingly enhanced. In your ISKCON we are experiencing an ongoing evolution of Vaiṣṇava culture: *kīrtana, bhajana,* dance, art and design, architecture, festivals, education in *śāstra,* a growing enthusiastic congregation, the implementation of the social divisions of *varṇa* and *āśrama,* vegetarian *prasādam,* and Vaiṣṇava dress. It should be mentioned that the opportunity in your ISKCON for Deity worship is unique in the world of bhakti. Your instruction to worship and decorate the Deities with great attention, as gorgeously as possible, is a great challenge as well as an enthralling pleasure. And how did we learn all this?

All of this has come to us because your most loyal devotees have spent their lives training us in the understanding of what they learned from you. For example, over and over again I have seen your disciples at New Dwaraka train a new person who may fall away, just in the hope that they will somehow, or someday, become attached to Kṛṣṇa's devotional service. Do your disciples turn their attention elsewhere? No. That is because they are fully committed to you. The loyalty and love your disciples have for you are rarely found anywhere. What is the effect? We get the shelter of your lotus feet and become sane, and even full of joy. We dance and chant. We are saved from material suffering. The most fearsome danger of repeated birth and death is avoided if we can begin to appreciate this loyalty and love coming to us through you and the entire disciplic succession.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you had no opportunity like we do to pick up a *mṛdaṅga* and books and go to a safe, legal location to do *harināma-saṅkīrtana*. You didn't have a harmonium or legal status or strong health or experienced followers. You wrote back to India many letters that reveal your helplessness to get support and paraphernalia. Yet because you loved Kṛṣṇa and His parts and parcels more than your own life, because the order of your spiritual master was your only priority, you did not waver or bend. For an elderly person to be far away from his homeland, surrounded only by confused young people in the severe New York weather, with scarce finances, often poor accommodations, and then come out of it absolutely undeterred can only be seen as supernatural. You are simply Kṛṣṇa-natural.

In your classic Bhaktivedanta purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 18.75, you explain the Kṛṣṇa-supernatural ability that empowered you to directly deliver Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others: "Vyāsa was the spiritual master of Sañjaya, and Sañjaya admits that it is by Vyāsa's mercy that he could understand the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This means that one has to understand Kṛṣṇa not directly but by the medium of the spiritual master. The spiritual master is the transparent medium, although it is true that the experience is still direct. This is the mystery of the disciplic succession." This explains how you are continuing to give Kṛṣṇa to others to this day and eternally.

We offer our humble obeisances to Your Divine Grace, who loves Kṛṣṇa so perfectly. We can only offer our respects to you and try to follow and serve you in constant debt for having gotten the chance to appreciate your perfect love for Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servants at New Dwaraka
(written by Karuṇa Dhāriṇī Devī Dāsī)

New Gokula Farm, NSW, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

The Power of Purity

We here at New Gokula farming community offer our gratitude for the rare fortune of offering devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead every day in varieties of ways compatible with our individual capacities.

We offer our praise for the privilege to nurture body and spirit on devotionally imbued *kṛṣṇa-prasādam,* prepared devotionally – our devotee cooks being careful and conscious to follow all standards you have personally taught in order for their offerings to be accepted by Lord Kṛṣṇa and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī.

Full appreciation to you, our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for directing your followers to read and discuss your precisely prepared literatures, which remove the prevalent ignorance of Kali-yuga, under which we were also fully ensnared; and which lift human lives from despair and drudgery to genuine realization of the highest spiritual truths, yielding actual contentment.

The association of like-minded devotees, sincerely attempting to raise their consciousness to the mode of goodness and beyond, is your unique and glorious credit, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Also, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have bequeathed a life in the lap of Mother Nature, offering fresh produce and flowers that can please Their Lordships. Not to forget the loving nature of Lord Kṛṣṇa's cows and bulls, whom we are learning to nurture and protect and who epitomize the principles of dharma.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is no small feat of your far-reaching vision that you offered rigorous training in worshiping the beautiful *arcā-vigrahas* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda, Jagannātha-Balarāma-Subhadrādevī, Gaura-Nitāi, and, of course, your own form, in which the devotees of the Lord have full faith and confidence that you hear and reciprocate their daily prayers.

And most of all, Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we sincerely glorify you for the wonderful example you left us, recounted in countless memoirs and recordings, of the qualities of a perfect character lauded in all scriptures, appreciated by anyone and everyone, including even so-called enemies.

Finally, Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for the ISKCON society, which you describe in your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.26.5 purport: "This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is the only means by which the sinful activities of men in this Kali-yuga can be counteracted."

Your servant,
Kāliya Kṛṣṇa Dāsa,
on behalf of the devotees at New Gokula Farm

New Govardhana Farm, NSW, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we gather to express our deepest gratitude and reverence for your unparalleled contributions to the world. Your tireless efforts in spreading the teachings of Lord Kṛṣṇa have illuminated countless hearts and minds, guiding us on the path of devotion and spiritual enlightenment.

Your life is a testament to unwavering dedication, compassion, and humility. Through your books, lectures, and personal example, you have shown us the true essence of bhakti-yoga. Your teachings continue to inspire and transform lives, providing solace and direction in an often turbulent world.

As we reflect on your legacy, we are reminded of the importance of sincere service and unwavering faith. Your vision of a global community united in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is more relevant today than ever before. More people are seeking community living where spiritually based support becomes essential to them.

We are committed to carrying forward your mission, striving to live by your teachings and share them with others.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we offer our heartfelt obeisances at your lotus feet. May we always remain steadfast in our devotion and service, seeking your blessings and guidance in every step of our spiritual journey.

Your humble servants,
New Govardhana Farm, Australia

New Mayapura, Valençay, France

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. May your lotus feet spread the greatest benedictions to our souls.

You are the greatest savior of this current modern age, having enlightened us on the pitfalls of the materialistic way of life and all its dangers. You brought singlehandedly the message of *bhāgavata-dharma,* and have now inspired millions and millions of lost souls to take up the soothing, moonlike chanting of the holy names of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will never be able to repay you for all you have done and went through to save us from the dangers of this material world. You have shown us, and everyone, the ultimate path of perfection. What would we have become if you had not taken so dearly the instructions of your spiritual master?

It is up to us to take your instructions to our hearts and live them. You have insisted on the importance of *vāṇī* – your words, your teachings, your instructions, and your orders. You have laid down the foundations of this preaching work in the Western world, which was initiated by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His followers in the subsequent years and centuries. You said that "the disciple has to pass the test of the spiritual master," and it's now in our hands to be tested in this way and in whichever *sevā* we may be doing, and by so doing, try to make you happy and proud.

As you wrote, "When a disciple very perfectly makes progress in spiritual life, this gladdens the spiritual master, who then also smiles in ecstasy, thinking, 'How successful my disciple has become!' He feels so glad that he smiles as he enjoys the progress of the disciple." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 7.82, purport)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in keeping with your mission, here at New Mayapura we have, by your mercy and for your pleasure, increased our Deity worship standards, our book distribution, and introduced additional preaching activities around our community. As an additional path toward self-sufficiency, we are progressively increasing the number of cows for our own milk and properly training the oxen in the fields. Significant repair work has continued to be done, thanks to the contributions of many sincere souls attached to your mission. These persons are particularly happy to see that New Mayapura serves as a haven to many – and will be a haven to many more souls to come.

At the New Orleans farm in 1975, during the morning *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class, you said, "Make life very simple – and simple living, high thinking, and always conscious to go back to home, back to Kṛṣṇa. So if you show practical example that how you are living simple life and how you are advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then people will learn from you."

As we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi this year, we, your disciples and granddisciples, pray to Their Lordships to let us strive to continuously keep the right mentality and humble attitude of showing how it is possible to live simply and happily in this farm community in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and expand it for the people's spiritual benefit and transcendental happiness.

You are that person and that great saint who gave us the means to attain this transcendental happiness. As stated in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.2.5: "The activities of great saints like you who have accepted the infallible Lord as their very soul result only in the happiness of all beings." All glories to you Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Begging to remain your eternal servants at New Mayapura
(written by Śikṣāṣṭaka Dāsa)

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of Nava Saṅkīrtana Purī Dhāma in New Orleans, humbly offer our heartfelt homage at your divine lotus feet.

This year, we had the great fortune of celebrating the Golden Jubilee – fifty glorious years – of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhākānta's divine presence in New Orleans (1974–2024). This momentous occasion was marked by grand festivities, inspiring discourses, and deep reflections on the immeasurable mercy you bestowed upon us. The temple, which stands as a beacon of your divine mission, continues to thrive by your causeless mercy, nurturing both devotees and newcomers in their spiritual journey.

Furthermore, in 2025, we eagerly anticipate commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of your transcendental visit to New Orleans. From July 31 to August 1, 1975, you graced Nava Saṅkīrtana Purī Dhāma and New Tālavana with your divine presence, infusing them with spiritual energy that still resonates today. To honor this sacred occasion, we will recreate your historic two-day visit, remembering and reliving those priceless moments through *kīrtana,* discourses, and reflections from those who were blessed to serve you at that time.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our devotee community has expanded significantly. Many householders actively participate in the daily services of the temple, contributing to its continued growth and stability. Every Sunday, hundreds of people from all walks of life attend our Sunday Feast program in the evening – a tradition that has been steadfastly upheld in New Orleans since 1971. This spiritual gathering continues to serve as a transformative experience, nourishing souls with the holy name, *prasādam,* and *kṛṣṇa-kathā*. We are deeply grateful to be a small part of this divine movement that you have inaugurated for the benefit of all humanity.

In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.22.35), it is stated:

etāvaj janma-sāphalyaṁ
dehināṁ iha dehiṣu
prāṇair arthair dhiyā vācā
śreya-ācaraṇaṁ sadā

It is the duty of every living being to perform welfare activities for the benefit of others with his life, wealth, intelligence, and words.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you exemplified this verse in every way:

- *Life:* You sacrificed every comfort to fulfill the order of your spiritual master, traveling across the world to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
- *Wealth:* You utilized every resource for the service of Kṛṣṇa, establishing temples, printing transcendental literature, and providing *prasādam* to millions.
- *Intelligence:* You masterfully presented Vedic wisdom in a manner accessible to all, authoring voluminous translations and purports that continue to enlighten generations.
- *Words:* You tirelessly preached the glories of the holy name, delivering lectures and personally guiding thousands of devotees on the path of bhakti.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to always remain under the shelter of your divine lotus feet. May we continue to serve your mission with unwavering faith and dedication, striving to share the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the world. Please bless us so that we may uphold and expand your legacy for generations to come.

Your servants at Nava Saṅkīrtana Purī Dhāma

New Raman-reti, Alachua, Florida

O mind, please perpetually worship Vaiṣṇava Śiromaṇi Śrīla Prabhupāda, who is a perfect shelter in the dangerous storm of material existence and whose *śakti*-laden words grant *prema* and entry into the personal life of God.

O Prabhupāda, you're a once-in-history *ācārya*. Your contribution is unparalleled, not just in the history of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, not only in the history of all the mighty Vaiṣṇava *sampradāyas,* but in the history of the world.

The powerful movements of the Buddha, Jesus Christ, and Muhammad took many centuries to evolve. In contrast, in just over a decade – at an advanced age – you opened a hundred temples; translated, published, and distributed vast volumes of Vedic scriptures; and attracted thousands of disciples across all continents. And there is even more momentum and strength now in what you launched only sixty years ago.

Other leaders have spread religious teachings beyond their homeland, but who else has successfully transplanted an entire cultural and devotional practice – including the ancient practice of Deity worship, authentic *kīrtana, prasādam* distribution, and a monastic order – to an entirely different hemisphere?

Your campaign was not fueled merely by immense human effort. Rather, the potency of pure devotion, *śuddha-bhakti;* full surrender to Kṛṣṇa; and deep love and *guru-niṣṭhā* for Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura instilled in you a spiritual presence that enabled you to utterly shatter illusion and falsehood.

The force of your being was extraordinary. You radiated a rare combination of spiritual depth, unwavering conviction, divine authority, boundless compassion, purity, humility, an aristocratic presence, and complete selflessness. You were decisive, resolute, grave, pragmatic, affectionate, strict, and merciful. Your gaze was penetrating, and you had an immovable strength of purpose.

As revealed by your godbrother Śrīla B. R. Śrīdhara Mahārāja, you are a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra,* the personified form of Nityānanda-*āveśa,* a *śakti* of extreme, indiscriminate mercy. Lord Nityānanda specially empowered you to spread Mahāprabhu's mission globally. And your campaign paralleled Nityānanda Prabhu's.

Nityānanda Rāma emphasized the chanting of Kṛṣṇa's holy names and chanted in the streets on Lord Caitanya's orders. With pure faith in the holy names, you made *harināma-prema-saṅkīrtana* the foundation of your movement.

Your heart ached for the suffering of conditioned souls, and with deep compassion you freely gave *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* to the most fallen. Similarly, Nityānanda Mahājana focused on delivering the outcastes and most wretched.

Nitāi fearlessly approached anyone and everyone, risking harm. In the same way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you embodied the purport of your name Abhay Charanaravinda – you were absolutely fearless in your preaching work.

Simply by seeing Nityānanda Avadhūta, people were overcome with devotion and took up *kṛṣṇa-bhakti.* Likewise, many people became devotees of Kṛṣṇa just by the sight of you.

O Prabhupāda, ocean of Lord Nityānanda's mercy, we offer you obeisances!

Your translations and commentaries have restored, preserved, and spread the knowledge of Vedānta, contributing the most important works to the world's library. Standing supreme is your translation of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* – the first time this classic was made available in English, the global language. We know of the unrivaled place of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* among all spiritual texts through Śrī Jīva Gosvāmī's massive tome the *Ṣaṭ-sandarbha,* which increases our appreciation of how you focused your own literary work on the *Bhāgavatam,* that most exalted poem of divine love.

As a meticulous scholar, you gifted us this treasure along with insights from all the great commentators in the illuminating purports you carefully crafted at night, while the world slept. Especially noteworthy is your direct devotional clarity, which ensures that Sanskrit words related to devotion, like bhakti, Kṛṣṇa, atma, dharma, and Brahman are understood correctly rather than misinterpreted in impersonal or materialistic ways.

Your translations of Sanskrit words are now cited in Sanskrit-English dictionaries, which are compiled by academic scholars, confirming that Sanskrit scholars accept the authenticity, clarity, and authority of your bhakti translations.

Your work is not just a grammatical rendering, but because it is a faithful representation of the original meaning as intended by Kṛṣṇa and the *ācāryas,* it is invested with the transcendental potency to reveal *prema-bhakti*.

Further, you made the *Bhāgavatam* a primary text in modern Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, which for centuries had largely focused on the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta.* You placed the *Bhāgavatam* in an elevated position by instituting its daily classes and encouraging systematic study from the first to the twelfth canto, exhorting us to not focus solely on Kṛṣṇa's pastimes in the Tenth Canto but to become knowledgeable of *bhakti-siddhānta.*

Your own scholarship as a *dig-vijaya* was acknowledged this year on the grand stage of the Maha Kumbha 2025, when the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, composed of 14 *akharas,* mostly Advaitins, gave you the deeply revered title Vishwa Guru (world teacher). The award is rarely given and has never been given posthumously, a fact that indicates that your impact continues to echo through time.

Not only did you increase the fame of the *sampradāya* by bringing pure *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* to the

world on a mass scale, but in doing so you drew the attention of scholars, historians, and other intellectuals to all four Vaiṣṇava *sampradāyas,* sparking a resurgence of bhakti in all its forms. Thus, India's grand monotheism, which had been hiding from the Western world under the cloud of Advaita Vedānta's prominence, is shining brightly.

Carrying Nāma Prabhu in your pure heart, you ignited the Hare Kṛṣṇa Explosion in the West by introducing *prema-kīrtana* of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra.* For this you have been dubbed the "divine minstrel" in *American Veda*. Factually, it is by *your* endeavor that *kīrtana* has become so popular and is touching hearts around the globe.

Then, in a stroke of brilliance, you took the holy name and *kīrtana* – made attractive by your dancing white elephants – back to your countrymen in India, where now there is a second wave of the Hare Kṛṣṇa Explosion.

O Prabhupāda, the whole world is being engulfed by the *prema-kīrtan* tsunami you initiated!

You have shocked the theological world awake with the revelation that love of God is greater than God; that our ideal is to achieve love of God, not God; that love conquers God. The wave of this revelation continues to swell with meaning and is charming people with a vision of the Sweet Absolute that is simply wonderful.

With tenderness, affection, and great caution you properly introduced Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, the confidential treasure and distinctive wealth of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, who enhances the beauty of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. She is the personification of the most exalted love of God, the fountainhead of all goddesses, and the person who gives Kṛṣṇa's life meaning. When She stands next to Him, we encounter the divine dyad, and only then do we find the full face of the Absolute Truth not available anywhere else.

O Prabhupāda! O friend! O treasure! In the intensifying hope of being brought into your holy company, the days grow longer and longer. When, oh when, will you call us to engage in your direct service?

O mind, please perpetually worship Vaiṣṇava Śiromaṇi Śrīla Prabhupāda, who is a perfect shelter in the dangerous storm of material existence and whose *śakti*-laden words grant *prema* and entry into the personal life of God.

Your servants at New Raman-reti,
under the shelter of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, and Gaura-Nitāi
(written by your *śiṣya,* Prāṇadā Devī Dāsī)

New Vraja Dhāma, Hungary

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances! All glories to your lotus feet!

Saintly persons like you perceive everything through the descriptions and in the context of *śāstra.* One who is not bewildered by the storms of misconceptions and the flood of misinformation from our time, and who is sincere and courageous enough to face social pressure, can clearly see that the course of history is becoming increasingly demonic. Global industrial society has made life unnatural in almost every aspect: the population is entirely dependent on systems that are unsustainable and alien to human nature; the so-called emancipation of women has atomized

the fundamental units of society – families – while also increasing the *varṇa-saṅkara* population; no one receives *varṇa*-specific training, and those who end up in a particular field are rarely capable of making responsible decisions; misinformation and advertisements driving consumption are omnipresent; and community building has become nearly impossible due to mobility, convenience, and individualism. Unfortunately, the influence of Kali-yuga sometimes affects even devotees, posing a serious threat to their faith and spiritual purity.

The crisis is intensifying, and as challenges grow, devotees become increasingly divided regarding possible solutions. Some emphasize inner transcendence of external circumstances, arguing that bhakti is not material and therefore cannot be affected by material conditions. Others represent another way of thinking, recognizing that this philosophy often does not align with their everyday experience, and they see a solution in transforming and regulating circumstances; just as following regulative principles and maintaining standards of purity are essential for effective spiritual practices, so must we shape our environment and social structure with the same awareness as well, to support the healthy growth of the *bhakti-latā*.

What kind of environmental and social conditions are we talking about? There is nothing we need to invent, for, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, thanks to you, we already possess all the necessary knowledge. Following the examples of Māyāpur and Vraja-dhāma, you established farm communities. These holy places provide an environment for your followers that protects them from the contamination of modern, adharmic lifestyles and strongly supports the cultivation of a spiritual atmosphere. Beyond the karmic purity of the environment, you also considered the proper social structure: you emphasized that *varṇāśrama-dharma* is the only societal institution that can fully satisfy humanity's need for spiritual progress. Unfortunately, you did not have enough time to elaborate on the practical implementation of *varṇāśrama,* but you imparted all the fundamental knowledge that enables us to experiment and realize it.

sa vai puṁsāṁ paro dharmo
yato bhaktir adokhṣaje
ahaituky apratihatā
yayātmā suprasīdati

> The supreme occupation [dharma] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.6)

vāsudeve bahagavati
bhakti-yogaḥ prayojitaḥ
janayaty āśu vairāgyaṁ
jñānam ca yad ahaitukam

> By rendering devotional service unto the Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, one immediately acquires causeless knowledge and detachment from the world. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.7)

Bhakti is not the same as *jñāna* and *vairāgya,* yet these qualities naturally manifest as attributes of bhakti and assist aspiring Vaiṣṇavas in attaining pure devotion. Kali-yuga lacks *jñāna* and *vairāgya* – thus, we know that bhakti is increasing in our community when knowledge and detachment gradually permeate our lives, pushing out the unfavorable influences of this age.

Jñāna includes the ability to discern between dharma and adharma, while *vairāgya* signifies

detachment from worldly activities. Modern life is fundamentally adharmic, and its pleasurable commodities are designed to destroy our ability to renounce. In other words, modern life can easily become an obstacle to the manifestation of pure bhakti.

Devotees often interpret *vairāgya* as *yukta-vairāgya;* however, *yukta-vairāgya* is only one form of detachment. There are two ways to renounce worldly sense objects and activities: externally and internally. *Yukta-vairāgya* is the internal path of detachment – one outwardly keeps engaging in worldly activities but dedicating all possessions and abilities to the transcendental service of Kṛṣṇa's senses in reality. External *vairāgya,* on the other hand, involves physically renouncing possessions or engagement of the senses, as seen when Sanātana Gosvāmī gave away his richly decorated *cādar* upon Caitanya Mahāprabhu's request.

It is crucial to possess the intelligence to discern when to choose the external and when to choose the internal way of detachment. A higher principle can guide us in this: accepting whatever aids our Kṛṣṇa consciousness and rejecting whatever hinders our devotional progress.

We must not misuse the principle of *yukta-vairāgya* to justify our tendencies toward comfort and sense gratification. The comforts of consumer culture and its instant pleasures can easily captivate the minds of practicing *sādhakas,* not to mention the contaminating effects of *ugra-karma* that operate in the background.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you saw all of this clearly, and for the sake of your disciples, you established those sacred places that, through their purity, renounced simplicity, and economic independence, create the perfect environment for a spiritually sustainable lifestyle to be passed down through generations.

Due to your efforts and sacrifices, numerous farm communities now exist under the ISKCON umbrella, each holding the potential to fully realize your teachings. Kṛṣṇa Valley is one of them. We trust that our farm communities across the globe will play the most crucial role in fulfilling your prophecy – that the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement will save humanity in the darkest hours of history. Taking shelter at your lotus feet, we pray that we may prove ourselves useful in your mission and be part of the fulfillment of your prophecy.

Your servants,
The inhabitants of New Vraja Dhāma

New York City, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you on your most auspicious appearance day!

Attempts to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for you manifest in my desire to give your ISKCON as much energy and life as I can within this lifetime. There is no longer the question of why, only how. And how can it be done better?

I owe you a huge debt, which I realize daily when I am able to experience true love, joy, ecstasy, and happiness in the association of devotees. Not only have you brought meaning and purpose to my life and the lives of countless others, but you also opened up the holy *dhāmas* and an entire culture of spiritual opulence to those who would otherwise remain in a state of ignorance.

You said you never think small, that your problem was that you always think big – your vision was never, ever limited.

Here in New York we desire to pay homage to you by our efforts to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but also to give back 1,008 times by resurrecting your beloved skyscraper – because there is such a need for the householders to live close to the temple – and thereby we can bring that mood, which is so prevalent in Jaipur, the home of Govindevjī, here to New York City. Jaipur is a place where each morning and evening the many merchants and citizens come in crowds, together as a community, with love and devotion, to take darshan of the Lord at the beginning and end of their working day; where people bring Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda into their lives and hearts and display their Lordship's photos proudly in their businesses and offices; where people from all walks of life are inspired to engage themselves in Kṛṣṇa's service; a community that reflects the diversity, possibilities, and structure you taught us.

Returning ISKCON NYC back to the incredible gift you gave the world is at the forefront of our ardent wish to serve you. Just last year we welcomed the magnificent return of Śrī Jagannātha, Śrī Baladeva, and Śrī Subhadrā to their original home by the side of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda. Next year we will celebrate the Golden Jubilee, the fiftieth anniversary of the New York Rathayātrā, a commemoration to your Divine Grace's first triumphant ride down none other than Fifth Avenue – arguably the most famous street on earth!

We are currently remodeling areas of our building to accommodate more facility for the residents of New York to experience the beauty and mercy of your Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda. To date, these renovations include new classrooms, a new event space complete with arched windows that connect us with the city, and most recently, we are about to complete a new street-level Govinda's Café, which will bring the unlimited power of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* to a new audience.

New York was the first place you came, knowing full well that from here you could transmit the message of Lord Caitanya throughout the world. ISKCON New York City is the mother of all temples, helping to give birth to our major projects in India as well as cultivating and inspiring the many devotees who have gone on to be empowered leaders and examples across the globe. All this was done by your magnanimity and faith in Kṛṣṇa, encouraging devotees to share that conviction and traverse the city's subways and bus terminals, spreading the awareness and collecting the donations that led to rapid growth.

Your movement started with young people, so by your example, we aspire to inspire many more generations to come to take up the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Thus we will become a shining beacon and an example to the world, a jewel in the crown of your ISKCON, and by your divine potency emanate out to the whole planet.

We need to have a temple and cultural center that reflects the greatness of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and all that it represents – a living example, of the rich culture and lifestyle that you gave the world that will attract and inspire the hearts and minds of the millions of souls who pass through this most important city.

Your servants at ISKCON NYC
(written by Āditya Devī Dāsī, vice president)

Niagara, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances at your lotus feet! On this auspicious occasion of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, we come together to express our deepest gratitude and reverence for you.

Your unparalleled dedication and tireless efforts have illuminated the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness for countless souls around the world. You bestowed upon us this invaluable gift. You made this fortune for us. The *Bhagavad-gītā* says that after millions of births, one may get the opportunity, but by your mercy, we are actively participating in the mission of Lord Gaurāṅga.

Through your extensive writings, enlightening lectures, and exemplary personal conduct, you have shown us how to live a life of devotion, compassion, and humility. Your teachings continue to inspire and guide us, providing a beacon of hope and spiritual strength in our lives. Your tireless travels and unwavering commitment to spreading the message of Lord Caitanya have left an indelible mark on the world. Your compassion knows no bounds, and your love for all living entities is evident in every aspect of your mission.

At ISKCON Niagara we have a growing congregation. Our congregation has grown since last year, which is very promising. We have more devotees taking up the process seriously. People are looking forward to visiting us and actively participating in our programs. We hope to have a temple soon, as we are currently renting. There are limitations to what we can do, but we have seen that anything is possible by Kṛṣṇa's mercy.

On this auspicious day, we pledge to honor your teachings and strive to serve you with sincerity and devotion. May we always remember your instructions and remain steadfast in our commitment to spreading the glories of the holy name.

Your servants at ISKCON Niagara

New Māyāpur Dhāma Saṅkīrtana Team, Mauritius

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

We are going through hard times. So much fighting, disagreement, and aggression in this material world. Cynicism sneaks in, and people begin to doubt whether devotional ideals are realistic and reachable. We cannot sit idly and accept that the vision of a pure devotee like you will not fructify. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, insignificant as we are, please empower us with the intelligence to be part of the solution. Let us together make your movement what it can and should be.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, your presence, influence, and inspiration has been the one constant thread throughout our *saṅkīrtana* journey. We went from transition to transition. Yet almost every day we try very hard to refer to your teachings and remember your personality, and then to render some small service to your mission. We try really hard to chant, sing, and even dance for the Lord's pleasure. In spite of our efforts, it is during these *saṅkīrtana* journeys that we witness the

tiniest bit of our efforts manifesting. Still, we know it's not enough. We need to fulfill your vision for this movement! We need to do it as soon as possible. We need to do it before it is too late.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, you envisioned a school – a place to learn the sacred art of reconnecting with our deepest aspirations. We cannot take the world to a higher place than the place we are trying to reach internally ourselves. But, you, our dearest, envisioned a mission with an inspired team of spiritual change-makers who were out to trigger a revolution of consciousness – the *saṅkīrtana-yajña*. Nothing less will do, of course. We try and try and try. We try our best to participate fully in *saṅkīrtana* – with body, mind, and soul. Almost every week, or at least every fortnight, we try to organize this great *yajña,* which has been empowered by the *paramparā,* in different villages and subvillages, and even in remote places. It is only through your ceaseless mercy that we are capable of doing so.

One of our recent *harināma-saṅkīrtana* events inundated and then drowned many souls. While chanting the glories of the Supreme at the sacred place called Ganga Talao, on the auspicious occasion of Mahā Śiva-rātri, we witnessed your mercy flowing. Devotees from all over our small island of Mauritius participated, somehow or other. What was mesmerizing was that Bangladeshi and Nepalese workers from abroad joined the *saṅkīrtana,* dancing and singing with us. We did not have to encourage them to do so. Thrilled, they danced, radiating pleasure and bliss, even if they claimed it was for the very first time they were witnessing such a thing in their lives! You envisioned a family – not just an official meeting of colleagues, but a community of love. You wanted us to demonstrate relationships of love and trust. During these *saṅkīrtana* parties, that is exactly what we try to show. You envisioned a house for the whole world – a place where everyone, from every conceivable background, would be welcome and integrated. You called it the United Nations of the spiritual world.

O ocean of mercy, we beg you to manifest your mercy so that we may produce artists of devotion, individuals who are flying high in the skies of bhakti and becoming living embodiments of everything we seek to share with the world during *saṅkīrtana*. May we become vessels that show how this process changes hearts, turning crows into swans. Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we again exude that urgency and reignite the spirit of sacrifice required to jolt this world out of its spiritual amnesia. May we fully embrace that burden of love – going to bed at night in spiritual anxiety, and waking the next morning enthused to take things to another level.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we bring more heart into our homes, seek to deeply understand one another, care for one another, and resolve differences with maturity and kindness. Let us throw all harshness by the wayside, fanning the spark in one another, staying united and harmonious.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we manifest inclusivity, openness, and a welcoming spirit, empowering one and all to untap and unleash their spiritual potential. Let us ensure that divisive trends and polarizing narratives never enter our communities.

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, insignificant as we are, please empower us with the intelligence to be part of the solution. Let us make your mercy accessible to all.

Your most fallen grandchildren,
The New Māyāpura Dhāma Saṅkīrtana Team, Mauritius

Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā provides us an opportunity to reflect back on what we have achieved and where we have fallen short in the past twelve months so that an accurate and meaningful report can be submitted at your lotus feet to seek your blessings and guidance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your blessings and teachings, ISKCON Noida has evolved into a healthy mother temple, from which quite a few successful preaching outlets, land for new temples, and new devotee communities have manifested. The Deities here at ISKCON Noida have mesmerized the hearts of everyone. People in huge numbers visit us daily, and the temple is full of life all year long.

Recently, we performed an installation of Ananta Śeṣa and held a *bhūmi-pūjā* to commence the construction work of a new temple at Noida, which will be the second regular ISKCON temple in the town. We have a vibrant Greater Noida preaching center, with its own sizable community. We have paid in full the amount owed for the large piece of land on the Yamuna Expressway – Jewar – for another regular temple, with a farm community and goshala coming soon. We have just finalized a joint venture with our devotee families to come up with Prabhupāda Village in Greater Noida West, where devotees will live in the vicinity of a temple and build a new temple there. They will then serve there and take and give association to one another.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you always took very nice care of devotees who had completely dedicated their lives to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness by joining the temple ashram. Recently, on our eleventh Brahmotsava, we inaugurated a new *brahmacārī* ashram, comprising two floors to be used by our full-time devotees. This facility has a new kitchen, dedicated for use by the *brahmacārīs*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your blessings, our temple's different areas where we get more visitors, opportunities for preaching, and revenue are going great. The foot traffic and sales in our Matchless Giftshop, Govinda's Restaurant, auditorium, guesthouse, and Krishna Expo have scaled new heights.

The Bhaktivedanta Academy has successfully graduated five Bhakti-śāstrī batches, and thousands of students have passed the short-term courses as they progress on their devotional paths. By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to some extent we have been able to maintain a high standard of education, delivered here along with focus on the overall spiritual personality development of each and every student. Also, we have a Prahlada School, educating young children about Kṛṣṇa consciousness and inspiring families to begin Kṛṣṇa consciousness as early as possible.

On weekends, we face a shortage of classrooms, as we have ISKCON Youth Forum (IYF) and ISKCON Girls Forum (IGF) seminars and classes. The objective of these forums is to encourage the youth to take up Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously and strike a balance between bhakti and their material endeavors. We constantly develop innovative ideas to attract the youth, like dramas, concerts, *japa* sessions, philosophical talks, quizzes, and debates.

The roots of our congregation are firmly grounded in our vibrant *bhakti-vriksha* programs. All our festivals are happily managed by our *bhakti-vriksha* members. Hence, they form an integral and necessary part of the temple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us a wonderful movement, a platform where anyone can avail the opportunity to become Kṛṣṇa's favorite. Prabhupāda, you gave us many powerful but selfless leaders, who ensure steady growth, prosperity, and ISKCON's existence in each nook and corner of the planet. Your true leadership, foresightedness, investment of your energy in training,

and delegation of responsibility is now bearing fruit in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness faster than ever. Your personally trained disciples, in spite of their old age and medical conditions, are creating magic in spreading the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the suffering souls.

Your disciples are so sincere and loyal to Your Divine Grace that they take extra trouble in carrying out the mission you kindly assigned them. The sad thing is, they are leaving this planet one by one. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have a genuine fear of how we will manage ISKCON once we are not protected and guided by your spiritually enriched and charismatic disciples. Please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that for your pleasure we can develop the highest level of sincerity and a mood of cooperation and surrender toward our current spiritual masters so that we may become expert in our dealings and exemplary in our personal *sādhana*. Please empower us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we may successfully develop, on the basis of your books and teachings, the next generation of leaders to carry on the baton of your spiritual revolution.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, many times, out of your utmost humility, not taking any credit for your success, you mentioned, "I am simply trying to execute the order of my Guru Mahārāja. That is my qualification." But we, your disciples, followers, and well-wishers, know for a fact that your qualification is far beyond our comprehension. Your tireless efforts, your transcendental compassion, and your unshakable faith in the holy name has rescued millions from the ocean of nescience. By giving us the ultimate shelter of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you have given us the greatest gift.

In a room conversation in Māyāpur, dated February 16, 1977, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you confidently said "This movement will go on. There is no doubt about it. It is Kṛṣṇa's movement. He will take care." And by your grace it has – and it will. We beg you to always keep us engaged in your divine service, to protect us from the distractions of *māyā,* and to bless us with unwavering faith in your instructions.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that we may truly imbibe the mood of unalloyed devotion that you so perfectly exemplified. May we serve in your mission with purity, determination, and humility. May we never forget your instruction that the foundation of all success is hearing and chanting about Kṛṣṇa.

Just as the only way to pay respects to Mother Ganges is by offering her her own water, so the best tribute we can offer at your lotus feet is to further Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission.

Last, but not least, we once again offer our humblest obeisances at your lotus feet by offering this verse, composed by our limited intelligence:

śrīla-prabhupāda-caritāmṛta-vāridheḥ
bhaktyāmbudheḥ pāraguṇārṇavasya
lokaṁ samuddhṛtya kṛpāmburāśe
namo namaste gurudeva tubhyam

Ocean of Śrīla Prabhupāda's divine pastimes, vast like the nectar of immortality,
Boundless reservoir of devotion, filled with transcendental virtues,
Lifting the fallen souls across the world by the waves of your mercy,
O revered spiritual master, again and again, we offer you our obeisances!

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

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Noida

Norway

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

Your Divine Grace has written the most amazing books that are to be found on this planet. These books are the lifesaving mercy of so many devotees. By reading them regularly we become enthused with spiritual energy, intelligence, faith, love and hope. Your purports are brilliantly clear, always to the point and wonderfully interesting and relevant. These books are gradually attracting the whole world.

The other wonderful thing about your books is that we can distribute them. And this is a very wonderful thing for the devotees. By distributing these books, we are engaging in charity by giving people the most valuable thing for a small donation; austerity by endeavoring to not give into the pushings of the mind and senses; and sacrifice because these books are glorifying the Supreme Lord and His name and qualities. So this is *saṅkīrtana*.

What better way is there for us to preach than distributing these books? We have by good fortune come under the shelter of Caitanya Mahāprabhu's wings, and Caitanya Mahāprabhu is ordering us to preach, but being products of Kali-yuga, we have practically no intelligence or strength of mind, so how can we preach effectively? What effect will our preaching have? But because of the books, we can be great preachers! We can induce people to buy the books, and the books will preach to them.

We are extremely grateful to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for performing the sacrifice of coming here to the material world to spread Lord Caitanya's message in the West and for writing your books. I cannot think there will be anyone dearer to the Lord than Your Divine Grace, ever.

So long as we preach, we are doing the essential work of this mission. Then we see things developing. We see new people coming and taking up the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We see happy devotees, pure devotees – devotees willing to cooperate. We see money coming in and projects amazingly develop. We see standards maintained and etiquettes followed.

We pray for your mercy so that all the devotees here in Norway may act in such a way that we will have the strength to preach the message of Lord Caitanya throughout this country. Then by your divine mercy we can all go back to Godhead, hand in hand.

Your servant,
Mahābhāvi Dāsa, Regional Supervisor

Oakville, Ontario

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we bow our heads in deep gratitude for your boundless mercy, which continues to illuminate the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Oakville. By your divine vision, we strive to serve as humble instruments in your glorious mission.

With your blessings, ISKCON Oakville continues to flourish. Our weekly gatherings have remained steady, with about fifty devotees coming together every Sunday to chant, hear, and serve in devotion. The sacred atmosphere resonates with your timeless wisdom, uplifting both newcomers and committed practitioners alike. Through these gatherings, new devotees are becoming more serious about their spiritual progress, engaging in *sādhana* and service with greater sincerity.

By your mercy, we have also expanded our preaching efforts. This year, we are excited to hold our second outdoor Ratha-yātrā at Bronte Lakeshore Park, where Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Mahārāṇī will again grace the streets, showering their mercy on countless souls. This festival, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, is our humble offering to you, a small effort to carry forward the grand tradition of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all.

Each week, our Sunday program unfolds as a beautiful tapestry of devotion:

- We begin with your *ārati* and a lively *kīrtana,* invoking the presence of the Lord.
- A family offers two verses from the *Bhagavad-gītā,* sharing realizations from your divine teachings.
- We immerse ourselves in the nectar of your instructions, drawing wisdom from your books, letters, and lectures.
- Vedic discourse and guest speakers inspire deeper understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
- As we conclude with joyous *kīrtana* and *prasādam,* we relish the divine taste of both spiritual sound and sanctified food.

Our Sunday school continues to blossom, engaging young aspirants in learning Kṛṣṇa consciousness through *kīrtana,* dramas, and scriptural teachings. With your blessings, these children are growing in devotion, laying the foundation for a bright future in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, despite our limitations and imperfections, we strive to uphold your mission, relying on your mercy to overcome obstacles. Please bless us with unwavering enthusiasm, humility, and strength to serve you with sincerity. Let ISKCON Oakville be a place where your vision manifests, where lost souls find shelter at Lord Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet, and where your transcendental books become the guiding light for all.

With deep reverence and unwavering devotion, we remain your humble servants, praying to walk in your divine footsteps.

Your aspiring servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Oakville

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, West Africa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Jaya oṁ viṣṇupāda paramahaṁsa parivrājakācārya aṣṭottara-śata śrī-śrīmad
His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda kī jaya!

Daṇḍavat praṇām! With all the respect and consideration we have for Your Divine Grace and your gigantic work, we have not a single word to address to your eminent personality. But as custom requires, we can only say thank you to sum it all up.

Indeed, at a very advanced age you took the risk of throwing yourself into the water (an impossible thing for our generation) to free us from our respective conditionings. I offer you my respectful homage! You were in Vrindavan (at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara temple), and lacked nothing. You were old like most of the other *sādhus* preparing to leave their bodies whom we meet in Vrindavan today.

Who reassured you that you would succeed in your mission to America? You may not have known it yourself, but one thing was in you: faith in your spiritual master and the conviction that Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu would not let you down. As you yourself wrote on Friday, September 10, 1965, in your travel journal somewhere on the Atlantic, aboard a steamer sailing toward America:

> Today the ship is plying very smoothly. I feel today better. But I am feeling separation from Sri Vrindaban and my Lords Sri Govinda, Gopinath, Radha Damodar. The only solace is Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita in which I am tasting the nectarine of Lord Chaitanya's Leela. I have left Bharat Bhumi just to execute the order of Sri Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati in pursuance of Lord Chaitanya's order. I have no qualification, but I have taken up the risk just to carry out the order of His Divine Grace. I depend fully on Their mercy so far away from Vrindaban.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I offer you my respectful homage again and again for your faith in your spiritual master. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am writing this offering to you personally from the bottom of my heart. Please, if I have any talent within me that will allow me to help my spiritual master fulfill his mission, please bring it out. Help us better serve and guide these people who are so thirsty for your teachings but who know nothing of the process. Again and again, I offer you my respectful homage!

The most insignificant servant of your servants,
Ananta Vijaya Dāsa
AICK, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Pandharpur, Maharashtra, India

Hare Kṛṣṇa, our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we gather to express our deepest gratitude and humble obeisances unto your divine lotus feet. We are thrilled to report that your sublime mission is flourishing:

- Your books, especially the *Bhagavad-gītā,* are being widely distributed, with 13,035 copies distributed during the *Gītā* marathon.
- Our new temple's first floor is nearing completion, providing a sacred space for devotees to gather and worship.
- The Kalyan Mandap now boasts forty-five rooms, offering comfortable accommodations for guests and facilitating their spiritual journey.
- A new reception office and extended reception area ensure a warm welcome for all visitors.
- Strategic land purchases will enable us to establish a farm project, promoting self-sufficiency and simple living.
- The Jagannath Mandir Guesthouse is being developed to provide a peaceful retreat for devotees.
- A dedicated collection team has been established to support our various projects and initiatives.
- Youth preaching is thriving, with dynamic camps and *yātrās* engaging young hearts and minds.
- Our ashram is blessed with an increasing number of *brahmacārīs,* dedicated to a life of spiritual service.

These accomplishments are a testament to your unwavering dedication, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and the power of your teachings.

As we celebrate your Vyāsa-pūjā, we pray that you continue to guide and inspire us. May we remain faithful to your vision and continue to spread the message of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's love and devotion. *Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Yours 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, time and again you instructed your disciples to tax their brains for how to increase the sales of your books. You will be pleased to know that we have accepted these words of yours as our heart and soul and have plunged ourselves into the mission of book distribution. Our efforts are not just bearing fruit; they are bearing golden fruit. Our Jai Nitai Task Force (Youth Team for Boys) and Damayanti group (Youth Team for Girls) as well as our congregational members have made book distribution their only ambition and meditation. Not just during Gītā Jayantī or the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign, but throughout the year, these devotees are engaged in – and rather attached to – book distribution.

Almost every Sunday they go out on book distribution. Most remarkably, last year they distributed books all night during the four days of Durgā-pūjā, starting from *shasti* to *navami.* Countless books were distributed.

You taught us that we are also like that Mahiṣāsura buffalo demon, as we consider ourselves the enjoyer of Kṛṣṇa's property – a very demoniac mentality. And Devī Durgā, the external energy of Kṛṣṇa, punishes us by striking us with her trident, which signifies the threefold miseries. To save the ignorant from the assaults of the external energy, the devotees of ISKCON Panihati will distribute your books during Durgā-pūjā profusely.

Our efforts are specifically channeled to distributing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets during the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign, and by your causeless mercy we distributed 424 sets last year. The greatest contribution to our achieving this target most importantly goes to the Harivasar group, under the able guidance of His Grace Sumitra Kṛṣṇa Prabhu.

Also, every Sunday afternoon the boys of our Jai Nitai Task Force go out on *nāgara-saṅkīrtana*. They sing and distribute books as well. Thus we have *saṅkīrtana* with *mṛdaṅga* as well as with the *bṛhad-mṛdaṅga*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have also arranged a special program every Ekādaśī where we invite devotees to come to the temple and chant sixty-four rounds for the pleasure of Kṛṣṇa. We give them free *prasādam,* and we get a good response. Also on Ekādaśīs, we hold twelve-hour *kīrtanas.* In this way the devotees receive substantial spiritual nourishment.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will be pleased to know that the *Abhay Charan* television serial, which was created and produced by your dearest disciple, His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami Mahārāja, has been translated into Bengali. This epic series will now be watched by Bengali audiences, who are sadly unaware of your unparalleled achievements. Making this happen was a special initiative of ISKCON Panihati. We translated all forty-five episodes – each is thirty minutes long – into Bengali, then put them onto a specially designed 60 GB pen drive. Both the devotees and the nondevotees, after buying the pen drives and watching the serial, are becoming enlightened by your teachings and the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. They are getting to know a lot about the sacrifice you voluntarily underwent to deliver us from the prison house of this material world. They are appreciating our initiative very much.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, another initiative we've developed is to get the book, *The Glorious History of Panihati,* translated into Hindi. In this way, even non-Bengali-speaking people can get to know the glories of Panihati-dhāma. Our dream is to translate the book into all the languages on earth and attract people from all over the world to Panihati so we can serve them the mercy of Lord Nityānanda in the form of chipped rice and yogurt *prasādam*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will also be pleased to know that one of our senior devotees, His Grace Govindānanda Prabhu, whose contribution to the growth of ISKCON Panihati has been

significant, has recently received *sannyāsa* initiation from His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami in Māyāpur on the auspicious occasion of Gaura-Pūrṇimā. His *sannyāsa* name is His Holiness Bhakti Sāra Govindānanda Swami. Mahārāja is still serving relentlessly to further the spiritual prosperity of our temple.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, just as when you arrived in America you considered yourself a mere puppet in Kṛṣṇa's hands, so we are placing ourselves before you as your puppets. The achievement is yours only, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and all praises must flow to you. We are not preachers; we are not the doers. We are neither preaching nor doing anything. We are merely distributing your books and acting as peons, and it is you who is preaching through your books. We can do something for Kṛṣṇa's service only because you empower us. You are pulling the strings, and we are simply moving like puppets. Please empower us more and more to act like your puppets and spread your glories far and wide to every nook and corner of this world.

Your beggars for mercy at ISKCON Panihati

Parsippany, New Jersey

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet! All glories to your extraordinary mission of spreading Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mercy across the globe!

On this most sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we at ISKCON of New Jersey, offer this humble homage at your lotus feet. Today, as we stand on the threshold of completing our new temple, after sixteen long and blessed years, our hearts overflow with gratitude. Every stone that has been laid, every permit secured, every *kīrtana* held in the dusty fields and unfinished halls – all of it has been under your divine direction. You are the real builder. You are the visionary. You are our guiding light.

Sixteen years ago, when we first acquired the land for this temple, we could not have imagined the journey ahead. Zoning challenges, legal complexities, design revisions, fundraising efforts – all stood like Goliaths before us. And yet we pressed on. Why? Because your life showed us how to face impossible odds with unwavering faith in Kṛṣṇa. You endured far more than we ever could – journeying to America at sixty-nine with only forty rupees, sleeping in storefronts, enduring two heart attacks while aboard the *Jaladuta* – all to fulfill the order of your spiritual master and bring bhakti to the West.

That same courage flows through ISKCON today, and it has brought us to this moment. This temple in Parsippany is not our offering – it is yours. We are merely placing our sweat, time, and service into your hands, praying it may please you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once said that building temples is not about real estate – it's about heart. A temple is a place where people come in contact with Kṛṣṇa, with His devotees, and with spiritual wisdom that can uplift their entire lives. In your own words: "A temple means people should come, take darshan, and be purified." You taught us that a temple is not merely for rituals; it's a dynamic center of transformation for both the individual and for society. And that's what we're striving for here in Parsippany: not just to finish construction, but to open the doors of a

spiritual home where the holy name resounds, *prasādam* nourishes the soul, and everyone feels welcomed by Kṛṣṇa's love.

Your example continues to guide us. In Juhu you fought legal battles, faced hostility, and even personally lived onsite to oversee progress. Your determination, despite physical difficulty and opposition, is our blueprint. In Māyāpur you stood in muddy fields, envisioning a temple that would touch the stars. In America, you started with a humble storefront on New York's Second Avenue and inspired palatial temples on multiple continents. You didn't build buildings – you built hope. You built culture. You built communities centered on Kṛṣṇa.

Our own journey in Parsippany has mirrored your example in small but meaningful ways. From the day the land was purchased, you were present in every decision. As plans were drawn, approvals sought, and foundations laid, we remembered how you engaged directly in architectural discussions, city negotiations, and community outreach.

We remember how you personally met with contractors, engineers, and city officials for the Bombay temple. You weren't just a spiritual master – you were a master organizer, fully engaged in every aspect of temple building. Inspired by your holistic example, we too have sought to combine spiritual vision with practical effort.

Many times along the way, obstacles arose that seemed too daunting. Delays discouraged us. Finances tested our faith. But you taught us that perseverance is a limb of devotion. You said, "Impossible is a word in a fool's dictionary." And so we pushed on – because we knew that this project was not for our satisfaction but for your pleasure.

Now, with the final walls rising, the marble soon to be polished, and the altar being prepared, we feel your presence stronger than ever. It is not we who are building this temple – it is you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, acting through your servants, drawing hearts together in service.

You once told your disciples that your love for them would be shown by how they cooperate together. This instruction has echoed throughout our community. For sixteen years, our families, youth, elders, and children have come together – working not as individuals but as a united offering to you. In this way, the Parsippany temple is more than concrete and carvings. It is the embodiment of our collective desire to serve you. And as we draw close to its completion, we recommit ourselves to what this temple must represent:

- A place of loving Deity worship that brings the Lord into people's lives.
- A center for *kīrtana* that uplifts and transforms hearts.
- A school of *Bhāgavatam* where wisdom flows from the lips of devotees.
- A kitchen of compassion where *prasādam* feeds body and soul.
- A vibrant *saṅga* where newcomers feel welcomed and seen.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please allow this temple to be a genuine offering of love. We know it can never repay what you've given us, but if even one soul is awakened here, if even one child takes shelter of Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet in this house – you will be pleased. And that is our greatest success.

You once said, "I will never die. I will live forever in my books and instructions." That is true. You live in your words, your songs, your temples, and the sincere hearts of your followers.

Many of us never met you in person. Yet we know you. When we hear you chant *Jaya Rādhā-Mādhava,* it feels like you're sitting with us. When we read your purports, we hear your voice correcting, encouraging, uplifting. When we see your *mūrti,* we feel your presence as real as sunlight.

You are the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON – not just in name, but in spirit. You built a movement to last ten thousand years. And this temple is a small stone in the fortress of bhakti you began laying in 1965.

It is said in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* that the *ācārya* is the living representative of the Lord. You exemplified that fully. In your purity, your clarity, your compassion, and your conviction we see Kṛṣṇa. You are our access point to the *paramparā*. Without you we would be lost. With you we have everything.

As we prepare for the grand opening of our Parsippany temple, we pray for one thing above all else: to remain your servants. Temples may come and go, buildings may rise and fall, but the service to your lotus feet must continue eternally.

Please empower us to fill this temple not only with beauty but with devotion. Let it not just be structurally complete but spiritually alive. Let your books be distributed here, your *kīrtana* ring through these halls, and your message of love for Kṛṣṇa reach every guest who walks through the door.

Please protect us from pride, distraction, and complacency. Let us always remember that this temple is not "ours" but belongs to you. We are only caretakers. It is your offering to your spiritual master, and we are simply praying to assist.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this day of Vyāsa-pūjā, we bow down again and again at your lotus feet. We pray to you to see through to a quick completion of the remaining last stretch of this project. Without your mercy this will not be possible. You are the blazing sun that has dispelled the darkness of Kali-yuga. You are the captain of the ship, and we are passengers who depend completely on your mercy.

This temple is our humble garland to offer to you. It is imperfect. But it is made with sincerity and hope. May it be a place where your glories are sung every day. May you always reside here. And may we serve you here and forever, life after life.

Your eternal servants,
The devotees at ISKCON of New Jersey

Perth, Australia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of your 129th divine appearance on this earth planet.

On this most blessed event, we would like to seek your blessings to glorify you on this special day. We can only do this by your mercy, like we can only offer Ganges water back to the Ganges. Your appearance in this world is just to reclaim the fallen conditioned souls and engage them in the Supreme service of the Divine Couple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govardhanadhārī.

Here in Perth, we are trying to please you by engaging in some menial services. We are trying to distribute your books to the people of Perth, Western Australia. We are trying to distribute through various avenues, like a book table at the temple and at various events, and most interestingly, one of our devotees distributes your books through his occupation as an Uber driver. He talks to his customers and gives them a book and cookie *prasādam*. In this way he has distributed more than two thousand *Gītās* over the last couple of years. I am sure you will be very pleased with his sincere efforts. Also, our efforts at distributing sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and

Caitanya-caritāmṛta have increased, and we need your mercy to distribute more so that many can come to know about Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

We are steadily distributing *prasādam* through our Govinda's, and nowadays we distribute close to 150 free meals a week to the needy. Also, our free distribution to the local members by Bhakta Mark Claes is steadily increasing. He is very enthusiastic in distributing *prasādam* and thus bringing awareness of the Hare Kṛṣṇas to the local community.

We are regularly going out on *harināma-saṅkīrtana* in the streets of Perth, and many onlookers chant with us and walk away with happy smiles. Also, we are invited to do *saṅkīrtana* at various events, such as the Australia Day parade and at a local mall during Diwali, and these organizations even give a donation to our *saṅkīrtana* party!

Many of our devotees are conducting *bhakti-vriksha* programs, outreach programs, and university programs, and thus introducing many conditioned souls to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We know this is not enough, as there are many more who are not aware of our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, so we have a long way to go and need your blessings to carry on this difficult service of going uphill, fighting against *māyā* (*mama māyā duratyayā*!).

Another regular activity we are doing is the six-week *Bhagavad-gītā* intro course along with an eighteen-week *Bhagavad-gītā* course, both of which are well-attended. Students are becoming serious in the process of devotional service due to these courses.

Recently, our devotees have done an outreach program in a nearby town called Bunbury, which was attended by 150 devotees. We have a regular program in another nearby town, Mandurah. This shows there are many souls who are very eager to know about Kṛṣṇa and learn about the process. So please bless us so that we can reach many towns in Western Australia.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it's fifty years ago that you put your lotus feet in Perth, considered the second most isolated city in the world, and thus you made this place a *tīrtha*. Now this year, in the month of May, we are planning to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your visit. We are having a week-long program of hearing the *kathā* about your Divine Grace and all the pastimes. We are very fortunate that two of your dear servants who were with you fifty years ago have accepted our invitation to join us. They are His Grace Śrutakīrti Prabhu and His Grace Amogha Prabhu. We are all looking forward to hearing the nectarean pastimes of Your Divine Grace and celebrating this very special moment with all these wonderful servants of yours. We are also planning to invite some local officials so that they will be aware of your greatness and recognize your contribution to human society.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, somehow for reasons known only to you and Their Lordships, our temple project has taken different directions, and as we write this offering, we are about to settle the purchase of a 2.5-acre piece of land, and Krishna willing and if you so desire, we may get a bit more land for our future projects. The Council is supportive that we use this land as a place of worship, and hopefully, by your mercy, we will complete a nice home for Their Lordships and for you. We are hoping that we will make some progress with our design and other approvals this year.

Please bless us so we can serve you by working cooperatively to increase the preaching and bring in more conditioned souls to the lotus feet of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Your servants at the ISKCON Perth *yātrā*

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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 on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

Your presence blessed the city of Philadelphia in July of 1975 for our Ratha-yātrā parade, filling the streets with devotion and joy. At the parade's conclusion, you addressed an eager crowd, sharing your transcendental wisdom and uplifting words: "So our only request is that you chant Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, and you will feel very much happy. There will be no anxiety. And then you can do your work. It doesn't matter what you are doing, but chanting of this Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra will make you more and more happy, free from material anxieties. And if we continue this process, then everything will be clearly understood about spiritual life, and very easily we shall be able to go back to home, back to Godhead." (Lecture, Philadelphia, July 12, 1975)

Your instructions are clear: chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra:

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

This is our heartfelt prayer, our call for service. As your disciples and granddisciples, we have vowed to chant this prayer 1,728 times daily, begging, "Please engage me in Your devotional service!" If we sincerely make this plea, how can we refuse the opportunity to serve when it comes? Sincere chanting naturally leads to action and manifests as devotional service. True happiness, as you assured us, is found in this engagement.

Moved by this realization, your instructions have taken root in the hearts of your devoted followers here in Philadelphia, inspiring us to cultivate a genuine spirit of service. How can we best serve you? How can we best serve Their Lordships, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śaradbihārī, Lord Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi? How can we best serve those seeking guidance at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet?

By your mercy, our collective efforts have borne fruit. Thousands of your books have been distributed, and *prasādam* is reaching vulnerable communities, touching lives with transcendental knowledge and mercy. Through dedicated training and heartfelt guidance, devotees are empowered to share in the glories of the holy name. Whether through education, outreach, or Vaishnavas C.A.R.E., we strive to uphold your instructions and create an environment where both new and seasoned devotees can deepen their commitment to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your divine mission continues in Philadelphia as we endeavor to carry forward the torch of devotion you so mercifully lit. By your grace, we witness the transformative power of Kṛṣṇa consciousness – hearts awakened, devotees engaged, and the holy name resounding throughout our city. Yet we know there is always more to do. The challenges of this age remind us of the urgency of your mission, and we pray for the strength to remain steadfast despite obstacles.

We pray for the strength to serve with humility, the intelligence to organize with care, and the determination to never tire of spreading this movement. May we serve with integrity, upholding the principles you so carefully established, ensuring that our actions align with your teachings and reflect the highest standards of Vaiṣṇava conduct.

As you so mercifully promised, by sincerely chanting the holy names and engaging in devotional service, all anxieties will fade, and true happiness will blossom. Let us embrace this joy by dedicating ourselves wholeheartedly to serving you, Their Lordships, and all who seek shelter in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

May we remain instruments in your hands, working together in harmony to build a community that reflects your vision – a place where all feel welcomed, nurtured, and uplifted. Let our service be pure, free from personal motivation and offered solely for the pleasure of guru and Kṛṣṇa.

On this most sacred day, we offer our deepest gratitude and rededicate ourselves to service. Please bless us so that we may always follow your instructions with faith, enthusiasm, integrity, and unflinching dedication – knowing that in doing so, we will find true happiness, just as you assured us, with unwavering faith in your mercy and the holy name. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Your servant,
Śeṣaśāyī Viṣṇu Dāsa,
on behalf of your humble servants in the "City of Brotherly Love"

Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

With deep reverence and gratitude we offer our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. You have gifted the world with the priceless treasure of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, lighting up the path for us all to follow. Your tireless dedication, boundless compassion, and firm faith and commitment to the mission of Lord Caitanya have transformed our lives and the lives of countless souls across the globe.

We thank you from the core of our hearts for the priceless gift of the holy names of the Lord, for your teachings that guide us through the turmoil of this material world, and for the practical instructions that allow us to remain hopeful and afloat in this age of hypocrisy.

As we navigate the daily challenges of preserving your divine mission, we pray for your eternal blessings. Please guide us to keep your vision and your mission alive in our hearts, that we may always act in service to your instructions and the glorious legacy you've left behind.

You showed us the way to care for one another. Please help us to do the same, to uplift one another, to imbibe the essential values of cooperation, humility, and selflessness that you taught us.

May we be inspired by your example of compassion and dedication so that we may truly do justice to your instructions and remain steadfast in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa and His devotees. Please empower us to be worthy instruments in your hands and to continue your mission with sincerity, determination, and love.

We pray that you continue to guide us and that you forgive our many shortcomings. We pray that we may serve you and the devotees in the spirit of unity and devotion. We pray that by your mercy we may always remember Kṛṣṇa and never forget Kṛṣṇa.

With utmost respect, gratitude, and love,
Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Phoenix, Arizona

Poland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

On this most auspicious occasion of Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our deepest gratitude at your divine lotus feet. Another year has passed, and yet your presence remains as luminous as ever, guiding lost souls toward the eternal path of bhakti. By your mercy, the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness continues to shine across the world, dispelling the darkness of ignorance and revealing life's true purpose.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught us that true wealth is not measured in material possessions but in one's devotion to the Supreme Lord. You sailed across the ocean with nothing but the words of your Guru Mahārāja and unshakable faith in Kṛṣṇa's plan. Through your dedication, the holy name has spread to every corner of the planet, transforming lives and awakening millions to their eternal spiritual identity.

The Polish *yātrā* remains forever indebted to your boundless compassion. Thanks to your books, your disciples, and your unwavering vision, Kṛṣṇa consciousness has taken root in our land, offering shelter to those searching for truth. Your teachings continue to inspire, guiding us through every challenge and reminding us of our duty to serve. We pray for the strength to preserve and expand the mission you so mercifully established.

On this sacred day, we humbly rededicate ourselves to your service. We vow to chant with sincerity, to spread your message fearlessly, and to cultivate the qualities of humility and devotion that you so perfectly embodied. May we always remain faithful servants of your mission, striving to fulfill your desire for a world united in love for Kṛṣṇa.

At your divine lotus feet,
Your humble servants of ISKCON Poland

Potomac, Maryland, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your glorious lotus feet. All glories to you, beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, the revered founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

On this auspicious occasion of your divine appearance day, Vyāsa-pūjā, we gather together with hearts full of gratitude to honor you, O representative of Vyāsadeva. We, your devoted and aging direct disciples, along with thousands of eager new followers from all walks of life, bow down in reverence at your radiant lotus feet.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your bold and uncompromising preaching, coupled with your unwavering faith in Lord Kṛṣṇa, has illuminated the path for so many, making this movement a grand success. Your tireless life's mission of translating sacred texts, including the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Caitanya-caritāmṛta,* and *Bhagavad-gītā,* has bestowed upon us the profound knowledge to understand our true spiritual position as loving servants of the Lord. With you as our guiding light, we confidently march forward on our journey back home, back to Godhead.

Here in the capital of America, Washington, DC, your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has flourished magnificently. Last year, after decades of dreaming, struggling, praying, and planning, we finally opened a grand temple for Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana, Śrī Sītā-Rāma-Lakṣmaṇa-Hanumān, and Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. This magnificent temple spans 10,000 square feet and boasts an expansive temple room, a beautifully adorned altar, a *prasādam* hall filled with the aroma of sumptuous offerings, and a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen. Now, our beloved Lords have an ample abode that can comfortably accommodate the hundreds of enthusiastic guests who visit regularly.

Every Saturday, a dedicated *harināma kīrtana* group ventures out to Silver Spring, MD, under the guidance of your devoted disciple, Pālaka Prabhu, spreading joy and devotion through chanting. Our outreach efforts extend beyond, encompassing regular college and *prasādam* distribution programs that nourish body and soul. We engage in the enlightening study of your texts, led by senior devotees through dynamic online classes, creating a vibrant community of learners. Many who partake in these classes are inspired to take initiation and embrace the principles of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Additionally, our devoted members actively distribute your cherished books, planting seeds of spiritual curiosity in the hearts of the wider public.

The seeds of Kṛṣṇa consciousness were first sown by your devoted disciple, Dāmodara Dāsa, along with a few dedicated assistants in the Washington, DC area back in 1969. Just as you began your monumental journey with nothing but faith, so too did the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement here emerge from humble beginnings. Now, after fifty-six years, it has blossomed into a grand success that reverberates with the love and teachings you've imparted.

These remarkable accomplishments are testaments to your divine mercy and the abundant blessings of Kṛṣṇa upon us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We earnestly pray for the strength and fortitude to assist you in advancing this profound Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please inspire us with the same boundless enthusiasm, unwavering determination, and infinite patience that you exemplify. May we work harmoniously together in the spirit of cooperation so that by your compassionate mercy, we can bring you immense pleasure.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our beloved *jagad-guru*! Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī jaya*!
Your eternal servants at New Hastināpura
(Written by Anuttama Dāsa and Rāma Tulasī Devī Dāsī)

Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Veṇī Mādhava. All glories to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Nityananda Prabhu. All glories to Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī. All glories to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. All glories to the Śrī Brahma-Madhva-Gauḍīya *guru-śiṣya sampradāya*. All glories to Śrī Gaṅgāmayī, Śrī Yamunāmayī, and Śrī Sarasvatīmayī.

With the passing of each year, the realization of the supreme treasure you handed us is growing deeper and deeper. Thank you, Your Divine Grace, for making our lives supremely auspicious, truly meaningful, and divinely purposeful. Your words in your books and lectures, the quality of Vaiṣṇavas you gifted us, the ISKCON institution you created, the science of devotional service you taught us, the standards of Deity worship and the temple programs you established, and the avenues you created for us to serve Kṛṣṇa unlimitedly – we can never thank you enough for what you offered to each of us.

We especially want to thank you for the opportunity to serve and represent you in the king of holy places, *tīrtharāja* Prayag-dhāma. You personally stayed here for thirteen years and rendered the holy place of Prayagraj holy (*tīrthī-kurvanti tīrthāni*). Recently, during the Kumbha Mela, while hearing the glories of this *dhāma* and its connection with Lord Rāma, Lord Brahmā, the Pāṇḍavas, Lord Caitanya, Śrī Vallabhācārya, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, and Your Divine Grace, we realized the privilege you bestowed upon us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the past year has been one of the most eventful, intense, challenging, exciting, satisfying, and educational experiences for us because it was the time of the grandest Maha Kumbha Mela *ever*! The name and glories of Prayagraj were being sung not just across Uttar Pradesh or Bharata, but the entire world witnessed the largest *saṅgam* of spiritualists and tourists and followers of *sanātana-dharma* on record – reportedly, more than 400 million people.

We can honestly admit that it still looks like a dream how those forty-five days went by. Miracles manifested by your divine desire (*tāra icchā balavān*), and the sincere dedication of your true servants, with their spiritual priorities and our team's unity, formed the foundation and pillars of our *sevā* at Prayagraj.

Here are a few of the highlights of the services we accomplished for your pleasure:

1. *New temple project:* Over approximately eleven months we witnessed the rapid construction and completion of Phase 1 of the new project, comprising of an International Guesthouse (Ganga), ample residential facility for full-time devotees and sincere youths from the IYF (Yamuna), and a facility for a Vedic Academy, including classrooms and offices (Saraswati). The responsibility, ownership, and risks that Alok Prabhu took leading the construction, and Dhawal Prabhu and his team took leading the fundraising for this project is beyond words.

2. *Hosting Vaiṣṇava guests during Kumbha Mela:* From America to Africa to Europe to Australia to Bangladesh, tens of thousands of devotees came to our temple. From GBCs to gurus, congregational members to *sannyāsīs,* Life Members to other donors, we hosted everyone in our facility. The campus was filled with Vaiṣṇava guests. Even though our team was small, we provided rooms, tents, dormitories, and accommodated guests at our youth centers apart from the new and old guesthouse. It was all possible due to the great work done by many hardworking devotees, who served in everything from setting up the online platform, guest care, *prasādam* coordination, and facilitating transportation. Devotees like His Grace Jagannātha Prema Prakāśa Prabhu, Aman Prabhu, Himanshu Prabhu, Tushar Prabhu, His Grace Praśāntātmā Prabhu,

Rajeev Prabhu, His Grace Śiva Kumāra Kṛṣṇa Prabhu, and many more played very crucial roles in this.

3. *Boat services:* Our boat service was one of the greatest successes. This made the whole rush of Kumbha Mela seem inconsequential and helped us offer many senior Vaiṣṇavas a great experience. It also generated good earnings to be used in the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Veṇī Mādhava. His Grace Śiva Kumāra Kṛṣṇa Prabhu, Rajeev Prabhu, and Nitish Prabhu played crucial roles in this area.

4. *Yamuna ārati:* Śrī Yamuna Devī is our ultimate shelter. She gave us everything we needed, from the phenomenal view of the guesthouse to the devotional atmosphere for the residents, and she was a major source of finances. These were the blessings showered on us by her. The Yamuna *ārati* is an offering of gratitude to Śrī Yamunāmayī, and the ceremony was the soul of our whole campus. His Grace Kripa Mūrti Prabhu and His Grace Rohiṇī-suta Prabhu were instrumental in this *sevā*.

5. *Youth outreach:* Our Youth Center leaders led by example and words and made consistent, dedicated efforts to expand the family of devotees. His Grace Apūrva Gopāl Prabhu and His Grace Prem Rūpa Prabhu were especially responsible, committed, and self-inspired in this regard, coming up with various initiatives, including youth *yātrās* and further assisting even with the financial responsibilities.

6. *Outreach to children and teenagers:* His Grace Rohiṇī-suta Prabhu very consistently and responsibly took the Kids' Outreach to new heights. Hundreds of children and teenagers are wonderfully chanting, dancing, and happily practicing devotional service. These kids will be the future of our movement, with genuine character and devotion. Weekly classes, retreats, and monthly festival celebrations are held regularly. A team of devotees, led by His Grace Jagannātha Prema Prakāśa Prabhu, has also launched a value-education-based school, taking inspiration from your teachings. Kindly bless them in these services to become successful in serving you.

7. *Hosting NIDC meetings:* We had the special opportunity to serve more than forty leaders – GBC members, including His Holiness Guru Prasad Swami Mahārāja, zonal heads, regional heads, the temple presidents of ISKCON North India – all in the midst of the Kumbha Mela, to give them an experience of Kumbha Mela.

8. *ISKCON Adani collaboration and Food-for-Life project:* This was one of the most highlighted and talked about things in the media. Every major street of Prayagraj had a big banner inviting lakhs of pilgrims to take *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. His Grace Pradyumna Priya Prabhu, His Grace Sītārāma Prabhu, His Grace Sanaka-Sanātana Prabhu, and His Grace Gaurāṅga Prabhu led teams that did a humungous amount of service, with each of them personally present on the ground. This earned a very good name for ISKCON in the public media all over India.

We felt that you were reciprocating with us by sending your loving associates. Several of your disciples along with many, many other senior Vaiṣṇavas and ISKCON leaders from all over the world, also gave us their holy association. By being in their presence, hearing from them, and serving them, our faith and enthusiasm was enhanced.

In the course of our interaction with them, we received valuable guidance and direction in our development of ISKCON Prayagraj. Here are some of the things we would like to accomplish for your pleasure in the upcoming years:

- Building a grand palace for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Veṇī Mādhava, starting with the renovation of the current temple hall and Deity kitchen facilities.

- Distributing your transcendental books, the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and holy *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* to one and all in the city of Prayagraj and surrounding areas.
- Developing robust systems and a dedicated team for smooth functioning of the entire project.
- Making the ISKCON Prayagraj project stable and self-sustainable.
- Creating a spiritually vibrant community centered on chanting and hearing.
- Creating a green campus, developing a garden with miniature dioramas of the pastimes that happened in the local area, with a spiritual and sattvic ambience, making it conducive for *sādhana-bhakti*.
- Researching the holy places related to Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas and your pastimes at Prayagraj, and publishing a small book with the relevant *pramāṇas*.
- Developing Dashashvamedha Ghat and Prabhupāda Ghat.
- Reaching out to the elite, influential, and educated classes in Prayagraj and developing a quality congregation.
- Expanding youth outreach to all the colleges and educational institutions and creating a team of spirited, dedicated, dynamic, and spiritually inspired Yuva Shakti.

I also wish to request you to thank every small and big devotee, every volunteer and every employee, who directly and indirectly contributed to the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Veṇī Mādhava and yourself here at Prayagraj; especially those devotees and services that go unnoticed, beginning with accounting, kitchen services, Deity *sevā,* and all the *mātājī* volunteers. Each devotee is very valuable in the community, and we are grateful to all of them.

We wish to especially thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for having sent your loyal and able devotee, His Grace Acyuta Mohana Prabhu, as the spiritual mentor and exemplary leader of our community here. We have seen his dedication in your service for decades, along with his exemplary conduct and devotional character, proactive and intelligent decision making, and his ability to keep the team united and spirited with spiritual priorities at the foundation of our service. We feel very confident that under his leadership the community here will offer their best in your service, happily advancing toward Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Veṇī Mādhavajī's lotus feet.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever we could do and whatever we wish to do is only by your grace. Your mercy is the life force of our efforts. We beg at your lotus feet to always keep us engaged and attached to service unto your lotus feet. This is the only value of this life in the material world.

We are a team of young devotees, having our own fair share of struggles and challenges in the practice of *sādhana-bhakti.* So we don't feel qualified in any sense to be offered such valuable service in your mission. But I can assure you of one thing: that the team of devotees may be young and less experienced, but we are spirited, dedicated, risk-taking, united, and without selfish agendas. Personally, I feel great pride and honor to be part of such a team of your servants.

Kindly bless all the devotees, and especially the devotees taking the lead in the various services here. Kindly bless all our endeavors and efforts and the projects we are undertaking for your pleasure. May all of these be pleasing to you and your representatives. Thank you very much. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your servant,
Satya Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa, (vice president)
on behalf of all the leaders and devotees of ISKCON Prayagraj

Pune, India: BCEC Community

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, whose boundless mercy continues to inspire and guide us.

By your unlimited compassion and blessings, the ISKCON BCEC community is experiencing a remarkable period of growth and spiritual enrichment. In the past twelve months, we have been privileged to achieve significant milestones in our humble efforts to serve your glorious mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness:

- *Book marathon success:* By your divine inspiration, our devotees distributed 35,000 of your transcendental books during the book marathons, touching countless lives and spreading the message of Lord Kṛṣṇa to eager souls across the region. We also distributed 175 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets during the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign, and 50 *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* sets during Gaura-Pūrṇimā. This incredible service earned us the second rank in the small temple category, and we humbly dedicate this offering to your lotus feet.
- *Śrīmad-Bhāgavata Saptāha:* Our third annual Śrīmad-Bhāgavata Saptāha was a divine success, immersing hundreds of devotees in the nectar of Lord Kṛṣṇa's pastimes and deepening their love and devotion for Him. We are ever grateful for your guidance, which allows us to share such transcendental joy with others.
- *New temple construction:* By your causeless mercy, we have made significant progress in the excavation and construction of a new temple in the heart of the city. This magnificent temple will not only serve as a beacon of spiritual nourishment but also provide a sanctuary for 100 devotee families to live together in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, creating a vibrant and spiritually uplifting community.
- *Sunday Feast attendance:* Our Sunday Feast program has flourished, with weekly attendance increasing from 400 to 500 devotees. The joy of serving sumptuous *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* and hearing transcendental discourses have reached many more souls, bringing them closer to the Divine.
- *Home programs:* Inspired by your vision, we have expanded our outreach, now holding over 20 home programs, in addition to the regular *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes at the temple. These gatherings, attended by an average of 30 participants each, bring spiritual enlightenment and Kṛṣṇa's message into the homes and hearts of many.
- *Festival participation:* The enthusiasm for our festivals has reached new heights, with the average attendance increasing from 600 to 900 devotees. These joyous celebrations bring the community together to glorify the Lord and relish His divine association.
- *Janmāṣṭamī celebration:* Our 2024 Janmāṣṭamī festival, the largest ever in our region, welcomed over 15,000 visitors. Through this grand event, we were able to share the bliss of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with an unprecedented number of souls.
- *Prabhupāda Granthamrit program:* Your divine books are the lifeblood of our spiritual nourishment. Last year, over 50 devotees successfully completed the Prabhupāda Granthamrit program, where they systematically read, discussed, and internalized your teachings. This initiative has deepened our collective understanding and love for your divine instructions.

- *Online outreach growth:* Your divine mission is flourishing in the digital world, as our YouTube channel grew from 6,000 to 62,000 subscribers. By your mercy we are able to reach a global audience and share the timeless wisdom of Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide.
- *Food-for-Life expansion:* Following your compassionate vision, our Food-for-Life program now distributes 100 sanctified *prasādam* meals daily, ensuring that many more people are touched by the mercy of Lord Kṛṣṇa through the sanctity of His food.
- *Spiritual yātrās:* Our annual spiritual *yātrās* to the holy *dhāmas* are a cherished offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Last year, 400 devotees participated in these pilgrimages, finding spiritual upliftment and forming deeper bonds of devotion and friendship.
- *Summer camps for kids:* Inspired by your desire to imbue spiritual values in the next generation, we conducted summer camps for children in nine locations. Over 450 children joyfully participated, learning the timeless principles of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and beginning their spiritual journey at an early age.
- *Vaiṣṇavī Sanga program:* Our Vaiṣṇavī Sanga has been a blessing for girls and women aged 12–30, providing them with spiritual guidance from senior devotee *mātājīs*. Last year, 30 young Vaiṣṇavīs participated in this program, which featured seven inspiring Chetana lectures and spiritual camps to nurture their devotion and character.

We fall at your lotus feet, praying for your continued mercy and guidance so that we may serve your mission with ever-increasing sincerity and devotion. Your unwavering compassion and instructions are our eternal inspiration, and we remain your humble servants, striving to spread the glories of Lord Kṛṣṇa and fulfill your cherished desire for a Kṛṣṇa conscious world.

Your servants,
ISKCON BCEC Community, Pune

Pune, India: Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārī Mandir

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to your tireless mission of delivering the fallen souls.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā 2025, we, your grateful servants at ISKCON Camp: Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuñjabihārī Mandir, offer our heartfelt prayers and deep gratitude at your lotus feet. You are our ever well-wisher, our eternal guide, and the very heart of our spiritual family. All that we are able to do is only by your causeless mercy and empowerment.

"Jīvadayā" – Compassion in Action: Inspired by your instructions to distribute transcendental knowledge far and wide, we earnestly took up the mission of book distribution this year. During this year we were blessed to distribute:

- 460 sets of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*
- 1,170 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*
- an incredible 1.7 lakhs of *Bhagavad-gītās*

To further expand this outreach, we began online sales through Amazon, and by your mercy, we sold over 25,000 *mahā* big books digitally, reaching new audiences we could never have physically accessed before. Your books are transforming lives every day, and we pray to continue as your instruments in this divine revolution of consciousness.

Technology in Service – The GIVE platform: With a desire to serve your mission more systematically, we developed a cloud-based ERP donation management platform called GIVE. By your mercy, 20 ISKCON temples across India are now using this platform effectively. Our goal is to empower 50 temples by December 2025. We offer this system at your lotus feet, praying it may assist temples in increasing transparency, devotee engagement, and fundraising efficiency.

HR and care for staff – a culture of appreciation: Recognizing your compassion for all – devotees, staff, and the greater community – we began initiatives for the holistic well-being of our employees:

- We organized special picnics and trips, taking staff members to Govardhan Ecovillage and Panchganifor their recreation, inspiration, and bonding.
- We are launching English language classes for employees who feel the need to learn English to help them grow personally and professionally.

We pray these efforts create a culture of respect, service, and unity in your mission.

Youth preaching – VOICE and YOGA expansion: As always, youth preaching remains close to our heart:

- Currently, more than 85 devotee youths reside in our VOICE and YOGA ashrams, experiencing spiritual training and lifestyle transformation.
- These enthusiastic young devotees distributed over 12,000 *mahā* big books this year – truly showing that the youth are your army, Śrīla Prabhupāda.
- Three dedicated devotees joined the full-time Preacher Development Course (PDC) this year, preparing themselves to become future leaders in your mission.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your compassion is unparalleled. You came to this world to awaken our dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness and gave us everything – books, temples, devotees, and a mission. We are trying to sincerely follow in your footsteps and humbly pray to be worthy representatives of your legacy.

Please empower us to carry your message to every town and village, every youth and seeker, every home and heart. May we always remember that we are merely your servants, striving to please you and bring glory to your mission.

Your ever-grateful servants,
Rādheshyām Dāsa, on behalf of the temple management council
and the devotees of Śrī Śrī Rādhā Kuñjabihārī Mandir

Pune, India: Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vrindavancandra Temple

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees at ISKCON NVCC Pune, humbly offer this report of our services as an offering of gratitude for your causeless mercy upon us. It is only by your divine instructions and blessings that we have been able to engage in serving Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Vrindavancandra and spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Jivadaya Department – Keeping the Spirit of Book Distribution High

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the Jivadaya Department has been striving to increase book distribution each year. In dedication to His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, our book distribution efforts this year surpassed all our previous records:

- *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* marathon – 459 sets distributed – a 50 percent increase over the previous year.
- Bhadra Pūrṇimā marathon – 1,050 *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets distributed – we ranked fourth, with a 40 percent increase over last year.
- *Gītā* marathon – 283,710 *mahā* big books distributed – we ranked fifth, with an 8 percent increase over last year.

Overall offering: by your mercy, we exceeded our goal of 400,000 *mahā* big books, distributing 402,192 *mahā* big books, totaling 850,729.1 book points (we were in fifth place).

Further:

- *Gītā* contests – conducted in fourteen districts by seven *brahmacārī* teams and congregation members, distributing 40,585 *mahā* big books.
- Traveling *saṅkīrtana* – two bus parties, with ten *brahmacārīs* traveling more than fifteen days each month, distributed 22,089 *mahā* big books in Karnataka.
- JivadayaTech – introduced a personalized PhonePe QR code system and developed a WhatsApp ChatBot for easy book ordering, score tracking, and donation management.
- Campus book distribution – more than 2 lakhs of visitors received your mercy through your books, with many becoming devotees and book distributors themselves.
- New initiatives – launched One-day Inspirational Traveling Saṅkīrtana Festivals (ODI TSF) and Monthly *Saṅkīrtana* Festivals (MSF) to engage the congregation.

Bhaktivedanta Raj Vidyalaya – Empowering Devotees through Systematic Study

By your grace, we successfully trained:

- 2,650 students in the ISKCON Disciple Course (IDC).
- 2,300 students in the Bhakti-śāstrī course.
- 250 scholars in the Bhakti-vaibhava course.
- 40 advanced devotees in the Bhaktivedanta course.

These devotees are now carrying forward your mission worldwide.

ISKCON Vanaprastha Seva Sanga – Preparing for the Next Phase of Life

- Organized two camps for aspiring *vānaprasthas* and three camps for existing *vānaprasthas*, with participation of eighty male devotees and a similar number of Vaiṣṇavīs.
- *Vānaprastha* devotees are actively preaching in Bhor and Shirval villages and serving in various temple departments.

Patron Care – Supporting Kṛṣṇa Conscious Families

- Our dedicated patron team successfully collected Rs. 2.2 crores this year to support temple activities and preaching efforts.

Food-for-Life – Fulfilling Your Desire to Feed Everyone

- 1.5 lakh plates of *prasādam* were served at the temple.
- Began *prasādam* distribution to blind and handicapped children, slum residents, and Adivasi communities.
- We seek your blessings to expand this service further.

Jagannath Ratha-yātrā – Spreading Lord Jagannātha's Mercy

- 7,000 devotees honored full *prasādam*.
- 2 lakhs of people received blessings and darshan.
- The Gundicha Festival at Rādhā-Kuñjabihārī temple featured 56 *bhoga* offerings, daily *kathā,* and *kīrtana*.

Mega Kitchen – Large-scale Prasādam Distribution

- More than 3 lakhs prasādam plates distributed on festival days.
- Assisted in major events across Bharata, including Jagannātha Purī Ratha-yātrā, Ayodhya Rāma Mandir Prāṇa Pratiṣṭa, and Prayagraj Kumbha Mela, distributing 65 lakhs of *prasādam* plates.

Youth Preaching – Raising the Next Generation of Devotees

- 1,000 youths attended Utkarsh Camp.
- More than 20 VOICE youth centers in Pune are flourishing, bringing young minds closer to Kṛṣṇa.

Congregational Development – Strengthening the Devotee Community

- Committees like the Service Board, Care Board, and Preaching Board ensure proper engagement for all devotees.
- Special empowerment for Sanjivani (congregational preaching), Girls' VOICE, and Children's VOICE.

Damodar Farm Development – A Step Toward Simple Living and High Thinking

- 26 cows, bulls, and calves are being cared for naturally.
- 12 acres of land cultivated for temple produce.
- Developing water harvesting pond and sewage treatment plant as ecofriendly initiatives.

SSRVC and Lord Bālajī Deity Department – Enhancing Deity Worship Standards

- Many devotees received second initiation and were trained in Deity worship standards.
- Congregation and *brahmacārīs* actively serving the Deities.
- Special festival *bhoga* offerings and services bring the community closer through Deity worship.

Mahat Sevā – Hosting Senior Vaiṣṇavas

- Hosted more than fifty visiting senior Vaiṣṇavas, who inspired the congregation with classes and *kīrtanas*.

Bhaktivedanta Santrika – Cultural Preaching through the Arts

- Organized 2 *prema-saṅkīrtana* festivals and one mega drama festival.
- Conducted a 6-day cultural festival during Janmāṣṭamī, with large participation.

Our Humble Prayer

Śrīla Prabhupāda, everything we have achieved 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 Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa with sincerity, dedication, and humility. Please empower us to expand your mission in Pune and beyond, fulfilling your vision of a Kṛṣṇa conscious world. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your servant,
Rādheshyam Dāsa, the TMC members,
and all members of the ISKCON NVCC Pune temple community

Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

With our body, mind, and words we bow down and offer ourselves at your lotus feet in prayerful and joyful humility. Your feet are the safest shelter, the source of all fearlessness, and the proprietors of devotional service (*sevādhikāriṇi guro nija-pāda-padme*).

As we celebrate the 129th Vyāsa-pūjā festival of Your Divine Grace, we worship you with a grateful heart as the bona fide representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva coming in the Brahma-Madhva-Gauḍīya-sampradāya, in the line of Lord Caitanya. You are the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), which has manifested as a result of your surrender

to the instructions of Oṁ Viṣṇupāda Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. It is your love for your spiritual master and compassion for the living entities that drove you to undertake the historic journey on the *Jaladuta* ship for thirty-seven days, undergoing unimaginable difficulties, to the West to preach the message of Lord Caitanya.

Although love of Kṛṣṇa is eternally situated in the hearts of all living entities (*nitya-siddha kṛṣṇa-prema 'sādhya' kabhu naya*), this love doesn't manifest automatically. It manifests only by the association of Kṛṣṇa's pure devotee (*śravaṇādi-śuddha-citte karaye udaya*). For thousands of years, people have lived in Western countries with dormant love of Kṛṣṇa in their hearts, but it is only through your association that people in Western countries have taken to devotional service of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Your life is a living manifestation of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's teachings and instructions, especially those in the *Upadeśāmṛta*. You are a perfect *gosvāmī,* who controlled the six urges. Your life is a life of enthusiasm and endeavoring with confidence and patience. Despite great difficulties and reversals at almost every step, you continued pushing Lord Caitanya's movement by establishing temples, translating, publishing, and distributing literature, initiating and engaging devotees according to their propensities, continually giving classes and discourses and holding conversations on philosophy, meeting people from all walks of life, teaching and training devotees in the devotional arts, and traveling all over the world. You did all of this beginning at the most advanced age of sixty-nine.

You manifested the twenty-six qualities of a Vaiṣṇava. You were *dakṣa* and realized in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Therefore, despite navigating innumerable diverse cultures worldwide, you could implant Kṛṣṇa consciousness into all of them. You united the people on a spiritual platform who were otherwise in conflict based on the bodily platform. The Americans, Russians, Indians, Europeans, Chinese, Africans, and Japanese all chanted and danced together in the ecstasy of Lord Caitanya. This was made possible only because you had deep, unflinching faith in the prediction of Lord Caitanya that one day, "My name will be chanted in every town and village."

You gave to everyone without discrimination the most invaluable and priceless gifts of Kṛṣṇa's holy names, Kṛṣṇa's form, Kṛṣṇa's *prasāda,* Kṛṣṇa's temples, Kṛṣṇa's message, Kṛṣṇa's *dhāma,* Kṛṣṇa's service, and Kṛṣṇa's love. You were most bold, yet most humble. You were most conservative, yet most liberal. You were most loving and forgiving, yet very strict. You were most traditional, yet creative – all in your love for Kṛṣṇa.

The deep sacred compassion for all living entities, the unflinching faith, pure love, and realization of Kṛṣṇa, and your vision of transcendental reality manifested the most intelligent, truthful, wise, sustainable, beautiful, and creative services all over the world in the form of temples, farm communities, restaurants, scientific preaching, the arts, music albums, a Life Membership program, Food-for-Life, *Back to Godhead* magazine, *parikramas, gurukulas,* and schools.

Education was very dear to your heart. Your books, in the format of word-by-word meaning, translation, and purport, are deeply appreciated in the scholarly world. Your entire book sets are ordered and kept in prestigious universities of the world. Your recordings of lectures, conversations, morning walks, debates, Vaiṣṇava *bhajanas, kīrtanas,* videos, photographs, and articles are the most precious assets for the people of this world.

We at ISKCON Punjabi Bagh have been causeless receivers of your mercy. By your blessings, we have begun the construction of a new temple for Śrī Rādhā-Rādhikāramaṇa and Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, and we aspire to complete it by Rādhāṣṭamī 2027.

By your mercy, 1,124 community members distributed 338,270 books during the last marathon. Various devotees have traveled to other temples to expand the preaching mission, and five devotees have been sent to ISKCON Yamuna Nagar to manage the center and further spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The congregational preaching is steadily increasing, as many devotees in the congregation

actively contribute to the expansion and sustenance of the movement. They are leading *bhakti-vriksha* groups, distributing Śrīla Prabhupāda's books, organizing weekly and monthly *saṅkīrtana,* performing Deity worship at home, and rendering valuable services to the temple Deities.

Temple festivals are celebrated with great pomp, attracting devotees and newcomers alike to experience the joy of devotional service. Neighbor cultivation and public relations have grown significantly with regular communication and a sensitive approach. Our youth outreach and cultivation programs are also progressing sustainably, inspiring the younger generation to take shelter of Kṛṣṇa.

By your mercy, the outposts at Rewari and Burari are flourishing, and both centers are actively engaged in preaching activities. In addition, more than sixty devotees have successfully completed the Bhakti-śāstrī course, systematically studying your books. These classes are conducted by locally based temple devotees with assistance from members of the congregation.

To ensure succession in leadership, Vaikuṇṭha Vraja Dāsa has been promoted to the position of co-president, adding strength to the temple management and leadership team. Additionally, every Ekādaśī we organize twenty-four-hour *kīrtanas,* immersing the devotees in the holy names of the Lord. We are also grateful that many senior devotees regularly visit ISKCON Punjabi Bagh, blessing us with their valuable association and guidance.

Delhi, being the political capital of India, was very important to you. You struggled alone in the wilderness of Delhi. You stayed at the Gauḍīya Math and, despite coming from an aristocratic family, at one point didn't even have a single dhoti-kurta set to meet dignitaries. You would single-handedly write, publish papers, and distribute them to people in general. You began the mammoth project of translating the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in Delhi. You published the first volume with great difficulty. You felt the urgency to fulfill the instructions of your spiritual master. Many times you did not even have your meals. You met many politicians and dignitaries in Delhi. You met the two prime ministers, Lal Bahadur Sastri and Indira Gandhi in Delhi. You organized pandal programs, made life members, and installed Śrī Rādhā-Pārtha-sārathi.

It is through your devotional service and compassion, and the efforts of your loyal servants, that innumerable residents of Delhi have received the seeds of devotional service. There are now eighteen temples in Delhi NCR, and more than one million books are distributed each year.

Amid the ongoing dualities of this material world, the unchanging truth of devotional service can provide peace, purpose, clarity, strength, confidence, and happiness in our individual life's journey. We seek your blessings to understand and imbibe your mood and mission and make all your transcendental gifts accessible to others as they are.

Offered by Premāñjana Dāsa,
on behalf of the community leaders of ISKCON Punjabi Bagh

Qatar

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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 lotus feet.

Last year, in the month of July, Krishna Katha Desh celebrated "30 years of Kṛṣṇa consciousness" at ISKCON Tirumala, Tirupathi. During this occasion, your beloved spiritual son, His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja, narrated your earnest desire to construct a memorial for Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura at his birthplace, Birnagar, in West Bengal.

His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja expressed his desire that the devotees of Krishna Katha Desh take up this project and help him in fulfilling your desire.

A Core Committee has been formed for the Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura Janmasthan Project (SBVT), which consists of:

His Grace Vaikuṇṭha Pati Dāsa (founder, Krishna Katha Desh *yātrā*)

His Grace Balarāma Govinda Dāsa (president, ISKCON Thiruppalai, Madurai)

His Grace Govardhana Giri Dāsa (senior devotee, Krishna Katha Desh *yātrā*)

His Grace Rādhāpati Śyāma Dāsa (president, Krishna Katha Desh *yātrā*)

And myself, Aniruddha Gopāla Dāsa (zonal supervisor, Krishna Katha Desh *yātrā*)

We have already identified, purchased, and registered the land at Birnagar in the name of ISKCON. With Your blessings, we have planned *shilanyas* in the month of April 2025. Subsequently, we have also planned to take this project to all your disciples and granddisciples all over the world for support.

We want to make this an iconic stopover en route to Māyāpur from Kolkata, having a grand temple, museum, library, teaching facility, restaurants, etc.

A project of this magnitude is possible only with the blessings and mercy of great Vaiṣṇavas and *ācāryas*. Therefore, we beg for your mercy and blessings to empower us to accomplish one of your desires. Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your humble servant,
Aniruddha Gopāla Dāsa (JPS)
Krishna Katha Desh *yātrā,* Qatar

Radhadesh, Durbuy, Belgium

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, who are blessed to live at your Radhadesh *yātrā,* beg to offer our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

As a pure devotee completely surrendered to the desire and guidance of your most exalted spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you engaged in immeasurable sacrifices in his service. You left no stone unturned as you fearlessly persevered in the face of every possible and impossible challenge while fighting to rescue souls ensnared in Kali's clutches. As we try to contemplate your astounding devotional prowess, we recall one of your last *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* purports.

> The word *svakārthānām* refers to great desires … the glance of Lord Viṣṇu creates the desires of the devotees. A pure devotee, however, has no desires … because the desires of devotees whose attention is fixed on Kṛṣṇa have already been fulfilled, the Lord's sidelong glances create variegated desires in relation to Kṛṣṇa and devotional service. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.13.50)

In response to your unadulterated surrender in pure devotion to guru and Kṛṣṇa, they have infused your pure heart with boundless transcendental *bhakti-śakti*. Now your glance upon even conditioned souls like us continues to create so many desires to engage in activities related to Kṛṣṇa and devotional service. Without your loving glance and sublime leadership, we shudder to think of what our fate would have been. As we endeavor to enact the inspiration and variegated desires you endow us with, we humbly request Your Divine Grace to consider how some of the resulting endeavors and activities have manifest in your Radhadesh branch here in the Belgian Ardennes.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you repeatedly emphasize the utmost necessity and efficacy of regularly hearing and discussing *kṛṣṇa-kathā* for anyone desiring to progress on the path of bhakti. The Radhadesh community takes this edict very seriously; thus, the devotees here are being sanctified by several visiting preachers who share with us their vast learning, wisdom, and realizations in the practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In fact, at least one third of the morning lectures in 2024 have been given by preachers like Trivikrama Swami, Ūrmilā Devī Dāsī, Mādhavānanda Dāsa, Hari Parshad Dāsa, Kartik Chandra Dāsa, and many more of your devoted disciples and granddisciples. Hearing from such staunch and learned devotees purifies and enthuses us to improve our devotional attitude and endeavors. Furthermore, on one day each week, we are blessed to hear a lecture given by Your Divine Grace, and on another day we are delighted to hear about your transcendental *līlā* from authorized books written about you by your faithful disciples like Satsvarūpa Mahārāja and Hari Śauri Prabhu.

In regard to regular hearing and discussing Kṛṣṇa conscious topics, Ūrmilā Devī Dāsī, your deeply dedicated and brilliant daughter, gave a course at Radhadesh last year on some key points concerning how to practically assimilate and apply your teachings on *varṇāśrama*. This has motivated the Radhadesh community to take small, incremental steps toward implementing some principles of *varṇāśrama-dharma* here.

Furthermore, in relation to *varṇāśrama-dharma,* another service you urge us to undertake is cow protection. At the Radhadesh goshala, the herd is being responsibly and lovingly cared for. Community members are also regularly invited to visit the goshala and participate in feeding and caring for the cows. This creates a blissful camaraderie among us, reminding us of how urgent and satisfying it is to protect and cherish Kṛṣṇa's favorite animal.

A closely related devotional project to this is the Radhadesh garden, which is being developed in such a wonderful manner that the late, blessed Kadamba Kānana Swami dubbed the project Premaculture. With the garden crew's great care and expertise, the garden is thriving, supplying the temple and the Radhadesh Govinda's restaurant with fresh produce to be prepared and offered to Their Lordships. Those fortunate enough to partake of the resulting transcendental foods are blessed in body, mind, and spirit. Moreover, as the urgency of the world's instability is increasing exponentially, the garden and goshala departments are working tirelessly to promote self-sufficiency, eager to embrace your vision that actual life means depending on the bounty of our universal mothers, the earth and the cows.

To ensure that the Radhadesh community members and our many visitors all have the opportunity to peacefully partake of *kṛṣṇa-prasādam,* the huge *prasādam* hall, which has been under construction for some time, was finally almost completed this year. The hall's ceiling, tables and chairs, etc., are all composed of wood from trees from the Radhadesh property, beautifully prepared and finished by community residents. However, in the last weekend of January, the tables and chairs were put aside, as Radhadesh hosted our seventeenth Radhadesh Mellows *kīrtana* festival. We hosted 1,700 attendees with room to spare. So, as it turns out, the *prasādam* hall is multifunctional, but as far as *prasādam* distribution is concerned, the hall has proven to be a great asset during festivals. We are eagerly looking forward to serving the community and public in this capacity in the upcoming years and far into the future.

Radhadesh has also traditionally kept Kṛṣṇa conscious education a priority, and to this end, onsite courses in Bhakti-śāstrī and Bhakti-vaibhava are regularly going on here. There is also a special short course called "Be a Monk for a Week" available for visitors and the public, as well as a bimonthly invitation to our congregational members to participate in *sevā* days. Some attendees in these events decide to join the Radhadesh bhakta course, and most continue to take an increasingly serious interest in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, remaining very favorable and supportive of the Radhadesh community.

These are some of our attempts to follow your spotless teachings, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, by which our lives are being transformed from despair to delight, from dense darkness to brilliant discovery of the Absolute Truth and how to approach Him and His entourage. The result is that Radhadesh is maturing into a "community of love," consisting of many generations, ranging from new arrivals to recent departures, all being blessed by the oasis you provide and will continue to provide for countless generations to come. We pray that you are finding satisfaction in our humble attempts and that we can engage in further devotional improvements in our community. For example, we want to greatly increase our systematic book distribution in Belgium, and to construct a *parikrama* path all around the Radhadesh Domaine to further enhance the devotional atmosphere. We also want to make the terrain here more wheelchair-friendly for our congregational members and visitors with disabilities. To be successful in anything we attempt, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we continue to endeavor and depend on your mercy. Without your mercy, how will we ever hope to attain the mercy of the *paramparā* and our presiding Deities, Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha, and Śrī Jagannātha, Śrī Baladeva and Śrīmatī Subhadrā? Kindly keep us under the shelter of your lotus feet.

Your eternally grateful and dependent children, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren, and on and on at Radhadesh-dhāma

Raichur, Karnataka, India

Our dear grandfather, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer you our *daṇḍavats*. All glories to your beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Swami Prabhupāda.

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

> 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)

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, we, your humble servants, bow our heads in gratitude, reverence, and awe before you, our spiritual guide, beacon of hope, and eternal well-wisher. The light of your divine wisdom continues to illuminate the darkest corners of this world, inspiring countless souls to journey toward the lotus feet of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

When we reflect upon your extraordinary life, we are struck by the magnitude of your struggles, the depth of your thoughts, the clarity of your vision, and above all, the oceanic love and care you showered upon all beings. Your journey, Śrīla Prabhupāda, was nothing short of monumental – a testament to your unwavering faith in the words of your spiritual master and your determination to fulfill his desire.

One remarkable pastime illustrates the mystic potency you embodied. In 1970, during the early days of ISKCON in India, you visited Surat with your disciples. During a grand procession through the city, hundreds of thousands of people gathered, showering flowers and chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. Some of your disciples, overwhelmed by the crowd's enthusiasm, asked how you managed to attract so many people. You smiled and replied, "They are not coming to see me; they are coming to see Kṛṣṇa." This humility concealed a profound truth: your pure devotion acted as a magnet, drawing Kṛṣṇa's mercy and manifesting it through these awe-inspiring moments.

This mystic influence extended beyond physical presence. In 1977, during your final days in Vrindavan, you exhibited an extraordinary connection with the spiritual realm. Your disciples recalled how you continued to guide and inspire them, even as your physical body weakened. When someone expressed concern for your health, you reassured them, saying, "I am always with you, just as Kṛṣṇa is always with you." (Conversation, November 1977). These words revealed your transcendental nature, offering comfort and assurance to those who sought your shelter.

Your thoughts, Śrīla Prabhupāda, were always centered on the welfare of others. You saw the suffering of humanity lost in the throes of materialism and strove to gift them the ultimate panacea – the process of bhakti-yoga. You envisioned a world united in the chanting of the holy names, a world where people of all backgrounds could come together to serve Kṛṣṇa. This vision found expression in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), which you established as a home for all.

Your teachings were profound yet practical, steeped in the timeless wisdom of the *Vedas* yet accessible to the modern mind. Through your books, conversations, lectures, and letters, you revealed the path of devotion with clarity and compassion. You once said: "Teach by your example. That is the best preaching. You should remain ideal devotees and serve Krishna nicely. That will be the most effective preaching work." (Letter to Bhagavān Dāsa, January 7, 1976) This

guiding principle of leading by example is the cornerstone of your mission, one that we strive to embody in our daily lives.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your vision for the future was both grand and profound. You envisioned self-sufficient farm communities, where devotees could live in harmony with nature, relying on Kṛṣṇa and His creation. You emphasized education, urging devotees to study your books deeply and share this knowledge with others. You foresaw a world transformed by Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and you left us with a blueprint to make that vision a reality.

But what stands out most, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is your boundless love and care. You saw each soul as a part and parcel of Kṛṣṇa, deserving of love, respect, and guidance. You tirelessly traveled the world, enduring discomforts and challenges, just to give others the opportunity to hear about Kṛṣṇa. Your affection for your disciples was like that of a father guiding his children, a friend encouraging his companions, and a spiritual master leading his followers.

At ISKCON Raichur, though we are small in number, we are striving to manifest your vision by constructing an eco-friendly temple using adobe bricks. Devotees are conducting *bhakti-vriksha* classes, organizing festivals, collecting funds, and doing all they can to further your mission. We fervently pray for your mercy so we may complete the construction of the temple at the earliest and offer it to the world as a humble token of our gratitude and devotion.

Dear grandsire, with hearts full of humility, we seek your forgiveness for all the offenses we have committed, knowingly or unknowingly, in thought, word, or deed. Despite your boundless mercy and guidance, we often falter due to our conditioned nature and ignorance. Please be kind upon us and forgive our shortcomings so that we may purify our hearts and serve your mission with sincerity, devotion, and steadfastness. We pray for your continued blessings to overcome our weaknesses and remain dedicated to your lotus feet.

We are forever indebted to you. You have given us the greatest gift – the opportunity to serve Kṛṣṇa and reconnect with our eternal nature. Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly fall at your lotus feet and pray for your divine shelter. Please protect us from the relentless grip of *māyā,* which seeks to divert our minds from the path of devotion. Grant us the physical and mental strength to steadfastly follow the sacred guidelines of the scriptures that you have so mercifully presented to us. Help us remain united as a spiritual family, embracing one another in the spirit of love and cooperation so we may work together to fulfill your mission. Empower us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with the determination and compassion to preach your message, tirelessly spreading the glories of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every corner of the world. May your blessings guide us and give us the strength to serve you faithfully and fulfill the responsibilities you have so kindly entrusted to us. Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your mystic pastimes amaze us. Your struggles inspire us. Your thoughts guide us. Your vision uplifts us. Your love sustains us.

With deep gratitude and love,
Your humble servants,
Sārathi Shyāma Dāsa
and the devotees at ISKCON Raichur

Red Deer, Alberta, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. We pay obeisances before you. All glories to you! All glories to you! All glories to you!

At ISKCON Red Deer, we would like to make a humble attempt to share with you our updates in terms of propagating Kṛṣṇa consciousness in our city. We are actively doing Sunday Love Feast programs at a community hall setting and are actively getting sponsorships for these programs. Under the heartfelt guidance of your beloved disciple Bhaktimārga Swami, we are trying our best to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Red Deer. We are hoping that more and more people come and join our Sunday Love Feast programs and develop love for Kṛṣṇa. We also actively took part in the Live to Give *Gītā* campaign and were able to get 297 *Bhagavad-gītās* sponsored to give out in

the community. We distributed books to the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter, and to outreach centers and other agencies. Without your books we wouldn't have known that the true essence of human life is to engage in service to Kṛṣṇa.

Also, this year we are working toward building a bigger chariot for our Third Annual Ratha-yātrā. Last year we had success in our Second Annual Ratha-yātrā. We held our parade at a park. Our Ratha-yātrā included free food distribution, cultural performances, book distribution, gift shops, hand painting, a bouncy castle, and Deity darshan. Even though we are a very small group trying to organize Ratha-yātrā in Red Deer every year, we do get a great amount of help from the humble devotees at ISKCON Calgary and ISKCON Edmonton.

With this Vyāsa-pūjā offering, we, the devotees of ISKCON Red Deer, beg at your lotus feet to please continue to shower your mercy on us so that we may continue to remain inspired serving your ISKCON movement. Your mercy will help us progress on our spiritual journey of chanting the holy name, being active at our local center, singing in *kīrtanas,* and reading and distributing your books. Please guide us not to be complacent in our understanding of how to expand our movement here for the benefit of the whole society. Kindly help us in our attempt to continue following you by adhering to your clear directives and faithfully serving your mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we become your insignificant instruments in bringing thousands to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We beg you to please let us be engaged in your service and the service of your devotees. Here at ISKCON Red Deer, we are begging you to please forgive us for any offenses we have made. Please allow us to serve you eternally. We aspire to serve and assist in your service to Lord Kṛṣṇa to the best of our abilities, for our own purification and ultimately for the glorification of Kṛṣṇa.

Your aspiring servants,
ISKCON Red Deer

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to Śrī Gaurāṅga, and the entire *gaura-vṛnda*.

The mercy and love that the *jīva* receives from Guru and Gaurāṅga are immeasurable, limitless, and beyond the grasp of my small, ignorant mind. It is a treasure so vast that words cannot do it justice. If I were to express even a fraction of this divine grace, all I could do is cry and fervently beg for more. You have fulfilled the desire of every town, and now it is time for every village to be touched by your mercy. My only prayer is to be your humble instrument, used in any way you desire for the advancement of your mission.

Writing on behalf of ISKCON Regina,
your most fallen, eternally indebted servants,
Cintāmaṇi Devī Dāsī
Jagannātha Dāsa Adhikārī

Rome, Italy

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble, respectful, and prostrated obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

I write to you with the deepest reverence and gratitude for your transcendental guidance, which illuminates our path and continues, unstoppable, to inspire countless souls in their devotional service. Your divine teachings constantly remind us that the word of the spiritual master is the vital substance of our existence. Reflecting on your teachings, I am deeply moved by the sentiment expressed in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.24.15, where you state: "The disciple should unhesitatingly think about the instructions or orders of the spiritual master and should not allow himself to be disturbed by anything else."

This sacred injunction encapsulates the essence of perfect meditation and serves as a constant beacon for all devotees. Your life, teachings, and compassionate guidance have offered, and will continue to offer, an unparalleled example of how one can truly serve the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa. It is with this spirit of unwavering devotion and clarity that we strive to assimilate every instruction you have lovingly imparted.

With a sincere desire to serve your mission, I am committed to promoting the expansion of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Rome and its surrounding areas so that more and more souls may benefit from your mercy and teachings. I will endeavor – and we will all endeavor – with ever-increasing determination, to ensure that the pure message of bhakti-yoga, which you have so graciously bestowed upon us, continues to spread with strength and authenticity.

I humbly pray for your blessings so that I may always remain faithful to the teachings contained in your divine books – our *Vedas,* our *śāstra* – and to their continuous distribution, persevering in service with sincerity and humility. Only with your constant support and mercy can we hope to obtain the strength and determination necessary to fulfill the mission you entrusted to us.

Your humble aspiring servant of your servants,
Hari-kīrtana Dāsa
on behalf of ISKCON Rome

Roorkee, Haridwar, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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, 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.

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

We are eternally grateful to you for giving us this valuable opportunity to serve in Roorkee, near Haridwar, in the sacred land of Uttarakhand. When you traveled to Rishikesh in May 1977, you may have passed through Roorkee, and thus this place is also blessed. His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja, your dear disciple, engaged us in this Roorkee outreach service, and he would say, "Roorkee is a gold mine." Currently, we are serving here under the guidance of His Grace Mahāmān Prabhu and His Holiness Guru Prasad Swami Mahārāja.

For the past fifteen years, local congregation outreach and youth preaching at IIT Roorkee have been going on actively. We are trying to follow your instructions on how to cultivate India's educated youth in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your teachings, as given in your lectures and letters, remain relevant and powerful. They serve as our guiding light as we strive to counter the ignorance spread by modern education.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we wish to report our service and developments over the past year.

- *Resident youth devotees:* Currently, 27 students from IIT Roorkee and other colleges are staying at the center. We are trying to maintain a strong morning program, which begins at 4:15 A.M., and includes *japa,* cleaning, *ārati,* and a lecture. Devotees at the center are engaged in various services related to youth outreach and maintaining the center. All of them are chanting sixteen rounds and regularly reading your books. We organize camps, *yātrās,* and association with senior devotees to keep them spiritually strong and inspired. Recently, devotees completed the ISKCON Disciple Course, and many are preparing for initiation.
- *IIT Roorkee outreach:* We have two parallel programs, one for B.Tech students, and the other for M.Tech and PhD students. Around 35 students are participating. Devotees conduct discussions and chanting sessions daily at the hostels. On weekends, the students come to the center for *kīrtana, prasādam, maṅgala-ārati,* and verse recitation, which strengthens their spiritual journey. Additionally, 15–20 students are connected through the Prerna program. We organize Sankalpa and Sphurti camps for new students, and are now registering students for the Renaissance Camp, a hybrid two-month training program.
- *Local congregation program:* By your mercy, we also started a congregation outreach program this year. Around a hundred members connect regularly through *saṅkīrtana* and other programs. We conducted twenty-five *saṅkīrtana* sessions, gathering the contact information of nearly a thousand locals, whom we invite to monthly programs and festivals. Our IIT faculty outreach is also growing, with about thirty-five faculty members and their families connected. We conduct weekly and monthly programs for both groups. This year, we organized our first congregation camp at the holy land of Kurukshetra. Thirty-three devotees participated.
- *New center construction:* Seeing the limitations of our current accommodations, we feel the urgent need for a dedicated center that can serve both youth preaching and congregation programs. By your mercy, on April 1, 2025, we acquired land in ISKCON's name. We pray for your blessings and guidance to build the center as soon as possible.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are inexperienced, weak in our determination, and prone to make mistakes. Only by your mercy can we continue this most important mission that you pioneered, which was originally established by Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We humbly seek your blessings and

protection so we may remain absorbed in service and offer our mind, body, and intelligence to push forward this divine movement. We also pray to strictly follow your instructions as revealed in your books, lectures, and letters. Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Roorkee

Sacramento, California, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As you resided at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara temple in Vrindavan, your heart was wholly absorbed in the divine order of your spiritual master, eager to fulfill the sacred mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Filled with boundless compassion, you embarked on an arduous journey to the Western world, enduring immense hardships to deliver the matchless gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We, the aspiring followers of your beloved servants here in Sacramento, are struggling to imbibe even a drop of that compassion with which you selflessly preached. In our small capacity, we seek to serve the people of this land, who remain unaware of the supreme joy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our heartfelt prayers at your lotus feet. Kindly bless us so we may rise above our selfish concerns and dedicate our lives sincerely to assisting you and your loyal servants. May we serve in such a way that this glorious legacy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness continues to illuminate the world for generations to come. Thank you very much.

Servants of your humble servants at ISKCON Sacramento
(written by Śaṅkarānanda Dāsa)

Saltillo City, Coahuila, México

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our *daṇḍavats* to the topmost empowered *ācārya,* predicted even by Kṛṣṇa himself, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda! Śrī Kṛṣṇa says in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.80.32, 41):

sa vai sat-karmaṇāṁ sākṣād
dvijāter iha sambhavaḥ

ādyo 'ṅga yatrāśramiṇāṁ
yathāhaṁ jñāna-do guruḥ

My dear friend, he who gives a person his physical birth is his first spiritual master, and he who initiates him as a twice-born *brāhmaṇa* and engages him in religious duties is indeed more directly his spiritual master. But the person who bestows transcendental knowledge upon the members of all the spiritual orders of society is one's ultimate spiritual master. Indeed, he is as good as My own self.

etad eva hi sac-chiṣyaiḥ
kartavyaṁ guru-niṣkṛtam
yad vai viśuddha-bhāvena
sarvārthātmārpaṇaṁ gurau

This indeed is the duty of all true disciples: to repay the debt to their spiritual master by offering him, with pure hearts, their wealth, and even their very lives.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 10.33.31: *īśvarāṇāṁ vacaḥ satyam* – "The statements of the Lord's empowered servants are always true."

Nārada-bhakti-sūtra 69: *sac-chāstrī-kurvanti śāstrāṇi* – "[Great pure devotees] make scriptures authoritative."

tatra vaiduṣe ca vipratipatti-bhramādi-nṛ-doṣa-rāhityāt, śabdasyāpi tan-mūlatvāc ca

About the perceptions of the wise there is no disagreement, because these perceptions are devoid of the human weaknesses, such as faulty judgment. Moreover, the perceptions of the wise are the basis of even verbal testimony [*śabda-pramāṇa*]. (*Tattva-sandarbha, Sarva-saṁvādinī* commentary, *anuccheda* 9, by Jīva Gosvāmī)

The statements of Thakura Bhaktivinoda are as good as scriptures because he is a liberated person. Generally the spiritual master comes from the group of such eternal associates of the Lord. (Letter to Janārdana Dāsa, New York, April 26, 1968)

bhrama, pramāda, vipralipsā, karaṇāpāṭava
ārṣa-vijña-vākye nāhi doṣa ei saba

Mistakes, illusions, cheating, and defective perception do not occur in the sayings of the authoritative sages. (*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādī-līlā* 2.86).

So a disciple is always in deficiency before his spiritual master. Just like Caitanya Mahāprabhu says, *guru more murkha dekhi karila śāśana:* "My spiritual master saw Me a fool number one. Therefore he has chastised Me." So disciple should be always ready to be chastised. He should not think that he has become perfect. That is perfection. So long he thinks that he is not perfect – he's to be chastised – then he's perfect. And as soon as he thinks that he has become perfect, he's nonsense immediately, nonsense number one. [break] ... always to be chastised by the spiritual master for perfection. And if he thinks that now he has become perfect, then he's a foolish. Caitanya Mahāprabhu said, *guru more murkha dekhi:* "My spiritual master saw Me a fool number one." Was He fool number one? He's God Himself. But that is the position. He should

> remain always a fool number one, ready to be chastised. Then he's perfect. (Morning walk, April 8, 1975, in Māyāpur)

And from a lecture in Vrindavan, given on November 6, 1976:

> *Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo yasya*…. This is the injunction of the *ācārya,* Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura. He has described very nicely *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru nandana*. The order of guru should be the life and soul of the disciple, without caring for his personal salvation. This is the qualification of *śiṣya*. *Śiṣyas te 'ham śādhi māṁ prapannam,* fully surrendered.

So please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to be your full followers, without any deviation. In that way we can be successful in the preaching of your sacred mission in Lord Caitanya's movement.

Your servants at Rādhā-Govinda Mandir, ISKCON Saltillo

San Diego, California, USA

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

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

I pray to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Giridhārī, who mercifully cast Their loving smiles on the devotees here at New Govardhana Dhāma, so that I may write something worthwhile in appreciation of Their glorious servant, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I pray to the Six Gosvāmīs – Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī, Śrīla Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī, Śrīla Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī, Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī, and Śrīla Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī – that I can complete this task on behalf of everyone at New Govardhana and express some of what we all feel.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most respectful obeisances. All glories to you!

In writing a glorification of you, I really don't know where to start. I wouldn't even have known of the existence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness if not for you and all the trouble you took to bring it to the West. And now I'm going to write something about you, as if I could even slightly begin to understand what you went through to save us and how difficult it was? As if I have any idea how much you always depend on Kṛṣṇa, how much you simply want us all to surrender so we can be blissful in Kṛṣṇa consciousness? I don't even have a clue.

Then again, I'm complicating things, as is my tendency as a fallen, conditioned soul. Really, it isn't that complicated. The essence of what you gave us has always been to "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy," though it isn't that we don't have to do anything else. Our uncultured Western ways have filled our lives with impurities that we would never have recognized if you hadn't

shown us another way. The four regulative principles are just the beginning of living a human life, and we struggle even with that. And still, you never let us off the hook. To have said that we could "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy" while still eating meat, gambling, taking intoxication, and engaging in illicit sex would have been to cheat us, and you love us too much for that.

Instead, you tell us, as Kṛṣṇa teaches in the *Bhagavad-gītā,* to simply give up everything else and surrender to Him. That's all we have to do. But it's exactly what we don't want to do. We want to be in charge, and everything in the culture that surrounds us tells us that we should be in charge. We should control and we should enjoy. This is especially the mood in Southern California, where the weather is so beautiful that people come from around the world just to gratify their senses (with no regard for how that affects anyone else).

An uncomplicated process is difficult for us, but you worked to make it so much easier. You gave us *prasādam* so delicious that we would forget all about food not offered to Kṛṣṇa. You gave us *kīrtana,* where we can use our musical talents to directly connect with Kṛṣṇa instead of falling further into ignorance. You gave us Deity worship, where we can use our artistic talents to care for the beautiful forms of the Deities and share that beauty with everyone who visits Their temple. And you also gave us your books, volumes upon volumes of instruction on how to live spiritually and how to interact with one another and the world around us in such a way that we and everyone we meet can advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. All these gifts are practical examples of how everything in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is lovelier and more joyful than anything outside it.

So now we must spread your gifts as far as we can. We clean and maintain Kṛṣṇa's temple, a Vaikuṇṭha realm on the beach, as a haven where some devotees live and serve full-time and others come regularly for service and spiritual upliftment. Both temple residents and nonresidents distribute your books in parks (and parking lots) almost every day. Those fortunate enough to take a book might then visit a Krishna Lounge program, which we hold multiple times a week at several locations in San Diego, giving the people of this city an introduction to your teachings through *kīrtana, prasādam,* basic lectures on Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and, of course, your books. We also hold weekly Sunday Feast programs and major temple festivals, where we invite all for *kīrtana,* a lecture, and sumptuous *prasādam,* giving old-timers and newcomers alike a taste of Kṛṣṇa's mercy.

All of this activity is blissful, but to the extent that we have not yet fully surrendered, we are still struggling in the material world. As we contend with circumstances and with our own minds, we can derive great inspiration by remembering how you yourself sacrificed so much to give us a chance to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You left your beloved Vṛndāvana and came to the benighted USA just to give us this once-in-many-lifetimes chance to "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy."

We can barely comprehend our good fortune. We can never repay our debt to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and yet you want us to try by giving up all our bad habits so that we can fully experience the joy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and give others a chance to experience it too. So we willingly accept difficulties in the service of you and Kṛṣṇa, and there is so much sweetness to our efforts. We ever find encouragement by remembering your sacrifices and your promise that if we follow your instructions we will "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy."

Praying daily for your mercy so that we may continue on the blessed path you showed us.

Your servants at New Govardhana Dhāma
(written by Jalatalā Devī Dāsī)

Sandton, South Africa

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Kindly accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, the fearless general of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* army.

On this sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we gather as your children, holding your instructions close to our hearts. You gave us Kṛṣṇa. You gave us meaning. And in return, we want to give you our lives.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you once stood alone in New York, armed only with the holy name and unshakable faith in your spiritual master. From that place of surrender, you built a global movement. Today, from the southern tip of Africa, in the city of Sandton, we try to carry your mission forward.

This year marked our fourth Ratha-yātrā, and it was glorious. With the theme "Culturally Many, Spiritually One," Lord Jagannātha's chariot rolled through the heart of Johannesburg – a city marked by diversity, struggle, and searching. People from every background danced together, sang together, and honored *prasādam* together. That day, the boundaries of race, language, and nationality dissolved in the ocean of your mercy.

Preaching breathes life into our community. We've seen it firsthand. When we go out, distribute your books, share *kīrtana,* speak the *Gītā,* and offer *prasādam* – something lights up in the hearts of devotees. We remember who we are. We remember why we're here. Without preaching, we wither. With it, we grow bold, joyful, and united.

You taught us that spiritual life is not meant to be hidden. We are your *saṅkīrtana* movement. We are meant to sing in the streets, speak in the universities, stand in the fire – and bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every corner of society.

This past year, we continued our outreach to universities through our Bhakti Yoga Society. We distributed books, hosted Sunday programs, celebrated major festivals, and did our best to care for each other. And still, we know we are just scratching the surface of what's possible.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your pleasure, we aspire to:

- Establish a permanent home – where the holy name resounds day and night.
- Expand our outreach across Johannesburg to awaken more hearts.
- Grow Ratha-yātrā into a nationally recognized celebration of spiritual unity.
- Foster a strong devotee community, where cooperation, care, and service thrive.

We fall short in many ways, but one thing is certain: we are yours. And we will not give up.

You reminded us that real gratitude is shown through action. So let our offering be our effort – imperfect, but sincere. Let it be our commitment to preach, to serve, to grow, and to follow in your footsteps.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything. Please bless us to remain faithful instruments of your will.

Your servants at the feet of Your Divine Grace,
The devotees of ISKCON Sandton
(written by Vibhu Caitanya Dāsa)

Sandy Ridge, North Carolina, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, many of us here at Prabhupāda Village in North Carolina are now older than you were when you first courageously crossed the ocean on a cargo ship and endured immeasurable hardships to bring Kṛṣṇa consciousness to us drowning souls of Kali-yuga. Yet although we are older, we still have done so little in comparison to Your Divine Grace. We are now more embarrassed than ever at how little we have accomplished to further your mission. Some of us still struggle to maintain the vows we made to you when you initiated us, yet you have been supremely patient, as patient as Mother Earth. You have been unconditionally loving, as loving

as a Bengali mother, as loyal, watchful and protective as the Supersoul in our hearts. Kindly continue to be patient with us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please don't give up on us.

There are also some bright jewels among us here at Prabhupāda Village who are younger than we are, Śrīla Prabhupāda. They have joined your mission and are enthusiastic to please Your Divine Grace in every way. They are taxing their brains about how to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to other souls, and we are grateful to have their enlivening association. Some of them are farmers and gardeners, some of them are businessmen and women, some of them are book distributors and preachers, some of them are *pūjārīs* and cooks, some of them are *kīrtanīyas*. Some of them are all of the above! Kindly bless them with determination to carry on this movement after we are gone, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your spiritual grandchildren need your guidance, inspiration, and unconditional love, just as we seniors, your spiritual children, do. Please help them to understand that you are always here, guiding and supporting them in their efforts to serve and glorify and please Your Divine Grace and Śrī Śrī Parama Karuṇa Nitāi-Gaurasundara.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for saving all of us, young and old, from the dangerous pitfalls of Kali-yuga. You gave us more than eighty books and hundreds of lectures to keep us enthused. You gave us the four regulative principles and the instruction to chant at least sixteen rounds of the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra daily on our beads. Help us follow your instructions, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Help us to please Your Divine Grace and make this village of yours a true legacy in your honor for generations to come. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to Śrī Śrī Parama Karuṇa Nitāi-Gaurasundara!

Your servants at Prabhupāda Village

Śaraṇāgati Farm, Ashcroft, BC, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

"It is not possible to actually understand the debt of gratitude we owe you, but with each new supposed calamity, we have the opportunity to understand a little better that this material world is not our home."

This was the opening line of one of your granddisciples' offerings to you last year, as you may remember. She had just lost her home and all her family's belongings in a dreadful forest fire that consumed much of our Vaiṣṇava community.

She went on to say, "With what you have given us, we can see Kṛṣṇa's blessings in devastation, we can accept our karma, we can feel wrapped up in Kṛṣṇa's lotus hands, see His expertise in fulfilling all our desires, and can accept that we are, beyond a shadow of a doubt, *not in control*. There is such relief in accepting this and accepting our position of *dāsānudāsānudāsa*."

Later that day, I asked a friend of hers, who was visiting from another place, if she and her

husband still wanted to relocate to our community after seeing all the damage done by the recent forest fire. Much of our 1,800-acre property looked ghostly, charred, and depressing. She replied that if by living at Śaraṇāgati she could make the spiritual advancement that her godsister had just experienced after losing everything, "I want to move here more than ever!"

And there is more! The local government agencies employed some citizens to come to our community to offer both emotional support and helping hands. Before they came, they were given a two-week training on how to deal with those whose lives and property have gone through devastating calamity. Often, victims of calamities can be harsh and full of blame. The lady sent to help my friend reported that she was so moved by her gratitude and attitude that it changed her own life forever!

This is the power of your teachings, the association of your followers, and the effects of chanting the holy name. Such gifts you have given us, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

This material world is no place for an honorable person, as you have stated. I long to become more absorbed in meditation on the pastimes of Kṛṣṇa in His holy *dhāma* and to follow in the footsteps of His eternal associates as described in our Vaiṣṇava literature. I pray for your blessings, pray to offer *sevā* to your followers, and pray to live my life in such a way that you will notice me and take me to wherever you are so that I may serve you life after life.

Your eternal servant,
Uttama Devī Dāsī
on behalf of the devotees of Śaraṇāgati Dhāma

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

My dear Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On behalf of the Saskatoon *yātrā,* I offer this humble offering with a heart overflowing with gratitude. We are deeply indebted to you for your boundless compassion in delivering the pure teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to this part of the world.

If you had not established ISKCON, if your divine voice had not echoed across the globe, how different our lives and the world would be! Without your guidance, we would likely remain trapped in the cycle of material existence, chasing fleeting pleasures and caught in the grip of illusion. Instead, through your teachings, we found a path to true happiness, a connection to the Supreme Lord, and a community of loving devotees.

Since embracing your guidance, we have witnessed profound transformations within ourselves and our community. The purifying power of chanting the holy names has uplifted our hearts, devotional service has deepened our connection to Kṛṣṇa, and sharing *prasādam* has brought us immense joy. Your emphasis on congregational chanting and *saṅkīrtana* has become a cornerstone of our practice, inspiring us to cultivate compassion, humility, and a lifelong pursuit of spiritual wisdom. We have seen how your teachings can transform lives, bringing peace, purpose, and a sense of belonging.

In Saskatoon, we strive to follow your instructions, chanting the holy names, distributing your books, and engaging in congregational chanting and *prasādam* distribution. We are a small but

dedicated group, trying our best to cultivate a community of devotees inspired by your example of unwavering faith and dedication. We recognize that any positive spiritual advancement we make is solely due to your mercy.

(yadi) prabhupāda nā haita tabe ki haita
(e) jivana bahita kise?

We acknowledge our shortcomings and humbly pray for your guidance and blessings. Please empower us to continue spreading your message in Saskatoon, serve the Vaiṣṇavas with heart and sincerity, and always remember your teachings. We pray that we may always be instruments in your hands, dedicated to fulfilling your mission. We beg you to kindly accept our sincere prayers and allow us to remain forever at your lotus feet.

Your aspiring servants from the Saskatoon *yātrā*
(Written by Rajann Rana)

Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your divine appearance day.

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.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are fortunate and blessed as we write down your glories as our annual Vyāsa-pūjā offering. Though we do not have any qualifications, we beg that your mercy enlighten us on how to complete this service. We humbly seek your blessings and mercy as we strive to express our heartfelt devotion through our words. May our offering reflect the depth of our gratitude and the desire to serve your mission with sincerity and love. Your glories are unlimited; may we continue to glorify Your Divine Grace eternally.

Over the past year, ISKCON Scarborough has flourished in various ways. We have a new *saṅkīrtana* team that distributes books, spreading the movement far and wide. The new temple council is efficient and believes in cooperation. We have been putting effort into securing a new location for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopīvallabha. This great effort is backed by our fundraising team, which is working relentlessly to gather the required amount for the down payment and more. Please bless us so we can expand the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya through the new location. We organized a grand Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā followed by an extensive celebration of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī. Various congregational members have upskilled to perform their services.

The children of the Murari Bhakti School are being nurtured in both devotional arts and

academics, including the recitation of *ślokas* and the study of sacred scriptures from your books. They actively participate in major festivals and Sunday feast programs, showcasing their talents through singing, *bhajanas, śloka* recitations, and dramatic performances. Their contributions play a vital role in keeping our traditions vibrant and alive.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us everything we need: the holy name, the Deities, books, temples, and the list goes on. Without you, we would have been sleeping in the lap of *māyā*. We express our heartfelt gratitude to you for giving us this wonderful association of devotees. Thank you for accepting us to serve you and Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Your servants at ISKCON Scarborough

Schenectady, New York, USA

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, we, the devotees and well-wishers of ISKCON Schenectady, New York, wish to express our utmost gratitude and indebtedness to Your Divine Grace for so compassionately and mercifully giving us the highest, indisputable, and surest process and way to develop unconditional love and devotion to the original Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. We cannot ask for more, nor is there any other better way for us to be delivered from this material world. It is now up to us to use our free will and independence appropriately and wisely and follow your pure, uncompromising instructions through your purports of the many Vedic scriptures, your lectures, and your many conversations and direct instructions to your many disciples. You left us an abundance of spiritual treasure, an organization in ISKCON, and a system and structure that can take us to the end of our lives and through many generations to come – indeed, for the next approximately ten thousand years – to take advantage of and perfect our human lives.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, we, your granddisciples and aspiring granddisciples, seek your kind reciprocation in our neophyte mentality as we sincerely endeavor to serve your mission and please you in our meager, insignificant disposition. Bless us all with the power and ability to overcome all obstacles and to evolve as humble and capable servants of your many astute and surrendered servants. Bless us all to remain in the mainstream of your incorporated ISKCON and to individually and collectively preserve your sacred teachings and mission.

Here at ISKCON Schenectady we are a small group of "trying to become devotees" with the desire to follow your teachings and present them to as many persons as possible within the city of Schenectady. As a preaching center, we conduct a weekly Sunday program as well as programs for all the major Vaiṣṇava auspicious festival days. We also execute outreach programs, and in the summer season, engage in *harināma* and Food-for-Life. As much as possible we try to distribute your books. There is so much more we wish to do, but we have constraints in terms of competent human resources. We will report to you and your designated representatives of our progress, and through your causeless mercy and compassion we pray there will be fewer setbacks.

We bow to thee, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our greatest savior.
Giving us all the transcendental teachings of the original Creator.
So many souls of all races and frivolous background brought us together.

It's only through your purity – uncompromising and exemplary behavior.
Your books and dedicated, surrendered representatives provide a flavor
That matches your resplendent attributes and a legacy that will hold forever.
You command all respect from civilized human beings in this modern era.
This is only a tiny aspect of your unfathomable glories, yes, our sincere prayer.

There is so much more to express relative to our activities and, most importantly, to acknowledge your glories. What you have done in your lifetime to save and deliver us from this miserable material world is certainly monumental and cannot be repaid, but for now we want to again emphasize how grateful for and dependent on your benevolence we are. It's what makes us worthy to serve in your mission.

Your granddisciples and aspiring granddisciples at ISKCON Schenectady

Seattle, Washington, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

O *jagad-guru* Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to begin our offering with gratitude. Because of the great sacrifice you made for us, we have become eligible to receive bhakti, which is so rarely attained. We are eternally indebted to you for this.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you visited Seattle, Washington, for the first time on September 21, 1968, and blessed the northwest part of America. The very next day, after staying in the city, having brief interactions during your morning walk, and meeting the devotees and residents, you wrote a prediction about the Seattle *yātrā:* "This Seattle city is understood to be very big in area, and appears to be very peaceful also, because the population is less, and they are little responsive also. I think gradually this center will also grow very nicely." (Letter to Kīrtanānanda Dāsa, September 22, 1968)

Your Divine Grace, as you blessed the Seattle *yātrā* to grow very nicely, our 2024 homage comprehensively described how we grew from a small center with a few devotees to a large congregation with two temples, multiple farms for cow protection, profuse *prasādam* distribution (within the temples as well as through two food trucks), the organization of large outdoor festivals, and at-scale preaching among various communities in the greater Seattle area.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, during your thirty-two-day visit to Seattle, in that fall of 1968, you introduced the Gaura-ārati song for the first time in our ISKCON movement, to be sung during the evening *ārati* ceremony (*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* vol. 2).

The success of the Seattle *yātrā* would not have been possible without your auspicious mercy, bestowed upon your dedicated disciples and followers, who worked very hard to expand the movement and were the recipients of your causeless mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: An Ocean of Mercy, and the Embodiment of Transcendental Love and Compassion

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu has been described as an ocean of mercy (*Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 10.119). Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the *senāpati-bhakta* in the army of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You inherited the mercy of Lord Caitanya in our *guru-paramparā* and came to deliver the fallen, conditioned souls of Kali-yuga. On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer this humble homage, reflecting on the unfathomable ocean of your mercy that continues to inundate this world even in your physical absence. Though we are separated from your *vapuḥ,* your divine mercy remains powerfully with us through your *vāṇī* – your lectures and teachings (which attract), your *harināma japa* and *kīrtana* (which sustain), your books (which advance), and the institution you so lovingly established (which grants attainment). Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have been an ocean of unlimited compassion and causeless mercy, and in this year's homage, we seek your permission to glorify you as the most magnanimous Vaiṣṇava *ācārya* who has distributed his causeless mercy to the fallen, conditioned souls.

Your vāṇī attracts the conditioned souls to bhakti

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your boundless mercy manifests powerfully through the medium of *hari-kathā,* transcendental discourses on Lord Kṛṣṇa and His incarnations and devotees. Even without your direct physical presence your classes possess an extraordinary potency to attract the *jīvas* of Kali-yuga to the path of bhakti. The pure and potent presentation of Vedic knowledge, emanating from your unalloyed devotion, effortlessly pierces the layers of materialistic conditioning and cuts the illusion arising from false bodily identification.

In this present Kali-yuga, an age of quarrel and hypocrisy, where minds are disturbed and spiritual understanding is obscured, the systematic and clear exposition of the scriptures in your classes, echoing the spotless philosophy taught by Lord Caitanya, has an inherent ability to diminish the deeply ingrained materialistic desires that bind us to this temporary world. Through hearing your authentic *hari-kathā,* the seed of bhakti – the eternal longing of the soul for its loving relationship with Kṛṣṇa – is gently yet firmly sprouted within the heart, as stated in *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 22.107:

nitya-siddha kṛṣṇa-prema 'sādhya' kabhu naya
śravaṇādi-śuddha-citte karaye udaya

> Pure love for Kṛṣṇa is eternally established in the hearts of living entities. It is not something to be gained from another source. When the heart is purified by hearing and chanting, the living entity naturally awakens.

Even those who were once engrossed in animalistic propensities find themselves drawn toward a higher purpose. The spiritual nourishment derived from your teachings solaces ordinary souls and reforms their hearts. By your sheer potency and profound teachings, the seed of bhakti, the very essence of our eternal nature, begins to sprout within us, as confirmed in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.7.1–2.

Your gift of harināma is sustaining the devotees in bhakti

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your unparalleled mercy also resounds vibrantly through the chanting of *harināma japa* and *kīrtana,* the individual and congregational chanting of the holy names of the Lord. You gave us the invaluable treasure of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. You are truly the global ambassador of the holy name, traveling tirelessly and preaching the glories of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* until your very last breath. This most merciful form of the Lord is readily accessible to all, and its constant chanting, as you so diligently taught us, invokes and brings forth an atmosphere of profound auspiciousness, as stated in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 6.3.31:

tasmāt saṅkīrtanaṁ viṣṇor
jagan-maṅgalam aṁhasām
mahatām api kauravya
viddhy aikāntika-niṣkṛtam

> Śukadeva Gosvāmī continued: My dear king, the chanting of the holy name of the Lord is able to uproot even the reactions of the greatest sins. Therefore, the chanting of the *saṅkīrtana* movement is the most auspicious activity in the entire universe. Please try to understand this so that others will take it seriously.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you began the movement by personally chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa – the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* – often alone in places like Tompkins Square Park, which gradually attracted young people, who were purified by hearing your chanting. Your presence in the temples can be clearly experienced when your *kīrtanas* and *bhajanas* are played on the altars.

You have so carefully nurtured within our movement the daily practice of chanting *japa* and participating in *kīrtana,* which has become the very lifeblood sustaining devotees on their spiritual journey. Endowed with the compassion and mercy of Lord Caitanya, you appeared in this world to spread this life-giving message to every town and village. The congregational chanting of the Lord's holy names, propagated so widely by you, is the *yuga-dharma* established by Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

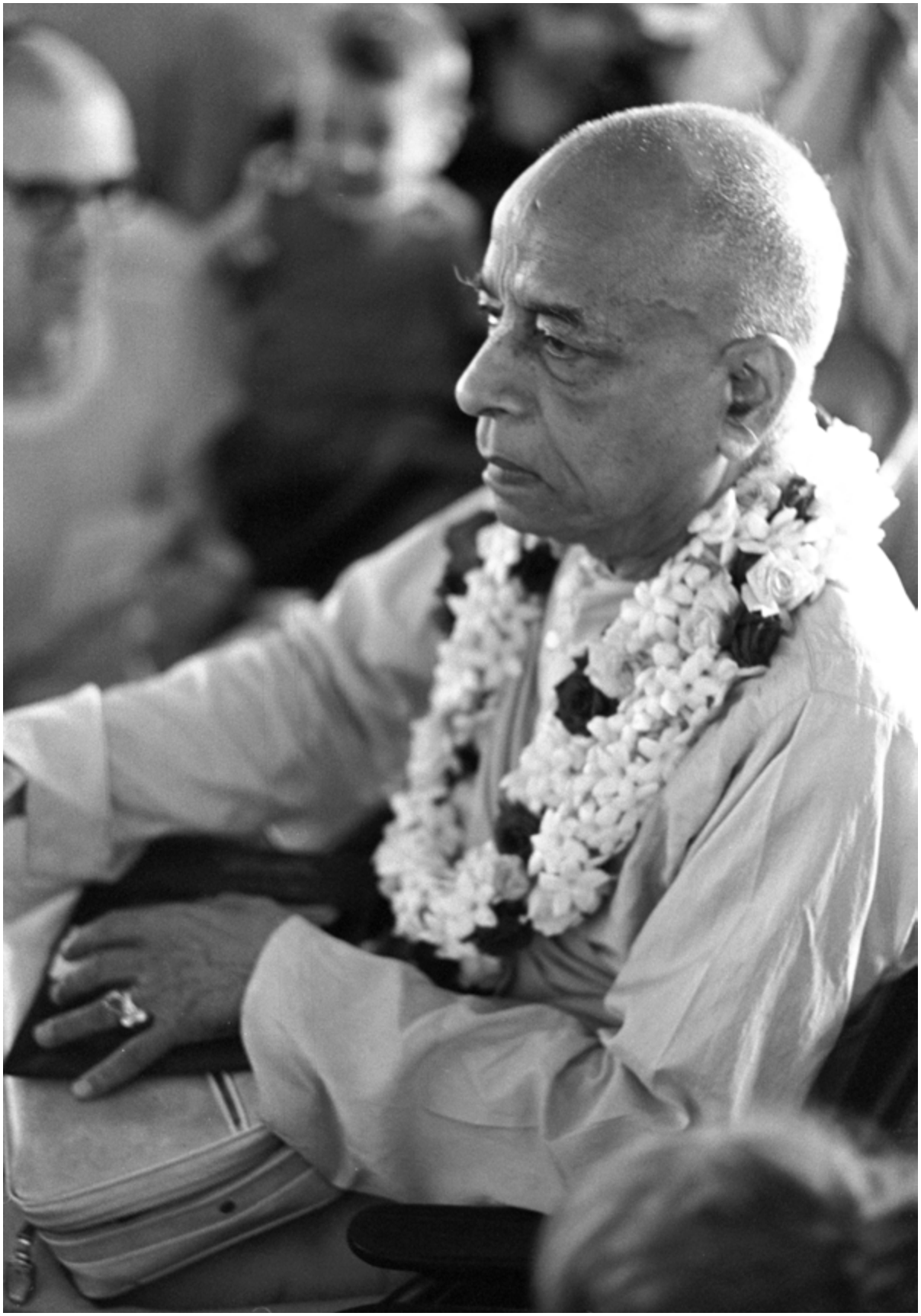
In a letter to your disciple Dvārakeśa Dāsa, dated September 29, 1976, you wrote: "Yes, kirtana and prasadam will appeal to even the uneducated. We have means to preach to both the educated and uneducated, the sinful and the pious – *dhiradhira-jana-priyau*."

The nectarean *prasādam,* the remnants of food offered to Lord Kṛṣṇa, distributed alongside the *saṅkīrtana,* day by day conquers new hearts and awakens new and renewed hopes for unlimited happiness. By your divine grace, in Seattle, every week as part of *saṅkīrtana,* we profusely distribute *prasādam* to those who might be hearing the holy names on the street for the very first time in the human form.

It is only by your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that the resounding vibrations of *hari-nāma japa* and *saṅkīrtana* invoke auspiciousness and sustain our devotional lives.

Your books advance us in Kṛṣṇa consciousness

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your deep and profound mercy is enduringly inscribed in the pages of your transcendental books, which serve as inexhaustible sources of enlightenment and advancement in devotional life. You are the embodiment of all Vedic literature, presenting the profound truths of the scriptures in a way that even the most bewildered and misguided souls can comprehend. Your Bhaktivedanta purports are not mere intellectual explanations; they are infused with your realization and deep devotion, opening our eyes to the essence of the spotless philosophy taught by Lord Caitanya. Without your merciful purports, there is no hope of our gaining any



understanding of the śāstra and advancing in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You have systematically presented the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness through over eighty books, filled with your insightful commentaries on the *Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.

At a very advanced age, you sacrificed your sleep to dedicate ample time to writing books and purports. Sleeping only a few hours, you worked on translating *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* for several hours while the world slept. This dedication, even in your advanced age, demonstrates your profound compassion and determination to share Vedic wisdom. You accomplished the translation and commentary of the seventeen volumes of *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* in a remarkably short period of eighteen months, demonstrating the utmost urgency you felt to present this essential work on Lord Caitanya's life and teachings to the world.

Your books are so potent that even after your departure, devotees approach your *mūrti* with questions and receive answers on the very same day from your authorized books or in the spontaneous words of other devotees – a clear manifestation of your unlimited, loving mercy. By diligently studying your books, devotees gain a clear and comprehensive understanding of the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, learning about Lord Kṛṣṇa, our relationship with Him, and the process of devotional service. Your books represent your greatest works, your gift to humanity – especially to our society – and the solid foundation for the continued worldwide propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness for the next ten thousand years. Unless one reads your books, one will not fully understand your greatness. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your unparalleled mercy enlightens and absorbs the devotees in our society with a clear scriptural understanding and advances them in their bhakti practices.

In Seattle, your dear disciple, His Grace Harivilāsa Prabhu, is always absorbed in reading your books and enlightening the whole congregation with morning and evening discourses on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā,* based on your purports to the verses.

Attaining love of Godhead is made possible within the established institution (ISKCON)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your supreme act of compassion is your establishment of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), a spiritual institution that makes attaining the seemingly impossible – pure love of Godhead – a tangible reality. The opportunity to engage in selfless devotional service at ISKCON temples and centers allows us to practically apply the teachings found in your books. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your ISKCON temples are specifically structured to facilitate practicing the nine limbs of devotion (*nava-vidhā bhakti*), which are the primary means for devotees to cultivate love of Godhead. With your guidance, the entire environment of an ISKCON temple is designed to facilitate remembrance (*smaraṇa*) of Lord Kṛṣṇa. The presence of the Deities constantly reminds devotees of the Lord's beautiful forms and pastimes. Seeing the Deities, participating in Their worship, and hearing about Their significance encourage continuous remembrance. Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you established 108 temples in a short period and set a high standard for Deity worship (*arcana*), you gave us specific instructions on how the Deities should be cared for, including bathing, dressing, decorating Them, and offering opulent worship while maintaining high standards of cleanliness. Śrīla Prabhupāda, the institution that you established serves as a transcendental boat by which we can cross the ocean of material existence. By taking shelter of ISKCON as your extended body and sincerely following your instructions and representatives, practicing devotees receive the necessary empowerment and blessings to overcome obstacles and make progress toward attaining *kṛṣṇa-prema,* pure love of Kṛṣṇa.

Here in Seattle, most of the congregation members are *gṛhasthas,* as in other ISKCON congregations, but the most distinguishing aspect of Seattle is that the temples and farms are in the midst of communities where most devotees live. So the temple activities and services form an integral part of the congregation members' engagements. In a letter to Harivilāsa Dāsa dated September 21, 1970, you wrote: "Everyone should be kept fully engaged one hundred percent of

the time in Krishna's service without a vacant moment so that Maya will never have a chance to act." By your divine instructions, most of the devotees here in ISKCON Seattle are fully engaged in various services to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Nīlamādhava according to each devotee's capacity.

A prayer for your mercy

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came at a time when the whole world was being devoured by atheistic science and the false propaganda of material happiness. You took great risks, faced countless difficulties, overcame all kinds of obstacles, and embarked on an unprecedented odyssey carrying your infinite mercy and love. You made hippies into happies, transforming countless lives and giving them a taste of real joy. At the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple, you earnestly prayed for the mercy of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī and cried for the previous *ācāryas'* mercy to descend on all the fallen souls of this world. Your prayers and tears clear all obstacles from our path to bhakti. Your glories are unlimited; all we can do is taste a drop of the nectar from that ocean of transcendental qualities.

On this auspicious day, our only prayer to you, my dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that you please shower your unlimited mercy on us so that we can remain steady and strong on the path of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* until we reach the topmost goal of pure *kṛṣṇa-prema.* Please continue to bless us to make more and more devotees, to distribute your divine books more and more, to do more and more *prasādam* distribution, to conduct all the Vaiṣṇava festivals with great pomp, joy, and devotion, and to spread the glories of the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa to countless people. O Śrīla Prabhupāda, ocean of mercy, we beg you for your blessings and grace.

Though separated by time, your loving presence and transcendental mercy continue to illuminate our lives through *hari-kathā, harināma,* your books, and the institution of ISKCON. Grant us the strength and wisdom to continue serving at your lotus feet, ever grateful for the opportunity to be part of your divine mission.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your compassionate and merciful nature!

Your eternal servants,
Vraja Ramaṇa Dāsa (secretary to the board)
on behalf of the devotees of ISKCON Seattle

Serbia

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to you!

On your Vyāsa-pūjā, we would like to follow the principle: glorify first, then report. So before sharing news from your Serbian *yātrā,* please accept this poem, offered in gratitude.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, our teacher divine,
Our spiritual guide and savior sublime.
Without you, lost we all would be,
Just fragments in dark Kali's sea.

In the material world reigned the gloom of ignorance,
Yet you unveiled the light of knowledge hence,
Kṛṣṇa's grace and hope in our strife,
You showed us the path to bliss and eternal life.

Across the vast and deepest sea you sailed,
The ancient wisdom of the *Vedas* unveiled.
Your heart burned for people in every land,
Your devotion illumined hearts by your stand.

You showed the pathway leading us to God,
Gave meaning to this life we have trod,
Revealed bhakti's road of pure devotion,
Without which we'd wander without direction.

In shadows we groped, on a path unclear,
We spoke of life's cycles, but prayer held no cheer.
One truth would remain forever concealed,
"You belong to Acyuta-gotra" – you revealed.

How can we thank you for the path you showed,
Where Kṛṣṇa's wisdom, sweet devotion flowed?
Indebted deeply by the mercy showed;
How can we clear what even Kṛṣṇa can't unload?

Spiritual debt can never be fully repaid,
All we can do is be grateful, unafraid.
To serve the devotees and in their company stay,
You are our hero, Prabhupāda, we pray.

For everything you've done, our thanks we give,
Help us, dear master, faithfully to live.
At this festival to you we humbly pray,
That devotion to you may grow each day.

"In the spiritual world, we all shall meet,"
You told us this, astounding and so sweet.
"Have faith you are mine," your words so true,
We pray to be yours in all that we do.

O Prabhupāda, devotion beyond measure,
Your faithful love for Kṛṣṇa, timeless treasure.
Within your books, we found illumination,
A gift for devotees and every nation.

Thank you for mercy that never did cease,
Books, temples, and grace bringing inner peace.
May all devotees praise you for all time,
Please wake within our hearts devotion sublime.

And now, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, here is the report of how the devotees in Serbia are striving to carry on your divine mission:

The devotees of the Serbian *yātrā* would first like to thank you for coming to the West to save us, to give us the most precious and highest knowledge, to tell us who we are, to whom we belong, and what our main duty in life is. You came to give us your guidance, mercy, a wonderful life, and even direct support through your loving sons and daughters, your surrendered disciples.

When our *yātrā* was first established, you showered so many blessings upon us that Kṛṣṇa consciousness flourished in our country. We experienced what the mercy of a spiritual master, a spiritual guide, means. Later, because we were immature, we made many mistakes, the greatest of which was the one neither you nor Lord Kṛṣṇa can tolerate: we became proud and committed many offenses to the precious devotees who took shelter of your lotus feet and had begun their Kṛṣṇa conscious journey. We didn't know then how precious each devotee is, and we didn't appreciate devotees as we should, with a humble heart.

Then we obtained a greater mercy from our Lord. Many devotees fell down, our *yātrā* fell apart, our temple was literally half-burned down, and a long period came when we didn't have any spiritual programs or any association with devotees. But you and our Lord didn't abandon us. Everyone continued to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness as much as one can in one's own home, and also maintained association with a few devotees and yourself, as you have been our greatest shelter at all times.

Slowly we attained many realizations, the biggest of which is how difficult life without devotees is. We started to gather in the houses of kind devotees and share *kṛṣṇa-kathā,* ecstatic *bhajanas,* and *prasādam*. More and more devotees joined, and now we know how precious and important devotees are in our lives. We started to cooperate and organize festivals and regular gatherings. In one town, we hold regular *harināmas*. Every year we have summer camps with some of your dear disciples. Some devotees distribute books online, and *prasādam* distribution is going on regularly. We do it all, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your satisfaction. There is no pressure, and everyone contributes as much as they can from the heart. Of course, our hearts have to be purified more and more to be able to advance, and the best place for purification is among the devotees who understand what is going on and, therefore, can help us.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are the independent and unsubmissive type of devotees, and it is difficult for us to accept authority, especially after the disappointment we had in the beginning, but we know that you love us as we are and that we love you too, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, as much as we can in our present state of consciousness. We beg you to please continue to shower us with the special mercy you have for such fallen devotees as us. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to contribute, by your mercy and through our services, what we can to make sure that your glories are proclaimed to every soul in Serbia, and we would like to be your servants eternally. Please unite us more by engaging us all in your mission.

With love,
the devotees of the Serbian *yātrā*

P.S. Thank you once again for bestowing the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu upon us, which, according to your words, follows the mood of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. Religious remuneration is devotion to the *ācārya* with the purpose of acquiring spiritual instruction. The ultimate message of your commentaries is to lead us to accept this singing and chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, which is the meaning and goal of this movement. *Jaya* Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Seshadripuram, Bangalore, India

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful and sincere obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

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

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

On the most auspicious 129th Vyāsa-pūjā of Your Divine Grace, we would like to offer our prayers at your lotus feet. Kindly accept them.

By your causeless mercy and the blessings of your sincere disciples, we have been serving Lord Śrī Jagannātha at the Śrī Jagannātha Mandir, Seshadripuram, Bangalore, since 2000. For your pleasure, our ambitious project of building a new palace temple for Their Lordships is partially completed, and we are already serving the Lord in His new temple. We seek your blessing so that we can complete the remaining portion and install Their Lordships on Their finished altar, on the second floor. We are trying our best to follow your instructions on temple worship standards and schedules as best as we can.

We have also built a residential apartment adjacent to the temple for devotees. Due to this, many congregation devotees are able to stay in that apartment and serve the Lord from there. We have also made facilities for visiting *sannyāsīs* and other senior devotees to stay. In this way we are able to organize visits by your dedicated disciples and other senior devotees from all over the world, and they give us association and inspire our congregational devotees to deepen their Kṛṣṇa conscious practices.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as per the instructions of your spiritual son His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami, we are making all efforts to preach strongly all over Bangalore. To this end we have initiated a concept called Bhakti Sadan, where our congregational devotees conduct regular Kṛṣṇa conscious programs from a dedicated place in various locations around Bangalore. What started as a Sunday Feast program is now gradually developing into more focused preaching units, with many serving seven evenings a week. The attendance at these Bhakti Sadans ranges from 50–200 devotees. We now have close to thirty such Bhakti Sadans functioning around Bangalore. Our aim is to have one in every postal pincode in the area under our care in Bangalore. His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami envisioned Bangalore becoming the first completely spiritual city in India, and we seek your blessings to realize this vision by expanding this program and preaching to thousands of new devotees in the city.

We are also taking the distribution of your transcendental books around the city and surrounding areas very seriously. In the December 2024 book marathon we stood twenty-fourth overall in India and second in South India. We seek your blessings to excel at our distribution and flood Bangalore with your spiritual ecstasies in the form of your transcendental literature.

We pray at your lotus feet that you empower our congregation to excel in all spheres of devotional service and that we can serve your mission, make sincere progress, and go back home, back to Godhead and serve Your Divine Grace eternally.

Your servant,
Anukul Keshav Dāsa and the devotees and congregation of ISKCON Seshadripuram

Sikkim, India

Dearest *param-gurudeva* Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to your matchless contribution to the upliftment of fallen souls!

By the order and empowerment of His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami Mahārāja, we began ISKCON preaching activities in the state of Sikkim in October 2016. For the past eight years, by your causeless mercy, ISKCON Gangtok has been actively distributing the transcendental books of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT), with nearly 7,000 copies placed into the hands of sincere seekers.

Your divine movement has inspired the hearts of many in this sacred land. So far, about ten Sikkim devotees have accepted *dīkṣā* in the Gauḍīya *sampradāya,* dedicating their lives to serving the mission of Lord Caitanya. Additionally, nearly a hundred young individuals have become connected and are sincerely practicing Kṛṣṇa consciousness, finding solace and purpose in Your Divine Grace's teachings.

Your vision of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village is manifesting in Sikkim through regular book distribution, *harināma-saṅkīrtana,* and *prasādam* distribution. With great enthusiasm ISKCON devotees have reached all five districts of Sikkim, ensuring that the sublime message of Lord Kṛṣṇa is heard far and wide. The regular food distribution in Gangtok continues to serve and uplift the people, providing them with nourishment not only for the body but also for the soul.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly beg for your divine blessings upon this land and its people. Kindly shower your mercy so that Sikkim may one day become the first fully Kṛṣṇa conscious state. Please empower us to serve your mission with purity, determination, and devotion. Let every home become a temple and every heart be filled with Kṛṣṇa bhakti, as per your divine desire.

We remain forever indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for lighting the path of devotion in this world of darkness. May we always serve in a way that pleases you. Kindly bless us so we follow Your Divine Grace's instructions and principles and present your teachings as they are.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Gangtok

Silicon Valley, California, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, the representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, who fulfilled the divine mission of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu with unparalleled compassion, determination, and purity.

On this most sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of ISKCON of Silicon Valley, offer you our heartfelt homage and gratitude. By your mercy, we have been drawn into your *saṅkīrtana* movement – a movement not of compulsion or fear, but of love, voluntary service,

and deep inspiration. You have created something that kings and emperors only dream of. Monarchs build empires, but as Shakespeare wisely wrote, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." Power without peace is a torment. Wealth without wisdom is a burden. But Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us something far greater: a heartfelt life of service, perfectly placed devotion, and a spiritual family bonded not by ambition but by love for Kṛṣṇa. That is the kingdom the world is searching for.

In *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 1.169, the king of Bengal, as the imperial authority, witnesses Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's movement swelling with tens of thousands of followers and is struck with awe. In a rare moment of humility, the king mentions Mahāprabhu's superiority, observing that while monarchs command loyalty through fear or payment, Mahāprabhu, a barefoot monk, inspires total surrender without material incentive. People serve Him with no thought of remuneration – only love. The king says: "Such a person, who is followed by so many people without giving them charity must be a prophet. I can surely understand this fact."

This is the miracle of Lord Caitanya's movement: it is a movement sustained by voluntary devotion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you manifested this miracle in the modern age, an age of cynicism, where, especially in the West, people are wary of giving voluntary service to a master.

You set out on your mission armed only with the instruction of your spiritual master. From your pure intention to fulfill that instruction alone, a global movement arose – one in which devotees serve not out of obligation, but out of love and inspiration.

Here in Silicon Valley, we are surrounded by some of the world's most powerful and profitable corporations. People work long hours, devoting their lives to products and deadlines, often sacrificing their health, relationships, and peace of mind. Yet even the leaders of these organizations recognize a deeper truth: that beyond profit, people yearn for purpose. That is why, increasingly, corporations invite spiritual speakers and influencers to share messages about higher motivation – about service, compassion, and mindfulness. Even those steeped in the culture of achievement and material success understand that working solely for profit is drudgery and, ultimately, hollow. No matter how much a person earns, if their heart remains unfulfilled, there is no real happiness.

Abraham Maslow articulated this in what is commonly known as Maslow's hierarchy of needs. At the base are physical and emotional necessities – food, shelter, security. But once those are met, and even as a person works to attain these, they yearn for more. Humans have a higher need: a need for meaning, for contribution, for selfless service. The secret you not only taught but exemplified is that our thirst for wholeness and happiness can be fulfilled only by pure devotional service – the soul's true calling.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.8 you confirm this in your purport:

> The need of the spirit soul is that he wants to get out of the limited sphere of material bondage and fulfill his desire for complete freedom. He wants to get out of the covered walls of the greater universe. He wants to see the free light and the spirit. That complete freedom is achieved when he meets the complete spirit, the Personality of Godhead. There is a dormant affection for God within everyone; spiritual existence is manifested through the gross body and mind in the form of perverted affection for gross and subtle matter. Therefore, we must engage ourselves in occupational engagements that will evoke our divine consciousness.

Silicon Valley is full of wealth, yet we see that people still hanker for meaning. There is no shortage of innovation, but there is a scarcity of satisfaction. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have shown us the real wealth of life: the joy of cooperating together in devotional service to a pure devotee. You've

given us the ultimate formula for fulfillment – not tit-for-tat exchanges or transactional relationships, but the mood of selfless giving, free from ego and ambition.

You taught us that cooperation among devotees is not merely a strategy for organizational success – it is the very symptom of spiritual advancement. In a world torn by division, the ability of devotees to serve together in harmony is nothing short of miraculous. At ISKCON of Silicon Valley, we witness this miracle every day. Devotees come together not only to distribute your books, but to cook and serve *prasādam* with devotion; to dress and worship the Deities with care and attention; to clean the temple joyfully, as an offering to you; to chant the holy names together; to teach and nurture the children of our community in Kṛṣṇa consciousness; and to give newcomers a chance to catch hold of your mood and method of serving Kṛṣṇa. Each of these services is powerful on its own, but when we perform them without a sense of entitlement, or desire for recognition, but rather execute them in the mood of cooperation, for the sake of maintaining unity and purity of purpose in service to your mission, they become transcendental expressions of love. Obstacles dissolve. Spiritual joy increases. The power of *sādhu-saṅga* becomes tangible.

In a letter to *gurukula* teachers, you wrote:

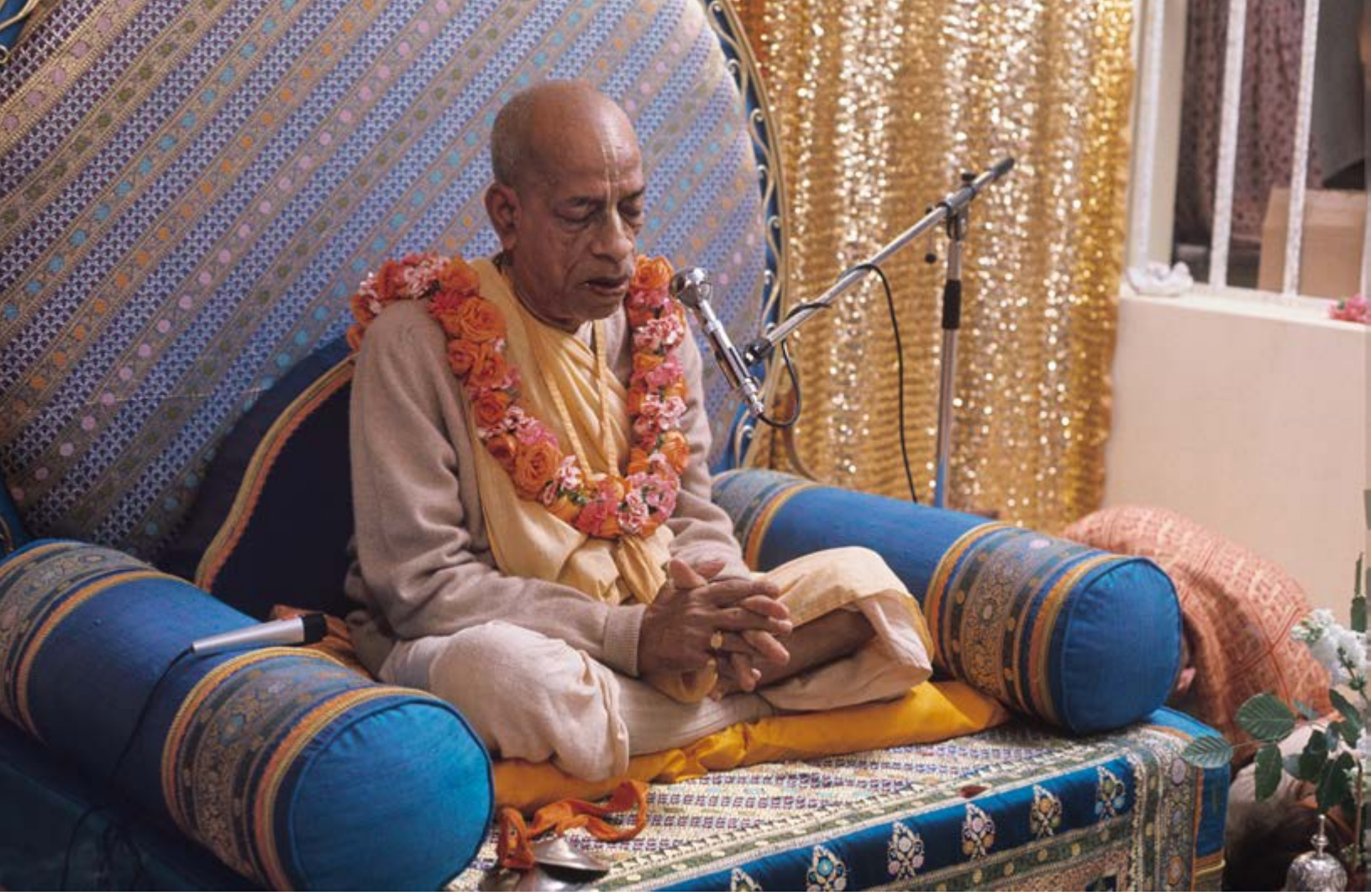
> We are persons and Krishna is a person, and our relationship with Krishna is always open as a voluntary agreement. That voluntary attitude – "Yes, Krishna, I shall gladly cooperate. Whatever You say." – that ready willingness to obey is only possible if there is love. Forcing will not make me agree. But if there is love, oh, I shall gladly do it. That is bhakti. That is Krishna consciousness.

A medicine tablet, which contains fillers, is effective only because it contains an active ingredient. The active ingredient of your movement is voluntary service, based on love, stimulated by loving exchanges in the process of hearing and chanting about Kṛṣṇa. In you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we find no filler. Even a small dose of your *vāṇī,* therefore, can cure the disease of material life. You have given us the most precious gift: the knowledge that real happiness comes not from consumption but from contribution, not from income but from surrender, not from being served but from serving.

That clarity of purpose – *śuddha-bhakti* – shines like a jewel amid the refuselike distractions and entanglements of this world. And it is this essence that unites and inspires our community at ISKCON of Silicon Valley to continue your mission with enthusiasm and conviction.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray to imbibe even a fraction of your selfless spirit. Please bless us with the humility to put service before recognition, to put unity before individual ambition, and to put your pleasure before our own comforts. Let ISKCON of Silicon Valley always remain a beacon of cooperation in your service, a family that mirrors the miracle you began.

On behalf of your grateful servants at ISKCON of Silicon Valley,
Your servant,
Vaiśeṣika Dāsa (temple president)



Solapur, Maharashtra, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

I consider myself highly unqualified to compose this offering on the auspicious 129th appearance day of Your Divine Grace, yet I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for the invaluable gift of the society you gave us.

On this most auspicious occasion, I offer my heartfelt gratitude and devotion unto you. You are the eternal representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, who has come to liberate the fallen souls from the endless cycle of birth and death. By your boundless compassion and unshakable faith in the

instructions of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, your divine mercy has illuminated the path of bhakti for countless lost souls, including myself.

As Lord Kṛṣṇa declares in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (2.41):

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.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your unwavering determination and unshakable faith have become the guiding light for thousands. You accepted all hardships to fulfill the order of your Guru Mahārāja, bringing the supreme gift of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* to the suffering *jīvas* of this age. By your mercy, we received the most precious treasure – the opportunity to serve the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

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 the 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. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.17)

Through your transcendental books, temples, and devotees, your presence remains ever vibrant. You have given us *kṛṣṇa-kathā,* which purifies our hearts and awakens within us the dormant love for Kṛṣṇa.

I am eternally indebted to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Without your mercy, I would be lost in the darkness of material existence. You gave me the greatest gift – the opportunity to serve Kṛṣṇa and be engaged in devotional service.

On this auspicious day, I beg you for one blessing:

janme janme prabhu sei patita pāvana
bhajite bhajite māṅ labo prema-dhana

> Lifetime after lifetime, may I always remain your servant, O savior of the fallen! By serving you and chanting the holy name, may I one day attain the treasure of pure love for Kṛṣṇa.

Please bless me so that I never deviate from your teachings. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your causeless mercy is the only hope for fallen souls like me. Your compassion reminds me of the words spoken in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā* 19.151: *guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja* – "By the mercy of the spiritual master and Kṛṣṇa, one receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service." Without your boundless compassion, I would be adrift in the vast ocean of s*aṁsāra,* trapped in the endless cycle of birth and death. You have bestowed upon me the most precious gift – the refuge of Kṛṣṇa's divine lotus feet.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have been able to serve in our small capacity.

On the auspicious day of Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, we organized a seven-day *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* discourse by His Grace Govinda Bhakta Prabhu. During the Lord's appearance day, over 150,000 pilgrims took darshan of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara, and we distributed more than 15,000 full plates of *prasādam* and over 50,000 packets of dry *prasādam*.

With your blessings, on Utthāna Ekādaśī (November 12, 2024), we celebrated the third *brahmotsava* of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara over a four-day festival (November 10–13). His Grace Gopati Prabhu, president of ISKCON Ravet, graced the occasion, and we distributed around 5,000 plates of *prasādam* to the assembled devotees.

In our endeavor to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness among the youth, we successfully organized the mega youth festival UTSAV, "A Festival of Joy and Happiness." With the inspiring presence of His Grace Devakīnandana Prabhu, we welcomed 3,500 students from fourteen or fifteen colleges, introducing them to the sublime path of bhakti. On this occasion, we distributed 500 transcendental books.

Furthermore, with your mercy, on Gītā Jayantī, we had the great fortune of distributing 26,543 copies of the *Bhagavad-gītā,* making Śrī Kṛṣṇa's divine message accessible to thousands.

Another milestone in our service was the establishment of a BACE (Bhakti Academy for Cultural Education) in Solapur, where six students now reside, strictly following the four regulative principles, chanting sixteen rounds daily, and attending the full morning program. Our focus for the upcoming year is to expand youth outreach and congregational preaching, bringing more souls into the fold of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's divine mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, without your guidance and the ISKCON society you established, we would remain lost in the miseries of material existence. Your divine movement not only imparts knowledge but profoundly transforms lives. Your selfless sacrifice has given us a spiritual family, a purpose, and the strength to transcend the illusory energy, *māyā*.

Your only desire was to satisfy Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and in reciprocation, He empowered you beyond imagination to spread His glories across the world. Generations to come will continue to seek refuge in your books, your teachings, and your example.

When people get to the point of understanding the need to reevaluate and formulate new goals, and they then become serious about searching for the truth, they will meet you, the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, and you will show them the way out of the material world by giving them true knowledge and real guidance.

As stated in the *Mukunda-mālā-stotra* (5):

nāhaṁ vande tava caraṇayor dvandvam advandva-hetoḥ
kumbhīpākaṁ gurum api hare nārakaṁ nāpanetum
ramyā-rāmā-mṛdu-tanu-latā-nandane nābhirantuṁ
bhāve bhāve hṛdaya-bhavane bhāvayethāṁ bhavantam

> O Lord Hari, I do not pray for liberation from the horrible hell known as Kumbhīpāka, nor do I seek the pleasures of the heavenly planets, nor do I desire to merge into the spiritual effulgence. My only prayer is that in birth after birth, You may manifest within my heart.

Your causeless mercy is my only hope. Without it, I have no shelter. With it, I have everything.

Your servant,
Krishnabhakta Dāsa

South Bengaluru, Karnataka, South India

Dear respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

In a lecture given in Los Angeles by Your Divine Grace on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.3.25, dated June 23, 1972, you mentioned, "You cannot pay by returning the value which is taught by the spiritual master. That is not possible. Therefore it is called *sevā*. Dedicate your life for his service. You cannot pay. What you have got to pay to a spiritual master?"

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.22.47 you write, "*Vinoda-pātram,* which means 'joker.' A joker's activities simply arouse laughter, and a person who tries to repay the spiritual master or teacher of the transcendental message of Kṛṣṇa becomes a laughingstock just like a joker because it is not possible to repay such a debt."

Hence in no way we can repay you for all the things you gave us. On this very auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees at the ISKCON Cultural Centre in South Bengaluru, would like to offer the results of our services at your divine lotus feet and seek your blessings so that we may continue assisting you:

- *Book distribution:* Between April 2024 and March 2025, devotees from our temple distributed the following numbers of books for your pleasure: 1,180 full sets of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam;* 11,500 *Bhagavad-gītās;* 50 sets of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta;* 760 copies of the *Kṛṣṇa* book; and our temple stood first in the Bhadra Pūrṇimā *Bhāgavatam* set distribution under the small temple category.
- *Formation of the Śrīla Prabhupāda Bhagavata Vidyalaya* (SPBV): To systematically study and teach your books, we formed an institute for śāstric study that will teach Bhakti-śāstrī, Bhakti-vaibhava, the ISKCON Disciple Course, and other courses. These will help devotees go deep into their understanding of the scripture. Currently two batches of Bhakti-śāstrī classes are going on.
- *Preaching – Bhakti Sadana:* We are focusing on reaching more souls to bring them to the lotus feet of Their Lordships by inspiring our congregation to start new home programs we are calling Bhakti Sadana. Around thirty devotees have come forward to offer their houses or lead these programs, and by next year we will be able to offer you good results. We seek your blessings for the success of this program. Currently, about 75 families live in the vicinity of the temple and take part in the temple activities.
- *Revival of our devotee care system:* Although we started a devotee care system in 2019, we wanted to restructure it and make it more active. Starting in January 2025, we began working on it. We currently have around twenty-two caregivers and assistant caregivers, who serve the devotees and facilitate them in their spiritual lives.
- *Construction:* We are a cultural center, so we hold cultural programs to attract the public to come to the temple and get connected. Therefore we are remodeling our previous temple hall, turning it into a mini auditorium. We have named it the Bhaktivedanta Mini Auditorium.
- *Kitchen development:* We are also trying to improve the quality of *prasādam* we serve the devotees as well as our cleanliness, so we are remodeling our devotee kitchen with newer equipment and a better infrastructure.
- *Festivals:* This year for the first time, we tried to invite more visitors to attend Gaura-Pūrṇimā.

Around 800 devotees and 700 visitors came and got the mercy of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

We are grateful for all that you have given us, and we pray at your lotus feet that we may never deviate from the way you wanted us to live and serve while assisting you in your service to your spiritual master.

Your servants,
The devotees at the ISKCON Cultural Centre in South Bengaluru

Southern Cone, South America

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances in the dust emanating from your lotus feet. All glories to you! All glories to your beloved guru, the lion among Vaiṣṇava *sannyāsīs*!

In this year, 2025 of the Christian era, I am trying to write a few words of gratitude for your incredible time on this planet.

Here, in the southern cone zone of the world, in the countries most distant from Vrindaban, your glories are sung and will undoubtedly continue to be sung. It is unthinkable that at your advanced age you could have done what you did. You gave to this sad and desolate world the most valuable gift that could have been given in its entire seemingly timeless existence: you gave humanity the maximum benefit, and you gave it for nothing. Our limited efforts to spread your message clearly show us that your service was not an ordinary preaching activity. No.

You stated in your books that for a preacher to be successful in Lord Caitanya's mission, he must be empowered by Him. On the other hand, you also state that a person empowered by Kṛṣṇa is technically known as a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra*.

The years go by and your persona and mission grow. You continue to demonstrate that you are not just another Vaiṣṇava saint. In the book *Kṛṣṇa-bhajanāmṛta,* by Narahari Sarkara, the position of a Vaiṣṇava with extraordinary qualities like yours is revealed: "It is certainly true that all Vaiṣṇavas are on the same transcendental platform. However, among Vaiṣṇavas there may be a difference in the spiritual potency they possess." The author further states: "Although all the water of Mother Ganges is sacred, there are waves of different sizes in it." Furthermore, you yourself state in your *Caitany-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya* 11.103) purport: "Even though one may celebrate himself as a learned follower of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and even though one may attempt to preach the holy name of the Lord all over the world, if he is not favored by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu he will find fault with the pure devotee and will not be able to understand how a preacher is empowered by Lord Caitanya." And you've taught us that the Vaiṣṇava is devoted to the Supreme Personality

of Godhead, and therefore his words are charged with spiritual potency. Ultimately, the potency or spiritual strength of a Vaiṣṇava lies in his ability to convert others into Vaiṣṇavas through his words and example.

You are great, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You converted such degraded people into perfect ladies and gentlemen, and even today you continue to do so through your books, inconceivably, even though you are not physically present.

The words that express the science of devotional service in your books and instructions are the greatest legacy ever given to humanity. The world's masses are eager to have one true religion, and you simply expounded what that true religion is: that which teaches one to love God. Incredibly, each of the most secret and confidential aspects of the loving relationship of the self with the Superself has been presented in your books in such an accessible way that even a small child can understand it.

You are great, and your sacred person, who gives us association through your books, grows more and more important to us every day. Your books are no different from Kṛṣṇa, no different from you. They protect us from obstacles on the path back home. I always remember how in 1998, in Jagannatha Puri, we were visiting the Gambhira, and we heard some Vaiṣṇavas singing a mantra that we then started to sing alongside them: *śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda hare kṛṣṇa hare rāma śrī rādhe-govinda*. Upon entering our room, we resumed our reading of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. Suddenly and amazingly, you instructed us in one of your purports: "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." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 7.4, purport)

You are alive in your divine instructions, and we are fortunate because if we follow those instructions, we will always live with you.

I think the future of ISKCON sometimes looks a bit uncertain. Great changes have occurred in the way your followers live the Kṛṣṇa conscious life. In some countries, preaching is extremely successful, while in others, practitioners barely gather to glorify the holy names of the Lord. Some worldly ideologies have entered our society to a certain extent, and this is because we, your followers, sometimes forget to study your most important legacy in depth: your books.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this new anniversary, I offer you my intention to continue spreading the message of Śrī Caitanya and my intention to help Vaiṣṇavas live full and happy lives in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I am uncomfortable seeing how devotees sometimes live a life of sadness despite having this great gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I hope you take this promise to keep trying as a small demonstration of gratitude. I am convinced that when your message is widely distributed, the world will undergo a profound shift toward real life. There's no way it won't. Your words are more than true, and they will make a profound difference in the hearts of the world when this message penetrates their hearts.

You are truly great, and your love shines, illuminating, through your instructions, the unfortunate souls who find themselves in this world, where suffering is their natural condition due to ignorance. *Kalau naṣṭa-dṛśām eṣa purāṇārko 'dhunoditaḥ* – "Persons who have lost their vision due to the dense darkness of ignorance in the Age of Kali shall get light from this *Purāṇa*." You turn misfortune into auspiciousness by giving, from your heart, the light of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

You are great because pure love of God is not cheap; in fact, even the great so-called

spiritualists of this world are unaware of this message. Yet you have made it accessible to anyone for the price of just a drop of faith.

Your write in your introduction to the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta:* "Strictly speaking, anyone who accepts the existence of God is situated in devotional service. To acknowledge that God is great is something, but not much. Lord Caitanya, preaching as an *ācārya,* a great teacher, taught that we can enter into a relationship with God and actually become God's friend, parent or lover.… Through Lord Caitanya we can become friends with Kṛṣṇa, and there will be no limit to this friendship. We can become friends of Kṛṣṇa not in awe or adoration but in complete freedom.… Usually God is seen as the almighty father who supplies the demands of His sons. The great devotees, however, sometimes treat God as a son in their execution of devotional service. The son demands, and the father and mother supply, and in supplying Kṛṣṇa the devotee becomes like a father or mother. Instead of taking from God, we give to God. It was in this relationship that Kṛṣṇa's mother, Yaśodā, told the Lord, 'Here, eat this or You'll die. Eat nicely.' In this way Kṛṣṇa, although the proprietor of everything, depends on the mercy of His devotee. This is a uniquely high level of friendship, in which the devotee actually believes himself to be the father or mother of Kṛṣṇa."

All the souls in this world seek solace, and you gave them much more than that – you gave them a gift beyond compare. You are not just another saint. Sometimes we become used to living by your instructions and fail to appreciate how great you are. Just as Śrī Kṛṣṇa covers his associates with his *yogamāyā* potency so that they may live without the distance that reverential love entails, we sometimes cover ourselves and forget the majesty of your instructions. We ask your forgiveness, Śrīla Prabhupāda, but you know of our conditioning, which is the inability to understand that the greatest, incredible, and sublime mercy of Lord Caitanya is manifested through you and by your desire to the most degraded among humankind in this Kali-yuga.

You are great, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your determination to serve is inconceivable. Occasionally, we give up our service due to physical ailments. However, one of your beloved sons revealed to us that you once had a stroke, which paralyzed your left side. You kept this a secret and escaped from the hospital to continue your service despite your condition. You are great. You are our example. Our guide. Our inspiration.

My spiritual master explained to me that at the beginning of his spiritual life, when he first went to India, he thought he would meet many "Śrīla Prabhupādas." But he realized that you were unique, someone great, even there, in that land of saints. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a saint among saints.

You are great, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and you are our warmest and most beautiful refuge. Forgive us if we cannot see or appreciate this properly. This sometimes embarrasses us. Let us enter that beautiful home that Kṛṣṇa has provided for you in the spiritual world – the house into which all your children, grandchildren, and other descendants will enter. In the same way that children acquire their physical characteristics from their parents, and these traits identify them within the lineage as heirs, we who follow you acquire your transcendental spiritual traits. This qualifies us to belong to your transcendental spiritual family, in which we are protected and happy.

O Śrī Kṛṣṇa, may we never accept any master other than Śrīla Prabhupāda! There is no one more merciful than him. He gave us absolutely everything. What more could we ask for?

I know that you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, await us with open arms in that beautiful home in the spiritual world. I know that you anxiously await us, because your love is unconditional. I know that you joyfully await us, just as a father, even late at night, awaits his son so he can embrace him upon his return home after a long journey. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we prostrate before you thousands and millions of times because you are worthy to receive all these many obeisances.

Your servant grandson,
Baladeva Dāsa

South Trinidad

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

> Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace Śrīla A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken full 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.

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. On this most auspicious occasion of your divine appearance, we are given yet another opportunity to put into words our gratitude and to try to glorify you, the most magnanimous person we have ever known.

Lord Caitanya is described as *mahā-vadānyāya,* the "most munificent," but we know you are *mahā-mahā-vadānyāya* because you brought the process of bhakti out of Bhārata-varṣa all the way to us, the most fallen, in this Western part of the world. You freely distributed it to everyone without consideration of age, caste, or creed. You made numerous sacrifices at such an advanced age to do so, and there is no doubt that you were always carefully taken care of personally by Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself. Who else in this world would even make such an effort as you did? And how can we ever repay you? You gave hope and a sense of meaning to our hopeless, aimless lives.

You carefully tailored the practice of devotional service, making it easy for us, and you gave everything to make it practical and feasible. You provided absolutely everything possible and are training us, even today, like a father securely holding the hands of a young child and guiding that child with so much love and care to traverse the path out of this horrid material existence. You have given us real life. You are teaching the real meaning of this rare human birth and how to navigate the trials and tribulations of material life while simultaneously using this life as an offering to Kṛṣṇa. Lord Caitanya instructed Rūpa Gosvāmī and Sanātana Gosvāmī in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 1.211: "If a woman is attached to a man other than her husband, she will appear very busy in carrying out her household affairs, but within her heart she is always relishing feelings of association with her paramour." You are teaching us to make Kṛṣṇa the center of life, whatever our material circumstances and duties. We pray your blessings and eternal guidance make us develop, progress, and go deeper into our relationship with you, our dear guru, and Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

On this most auspicious day, nay, *every day,* we express a most heartfelt thank you for *everything:* your many books, detailed and practical instructions, meticulous temples, most beautiful Deities, amazing festivals, *prasādam, kīrtanas,* devotee association, and the dedicated disciples and granddisciples who continue to guide us. You have given us windows to the spiritual world! Thank you, our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Your insignificant servants at the Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gauracandra Mandir

Soweto, South Africa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This year marks the most important year for your Vyāsa-pūjā because it is fifty years since you visited this darkest part of this world, South Africa. Your coming to this wretched corner of the world was the greatest blessing of all. We are living in tough times, where there is no hope for peace, love, prosperity, happiness, or tranquility. Everything here is temporary and full of misery, and there is danger at every step. Śukadeva Gosvāmī, while speaking to Mahārāja Parīkṣit said:

kaler doṣa-nidhe rājann
asti hy eko mahān guṇaḥ
kīrtanād eva kṛṣṇasya
mukta-saṅgaḥ paraṁ vrajet

So true! This material world is like an ocean of faults, and there is no hope of reversing the situation, but you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are so kind and merciful to come to our rescue. Thank you very much, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Here in South Africa, we have done much for your pleasure, Śrīla Prabhupāda. But there is still a lot to be done, and we hope that by your mercy, more can be achieved. There are many stumbling blocks hindering the progress of Kṛṣṇa consciousness here, but we are hopeful that we will come out victorious in the end.

Please guide us all to pursue this process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness with care and attention and complete determination and detachment.

Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you have done for us. We are forever grateful to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We can't thank you enough, so we will submit to your lotus feet eternally.

Begging to remain your eternal servants of your servants,
Mahāprabhu Dāsa and the Soweto team

Srirangam and Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our most beloved, eternal spiritual master,

On this most sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the humble devotees of ISKCON Srirangam and Trichy, bow down at your divine lotus feet and offer our heartfelt gratitude, prayers, and homage. Words are too feeble to express the boundless debt we owe you, for you have rescued us from the darkness of ignorance and given us the supreme gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as we sit here in the holy land of Srirangam, our hearts are filled with deep appreciation for your mission. Srirangam is no ordinary place; it is a sacred land where Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the very embodiment of your teachings, chose to reside for four months.

This was His longest stay anywhere outside Navadvīpa and Jagannātha Purī. It was here that He showered His mercy upon the great Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī and transformed many hearts with His divine love. For Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas, Srirangam holds an unparalleled significance, and we feel blessed to serve here in whatever little way we can.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, though we are not aware whether Your Divine Grace physically visited Srirangam, we are convinced that your transcendental presence must have graced this land. How could you not have visited such a spiritually rich and historically significant place, where Śrī Rāmānujācārya established the worship of Lord Raṅganātha and Mahāprabhu revealed the highest truths of devotion? Your divine vision and presence transcend time and space, and we are certain that your mercy is ever flowing here.

We humbly beg for your blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we may establish a wonderful center in Srirangam – a place where your books, teachings, and mood of pure devotion can be shared with all. The pilgrims who visit Lord Raṅganātha's temple are already inclined to devotion, and with your mercy we aspire to guide them toward the path of pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness as given by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Kindly empower us to make this vision a reality.

Furthermore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray for your divine grace upon all the devotees here. Please bless us so that we may follow our *sādhana* with sincerity, purity, and enthusiasm. Let us not become complacent or negligent in our spiritual practices. Please give us the strength to rise early, chant our rounds attentively, study your books deeply, and engage wholeheartedly in devotional service. May we become strong, united, and dedicated preachers, effectively sharing your message with both the local people and the many pilgrims who pass through Srirangam.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, everything we have, every drop of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in our lives, is solely due to your mercy. We pray that you continue to guide us, protect us, and inspire us to dedicate our lives in service to your divine mission. Please accept this humble offering of our hearts at your lotus feet.

Your servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Srirangam and Trichy

Stoke-on-Trent, UK

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious day, we bow down at your lotus feet with hearts full of gratitude and devotion. As we celebrate your Vyāsa-pūjā, we reflect on the immeasurable gifts you gave us – the sacred knowledge of bhakti-yoga and the opportunity to serve.

You came to the West with nothing but your unwavering faith, your deep compassion for all souls, and your profound determination to spread the message of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. Through your tireless efforts, you touched millions of lives.

Here, in our ISKCON community in Stoke-on-Trent, UK, we are fortunate to feel the warmth of your teachings and the unity that comes from our shared devotion. Your books, your guidance, and your personal example continue to inspire and guide us each day. Through chanting the holy names, reading your writings, and living by your teachings, we feel your presence in our lives, purifying our hearts and minds. Every step we take on this path is made possible by your mercy.

We thank you for the invaluable treasure of your teachings and for the spiritual family you gave us. Through your presence in our lives, we have been given the chance to serve, grow, and find peace and joy.

May we always remain at the shelter of your divine lotus feet,
The devotees of ISKCON Stoke

Stouffville, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble *praṇāmas* at your lotus feet!

On this auspicious occasion of your divine appearance, we are immensely blessed to offer these petals of prayers at your lotus feet. Recognizing our complete inability to adequately glorify the ocean of your qualities, we pray to Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura, hoping to borrow his heartfelt expressions, to glorify you and thus purify ourselves.

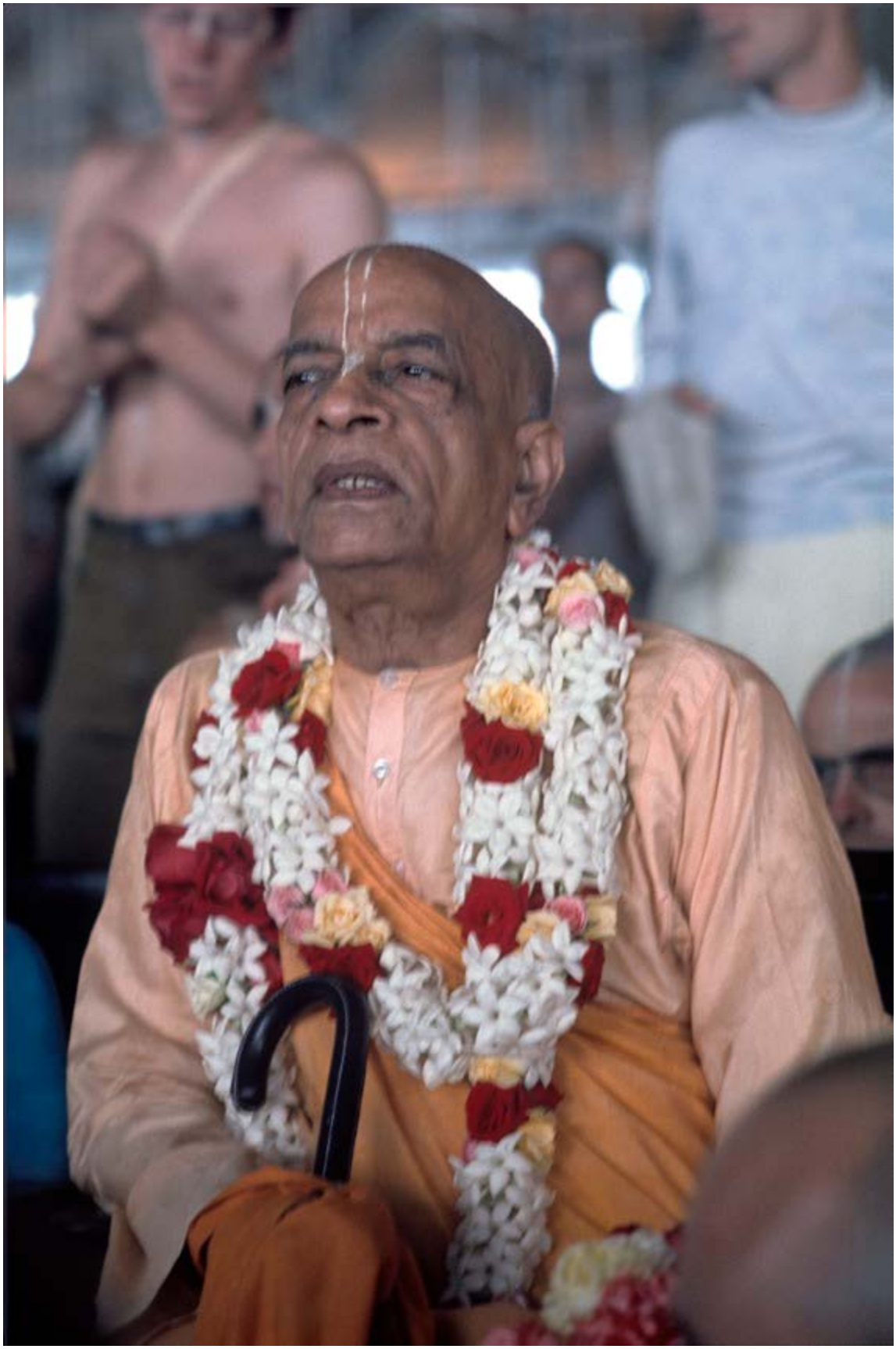
(1)
śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala-bhakati-sadma,
vandoṅ mui sāvadhāna mate
yāhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava toriyā yāi,
kṛṣṇa-prāpti haya yāhā haite

> The lotus feet of our spiritual master are the only way by which we can attain pure devotional service. I bow to his lotus feet with great awe and reverence. By his grace one can cross the ocean of material suffering and obtain the mercy of Kṛṣṇa.

The lotus feet of our spiritual master as the way to pure devotion: We, a group of devotees in Stouffville, deeply realize that your divine lotus feet are the sole means by which we can attain pure devotional service. We bow to your lotus feet again and again with deep reverence, realizing that by your grace, we can transcend the ocean of material suffering and receive Kṛṣṇa's mercy. Your presence is the guiding light that helps us navigate life's challenges and become fearless. You provide us with the ability to overcome difficulties while rendering service to guru and Gaurāṅga.

(2)
guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete koriyā aikya
ār nā koriho mane āśā
śrī-guru-caraṇe rati, ei se uttama-gati,
ye prasāde pūre sarva āśā

> My only wish is to have my consciousness purified by the words emanating from his lotus mouth. Attachment to his lotus feet is the perfection that fulfills all desires.



Purification through your words: Our deepest desire is to have our consciousness purified by the words emanating from your lotus mouth. We deeply acknowledge the hardship and loving labor you have poured into imparting this divine wisdom to fallen souls like us. Your teachings are our source of strength, and our attachment to your lotus feet fulfills all our spiritual aspirations. As we strive to follow your guidance, we find that your words bring clarity and purpose to our lives, helping us overcome distractions and attachment to material things.

(3)

cakhu-dān dilo yei, janme janme prabhu sei,
divya-jñāna hṛde prokāśito
prema-bhakti yāhā hoite, avidyā vināśa yāte,
vede gāya yāhāra carito

He opens my darkened eyes and fills my heart with transcendental knowledge. He is my Lord birth after birth. From him ecstatic *prema* emanates; by him ignorance is destroyed. The Vedic scriptures sing of his character.

Enlightenment through your grace: Dear master, you have opened our darkened eyes and filled our hearts with transcendental knowledge. Your mercy guides us on the path of bhakti, and your teachings echo the wisdom of the Vedic scriptures. As practicing devotees, we are inspired by the profound effect your guidance has on our spiritual growth and our understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

(4)

śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu, adhama janāra bandhu,
lokanātha lokera jīvana
hā hā prabhu koro doyā, deho more pada-chāyā,
ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tri-bhuvana

Our spiritual master is the ocean of mercy, the friend of the poor, and the lord and master of the devotees. O master! Be merciful unto me. Give me the shade of your lotus feet. Your fame is spread all over the three worlds.

The teacher and life of all: Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the ocean of mercy. You are not just a guide for us but also the life and soul of all devotees. You are the friend of fallen souls, providing shelter, wisdom, and compassion to all who seek refuge at your lotus feet. Your presence binds us together as a community of devotees, united by our love and devotion to Kṛṣṇa, and we strive to embody your qualities of mercy and compassion in our own lives.

We humbly pray for your mercy and the shelter of your lotus feet. Please give us strength and courage to overcome the challenges in spreading the holy name. Let us be determined to follow your instructions and always be mindful of cooperating with one another. Your grace and teachings are the foundation of our devotion, and we recognize that by following your instructions, we not only honor you but also contribute to the greater mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Stouffville far and wide.

Falling at your lotus feet,
Your sons and daughters at ISKCON Stouffville

Taichung Center, Taiwan

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Your Vyāsa-pūjā is near again. In recent years the whole world has been full of disasters, especially the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people suffered due to the economic depression. We are very lucky because you established 108 ISKCON centers around the world when you were present. Due to your causeless mercy, ISKCON centers have sprung up around the world. At this moment, I especially feel your compassionate desire to protect the devotees.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Ādi* 3.19) Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu said: "I shall personally inaugurate the religion of the age – *nāma-saṅkīrtana,* the congregational chanting of the holy name. I shall make the world dance in ecstasy, realizing the four mellows of loving devotional service."

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu is the Kali-yuga avatar. He gifted us the spiritual practice of this age (*yuga-dharma*): *harināma-saṅkīrtana,* which allows us to dance, chant, and eat *prasādam* all the way back to the spiritual world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you took on this great and arduous mission to propagate the *yuga-dharma*. In order to allow more people to get in contact with Kṛṣṇa consciousness, associate with devotees, cultivate knowledge about Kṛṣṇa, and nourish devotees through the six kinds of loving exchanges, ISKCON, our spiritual family, was established.

ISKCON is like the Bhaktivedanta Hospital. Everyone comes here for rehabilitation and shelter. You have already prepared six kinds of medicine in *The Nectar of Instruction* to help us gradually recover and awaken our dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Enthusiasm: Due to suffering, we naturally desire to take medicine to cure our disease, and the medicine is "the scriptures and the instructions of Śrīla Prabhupāda and the spiritual masters." We accept the instructions and engage in all kinds of devotional services with enthusiasm.

Faith: We should have full faith in taking the medicine (accepting the instructions). Without faith, we won't develop enthusiasm for devotional service.

Patience: We need to be patient and wait for the medicine to take effect.

Positive activities: Following the doctor's advice and instructions for treatment means following the regulative principles and performing our daily *sādhana*.

Isolation: Do not associate with nondevotees to avoid being infected by other patients.

Sincerely follow in the footsteps of the *ācāryas* – follow the examples of those devotees who heal by following the doctors' prescription (scriptures and guru's instructions) and the *ācāryas,* and desire to associate with them and render them loving service.

The Taichung *yātrā* has gone through more than ten years of hard work. Under the guidance of the GBC and our spiritual teachers, the local devotees worked together to set up the ISKCON Taichung Center. We established it in November 2023. The purpose of the center is for devotees and new friends to continue to receive spiritual nourishment and learn to render devotional service in a proper mood. We are so unqualified, so we are very eager to have your merciful shelter. Service is the key to connection. On your Vyāsa-pūjā day, in addition to glorifying your causeless mercy, we also pray for your protection. When we render service, please protect us from the desire for liberation and personal fame, position, and the selfish interests in our hearts. We pray that we can treat every new and old devotee equally in a proper way. Whatever position the Lord has arranged for us, we can always offer devotional service to please Lord Kṛṣṇa and Your Divine Grace.

Please keep showering your mercy on the Taichung Center so that we have sustainable development and can help fulfill Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's prophecy that the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* be spread to every town and village of the world. Let us distribute unconditional, pure love of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa to the world.

Your unqualified servant of the servant,
Harināma Amṛta Devī Dāsī
on behalf of the ISKCON Taichung Center

Taipei, Taiwan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Here are what I (on behalf of the Taipei *yātrā*) deeply acknowledge as your wonderful contributions to the world:

(1) Śrīla Prabhupāda, you spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

(2) Within eleven years you published about sixty-four books.

(3) You founded ISKCON, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and organized the GBC, the Governing Body Commission, to oversee its management globally. You are the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON.

(4) You stressed very much the printing of books on Kṛṣṇa consciousness as well as the distribution of these books. In 1972, you founded The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT) to focus on printing and publishing books on Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

(5) You built 108 temples around the world, and initiated more than four thousand disciples before you departed from this world.

(6) To realize your idea of "simple living, high thinking" as the ideal Vedic way of life, you opened *gurukula* schools to teach knowledge of the truth of the *Vedas* and the Vedic sattvic life. And you built farm communities and constructed the spiritual community in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur.

And the most touching thing to me is that you so profoundly abided by the instructions of your spiritual master that even at a very senior age you went abroad to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the whole world. When I read your biography for the first time, I was so amazed and so admired your immense courage. I felt persuaded by your very firm conviction and dedication. You went abroad alone, facing the mundane turbulence in America and other places in the Western world, and all the helplessness and loneliness. There was no money for your mission, and no people around to help out.

Whenever I read your books, I feel extremely indebted to you because you worked so hard to translate and print these books for us, which contain the most important spiritual knowledge of the Absolute Truth.

But I am so doomed and fallen that I haven't completely grasped the essence of the Absolute Truth, and I haven't come to the point you expected us to come to. What you gave us is not only spiritual knowledge but real shelter for helpless souls like us who are struggling in the material ocean.

My heart is burning and trembling. I can't help but offer you here some words:

Joyful blissful heart I aspire to keep
Life of material world is seemingly helpless and hopeless

If not with Śrīla Prabhupāda
Where could the souls who are shaking in this world be settled?

Śrīla Prabhupāda is the person who linked *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* to us
He is the person whose cream of the *Vedas* we rely on and cherish

If not with Śrīla Prabhupāda
Where would the souls go?

If not with Śrīla Prabhupāda
How could we find and recognize the real scriptures?

If not with Śrīla Prabhupāda
How could we receive the grace of the Supreme Lord?

If without Śrīla Prabhupāda
How and where would we get to perform devotional service to the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa?

O Śrīla Prabhupāda You gave the most precious gems to the whole world
You gave us the matchless gift, the Ocean of Mercy that nourishes us and shelters us …

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Your glories are spread throughout the three worlds. We humbly bow down at your lotus feet. Śrīla Prabhupāda, *kī jaya*!

The servant of your servant,
Jaya Gaurāṅga Devī Dāsī
Taipei, Taiwan

Tampa, Florida, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

athāpi te deva padāmbuja-dvaya-
prasāda-leśānugṛhīta eva hi
jānāti tattvaṁ bhagavan-mahimno
na cānya eko 'pi ciraṁ vicinvan

> My Lord, if one is favored by even a slight trace of the mercy of Your lotus feet, he can understand the greatness of Your personality. But those who speculate to understand the Supreme Personality of Godhead are unable to know You, even though they continue to study the *Vedas* for many years. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.14.29)

Only one who has received a trace of mercy from the lotus feet of the Lord can understand His unlimited greatness and act as His empowered representative. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are that rare and divinely empowered personality, who not only understood the supreme truth of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa but also revealed it to the world with unflinching faith and fearless conviction.

While countless scholars and yogis spend lifetimes studying the *Vedas* without grasping the essence of bhakti, the exalted *ācāryas* in our disciplic succession – led by great souls like Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura – revealed the pure, unalloyed path of devotional service as taught by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. They fearlessly established the supremacy of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava *siddhānta* and worked tirelessly to distribute this knowledge throughout India. Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the empowered representative of this glorious *paramparā,* you fulfilled their vision by carrying this transcendental wisdom across the ocean, planting the seeds of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western world and nurturing them into a global movement. By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the essence of bhakti and the teachings of our *ācāryas* are now available to every soul, transcending all boundaries of language, race, and nationality.

Here at ISKCON Tampa we are living proof of your mercy in action. Your life is our lighthouse, guiding us in this dark age. Because of your pure devotion, we are empowered to celebrate Janmāṣṭamī with jubilant *kīrtana,* Gaura-Pūrṇimā with ecstatic remembrance, and Rāma-navamī with reverence and joy. These festivals, once confined to a specific region of the world, now radiate from your temples to touch the hearts of thousands who had never before heard the name of Kṛṣṇa.

You not only gave us knowledge, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us culture. Through your teachings on Vaiṣṇava etiquette, you showed us how to interact with one another with humility, respect, and affection. You taught us that spiritual advancement is inseparable from how we honor the devotees of the Lord. In a world increasingly divided by ego and misunderstanding, your instructions on how to serve, honor, and love one another have become the foundation of meaningful

relationships. Though we are still striving to follow the exalted standard you set, we pray for your continued blessings so that we may grow in sincerity and service and reflect the genuine character of a true Vaiṣṇava.

Your legacy enables us to give what you gave – the ultimate gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness – to others. Inspired by your example, the devotees of ISKCON Tampa strive to carry forward your mission with humility and enthusiasm, knowing that only by your mercy and the mercy of Śrī Kṛṣṇa can we hope to succeed.

On this most sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we bow our heads and hearts in gratitude. You are the crest jewel of spiritual teachers, the compassionate commander of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's army, and the dearest servant of the Supreme Lord.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything. May we always remain your instruments in spreading the holy name and serving your divine mission.

Your aspiring servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Tampa

Teluk Intan, Malaysia

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept my humble and respectful obeisances. All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga! All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to this most auspicious occasion of your appearance day!

This year I have written a small offering in the form of a poem, a humble expression of my gratitude and love for you, my dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. I pray that you find joy in these words, as they come from the depths of my heart.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, You Are the Color of My Life

Just like the color of the ocean, blue,
You calmly and tirelessly worked,
Spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness,
Uplifting all the fallen souls.

Just like the color of the fields, green,
With humility and simplicity,
You stood as the perfect *ācārya,*
Empowering the teachings of Lord Caitanya.

Just like the color of fire, red,
With passion and endless zeal,
You stood through all obstacles and tests of time,
Fulfilling the vision of your guru.

Just like the color of light, gold,
With determination and fearlessness,
You showered love and concern,
Nurturing and guiding your disciples.

Just like the color of purity, white,
With boundless compassion and mercy,
You united devotees beyond nations and religions,
Sharing the truth and dispelling darkness.

Just like the color of sacrifice, saffron,
With complete surrender to guru and Kṛṣṇa,
You dedicated your entire life,
Presenting a spiritual path for all,
Spreading the holy names everywhere.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this fallen soul
Falls at your lotus feet, begging for your mercy,
To continuously serve Lord Kṛṣṇa
Despite all obstacles.

My humble obeisances, my dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
You left a legacy that continues to glow,
And yes, you are still with us every day
Through your teachings.

Indeed, you are the colors that guide me,
Like a rainbow shining in my life.
I am full of gratitude to you,
And I love you from the bottom of my heart.

Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.
Thank you again for being the color of my life.

Your servants,
Jaya Lālārāṇī Devī Dāsī
Kamala Mālinī Devī Dāsī
Śrīdevī Gaurāṅgī Devī Dāsī
Murāli Vadana Govinda Dāsa (temple president)
on behalf of ISKCON Teluk Intan

Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the devotees of the Vedic Cultural Centre in Thunder Bay, offer our heartfelt gratitude and prayers at your lotus feet. By your boundless mercy, we have found shelter in the teachings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the glorious *paramparā*.

Through your tireless efforts you gave us everything – *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* Śrīmad-*Bhāgavatam,* and the entire treasure of Vedic wisdom. Your transcendental books continue to illuminate our lives, guiding us on the path of bhakti. At the Vedic Cultural Centre, we strive to serve your mission through *kīrtana, prasādam* distribution, scriptural education, and spiritual gatherings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, our center is located in Thunder Bay, a remote city in Northern Ontario, far from any major urban center. Often called "the middle of nowhere," Thunder Bay is isolated, with the nearest major city, Winnipeg, over 700 km away, and Toronto nearly 1,400 km away. The harsh winters and limited resources make outreach challenging, yet by your mercy, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is thriving here.

Each year, over 12,000 visitors – students, newcomers, and local residents – find spiritual nourishment at our center. More than 20,000 plates of *prasādam* are distributed annually, ensuring that no one who comes to us leaves hungry – physically or spiritually. Inspired by your instructions, we have established weekly *kīrtana* programs, *Bhagavad-gītā* study groups, and spiritual retreats to nourish devotees and seekers alike.

Our Festival of India and Festival of Colours, attended by thousands, introduces people to Kṛṣṇa's holy names and the rich culture of devotion. Our Food-for-Life program, operating with a dedicated food truck, distributes *prasādam* to the community, following your instruction that "no one should go hungry within ten miles of a temple."

This year, by your divine mercy, our center is growing. We have expanded our outreach to surrounding cities like Sault Ste. Marie, bringing *kīrtana, prasādam* distribution, and scriptural education to new communities.

Most importantly, we recognize that your greatest gift to the world is your books. You have taught us that "books are the basis," and following your divine instruction – "Distribute books, distribute books, distribute books!" – we are increasing our efforts in book distribution. We aim to distribute more copies of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and other transcendental literature, ensuring that your teachings reach every home and heart in Northern Ontario. Whether through street distribution, outreach programs, or special events, we remain committed to this sacred mission, knowing that each book has the power to transform lives.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this special day, we also remember your dear disciple, His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja. Mahārāja dedicated his life to fulfilling your mission, tirelessly spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide. His unwavering commitment to book

distribution, temple development, and devotional outreach deeply inspired us. His encouragement strengthened our resolve, and his absence is profoundly felt.

We recall with gratitude how Mahārāja's visits, instructions, and personal guidance uplifted our center, reminding us always to serve with sincerity and determination. Though we miss his presence, we take solace in knowing that his service to you was exemplary and that his legacy lives on through his disciples and the devotees he inspired. We pray for his continued blessings as we carry forward his mission with devotion and enthusiasm.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your teachings are the foundation of all our activities, and we are humbled to carry forward your divine legacy. On this sacred day, we rededicate our lives to your mission, praying for the strength to serve with sincerity, humility, and unwavering faith.

May we become instruments in fulfilling your vision, distributing your mercy far and wide.

Your humble servants,
Premkishor Dāsa and Sunitī Devī Dāsī
Vedic Cultural Centre, Thunder Bay

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga. All glories to your beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

It is our great fortune to present this offering by expressing our gratitude to you on your auspicious and glorious appearance day.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were born Abhay Charan De on September 1, 1896, in Calcutta, India. Your father, Gour Mohan De, and mother Rajani, in accordance with Bengali tradition, employed an astrologer. The astrologer made a specific prediction: "When this child reaches the age of seventy, he will cross the ocean, become a great exponent of religion, and open 108 temples."

Today, ISKCON Toronto stands as living proof of this prophecy having been fulfilled. "Generally, the eternal associates of the Lord in the spiritual sky do not come to the material world. Sometimes they come, however, by the order of the Lord – not to hold any administrative post, but to associate with the Lord in person or to propagate the message of God in human society. Such empowered representatives are called *śaktyāveśa-avatāras,* or incarnations invested with transcendental power of attorney." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.5.21, purport.)

It is evident that you were directly empowered by the Supreme Personality of Godhead as a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra,* invested with divine authority to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide.

ISKCON Toronto: A Manifestation of Your Vision

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it was by your divine instruction and vision that ISKCON's presence in Toronto was established. The first ISKCON temple in Toronto was opened at 40 Beverly Street, marking the beginning of your mission in this city. In September 1972, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṣīracora Gopīnātha was installed at 187 Gerrard Street, bringing your divine mercy even closer to the devotees.

In August 1975, under your direct guidance and blessings, we acquired our present temple at 243 Avenue Road, establishing New Remuṇā Dhāma as a beacon of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Canada.

This year, on Rādhāṣṭamī 2025, ISKCON Toronto will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of both the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṣīracora Gopīnātha and the acquisition of our current temple. Although the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic prevented a grand celebration in 2022, we are now preparing a grand festival in honor of these historic milestones.

A Thriving Spiritual Hub

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON Toronto has flourished for the past five decades, transforming into a unique spiritual hub that welcomes people from all walks of life.

Daily and weekly preaching programs: We host engaging programs every day of the week, such as Monday Movie Night showcasing your pastimes, Tuesday Sanga, Wednesday Meditation Night, Thursday Kṛṣṇa-kathā & Kīrtana, Friday Divine Dialogue, Saturday Sādhana Circle, and on

Sunday the grand Sunday Feast. Each week, between 50–70 visitors attend these programs, and on Sundays our attendance continues to grow, now exceeding 1,000 guests weekly.

Book distribution: The *saṅkīrtana* team continues to thrive, actively distributing books through the Monthly *Saṅkīrtana* Festival, Bhadra Pūrṇimā distribution marathon, *śāstra-dāna* program, door-to-door distribution, and much more.

Bhakti Academy: Our Bhakti Academy successfully completed its third year in April 2025, with increasing enrollments each year and a growing waiting list. The BA actively conducts daily, temple-based preaching as well as outreach programs at yoga studios and universities.

Matchless Gifts Boutique: Formerly known as Govinda's Boutique, Matchless Gifts is flourishing under a dedicated and enthusiastic team. Open daily from 12–9 P.M., it continues to expand its offerings of devotional items, books, and apparel, serving the growing needs of the community.

Govinda's Restaurant: Govinda's continues to flourish, successfully accommodating an increasing number of patrons with the expanded capacity added in recent years. Plans are underway to further enhance the menu to better serve our guests.

New temple elevator installation: This year, we will inaugurate a newly installed elevator to better accommodate our senior congregation members and those with accessibility needs.

Festival of India (Ratha-yātrā): The 53rd Annual Festival of India – Lord Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā will take place on July 12–13, 2025, at Centre Island. Last year we saw record-breaking attendance, with over 10,000 participants in the parade. We distributed more than 25,000 plates of *prasādam* over the weekend.

Bhakti Yoga Studio: Our Bhakti Yoga Studio has successfully completed its first year. It has consistently attracted newcomers, with many participants now regularly attending temple programs.

Fundraising and temple operations: Our fundraising team continues to excel, securing regular sponsors for Sunday Feasts and festivals, ensuring the temple's steady operation.

Deity worship and temple services: The Deity department continues to set high standards in Deity worship, offering exceptional service to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṣīracora Gopīnātha.

The Devotee Care team tirelessly serves our senior congregation members through regular visits, *prasādam* distribution, and *kīrtana*.

The temple kitchen recently underwent renovation – new flooring, walls, and ceiling. We plan to upgrade the cooking equipment to meet the growing needs of the congregation.

The temple newsletter, *243 Review,* continues to serve as a vital platform for keeping our community informed and engaged, sharing updates on temple events, spiritual articles, and service opportunities.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is by your mercy that ISKCON Toronto continues to grow as a dynamic center for Kṛṣṇa consciousness, providing a spiritual home for both newcomers and long-standing devotees. Your unwavering faith in your disciples empowered them to take on incredible responsibilities, and that same legacy continues today. We humbly seek your blessings so that we may continue serving your mission with sincerity, determination, and faith in Lord Kṛṣṇa's divine plan.

Your humble and aspiring servants, forever at your service,
The devotees at New Remuṇā Dhāma

Toronto – Russian-speaking yātrā

Your Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

We bow down humbly in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! On this auspicious day of your appearance, please allow us to express our endless gratitude for your boundless mercy and for the light you kindled in the hearts of millions of people around the world.

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy, even here in Toronto – a city you personally visited and blessed with your presence – your great mission continues. In the heart of the city we hold *harināmas,* and devotees from different parts of the world gather to chant the glories of Kṛṣṇa. Besides the *kīrtana,* we distribute your books, which, like spiritual seeds enter people's hearts and awaken their eternal connection with Kṛṣṇa. We have the opportunity to listen to your disciples, who generously share with us your teachings and example of devoted service.

You are an ocean of all noble qualities. Your compassion knows no bounds. Through your books, temples, and followers, we – the fallen souls of this age – have been given the chance to break free from the endless cycle of birth and death and find shelter at the lotus feet of the Lord.

How can we ever repay you for this priceless gift? The only way is to sincerely strive to serve your mission with faith, devotion, and determination.

Please bless us with strength, humility, and enthusiasm to continue your preaching, spread the holy name, distribute your books, and help others come to the lotus feet of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Your unworthy but sincerely aspiring servants,
Devotees of the Russian-speaking *yātrā* in Toronto

Tsukuba Bhakti Centre, Japan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Every year brings me to a deeper appreciation of your unparalleled contributions to enriching my life and the lives of many all around the world. Your Divine Grace is the *ācārya* for the whole world. The *Vāyu Purāṇa* defines the word *ācārya* as "one who knows the content of all the Vedic literature, explains all the meanings of the *Vedas,* follows all the rules and regulations, and teaches his disciples to act in the same way."

By your mercy, this year I could meditate on your extraordinary dedication to preaching in Western countries despite immense obstacles. Meditating on your preaching in Western countries

gives me the conviction that the more we study your example with a humble heart and prayers, the more we will be guided by Your Divine Grace to follow in your footsteps.

Your Divine Grace traveled at an advanced age, boarding a cargo ship, the *Jaladuta,* and going to an unknown land despite having no money, no followers, and no support. You were simply carrying one instruction as your life and soul: to fulfill the mission of your spiritual master. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you could have spent the rest of your life peacefully at the Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara temple in Vrindavan, but for the sake of all living entities, Your Divine Grace left Vrindavan to preach the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement around the world.

Actually, we know you didn't leave Vrindavan, because you said wherever you go, *that* is Vrindavan. In this way, by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all around the world, by your presence you manifested Vrindavan in the form of your ISKCON temples and centers. No one is dearer to the Supreme Lord than a person rendering devotional service, preaching Vrindavan consciousness.

We in Tsukuba, Japan, conduct nutrition classes for Japanese people to help them continue a vegetarian diet. Their families are not supportive; they think vegetarian food lacks nutrition. I am teaching them to make vegetarian meals that are healthy and tasty. Our group is preparing nutritious vegetarian food with locally available vegetables and ingredients for their families, and this helps them continue their Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We especially teach Japanese mothers with children in these nutritional cooking classes. They are very glad to see how nicely we can make wonderful healthy vegetarian preparations and then offer them to Kṛṣṇa. This humble help is bringing whole families to support the Japanese devotees to continue their Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We as a team conduct cooking classes at our place, teaching vegetarian cooking using Japanese ingredients, and the easiest ways to make these dishes so the students can prepare them for themselves and their families. In our team we have yoga teachers, mothers, and doctors.

I train the twice-initiated devotees in Deity worship (I was trained at the Māyāpur Academy). I teach these courses in Japanese. This gives us immense support with the Deity worship as well as wonderful association and opportunities to learn. We also make Deity outfits locally.

We are thriving day by day and see immense potential among the Japanese who come to our place to learn the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

Along with the above training and educational programs, we conduct *kīrtana melas,* monthly programs, and celebrate various festivals for the locals. We encourage all the devotees here to conduct other home programs for the Russian, Nepalese, and Bengali devotees.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, please kindly bestow your mercy so that I can be of some use in spreading Mahāprabhu's message. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. With profound appreciation and gratitude, I bow down and beg for Your Divine Grace's mercy that we can serve constructively at the Japan *yātrā*.

Your insignificant servant of the servant of your servants,
Ujjvalā Gopī Devī Dāsī, on behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Tsukuba

Tucson, Arizona, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Let me please you, show me the way
Allow me to serve you, never going astray
Will material qualities offer success
Or does it depend on how we dress?

Physical strength, education or diligence
Beauty, expertise or intelligence
Some may feel this is the answer
Or is it just a type of insidious cancer?

Purifying the heart is what we should seek
Follow your orders, never become weak
The example you set always on our mind
Chanting our 16 rounds, never falling behind.

Allow me to never become unhinged
Nor leave your shelter and end up fringed
I aspire to always be your loving servant
Mindful of your words, always observant.

You said, "Let me preach till my last breath"
Give all to Kṛṣṇa, despite pending death
Show us with your supreme ability
To transcend the body with total tranquility.

Most of your disciples are getting quite old
The future of the movement, how will it unfold?
Absorbing your teachings to the greatest extent
To ward off any duplicitous descent.

New devotees come from all walks of life
See the mundane world with its hatred and strife
Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the true alternative
Whether one is moderate, liberal or conservative.

Together we follow what you've taught
Pursuing divine legacy that you have brought
Go forward with faith and trust in the mission
Abandon all selfishness and ambition.

I feel confident we will continue to expand
To fulfill your vision the way you planned
Take all souls we meet to the spiritual sky
We should sacrifice everything, before we die.

(Written by Sandaminī Devī Dāsī)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Your servants at ISKCON Tucson are dedicated to your mission and continue to spread your teachings in this desert, where impious living entities reside. Please empower us to break through the encrusted hearts of the conditioned souls and give them a taste of the spiritual world.

Always in your debt,
The residents of Tucson Dhāma

Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances unto the dust of your divine lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your divine appearance. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

dīna hīna patita pāmara nāhi bāche
brahmār durlabha prema sabākāre jāce

> Lord Nityānanda freely offered this exalted *prema,* which is difficult for Lord Brahmā to attain, even to the fallen and wretched souls who did not desire it. (*Nītāi Guṇa Maṇi,* Śrīla Locana dāsa Ṭhākura)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, being a representative of Lord Nityānanda, very munificently, you made mercy accessible to all of us.

Your Divine Grace gave us everything, including *rāgānugā-bhakti*. You gave us the holy name, holy *dhāma*, Deity worship, *saṅkīrtana*, Ratha-yātrā and other grand festivals, and transcendental scriptures that contain the essence of the nectarean mellows of love of Godhead. Therefore, we seek your blessings so that we can take advantage of these matchless gifts and also share them with others.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your mercy your ISKCON Ujjain had the following notable achievements last year:

- During the book marathon we distributed 82,539 books, securing fourth rank in the Big Temple category in the north zone.
- In association with the Madhya Pradesh government, an online *Gītā* contest was organized based on your Introduction to the *Bhagavad-gītā*. 646,240 students participated.
- Early in the evening of Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā, Chief Minister Sri Mohan Yadav came to your temple and addressed the devotees.

- For the first time in Ujjain, we had the immense privilege of having three separate Ratha-yātrā carts, one each for Lord Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, fulfilling the cherished desire of His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami Mahārāja.
- Eighteen Ratha-yātrās were organized across Madhya Pradesh, spreading the divine mercy of Lord Jagannātha. More than 269,000 people participated, and more than 125,000 people took *prasādam*. Similarly, Janmāṣṭamī and other festivals are also organized gorgeously across many cities.
- Recently we opened centers in Balaghat, Anuppur, and Dindori. Now we have eighteen centers in different cities of Madhya Pradesh, along with eleven youth centers (BSCs) expanding the preaching mission.
- The National Accountants' Convention for large centers, the North India Accountants' Convention for small and medium centers, and the ISKCON India Youth Council Strategic Planning meetings were organized. More than 300 leaders and devotees participated.
- Under the guidance of His Holiness Bhakti Prema Swami Mahārāja, a group of twenty devotees went to Prayagraj Kumbha Mela to serve the millions of pilgrims.
- Your Avantika Institute for Higher Education has started a Bhakti-vaibhava course to educate our devotees and increase their knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
- In our Altars and Murti projects, we purchased new CNC machines to carve marble and wooden Deities, built a new, 1,700-square-foot shed to fulfill our requirements for increased space, and began to design new wall murals depicting *gaura-līlā, kṛṣṇa-līlā,* and Prabhupāda-līlā carved in wood.
- At MANIT Bhopal, we opened a Susangat Canteen – that is, *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* is now available on the college premises.
- Raghav Pandit Prabhu has been honored with the NIDC Excellence Award for his outstanding efforts in resolving the legal matters related to your temple's land.
- Under the leadership and inspiration of His Holiness Bhakti Prema Swami Mahārāja, Śrī Kṛṣṇa Balarām Sāndīpani Muni Rath has been inaugurated and visiting different villages, distributing *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and *prasādam* to the locals.
- We have extended the *brahmacārī* ashram by constructing a fourth floor. We are renovating and cleaning the exteriors of the apartments. The marble polishing of your temple hall has been done, and we are now polishing the marble on His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami Mahārāja's *puṣpa-samādhi*.
- The flats at Arogya Niketan were also renovated, leading to better ambience and customer satisfaction.
- The Śrīla Prabhupāda Memorial festival was a tremendous success. Eighteen senior devotees blessed this event, and more than three thousand participated.

On behalf of ISKCON Ujjain, we express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for your horizonless contributions to our lives and all humanity. We humbly seek your blessings to remain ever surrendered at your lotus feet, dedicating ourselves to fulfilling your divine mission with utmost sincerity and devotion.

We beg to remain the humble servants of your servants,
The devotees at ISKCON Ujjain

Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

With your divine grace and mercy, our Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara temple in Vadodara recently celebrated its twenty-fifty anniversary. To mark this milestone, we organized a Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav at various locations throughout the city. Thousands of local residents and devotees participated in the festivities, reveling in the glories of *harināma, kṛṣṇa-kathā,* and *prasādam*.

With your divine mercy, our hostel preaching programs are flourishing. We are actively engaging hundreds of youths in Kṛṣṇa consciousness at MS University and Parul University. Our temple hall is now filled with devotees during the *sandhyā-ārati* – a testament to the vibrant spiritual atmosphere you have inspired in this city. The sight of so many devotees gathered in devotion is a powerful reminder of your enduring influence and the strength of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

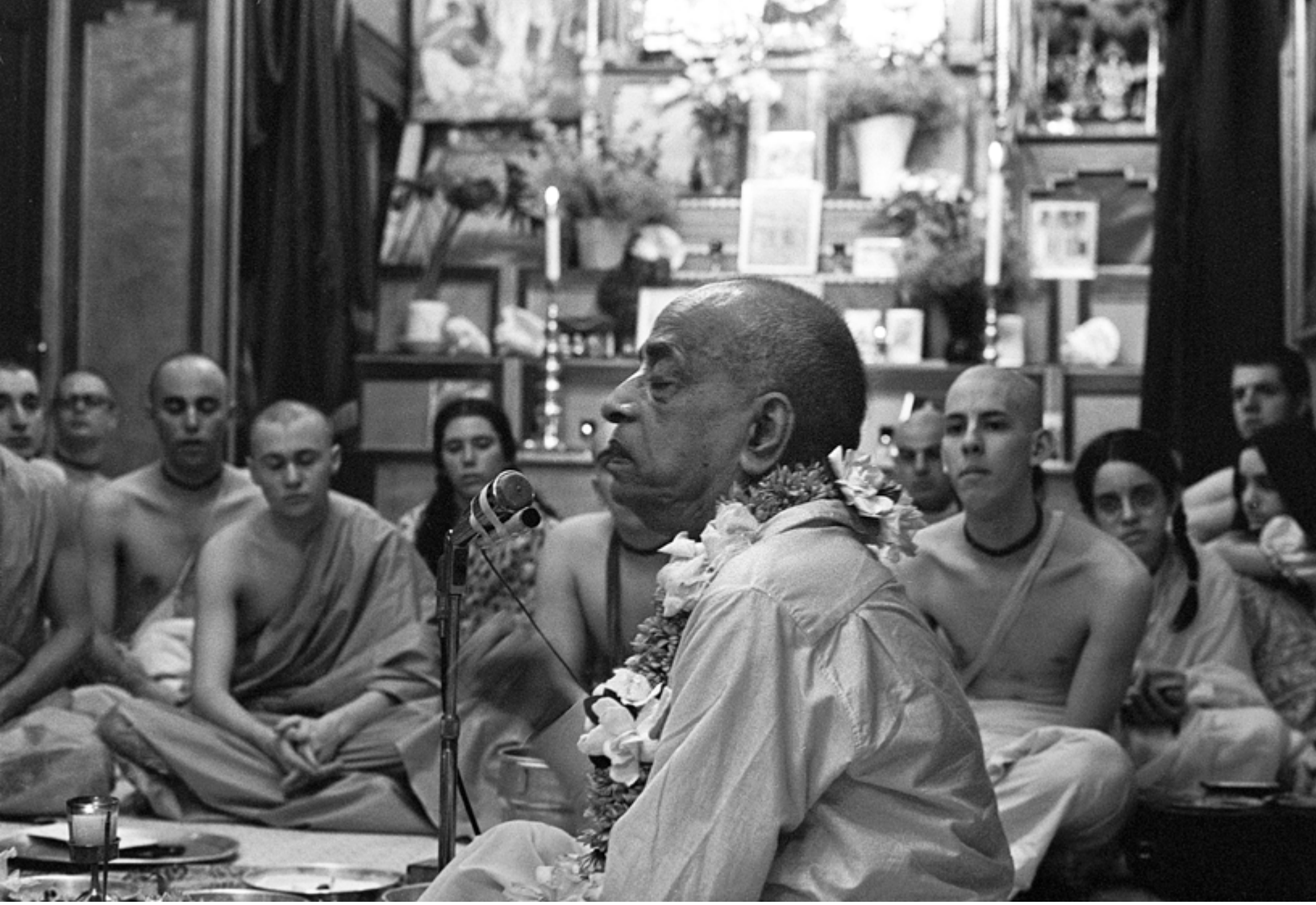
Our goshala is a shining example of your teachings on cow protection. We are blessed to care for more than a hundred cows, all of whom are exceptionally healthy and happy. A senior devotee recently visited our temple and remarked that he had never seen such well-cared-for and joyful cows at any other temple. This is a reflection of the loving care and devotion you have instilled in us. The cows are not just animals to us; they are cherished members of our community, and their well-being is a priority.

We are also blessed to be able to distribute *prasādam* widely, nourishing both body and soul of countless individuals. Our *prasādam* distribution program has reached many people, providing them with sanctified food that carries your blessings. This service is a cornerstone of our outreach efforts, helping to spread the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness through the simple act of sharing a meal.

Our book distribution efforts continue to spread your teachings far and wide, bringing the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to many. The books you wrote are a treasure trove of spiritual wisdom, and we are committed to ensuring that they reach as many people as possible. Each book distributed is a seed planted, with the potential to grow into a deep and abiding faith in Kṛṣṇa.

We remain ever grateful for your guidance and blessings, which continue to inspire and uplift us in our service. Your vision and dedication have created a global movement that touches the hearts of millions, and we are honored to be a part of it. We strive to live up to your example and to carry forward the mission you have entrusted to us.

Your humble servant,
Padmanayana Kṛṣṇa Dāsa
On behalf of the devotees at ISKCON Vadodara



Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat, India

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

With hearts full of gratitude, we once again approach you to offer our humble prayers and report on the progress of our humble services. It is only by your causeless mercy and unshakable determination that we, the devotees of ISKCON Vallabh Vidyanagar, are able to engage in the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, striving to spread the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* as you so mercifully instructed.

Two years ago, we shared with you our deep aspiration to construct a magnificent, full-stone temple for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Giridhārī, ensuring that Their Lordships have a beautiful, permanent residence where They may receive loving service from countless devotees for generations to come. By your blessings and the grace of Lord Kṛṣṇa, this project has been progressing steadily.

Progress of the Temple Construction

By Kṛṣṇa's mercy and the unwavering dedication of the devotees, we have now completed the foundation and the primary structural framework. The intricate stone carvings, done by skilled artisans, are shaping the temple into a divine architectural masterpiece, preserving the rich heritage of our Vaiṣṇava tradition. The altar design is being finalized with great care, ensuring that Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Giridhārī's new home reflects the beauty and transcendence of Their divine pastimes.

We are now advancing to the next phase, which includes the completion of the temple's outer structure, ornamentation, and interior sanctum. Each step is being undertaken with deep devotion, understanding that this temple is not just a building but a beacon of spiritual enlightenment and shelter for all who seek the path of bhakti.

A Spiritual Oasis in Your Service

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this temple is being constructed not merely of stone but of devotion, faith, and the collective service of your followers. We envision it as a center for vibrant Kṛṣṇa conscious activities – *kīrtana, hari-kathā,* Deity worship, *prasādam* distribution, and outreach programs that will uplift and engage souls from all walks of life. Our aspiration is to make this temple a true spiritual oasis, where the teachings you gave us are lived and shared wholeheartedly.

As we continue this sacred endeavor, we pray for your continued blessings, guidance, and empowerment so that we may complete this temple and dedicate it as a glorious offering to your divine mission. Please allow us to remain steadfast in service, always remembering that everything we do is by your mercy alone.

Begging to always remain your humble servants,
Team ISKCON Vallabh Vidyanagar

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Our most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

On this auspicious occasion of your appearance day, we are attempting to present our humble Vyāsa-pūjā offering at your lotus feet. Please accept this offering, written for our own benefit, and bless us to become your dear servants, able to serve your mission of giving love of Nitāi-Gaurāṅga to this increasingly suffering humanity in the dark age of Kali-yuga. Your compassion for other

living entities is unfathomable, founded on your deep love for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and profound faith and conviction in following the instructions of your Guru Mahārāja Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda. Your life is a demonstration of *śraddhā* (faith) as it is described by Śrī Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta: 'śraddhā'-śabde – viśvāsa kahe sudṛḍha niścaya / kṛṣṇe bhakti kaile sarva-karma kṛta haya*.

Śrī Akiñcana Kṛṣṇa dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja credited your success in spreading Lord Gaurāṅga's mission to your deep faith in the holy name. That faith of yours in the holy name continues to manifest today in the form of spreading the *saṅkīrtana* movement to every nook and corner of this globe.

It is our fortune that we have received your association through your most exalted disciples, who have been serving you tirelessly, advancing your mission, even until their ripe old age, following in your footsteps. Kṛṣṇa appears once in a day of Brahmā, which spans 8.64 billion years, followed by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's appearance. You appeared as the general of Śrīmān Mahāprabhu's army to accomplish His mandate of spreading the holy name of Gaurāṅga to every town and village. Therefore, your appearance is as rare as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and we are only separated by a few decades from your physical presence.

An exalted *ācārya* in the line of the Madhva-sampradāya remarked that a personality like Your Divine Grace had never appeared in the past and will never appear again in future. Thus our fortune is immeasurable, and the only way we can express our gratitude is to share that fortune with others, following in the footsteps of your disciples.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, in New Gokula Dhāma, ISKCON Vancouver, we endeavor to further your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness by performing a variety of activities. 2024 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of the Divine Couple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana here. We celebrated the occasion with great joy and enthusiasm, remembering your glories. One of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's attributes is that He is *satya-saṅkalpa:* whatever He wills manifests.

Similarly, being a pure devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, your will to have a temple in Vancouver was manifested fifty years ago, and now it attracts hundreds of thousands of souls to come and participate in the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

The three-day festival we held in honor of the installation anniversary included the participation of many of your disciples, such as Their Graces Pārtha and Uttama, Ānandamaya, Paratparaḥ, Varāha Rūpa, Mahidhara, Kāla, and Rādhikā, to name only a few. These devotees were instrumental in establishing Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana's temple, which you named New Gokula Dhāma. It was truly inspiring to hear their memories, sacrifices, dedication, and devotion.

The Golden Dancer bus tour took us to various historical places, and this brought nostalgia to the senior devotees and exhilaration to the younger devotees. The altar and Deities were fabulously decorated by a team of young and senior devotees. A new Japa Garden, bedecked with 108 beautifully decorated steppingstones, was inaugurated, with our *utsava* Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-gopāla, leading the way on Their flower palanquin. Overall, the festival was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many.

In 2024, with the support of our community, we were able to improve the temple facilities by adding a large patio, followed by a permanent tent in which our many hundreds of guests can now be comfortably served *prasādam*. Our new Pushpanjali Farm grows varieties of flowers, adding color to our temple campus as well as providing fresh flowers for the Deities. The distribution of your books continued throughout the year, with an unprecedented number of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets distributed on Bhadra Pūrṇimā. All the devotee teams involved in outreach activities, *kīrtana* programs, *prasādam* distribution, devotee care, and other temple-related projects, made their contributions as offerings at your lotus feet.

Moving forward, the current temple management is focused on implementing an appropriate nurturing model to build a vibrant devotee congregation in Vancouver. This model is the need of

the hour, as more and more new devotees are visiting our temple regularly. The growing congregation also requires a bigger temple with better facilities. The new temple construction team is forging ahead with fundraising and recruiting building experts to begin the groundbreaking as early as possible. On the auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā day we seek your blessings to succeed in our endeavors in building a harmonious Kṛṣṇa conscious community and a grand new temple building in the near future.

Whatever endeavor we may attempt may not be enough. Reading from the *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta,* we hear: "Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī had said that if only one soul could be turned into a pure devotee, his mission would be a success. Yet sometimes Abhay became overwhelmed when he thought of how small he was, how much work had to be done on behalf of Kṛṣṇa, and how difficult it was to convince even one conditioned soul." We pray at your lotus feet that we imbibe even an iota of this mood and become serious in our service. Let us please you and make advancement in our spiritual journey. Bless us that we may bring benefit to humanity struggling in the dark age of Kali-yuga.

With heartfelt gratitude and love,
on behalf of your servants at New Gokula Dhāma,
Nitāi Rāma Dāsa (temple president), Ananta Hari Dāsa (TEC), Jānakī Jīvana Dāsa (TEC),
Nitya Kiśorī Devī Dāsī (TEC), Mālatī Devī Dāsī (TEC), Murāri Caraṇa Dāsa (TEC),
Vṛndā Devī Dāsī (TEC), Nanda Gopāla Dāsa (servant leader, congregational development)

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, the savior of countless conditioned souls across the world. You are the chosen emissary of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the most merciful representative of the entire *paramparā*. By your compassion, millions who were lost in the darkness of ignorance have now found the light of transcendental knowledge and the shelter of Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

We, the residents of Kashi, the ancient and spiritually significant city of Varanasi, are eternally indebted to you. Although Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself once walked these very lanes, it was through your boundless mercy that we came to know of His divine pastimes, His loving associates, and the profound glory of *gaura-bhakti.* Prior to your teachings, we had little understanding of the supreme gift Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu gave to the world, *kṛṣṇa-prema*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, though our center in Varanasi is small in size, by your causeless mercy it is vibrant in spirit. The physical facilities may be limited, but our true wealth lies in the association of devotees and in your transcendental teachings. We have a dedicated congregation of approximately sixty devotees who are sincerely chanting sixteen rounds daily. The unity and affection among us resemble that of a loving family.

We are also blessed with an active youth wing, with four *gurukula*-style youth centers located just behind IIT-BHU, where about forty or fifty young devotees reside and engage in spiritual practices. These devotees attend *maṅgala-ārati* and participate in the full morning program daily. This is truly your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Gradually, the culture of devotional service is growing. Initially, garlands were not made by devotees, but now many *mātājīs* have lovingly taken up this *sevā*. Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gopāla and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi now receive garlands made exclusively by the hands of devotees.

Our digital *sevā* team shares the divine darshan of our Lordships with the broader community through regular postings. Our weekly programs are many, and our forums are expanding. We have special *saṅgas,* such as:

- Vidur Saṅga for the elderly
- ISKCON Vaiṣṇavī Saṅga for married ladies
- Swara Brahma for training in Hare Kṛṣṇa *kīrtana*
- Nritya Vatica for devotional classical dance and music
- Girls' Voice Center for uplifting young women through Kṛṣṇa consciousness
- Sanskriti classes for children to learn *ślokas,* drama, painting, and more.

We are also engaged in online preaching and book distribution. Many souls are reading your books digitally and connecting with the teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

A gift shop functions as a base for book distribution, and our festival organization has matured. Recognizing that festivals are the soul of the temple, we have appointed coordinators, and every month, despite limited resources, we celebrate at least one grand festival led by a devotee from the congregation. Our grand festivals include Janmāṣṭamī, Gaura-Pūrṇimā, and most recently, the Phoolon ki Holi festival, where over two thousand people attended. We showcased a short film on your glorious life and teachings. Many were deeply touched and expressed a desire to associate more with the temple.

Kīrtanas in the morning and evening fill the temple atmosphere with transcendental joy. People from all walks of life come to the temple seeking peace, devotion, and Kṛṣṇa's presence. We are in the process of constructing a new temple on this same sacred land. Though the area is small, it is at a prime location, and a beautiful temple here will allow thousands more to experience Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever little we are able to do is only by your blessings. You journeyed across the ocean at the age of 70 and changed the world. We are young, but cannot match your dedication and sacrifice. Still, we try, in our limited ways, to serve you and follow your instructions.

Kindly bless us that we never become complacent, that we rise above laziness and internal politics, and remain focused on our ultimate goal – to please you. Please bless us that we see the good in one another and do not fall into the trap of fault-finding or the pursuit of positions. Let the service itself be our reward, and your satisfaction be our only ambition.

You have brought us to the service of Śrī Gopāla. No matter how big or small our efforts are, the fact that we are engaged in devotional service is itself the greatest fortune of our lives – and that is entirely your mercy. Without your coming into our lives, we would have continued wandering in the world of illusion, running after temporary pleasures.

Your life, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is a lighthouse in the darkness of Kali-yuga. You lived in Prayagraj and surely must have had a spiritual connection with Varanasi too. Now, please bless us that our external development is matched by internal purification, so that we can truly meet your expectations.

You didn't simply desire temples or restaurants – you desired that we become pure devotees and lovers of Kṛṣṇa. That, we know, is not possible by our own effort, for we do not yet know Kṛṣṇa. But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are Kṛṣṇa's pure devotee – and only you can bring us closer to Him.

We humbly pray for the strength to carry on your mission in this holy city of Kashi, to expand

Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and to grow in our own *sādhana.* Please bless us to be united, sincere, and enthusiastic in your service.

As *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.17.27) glorifies the position of guru:

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our eternal guide, our ever well-wisher, and our dearest master. We do not know what to ask, but you know what to give. Please continue to guide us, correct us, and uplift us. Your mission will continue for the next ten thousand years. May we be instruments in your hands.

Your aspiring servants,
on behalf of the entire congregation of ISKCON Varanasi

Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dearly respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet, which traversed the earth to uplift innumerable fallen souls in this Age of Kali. Had you not left Vrindavan to broadcast the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, there was no chance that we could have heard about Śrī Kṛṣṇa, His abode Śrī Vrindavan Dhāma, and His transcendental devotional service.

This year, 2025, commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the inauguration of the Śrī Śrī Krishna-Balaram Mandir on the auspicious day of Śrī Rāma-navamī in 1975. It was a day of jubilation, the culmination of a lifetime of struggles you endured to establish a divine temple in Vrindavan. You wanted a place where devotees from around the world would be welcomed, a place specifically for your disciples, life members, and international guests. You also particularly aspired to establish a temple for the worship of Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, along with Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara. Since the area of Raman-reti is the eternal *līlā-sthana* of Kṛṣṇa's and Balarāma's cowherd pastimes, They now reside here permanently in the magnificent temple you constructed.

Vrindavan is your eternal home; it was also the first place that your disciples built a house for you to live in. Eventually you chose to enter the *nitya-līlā* of Śrī Kṛṣṇa at this place, surrounded by your loving disciples. You encouraged all the residents of the temple to dedicate their lives to serving here, and described that the entire spiritual world is contained within the four walls of the temple compound. We have tried to mold our lives according to the multitude of instructions you gave for Vrindavan. You wanted this temple to be "heaven on earth" and a center for education.

After establishing the temple in 1975, you then proceeded to establish the Bhaktivedanta Swami Goshala and Bhaktivedanta Swami International Gurukula. You also sent devotees far and wide for *saṅkīrtana* by bullock cart and buses. Your vision for this temple was glorious, and to this day we strive to fulfill all the plans you gave us to expand the preaching efforts here.

You instructed that anyone who resides in Vrindavan should be on the level of a *gosvāmī,* fully dedicated to serving the Lord with body, mind, and words. You envisioned the temple to be a sanctuary for renounced *brahmacārīs* and *sannyāsīs*, with *gṛhasthas* and *vānaprasthas* residing near the temple to render service. During the fifty years since the grand opening, many devotees have served together to carry out your vision for Vrindavan, and there has been ever-increasing expansion of the project. Now there is a hundred-and-twenty-acre *gurukula* and ecofarm, and a number of preaching centers and temples established both within the Vraja area and throughout the nearby cities.

Truly, Vrindavan is your eternal home, and as our father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, as *dīkṣā-guru* or preeminent *śikṣā-guru,* we have inherited this treasure of the Śrī Śrī Krishna-Balaram Mandir to maintain for many generations into the future. As we gather together each morning to glorify you at your divine *samādhi,* we pray, "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." And then joining together for *guru-pūjā* we pray, "Make the teachings from the lotus mouth of the spiritual master one with our heart and do not desire anything else." That is our life and soul, to carry out your instructions throughout our life.

In honor of the Golden Jubilee festival this year, we have invited devotees to attend a grand festival with twelve days of *parikrama* to the twelve forests of Vrindavan, and then six days of hearing and chanting about the grand opening from senior Vaiṣṇavas. As you did in 1975, we will also distribute *prasādam* to thousands of people throughout the day with the same menu you chose in 1975. There will be cultural programs and dramas, just as you wanted, and twenty-four-hour *kīrtana,* which you personally inaugurated at the opening. *Mahā-abhiṣeka,* a Jhulan-yātrā, Śobha-yātrā, and *nāgara-saṅkīrtana* will grace the festival in glorification of Their Lordships.

We pray that you will be satisfied with our humble endeavors to please you, and that you will always keep us under the shelter of your lotus feet so that we may continue to serve you at ISKCON Vrindavan eternally.

Your servants in the dust of your lotus feet,
The residents of ISKCON Vrindavan

Warangal, Telangana, India

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisance at the dust of your lotus feet on this most auspicious occasion of your appearance for the benefit of all the fallen souls of this world. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for engaging us in the service of your dear Lordships Śrī Śrī Jagannātha-Baladeva-Subhadrā, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Nīlamādhava, and the most merciful Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitai, and thereby making our lives truly successful.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness is urgent and can't wait for anything external – this was the first teaching your Guru Mahārāja gave you, and you made your entire life a living testimony to this order. As you started your preaching endeavors in India, you were always carrying a sense of urgency to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness quickly all over the world, whether by writing a letter to Mahatma Gandhiji, explaining to him the real meaning of the term "Mahatma" along with the real occupation of the "Harijanas"; explaining to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then president of India, your formula for taking everybody back to Godhead; making your plans for worldwide outreach through the League of Devotees, based in Jhansi; or frequently forgoing meals so you could purchase more paper to print *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. All these and many more instances in your life show your overwhelming compassion for the conditioned souls and a great sense of urgency to spread Krsna consciousness in the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you descended to this world to fulfill the prediction of Lord Caitanya, as He proclaimed it five hundred years ago:

ebe nāma-saṅkīrtana tīkṣṇa khaḍga laiyā
antara asura jīvera phelibe kāṭiyā

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

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

I don't think any sane man would dare to doubt the fact that you are the same *senāpati-bhakta,* the empowered commander in chief of Lord Caitanya.

We, your humble servants at ISKCON Warangal, are very fortunate to receive this golden chance to engage in the mission of Lord Caitanya through your teachings. In the last year, these are some of our humble offerings at your lotus feet:

- A total of thirty-five devotees in our community have been initiated.
- We have started a Bhakta Prahlad school to engage and train children in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
- 27,000 people attended our Janmāṣṭamī celebrations in 2024.
- Part of the 1.1 acre of land at Manikonda, which was illegally annexed by a local estate holder, has now been cleared, and recently we have taken possession of the property.
- We have undertaken major renovations in the existing ashram. The ashram was renovated to cater to *brahmacārīs* and the local college students taking up Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
- The existing temple hall is being extended from 1,000 to 2,000 square feet to facilitate an increasing number of activities at the temple.
- We have opened four new student centers near reputed colleges to give students the opportunity to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness.
- We have been regularly doing Food-for-Life *prasādam* distribution near the temple as well as within the city a minimum of twice a month. Hundreds of people come and receive *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we sincerely seek your mercy to continue our services and increase our outreach through book distribution, *harināma,* and various preaching programs. We also want to complete the renovation work as early as possible so that hundreds of thousands of people can visit and benefit from the glorious opportunity to practice devotional service which you provided.

In a letter to Kṛṣṇā Devī, dated January 26, 1968, you so beautifully, succinctly, and poetically pointed out the real purpose of life in this material world: "This life of material existence is just like hard wood, and if we can carve Krishna out of it, that is the success of our life." Please bless us so that we can perfect our existence by becoming your servants and truly surrendering ourselves to your lotus feet, thereby utilizing the hard wood of material existence to carve the Deity of Kṛṣṇa out of it.

Your servant,
Sītārāma Dāsa,
on behalf of the ISKCON Warangal devotees

Warri, Nigeria, West Africa

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our obeisances at your most exalted feet. All glories unto you.

Thank you for founding ISKCON and giving shelter to thousands of conditioned souls all around the globe. Thank you for your wonderful books. Thank you for exposing us to the holy name, *prasādam,* and other diverse forms of *sevā*. Please kindly pardon us for not building on the esteem of the indelible marks you left on the ground, and please bless us to be better and more improved servants of your servants and functionally contribute to the expansion of ISKCON globally.

Your lowly servants from Warri temple, Nigeria, West Africa

Wiesbaden, Germany

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet! All glories to you on this most auspicious appearance day!

Thank you for sowing the seed of bhakti and devotional service in the hearts of everyone, without distinction!

Thank you for the ocean of unconditional compassion toward all the fallen souls!

Thank you for visiting us!

Thank you for sacrificing your life for us!

Thank you for showing us how to live a Kṛṣṇa conscious life!

Thank you for your legacy!

Thank you for the books you translated and commentated for our benefit!

Thank you for your stalwart disciples, who are capable of guiding us and preaching your mission further!

Thank you for our new life and the chance to return back to Kṛṣṇa, back to Godhead!

Thank you for your full-length photo hanging in our temple room, giving us the chance to touch your lotus feet, which can deliver us. They save us from the bondage of the material world, which keeps us trapped like fools. We bow down before you again and again in respectful obeisances.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda we beg for your mercy! Please help us to attain Kṛṣṇa consciousness! Only by the mercy of Lord Caitanya, by your mercy, and by the mercy of your great disciples can we be saved! Thanks to the spiritual master, we are not left alone on the path to Kṛṣṇa! Without Kṛṣṇa consciousness, true and eternal happiness is impossible to achieve!

Thank you for this, Gurudeva! Thank you for being the one we, your spiritual grandchildren and great-grandchildren, can follow. We bow down before you again and again in respectful obeisances, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Falling at your lotus feet we beg for your mercy: please help us attain Kṛṣṇa consciousness!

Thank you for your godly mercy on all fallen souls!

Thank you for your selfless, superhuman work!

Thank you for the knowledge you left behind for generations to come!

For all these reasons we would like to express our highest esteem for you on this very auspicious day of your appearance.

Your instruction to chant and read daily is keeping us always in touch with you! We are astonished by the depth of your comments on the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and your devotion and love for the Supreme Lord. Your words lead always to bhakti, pure devotional service to Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Your books purify our hearts and deepen our devotion every day.

Also, thank you for your ISKCON society! Thank you for allowing us little spiders to be in Lord Caitanya's army, with you captaining us toward pure love of God in this lifetime!

What can one say to you other than to say continually "Thank you, thank you, thank you"? You are and remain the *jagad-guru*! You inspire through Your books. You speak through your disciples and followers in their lectures. You sing through the devotees. When we distribute your books, you give us instructions from within. There is no day we do not remember you!

Thank you for sending us exactly the right gurus, who correct us from within. Thank you for sending us *śikṣā-gurus,* who train us in such a way that even persons like us understand how to become Kṛṣṇa conscious and, hopefully, remain so eternally.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your Divine Grace and the *guru-paramparā*! On the day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we wish to express our gratitude to your parents – your father, Gour Mohan De, for his great contribution in developing your love for Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa and encouraging your heartfelt attachment to serving Their lotus feet; and your mother, Rajani De, for her concern for your health, growth, and well-being.

In our life, you also play a significant role as both father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, all rolled into one. It is because of you that we have come to know about Kṛṣṇa and loving devotional service to the Supreme Absolute Truth, God, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Because of you, we are growing up in your spiritual home called ISKCON, receiving spiritual care and instruction, learning the science of devotional service from your disciples. Because of you, we and many thousands of people have received the saving nectar of spiritual knowledge, the real breath of life, without which there would be no chance to know about God as He really is. There would be no chance to know that there is an eternal relationship between us, the *jīva,* and Kṛṣṇa, and that the way to know and develop this relationship is through devotional service. You have made the difficult simple. You have extended a helping hand to all living entities, and we pray to you that we and all who have come into contact with the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement not only get a chance to go back to Godhead but also utilize that chance to the fullest. We thank you and the entire *guru-paramparā,* along with our spiritual master, for the opportunity to serve Lord Caitanya's movement. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your devotees at Harināma-deśa, Weisbaden

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this 129th anniversary of your appearance, we offer this homage to you on behalf of your granddisciples and uninitiated followers at ISKCON Manitoba, Canada.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your tireless efforts to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness globally have not only transformed individual lives but have also created vibrant communities where devotees can come together to glorify the Supreme Lord. By your divine will and unlimited mercy, ISKCON Manitoba has been blessed to manifest its first new temple, Shri Hari Vaikuntha Dham, a place of devotion for generations to come. We gave this name based on your words:

> Everywhere wherever Krishna Katha is spoken, that is Vaikuntha. And wherever I go to my branches, you my good devotees turn it into Vaikuntha, and I wish to be there where my disciples are. (Letter to Citśukhānanda Dāsa, July 29, 1972)

You are very fond of Śrī Jagannāthajī and Ratha-yātrā, so we have named the temple Sri Hari (name of Jagannātha) and Vaikuntha Dham (name of Śrī Purī-kṣetra).

In a world engulfed in material turmoil, where everyone is in *kuṇṭha,* anxiety, you gave us the ultimate shelter: a place where devotees can gather to chant the holy names, immerse themselves in the nectar of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,* and cultivate pure devotion under your divine guidance to become free from *kuṇṭha.* This new temple will serve as a sacred space where hearts will be transformed and souls will find their eternal connection with Kṛṣṇa through His holy name.

Your compassion has empowered devotees in Winnipeg to carry forward your mission with enthusiasm and dedication. Through regular programs, *kīrtanas,* festivals, and outreach efforts, the community here is striving to uphold the high standards of devotion and service that you exemplified.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly pray for your continued guidance and blessings as we endeavor to make Sri Hari Vaikuntha Dham a center of spiritual excellence and a place where the glories of Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa resonate eternally. May this temple stand as a shining tribute to your divine mission and inspire countless souls to take shelter at the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa. On Śrī Rāmanavamī, we will open the doors to the temple. The grand inauguration will be on Janmāṣṭamī, August 16, 2025. Your disciple His Holiness Bhaktimārga Swami will come to bless this ceremony. This temple was built in memory of your disciples His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja and His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami, because their personal instruction to me and the guidance I received from them helped us manifest Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission of spreading the holy name in Winnipeg.

On your Vyāsa-pūjā, we bow down to your lotus feet and pray to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for enthusiasm, determination, and patience in bhakti. Please bless us that as our congregation grows, we have loving relationships among devotees and cooperate with one another to serve ISKCON (your body) with love and care. May we all have strong *sādhana,* taste for the holy name, and dedication to studying and distributing your books. Thank you for engaging us in the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

Your fallen servant,
Vishwambhara Kripa Dāsa
on behalf of the ISKCON Manitoba congregation

Yavatmal, Maharashtra, India

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga! All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to your 129th divine appearance day!

This year marks the fiftieth *brahmotsava* of the Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma temple – a milestone in the history of ISKCON. Vrindavan was always your home, from your humble room at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara temple to the magnificent Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir, which manifested as a result of your unwavering surrender to the instructions of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

It is said that when you chose the temple site in Vrindavan it was on the outskirts of town – just as Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rasabihārī's temple in Juhu was initially in a remote area. But due to your vision and determination, these places have become magnets for *kṛṣṇa-bhakti,* drawing thousands of sincere seekers. Today, because of your surrender, we have such wonderful temples and, more importantly, spiritual guides – our *śikṣa-* and *dīkṣā-gurus* – leading us on the path of bhakti.

The scriptures reveal that pure devotees carry the holy places within their hearts and transform ordinary locations into places of pilgrimage simply by their presence. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you not only sanctified lands across the world – from the USA to the UK and beyond – but you also gifted us your sincere disciples, who now serve as our spiritual mentors. The *paramparā* continues as they, in turn, guide their own disciples, keeping your legacy alive.

Today, we reflected on how a skilled surgeon prioritizes saving the patient over the technical perfection of the operation. Similarly, you adapted your approach – making adjustments without compromising the essence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Instead of insisting on strict adherence to sixty-four rounds, prohibiting Deity worship by women, and enforcing rigid qualifications for initiation, you chose to cultivate devotees first. Your policy of compassion over rules led to the expansion of ISKCON as a global family, proving that inclusivity in bhakti bears greater fruit than mere rigid institutional success. Here at ISKCON Yavatmal, we are witnessing the fruit of your mercy.

- Over the past few years, many new devotees have joined the congregation.
- Youth participation is growing, with special sessions tailored for them.
- A prominent businessman, though unable to join ISKCON full-time, has committed to support ISKCON externally.
- A respected veteran, though not officially joining, has pledged to donate an entire floor of a prime-location building to ISKCON.
- Our Janmāṣṭamī celebrations have grown from fewer than a hundred visitors in 2014 to over fifteen hundred attendees today.

Inspired by this momentum, we seek to expand our *bhakti-vriksha* programs and home-based gatherings to reach even more souls.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly pray that as we endeavor to serve you and the *paramparā,* we may develop the same unwavering faith you had and always feel the presence of Guru and Gaurāṅga by strictly following their instructions.

Your servants at ISKCON Yavatmal

Yerevan, Armenia

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet on behalf of the Armenian *yātrā*. All glories to you, our dearest friend and savior, the empowered representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva and Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have left us the greatest legacy – unique and perfect for all times and places! We do not need to invent anything; you have given us everything. Simply by following in your footsteps, your example, and especially your instructions, we see the results: people are becoming attracted to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. What you have given us is perfect! You have presented this priceless knowledge in a wonderfully accessible way, giving us the culture, etiquette, standards, and the correct understanding and application of them. Because life is long, in order to dedicate it to Kṛṣṇa, you have given us everything we need.

Even when we fall or stumble, it is by your mercy that we know we must simply get up and continue.

Our region, like others, is no exception. Here, people are deeply attached to material conditioning, bodily identification, family, nationality, tradition, and culture ... sometimes it even seems more pronounced here. But like everywhere, sincere souls, when touched by your mercy and compassion in the form of your books and your devotees, begin to realize their true position, either instantly or gradually. Their lives and hearts change before our very eyes. This process is truly wonderful and beautiful!

The legendary love feasts, the *kīrtanas,* and the best books about Kṛṣṇa in every sense – these are our weapons and our priceless treasures. All that is required of us is a little sincerity and a desire to assist you in your mission to save everyone! By your mercy, even in our small *yātrā,* there are already so many of your fearless and selfless pure devotees, striving to fully dedicate their lives to Lord Caitanya's mission.

Sometimes there are difficulties and disagreements, but you said that if everyone's goal is to satisfy Kṛṣṇa, all differences will be resolved. We pray for your blessings to always follow this goal in all situations!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please allow us to be instruments in your hands! Please bless us to develop even a drop of your compassion – true compassion! Please bless us so that difficulties do not stop us but instead strengthen us. Kindly allow us, with full determination, to simply assist you.

With endless gratitude to you, your eternal servants,
the devotees of the Armenian *yātrā*
(written by Hemāṅgī Devī Dāsī)

Yokohama, Japan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

We are very grateful to you for giving us the simplest yet best process to understand ourselves, the Supreme, and our relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. We are all trying to read and understand Your Divine Grace through your books and the message of Lord Caitanya.

As we read and understand Your Divine Grace's books, we feel very fortunate and protected from the material influences and misunderstandings about God. If we don't read Your Divine Grace's books, it is not at all possible to understand the simplicity of devotional service and to develop loving consciousness toward all living entities, Vaiṣṇavas, and the most loving Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

As we continue in our Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we feel great value in devotee association, which gives us the opportunity to remember Kṛṣṇa, hear about Kṛṣṇa, and increase our inner strength and faith in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

To progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, Your Divine Grace gave us books, ISKCON and the Seven Purposes you devised for it, devotees, and spiritual educational centers (temples). Along with these Your Divine Grace blesses each of us who follows your instructions.

Your Divine Grace mentioned, "Your credit is that you had not changed any message and instructions of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and guru." Similarly, we seek empowerment to use our intelligence to practice and preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness and its purposes without changing the essence. We seek to be able to reach out to the Japanese in understanding their cultural sensitivity and requirements, and embed this valuable jewel of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in their lives.

In a small center in Yokohama, Japan, we are giving this opportunity of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the Japanese by arranging music festivals (*kīrtana-melas*), *prasādam,* and yoga study groups, where we read systematically through *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. We hold Japanese devotee retreat programs with the sole intention of increasing the respect and love among the devotees. It is surely helping all of them to easily take Kṛṣṇa's names and open their hearts to hearing about Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme God who is our controller and protector, and a loving God who is waiting for us.

After a couple of retreat programs, five or seven of the devotees out of the thirteen who attended started chanting. They also developed the desire to be vegetarian and attend the *Bhagavad-gītā* classes regularly. We see Your Divine Grace's mercy and empowerment in those who are simple and strict in following the process.

With all humility, and feeling the great fortune and gratitude in our hearts, we fall at your lotus feet and seek your shelter, blessings, and empowerment to continue preaching in the Yokohama and Tsukuba centers.

Your granddisciple,
Sudāmā Dāsa (KCS)
On behalf of the Yokohama devotees

Ypsilanti, Michigan, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our sincere obeisances. All glories to you on the sacred day of your Vyāsa-pūjā!

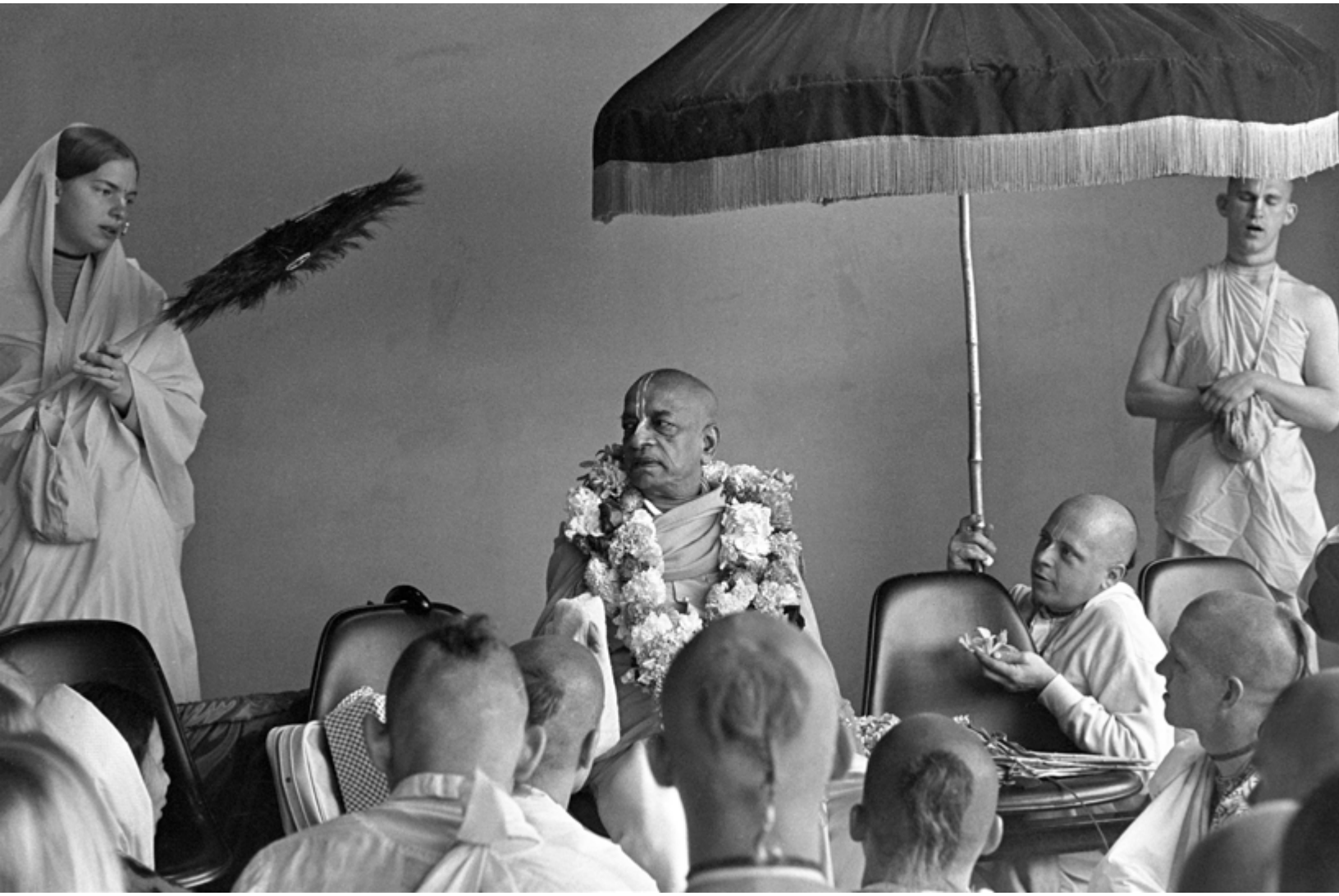
Fourteen years ago I read in the *Līlāmṛta,* "One competent man can start a center." Foolishly thinking of myself as one such person, I allowed the desire to settle into my heart that I could be in charge of one of your centers. This year the fruit of that foolishness and the force of your mercy reached ten years of maturity, as your Harmony Collective community celebrated a decade together in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Though the place sounds obscure to most ears, and it is certainly very far from Śrīdhāma Māyāpur, you might remember the name as it was shared by an immigration lawyer who first helped you with your America visa (a fact pointed out to me by a godbrother curious about any prior connection between Ypsilanti and yourself). At the least, you would have driven past our exit 181 on your way to State Street, exit 177 off US HWY 94, while on your way to the University of Michigan for a speaking engagement arranged by the Detroit temple devotees on June 22, 1971.

This decade has for us been a reckoning on many levels as we strive to even begin to align with the direction and weight of your instructions and example. Today, as you know, we have a temple for Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, a farm with eight protected cows, and a school for children. Confident in your continued mercy, we seek to consolidate these three separate properties into one master parcel in the next year. The attempt to serve your vision has kept a core group of us together amid all the usual upheavals, and we have drawn in other committed followers of yours interested in serving your long-term vision of a viable society.

And that is where I'd like to put a special emphasis of gratitude this year, Śrīla Prabhupāda. While you put so much into establishing the formal organization of ISKCON, it's so clear that you had a vision for Mahāprabhu's family that went beyond the borders of any formal organization's mandate. You spoke to this many times – so often that the many who feel alienated or estranged from aspects of ISKCON as an institution today needn't at all feel separated from you or Kṛṣṇa. As you explained to your direct disciples:

> Organization and institution are material. They are necessary to keep order, but they are not the essence. The essence is to be Krishna conscious. (Letter to Haṁsadūta Dāsa, June 22, 1972)
>
> Don't be dependent on any organization. Depend on Krishna. Organization is for preaching, but our real business is to become Krishna conscious. (Letter to Madhudviṣa Dāsa, February 4, 1973)
>
> If one thinks that simply by joining an institution he becomes liberated, that is not the fact. One must practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness personally. (Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.12, Delhi, November 14, 1973)

Ironically, we have found the more we highlight this simple and open spirit of yours in our *saṅga,* the more we receive trust and dedicated effort from your sincere followers. We have learned that nobody needs the Harmony Collective, and that anybody can be rescued from the mundane malaise by the mercy of yourself and Mahāprabhu. You have shown us we are not the source of that grace, and yet you have trusted us with the profound opportunity to support its flow and reception. For that we are perpetually left astounded, grateful, and engaged.



Please continue to keep us close, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please continue to send us your dear ones in all shapes and sizes. Please ensure we always hear from which direction your living voice is calling us forward today, tomorrow, and eternally. And finally, please help us live in such a way that others are inspired to also listen to that sacred vibration and allow it to become the source of their life.

Always for you, on behalf of your ISKCON Ypsilanti,
Deva Mādhava Dāsa (community director)

Zambia, Africa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As your insignificant children, we, the devotees of ISKCON Zambia, approach you with a heart full of devotion, seeking your causeless mercy to deepen our service to the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. It has been nearly a decade since we established our center in Lusaka, Zambia – a humble beginning that developed after years of dedicated efforts by countless devotees inspired by your teachings.

In our endeavors, we strive to fulfill your divine vision of revolutionizing the consciousness of all who come in contact with ISKCON. We endeavor to create a sanctuary where individuals can learn to reconnect with their eternal identities as servants of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Our aspiration is to transform our center into a vibrant school of devotion, where the teachings of Kṛṣṇa consciousness illuminate the paths of all seekers, guiding them toward the ultimate fulfillment, love of Godhead, and the attainment of transcendental bliss.

We humbly seek your blessings to cultivate an environment rich in devotion and love for Kṛṣṇa. We envision a community that embodies the principles of unity, harmony, and compassion, reflecting the essence of Lord Caitanya's teachings. May our efforts foster a familial atmosphere, where devotees support one another on their spiritual journeys, encouraging one another to grow in bhakti and service.

While our devotees are filled with enthusiasm, we recognize the necessity for deeper spiritual understanding and realization. Many are eager to serve, yet they may not fully grasp the profound wisdom contained within your teachings. We earnestly pray for your divine guidance that they may attain the insight needed to align their hearts with your vision. With your mercy, we are confident that they will flourish as empowered instruments of Kṛṣṇa's will, ready to share the message of love and devotion throughout Zambia and beyond.

As we strive to spread the glories of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we face the challenge of reaching those who are caught in the material whirlwind, seeking lasting happiness in temporary pursuits. We humbly beseech you for the intelligence and creativity to communicate the transformative power of your teachings effectively, attracting those who yearn for a deeper connection with Kṛṣṇa.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are acutely aware of our insignificance, yet we are filled with hope and determination. Please empower us with the strength, wisdom, and diligence to expand your mission in Zambia. May our hearts and minds be ever fixed on your lotus feet, and may our actions be a reflection of your divine grace.

Your insignificant servants,
The devotees of ISKCON Zambia

Zurich, Switzerland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Once, on a morning walk in Māyāpur, you instructed, "And this is the only shelter, these our centers, to be protected from all these rascals. These ISKCON centers are the only shelter. So, you have to maintain it very nicely. There is no other shelter." When hearing these words, we feel your concern that ISKCON centers continue to provide the only real solution to humanity.

In one of your letters you exclaimed, "I am always anxious to know about the activities of my temples so far established. The routine work, as it is going on in your center, appears to be very satisfactory. Please keep this standard continually and Kṛṣṇa will give you all facilities."

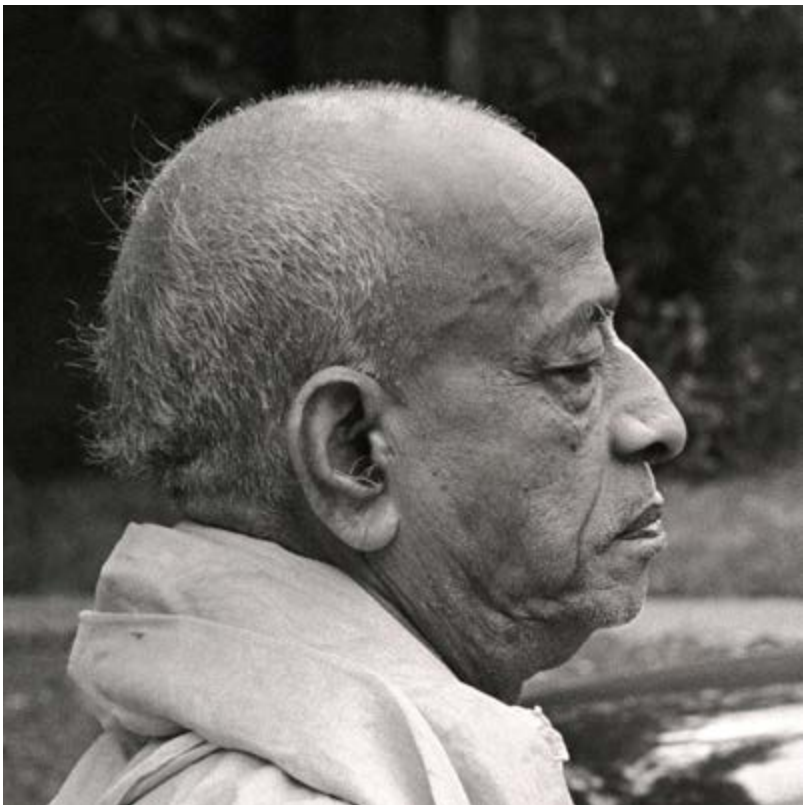
When meditating on your written words we feel strong separation from you. Seems like it has been a very long time that you were corresponding with your disciples in this way. What would we do to receive such a letter from you today? Would you also respond with satisfaction if we gave you our report?

In your temple in Zurich we hold daily lectures, perform regular Deity worship, distribute sumptuous *prasādam,* hold festivals, offer courses, invite local school classes for temple tours, and meet with our congregation and newcomers at the Sunday Love Feasts. Weekly, some of your devotees go to preaching programs at the nearby university. We also organize *harināmas* in the city and try to distribute your literature in public. We endeavor to maintain this routine work to the best of our abilities.

This year, we are determined to finally pay off the full mortgage, which has weighed on the temple building for too long. We will secure this spiritual oasis once and for all. From your Declaration of Will we get a clear understanding of how concerned you were for the protection of your ISKCON properties. Please bless and empower your dedicated followers in Zurich that they may unify themselves for this cause and thus give pleasure to you.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us ISKCON. Even though we could never meet you personally, we benefit immensely from your legacy. This is the mercy of your followers who worked hard for the establishment and maintenance of your centers, with all their activities aimed at the upliftment of humanity. On this auspicious day of your appearance, we pray that we can be instruments in your service and worthy members of your society that embrace and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

On behalf of your servants at ISKCON Zurich,
Dāmodara Prasāda Dāsa



Homages from Other Sources

Back to Godhead magazine

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

This is a time of uncertainty for your *Back to Godhead* magazine. For many years it has not had the prominence in your movement that it had in ISKCON's early decades. Many reasons account for this, the main ones having to do with your dedicated disciples and granddisciples discovering alternative, successful means to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Back to Godhead's diminished role in preaching has resulted in financial challenges, even to the point of threatening the magazine's survival. A question naturally arises: Does BTG still have a vital role to play in ISKCON? You wanted the magazine to be an outreach tool, but you also wanted it to have subscribers who would read it regularly and gradually be trained in the philosophy and practices of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Accomplishing these two purposes in the same magazine has always been a challenge, and it seems that devotees are finding ways to accomplish one or the other of them through means other than BTG.

Another of your purposes for BTG was that it would serve as a place for devotees to express their understanding of the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. In addition to stressing the reading of your books, you also stressed the importance of writing, so BTG was a natural place for the publication of such writing. Now devotees have multiple ways to share their realizations.

Despite these realities, for many devotees, BTG was a vital part of their early years in ISKCON, and they in particular feel that BTG must go on somehow or other. They have a devotional sentiment toward the magazine. They know how important it was to you. You referred to it as the backbone of ISKCON, and they naturally feel uneasy about the prospect of its disappearance.

Those of us serving your magazine pray to you for signs how to proceed. Some reorganization is taking place, and devotees are meeting regularly to work toward developing a strong digital presence for BTG while keeping the magazine in print as well. Please bless and inspire us to make decisions that align with your own desires in regard to your beloved *Back to Godhead*.

Hare Krsna,
Your servants at BTG

The Bhaktivedanta Archives

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious day of Vyāsa-pūjā we celebrate your glories, personality, accomplishments, and instructions (*vāṇī*). Through your mercy you have revealed to us your qualities that are naturally inherent in an exalted spirit:

1. Kind to everyone, 2. Does not quarrel with anyone, 3. Fixed in the Absolute Truth, 4. Equal to everyone, 5. Faultless, 6. Charitable, 7. Mild, 8. Clean, 9. Simple, 10. Benevolent, 11. Peaceful, 12. Completely attached to Kṛṣṇa, 13. Has no material hankerings, 14. Meek, 15. Steady, 16.

Self-controlled, 17. Does not eat more than required, 18. Sane, 19. Respectful, 20. Humble, 21. Grave, 22. Compassionate, 23. Friendly, 24. Poetic, 25. Expert, 26. Silent.

Through your continued mercy, we are now able to release VedaBase 25. This update features a significant amount of new, unique material, including 250 original *Līlāmṛta* interviews, which highlight your personality and activities. This new VedaBase 25, for the first time, opens the world to the English translations of your Hindi and Bengali instructions. 13,696 newly translated records were added. We'd like to show some examples below of some enthralling new *vāṇī:*

Prabhupāda: That's all. You simply become sorry and everything is finished. That's all. I do not know what to do. [break] ... whatever you like. Whatever like, what can I do? [Transl. Call that gentleman? Let me talk. You printed that in Bengali. Did you check it with somebody, or you did it of your own?]

Bengali man: [Transl. I did of my own.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. It won't be accepted if you do of your own.]

Bengali man: [Transl. Whatever I understood. Did I make a mistake?]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. You don't understand anything. You don't understand anything – that is clear from your writing. You have written with your own motive. I named it "Māyāpura Candrodaya," and you have separated it by saying "Māyāpura-sthita-Candrodaya." Why?]

Bengali man: [Transl. What I can do? Whatever I understood I wrote.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. What right have you got to speak the way you understand? Who has given you the right?]

Bengali man: [Transl. Please forgive my offense.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. Forgive my offense ... but you don't understand the harm you have done. Why you have ... We gave you, "*Śrīmāyāpuracandrodaya,*" and you have written *Śrīmāyāpura,* and explained it also that "the moon is rising in Māyāpura." We named the Mandir "*Māyāpuracandrodaya,*" and you have changed the whole meaning! You don't understand anything, and he has written all these things against our movement.]

Bengali man: [Transl. I didn't say anything against! Did I say anything contrary?]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. This is contrary!]

Bengali man: [Transl. How is it contrary?]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. We said, *Śrīmāyāpurcandrodaya,* and you have changed it to Śrī Māyāpur separate and Candrodaya separate, as if moon rising in Māyāpura. Who gave you this idea? "Rām is not thief," and you change it to "Rām is thief." We named it "*Śrīmāyāpuracandrodaya,*" and you changed it to Śrī Māyāpura [space] Candrodaya, and he explained it like that. They all address me as "Prabhupāda," which you didn't. You say "Viṣṇupāda." Who told you? They all call me Prabhupāda.]

Bengali man: *Nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale –*

Prabhupāda: [Transl. That's all right. Whatever they say, whatever they call me in this *mandir* you will also have to say that. Why do you say as you like? And why you write like that about us, then? Nobody writes "*Oṁ viṣṇupāda,*" so why do you write?]

Bengali man: [Transl. I have some problem in my ears.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. So twist your ears strongly. This is not good. You are writing about us, so until it is approved by us, how can you write? That's all I am saying. You have done it of your own, that's good. But the path we are following, you set it aside and you follow your own way. That is not good. Shouldn't you print after checking it with us? You printed so hurriedly without any permission! Here other *bābājīs* write "*Nitāi gaura rādhe śyāma hare kṛṣṇa hare rāma,*" but we object it. This is also same like that. Don't we protest? But they say, we do what we think good. They may think it as good, but we object it. In the same way, you may think it as good, but we have objection.

What you have done is done, but don't do such things in future. After writing you must check it with us whether it is right or not. That is the proper way. Just like that *vipra* from Bangladesh wrote something and wanted to show it to Mahāprabhu. But Svarūpa Dāmodara said, "No, this is useless!" Never print anything whimsically. When we print a book, we thoroughly check it so many times before we print.]

Bengali man: [Transl. I didn't say anything against the organization.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. You are saying, but they are doing it. Why we don't approve? They are also chanting "*Nitāi gaura rādhe śyāma*" with devotion, but why we don't approve it? Don't you know this?]

Bengali man: [Transl. I don't have so much knowledge.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. Don't have knowledge – then why do you write like an ignorant? This is the point. You don't have knowledge, so you have to take it from someone who has it. If you know that you have no knowledge, then first you have to take the knowledge. Isn't that right? And this was done purposefully. We joined together "*Śrīmāyāpurcandrodaya,*" and why have you separated them? Not only that you have also explained the meaning! This means you were fully aware of this! What was the need to separate?]

Bengali man: [Transl. That's how I understood. Māyāpur Candrodaya... like Caitanya Candrodaya ...]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. Why did you understand like that? We said, "*Māyāpurcandrodaya,*" and you wrote Śrīmāyāpura Candrodaya. And why have you explained also?]

Bengali man: [Transl. Candrodaya means Caitanya Candrodaya I thought.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. Where is Caitanya Candrodaya?]

Bengali man: [Transl. Caitanyacandra is Caitanya Candrodaya I thought.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. That means anything whimsical you can think, that's all! I thought, I thought. That will not be allowed here. I thought! Who you are! Do you know that? This will not be allowed if you want to stay here.]

Bengali man: [Transl. I will not do it again. I apologize.]

Prabhupāda: [Transl. I thought so! Who you are! I thought like that. Who cares what you think? Everybody thinks what I am doing is best. But we have to judge by the

result!] So what are you going to do about this finishing? Everything ... [Transl. *peṭāya namaḥ? Namaḥ peṭāya. Stomachāya. Namaḥ stomachāya*. Whatever comes, devour it.]

We are forever grateful and eternally indebted to Your Divine Grace. We pray to remain your eternal humble servants. Thank you very much.

Your servants at the Bhaktivedanta Archives

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust: Africa Division

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

As the world accelerates into a future marked by technological advancement and digital saturation, we find ourselves at a unique and urgent juncture. Artificial intelligence has become mainstream, human attention is fragmented, and spiritual inquiry is often replaced by algorithmic distraction. Society today is experiencing a crisis not just of meaning but of memory. We have forgotten who we are, why we are here, and what the ultimate goal of life is.

The *Bhagavad-gītā* describes Kali-yuga as an age of quarrel and hypocrisy. We see this playing out daily where truth is diluted, values are compromised, and dharma is increasingly obscured by competing narratives. Externally, it may seem that the world is more connected. Yet internally, people feel more lost than ever before.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is in this environment of confusion, uncertainty, and instability that your books become essential. They are not simply religious texts or philosophical treatises – they are lifeboats. They offer a return to clarity, a reorientation to what is real, what is eternal, and what is worth pursuing.

You did not wait for ideal conditions before acting. You saw the urgency. You saw the suffering. And you responded. You translated and published these books as a dedicated servant carrying out the order of your spiritual master. That same spirit of urgency and mood of compassionate disruption is what built the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. And it is what continues to sustain BBT Africa today.

As your servants, we strive to carry that mission forward with the same conviction. In a continent as diverse and rich as Africa, access is everything. When someone reads the *Bhagavad-gītā* in

their native language, they are not just reading words; they are encountering Kṛṣṇa speaking to them, in their voice, through your mercy.

This commitment to access and inclusion guided our publication of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in Kreole Morisyen (Mauritian Creole) for the people of Mauritius. This was a significant milestone, as it was an extension of your mission. In the same spirit, your *Back to Godhead* magazine is now transitioning into digital format, aligning with how people engage with information today, without compromising the depth of spiritual substance.

The African *saṅkīrtana* team distributed an impressive 157,977 Bhaktivedanta Book Trust publications, including both books and magazines. Book distributors across the continent continue to innovate, finding new and creative ways to expand the reach of your books.

All around us people are beginning to ask deeper questions. There is a growing recognition that material progress alone cannot satisfy the heart. They are searching for answers that go beyond surface-level solutions. There is a quiet but rising need for truth that is rooted in something greater than themselves. And the answers that they are searching for are present in your books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your life was the embodiment of selfless service. On this sacred day of your Vyasa-puja, we recognize more than ever how urgently the world needs your books. We offer our renewed commitment at your lotus feet: to continue translating and publishing them with dedication and care. Please bless us so that we may carry on this sacred mission.

Your servants,
The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust in Africa

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust: Kerala

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet, which traveled this planet many times to give the nectarean teachings of Lord Caitanya through your example, your *vāṇī,* and through your books.

All glories to Your Divine Grace for giving us the service of producing your books and distributing them to our hearts' content into the hands of conditioned souls. You said you will never die but will remain eternally in your books!

We see you in your books and feel a sacred kindred nearness that is so sweet and inspiring. Your books, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have so much valuable information in them for the well-being of all humanity for all time to come. We have increasing realizations about your statement, "Everything is in my books!" as people read these books and become devotees.

These are not just ordinary books, Śrīla Prabhupāda – they are a living, conscious, breathing manifestation of the Absolute Truth, Kṛṣṇa. Again, thank you for allowing us to serve you by producing these books in the Malayalam language for the people of Kerala, who also live in all corners of the world.

Recently we had the opportunity to meet the new governor of Kerala state in South India, and he was very appreciative of your contribution through your books. He commented that the intellectual elite will benefit from them.

You said you feel like an "'emperor who has conquered" every time you get one of your newly published books in any language. Every time a new book is published in Malayalam, we blow our trumpet of victory over Māyā's world by calling a "book-release program," and we let highly literate and interested people know about the new publication while calling upon a dignitary to receive the first copy. It gives us at the BBT immense pleasure to be playing a very small part in helping you conquer, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and know that you will be pleased with the publication of your books.

At the BBT in Kerala we have been able to complete almost all the titles and more. The *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* was released at a grand function commemorating the fiftieth year of your visit to Cochin (Kochi), Kerala, in August 2015. We chose the dates August 21–22, when the *Jaladuta* docked at Kochi's port, and you received the consignment of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* sets, sent from Bombay. The devotees at the BBT were highly emotional while making this offering to you on this most memorable fiftieth anniversary of your visit to Kerala!

We also released the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* at a grand function in Guruvayur, where union ministers were present with state leaders to receive the copies, along with the chief priest of the Guruvayur temple. We have also released a special deluxe edition of the *Bhagavad-gītā* – a collector's item – that is twice the size of the regular book, with an opulent finish and a wooden case. People love it.

Our team at the BBT, consisting of translators, proofreaders, production assistants, and managers, needs your very special blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as they have been sincerely working to produce your books for many, many years. Kerala is the most literate state in India. It's also the state that ranks highest in India in suicides and the consumption of alcohol and meat! How odd! This strange anomaly can best be explained and solved only through your books. Being the homeland of Śaṅkarācārya, Māyāvādīs and other impersonalists as well as communists abound in this state and have free voice in the intellectual arena. Your books are these people's only hope.

Śrīla Prabhupāda our existence in spiritual life is based on your books. It's by this new government "of your books, for your books, and by your books" that we can survive in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and share the teachings far and wide.

We at the BBT seek your blessings while thanking you immensely from the core of our hearts for engaging us in this most relishing service of producing your books in the local Malayalam language.

Your servants,
BBT Kerala, South India
(Sanātana Dharma Dāsa, Kuñjamohinī Devī Dāsī, Gopāl Gaura Guru Dāsa, Śaraṇamukhi Devī Dāsī, Mañjari Devī Dāsī, Śyāmalikā Devī Dāsī, Manorañjan Dāsa, Ūrmilā Sevinī Devī Dāsī, Śrīnivāsa Hari Dāsa, Giri Govardhana Dāsa, Prabhavi Gopī Devī Dāsī, Bhaktin Sudha Balachandran, Sheela Nair, and Bhakta Ratheesh)

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust: Latin Division

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

At the Latin BBT, our motto is *Śāstra Sevā*, the art of serving your books by translating them, compiling them, editing them, designing and laying them out, printing them, and also reading and studying them, distributing them, encouraging others to read and distribute them, putting them into practice in our lives, and serving in so many other ways. Thus, by focusing our lives on your words (*guru-mukha-padma-vākya*), we try to always remain fixed at your lotus feet (*śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma*).

In this way, enlivened by the divine influx of your presence in your books, we go out of our comfort zone and try to help you in this mission of spreading your books all over the region. We innovate in the methods of distribution, trying to inspire our large congregations and encourage them in *Śāstra Sevā;* we communicate with the *saṅkīrtana* devotees and try to serve them and facilitate their distribution with campaigns and promotions; we ourselves go out onto the streets to present these luminous books to the conditioned souls; and above all, we apply ourselves to practicing what's in your books – reading them and chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa with the fervent desire that one day the darkness of false ego will leave our hearts and we will have the qualification to be lifted by your loving hands into the presence of Kṛṣṇa.

Always praying for your blessing, and with all love and gratitude,

Your humble servant,
Nṛsiṁha-kṛpa Dāsa
On behalf of your servants at the Latin Division of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust: North American Division

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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.

In a 1974 letter to Hridayananda dāsa Goswami you wrote: "Please print as many books as possible, this is my real pleasure. By printing these books of our Krishna Conscious philosophy in so

many different languages we can actually inject our movement into the masses of persons all over the world, especially there in the western countries, and we can literally turn whole nations into Krishna Conscious nations."

In another letter in 1974 you wrote: "Actually these books are the foundation stone of our movement. Whatever we are is resting on these books. Read them and distribute them. This should be our motto."

By your insistence, in your manifest presence hundreds of thousands of books were printed and distributed. In the form of those books, your incalculable mercy on the masses of people all over the world continues to have an indelible impact.

Despite your obvious personal effort to translate and publish these transcendental books, you gave all credit to your spiritual master. In the purport to *Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi* 12.8 you wrote:

> We took up the mission of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura and Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura to preach the cult of Caitanya Mahāprabhu all over the world, under the protection of all the predecessor ācāryas, and we find that our humble attempt has been successful. We followed the principles especially explained by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura in his commentary on the *Bhagavad-gītā* verse beginning *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana*. According to this instruction of Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura, it is the duty of a disciple to follow strictly the orders of his spiritual master. The secret of success in advancement in spiritual life is the firm faith of the disciple in the orders of his spiritual master.

In the same purport you wrote: "Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura wanted to print as many books as possible and distribute them all over the world. We have tried our best in this connection, and we are getting results beyond our expectations."

On this occasion we pray that you bless us so that our efforts to keep your book distributors in North America amply supplied with your books may be successful and pleasing to Your Divine Grace.

Your servants at the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust offices in North America

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust: North European Division

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, your servants engaged in the mission of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust and the service of Śrī Śrī Gāndharvikā-Giridhārī at New Rādhākuṇḍa, Sweden, offer our deepest gratitude and heartfelt glorification at your lotus feet.

Every day, we immerse ourselves in your sublime translation of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and your illuminating purports. We have recently reached the Tenth Canto. Lord Viṣṇu has just appeared before Vasudeva and Devakī in Kaṁsa's prison. Their prayers to Lord Viṣṇu are

profoundly enlightening, offering great encouragement for contemplation: Kṛṣṇa is the cause of all causes and the ultimate controller. Devakī prays to Him for protection from the fear of Kaṁsa, and in her plea we hear the echo of all sincere devotees seeking shelter in the Lord's mercy. Similarly, we pray to Kṛṣṇa to protect us from the fears of this chaotic and bewildering material world.

At times, we wondered how much more insane the world must become before Kṛṣṇa appears, but now, through several of your purports in the Tenth Canto, you reveal that Kṛṣṇa is already here – in the form of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. It does not get any better than that.

Your purports in the Tenth Canto stand as the pinnacle of your transcendental wisdom, depth, and preaching prowess.

At first, we felt unqualified to enter into the Tenth Canto. How would we be able to handle such intimate spiritual intensity? Yet, through your careful and compassionate guidance, you protect us from misinterpretations and inappropriate speculation, and we are now quite confident that we will be able to study the remaining cantos.

You are training us to gradually accept that we are not in any position of control. We ended up in the material realm because we wanted to experience the feeling of control. Thank you for bursting that bubble and snapping us out of this powerful illusion.

All we can truly offer – all we can bring to the table – is our eagerness to surrender and our enthusiasm to serve Kṛṣṇa by serving you.

Thank you for placing your stamp of approval on the most essential scriptures, on the principles of life, on attitudes and decision-making, and on the countless ways one can engage in devotional service.

We desire nothing but to serve you and the devotees, especially those who share your strong desire for the distribution of your transcendental books. Our greatest fortune is to remain forever engaged in your service. Please give us the determination to carry forward your mission, the intelligence to get your books translated into all the languages entrusted to us, and the humility to serve in whatever capacity Kṛṣṇa desires. All success is yours and Śrī Śrī Gāndharvikā-Giridhārī's.

Your servants at the North European BBT

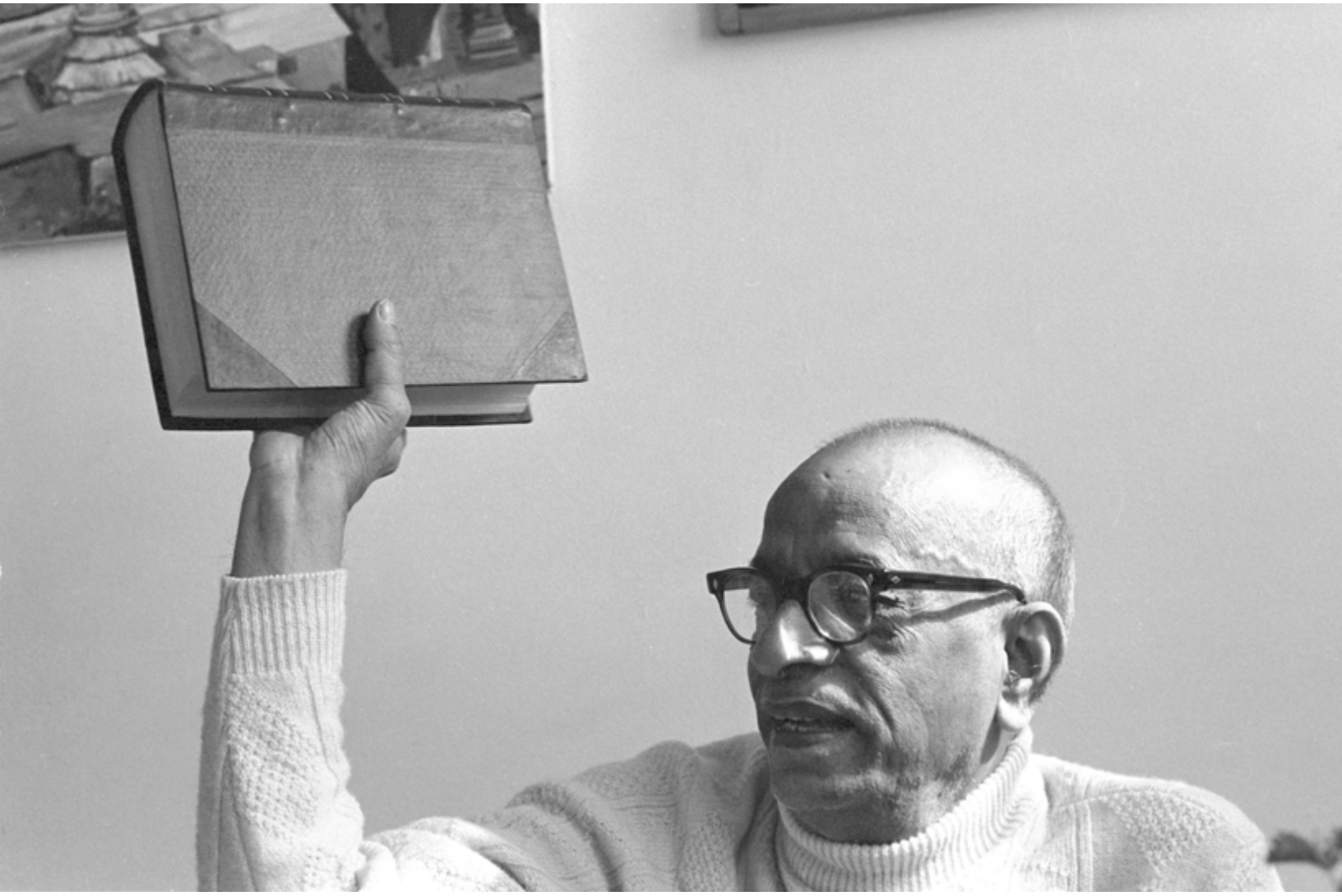
Bhaktivedanta College, Budapest, Hungary

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. On this sacred Vyāsa-pūjā day, all glories to you and your boundless mercy, which continually guides and nourishes our souls.

Those of us who serve at the Bhaktivedanta College are continually inspired by your profound teachings and the immense spiritual educational legacy you left us. We are committed to contributing to this divine mission with deep respect and a strong sense of responsibility.

The essence of our educational endeavor is summed up in your 1974 letter to Acharya Prabhakar Mishra: "If we want perfect education, we must follow the principle of the *Bhagavad-gita*. Such education will help the whole human society." Despite its modest size, our college aims to make a significant spiritual impact throughout the world. Guided by your instructions, we are



working with all our might to create a shining beacon of Vedic education that will illuminate the path to Kṛṣṇa, not only for our students but for all souls entangled in material existence.

Our students' spiritual resilience is just as important as their academic performance; thus we are truly dedicated to both. Our curriculum helps us to equip them as messengers of this timeless wisdom and nourish them with divine knowledge. By means of this, they represent the ideal you so clearly expressed: "The result of material education is that the living entity forgets his own identification [...]. According to the Vedic education, one must realize his actual identity as brahman or the spirit soul." (Letter to Hayagrīva Dāsa, 1970).

Our commitment to your teachings has also led us to forge international alliances with esteemed institutions that respect and value the depth of our Vedic tradition. These partnerships are not just academic – they are spiritual bridges, bringing together diverse cultures in a shared quest for transcendental knowledge and understanding.

Your profound vision that human life is especially meant for spiritual education is the

cornerstone of our philosophy at Bhaktivedanta College. We see its transformative impact on the lives of our students and, through them, on communities around the country. Parents from various backgrounds entrust their children to us, drawn not by worldly accreditation but by the spiritual sanctuary our college offers – free from the anxieties of material life, as envisioned in your letter to Aniruddha Dāsa, March 7, 1972. I recently witnessed the joy of spiritual connection on the faces of our students during a *bhajana* that took place during a break between classes. It was a living testament to the impact of your teachings.

On this sacred day of Vyāsa-pūjā, I pray for your continued guidance and blessings so that we may carry forward this sacred torch of knowledge, lighting the way for souls yearning for spiritual emancipation. May our efforts here at the college always serve to glorify your divine mission and bring us closer to fulfilling your dream of a spiritually enlightened society. May we always remain faithful to your mission, spreading the light of Kṛṣṇa consciousness far and wide, and may our efforts here at the college serve as a humble offering at your lotus feet.

Your eternal servants at the Bhaktivedanta College, Budapest, Hungary
(written by Gaurasundara Kṛpāmoya Dāsa)

Bhaktivedanta Manor Gurukula

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our respectful obeisances unto you.

We are thankful for all you've done for us: bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West, opening schools and temples, writing books to tell us all about Kṛṣṇa, and spreading Lord Caitanya's mission. We are grateful for the holy name, which you told us about. Without you, there would be no *gurukula,* and our community of friends would not exist. We are thankful for our *gurukula* family – devotee teachers, parents, and children all coming together to learn in an environment filled with devotion.

We hope that we can please you. Therefore, we perform *guru-pūjā* to you every Monday, *tulasī-pūjā* every Wednesday, and *kīrtanas* every day during our morning worship program. We have faith lessons in each class, and study your books and teachings. We learn how to play harmonium and *mṛdaṅga,* and we sometimes sing at the Manor. Recently, we performed at the Celebrating Śrīla Prabhupāda day at the Manor. We performed a play about your disciple Amekalā Devī Dāsī, and sang a song about your coming to the West. Many devotees appreciated it. We also celebrate other festivals that you told us about: Snāna-yātrā, Ratha-yātrā, and appearance day festivals, where we do *abhiṣekas* and hear about the different personalities. We also have a Śrīla Prabhupāda week, where most of our lessons focus on you and what you have given us.

We hope that all the *gurukula* students continue to remember you and serve you always. You have given us so much. We would like to become your instruments and serve your movement in whatever ways we can. Please give us your blessings and mercy.

Your servant,
Venudhar, year 3, age 9
On behalf of the Hare Kṛṣṇa Primary School

Child Protection Office: Africa

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to you, our lord and master.

This year marks fifty-five years since you first visited the African continent, namely Kenya, and later on, Mauritius and South Africa.

You will be pleased to know that throughout all these years, ISKCON has grown and is flourishing in many countries in Africa, with more and more devotees taking to this wonderful process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you have given to us.

Toward the latter part of last year, the first Regional Child Protection Office (CPO) for Africa was established. The International Child Protection Office has been established for over twenty-five years now. However, we have only recently managed to establish a Child Protection Office here in Africa for Africa, where many of the children come from disadvantaged communities.

Poverty is rife on the African continent. Poverty significantly increases the risk of child neglect, with children in low socioeconomic households being more vulnerable to neglect and abuse compared to those in higher socioeconomic households. This historic opening of the African Regional Governing body's CPO is a pivotal first step to protecting our little Vaiṣṇavas and Vaiṣṇavīs, which was your desire, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

In many instances through your personal example, letters, instructions, and books, you have emphasized the importance of child protection. In the purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.8.5 you state: "The protection of children gives the human form of life its best chance to prepare the way of liberty from material bondage." In this simple, unassuming statement, you emphasize the importance of child protection and how important it is to free one from material bondage.

As time is progressing, it has become evident to the GBC body that child protection has to be taken a lot more seriously, and with this they felt the need to restructure the Child Protection Office. It is now the Child Protection Oversight Committee. There are many concerns about how effective this will be for child protection. My commitment to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that I will do my best to ensure that our children are not compromised by the events around them, and I will work to bring about an awareness of child protection so that more devotees feel freer to report cases of abuse. The ideal will be to have an ISKCON where all children are safe and protected. As Kali-yuga progresses, this will be a challenging task, but you can rest assured that you have devotees committed to protecting children, and this enthusiasm and determination will spread across our region, if not the world.

Through my involvement with the GBC College, new strategies are being explored, and we hope that these will be successfully implemented for your pleasure.

Please bless us so that we can serve you in such a way that you will be pleased. Give us the intelligence to overcome any obstacles, and may we realize this dream of an ISKCON where all children can thrive in a safe, Kṛṣṇa conscious environment, as you envisioned!

Your aspiring servant,
Karuṇāmayī Devī Dāsī,
Child Protection Director, African Regional Governing Body

Child Protection Office: ISKCON North America

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Hare Kṛṣṇa. Please accept our obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your glories reverberate through time. Your mercy reaches us divine. In your immortal words, you are our "ever well-wisher." We are your ever-aspiring servants. In this relationship, we are poised to serve countless souls on their journey home.

By establishing a society focused on developing love of God, you have given us the lifelong gift of support and protection. You effectively created a container for us to be held in through every stage of life. Along with this is the opportunity to use our God-given abilities and propensities in community with others on the same path.

By creating the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, you ensured that we could spend our lives in the association of and service to Kṛṣṇa's devotees. You taught us the value of Vaiṣṇava *sevā,* of being *dāsānudāsa*. In shaping this society, you emphasized the importance of caring for one another, following your own behavior and directions. Round and round we may go, lifetime after lifetime, from birth to youth to old age to death, guided by your teachings and example, and your society is here to support and protect us on our journey home. By your mercy, those of us here today may have the good fortune to take shelter of your society in our next birth.

You said the children coming into ISKCON are given to us by Kṛṣṇa; they are Vaiṣṇavas. You called them "Vaikuṇṭha children" and made it clear that it was our duty to protect them (Letter to Arundhatī Devī Dāsī, July 30, 1972). A question we can regularly ask ourselves is: Are we creating the safe, nurturing environment required to encourage our children to embrace love of God, Kṛṣṇa?

Childhood is the foundation upon which the rest of one's life is built. In a letter to Hayagrīva Dāsa dated November 7, 1969, you wrote, "Please also take care of the children. They are our future hopes, and the adolescent age is the most dangerous age. It is the turning point of one's life. In this age, if you take care of the children, surely they will come out first class Krishna Conscious devotees."

It has been twenty-seven years since the Child Protection Office was established to help ISKCON management and members ensure that the children are safe. Your movement is expanding year by year. Please help us understand how best to serve these great souls taking shelter of ISKCON from the very beginning of their lives.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. As you have shown, protecting those who take shelter of Lord Caitanya's movement from birth requires the participation of all. It is not just the parents' responsibility. We each play a part in shaping a child's life, with ripple effects far into the future. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please give us the intelligence to organize ourselves to effectively carry out this sacred duty.

Thank you for sending more devotees to help strengthen child protection services, and the resources to sustain growth. Every day we feel gratitude for the opportunity to serve these special souls on their journey home.

The servants of your servants,
Child Protection Office – ISKCON North America

Festival of India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, we offer our most respectful and humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

In your books, you explain how the process of devotional service is passed down through the *paramparā* system – from one spiritual master to the next – and how it is through this chain that the conditioned souls receive the opportunity to connect with Kṛṣṇa. You are our living link in this disciplic succession, guiding us in the present age. It takes great spiritual qualification to bring conditioned souls back to Kṛṣṇa, and by your mercy, you are doing just that.

At your storefront temple at 26 Second Avenue, you gave many beautiful lectures, including a series on *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. In one of those classes you spoke about the meeting between Lord Caitanya and Sanātana Gosvāmī. Lord Caitanya shared the story of the astrologer who revealed that a priceless treasure – *kṛṣṇa-prema* – lies hidden in every heart. That treasure is our dormant love for Kṛṣṇa in one of the five *rasas:* neutrality, servitude, friendship, parental affection, or conjugal love.

You taught that the only way to awaken that love is through the process of *sādhana-bhakti,* but even this process required your mercy and guidance. By coming into your association, souls like us began to develop faith in the path of devotional service.

The fact that even the most unqualified souls can take to devotional life is further illustrated in the next story: In the biography about you called *Let There Be a Temple,* the author shares a touching story:

> The devotees were working hard to get a permit to build a temple in Mumbai, but even after a full year of effort, seven or eight of them couldn't succeed. Then, a Hindu friend of one of the devotees mentioned that the only way to get the permit was to offer a bribe to the government official.
>
> The devotees informed Śrīla Prabhupāda, and he gave them the money. It took a few attempts, but finally, the permit was approved. When Prabhupāda heard the news, he was so joyful that he told the man who helped, "You will go back home, back to Godhead – Goloka Vrindavan."
>
> The man humbly replied, "No, Prabhupāda. I'm not qualified. I'm too sinful."
>
> But Prabhupāda reassured him with deep compassion, saying, "Don't worry – I will take care of it."

This story illustrates the power of your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Another story that shows how even new but sincere devotees can get Kṛṣṇa's mercy by pleasing you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is the one about the group you sent to Japan. They didn't have much experience, but they wanted to serve you. You asked them to help collect money to build the Krishna-Balaram temple in Vrindavan. They worked very hard, selling books and doing business, and by your mercy, they were able to send the money.

You were so happy with their effort; and because they pleased you, the beautiful Krishna-Balaram temple was built. This shows that when we try to serve you with a sincere heart, even if we are not very advanced, Kṛṣṇa is pleased with us.

Just like these other devotees, we at the Festival of India are also aspiring to please you with our humble service of assisting the temples in North America to set up their Ratha-yātrā

festivals – introducing the conditioned souls all over North America to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the chanting of the holy names: Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma Hare Hare.

Your servants on the 2025 Hare Kṛṣṇa Festival of India Tour
(written by Gosh Ṭhākura Dāsa)

Food for All

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to your lotus feet, by whose mercy a lame man can dance and the blind can see beyond the mundane world.

Gargamuni Prabhu remembers: "While in Calcutta Śrīla Prabhupāda liked his morning walk at Victoria Memorial. Once Śrīla Prabhupāda recollects, 'That was built in memory of Victoria. It was done imitating the Taj Mahal. It took twenty years. Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee of Martin Company, he took the contract. And after finishing, he got this title Sir. And when it was being constructed, I went to the top by crossing the scaffolding.'"

When Brahmānanda told Prabhupāda, "So you must have been very brave," Śrīla Prabhupāda said, "Yes, I am still brave! [laughter] Otherwise how could I come alone to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness? I am still brave."

In Kali-yuga it's hard to find good qualities in people. People say, "Never meet your heroes – you'll be disappointed." Bravery is easy to recognize even for a dull-headed person like myself, and you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, stepped out of the comfort zone on the request of your Guru Mahārāja to give all living entities a chance to return back to Godhead.

We can only conclude that such compassion is rarely gifted to anyone. The scripture clearly explains the significance of your mercy, both internally and externally, and we are in awe.

Here at Krishna's Castle in Central London we have been given the opportunity to render a little devotional service to you through *prasāda* distribution, book distribution, and *harināma-saṅkīrtana*. We are eternally indebted to you.

Your servant,
Paraśurāma Dāsa and team

GBC College for Leadership Development

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Please accept this humble offering at your lotus feet from the GBC College's trustees, advisors, faculty, course coordinators, administrators, and staff. We hope and pray that it pleases you and invokes your blessings for the continued success of the GBC College.

For your pleasure and blessings, we are happy to report that the demand for training is growing worldwide. As we write this offering, the ninth international group of about fifty leader participants from various parts of the world is undergoing training. Simultaneously, the third group of about twenty leaders exclusively from North America is training. Additionally, over thirty leaders from China – also the third group from that country – started training last week, in March 2025. Further, Belarus devotees have expressed interest in developing a program in Russian that will be dedicated to their specific needs. They expect to enroll twenty leaders in that program.

We are also preparing to admit the next international group, to start in November 2025. For this upcoming group, we are contemplating two levels of training – first, for department heads, temple presidents, etc., and second, for zonal supervisors. Thank you very much for granting our wishes to start this new level of leadership training for department heads and others. We pray to Your Divine Grace for your blessings so that we may successfully conduct all these training programs in the spirit of being instruments in your service. We are so grateful for the opportunity to assist you in carrying out your vision.

Your servants at the GBC College for Leadership Development,
(submitted by Rūpānuga Dāsa, president)

Govardhan Retreat Centre

Hare Kṛṣṇa! Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to you. On behalf of the Govardhan Retreat Centre (GRC), I offer my humble glorification at your lotus feet.

This center, established in 2022, is but a small attempt to serve your divine mission – helping devotees worldwide deepen their Kṛṣṇa consciousness and find shelter under the guidance of your teachings.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your life was an extraordinary testament to unflinching devotion, determination, and mercy. At the age of seventy you embarked on the impossible journey of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness beyond the borders of India. With only a trunk of books and unwavering faith in the Supreme Lord, you crossed the ocean to fulfill the order of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. The world had never before witnessed such an act of selfless love.

Through your relentless preaching, ISKCON took root in the hearts of thousands. You worked tirelessly, translating scriptures, writing purports, guiding your disciples, and building a worldwide movement. You established temples, farm communities, *gurukulas,* and book distribution programs, ensuring that Kṛṣṇa's message would reach every town and village, just as Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu had predicted.

Today, your teachings continue to illuminate the path for seekers, offering them a way out of the material entanglements that bind the soul. Your transcendental books remain the guiding light for millions, nurturing the devotion of countless aspirants eager to follow the path of bhakti. Without your sacrifice, we would not have this spiritual movement, nor the opportunity to connect with the Lord through the process of devotional service.

Govardhan Retreat Centre: A Humble Offering

The Govardhan Retreat Centre is one such humble extension of your mission. Inspired by your vision, His Holiness Śacīnandana Swami and His Grace Bhūrijana Prabhu envisioned a center where devotees could immerse themselves in *kathā* and *kīrtana,* surrounded by the divine atmosphere of Govardhan. They wanted to create a spiritual oasis where one could take shelter, just as the Vrajavāsīs once took shelter under Govardhan Hill when Lord Kṛṣṇa lifted it to protect them from Indra's wrath.

Since its opening in 2022, GRC has provided a sacred space for introspection, learning, and deepening one's relationship with Kṛṣṇa. Every retreat, every class, and every *kīrtana* session here echoes the very essence of your teachings. Devotees come from all over the world to recharge spiritually and to reflect on your instructions and apply them in their daily lives. Just as you envisioned, this center fosters an environment where serious practitioners can advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, free from material distractions.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you often reminded us that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not just a philosophy but a way of life. You taught us to serve with humility, chant with sincerity, and surrender with faith. Your words continue to guide us today: "If you simply glorify Kṛṣṇa, then your life is perfect."

At the GRC we strive to follow this instruction by organizing regular *kathā* sessions, where devotees hear the glories of Kṛṣṇa, relish the pastimes of the Lord, and purify their hearts. The importance of *sādhu-saṅga* cannot be overstated. Just as you emphasized again and again, it is through this association that one finds the strength to progress in spiritual life.

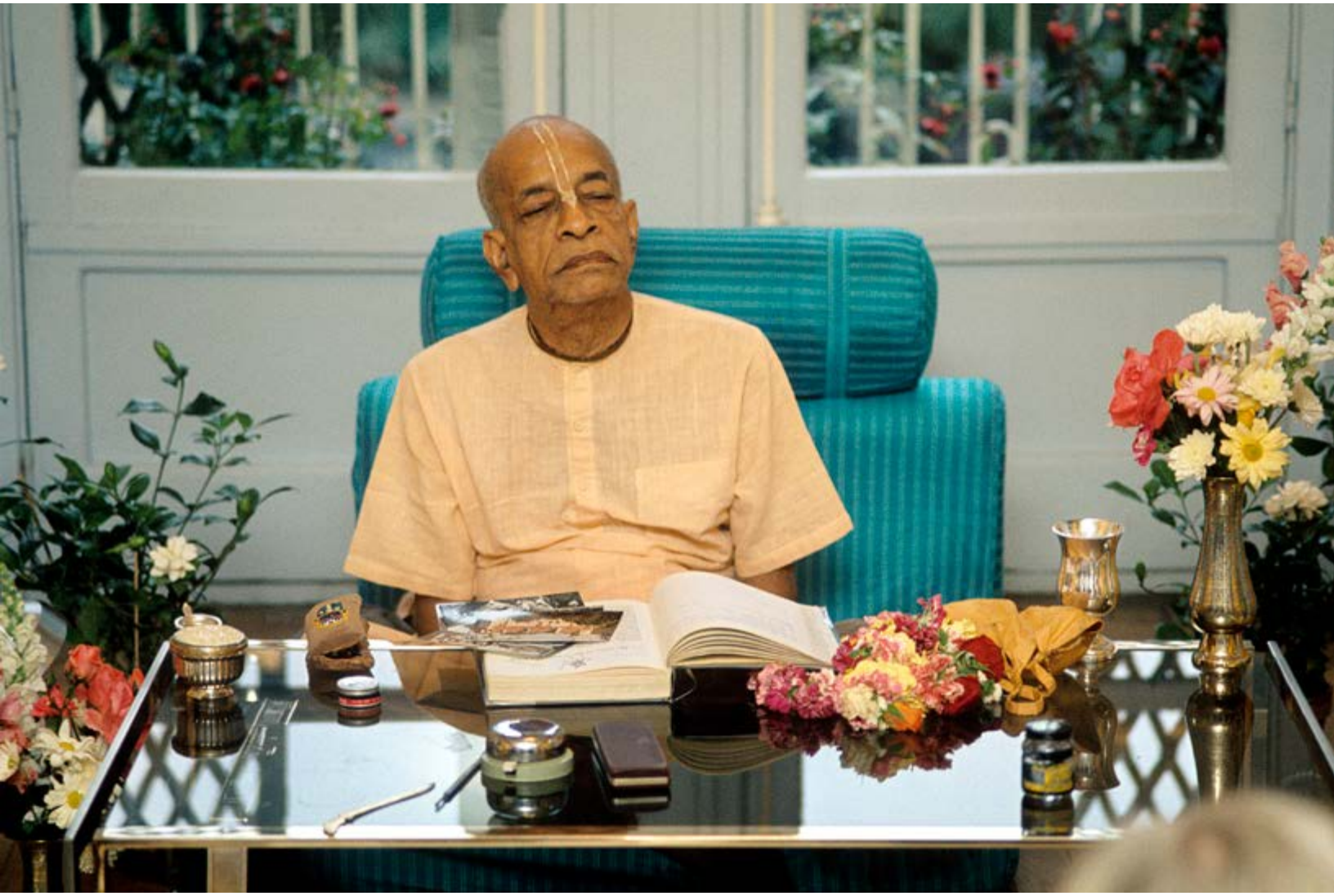
You also stressed the importance of chanting the holy name: "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and your life will be sublime."

Following your instruction, every retreat at GRC is filled with heartfelt *kīrtanas,* where devotees lose themselves in the ocean of Kṛṣṇa's holy names. Whether sitting in the Kirtan Hall or walking on the sacred land of Govardhan, we feel your presence guiding us through the vibrations of the *mahā-mantra*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we often reflect on how you endured so much hardship to give us the greatest treasure – Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You faced countless obstacles, yet your determination never wavered. When others doubted, you had faith. When others hesitated, you moved forward. Your compassion knew no bounds, and your love for Kṛṣṇa was unparalleled. How can we ever repay such a debt?

We can only try to serve your mission with sincerity, dedicate our lives to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and uphold the principles you set forth. It is our duty to ensure that ISKCON and its projects, like the Govardhan Retreat Centre, continue to flourish as beacons of your mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, words will always fall short in expressing the gratitude we feel in our hearts. It is only by your mercy that we have this golden opportunity to practice devotional service.



May we always remain instruments in your hands, carrying forward your legacy with purity and devotion.

At the Govardhan Retreat Centre we commit to upholding your teachings, ensuring that every devotee who comes here finds nourishment for their soul, inspiration for their *sādhana,* and a deeper connection to Kṛṣṇa.

Please bless us so that we may always remember you, follow your instructions with sincerity, and never deviate from the path of bhakti. We offer our heartfelt obeisances at your lotus feet, praying that we may serve you, life after life.

Your humble servant,
Vrindavan Vinod Dāsa (director)
Jatipura-Govardhan (Vrindavan)

Ipoh Institute of Spiritual Education

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, please accept my respectful, humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to your unmatched contribution to this world!

Though I am your granddisciple, I consider myself your eternal servant. By your divine empowerment, my spiritual master received Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and through his mercy, that same light has reached me, so today I bow at your lotus feet, offering my life in gratitude.

Before coming to your shelter, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I was just another lost soul in this material world, chasing illusion, driven by ignorance. By your causeless mercy I came in contact with your teachings through your devotees and my life took a new turn. Your books became my compass, your mission my shelter, and your movement my home.

You pulled me from darkness and placed me on the bright path of bhakti. Your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is,* your purports, your conversations – they are a divine ocean from which I drink daily. You gave meaning to my existence and spiritual purpose to my life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I beg at your lotus feet: Let me never leave ISKCON, your divine gift to the world. Let me serve your mission through thick and thin and never lose the opportunity to associate with your followers. I understand deeply now that drifting from your society is drifting from your mercy.

Please bless me to remain humble, loyal, and active in your service, regardless of my external situation. May I always remember that I am simply the servant of the servant of your servants.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I have witnessed how your teachings empower even the most uneducated or illiterate devotees. Through Bhakti-śāstrī courses, I've seen housewives, laborers, and elderly devotees – who once doubted their own abilities – quoting your verses and living by your teachings. This miracle happens not because of any teacher but because your *vāṇī* is directly infused with Kṛṣṇa's potency. You didn't just translate books, you delivered transformation.

In an effort to serve your educational mission, by Your Divine Grace's beloved disciple, His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami, I have been helping develop the Ipoh Institute of Spiritual Education (IISE) in Malaysia. At IISE, we strive to systematically teach the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to devotees of all ages and backgrounds, just as you desired. We have organized a variety of courses and programs, including a course for the illiterate, to fulfill this purpose:

Bhakti-śāstrī courses – 6 Tamil and 2 English batches – all free

Bhakti-vaibhava studies – in both Tamil and English

ISKCON Disciples Course (IDC) – more than 500 students have participated in these sessions so far. Students learn about your position as the founder-*ācārya,* the *guru-paramparā* system, and the proper conduct of a disciple in ISKCON. Emphasizing your instructions and the GBC guidelines, we impress upon them the importance of unity and purity in our society. I am happy to report that hundreds of aspiring devotees now have a strong foundational understanding of what it means to be your granddisciple. They come from the course inspired to commit themselves to ISKCON's mission with integrity and devotion.

Audiobook sessions – listening to your books transforms hearts.

Quizzes, home programs, youth events – engaging the public with your words.

Yajña and *saṁskāra* workshops – upholding Vedic and Vaiṣṇava culture.

Deity worship trainings – ensuring proper *arcana* standards.

Each of these services is our humble attempt to spread your mercy systematically.
By your blessings I serve as the Deity Worship Ministry representative for ISKCON Malaysia. I travel to temples in my zone to train *pūjārīs,* ensure the *pañcarātrika* standards are followed, and inspire higher levels of cleanliness, punctuality, and devotion. I always remind myself and others that the Deity is not an idol; Kṛṣṇa is personally present. This service deepens my own *sādhana,* and I pray that every altar in our temples will reflect your teachings in spirit and standard.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave everything we need in your books. There is no need for outside speculation or invented interpretations. Every issue in life and society has already been addressed in your instructions. As your granddisciple, I take it as my sacred duty to help others realize this truth and to teach them to take shelter of your words with full faith.

Please bless me, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to remain fixed in your ISKCON, to serve under the guidance of your loyal servants, to preach your message without compromise, and to leave this world remembering your lotus feet. May I live and die as your eternal servant. May I never become proud, never become diverted, and never forget your mercy.

Your unworthy servant,
Muralīdhara Śyāma Dāsa
Deity Worship Ministry representative for Malaysia and co-principal of IISE

ISKCONResolve

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I heard the most amazing lecture of yours the other day. It was given in Los Angeles on May 3, 1973. I marveled at the wisdom and expertise that was in full view as you wove in and out of the full spectrum of your presentation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In one class, primarily given to disciples who, on the average, had been chanting for two or three years, you told us to be free from the bodily concept, to be detached from everything that reinforces that false conception, to boldly defeat the rascals ruining the world (materialistic scientists, politicians, Māyāvādīs, *sahajiyās* – you covered them all!), that Kṛṣṇa's real home is Vrindavan, and that we should beg for the mercy of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, who controls Kṛṣṇa by Her love. There was something for everyone, regardless of where they were at in 1973, or where we are at in 2025.

Here are some brief samples showing the span of your presentation in just one class:

The highest is available to anyone: "If Caitanya Mahāprabhu is pleased, then He can give *kṛṣṇa-prema,* love of Kṛṣṇa, to anyone, doesn't matter what is his qualification. He gives. If a person who is giving in charity, he can select any man: 'You take.' That is power of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Otherwise, *kṛṣṇa-prema,* to understand Kṛṣṇa, is very, very difficult job."

We should preach strongly: "Now it is the time for making propaganda amongst the so-called

scientist, philosophers, leaders, politicians. Because they are misleading the whole people of the world under the bodily concept of life…. These rascals, they're the greatest enemy of the human society."

We should be detached: "To become free from material attachment, that is required. So long I'm thinking, 'I'm father of this, mother of this, husband of this, wife of this,' that is attachment…. The *māyā* is causing to dance like this – monkey's dancing … if we waste our life, misuse this opportunity of human life just to live like the cats and dogs, *āhāra-nidrā,* eating, sleeping, mating, and defending, then we are spoiling. The human life is successful when he understands Kṛṣṇa. Otherwise he remains an animal. That's all…. That is freedom, that 'I do not belong to anything of this bodily connection.'"

Rascal sahajiyās: "They picture simply Kṛṣṇa as if simply embracing Rādhārāṇī. That's all. That is also very, in an obnoxious way. These rascal, they take it, the dealings of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa as ordinary boys' and girls' dealing. They don't understand anything. Let there be one picture how Kṛṣṇa is controlling the whole universe."

Bhakti, Kṛṣṇa, in Vrindavan, and Rādhārāṇī's shelter: "In His original form, He is Kṛṣṇa, two hands, playing on the flute. That is His original form. The universal form is causal but that is not His real form. Kṛṣṇa's real form is Vrindavan, at home, the *dvi-bhuja-muralīdhara*. *Dvi-bhuja,* two hands, having a flute in the hand.

"Kṛṣṇa becomes a tool in the hands of bhakta. Just like Rādhārāṇī, the symbol of the topmost bhakti, Rādhārāṇī. So She has purchased Kṛṣṇa. She's so powerful. Therefore Vaiṣṇavas, they take shelter of the lotus feet of Rādhārāṇī so that if She recommends, 'Oh, here is a nice devotee,' Kṛṣṇa has to accept."

What an incredibly powerful and diverse class. Over the years we often have heard the phrase in praise of you: "He built a house in which the whole world can live." We, your followers, likely have different ways of understanding that phrase. I've often wondered what it tangibly means. This lecture of yours helps me think of that phrase in real terms, at least as it relates to the devotee community. In thirty-nine minutes you gave inspiration to every devotee, whether they are struggling to understand that they are not their body, or are more focused on begging for the mercy of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, as well as many stages and topics in between. Such expertise!

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for this lecture and all the ways you give us the opportunity to achieve the Lord's mercy by endeavoring to serve and please you.

Your servant,
Vraja Vihārī Dāsa

Ministry of Education

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

The global education sector has faced a complex array of new and intensifying challenges over the last decade. These challenges stem from a confluence of factors, including technological shifts, socioeconomic pressures, political instability, and environmental changes. Education systems in various countries have been grappling with significant issues in recent years, and the solutions implemented by these countries' governments have often fallen short. Despite numerous attempts to introduce new educational methods, students and teachers around the world are facing increasing difficulties, and as a result, many are finding their health and well-being negatively impacted due to the heightened pressure.

You explained very clearly the reason for the failure of the current system of education in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 8.16.19: "Unfortunately, this spiritual education is completely absent from modern human civilization. No one understands his real self-interest, which lies with the spirit soul, not with the material body. Education means spiritual education."

Your ISKCON Ministry of Education is working to fulfill that mission: to provide Kṛṣṇa conscious education of high quality to everyone through temples, educational institutions, and other global initiatives. The mission of your ISKCON Ministry of Education is to empower and support educational initiatives and collaborations among educators, educational institutions, and professionals. The ministry is working toward establishing and monitoring high standards of Vaiṣṇava education. We are working on setting up processes, supervising the development and execution of educational plans, and ensuring that these structures are delivered to high standards. Through various initiatives, the Ministry is working on understanding and fulfilling the educational needs of Kṛṣṇa conscious families. We aim to make every temple an educational center and a center of excellence.

You described your own educational mission in a Melbourne room conversation on April 20, 1976: "I have already explained, that this is my mission, to educate people to understand himself. They are under this misconception that, 'Every one of us, we are this body.' That is misconception. You must know who is within the body. That is real education."

The problem we have with the modern educational system is that it's like craftsmanship. You clearly explained this in a lecture given in Miami on February 25, 1975: "This is not education, that we have manufactured nice car or nice machine. That is called craftsmanship. That is not education. Just like one electrician, he knows how to join the two wire and bring current. In India it is called *mistri*. *Mistri* means worker. Because he knows that technical art how to bring electric current, that does not mean he is educated. Education is different thing."

Modern educational systems implemented by governments around the world, despite incorporating all sorts of advancements, have not been able to resolve societal issues. As a result, frustration continues to grow among both students and teachers. While progress has been made in increasing school enrolment globally, the last decade has seen persistent and, in some cases,

widening inequities. Disparities in access to quality education based on socioeconomic status, sex, geographic location (urban vs. rural), disabilities, and displacement due to conflict or disaster remain significant.

You explained in a lecture on the *Bhagavad-gītā* (13.1–2), given in Miami on February 25, 1975: "Education means *brahma-vidyā:* to understand what is that living force within this body that is working, what is his position, constitutional position, how it is working, wherefrom it has come, so many things. That is called *brahma-jijñāsā,* to inquire about the spirit. That is education. So that education is lacking. Therefore there are so many problems at the present moment. The problems are created. Just like if I do not give food to the driver, and he is entrusted with a nice car, and he is not happy on account of not being properly taken care of, then he must create disaster. There will be car accident. So that is happening. Nobody is taking care of the driver of this body. No education is there. They are simply trying to rectify the defects in the body."

There has been a growing recognition of the increasing mental health challenges faced by students, influenced by academic pressures, social media, and global anxieties. Educators also experience significant stress and burnout. Education systems are challenged to provide adequate mental health support and create supportive learning environments.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your teachings emphasize the spiritual equality of all living beings, seeing beyond material designations like race, gender, or socioeconomic status. This philosophical foundation can drive initiatives to make education accessible to all, regardless of background, seeing education as a fundamental right for the soul's development.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's ISKCON Ministry of Education is working to provide the world with a genuine education system based on the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and all seventy volumes of your books. These books are highly regarded by scholars for their authority, depth, adherence to the original Vedic scriptures, and clarity.

Your servant of the servant,
Satyamedhā Gaurāṅga Dāsa
Executive Director, ISKCON Ministry of Education

Ministry of Justice

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā.

When asked, "What is justice?" the common responses include being treated impartially, equality before the law, fairness, and moral and legal righteousness. To be impartial means that one has to act objectively, without fear or favor. Likewise, fairness incorporates the notion that the arbiter is unbiased.

The Justice Ministry strongly advocates for such principles to be incorporated in decision making when dealing with complaints. We live in the age of quarrel and hypocrisy and must therefore be more mindful of our actions, both our words and our deeds, especially recognizing how they impact the lives of others.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave us a wealth of knowledge and instructions, but mostly you

demonstrated through your dealings how an ideal leader should treat those who serve within ISKCON. On October 4, 1975, in a room conversation in Mauritius, you said, "You have to spend or waste gallons of blood before you can convert a person to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It is so difficult task." Much effort is invested in preaching and making devotees. We must be careful, then, how we treat the devotees.

Vaiṣṇava-aparādha, offending devotees, is described by Caitanya Mahāprabhu as the "mad elephant offense." In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.1.5 you state, "When a mad elephant enters a beautiful garden, it destroys everything, leaving a barren field. Similarly, the power of *vaiṣṇava-aparādha* is so great that even an advanced devotee becomes almost devoid of his spiritual assets if he commits it. Since Kṛṣṇa consciousness is eternal, it cannot be destroyed altogether, but advancement may be checked for the time being. Thus *vaiṣṇava-aparādha* is one kind of impediment to devotional service."

We therefore need to educate our devotee community about avoiding *vaiṣṇava-aparādha* committed in any manner whatsoever. Let alone the hurt and pain it causes another devotee, it also impedes one's own spiritual progress. Moreover, Lord Kṛṣṇa never forgives one who offends His devotee.

If we conduct ourselves in a circumspect manner, always guarded against committing offenses toward devotees, then we will not have so much conflict and complaining in our community.

By establishing ISKCON, you created the spiritual world on this planet, but because we are in the material world, as diseased conditioned souls, we enter ISKCON like patients entering a hospital. While you have administered the cure in the form of the holy names and strict adherence to the regulative principles, some patients are bringing with them many lifetimes of conditioning and therefore create some disturbances to others.

You took hippies and made them into devotees; you did not discriminate who was eligible to become a devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa and who was not. That is how mercifully you blessed everyone. Despite all the physical hardships you experienced when you first arrived in New York, you tolerated and taught, training the new devotees in every aspect of life, including cleanliness, cooking, Deity worship, and a host of other services. It is because of how lovingly you cared for them that to this day your sincere disciples continue to fulfill your mission relentlessly. You said that Kṛṣṇa is more eager for us to return to Him than we are to go. He is like a loving father, ready to embrace His wayward children. But, in fact, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have fulfilled this role in our lives.

The only way we can repay this eternal debt is by cooperating with one another, serving your mission and exemplifying the kind of conduct you would expect us, as your representatives, to demonstrate.

We pray to be able to serve your ISKCON in a manner that pleases you, and we take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude for your giving us shelter at your lotus feet. May your glories be spread all over the three worlds!

Champakalatā Devī Dāsī, ISKCON Minister of Justice
One behalf of your servants at ISKCON's Ministry of Justice

ISKCON Kirtan Ministry

My dear eternal spiritual grandfather, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet on the auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration. Your mercy is like the limitless sky – vast, boundless, and ever-expanding, encompassing all souls, regardless of their fallenness, within its all-embracing shelter. Just as the cooling shade of the grand banyan tree provides refuge to the weary traveler, your divine mission has given shelter to so many souls wandering in the scorching fire of material existence. By your unrelenting compassion, you carried the transcendental sound of the holy names across oceans, mountains, cities, and villages. You awakened the dormant love for Kṛṣṇa within millions of hearts, and the prophecy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu – that His holy name would be chanted in every town and village – has come to life before our very eyes.

You have given us the greatest gift of this age – *harināma-saṅkīrtana*. What can we say about this gift, Śrīla Prabhupāda? The chanting of the holy names is not merely a ritual or a practice; it is the very essence of our existence, the key to unlocking the doors of the spiritual world. Through your mercy, the holy name is no longer confined to the sacred halls of the temple but has now spread to the streets, to the hearts of people everywhere. This is your divine contribution, and by your causeless grace, we, the fallen souls, have been entrusted with carrying forward this mission.

You gave us the treasure of *harināma-saṅkīrtana,* and we are forever indebted to you for it. The only way we can express our gratitude is by dedicating ourselves entirely to serving you and the mission you so selflessly established. In every moment, we strive to fulfill your divine instructions, remembering that every action, every word, and every thought should be directed toward the glorification of Kṛṣṇa and the spreading of His holy names. And we know that this path is only made possible through your mercy.

As we reflect on your blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are filled with awe at the magnitude of the mission you set in motion, and we are inspired to serve in whatever small way we can. By your grace, the ISKCON Kirtan Ministry has completed one year of service as a humble instrument in your divine plan. Our office, inaugurated on April 9, 2024, has grown into a beacon of devotional creativity and outreach. It is in this sacred space in Pradhikaran, Nigdi, Pune, that we have been able to serve the global ISKCON community through various initiatives – producing *kīrtana* recordings, designing visually captivating posters, conducting online sessions, and fostering an environment where devotees can immerse themselves in the mood of pure *kīrtana*.

The heart of our efforts, Śrīla Prabhupāda, has been our daily online *Bhagavad-gītā* sessions titled "Facing Life's Challenges – The *Bhagavad-gītā* Way." These sessions, by your mercy, have become a source of comfort and guidance for devotees from all walks of life. Countless souls, searching for answers to their struggles and uncertainties, have found solace in Kṛṣṇa's divine words. The teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* have the power to transform lives, and we see this in the transformation of many devotees who have attended these classes. They find strength, peace, and clarity in Kṛṣṇa's instructions, and their lives are slowly but steadily being shaped by the wisdom you imparted to the world.

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, these online *Bhagavad-gītā* sessions have become a thriving community, where devotees support and uplift one another in their spiritual journeys. It has been an incredible joy to watch how devotees, after hearing the sacred teachings, feel inspired to serve the community in a variety of ways. Many of them volunteer to moderate the sessions, answer queries, and assist in the technical aspects of the programs. We have been blessed to witness the growth of this devotional family, and it is our prayer that this outreach continues to expand and that more and more devotees can benefit from the sacred teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā*.

As we look toward the future, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we recognize the need to strengthen the role of Vaiṣṇavīs in this divine movement. We have seen how many young women are eager to serve, yet they sometimes feel unsure about how to navigate their devotional journeys, especially when it comes to leadership roles. Inspired by your teachings, we are in the process of establishing a dedicated online platform, Vaiṣṇavī Saṅga, where young aspiring Vaiṣṇavīs can receive guidance and mentorship from senior and experienced devotees. This platform will offer structured training in *kīrtana* etiquette, personal *sādhana,* leadership, and service, providing the necessary tools to empower them as future leaders in the movement.

As more young girls attend our sessions and express their desire to serve, we feel an urgent need to offer them the support they need to flourish in their spiritual lives. Our hope is that this initiative will help foster a generation of strong, compassionate, and capable Vaiṣṇavīs, who will carry forward the torch of devotional service with grace, strength, and humility.

At the same time, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we understand the importance of instilling the principles of devotional service from an early age. We know that if children are exposed to the right teachings early in life, they can grow up with a strong foundation of spiritual values that will guide them throughout their lives. With this in mind, we have launched summer camps specifically designed for children, where they are not only taught the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness but also introduced to the art of proper *kīrtana*.

These summer camps have become a source of great joy for us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as we watch these young hearts engage in *kīrtana* with enthusiasm, innocence, and devotion. The children are trained to play devotional instruments such as the *mṛdaṅga, karatālas,* and harmonium. From a young age, they are taught the standards of pure devotional music, ensuring that they grow up with the right understanding and respect for *kīrtana*. This early exposure to the holy name and devotional practices will lay a strong foundation for their spiritual lives, and we pray that these young devotees will continue to grow in their love for Kṛṣṇa as they mature.

Among all the initiatives that have been undertaken by the ISKCON Kirtan Ministry, Śrīla Prabhupāda, there is one project that we place before you with the utmost prayer and hope. This project is the Kṛṣṇa Conscious Kirtan Certification Course, which the ministry is proposing as a certified course for ISKCON devotees worldwide. This course aims to provide devotees with a structured, in-depth understanding of *kīrtana* standards, including both the art of *kīrtana* and the deeper philosophy behind it.

The purpose of this course is to ensure that *kīrtana,* the highest form of devotional service in this age, is practiced according to the highest standards. We want to preserve the purity of this sacred art form, ensuring that future generations of devotees can participate in *kīrtana* with a deep understanding of its significance. This course will provide devotees with the necessary training to not only lead *kīrtanas* with excellence but also to impart the correct standards of *kīrtana* to others. It is our heartfelt desire that this course will become a valuable resource for ISKCON devotees around the world, guiding them on the path of devotion through the practice of *harināma-saṅkīrtana*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are aware that we are merely insignificant instruments in your divine plan, but by your mercy, even the weakest can accomplish the impossible. Please bless us with the strength, intelligence, and determination to carry out these projects and initiatives. We beg for

your continued mercy, so that we may remain steadfast in our service, always with humility and sincerity. We pray that you will guide us in all our endeavors, giving us the wisdom to make decisions that are in accordance with your teachings and in line with the needs of the devotees.

As we continue on this path, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that you will always keep us humble, recognizing that it is only by your mercy that any of this is possible. Without your grace, we are nothing. We are merely instruments in your hands, and we can only pray that we are able to carry out your will to the best of our ability. We ask for your blessings so that we may remain ever focused on our mission: to spread the holy names of Kṛṣṇa to every corner of the world, to inspire others to chant, and to engage in the service of the Lord.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have already given us everything – your teachings, your instructions, your guidance, and your boundless love. What can we possibly offer in return? All we can offer is our hearts and our willingness to serve you in every way possible. Please accept our humble prayers and bless us with the strength, intelligence, and love to continue carrying forward your

glorious mission. May we remain forever humble servants in your transcendental service, and may we always remember the essence of your teachings: that everything in this world is meant to glorify Kṛṣṇa and spread His holy name.

With the deepest gratitude and unwavering devotion, we offer ourselves at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, praying for your mercy, your guidance, and your blessings. May your divine presence always inspire us to serve you with a heart full of love and devotion, and may we remain ever committed to spreading the holy name of Kṛṣṇa to every corner of the world.

Your insignificant servant,
Stoka Kṛṣṇa Gopa Dāsa
Managing Director, ISKCON Kirtan Ministry

ISKCON Padayātrā Ministry

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my *daṇḍavat praṇāms* at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most holy occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā!

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

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

As I sit down to write this offering, my heart is filled with gratitude. Your teachings are like a guiding light in my life, illuminating the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and inspiring me to serve.

On this sacred occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we, the dedicated members of ISKCON's Padayātrā Ministry, humbly bow down at your lotus feet, offering our deepest gratitude and devotion. Your divine teachings and unwavering dedication to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness continue illuminating my path and inspiring my service.

In 2024, we celebrated significant milestones, including the fortieth anniversary of the All-India Padayātrā at Jagannātha Purī Dhāma. This journey began in 1984, and we've traversed over 300,000 kilometers, planting seeds of devotion in millions of hearts across India. Your vision has empowered us to introduce the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* to countless villages, rescuing many from despair and igniting the flame of bhakti.

We have launched new initiatives, such as the Haryana-Punjab Padayātrā and the Maha Kumbh Padayātrā, expanding our reach and impact. These efforts are a testament to your teachings on the importance of taking Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every town and village. I am also happy to share the news of an upcoming new Padayātrā in 2025 in Germany.

Your instructions have been the cornerstone of our efforts, guiding us to overcome challenges and remain steadfast in our mission. Despite financial constraints and resource limitations, we strive for excellence, inspired by your example of unwavering dedication and compassion.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our outreach, increasing book

distribution, and enhancing our digital presence. Our vision includes creating a Padayātrā Office to support our initiatives and equip devotees with the tools needed to effectively share the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your life and teachings are a beacon of hope and inspiration. We are eternally grateful for your guidance and blessings, which empower us to carry forward your mission with unwavering dedication. Your words echo in our hearts:

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 advance. 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."

With every step we take in the Padayātrā, with every book we distribute, and with every soul we touch through the holy name, we feel your presence guiding us. Your vision of a world united in Kṛṣṇa consciousness drives us forward, inspiring us to work tirelessly in your service.

On this auspicious day, I recommit myself and our entire Padayātrā Ministry to your mission. May we always remain instruments of your compassion, spreading the nectar of the holy name and your teachings to every corner of the world.

kṛṣṇotkīrtana-gāna-nartana-parau premāmṛtāmbho-nidhī
dhīrādhīra-jana-priyau priya-karau nirmatsarau pūjitau
śrī-caitanya-kṛpā-bharau bhuvi bhuvo bhārāvahantārakau
vande rūpa-sanātanau raghu-yugau śrī-jīva-gopālakau

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto the Six Gosvāmīs, namely Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī, Śrī Sanātana Gosvāmī, Śrī Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī, Śrī Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī, Śrī Jīva Gosvāmī, and Śrī Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī, who are always engaged in chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa and dancing. They are just like the ocean of love of God, and they are popular both with the gentle and with the ruffians because they are not envious of anyone. Whatever they do, they are all-pleasing to everyone, and they are fully blessed by Lord Caitanya. Thus, they are engaged in missionary activities meant to deliver all the conditioned souls in the material universe."

With deep gratitude and eternal devotion to your lotus feet,
Sri Krishna Caitanya Swami
On behalf of the ISKCON Padayātrā Ministry

Radio Kṛṣṇa Centrale, Italy

Most dear and beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our respectful and humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace! We revel in the dust of your lotus feet, finding our hearts' true delight.

You once recounted how a priest, acting on his own accord, approached you and said, "Swamiji, I see a brightness in the faces of your students. How have you created this brightness?" (Room conversation with Dr. Karan Singh, Delhi, November 25, 1971).

We know precisely why: because you dwell in our minds. Indeed, you own our minds. That is why your devotees now possess such "bright faces." It is your brightness that shines through!

Through the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra,* you bound our hearts to your divine self, enveloping us within your all-embracing Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You reign supreme!

We cannot conceal our pride in having you as our lord and master. Through your transcendental *bhāgavata* books, saturated with pure Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you destroyed the lurking snares of false rascal guides and ideas. You reversed our terrible and frightening descent into the darkest regions of material existence, rescuing us from the most ruinous disaster.

When we hear your transcendental words – the only words we desire to hear – then we know you are truly present. It is you speaking, not some mere imitation.

Your lotus feet are the sole shelter from all sorrows. By following in your footsteps, we become free from Māyā's torturous slavery.

We may desire to serve you, but we must ask ourselves: Do we deserve it? Are we truly sincere, without ulterior motives, or are we merely pretending to be what we are not? The price to pay for serving you is sincerity and the willingness to draw closer to Your Divine Grace, submitting to your orders. Only then will your torch of enlightening knowledge dispel the darkness in which we are sunk.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are truly divine and sublimely sweet. Please eradicate our deep illusion. Merely being near Your Divine Grace and hearing your words ends our endless confusion. By regularly serving Your Divine Grace and discarding any false conceptions of "I" and "mine" as mere rubbish, we win the supreme prize: the realization that we are entirely your property, and that without Your Divine Grace we are lost.

Most Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda

Your mercy and grace brighten our face, since you dwell in our mind.
With Kṛṣṇa's name, the sweet refrain, your love our hearts to bind.

We cannot hide that you're our pride; you are our lord and master.
Cracking the crooks by your pure books, you saved us from disaster.

Your words profound, the only sound our ears desire to hear:
And then we know, not vainest show, our Prabhupāda is here.

Your lotus feet, Māyā's defeat, sole shelter from all sorrow,
They grant us all freedom from thrall, if in their footprints we follow.

We long to serve. Do we deserve? This question we should ask.
Are we so real, with no conceal? Or do we wear a mask?

To be sincere and draw more near will be the price to pay.
Your torch of light, with knowledge bright, will chase the dark away.

You're so divine, sweet, and sublime. Please smite our deep illusion.
To be near you, just hearing you, ends our endless confusion.

To serve with pace your Divine Grace, our all we count as dross,
And win the prize: just to realize that without you we are lost.

Beloved Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, nothing occurs without Your supreme consent. Please allow us to eternally remain inextricably absorbed in the remembrance of Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please shelter us from Māyā's forceful power of forgetfulness. Please, if that is also Your Lordships' desire, let serving His Divine Grace's lotus feet be the only reason for our existence and our sole aspiration life after life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our life and soul! Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your menial and respectful servants at Radio Kṛṣṇa Centrale, Italy
(written by Narakantaka Dāsa)

South Africa Communications

Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This 2025 is a very special year for us here in South Africa. It is this year that marks the fiftieth anniversary of your arrival on our South African soil. The devotees are very excited, preparing for grand events to honor your arrival in the month of October. Thus far, we have put together themes for each month in order to glorify Your Divine Grace, honor your instructions, and create awareness of your landmark visit to this country. The themes that have been selected are based on our South African history, but they have been strategically placed to meet and reflect the teachings of the Vedic scriptures. This in itself showcases the spirit of the ancient wisdom that you selflessly translated and traversed the globe to share.

The themes also show a significant part of our history that spotlights the injustices of apartheid, segregation, and discrimination. It was during the heightened period of apartheid that you visited South Africa – in 1975 – when the borders of our country were tightly locked to any affiliation or collaboration between countries, especially those that scrutinized South Africa's laws. The country was governed by strict laws that enforced division between the people based on race, yet your vision was bold enough to set the tone for the *yātrā* that developed in every province of such a country. Today, we see that ISKCON has played some part in bringing harmony to the people here. Your visit inspired celebration of the Festival of Chariots and the building of the magnificent

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha Temple of Understanding in Durban, which celebrates forty years since its grand opening this year.

As teams from across the nation unite with enthusiasm to celebrate this milestone year, we humbly acknowledge that our plans will remain mere aspirations without your blessings to bring them to life. Therefore we earnestly seek your guidance and mercy to empower the South African devotees to generate the energy and momentum required to honor your legacy. May we be inspired to commemorate your monumental contributions to this country and the global diaspora in a manner befitting your divine mission.

This year, we are focusing on steady book distribution to disseminate your transcendental literature. We have active Monthly *Saṅkīrtana* Festivals in all the major temples in the country, where devotees go out collectively on book distribution to different areas. There is still so much more that can be done in this regard, and plans are underway to drive the book distribution scores up even further. We have also taken to online platforms to make your books more easily available. In the past year, South Africa distributed 3,787 copies of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* during the Live To Give campaign, and 130 sets of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* during the Bhadra Pūrṇimā campaign.

Food-for-Life South Africa holds a firm place in the heart of the social development sector by feeding people indiscriminately within our country. Plates of *prasādam* are distributed daily to school children around the country. One of the key focus areas of Food-for-Life South Africa is to establish kitchens across the country, and thus far, many areas have well-equipped facilities to serve hundreds – in some cases, thousands – of plates of *prasādam* per day. Food-for-Life South Africa has been consistently active during times of disaster, demonstrating remarkable dedication by swiftly establishing teams to serve meals even in severe weather. Their ability to organize and deliver meals within tight turnaround periods has been a vital part of their response to crises, ensuring that those affected receive much-needed spiritual and physical nourishment in moments of urgency. The teams go into both urban and rural areas with high-powered *kīrtana* to create a warm and welcoming mood whilst *prasādam* is being served. Over the past year, Food-for-Life South Africa has served 1.9 million plates of *prasādam* across the country.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you desired when you visited South Africa to celebrate Ratha-yātrā festivals. Our Ratha-yātrā festivals are well established and take place in several provinces and in smaller towns as well. These festivals are now a standing event on the calendar, and major cities have it earmarked on their municipal calendar of events. Lord Jagannātha takes to the streets of many cities and offers His darshan to the diverse population of South Africa. We aim to bring people together under the umbrella of a social-cohesion fest. In this way we sing together, dance together, feast together, and showcase the blissful life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The African Ratha-yātrā Alliance assists in hosting fifteen Ratha-yātrā festivals across South Africa annually, and six in neighboring African countries.

We are also pleased that many of our devotees are now serving the global *yātrā* in various capacities. Just as you taught that training is essential, such training by senior ISKCON leaders is underway, and South African devotees are now integrated into the global ISKCON space. This brings a new dimension to the South African servant-leadership, as these devotees are not only offering their service globally but also bringing back valuable knowledge and insights to South Africa. Organized and demand-focused training is being established in South Africa, and we are positive that it will lead to a better ISKCON home for everyone. This enhances continuous leadership improvement within our preaching endeavors, always striving to do better in pleasing Your Divine Grace.

South Africa will also have given the world two notable *sannyāsīs* by May of this year. They are not only preaching in Africa but in the global space. This year, we welcome a homegrown *sannyāsī*. This further enhances our preaching opportunities. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we offer our gratitude to you for blessing us with such amazing devotees from this soil.

There is much more that can be done and still needs to be done to develop and enhance our endeavors in spreading the holy names within the country. Although five decades have passed since your visit, and inroads have been made to establish preaching centers and temples, there is still so much groundwork to be navigated to honor you and spread the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. It is in this mood that we pray at your lotus feet that you give us the intelligence, strength, and guidance to take this mission to greater heights and to reach more of the people of South Africa. A South Africa adage states, *umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu:* "A person is a person through other people." This denotes our interdependency. We indeed need *kīrtana,* meditation, *saṅga,* and togetherness to heal from the division of our history and focus on unity, ultimately remembering that we are all brothers and sisters in service to God, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. It is only through your causeless mercy as the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON. Therefore we again and again glorify you so that we are able to make a positive difference and contribute meaningfully in our South African landscape.

All glories, all glories, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda on his fiftieth landmark visit to South Africa! We thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us this opportunity to know Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and for setting the foundation for our ISKCON home, where the most wonderful devotees of South Africa are found.

Your servants,
The devotees of South Africa
(written by Kṛśāṅgi Rādhe Devī Dāsī, Communications Minister for SA)

Temple of the Vedic Planetarium

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your worldwide benevolence in spreading the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You are mercy personified, and your kindness has been our guiding light for many years.

2024 has been another banner year for the TOVP under the able leadership of co-chairman Braja Vilāsa Prabhu. In February, we witnessed the astonishing opening of the Narasiṁha wing of the TOVP. Beautifully designed by Svāhā Devī Dāsī and Raṅgavatī Devī Dāsī, the gorgeous and opulent new home for Narasiṁha and Prahlāda Mahārāja was opened amid great mystery and grandeur. Many ISKCON leaders and global TOVP supporters joined in the festivities, which were appropriate for welcoming the Lord to his new home.

Early in this year, 2025, the TOVP welcomed the opening of the Śrīla Prabhupāda Legacy Museum. Many of your most intimate followers contributed memorabilia from your time spent with you in the early days of ISKCON. Other displays show your most important contributions to the world, such as your books and original *Back to Godhead* magazines, important historical documents, and important memorabilia related to spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This will eventually become the largest museum for any single person in the history of mankind. Tours have been going on continuously since the opening. Now whoever visits Māyāpur will see the story of your deep love and commitment to the birthplace of Mahāprabhu.

Moving forward, construction is now focusing on the main wing and altar so that your

Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava and Pañca-tattva can be relocated into Their long-awaited new home during a three-month-long grand opening celebration at the beginning of 2027. This will be the climax of our endeavors to serve and fulfill your desire to "bring the people of the whole world to Māyāpur," although not the completion of the project, by any means.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and love to the many TOVP supporters from around the world, and especially those who contributed treasured possessions to the Legacy Museum. Without support from the worldwide devotee community, we could not move this project forward for Śrīla Prabhupāda's pleasure. You are all making it happen! Śrīla Prabhupāda is blessing you more and more.

With great affection, your servants,
Ambarīṣa Dāsa and the TOVP team

Vaiṣṇavī Ministry: International Office

nama oṁ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin 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 Caitanya and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our beloved spiritual guide and master,

We make this humble offering to you on this most auspicious day of your appearance. You are ISKCON's founder-*ācārya,* Your Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, and you appeared on the day after Janmāṣṭamī in 1896, 129 years ago. You are Kṛṣṇa's *senāpati* bhakta, and the greatest blessing we have received in our lives. Out of endless mercy and compassion you came to the West and gave us the gift of bhakti and the holy name. Please kindly accept our most humble gratitude for that.

Ananta-śeṣa is constantly glorifying Lord Viṣṇu, and we follow His example and try to constantly glorify, in our hearts and minds and with our mouths, you and your merciful preaching that has given all souls on this earth an equal chance to rekindle their eternal relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Kṛṣṇa. Please kindly accept our most humble gratitude for that.

You are an example of a true devotee in your actions and words. I pray that we are able to understand your divine intention and make it our guidance every second and every minute of our life. Please make us dance to your tune. Please make us dance. You've made us part of your dancing troupe. Please kindly accept our most humble gratitude for that.

You are an embodiment of the philosophy of personalism. In your presence everyone could feel seen and showered with your love and care. You looked right into the hearts of people and did everything you could to give them the best that life could offer. Please kindly accept our most humble gratitude for that.

You have given everyone this opportunity to go back to Godhead without discrimination. You encourage every living being to engage in the process of devotional service and develop a relationship with Lord Caitanya and the holy name. Please kindly accept our most humble gratitude for that.

Everything you have done has been with the aim of giving us the best philosophy, the best community, the best understanding of the bhakti process, the best opportunity to serve and feel safe in this world. Please kindly accept our most humble gratitude for that.

You have engaged everyone in service to Kṛṣṇa according to their talents and inclinations, purifying and bringing them to a higher platform of consciousness and action. You are patient with us. You are strict but loving. You see us as souls and not these bodies. Please kindly accept our most humble gratitude for that.

You are happiest when you see how nicely devotees serve one another on the path of devotional service. You teach us how to respect every living being. You teach us how to be the best version of ourselves. Please kindly accept our most humble gratitude for that.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, there are no words that can express the magnitude of what you have done for us. Please allow us to always remember your mercy and kindness, your devotion to your spiritual master. Let us have enough strength, love and selflessness to overcome difficulties on the path to bhakti and follow you as our guiding star always.

Aspiring to be a servant of your servants,
Satī Devī Dāsī (BTS)
on behalf of the Vaiṣṇavī Ministry

Vaiṣṇavī Ministry: South Africa Office

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious occasion of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, we offer our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories, all glories, all glories to Your Divine Grace.

The Vaiṣṇavī Ministry here in South Africa has had wonderful opportunities within the past year. Being part of the delegation representing ISKCON at the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women in 2024, there was a wonderful opportunity to meet and connect with other Vaiṣṇavī leaders from across the world. This association gave rise to a renewed focus of strategy and pillars that are now being established within the *yātrā*.

We have also made an in-depth study and analysis of your instructions on how to care for and protect Vaiṣṇavīs. Something that has been endearing and insightful is the sharing of pastimes and experiences from the female devotees who have taken direct shelter of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. When they share their experience of being in close service to and association with Your Divine Grace, it is clear that their minds and hearts are fixed upon you. Although you departed from this material world forty-eight years ago, your disciples exhibit such warmth and fondness when they

speak of their association with you, and their emotion is deep and real. This, Śrīla Prabhupāda, shows their sense of attachment to you and also the inclusivity that you created for Vaiṣṇavīs to feel safe and protected when you were physically present.

As part of our strategic approach to the Vaiṣṇavī Ministry office in South Africa, we took an in-depth look at the opportunities presented here. This leads us to discuss our history and the depth of the apartheid regime, where women found themselves oppressed by apartheid laws. It was a group of brave women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on August 9, 1976, to protest against such oppression based not only on race but on sex as well. Women have always been left out, segregated, and the girl child looked down upon. Opportunities for the female gender were never equal, especially in a country riddled with a history of division, yet you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, came forth with a hope and vision for shared togetherness when you visited South Africa fifty years ago.

This year, on the anniversary of your milestone visit to South Africa, we seek your blessings to be of valued service to the Vaiṣṇavīs in our *yātrā*. There is so much to do to create sisterhood, support, and scope for training and inclusivity in leadership within ISKCON. Our focus, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is to create a safe space for Vaiṣṇavīs to grow in their service and establish a place for *saṅga* and support.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, what is also noteworthy is that the Vaiṣṇavī Ministry SA embraces a fresh perspective on inclusivity, focusing on empowering young girls who are confronted with unique challenges in today's world. Unlike the older generation of women, who navigated different societal landscapes, these young girls face a rapidly evolving world with its own set of complexities. The Ministry is dedicated to addressing these distinct challenges and providing the support, guidance, and resources needed to help these girls thrive in an increasingly dynamic environment. Again, your instructions on protection and purpose are timeless – although the generations are rapidly changing, the wisdom that you have selflessly shared with us remains our foundation of hope. It is with this mood that we wish to create a space for mentorship by senior Vaiṣṇavīs who are able to guide the younger girls through their challenges in their daily lives. Your instructions are clear, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and your books provide a clear definition on character building and living a life that is free from the burdens of the material realm.

South Africa celebrates you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with pomp and grandeur, showing the world that our great hero visited our shores fifty years ago. Your Divine Grace was a powerhouse, visiting City Hall in Durban and other significant venues that were only used for approved events. Yet you walked tall and spoke with such eloquence, clarity, and authority, and were not intimidated by the land of apartheid. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you embraced everyone, regardless of background or status, and your words touched the hearts of all who met you.

Today, fifty years on, we are so grateful for your visit to South Africa, and it is with pride and joy that the Vaiṣṇavīs celebrate our founder-*ācārya*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have always been inclusive and showed care and protection. We pray that you will guide us in this service so that we are able to make a difference in the lives of our young girls and Vaiṣṇavīs. We reach out, hanging onto your words, instructions, and love alike, so that our mood of service will be embraced and supported throughout the *yātrā*.

We beg for your shelter and beg for your unlimited love. All glories, all glories, all glories to Your Divine Grace on your fiftieth anniversary landmark visit to our shores.

Your servant,
Kṛśāṅgi Rādhe Devī Dāsī
Vaiṣṇavī Minister for South Africa

Vrindavan Institute for Higher Education (VIHE)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As I write to you, we are in the middle of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of your Krishna-Balaram temple in Vrindavan. Your disciples are now in their old age. Many have come for the occasion, despite health challenges. Looking at their frail figures, we reflect even more deeply on how you could possibly cross the ocean and travel extensively for eleven years in pursuance of the tall order your Prabhupāda had given you.

Once again we are blessed to hear about you – endearing anecdotes filled with a wide range of definite and precious instructions. Our consciousness is soaking in the healing tonic of remembrance of you as day after day we gather for the memories sessions. The more we hear, the more you become vividly present in our minds and hearts and the more we miss you, your personal association, your mercy and love, and your colorful nature. They say you had the softness of a rose and the toughness of a thunderbolt. With the help of these two you nourished and enlivened, and you protected and guided; you built the foundation of the movement we are in today. Many among the new generations of ISKCON devotees barely know anything about you beyond your name and position: you are ISKCON's founder-*ācārya*. But when those who have lived with you and served you speak, you become alive and so undeniably present. Hearing about you is not an option for those who wish to be among your followers. It is a necessary *sādhana* that leads to unflinching faith in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and the perfection of feeling close to you.

These disciples of yours are not ordinary either. The kind of austerities, risks, and hardships they took on to assist you in spreading Lord Caitanya's mission are way beyond our imagination. Just as we worship Śrī Kṛṣṇa along with His devotees, we worship you along with your dedicated disciples. The main lessons we learn from them are *guru-niṣṭhā* – total, unflinching faith in the words emanating from the mouth of the spiritual master – and the spirit of selfless service.

At the VIHE we have made the study of your biography by His Holiness Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami – the *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* – a compulsory step in the training of new devotees. By this we wish to generate appreciation for your personality and accomplishments, and to help devotees find a personal connection with you. You are the embodiment of the twenty-six qualities of a devotee. We can see those qualities in action while reading about your life, from childhood to your amazing international preaching and your daily dealings with all the fortunate souls with whom you interacted. The knowledge of the great efforts it took to found and establish the first temples and publish your books fills the heart with profound gratitude and saves us from taking for granted the lavish facilities we have today. You and your disciples went on relentlessly despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles. We want to instill that dedication and determination in the heart of all future generations.

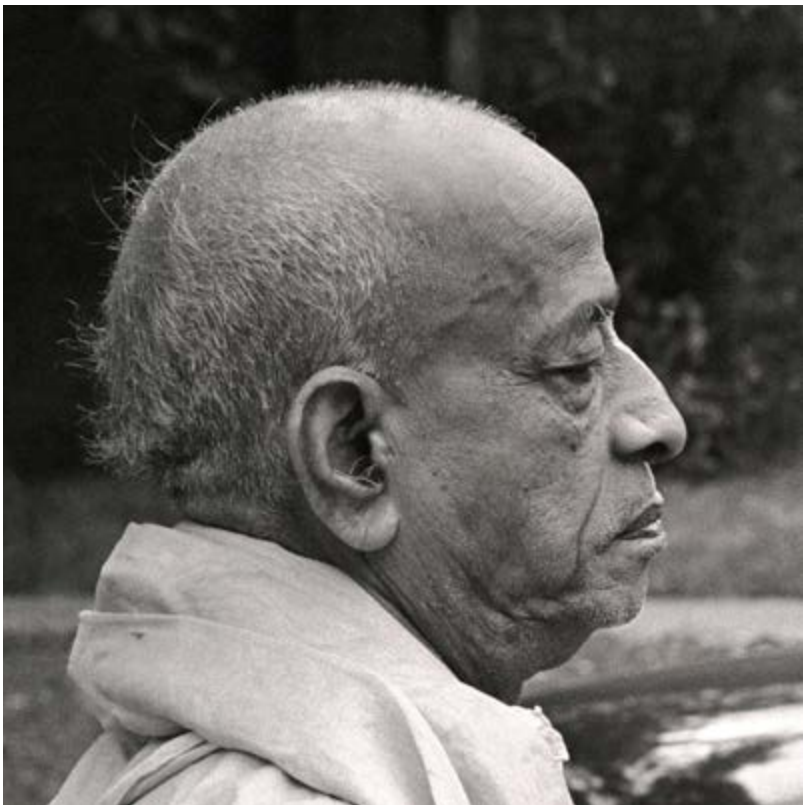
The study of the *Līlāmṛta* is complemented with images, audio tracks, and videos so intelligently captured by those who were there with you, along with excerpts from books written by other of your disciples. So many have published their memoirs by now! We have a wealth of documentation from which to absorb your mood, understand your mission, and become inspired within to align ourselves with your heart. You once said that whatever you did was meant to increase your disciples' love for you. That affection and love can be attained by hearing.

The great success of your disciples lies not solely in expanding the movement, but mainly in their remaining united in spite of the challenges posed by diversity. This achievement is the fruit of their love for you. We pray for your blessings today to become an effective instrument in awakening attachment for you in the heart of more and more devotees now and in the future so that

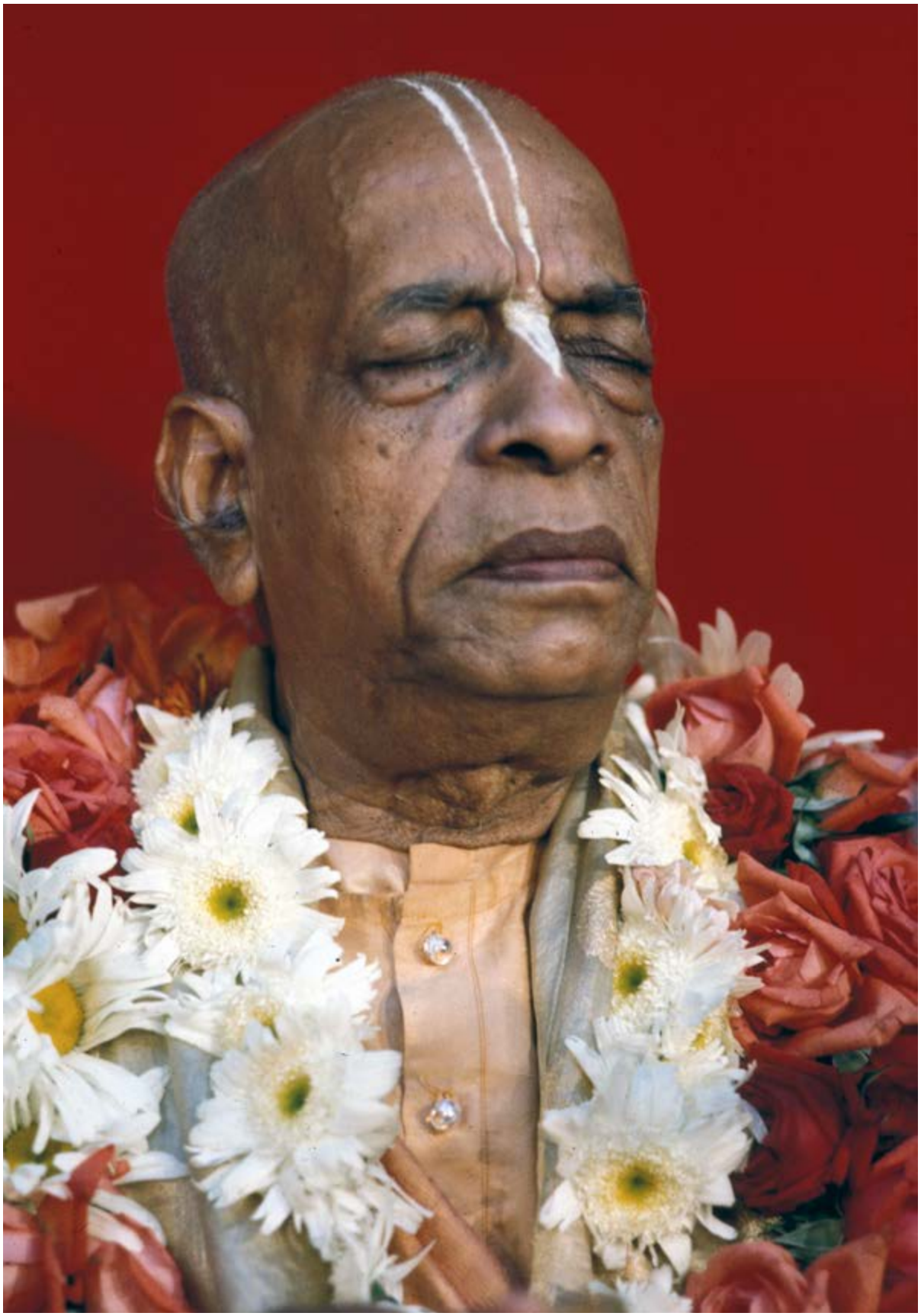
they may remain inseparable brothers and sisters glued together by a strong sense of belonging. May they work cooperatively – in the disciplic lines coming from you – with the initiative generated by the study of your books to show compassion, love, and affection to those with whom they come in touch.

All glories to you, the leader of the great army of Lord Caitanya! We offer our heartfelt gratitude unto you.

Praśānta Devī Dāsī and your servants at the Vrindavan Institute for Higher Education



Our Obeisances to You for Your Transcendental Instructions



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

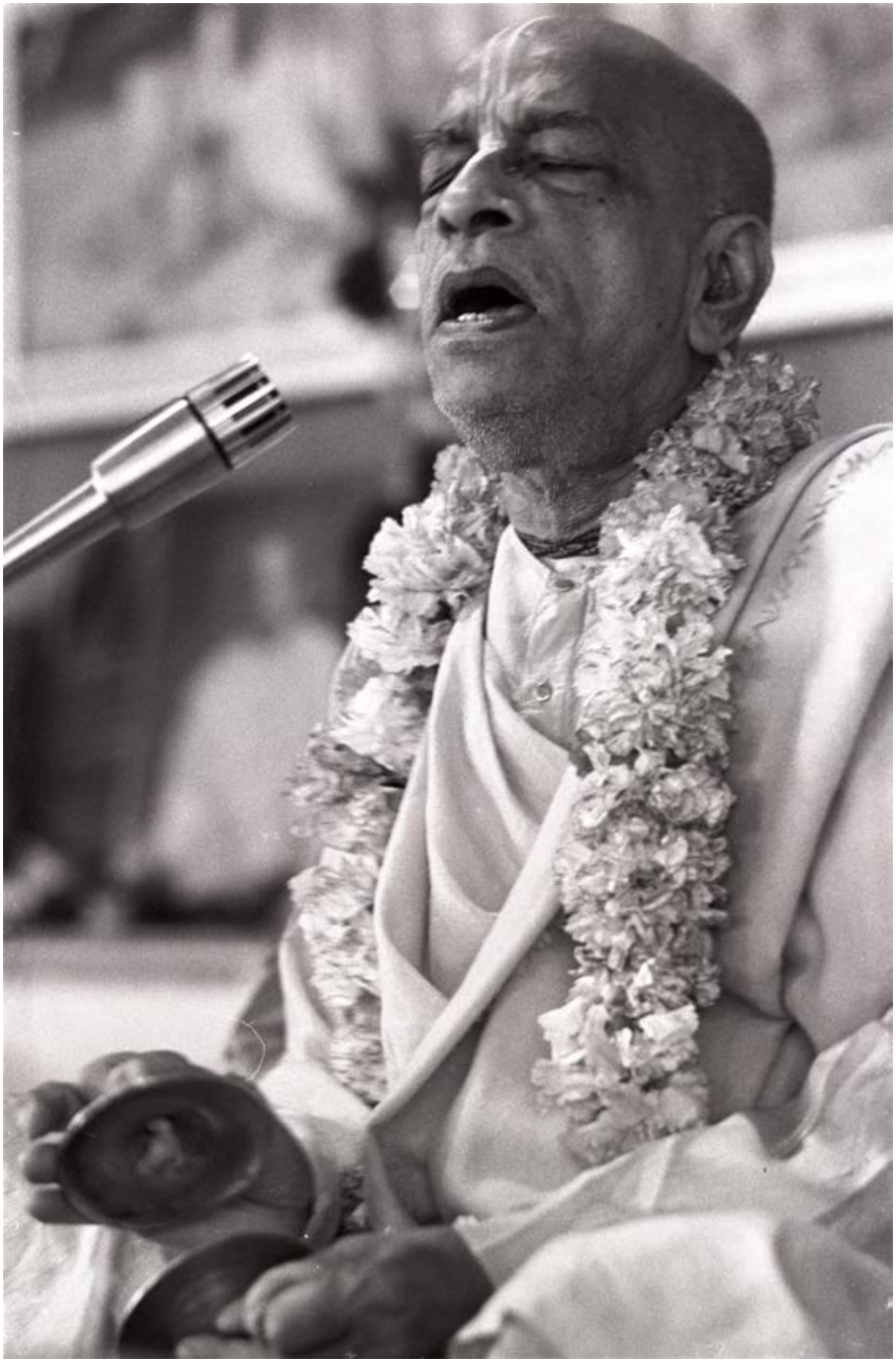
I offer my respectful obeisances unto
His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on
this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

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.

The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is an attempt to increase the number of pure devotees of the Supreme Lord more and more. It is certain that a devotee who helps in this endeavor to satisfy the Supreme Personality of Godhead becomes indirectly a controller of the Supreme Lord.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 9.4.64, purport

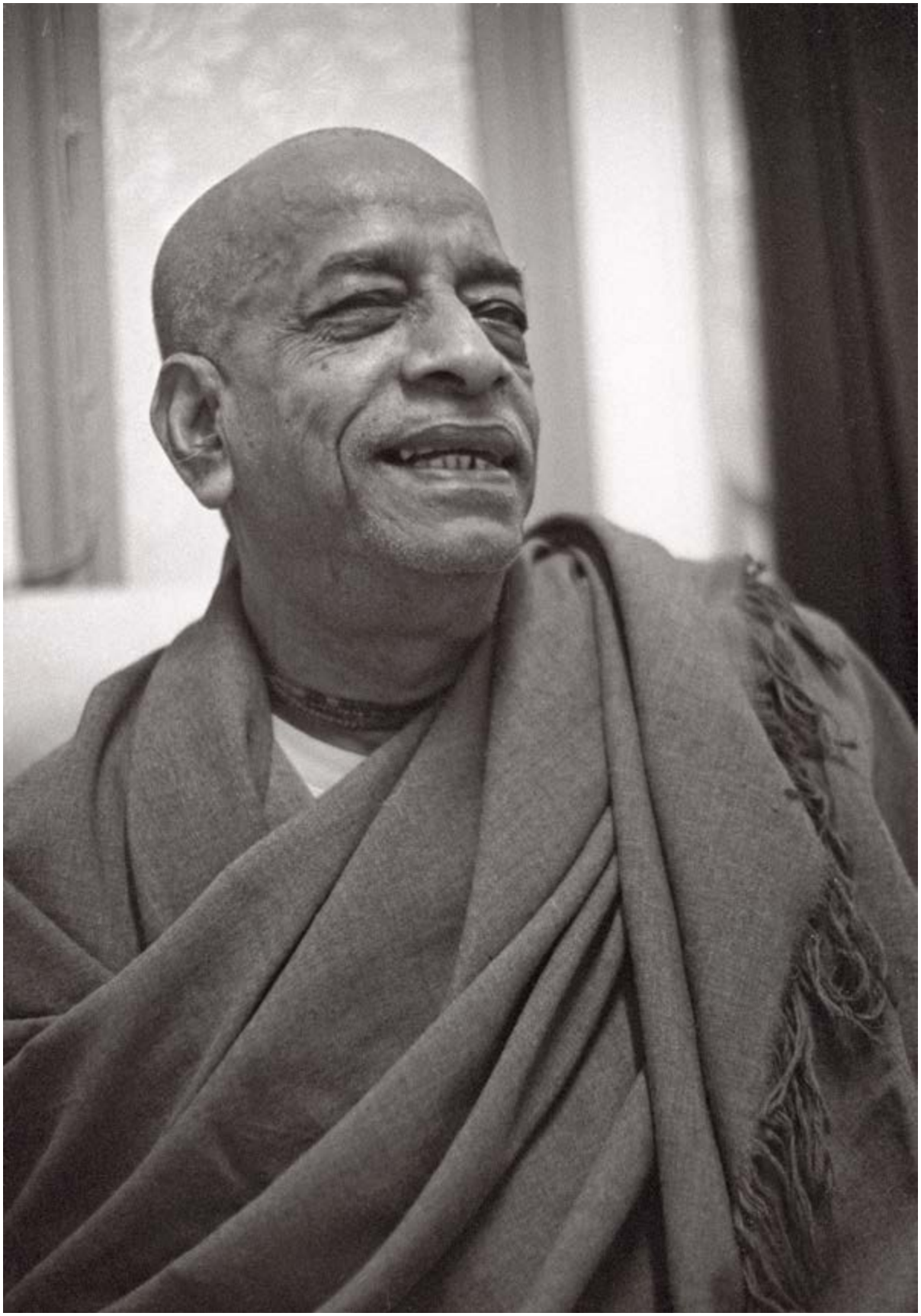


By rendering a little service, even by eating *prasādam,* what to speak of chanting and dancing, everyone can be promoted to Vaikuṇṭhaloka. It is therefore requested that all our devotees in the ISKCON community become pure Vaiṣṇavas, so that by their mercy all the people of the world will be transferred to Vaikuṇṭhaloka, even without their knowledge.

Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Antya-līlā 1.32, purport

Following the order of the bona fide spiritual master is the only duty of the disciple, and this completely faithful execution of the order of the bona fide spiritual master is the secret of success.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.9.8, purport

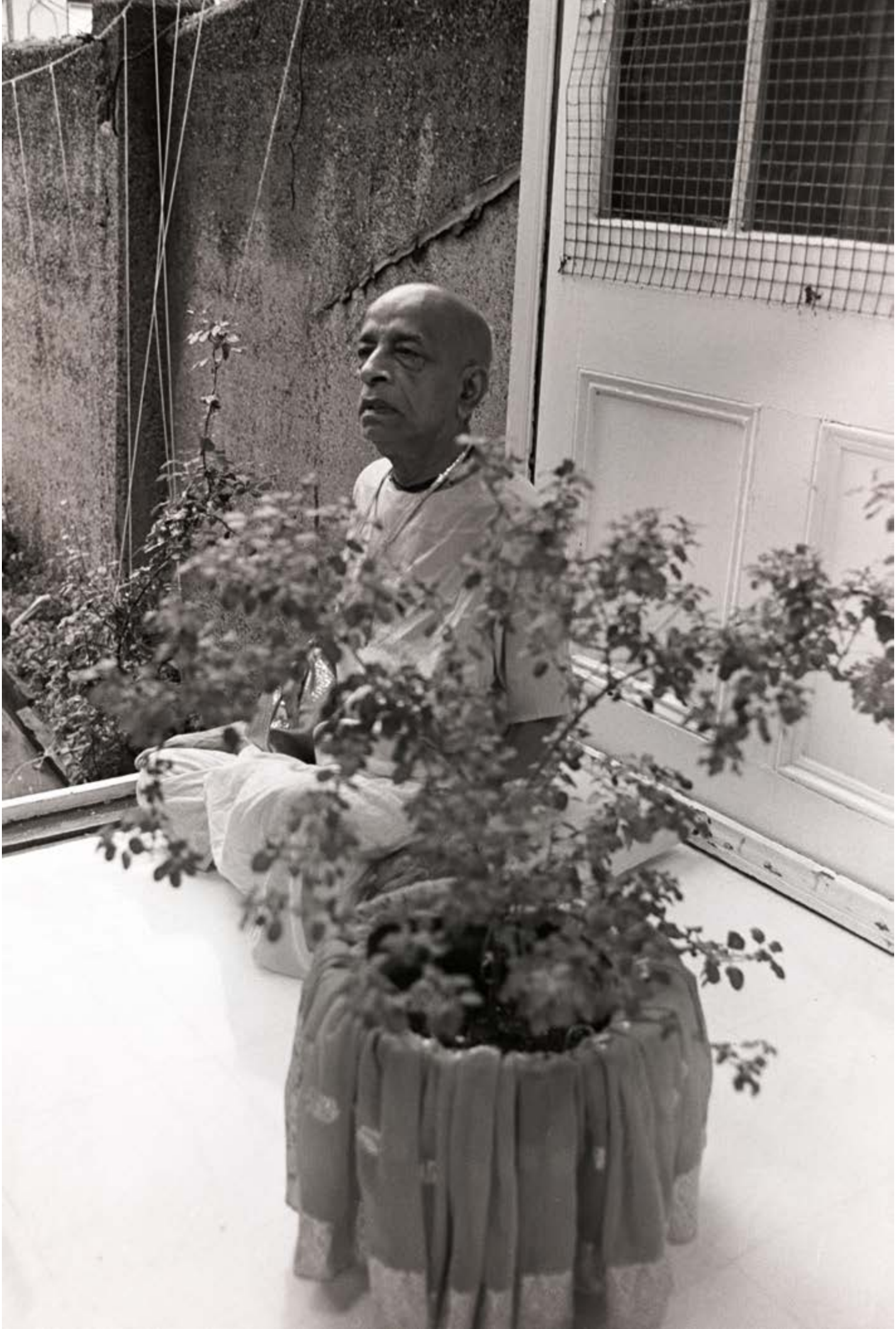


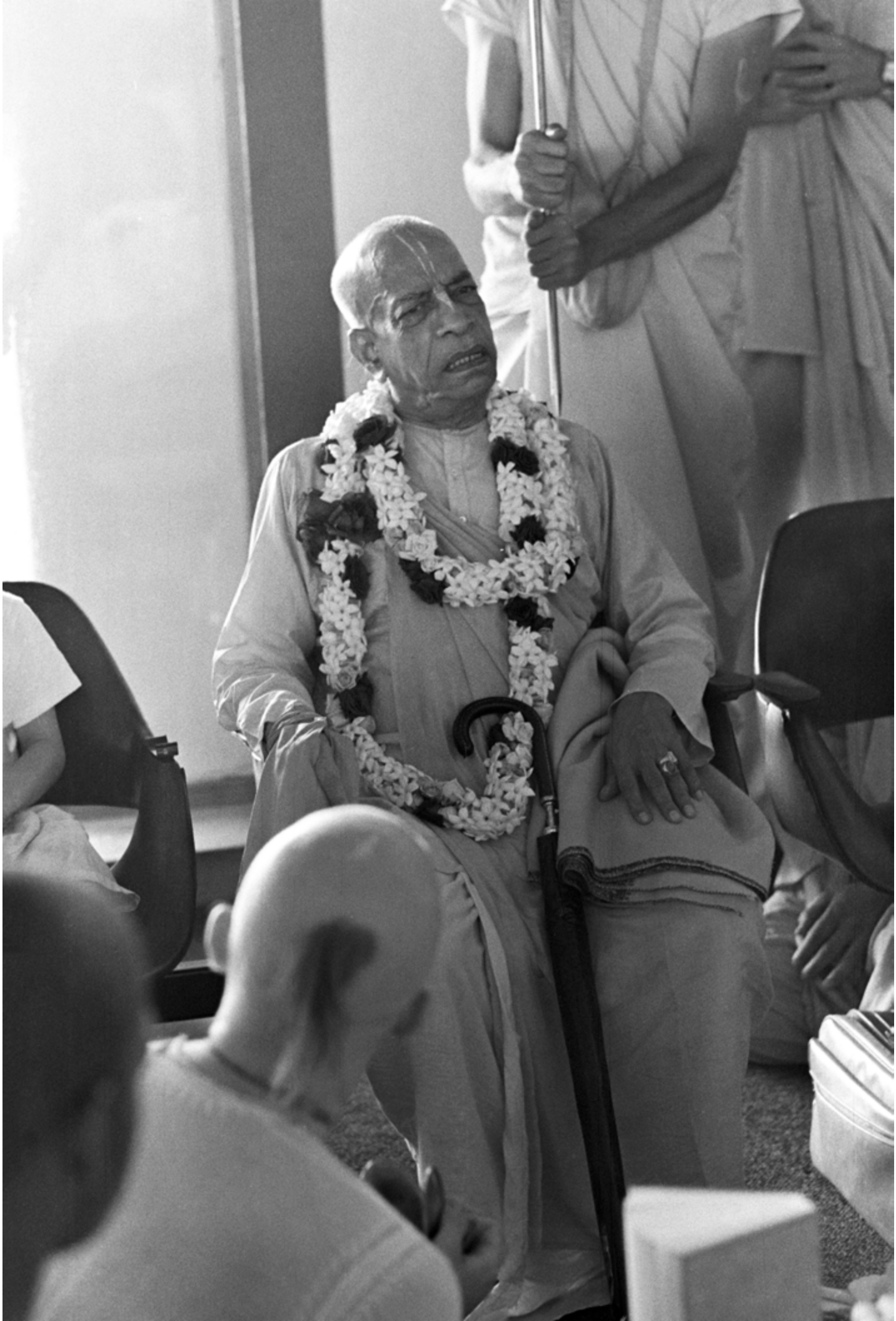
Anyone can become successful in devotional service provided he displays no duplicity. It is explained here that one must be very frank and open-minded (*amāyinaḥ*). To be situated in a lower status of life is not a disqualification for success in devotional service. The only qualification is that whether one is a *brāhmaṇa, kṣatriya, vaiśya* or *śūdra,* he must be open, frank and free from reservations.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 4.21.33, purport

Sincere devotional service in even one lifetime
is sufficient to make one eligible to return to the
Vaikuntha world permanently. Krishna Consciousness
has got this power. So stick to this path as you are
now doing, and as your sincerity and determination
increase more and more, Krishna will surely be
pleased to bestow all of His blessings upon you.

Letter to Madhudviṣa Dāsa, September 7, 1969



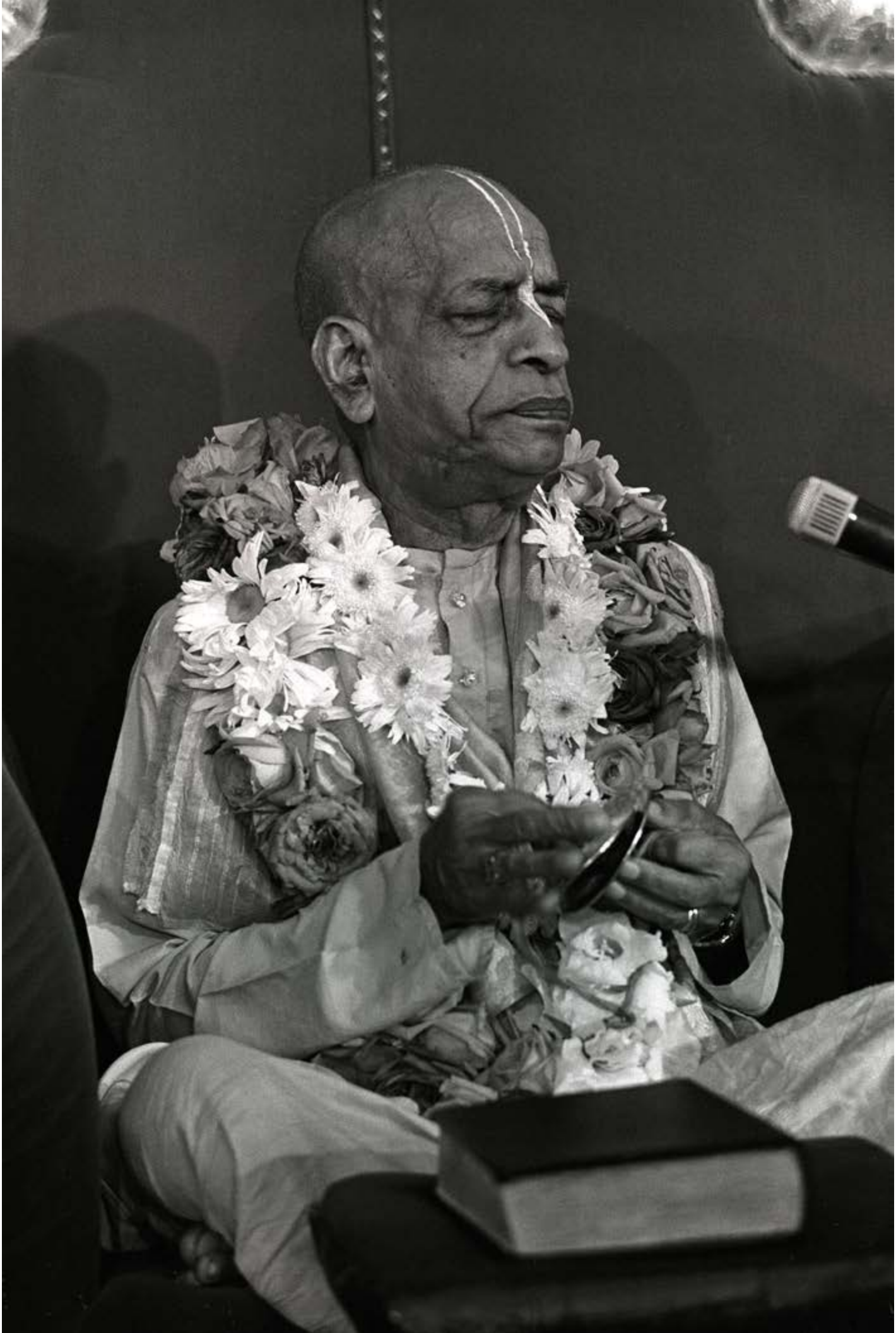


Therefore there is no need to seek properly qualified candidates for discharging devotional service to the Lord. Let them be either well-behaved or ill trained, let them be either learned or fools, let them be either grossly attached or in the renounced order of life, let them be liberated souls or desirous of salvation, let them be inexpert in the discharge of devotional service or expert in the same – all of them can be elevated to the supreme position by discharging devotional service under the proper guidance.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.9.36, purport

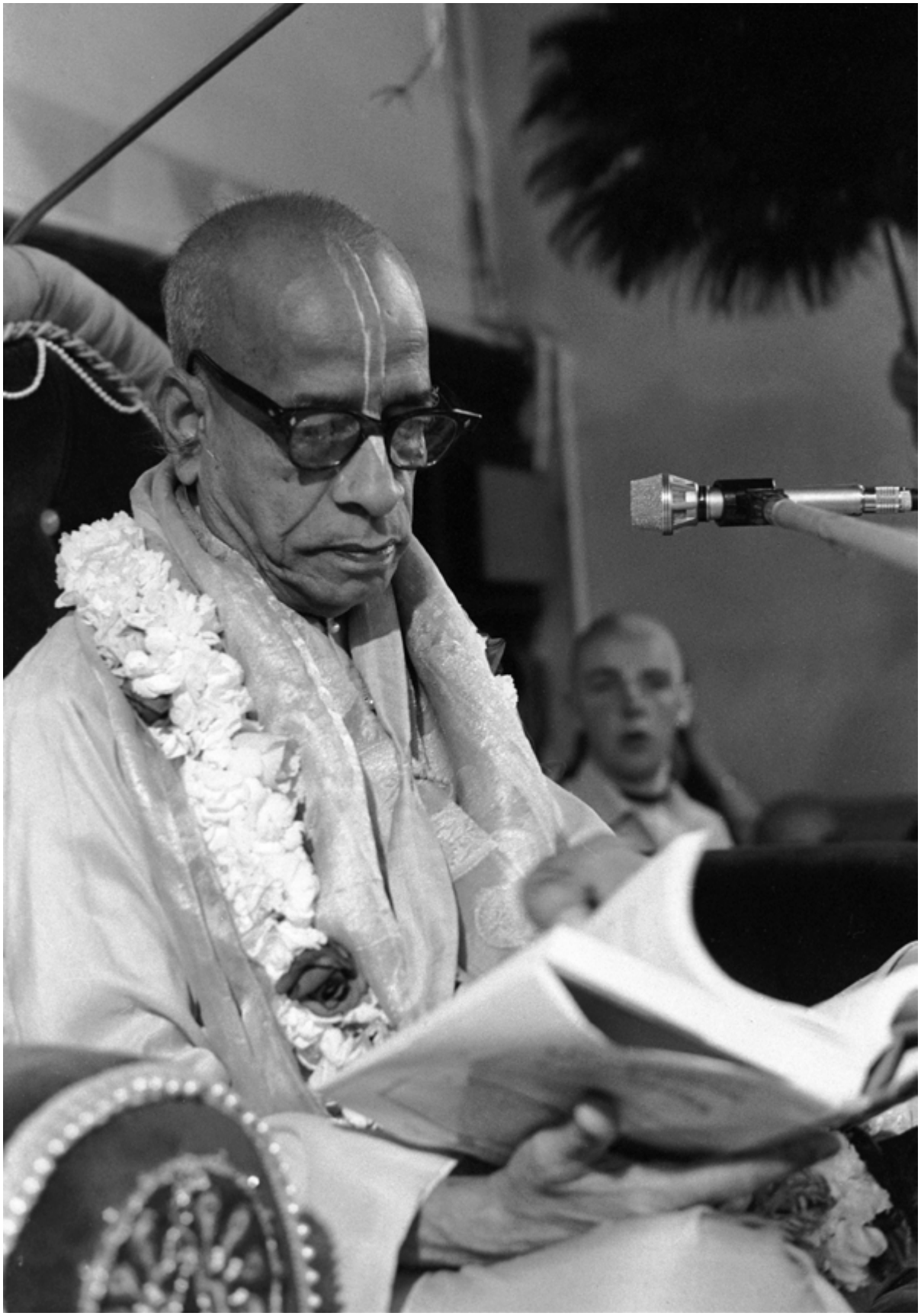
So Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement means that we have to train our senses to satisfy Kṛṣṇa. That's all. So long in other, previous, many, many thousands and millions of lives, we have simply tried to satisfy our senses, personal senses. Let this life be dedicated for satisfying Kṛṣṇa's senses. That is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. One life. We have – several lives we have tried to satisfy our personal senses. Let this life, at least one life, let me try, what happens.

Lecture on *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.20–25,
October 14, 1968, Seattle



Brahmājī could understand the Lord to a little extent only when he was trying to serve Him by the eagerness of his heart (*hṛdautkaṇṭhyavatā*), which is the devotional service mood. Therefore, the Lord can be known only by the sincere mood of eagerness for service, and not by any amount of material qualification as scientist or speculative philosopher or by attainment of mystic powers.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.6.35, purport



Sacrifice means nothing to be sacrificed, but sacrifice the sense of, "I am the Lord." That's all. What you have got you can sacrifice? This is simply a bluff, sacrifice. We cannot sacrifice. What we have got we can sacrifice? There is no question of sacrifice, but sacrifice means this doggish mentality that "I am Lord. I am God. I am enjoyer." This doggish mentality has to be sacrificed. Otherwise, what you can sacrifice? What you have got?

Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.3.20–21,
June 17, 1972, Los Angeles

"Without being empowered by the direct potency of Lord Kṛṣṇa to fulfill His desire and without being specifically favored by the Lord, no human being can become the spiritual master of the whole world.... Only an empowered personality can distribute the holy name of the Lord and enjoin all fallen souls to worship Kṛṣṇa.... Such a personality is *kṛṣṇāliṅgita-vigraha* – that is, he is always embraced by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa."

ŚRĪLA BHAKTISIDDHĀNTA SARASVATĪ ṬHĀKURA, QUOTED IN
ŚRĪ CAITANYA-CARITĀMṚTA, MADHYA-LĪLĀ 25.9, PURPORT

ISKCON®