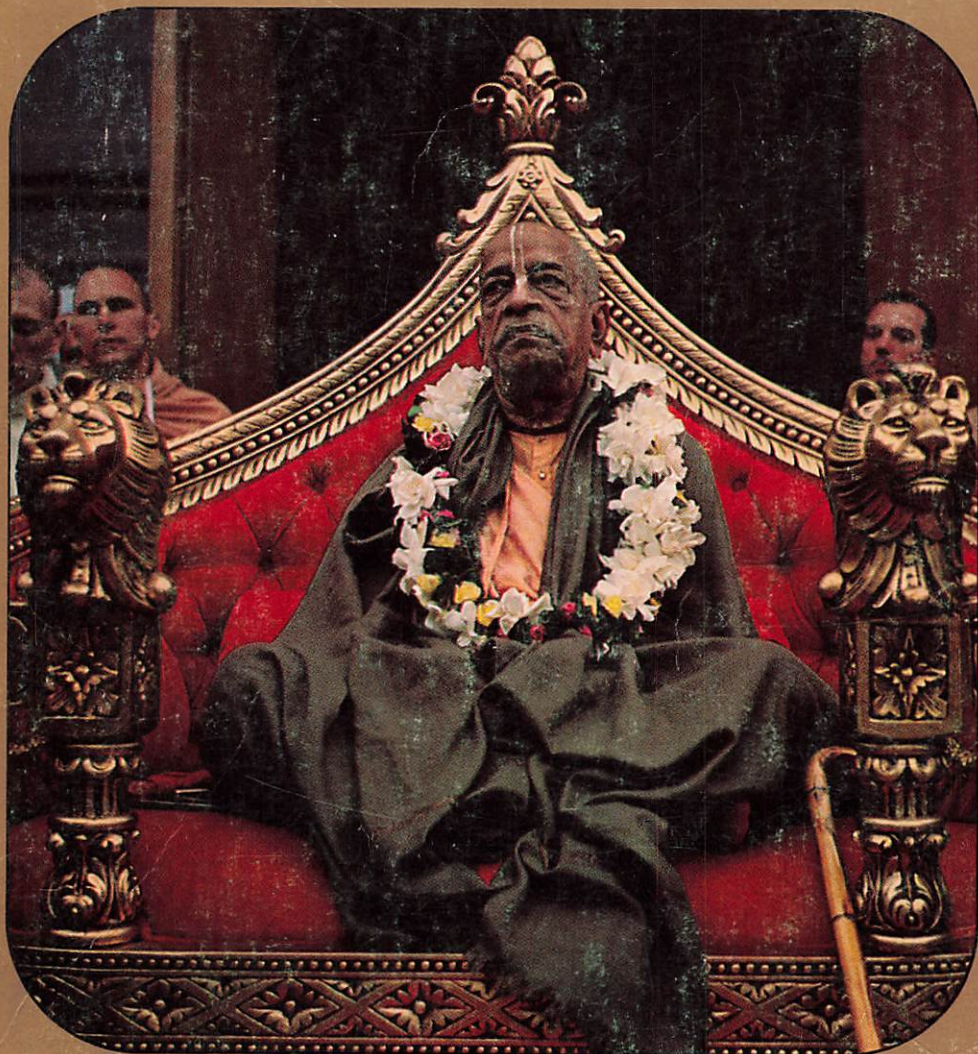


The Most Blessed Event
ŚRĪ VYĀSA-PŪJĀ



The Appearance Day of our Beloved Spiritual Master

His Divine Grace

OM VIṢṆUPĀDA PARAMAHAMSA PARIVRĀJAKĀCĀRYA AṢṬOTTARA-ŚATA ŚRĪSRIMAD

A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI MAHĀRĀJA PRABHUPĀDA

Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

ŚRĪ VYĀSA-PŪJĀ

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August 31, 1975

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The Meaning of Vyāsa-Pūjā

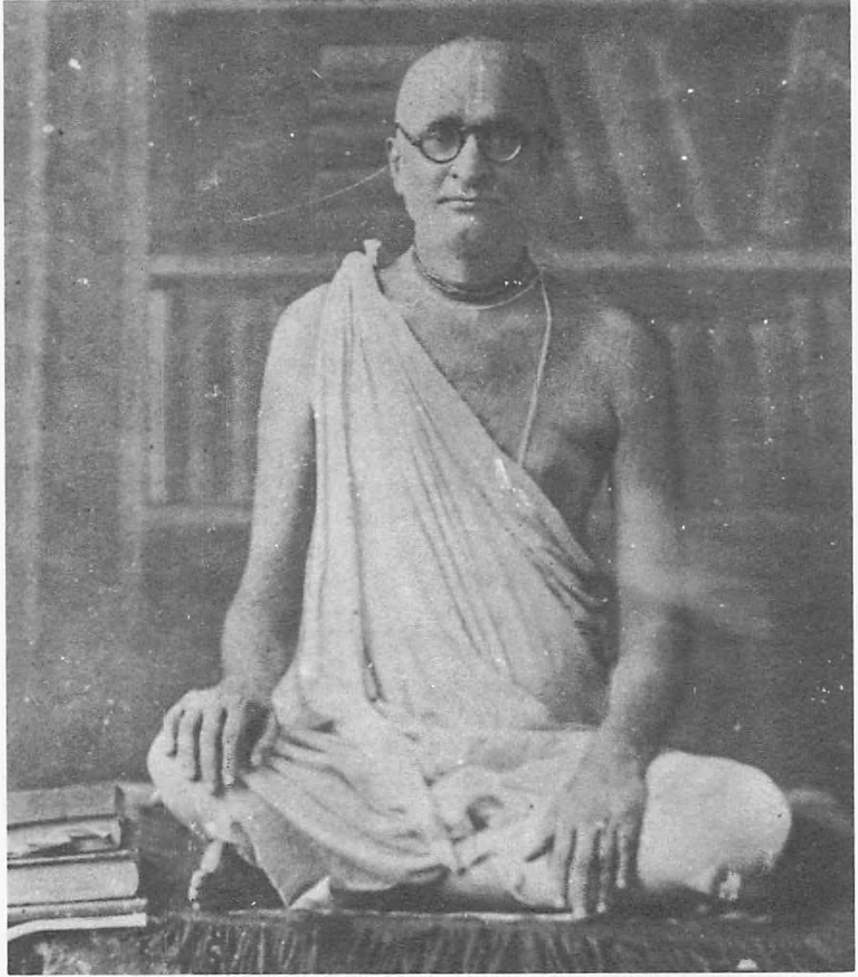
The day on which a disciple celebrates the appearance of his spiritual master is called Vyāsa-pūjā. The word “Vyāsa” indicates Śrīla Vyāsadeva, a powerful incarnation of Kṛṣṇa (God) who compiled all of the Vedic literature, and “pūjā” means worship.

Vyāsadeva appeared five thousand years ago, at the dawn of the present Age of Quarrel, just when widespread moral deterioration was about to begin. He could foresee that the people of this age would be short-lived, unfortunate and always disturbed.

Before Vyāsadeva, all the Vedic scriptures were taught and received verbally in disciplic succession. The memories of both the students and the spiritual masters of those ages were so sharp that once they heard a transcendental message from their spiritual master, the message was immediately imprinted into their brains and considered a written language.

To give the unfortunate people of the modern age a chance to partake of the knowledge contained in the *Vedas*, Śrī Vyāsadeva undertook the enormous task of compilation. He composed the millions of Sanskrit verses of the *Mahābhārata*, the *Vedānta-sūtra* and the *Purāṇas*, including *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. No one else in history can compare with him as a poet, philosopher or writer, and he is thus known as Mahāmuni (the great sage). He is the spiritual master of all who follow the teachings of the *Vedas*. His final, mature work, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, is known as the “ripened fruit of the *Vedas*” and is sufficient in itself for God realization. The precious *Bhāgavatam* has been handed down in disciplic succession, from *guru* to disciple, in an unbroken chain, and today His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, spiritual master of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, is delivering it in turn to his disciples.

Out of his causeless mercy, Śrīla Vyāsadeva wrote *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* for the benefit of the fallen people of Kali-yuga (the modern age), and out of his causeless mercy Śrīla Prabhupāda is personally translating and expanding this monumental work—and he is preaching it throughout the Western world as well. At the advanced age of seventy, he traveled under great hardship from India to America to found the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, and today, nine years later, he tirelessly works eighteen to twenty hours a day, still translating and preaching the eternal message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*: pure, unalloyed service to Kṛṣṇa (God).



**Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahaṁsa
Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī-Śrīmad
Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda**

His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, the foremost devotee and scholar of the previous age, is the spiritual master of His Divine Grace. A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda. He is the ocean of transcendental mercy and the bestower of devotional service upon the fallen souls. He is the deliverer of devotional service which is enriched with the conjugal love of Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. He is the personified teachings of Lord Caitanya. Thus, he never tolerates any statement against the teaching of devotional service as enunciated by Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī.

**In 1936, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda
delivered this poem as a Vyāsa-Pūjā homage for
His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī**

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 Kṛṣṇa,
We fallen souls
Pay most heavy
The illusion's toll.
Darkness around
All untrace,
The only hope,
His Divine Grace.
5. 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.
6. Absolute is sentient
Thou hast proved,
Impersonal calamity
Thou has 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 Kṛṣṇa,
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.



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

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

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

VYĀSA-PŪJĀ

Homages from the G.B.C.

The G.B.C. (Governing Body Commission) is an international committee of disciples
formed by Śrīla Prabhupāda
to organize and govern the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.



I remember you in your association. I remember you in your pictures. I remember you in your smile or anger. I remember you dancing, chanting or crying. But most of all, my beloved master, I remember you in me. You are what I am; you are forming my new desires, my new intelligence and my new actions.

It is your words, Prabhupāda, that have saved me. The more I listen to them, the freer I become. In the dark jungle I have lived all my life. Your words have led to your radiating, walking shoes. Lost I have been for thousands and thousands of years. And all of a sudden, through your words, I discover these beautiful shiny soft shoes. Attracting me in the beginning because they glitter, they enchant me because they dance... up and down, to and fro. Then, they appear before me, close to me, and humbly invite me to follow. I love these shoes of yours, Prabhupāda. I am still in the dark world; I don't appreciate you for what you really are—the friend of the *gopīs*, etc. I love you because of these shoes, because they are taking me out of this scary dark jungle. They are beautiful because I have to search no more. I love them because they give me relief. I remember how much I used to run and used to get very bruised. That is how I developed this thick skin, wounds on top of hardly healed wounds. The holes in the ground, the trees, the animals, all those scary things. No more! I have found these two lovely shiny shoes; they are taking me out. I have to worry no more, I have to fear no more, and I have to bleed no more. Every step I know exactly where to put. Walking is so easy in this dense forest—no more risks to take. Your words have proven and have convinced me that I will fall no more, as long as I follow those shoes. And it is such a relief, such a happy joyous walk,

knowing where to step next and having your words as a guide.

Guruji, you see how selfish I am. You tell me, "All right son, remain selfish, but tend your real self-interest." As I hear you say this over and over to me, all of a sudden I start to hear you; I start to believe you. I don't care, Guruji, for Lord Brahmā, who is in charge of such a wonderful creation. I don't care for all the great demigods.

I don't care for all the magicians around. The ones who can walk on the water or fly in the sky. The ones who can go to the moon or make a heart melt on fire. What have they done for me? Nothing! Nothing! They simply made me more and more blind. But your shoes are different. They are my personal magician. They shine into my life. They melt my heart.

I am still in the darkness of ignorance. But lucky I am, I have your shoes. They run in front of me, and they stop and wait for me, and sometimes they dance for me. And in very rare instances, when I let them, they come and sit on my head.

Guru, I have found life. Life is simply my heart beating by your words, for your words. A new taste, a new world. Anything which negates your words is dead. I am far, far away from the ocean, but through your words I have come to believe that it exists. Reality has become your words for me. Because I am poisoned, near you I cannot come. I am not ready. I can't hear your words when I am near you. I can't see your shoes. I am so envious, I become deaf and blind. So let me be with your words and shoes.

Ātreya Rṣi dāsa adhikāri, GBC, Middle East,
Financial Affairs

Vyāsa-Pūjā Offering

*Beloved Gurudeva, I place myself before you,
in hopes that you can salvage something from my wasted life.*

*Due to sense gratification, I have lost all good qualities,
and now I am simply left trying to maintain my false pride.*

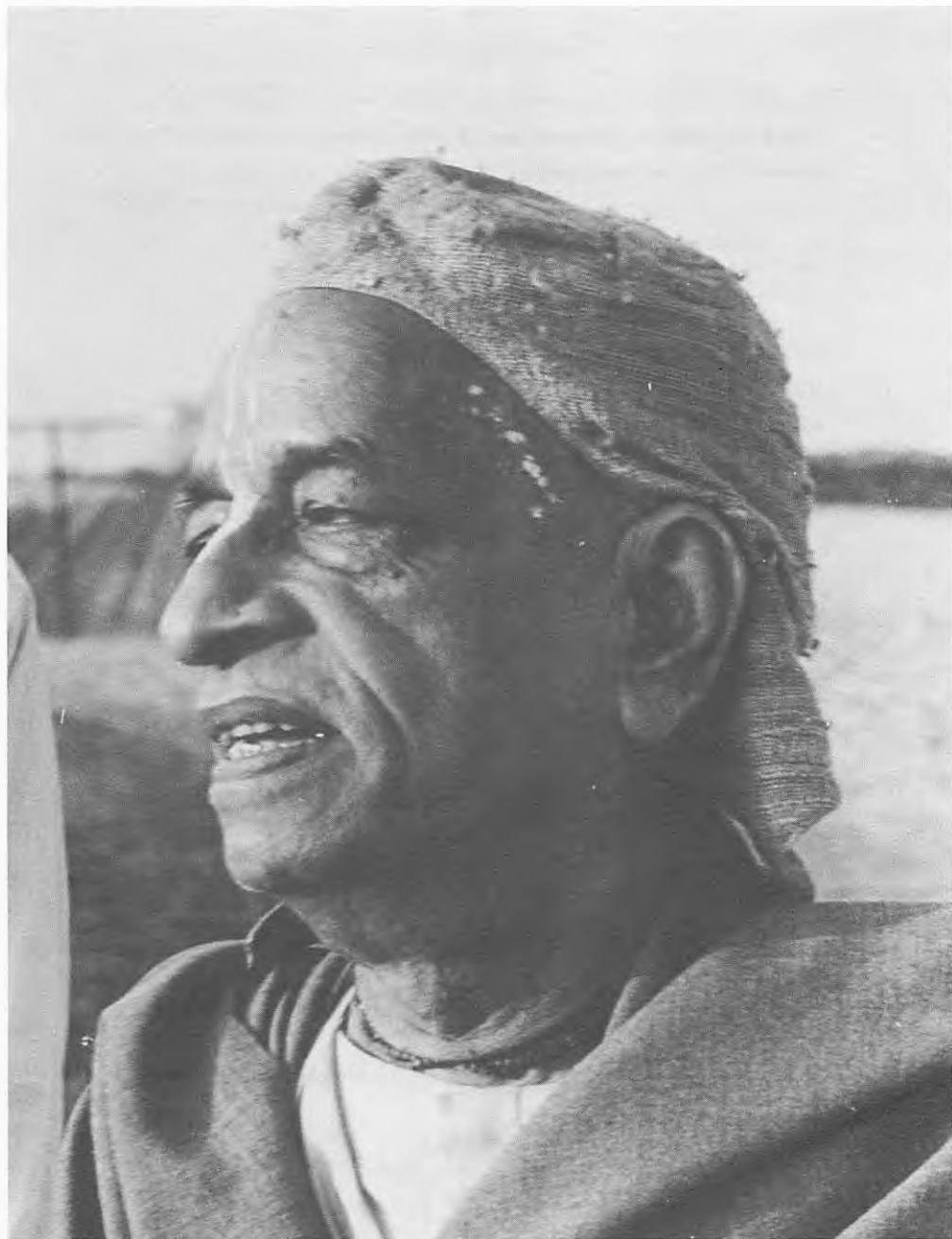
*O Gurudeva, you are like the sun which can purify the most
untouchable thing and still remain unaffected;
therefore you have allowed me to have the mercy of your daraśana.*

*Except for your mercy only the terrible reactions to my sinful
life would await me,
like a hungry wolf.*

*Please mold me as you will and forgive my struggles to resist you;
I am low in intelligence and full of pride.*

*And you have stunned the whole world by teaching us how to live
without sinful activity and fruitive work.*

*As the insignificant crab becomes fearless when taking shelter
of the vast ocean;
You have showed us that the secret of fearlessness is in taking
shelter of Kṛṣṇa's holy name.
From you comes the strength to execute Kṛṣṇa consciousness.*



*You have placed us in palaces and fed us with the finest foods;
You have made us famous to the world, although we had been merged
in an ocean of insignificant faces;
You have given us the highest knowledge with which even a child
can challenge a great philosopher;*

*You have removed the depression from our eyes, the rags
from our bodies and the dirt from our minds;
Cleansing us within and without, you have created effulgent,
moonlike faces where before there was only wasteland.*

*O Gurudeva, you have given us the chance to again share in the
opulence of our Father;
Please protect us and keep us from becoming mice again,
by losing sight that:
You are our Lord and Master;
You are the creator and maintainer of our fortune;
And it is only you who are keeping us from being devoured by
the material energy, our enemies and our egos.*

*All glories to the embodiment of glory—Śrīla Prabhupāda;
You have picked us up from the rejected class;
And in full ecstasy are taking us back home, back to Godhead.*

Bhagavān dāsa adbhikāri, G.B.C.





Vyāsa-Pūjā—the Appearance Day of the Spiritual Master

by Brahmānanda Svāmī, GBC

*He reasons ill who tells that Vaiṣṇavas die
When thou art living still in sound!
The Vaiṣṇavas die to live, and living try
To spread the holy name around!*

Sometimes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you speak about a subject which is very frightening. You did it last

year in San Francisco during your Ratha-yātrā speech before five thousand assembled American youths. You said, “You are generally young, whereas I am an old man who may die at any moment.” You say these things in order to make us take this movement more seriously. But it is unimaginable. How could such a thing ever happen? How can I believe that you, who are my master, my life and my soul would ever depart? Do the oceans ever dry up? Does the air ever blow away? Does the sun die? Then why should I believe that Your Divine Grace will?

Can you see what you have done to me, Śrīla Prabhupāda? You have made me your eternal servitor. You cannot leave me, ever. Without your service there is no existence for me. The moment you leave I will fall down and begin to suffocate like a flapping fish washed up from the sea. I must have your service. Like a pet house dog I will scamper after you, even though you may try to leave me behind. Where you go, so will I. If you die, then so will I. My life is already yours, so there is no loss for me.

I won't let you die. I will block death, and also old age and disease. I will stand in the way and not let them pass. I am guarding your door, and by your grace I have the strength.

At least I can give you my own duration of life. I can offer you my own youthfulness. Just as the son of Yayāti agreed to offer his aging father his own youthfulness so that his father could prolong his enjoyment, even though it means the end of the son's, so I also agree. Take my youth, my strength, my health. Give me your agedness. Let all the discomforts come to me. Let all the diseases come to me. Let death come and take me instead. Then there will be some small value to my life. I have no asset other than my death for your life. I am ready.

But, Kṛṣṇa proclaims boldly in the *Bhagavad-gītā*, *kaunteya pratījānīhi, na me bhaktyaḥ prañāsyati*. "My devotee never perishes." You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are Kṛṣṇa's devotee, and as far as I have seen, the only pure devotee in the world. So, Kṛṣṇa is making this promise to you. Because you are the Lord's pure devotee, you are not an ordinary person. When Kṛṣṇa certifies that nothing can defeat you, that includes death. "*Ithaiva tair jitaḥ sargo*." You have already conquered over death. Who else in this world has done this? Even Einstein was not able to outsmart death. Just as God does not die, neither does His devotee. "*Na jāyate mriyate vā kadācin*."

There is no death for the soul. "*Na hanyate hanyamāne śarīre*." Only the body dies. You alone, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have fully realized what it means to be spirit soul and not this body, and you are now trying to teach this. Because you are free from death, you want to save the rest of the world. You have dedicated your life to this—every moment, every thought, every word we hear and read as your books. And, I think, you will continue to teach anyone who wants to learn, until you are satisfied that at least one of us has understood that I WILL NOT DIE. Then you will depart, having fulfilled your mission.

So what is the purpose of my trying to keep Your Divine Grace from death? It is a foolish illusion for me to think that you will die. At night there is the tendency to think that the sun is no longer in the sky. Actually the sun is shining during the night as brightly as during the day, only I cannot see it. I *know* the sun is there even though it is out of my sight. It is a question of accepting authority and rejecting limited experiential knowledge.

Some day you will leave me, but now I know that you cannot die. Simply I will not be able to see you. I may not be able to see you, but I will be able to hear you. What you have tirelessly spoken will echo in my heart and I will know that you are there with Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, in the spiritual world. You will still be living and continuing to please Kṛṣṇa as you are doing in this world. The only thing for me to do after you leave will be to continue to serve you and always do exactly what you have told me to do. Then I will live with you forever,

as your humble servant,
Brahmānanda Svāmi



Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā Offering
At the Divine Lotus Feet of My Guru Mahārāja
on His 79th Appearance Day

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I beg to offer my most fallen *daṇḍavats* at your divine lotus feet. You are the genuine representative of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Vyāsadeva, and therefore entitled to receive the Vyāsa-Pūjā offerings from your disciples every year. Śrī Vyāsadeva descended by His causeless mercy to deliver the fallen souls of this material world. You are the representative of Vyāsa as you are delivering that same knowledge that is coming down from Vyāsa. Because the spiritual master delivers that knowledge, without charge, he is offered respects on his appearance day as the representative of Vyāsadeva, and this auspicious day is called Vyāsa Pūjā.

The fallen souls have forgotten that the goal of this human life is to render transcendental loving service unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Though we living entities are parts and parcels of the Lord, His eternal servitors, under the illusion of *Māyā* we are forgetting this. This knowledge of the goal of human life can only be imparted by the genuine spiritual master, not from a politician or a foolish person who has no understanding of the individual soul and the Supersoul who dwells in everyone. The genuine spiritual master does not concoct his own theories, but only takes advantage of the Vedic literature to free suffering humanity.

Although Śrīla Vyāsadeva was a spiritual master of everyone, He still accepted Nārada Muni as his spiritual master. Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Lord Śrī Rāmacandra, and Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, all incarnations of Godhead, accepted formal spiritual masters although by Their transcendental nature, They had all knowledge. The purpose was to show by Their own conduct that one must have a spiritual master.

In the Fourth Chapter of *Bhagavad-gītā*, Lord Kṛṣṇa says:

*tad viddhi pranipātena
paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānaṁ
jñāninas tattva-darśinah*

“Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth.” (Bg. 4.34) Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the perfect self-realized soul, who is described in the above verse. As your name implies, you are the genuine Bhaktivedānta. You had the fortune to take birth in a family of devotees and from your very birth you were trained in devotional service to the Lord. Like the great sages, you are impartial in distributing this transcendental knowledge of devotional service. To you, no one is friend or enemy; no one is educated or uneducated; no one is especially favorable or unfavorable. You have disciples of almost all nationalities. Because you are a pure devotee, you are free from all kinds of sins. The Personality of Godhead is the purest entity, and unless one is equally purified from the infection of material qualities, one cannot become a self-realized soul like you. Being a pure devotee, you never deviate from the teachings of Lord Kṛṣṇa. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, in both *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, has instructed us to surrender to Him:

*sarva-dharmān parityajya
mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja
ahaṁ tvāṁ sarva-pāpebhyo
mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ*

“Abandon all varieties of religion, and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reaction. Do not fear.” And this is exactly what you have been telling everyone. You never

deviated from the truth to attract more followers. When you first started the movement in New York in 1966, some bogus *svāmīs* approached you and suggested that you not enforce the four regulative principles (no eating of meat, fish or eggs; no intoxicants; no illicit sex life and no gambling). You did not pay any attention to these bogus *svāmīs* because you knew that these regulative principles are coming down in disciplic succession and are absolute essentials for genuine spiritual life. The Lord is the creator, maintainer and annihilator of everything. The whole manifested universe is existing by His will and is annihilated by His will also. The Lord existed before the creation in His eternal abode and will continue to remain after the annihilation also. He is not one of the created beings. He is transcendental. This, Śrīla Prabhūada, is your message.

In the *Vedas*, the spiritual master has been described as the representative of the Supreme Lord. You represent the Supreme Lord just as the viceroy represents a king. In one of your purports in the *Bhagavad-gītā* you have stated: "One can know God and one's relationship with God only when one actually meets a representative of God. A representative of God never claims to be God, although he is paid all the respect ordinarily paid to God because he has knowledge of God." Lord Caitanya stated that it is a fortunate person who comes in contact with a bona fide spiritual master by the grace of Kṛṣṇa. The age of Kali is very dangerous for the human being. But by accepting you as captain of the ship, we will be able to cross over the dangerous ocean of Kali. The ship we are traveling in is the message of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the shape of *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In the Eleventh Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* Prabhuddha tells Mahārāja Nimi: "My dear King, please know for certain that in the material world there is no happiness. It is simply a mistake to think that there is happiness there, because this place is full of nothing but miserable conditions. Any person who is

seriously desirous of achieving real happiness must seek out a bona fide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation." Śrīla Prabhupāda, your disciples are experiencing happiness by performing devotional service under your guidance. This happiness is not temporary like everything in the material world, but eternal, permanent. As disciples, we must understand the spiritual master's position. The disciple is advised to worship the spiritual master as one would worship the Supreme Lord Himself. In the Eleventh Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Sage Prabhuddha further tells Mahārāja Nimi: "My dear King, a disciple has to accept the spiritual master not only as spiritual master, but also as the representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the Supersoul. In other words, the disciple should accept the spiritual master as God because He is the external manifestation of Kṛṣṇa." This is confirmed in every scripture, and a disciple should accept the spiritual master as such. For example, in the *Gurv-aṣṭaka* prayers by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura it is said:

*sākeśād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair
uktas tathā bhāvayata eva sadbhiḥ
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

"The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and followed by all authorities. Therefore I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is a bona fide representative of Śrī Hari (Kṛṣṇa)." (*Gurv-aṣṭaka*, 7)

It is only out of the Supreme Lord's causeless mercy for the fallen souls that He has sent you as His representative to canvass on His behalf. Only by serving and worshipping the spiritual master can we please the Supreme Lord. The attitude of the disciple should always be to satisfy the spiritual master. Then it will be very easy for

him to understand spiritual knowledge. It is said in the *Vedas* that for a person who has unflinching faith in God and the spiritual master, everything becomes very easily revealed. This is stated in *Gurv-aṣṭaka* (8):

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
dhyāyaṁ stuvamś tasya yaśas tri-sandhyaṁ
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

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

At no point should a disciple think that he is equal to the spiritual master. In the Eleventh Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Lord Kṛṣṇa tells Uddhava: “The spiritual master must never be considered on the same level with an ordinary human being. One should never be envious of the spiritual master, as one may be envious of any ordinary man. The spiritual master should always be seen as the representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and by serving the spiritual master, one is able to serve all the demigods.” Because you have pleased your spiritual master, you have been successful in your preaching efforts. The secret of your success was that you took your spiritual master’s orders seriously. Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura had written that just as one cannot separate the body from the soul in this conditioned state, similarly the disciple cannot separate the spiritual master’s order from his very life. At the age of seventy you sailed for the West, because it was your Guru Mahārāja’s desire to spread Lord Caitanya’s teachings to the Western world. And now, within a brief span of ten years, you have opened over one hundred preaching centers and

translated into English the entire *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* in eighteen volumes, *Bhagavad-gītā*, six cantos of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Nectar of Devotion*, Tenth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Teachings of Lord Caitanya* plus hundreds of articles. Your books are a matter of realization. As you have said, “When you become self-realized, you automatically write volumes of books.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the living example of the saintly person described in the Vedic literature. Even at the old age of seventy-nine, you are still traveling and preaching all over the world, besides continuing your translating work. You know that the highest welfare is not to pose oneself as the friend of humanity, but to teach that God, or Kṛṣṇa, is the dearest friend and the only one who is capable of relieving the misery of every entity. You are preaching seriously because you heard your Guru Mahārāja’s lectures very attentively. You have often told us of that key to your approaching your Guru Mahārāja. You said that when you first started going to your Guru Mahārāja he said of you, “This boy hears very nicely. He does not go away. So I shall make him a disciple.” This was your qualification. You would simply inquire when Guru Mahārāja would speak; then sit down and go on hearing. Even if you did not understand, you would not leave. Your Guru Mahārāja made you his disciple, and the foremost of all.

You have now established this ISKCON institution to spread Lord Caitanya’s teachings to the entire world. My only prayer to the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Lord Śrī Caitanya and your Guru Mahārāja is that you may stay with us for a long time on this planet, so you can continue to guide your fallen children, who now number in the thousands.

Your servant,

Gopāla Kṛṣṇa dāsa adbhikārī GBC—India and Southeast Asia

Trustee—Māyāpura-Vṛndāvana Trust

*Sweet sweet can't be beat
what a treat, them two lotus feet*

*Prabhupāda, let me put my head on your two lotus feet
The whole world is running mad after a treat
But all their attempts will only meet defeat
Until they take shelter of your two lotus feet.*

*Prabhupāda, your lotus feet have walked all over the earth
Establishing temples, and recovering the simple
Dishing out the sauce, that Kṛṣṇa's the boss
Teaching what we've lost, that we're all kṛṣṇa-dāsa.*

*For so many crores, I've been māyā's clown
Now I'm throwing myself, down on the ground
I'm lowly as a snake, in a dark lake
Please! I need your protection from māyā's infection.*

*I'm burning in anguish in this blazing saṁsāra
When will I tire and put out this fire
I keep going on, chewing the chewed
When will I give up this enjoying mood*

*Service is the name, and surrender is the game
Devotional service is always there—when will I care?
Taking seriously your instructions and stand like a man
And give all fallen souls a helping hand.*

*I'm sure you must get tired of this fool hanging around
The way I walk, the way I talk, just like a proud peacock
I'm the biggest rascal of all, I'm not on the ball
But you Prabhupāda, to me, are the greatest of all.*



*I love you Prabhupāda
And I pray on this Vyāsā-Pūjā day!
Give the shade of your sweet lotus feet
Don't kick me away, for I am unworthy and insignificant.*

Gurukrpa Svami
ISKCON Tokyo
(GBC)



*How can I declare your glory,
my position so wretched and sorry*

*whatever I may write today,
at most a pinch of what I've heard you say,*

*however I try to please you,
results only in undoing what you do,*

*who knows the false from the true,
I blindly follow my Guru,*

*I may be right, I may be wrong,
pleasing you means going back to home.*

*if a dwarf could touch the moon
your holy feet an immeasurable boon,*

*another year passed, another poem,
may I serve you, wherever you roam,*

Your humble servant

Hamsadūta dāsa adhikārī
GBC, BBT Representative





Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my most humble obeisances unto you, worshiping the sacred dust of your lotus feet with awe and reverence. I beg to present myself as one of the numberless conditioned souls, who has been entrapped and heartbroken by the terrible force of Māyā. My intelligence and goodness are lost at the hands of material nature, and I am very much embarrassed to see the grotesque material personality with which I am identifying myself and my life.

In this false condition, my heart is in pain, and I have come to you for relief. I can understand that you are the opposite of me. I am eternally conditioned, whereas you are eternally liberated. I am always trying to serve my senses, whereas you are serving the senses of Kṛṣṇa. I am in darkness and you are in light. I have made my permanent residence in the darkness of this material world, whereas you are always enjoying the light of spiritual life. I am frustrated and disappointed, and you are forever happy in spiritual bliss.

Therefore I am approaching you with all the humility which a selfish person can find within himself, and hoping against hope, begging to be awarded pure devotional service.

Poem for Śrīla Prabhupāda

*We fall at your feet, O Jagad-guru
Suffering souls—we know not what to do
We were born on the lap of the cruel witch Māyā
Now we approach you, searching for Kṛṣṇa.*

*Our childhood was filled with malicious play
Our studies were meant to bring soon the day
When we would become the lords of the earth
Till death dragged us down to a hellish rebirth.*

*Then you intervened, and entered our heart
Burning our karma and thus we could start
A spiritual life, serving your feet
Learning to love, not in love's name to cheat.*

*With Kṛṣṇa as the center, and you as the guide
Charming our hearts, and breaking our pride
We chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, leaving Māyā alone
Going back to Godhead, going back to Home.*

**Your eternal servant,
Hṛdayānanda dāsa Gosvāmi**

The Friend of the Poor

*What value selfish plans?
We're helpless to control
Phenomenal events,
No matter what our goal.*

*Lord Kṛṣṇa has a plan
Which is the real control,
And if we find that out
We know the perfect goal.*

*That plan has been revealed
By Śrīla Prabhupāda.
So, now we know the goal.
Develop love for God.*

*But, to achieve the goal
Requires that we escape
From māyā's strong embrace,
Accepting Guru's grace.*

*The beneficent cloud
Rains water everywhere.
Like that, his mercy is spread.
It's there for those who care.*

*Śrī Guru must be pleased
By humble inquiry,
By offering respects
And serving selflessly.*

*Our purpose just to serve
Without desire for gain,
Enthusiastic'ly
Although it be a strain.*

*His pleasure our success,
There is no other aim,
And, thus his pleasing glance,
There is no greater gain.*

*Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Accept my dandabats
Unto your lotus feet,
More pure than Ganges ghāṭs.*

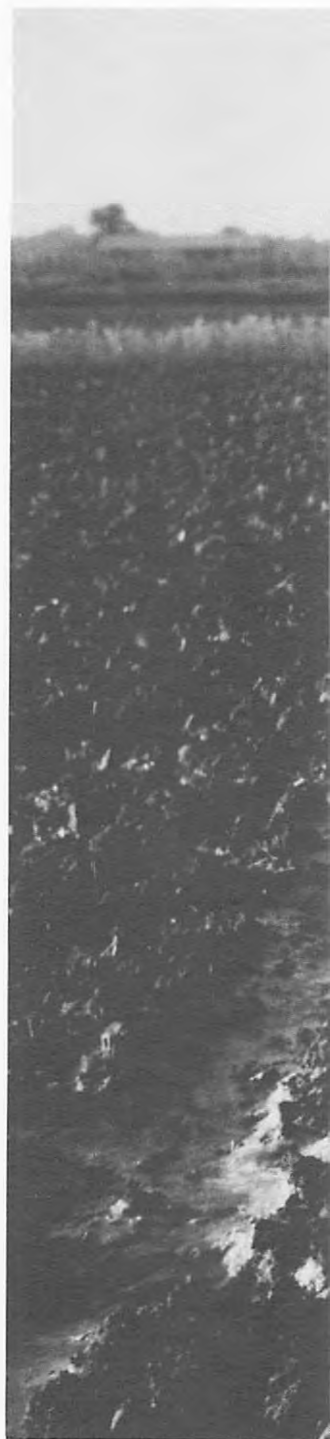
*I am a hopeless fool,
Without a strong desire
To conquer māyā's curse.
I fly into her fire.*

*My mind is always won
By māyā's promises.
I cannot seem to learn
How dangerous she is.*

*Please help me to become
Attached to Kṛṣṇa's name,
Attached to serving Him.
Thus, freed from māyā's game.*

*I have no other hope.
You are my only friend.
Please keep me at your feet.
I'll serve you without end.*

*Your servant,
Jagadīśa dāsa*





I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is ever inviting all the fallen, conditioned souls to associate with him on the platform of transcendental loving service to the Lord. It was not in search of followers, wealth or beautiful women that Śrīla Prabhupāda set off for America ten years ago, but as the official representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, destined to change the whole course of history.

Long envied for her wealth by the Western countries, India has, of late, fallen into the inenviable position of being the world's poorest country. The notoriety that she suffers from this has tended to discredit, in the eyes of modern man, claims that her rich spiritual heritage could be of any value. Such claims were further discredited by the seemingly endless stream of *yogīs*, *rīṣīs*, *svāmīs* and *gurus*, who, along with newly devised philosophies especially designed to cater to the senses and pocketbooks of the spiritually naive Westerners, emigrated from India to the greener pastures of the New World. It is only by dint of the incomparable sincerity, purity and determination of His Divine Grace that the intelligent class of men is now recovering from its above mentioned prejudices and is beginning to catch a glimpse of the unlimited treasure of spiritual knowledge available in the Vedic literature.

Undaunted by the adverse conditions that confronted him on his arrival and propelled by his unswerving devotion to the lotus feet of His Divine Grace Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda, Śrīla Prabhupāda has accomplished what could not have been accomplished by an ordinary man, and his accomplishments increase day by day. The readily visible accomplishments would by themselves rank him to be extraordinary: he is the author of over forty volumes, the founder-*ācārya* of a world-wide institution with over one hundred

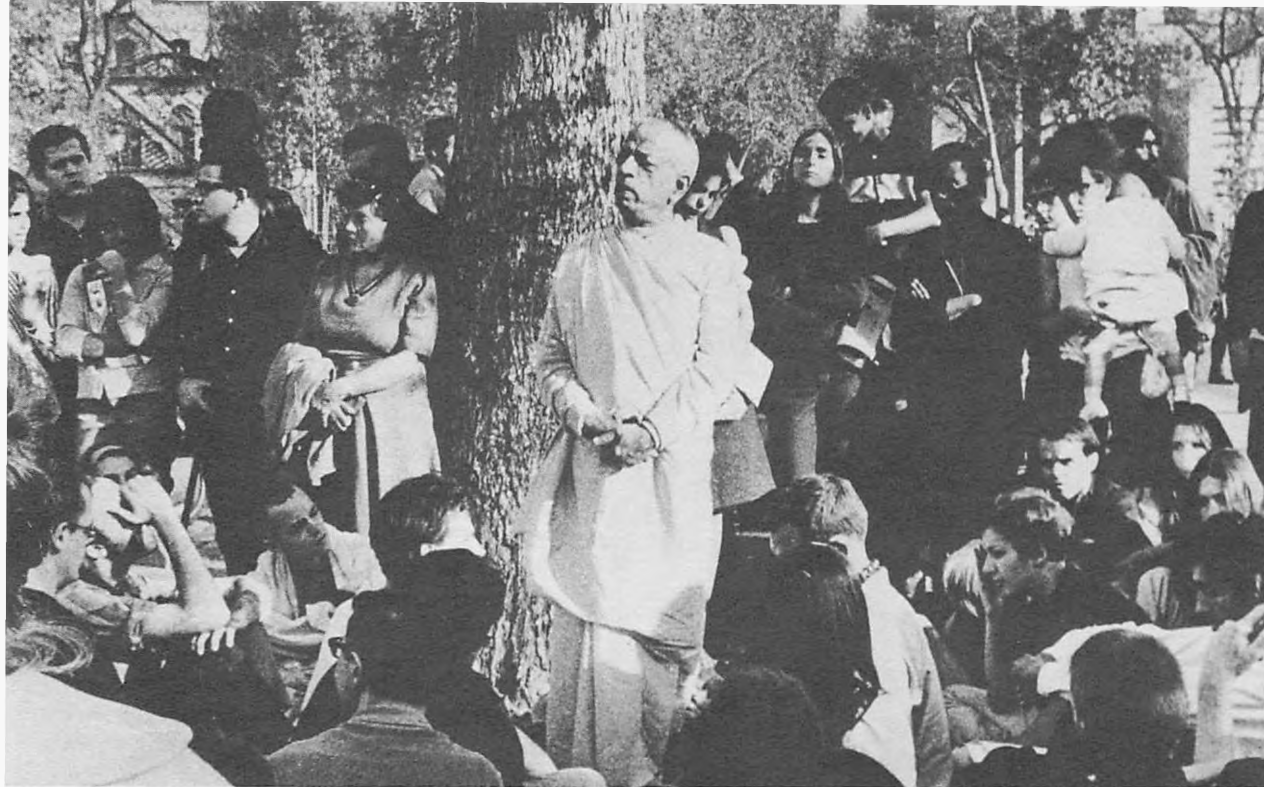
centers and a yearly budget of over twenty million dollars, and the teacher of thousands of disciples.

Deeper study leads us to the conclusion that even among extraordinary men he is not ordinary. Indeed, in his shadow all of the so-called extraordinary men in Western history are shown to be insignificant ants. Lord Kṛṣṇa, in the cream of the Vedic literature, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.17.22), gives us a hint about his greatness: "My dear Uddhava, the spiritual master must be accepted not only as My representative but as My very self. He must never be considered on the same level with an ordinary human being. One should never be envious of the spiritual master, as one may be envious of an ordinary man. The spiritual master should always be seen as the representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and by serving the spiritual master, one is able to serve all the demigods." (NOD p. 59)

Lord Kṛṣṇa is known as Mukunda, the giver of liberation. Tiring of material rewards and their accompanying entanglements, many in the West are now seeking after His gift. Śrīla Prabhupāda has come to fulfill the desires of these world-weary souls in a way that he is uniquely qualified to do. Although many have advertised that liberation from misery is available in a myriad of other ways—from new cigarette brands and exciting cinema features to a variety of meditational processes leading to self-annihilation—no one else has repeated Kṛṣṇa's simple message as it is:

*tam eva śaraṇam gaccha
sarva-bhāvena bhārata
tat-prasādāt parām śāntim
sthānam prāpsyasi śāśvatam*

"O scion of Bharata, surrender unto Him utterly. By His grace you will attain transcendental



peace and the supreme and eternal abode.”
(Bg. 18.62)

*sarva-dharmān parityajya
mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja
ahaṁ tvām sarva-pāpēbhyo
mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ*

“Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reaction. Do not fear.” (Bg. 18.66)

In the society of the cheaters and the cheated, it is our greatly fortunate position to have been found by His Divine Grace. As time goes on and we attempt in our childlike way to follow his instructions, we find ourselves in constantly increasing awe of his simplicity, his purity and his honesty. We begin to awaken to the startling realization, “He is not cheating!” We look out with compassionate eyes to our many kindred souls and find it most pitiable that they still cling with fervent insanity to the source of the miserable condition—sense gratification. We wonder,

“How long can they continue on in this way?” But we take hope in the unlimited mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda and these words of *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*:

*saj-jana, dur-jana, paṅgu, jaḍa, andha-gaṇa
prema-vanyāya ḍubāila jagatera jana*

“The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement will inundate the entire world, and will drown everyone, whether one be a gentleman, a rogue or even lame, invalid or blind.” (Cc. Ādi 7.26)

When asked by a disciple in Dallas last year, “How can we ever repay our debt to you?”, Śrīla Prabhupāda replied significantly, “You can never repay your debt to the spiritual master. Therefore, it is best that you remain always obliged.”

Begging to remain always obliged.
His worthless servant,
Jayatīrtha dāsa
G.B.C., Western Region. U.S.A.



*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

My dear beloved spiritual master, Your Divine Grace,

Please forgive this inadequate attempt to offer homage on this most auspicious day of your appearance. Unfortunately, I have no sufficient talent for singing your glories, nor sufficient intelligence to perceive your wisdom, nor even good common sense to take complete shelter of your lotus feet, which are the only shelter for a conditioned soul.

What wretches we are, not to surrender immediately. How foolish our reservations. Sometimes I laugh when I hear devotees talk about *karmis* "enjoying" or having "sense gratification." Actually, you are the real sense gratification. You have made our senses come alive. You have taught us how to sing and dance and feast, and to immerse our hearts and minds in the nectarean ocean of love of God.

O Jagad-guru, spiritual master of the universe, please continue to benedict us with your divine presence and give us that vision you have received by unfailing disciplic succession from the Lord Himself.

O beloved spiritual master, O torchlight of truth, please go on revealing the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa to the pig-like *jīvas* of Kali-yuga. We fall at your lotus feet again and again and pray only to be engaged in your devotional service birth after birth.

All Glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Kīrtanānanda Svāmī
GBC



Mother Devahūti inquired from her self-effulgent Son, Kapiladeva, "How can the conditioned soul become freed from material attachment?" Kapiladeva, thanking her from within, replied, "Every learned man knows very well that attachment for the material is the greatest entanglement of the spirit soul. But that same attachment, when applied to the self-realized devotees, opens the door of liberation You must seek attachment to such holy men, for this counteracts the pernicious effects of material attachment." Sūta Gosvāmī said to Śaunaka Ṛṣi, "The person who has not at any time received the dust of the feet of a pure devotee of the Lord upon his head certainly is a dead body." Narottama dās Ṭhākura writes, "Attachment to the lotus feet of the pure devotee is the perfection that fulfills all desires." Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura instructs us, "By satisfaction of the spiritual master, the Supreme Personality of Godhead becomes satisfied." Rūpa Gosvāmī has verified that with-

out pleasing the spiritual master and taking initiation from him, one cannot permanently re-establish his eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa. Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself says that one must learn the truth by rendering service to the spiritual master. Arjuna confirms that Kṛṣṇa is Himself the supreme spiritual master, and therefore we can also accept Him as the ultimate authority.

Kṛṣṇa, the supreme authority, tells us over and over again that He is more pleased when His pure devotee is glorified than when He is glorified. Thus, Kṛṣṇa personally glorified the *gopīs* when He told them that there was nothing He could give them equal to the glories of their own pure devotion to Him.

Now the whole world is in a dangerous position, in the face of inevitable war, famine, and pestilence as a consequence of blind materialism. You are the only hope that these lessons of history do not repeat themselves again and again. We know that whatever happens materially cannot impede the Hare Kṛṣṇa Movement, as long as we simply execute your instructions. In fact, apparent material catastrophes can only accelerate the desire of people to take shelter of your lotus feet. In the same way that a man in the face of death calls out, "Oh, my God help me," honest men will recognize the safety of the shade of your lotus feet, and pray that you save the present remnants of human civilization.

Therefore, it is our duty, our *guru-dakṣiṇa*, to glorify Your Divine Grace all over the world, so that every intelligent person can understand that to render service unto you will reveal and fulfill the purpose of life, Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The people must somehow or other understand that you are non-different from Kṛṣṇa because you are speaking for the Supreme Personality of Godhead as His representative. Thank you very much, for by your kind presence the world is already saved.

Your most fallen disciple,
Rūpānuga dāsa Adhikārī



As it is ludicrous to think that a torchlight is needed to show us the sun, so my words are not needed to establish the glories of my spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself states in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, (11.17.27): "One should know the spiritual master 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." And Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja, the empowered author of *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* has written: "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." (*Cc Ādi* 1.45) Throughout the Vedic literature, it is stressed that attainment of one's original existence as eternity, bliss, and knowledge is only possible by receiving the mercy of God through His representative, the *guru*. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* (4.34) the Lord states that one should make submissive inquiry and render service unto a bona fide spiritual master, who in turn will reveal to his disciple the eternal living relationship of the Supreme Lord and the living beings. It is stated in the *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad* (2.2.24): "To know the truth, one must of necessity go to a *guru* who is learned and devoted to Brahman." So not on my words of conjecture will I speak anything about my spiritual master, but on the basis of the authoritative books of spiritual science. I am prepared to speak to thousands of scholars and philosophers to convince them that my spiritual master is the most learned and magnanimous of all persons, and that he is capable of giving shelter to the whole of the anxiety-filled humanity, as well as to all other suffering living beings.

There is no question of being silent, conservative or compromising on this point. There is an urgent need to rescue all living beings from perpetual sufferings which they are experiencing through transmigration, birth after birth. Viśvanātha Cakravartī states in his *Gurv-aṣṭaka* (2): "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." All living beings, whether born with all aristocratic facilities of the demigods, or whether hatched as bugs in a pile of stool—all exist in an atmosphere of constant calamities. Birth takes place under extreme pain, and old age curtails the dream of the pleasures of the senses. "For one who has taken his birth, death is certain." But by reviving a conditioned soul's eternal spiritual consciousness, a spiritual master can set his disciple on the path of complete freedom from all the miseries of material existence. As stated in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (8.16): "For the soul there is never birth nor death." "From the highest planet in the material world down to the lowest, all are places of misery wherein repeated birth and death take place. But one who attains to My abode, O son of Kuntī, never takes birth again." To transfer to the eternal abode of the Supreme Lord, which is the goal of all living beings, is only possible by the mercy of the spiritual master. As stated above by Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja, Kṛṣṇa sends the spiritual master to deliver His devotees. The spiritual master trains us to become devotees of Kṛṣṇa, Who liberates us from material birth and death. "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." Whoever refuses the mercy

of the spiritual master is the worst fool, condemned to rot in material suffering. Such a fool is compared to a man who has fallen into a deep well, and upon being lowered a stout rope by a rescuer, he disdains it.

A human being's sole mission, for which he has been granted the added facilities of human life, is to approach the representative of the Supreme Lord, and learn how to get release from the repeated cycle of birth and death. The present age is almost completely dark in this respect. Material progress, material pleasure, and so-called material learning are stressed, while spiritual knowledge is hid. But the strong ray of light provided by the bonafide spiritual master can dispell the whole universe of darkness.

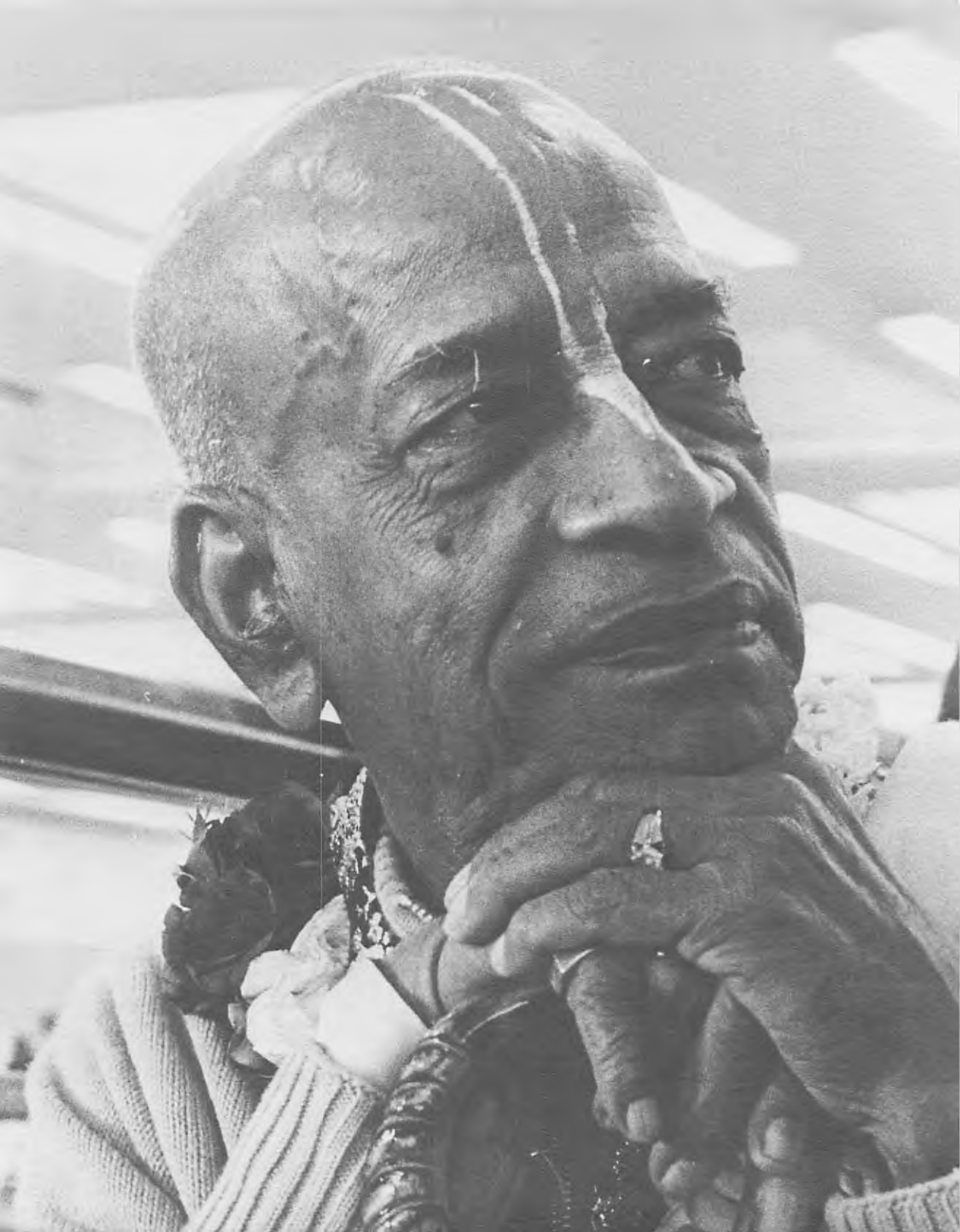
The question may be asked, How do I know His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda is nondifferent from the ideal spiritual master described in the Vedic verses? The answer is that Śrīla Prabhupāda is a bonafide spiritual master because he meets all the qualifications. For one, he is coming in disciplic succession of spiritual masters of the Brahmā-Mādhva-Gauḍīya-sampradāya. This means that he has not concocted any teachings, but is repeating what he has been taught by his spiritual master, which is coming in succession from the Supreme Lord Himself, Kṛṣṇa, the original Viṣṇu. Kṛṣṇa taught Brahmā, Brahmā taught Nārada, and Nārada taught Vyāsadeva, the compiler of all the Vedic śāstras. The great Vaiṣṇava teacher Madhvācārya came after Vyāsa, and five hundred years ago, Lord Caitanya—who is Kṛṣṇa Himself in the role of a devotee—appeared in the same disciplic succession. Śrīla Prabhupāda is the eleventh spiritual master in succession, since the time of Lord Caitanya. Śrīla Prabhupāda has proved his spiritual potency by translating and authoritatively commenting on many volumes of the Vedic literature. But nowhere in his writing or speaking has he

changed the message of Kṛṣṇa. By presenting it purely, as contained in the scripture, and as carried down by the disciplic succession he has succeeded in making thousands of young men and women, especially in the West, into devotees of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Although the Vedic scriptures, especially *Bhagavad-gītā*, have been available in English for a few hundred years, and although *svāmīs* have been coming from India for about a hundred years, no teacher of the *Vedas* has made a single Westerner into an actual devotee of Kṛṣṇa. Our spiritual master is not a fashionable *guru* who cannot actually deliver his disciples from material anxiety. By his preaching he has acted as the savior of thousands. His message is Kṛṣṇa's: "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, worship the Supreme Lord as His eternal servitor and go back to Godhead." There is no extravagance or exaggeration in presenting Śrīla Prabhupāda as exactly fitting the exalted description of *guru* as given in *Gurv-aṣṭaka* (7): "The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord."

As dearmost servant of the Lord, Śrīla Prabhupāda's transcendental pre-eminence is thoroughly established. It is only we who are having difficulty in taking our rightful position. We are eternal servants of the Lord, but we are struggling to be the Supreme. The spiritual master comes to teach us surrender to Kṛṣṇa, which alone will make us happy. That surrender is practically gained by always meditating on, worshiping and actually executing the order of the spiritual master. Let us pray on this Vyāsa-pūjā day to become fit instruments for carrying out the desires of the pure devotee spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we also can preach, and all beings can benefit by the spreading of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Satsvarūpa dāsa Gosvāmī, G.B.C.





○ master, your mercy has no limit. You have picked me up, who had fallen so low that I could find no way out of my suffering. My position was without hope. Then you came, and as the sun drives away the darkness of night, your presence revealed a new hope, an end to my blinded condition. I have seen the ocean of my nescience become dried up. There is no reason for all of this to have happened. It is by your causeless mercy.

○ Prabhupāda, lead me forward to join Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* party. When you chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*, all mundane sound vibrations are defeated. By your chanting of Vedic sound, the goal of the *Vedas*—Kṛṣṇa—becomes revealed.

○ master, thank you for engaging me in the service of Their Lordships, Rādhā and Dāmodara. When I bathe Them each morning I recall so many of your descriptions of Kṛṣṇa and I feel myself transported into Goloka. Kṛṣṇa is in my heart, but blind as I am, I did not know Him. Now you have stolen in and picked the lock of my heart, and Kṛṣṇa has become revealed.

In Bombay once I remarked to you, "Śrīla Prabhupāda, how nice it is that you read your own books." But you corrected me, saying that

these were not your creations, but they were dictations from Kṛṣṇa, so naturally you were keen to read them. Who can estimate the value of these books? They contain the entire heritage of our Brahmā-Mādhva-Gauḍīya-sampradāya. As the recipient of all the previous *ācāryas'* mercy, you have made your books transparent media through which the spiritual world can be realized.

○ Gurudeva, you have come to fulfill the prophecy of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu: in every town and village His holy name would be chanted and heard. You are offering Lord Caitanya's blessings to everyone and thereby delivering the whole planet. No one can estimate your glories. I am just a foolish, froglike creature, who cannot even begin to estimate the unlimited ocean of your mercy. I prostrate myself at your lotus feet, a beggar devoid of any qualifications, and I pray that I may have just one particle of one drop of that mercy.

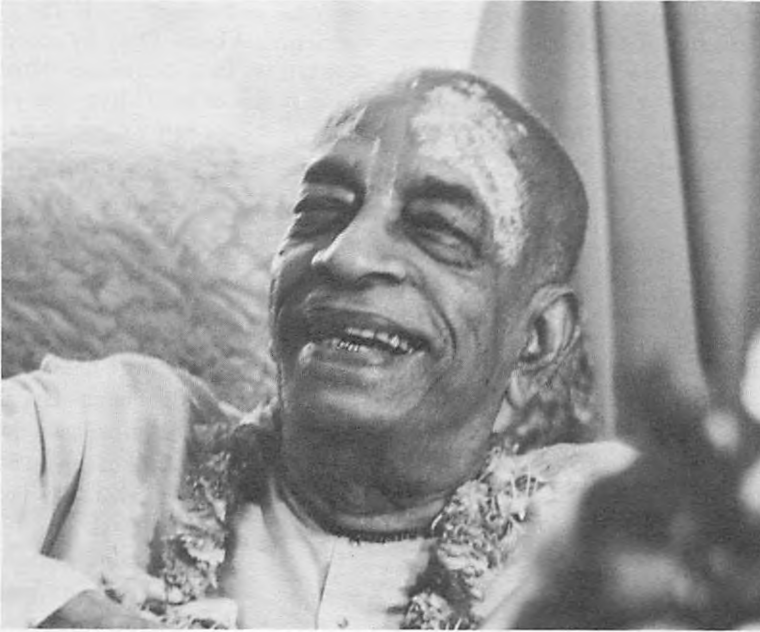
Tamāla Kṛṣṇa Gosvāmī
Travelling GBC



VYĀSA-PŪJĀ

**Homages
from
ISKCON
centers
around the world**

Adelaide



*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

“Every learned man knows well that attachment for the material is the greatest entanglement for the spirit soul. But that same attachment, when applied to the self-realized devotees, opens the door of liberation.” (Bhāg. 3.25.20)

Śrila Prabhupāda, by your ever-expanding mercy, you are constantly making yourself available to us so that we can develop some attachment for you and thus perfect our lives. Everything about you is so attractive, Śrila Prabhupāda. Your smile is attracting the whole universe. Your soft lotus feet encourage everyone to surrender to them, as they tirelessly traverse

the world. And above all, your lotus lips are attaching us more and more to you, as they speak more and more volumes about Kṛṣṇa every day.

Śrila Prabhupāda, if the process of going back home is to become attached to you and your instructions, I can't see that there is any difficulty—you have done everything. And now, because we are attached to you, we are being led back home as surely as the karmīs are being led to hell by their attachment to *māyā*.

Adelaide Mandir

Cittahari dāsa brahmacārī
Veṇu-gopāla dāsa brahmacārī
Damī dāsa brahmacārī
Dayāsāra dāsa brahmacārī
Setukri dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Grant

Amsterdam, Holland

We earnestly offer our most humble obeisances to the lotus feet of our dearmost spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami. He has mercifully saved us all from serving the fruitless, hopeless frustration of laboring after flickering material gain. Somehow or other, we have become benedicted with the association of this pure soul, who is cent per cent engaged in the transcendental loving service of the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. The spiritual master sees very clearly that all living entities, moving and non-moving, are eternal parts and parcels of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. He feels great compassion for those who choose to forget Kṛṣṇa, as there is no knowledge, eternal life or happiness without Kṛṣṇa.

The spiritual master follows in a disciplic chain which invites one to live in the spiritual kingdom known as Vaikuṇṭha. This is the abode of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Lord Caitanya. Anyone can live with Kṛṣṇa and go back to home, back to Godhead, simply by surrendering to the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda. Only the foolish or ignorant will ignore his invitation.

Here in Amsterdam, which is the pacesetter of sense enjoyment for Europe, it is like a dried up desert. As time goes on, the pace increases faster and faster; more anxiety, bewilderment and complexities appear. We humbly appeal to these dried up souls to please drink from the ocean of nectar which Śrīla Prabhupāda offers in unlimited quantity.

The spiritual master does not deviate from Kṛṣṇa's instructions. By satisfying the *guru*, we can satisfy Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa is the original spiritual master and He says that we should surrender to Him. Śrīla Prabhupāda offers this same message intact—surrender to Kṛṣṇa. He has no independent, personal motive, but simply wants what Kṛṣṇa wants.

The spiritual master considers himself to be the servant of the servant. He has no desire to accumulate wealth, overlord others, and enjoy material pleasures. He simply wants to dovetail

everyone and everything in the glorification of the Supreme Lord. Only by accepting this concept can we have either individual or collective peace, in this or future lives. Only by serving the spiritual master can we see Kṛṣṇa face to face.

Puṣṭakrṣṇa Svāmī
Locānanda dāsa adhikārī
Purañjana dāsa adhikārī
Harikṛṣṇa dāsa adhikārī
Mahāvidyā dāsa brahmacārī
Mṛgapati dāsa brahmacārī
Mathurā dāsa brahmacārī
Ātmānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Madhumāṅgala dāsa brahmacārī
Vimuktisaṅga dāsa adhikārī
Tīrthasādhaka dāsa adhikārī
Dattātreya dāsa brahmacārī
Candraśekhara dāsa brahmacārī
Jagadeva dāsa brahmacārī
Parividha dāsa brahmacārī
Vasūttama dāsa brahmacārī
Sudarśana dāsa brahmacārī
Agnipāṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Gabriel prabhu
Johan prabhu
Ernesto prabhu
Lee prabhu
Henk prabhu
Īśvarī-devī dāsī
Aṣṭāsakhī-devī dāsī
Mālatī-devī dāsī
Rukmiṇīpriya-devī dāsī
Sailendriya-devī dāsī
Rāmadevī dāsī
Nabhasvatī-devī dāsī
Nikuṅjavāsini-devī dāsī
Anita prabhu
Annie prabhu
Roepvarti prabhu

Ann Arbor

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. We have been in this small college town for almost one year. By remembering your instructions, we have always been protected and enlivened, so we are feeling very fortunate to have the opportunity to speak of your glory.

It is said in the *Vedas*, "Hearing is the beginning of understanding," and having heard from you, we have come here to present the real goal of knowledge. Kṛṣṇa says, "All things are suspended on Me like pearls on a thread." Any field of knowledge separate from this conclusion is simply so many zeros. They want the kingdom of God without God—but that is hell, and so they have created their fools' society of cheaters and cheated.

They are very proud of their education and have many books and subjects to study, but Kṛṣṇa says in the very beginning of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, "You are speaking like a learned man, Arjuna, but actually you are a fool." Why is that? Because he was thinking, "I am this body, these are my kinsmen, and this is my kingdom." Kṛṣṇa says the beginning of knowledge is to know the body as the field, and ourselves as the separate knowers of that field. Before we can decide our self-interest, Kṛṣṇa says that we are eternal. We do not die when the body dies. "Of that which is material, there is no duration; of that which is eternal, there is no cessation." They are all struggling very hard to maintain that which is destined to change, and due to their lack of knowledge they are always in anxiety about when death will come and finish the whole business. You have pointed this fallacy out to us, and those who will not hear this from you, in spite of their Ph.D.s, are no better than animals because their knowledge is simply how to elaborate on the principles of animal life—eating, sleeping, mating and defending. And in a society of un-

controlled animals, where is the question of peace or progress? Kṛṣṇa is the Paramēśvara, the supreme and perfect controller. The sun is shining on the ocean. It distills the pure water and carries it in clouds to the mountains. There it is stored in the form of snow until spring, whereupon it melts, forming rivers, and carries all the minerals from the mountains to the farmlands below. As they flow they supply all types of needs and carry off the refuse and wastes to deposit them in the ocean, where the cycle starts once again. This is the all-encompassing knowledge of God. They challenge, "What is the necessity of worshipping God? Simply work hard and enjoy!" But the economy depends on food grains, grains depend on rains, and rains are supplied by God, as He is pleased with the activities of human society.

Dharmasya hy apavargasya. You are not speaking sentiment or sectarian doctrine, but the eternal activity of every living being—*jīvera svarūpa haya—kṛṣṇera nitya-dāsa*. You have delivered us from struggling hard for actually unwanted things. You have awakened us from our slumber in the jaws of death. You have turned us from drinking the poison of lust to relish the unlimited pleasure of divine service. We can never repay you, so we are simply hoping to somehow or other please you by distributing your mercy to others. Thank you for engaging us in your most sublime service.

Bādarīnārāyaṇa dāsa adbhikārī
Paripūrṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Dayālanitāi dāsa adbhikārī
Bhakta Alan
Navasī-devī dāsī
Jaganmayī-devī dāsī
Bhaktin Pam
Bhaktin Diane
Janakī-devī dāsī

Atlanta



It is not possible to estimate the superexcellence of His Divine Grace. A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, our beloved spiritual master. Just as in the alphabet there are twenty-six letters from which innumerable words can be generated, similarly, from his twenty-six exalted qualities, unlimited glories perpetually emanate. The wonders of the pure devotee are unimaginable, and so to chronicle one of them for each letter in the English

alphabet is not a very difficult task. It gives some small indication of the greatness of his exalted character.

A—*ācārya*: “Everyone is sleeping in the darkness of Kali-yuga, but when there is a great *ācārya*, by his calling only, everyone takes to the study of the *Vedas* to acquire actual knowledge.” (KB Vol. I, p.138) By his potency, especially in America, everyone is studying the *Bhagavad-*

gītā, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, etc.; thousands are being distributed daily. Thus, by definition, he is the *ācārya* for the age.

B—bona fide: Sage Prabudha tells Mahārāja Nimi: “Any person who is seriously desirous of achieving real happiness must seek out a bona fide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation. The qualification of a spiritual master is that he must have realized the conclusion of the scriptures by deliberation and arguments and thus be able to convince others of the conclusions.” Before he came to the West, so many editions of the *Bhagavad-gītā* had been printed, but not one person came forward to become a devotee of the Lord. But now that his *Bhagavad-gītā* *As It Is* is available, devotional service is spreading to every town and village of the world.

C—compassionate: Prahlaḍa Mahārāja says in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Seventh Canto Chapter Nine: “My Lord, I do not need salvation alone. Unless I take all these rascals and fools with me I shall not go.” In the *Nectar of Devotion* Śrīla Prabhupāda explains that “sometimes even at a risk, a *sannyāsi* in the line of Caitanya Mahāprabhu may accept even a person who is not thoroughly fit to become a disciple. Later on, by the mercy of such a bona fide spiritual master, the disciple is gradually elevated.” And once he said in great Vaiṣṇava humility, “My only fault is that I have taken so many unqualified disciples.” Therefore, he must be the compassion of the Lord personified.

D—determination: In the *Bhagavad-gītā* great *mahātmās* such as Śrīla Prabhupāda are described: “Always chanting My glories, endeavoring with great determination, bowing down before Me, these great souls perpetually worship Me with devotion.” When he arrived in Boston on the *Jaḷaduta*, he thought, “Most of the population here is covered by the ignorance and passion modes of nature, and I do not know how they will be able to understand the transcendental message of Vāsudeva.” Still he came and pushed

on, even against so many obstacles year after year. That is determination.

E—empowered: “All the purposes of the small ponds can at once be served by the great reservoirs of water. Similarly, all the purposes of the *Vedas* can be served to one who knows the purpose behind them.” (Bg. 2.46) Because he knows Kṛṣṇa, he is complete in all mystic perfections—he can even transform dogs into devotees.

F—fearless: “For one who sees me everywhere and sees everything in me, I am never lost nor is he lost to Me.” (Bg. 6.30) Because Prabhupāda never loses sight of Kṛṣṇa, he, like Prahlaḍa Mahārāja, is able to preach strongly, even in the midst of demons. Once on coast to coast television, he was asked, “Well, Svāmiji, what do you think of America?” and he replied, “You have a nation of cats and dogs.”

G—gift: “One, therefore, should not take this process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness as something cheap, but as a matchless gift bestowed upon suffering humanity by the Lord Himself.” In the same way, we take Śrīla Prabhupāda to be the matchless gift, the mercy incarnation of the Lord Himself. “By the mercy of Kṛṣṇa one gets *guru*, and by the mercy of *guru* one gets Kṛṣṇa.”

H—highest: “And of all *yogīs* he who always abides in Me with great faith, worshiping Me in transcendental loving service, is most intimately united with Me in *yoga* and is highest of all.” (Bg. 6.47) In this verse, the word *bhajate* does not exactly mean worship but, rather, exclusive transcendental loving service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Prabhupāda is only serving Kṛṣṇa. Once he said, “The people, they may not understand, but Kṛṣṇa will be pleased and that is our mission. . . we mustn’t be disappointed that no one is hearing Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We will say it to the moon and stars and all directions. We will cry in the wilderness, because Kṛṣṇa is everywhere.” (May 26, 1968)

I—influential: In the *Vilāpa-kusamāñjali*, Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī says, “I was unwilling

to drink the nectar of devotional service possessed of renunciation, but Sanātana Gosvāmī, out of his causeless mercy, made me drink even though I was otherwise unable to do so." Similarly, by the causeless mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda's divine influence, those who were otherwise disinclined are induced to taste the sweet nectar of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Thus, all over the world, *mlecchas*, *yavanas* and other unqualified persons are becoming great devotees of the Lord by his influence only.

J—joyful: The spiritual master is always joyful, having retired from all material enjoyment meant for superficial happiness by constantly relishing boundless transcendental pleasure from within. (Bg. 6.20)

K—knowledge: The spiritual master is the most knowledgeable person because he knows the goal of knowledge (*Vedānta*) is to develop love of God (*bhakti*) and, therefore, he is called Bhaktivedanta.

L—liberal: Cāṇakya Paṇḍita teaches that a liberal person is one who can take gold even from an unclean place. We are all rotten and fallen, but Śrīla Prabhupāda is so liberal that he is extracting *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* even from our dirty hearts.

M—munificent: Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī Prabhupāda says that Lord Caitanya is the most munificent of all incarnations because He is giving freely what no one has ever given before: *kṛṣṇa-prema*. Now Śrīla Prabhupāda is so kindly delivering that same love of God all over the universe, and therefore, he is the most munificent of all *jīvas*.

N—nonenvious: Śrīnivāsa Ācārya says that the Gosvāmīs of Vṇḍāvana, in whose steps Śrīla Prabhupāda follows, were "popular with the gentle and the ruffians because they were not envious of anyone." We have seen great scholars and Ph. d.'s fall at Prabhupāda's feet while ex-hoodlums and drug addicts cry to see him dance in the ecstasy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

O—opulent: "Wherever there is Kṛṣṇa, the master of mystics, and wherever there is Arjuna, the supreme archer, there will also certainly be opulence, victory, extraordinary power and morality." (Bg. 18.78) In the material world men seek wealth and good sons. Prabhupāda gave up his own family and livelihood to preach *Bhagavad-gītā* in the West. Now he has crores and crores of dollars and thousands of strong, obedient sons. Because he is surrendered to Bhagavān, there is never any scarcity of opulence for him.

P—practical: In the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, it is explained that even a *brāhmaṇa* has knowledge by practical application (*jñānam vijñānam āstikyam*), so what to speak of an elevated pure devotee such as Śrīla Prabhupāda. Recently in Māyāpura he said, "At least for me, this Kṛṣṇa consciousness is no longer theoretical; it is practical. I can solve all the problems." And he can. If only we fools and rascals would fully surrender at his lotus feet, the whole world would immediately become Vaiṣṇava.

Q—qualified: *Premañjñana-cchurita-bhakti-vilocanena (Brahma-saṁhitā)*. Thus, he is seeing God everywhere. What is there that could be more of a qualification than this?

R—respectful: This is one of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's qualities which Prabhupāda has defined as "A person who shows adequate respect to a spiritual master, a *brāhmaṇa* and an old person is to be understood as being respectful." During his stay in Atlanta he observed the appearance day of Oṁ Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrajakācārya 108 Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda with the utmost respect and veneration. We pray to come to such an understanding in our Vyāsa-Pūjā celebration.

S—supreme: Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead. "Only out of His immense compassion does the Personality of Godhead reveal Himself as the spiritual master. Therefore, in the dealings

of an *ācārya* there are no activities but those of transcendental loving service to the Lord. He is the SUPREME PERSONALITY OF SERVITOR GODHEAD." (Cc. *Ādi-līlā* 46) All over the world people must now come to understand that His Divine Grace is actually Prabhupāda, the representative of the lotus feet of the Lord, where the entire universe can take refuge.

T—truthful: "Although sometimes the truth is unpalatable, one should not refrain from speaking it. Truthfulness demands that the facts be presented as they are for the benefit of others. That is the definition of truth." To the international news media he recently denounced one sixteen-year-old self-styled boy-god as a "cheap cheat" and a "dog." In Vṛndāvana, when severely criticized for explaining that the fallen *gosvāmīs* would have to take their next birth as dogs, he replied, "What can I do? I have to speak the truth."

U—unflinching: "Faith means unflinching trust in something sublime." Śrīla Prabhupāda said, "I never feel that I am alone. Of course, when I came to your country without any friend, without any means, practically just like a vagabond I came. But I had full faith that my Guru Mahārāja was with me. I never lost this faith and it is a fact."

V—Viṣṇupāda: "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." (*Bhāg.* 1.1.15) Regarding his students, *Kṛṣṇa Book* says, "When they are dressed with saffron-colored cloth, with *tilaka* on their foreheads and beads in their hands and on their necks, they look exactly as if they come directly from Vaikuṇṭha." Thus, he is a spiritual touchstone, the mercy manifestation of the Lord's lotus feet.

W—well-wisher: Śrīla Narottama dāsa prays, "O Vaiṣṇava Gosvāmī, you are the savior of the

fallen; without you there is no one." We, Prabhupāda's fallen disciples, are happy and successful in life only because of his attitude as "your ever well-wisher."

X—Xenia (a small town in Ohio): *Prṥhivite āche yata nagarādi grāma/ sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma* (Śrī *Caitanya-bhāgavata*). Now, even in this obscure corner of the world, Xenia, Ohio, people are reading Prabhupāda's books. Thus, by his exalted efforts, Lord Caitanya's desire is being fulfilled. The entire universe falls at his feet in gratitude.

Y—*yogī*: "When the *yogī*, by practice of *yoga*, disciplines his mental activities and becomes situated in transcendence—devoid of all material desires—he is said to have attained *yoga*." (Bg. 6.18) In Boston, a radio commentator once asked Śrīla Prabhupāda, "Since you are a *yogī*, can you perform some miracle?" "Yes," he replied, "I can go into a room filled with beautiful women and not become agitated." Thus, he is the real *yogī*, not the rascals who trick others by their material jugglery.

Z—zealous: Lord Caitanya said, "Therefore, I order every man within this universe to accept this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and distribute it everywhere." (Cc. *Ādi-līlā* 9.36) As the conditioned soul feels the pushing of his uncontrolled senses, so Śrīla Prabhupāda always feels the pushing of this order of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and thus, his zeal to spread love of God everywhere is unlimited.

His transcendental glories are certainly unfathomable, and not the least of them is that somehow or other he has extracted us from the mire of material existence. We were standing in the deepest darkness, alone and afraid. Then he called to us. Now we are calling to him, begging for his mercy. He is saving so many fallen souls, and we have nowhere else to turn. We fall in the dust of his lotus feet.

Atlanta ISKCON



Auckland

*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate dēve gaura-vāṇi-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

On the occasion of your appearance, Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is our desire to offer glorification of your merciful pastimes of delivering us from the deepest dark well of material existence. Of course, it is impossible for us at present to even begin to know the smallest fraction of how greatly merciful you are, what to speak of writing some appropriate offering that does not fall far short of expressing the full extent of your mercy. But it is our request that faulty and poorly compiled as it is, you please accept and excuse us and our Vyāsa-Pūjā offering, with all its shortcomings.

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

In *Teachings of Lord Caitanya*, when the Lord was inquiring from Rāmānanda Rāya as to what is considered the most painful existence, Rāmānanda Rāya replied that separation from a pure devotee constitutes the most painful existence. So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have foregone all personal considerations and have come to give us your personal association in order that we will be relieved of this pain which has plagued us for so long. You are teaching us by personal example and precept how to become qualified not only to free ourselves from illusion, but also how to help in freeing others.

Your instructions come to us through your books, the production of which you have

tirelessly supervised. You have left the distribution up to us, your disciples. These transcendental instructions are our eternal link with you and are the only way to relieve society as a whole of its problems, which have arisen due to a lack of education in spiritual science.

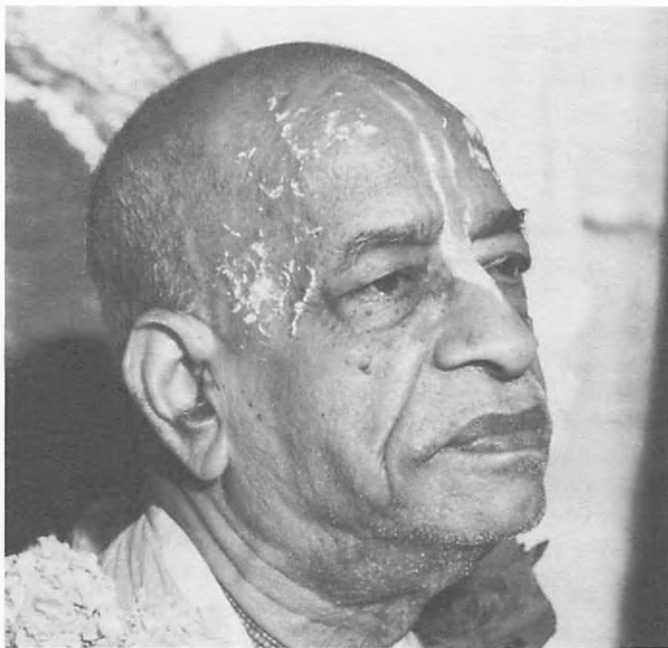
You have so mercifully expanded yourself into your books; we and anyone else can have your association simply by reading them. Lord Caitanya inquired further from Rāmānanda Rāya: "What is the most profitable thing in the world, the essence of all auspicious events?" Rāmānanda Rāya replied, "There is nothing as profitable as the association of pure devotees." (TLC -.341)

So, we are simply trying to follow in your footsteps, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and relish the nectar of your kind association, by which we can someday become truly first-class representatives of Your Divine Grace.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa brahmacārī
Gopikānta dāsa brahmacārī
Rāmāi dāsa brahmacārī
Rāma dāsa adhikārī
Bhakta Mark

Śuklā-devī dāsī
Guṇavratī-devī dāsī
Lakṣmaṇā-devī dāsī
Bhaktin Una

Baltimore



FOR ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA

In the midst of this land of factories, fear and waste, where the masses are only degrading themselves with their "productive" haste, Gurudeva appeared holy, wise and chaste.

Jaya, jaya Gurudeva, by your grace you save us fallen souls on the endless journey from womb to grave.

Fearless lotus feet Prabhupāda, sower of the transcendental seed of love of God, you walk unharmed amongst the beasts—lust, anger and greed—

bestowing bhakti., the soul's dire need.

By your mystic alchemy you transformed our raving and ranting—into dancing and chanting.

We are hopelessly lost, but somehow you are showing us the way.

Glories, glories, all glories to your appearance day!!

Surrendered to your master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta's sacred will, Lord Caitanya's mission you fulfill. As you glorify Govinda, our eternal

Lord, lover, friend,
 mâyā's spell comes to an end.
 With a heart clean and pure, O merciful mentor, you are leading
 us back to Vṛndāvana's door.
 Like the earth transforms diamonds from black coals,
 you make divine the fallen souls.
 O Prabhupāda, I pray that at the feet of your servants
 I may always stay.
 Glories, glories, all glories to your appearance day!!!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances again and again. Jaya Śrī Gurudeva, you are the Lord's pure devotee and intimate associate. Consequently, we are feeling incapable of offering some glorification to someone as great as Your Divine Grace. Therefore, we take up this task with the same attitude you had about bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the Western world: "Let me attempt the impossible," you thought! In no way will our words be able to depict the quality of your character, for you, O master, are one with God in the true sense. That is, your only desire is *bhakti*, loving service unto the Lord. You are mercy personified, for by your recommendation, the Lord casts His glance onto the fallen souls, covered by the mire of temporal illusion. In this material world, we see that people appear to have some good qualities, such as beauty, strength, knowledge, etc. However, they are always deluded because they do not understand from where these qualities have come (namely Kṛṣṇa), and time always steals these things away from them, though they never want to give them up. So, they are full of false pride and attachment, due to ignorance. But you, O master, are fixed in the Absolute Truth, so you have all good qualities and, at the same time, are completely humble and renounced. That is, you see everything as the Lord's; therefore, whatever you have

is used in His service. Many people think a *yogī* is one who performs some mysterious acts. But you, O master, are the greatest *yogī* because of your complete love and devotion unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Yogeśvara (Kṛṣṇa) confirms this in *Bhagavad-gītā* (6.47): "And of all *yogis*, he who always abides in Me with great faith, worshiping Me in transcendental loving service is most intimately united with Me in *yoga* and is the highest of all." By teaching these principles of *bhakti*, you free the conditioned souls from the enslavement of sense gratification, and thus unite them with the all-blissful eternal Lord! Who could do a more wonderful thing? Jaya Śrī Gurudeva! It is impossible to repay you, for you have given us the greatest of gifts, the rarest of all gems—devotional service unto the Supreme Person. We fall at your feet and beg you to give us the strength and knowledge to remain your humble servants always.

Śama dāsa
 Śrutadeva dāsa
 Tārakāra dāsa
 Ekeśvara dāsa
 Bhakta Fran
 Viśvakarmā

Sammitā-devī dāśī
 Kuñjamandana-devī dāśī
 Dainyahṛt-devī dāśī
 Bhaktin Carol
 Mohini
 Preme Mahajale



BBT Library Party

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

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

Let us offer our respectful obeisances unto our most revered spiritual master, His Divine Grace. A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, at whose lotus feet we prostrate ourselves and beg for shelter.

Let us offer our respectful obeisances unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, by whose mercy we have been allowed to associate with his dearmost representative and devotee, His Divine Grace Śrila Prabhupāda.

Dear Śrila Prabhupāda,

Since the inception of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, founded by Your Divine Grace some ten years ago, we have certainly witnessed many miraculous accomplishments that are fitting praise to your tireless work and devotion. This may be judged by anyone who will observe that thousands of young men and women addicted to practically every uncultured habit available to the human society (intoxication, meat-eating, gambling and illicit sex) have been changed into clean, peaceful, God-loving preachers. This change of heart has been made possible by hearing from Your Divine Grace.

The process of hearing from a realized devotee about the topics of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is recommended by the Supreme Lord Himself, as Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. By your divine grace, millions of the fallen conditioned souls are gaining the opportunity of reawakening their dormant consciousness, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, by reading your literatures.

We, as tiny servants of Your Divine Grace, have witnessed another triumphant miracle to be placed before your lotus feet.

Literally hundreds of scholars, professors and librarians are accepting your literatures and using them for courses, reference and libraries across the nation. The entire academic community, prior to your arrival, was only propagating interpretations of Sanskrit literature as im-

personal or mythological. But, with the emergence of your translations and Kṛṣṇa's powerful words, they have had to confront the verdict of the Absolute Truth. You are the champion of personalism in the age of impersonalism, voidism and self-made gods, and those sober-minded intellectuals are appreciating more and more the works of Your Divine Grace.

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust has been established under your direction to take care of the urgent need of the publishing and distribution of your literatures. Since that time, it has grown into one of the largest publishers of Eastern literature in the nation. This is a great credit to Your Divine Grace.

The presence of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, and its miraculous acceptance in academic circles, is truly a tribute to Your Divine Grace. Kṛṣṇa's version of *Bhagavad-gītā* had 700 competitors to rival it in English, but within a short time the sales figures reached 500,000, establishing it as the most popular *Bhagavad-gītā* in print. Not only has *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* reached thousands of readers, but it is the only edition that is making thousands of devotees of Kṛṣṇa, thus marking its spiritual potency and significance. Academic professors have praised your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* with reverence saying: "...It is a deeply felt, powerfully conceived and beautifully explained work. It don't know whether to praise more this translation of *Bhagavad-gīta*, its daring method of explanation or the endless fertility of its ideas. It

will occupy a significant place in the intellectual and ethical life of modern man for a long time to come." Another scholar commenting about you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, says: "He has increased our understanding manifold."

Thus, *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* opened the doors for your other books, which are equally as popular. Soon the *Kṛṣṇa Books*, *Nectar of Devotion* and *Teachings of Lord Caitanya* became appreciated as unrivaled classics in their subject area.

It is not that your disciples need the approval of the so-called scholars to accept your authority. We have the great fortune of previously accepting you as our spiritual guide. But, as the son becomes pleased seeing the father's fame increase, we too feel pleasure observing Your Divine Grace's literatures become more and more appreciated. The modern education system, as you have explained, is a slaughterhouse. The students are devoid of all knowledge of the self as soul, the importance of self-realization and the glory and opulences of the Supreme (Kṛṣṇa). Thus, when a student or professor has the opportunity to receive your books and hear from Kṛṣṇa directly or His representative, Your Divine Grace, about real knowledge—that which frees one from *samsāra*—we can factually visualize the compassion you are showing by distributing the mercy of Lord Caitanya to those who are willing to accept it.

Most recently, we have been witnessing that libraries and individual professors from all different disciplines have been placing orders for the entire works of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* collection, which may near seventy-two volumes. Their recognition of the scholarship of the books and their subsequent purchasing of them is a fitting response to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because you are the real professor (*ācārya*), bringing the torchlight of knowledge, the Supreme Truth, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

With these two important literatures, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, you have struck a pummeling blow to the impersonalists

and atheists, who try to cover up or deny the glory of Kṛṣṇa's supremacy. You are the most prolific explainer of the Vedic truths, strictly following in the line of the previous *ācāryas*. By all of your writings, you have established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness as the authentic representative of Vedic culture, and you have initiated the scientific study of the soul and the science of God-realization in the Western world. By your active preaching and example, you have enlivened us to try to assist you, meager as our efforts may be, in your mission of delivering the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the Western countries.

Your glorification is heard all throughout the three worlds, for you are truly the *jagad-guru*. We are not adequately able to render you proper glorification on this most auspicious day, being bereft of spiritual vision. But we can appreciate and hold with reverence your qualities and example. By your instructions, you have placed yourself in our hearts and are constantly giving us guidance.

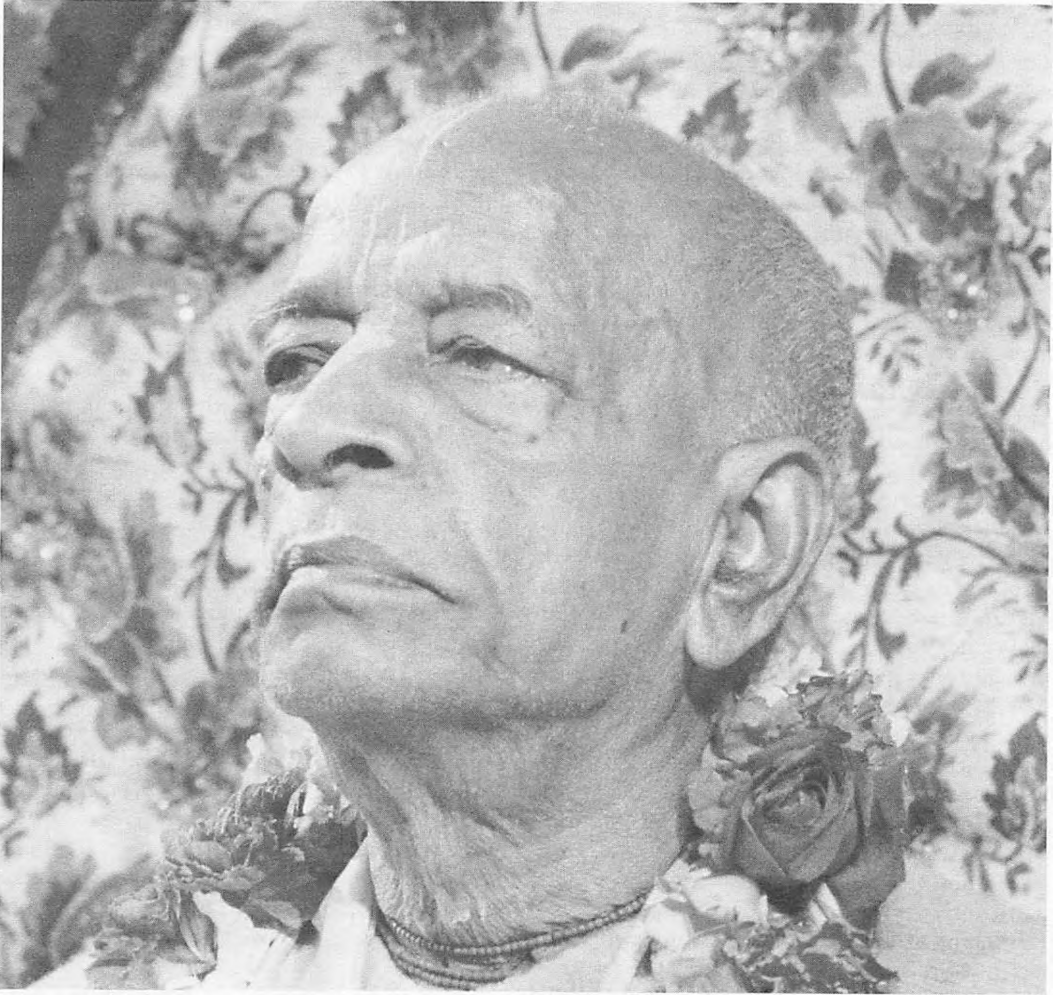
We think we are eternally indebted to Your Divine Grace and cannot repay your mercy.

Please let us take shelter of your divine instructions, making them our very life and soul. Let us pledge ourselves to your service.

All glories unto you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust Library Party

Satsvarūpa dāsa Gosvāmī
 Mahābuddhi dāsa brahmacārī
 Ghanaśyāma dāsa brahmacārī
 Dhīrakṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Mahādyuti dāsa brahmacārī
 Śrī Galima dāsa brahmacārī
 Suhotra dāsa brahmacārī
 Kālakantha dāsa brahmacārī
 Amoghalilā dāsa brahmacārī
 Śeṣa dāsa brahmacārī



“All the world’s problems can be solved within one moment by performance of devotional service. But, the whole world does not know this; therefore, the great learned Sage Vyāsadeva has compiled the *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam*.”

“Anyone who attains a human body but does not take to the cult of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is baffled in his opportunity. Amṛtadhuni is a flowing river of the nectar of devotional service.

If after getting a human body one drinks the water in a poison pit of material happiness instead of the water of such a river, it would be better for him not to have lived, but to have died long ago.”

And you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are delivering life, the *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, to this dull nether world. Kṛṣṇa is coming in the form of these books in order to deliver the em-

bodied living beings. You have come as the functional form of the personality of Kṛṣṇa. You are giving us approach to Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa manifests Himself as the Supersoul and as the greatest devotee of the Lord. Therefore, you are the personal manifestation of Madana Mohana Deity. You are the external manifestation of Supersoul. You are the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead. There is no difference between the shelter-giving Supreme Lord and Your Divine Grace. If one foolishly discriminates between them, he commits an offense in the discharge of devotional service.

Years ago, when your Godbrothers were living in the temple under Guru Mahārāja with a small income, everything was going very nicely. But, when a very rich friend, J. V. Datta, donated a very large marble temple, your Godbrothers began fighting among themselves for proprietorship of the temple. At that time your Guru Mahārāja lamentingly said, "If I only could have sold some of the marble slabs in the temple and printed books, that would have been better. That would have been better." You said, "That is why I am so much stressing on the books."

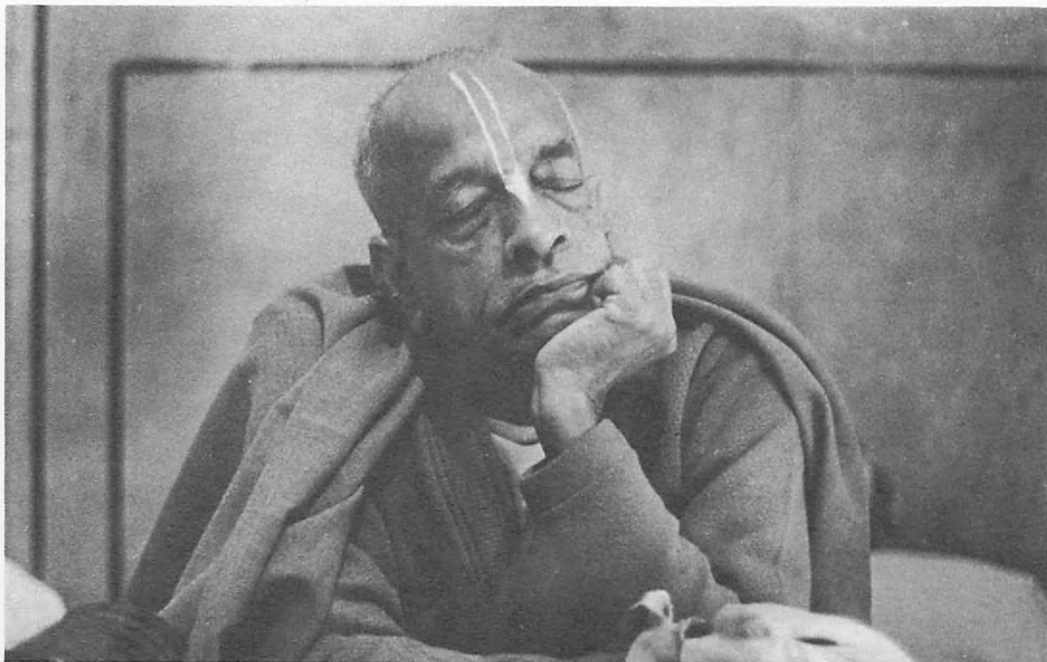
Your Guru Mahārāja was once asked, "How is it that you can produce a magazine every two weeks just about one person, God?" So Guru Mahārāja answered, "This planet is just a speck in the universe, and this universe is just a dust particle in the dust cluster of innumerable universes, and all the universes making up the material world is just one fourth of the Lord's creation. The spiritual energy is the three-fourths part. There are hundreds of newspapers printed daily about this one little planet and some of them are so big you couldn't finish reading one in a month. Therefore, we could write a newspaper or magazine about God every two seconds, but we do not have the manpower and we do not have the market." So, we are praying to the dust of your lotus feet that we can, by your mercy, become your manpower and create your market.

When you came to visit ISKCON Press in Boston in 1970, you offered full *daṇḍavats* to the printing press and said, "Everyone who speaks Hindi has a Gītā Press publication, so everyone who speaks English must have an ISKCON Press publication. Everyone in the world speaks English, therefore, your market is unlimited." We are praying to your holy lotus feet that you will make our sincerity unlimited so that our service can be unimpeded by *māyā*. What cannot be achieved in thousands of births, can be achieved by one word from the spiritual master.

There is no difference between the spiritual master's instructions and the spiritual master himself. In his absence, therefore, his words of direction should be the pride of the disciple. You have ordered us to print your books and by carrying out this order we have obtained your association. The moon is by nature cold and dark, but in the association of the sun it appears to be luminous. We are most fallen and rotten and have no qualification, but by your association we can appear to render this humble service.

Only out of His immense compassion does the Personality of Godhead reveal Himself as the spiritual master. Only out of Kṛṣṇa's immense compassion have you appeared. Your Divine Grace once said, "I do not know Kṛṣṇa. He is unlimited. But I do know His Divine Grace and he knows Kṛṣṇa." So we only know you and simply by remembering you we can invoke all benediction.

There is no literature anywhere in the universe that can compare with your transcendental books, which are as brilliant as the sun. Anyone who reads just one word, or even touches your books is eternally benefited and advances in spiritual knowledge. It is the only chance for humanity to be relieved from the miseries of this age. As the topmost empowered devotee of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, you are blazing across the world distributing the most sublime and pure transcendental knowledge. At the advanced age



of eighty, you are still traveling and preaching on all continents. While managing a world-wide movement with over seventy centers and five thousand disciples, you are writing at least one four-hundred page book each month! And your legions of disciples are busily engaged in printing and distributing millions of your books and *Back to Godhead* magazine in at least thirteen languages.

Please forever extend your mercy to us and allow us the greatest position within all the worlds as your servant. We offer whatever we have at your lotus feet, to engage as you wish. For us at the BBT you have given a special mission to print your books, and although we are completely unqualified, we have all vowed to make this work our life and soul. You have ordered us to print two books each week, and although this is materially impossible considering our size and abilities, you have called us fools for even imagining that we can't do this for you. In the past

we neglected your orders, and despite our offenses you came to see us, out of your causeless mercy, with a stick in your hand, to force us back into Kṛṣṇa's service by assisting your mission and giving up all material considerations. Day and night, in round-the-clock shifts, we strain our brains and eyes and hands and everything we have to publish your books, which are meant to save the world. We can find no happiness until all your books are published. And then, we are not fooled to think that we have done anything for you, because only by your causeless mercy have we been allowed to render even one iota of service. We forever offer our prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

Your servants at the Press, BBT Warehouse
and Order Department

Bombay



*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most fallen obeisances. You are a unique ocean of mercy. Usually an ocean does not go beyond the boundaries of its shore, but you have crossed all the boundaries and

flooded the entire world with chanting of the holy name. The ocean water is usually salty, but the water of your mercy ocean is a million times more nectarine than nectar itself. The learned transcendentalists of the world hanker for *brahmānanda*, the bliss of the impersonal Brahman, but even that is like the water contained in a cow's hoofprint as compared to the ocean of bliss that is derived from the appearance of the Lord's lotus footprints within one's heart. As Prahāda Mahārāja prays to Lord Nṛsiṃha:

*tvat-sākṣāt-kāraṇāhlāda-
viśuddhābhidhi-stithasya me
sūdhāni gopadayante
brahmaṇy api jagad-guro*

“O Supreme Spiritual Master! The pleasure of impersonal Brahman appears like water contained in a cow’s hoofprint compared to the transcendental ocean of pure bliss that I am experiencing by seeing Your transcendental lotus feet.”

(*Hari-bhakti-sudhodaya* 14.36)

It is this ocean of pure bliss that you are immersing the whole world in. This cannot be done by anyone except God. Therefore we must conclude that you are directly empowered by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. It was His mission to inundate the entire world in the flood of love of Godhead. It says in *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* that “Although the members of the *pañca-tattva* plundered the storehouse of love of Godhead and ate and distributed its contents, there was no scarcity, for this wonderful storehouse is so complete that as love is distributed, the supply increases hundreds of times.” We are witnessing this fact in you. As you are distributing this love more and more, you are becoming more and more enthusiastic to distribute it still more. You are on your fifteenth world tour currently. No man in the world has such strength and courage to do what you are doing.

Once in Bombay you told us that you never cared for difficulties or troubles in your mission. You said: “Once I decided to do something I would do it somehow or other. I was very determined. I have practically walked through fire to spread this Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Now I have done whatever I could. You please carry on this mission of my Guru Mahārāja.” You are so kind to all the living entities. Your concern is that everyone may become happy in blissful Kṛṣṇa consciousness. You have nothing to do or gain. But still you are working so hard day and night

to deliver all the fallen souls. You are just like Vāsudeva Datta, who prayed to Lord Caitanya that he could not see the miseries of all living entities and he wanted to take all their sinful reactions so that they could go back home, back to Godhead. He said:

*jīvera dukha dekhi’ mora hṛdaya vidare
sarva-jīvera pāpa prabhu deha’ mora śire*

*jīvera pāpa lañā muñi karoni naraka bhoga
sakala jīvera prabhu ghucāha bhava-roga*

“My heart is tearing apart to see the plight of the miserable living entities of this world. O my Lord! Please give me all the sinful reactions of all the living entities of the world. Let me suffer in hell for their sins, but deliver them from their material disease.”

(*Cc. Madhya* 15.162—163)

When Lord Caitanya heard Vāsudeva Datta’s prayers, His heart immediately melted, He started shedding tears and His voice faltered to see the compassion of Vāsudeva Datta for all the living entities. You have even more compassion than Vāsudeva Datta. You have delivered us, who are more sinful than Jagāi and Mādhāi. You have collected so many Jagāi’s and Mādhāi’s that practically you have taken a big risk. Actually it is not recommended in the *śāstras* to take too many disciples, but you are going on making disciples just so that more and more living entities can be delivered. Since you are collecting so much of their past *karmas*, even though you have nothing to do with karmic reaction, you get very, very sick. Simply because of insincere disciples like us, you get sick. Therefore, at this holy opportunity, we humbly pray to you that you are the only shelter of fallen devotees like us, and there is no other shelter. As stated in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*:

*kirāta-hūnāndhra-pulinda-pulkaśa
ābhīra-śumbhā yavanāḥ khaśādayaḥ*

*ye' nye ca pāpā yad-apāśrayāśrayāḥ
śudhyanti tasmai prabhaviṣṇave namaḥ*

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto the most glorious Lord, by taking shelter of whose pure devotees even the most sinful classes of human beings, called Kirāta, Hūṇa, Pulinda, Āndhra, Pulkaśā, Ābhira, Śumbha, Yavana, Khasa, etc., can be also completely purified." (Bhāg. 2.4.18)

Even after delivering all these fallen souls, you are never satisfied. Once you were instructing us how to approach young Indian men and you said: "They must accept this. Why not? You must convince them. What can I do now? I cannot go? I have become so old. But they are suffering so much. You must deliver them."

Once you said: "I do not know where I will go, but I do not mind if I go to hell if I can preach about Kṛṣṇa consciousness there." Who is more merciful that you in this entire universe? You are just like Prahlāda Mahārāja, who prayed to Lord Nṛsiṃha:

*naivodvije para-duratyaya-vaitaranyās
tvad-vīryagāyanamahāmṛtāgnacittāḥ
śoce tato vimukha-cetasa-indriyārtha-
māyā-sukhāya bharam ūvahato vimūḍhān*

"My dear Lord, I have no problems and want no benediction from You because I am quite satisfied to chant Your holy name. This is sufficient for me because whenever I chant, immediately I merge in an ocean of transcendental bliss. I only lament to see them bereft of Your love. They are rotting in material activities for transient material pleasure and spoiling their lives toiling all day and night simply for sense gratification, with no attachment for love of Godhead. I am simply lamenting for them and devising various plans to deliver them from the clutches of Māyā." (Bhāg. 7.9.43)

You have excelled the compassionate nature

of both Prahlāda Mahārāja and Vāsudeva Datta. Preaching is your life and soul. And that is the order of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. As He instructed Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī and Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, similarly He has filled in His strength within you. Certainly you are the incarnation of the potency of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You are doing exactly the same thing as He did. You are the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead. Anyone who considers you separate from Lord Kṛṣṇa or Lord Caitanya is simply a fool, because you are *āśraya-vigraha*, or the manifestation or form of the Lord of whom one must take shelter. You are a genuine representative of Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu, who is the original spiritual master of the universe.

There is no one in the whole world more humble than Your Divine Grace. You have all the qualities of the *mahābhagavata* described by Lord Kapiladeva to His mother Devahūti:

*titikṣavaḥ kārūṇikāḥ
suhṛdaḥ sarva-dehinām
ajāta-śātravaḥ śāntāḥ
sādhavaḥ sādhu-bhūṣaṇāḥ*

"A person who is tolerant, compassionate, friendly to all living entities, who has no enemies, and who is peaceful, he is the topmost among all the saintly people." (Bhāg. 3.25.21)

Besides you, we have no experience of such a personality. Your compassion has no end. Once you said: "Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has instructed everyone to preach. He was a very strict *sannyāsi*. He would not look at a woman or even a man who was attached to women. He refused to see King Pratāprudra of Orissa. But I cannot imitate Him. He was so powerful that people would come to Him even if He didn't invite them. But I have to find out my own means to preach. I have to go to rich people and collect money to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. He always walked throughout India, but I have to use airplanes to preach around the world. So I cannot imitate

Śrīmān Mahāprabhu. But I am simply following His instructions. Somehow or other, we must spread this Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That is the principle.” Then we asked, “India is so tough. Everyone here has some nonsense philosophy that he has learned from before. How can we change them?” Then you said: “It depends upon you. If you become perfect, everything will work out nicely. You have to find out your own means to preach. Just like my spiritual master told me to preach, then I developed in my own humble way, and my Guru Mahārāja is very pleased.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda! You are a *yugāvatāra* because you have changed the direction of the course of this world. You have influenced the whole cosmic calendar by your movement. We are very insignificant. Out of your causeless mercy, you have accepted us. But we have no qualification. We have no high parentage, knowledge or purity. Whatever we are, that is only due to your mercy. You have brought us this far. You can take us out completely. We are still so offensive to your lotus feet. Only you can purify us so that we can serve you better. Please forgive all our offenses and give us courage to spread your glories throughout the universe. As Bhaktivinoda prays:



*yogyatā vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi
tomāra karuṇā sāra
karuṇā nā hoile, kāndiyā kāndiyā
prāṇa nā rākibho āra*

“If you examine us, you will find no qualities. Your mercy is the essence. If you are not merciful unto us, we can only weep, and we will not be able to maintain our lives.”

Nitāi-Gaura Haribol! Haribol! Haribol!

Jayate jayate Prabhupāda! Prabhupāda! Prabhu-
pāda! Prabhupāda!

Your eternal servants, Devotees of Bombay ISKCON

Girirāja dāsa brahmacārī
Lokanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Bhugarbha dāsa adhikārī
Yaśomatīnandana dāsa adhikārī
Śrīdhara dāsa brahmacārī
Nistraiguṇya dāsa brahmacārī
Jagatpuruṣa dāsa adhikārī
Hari dāsa brahmacārī
Vardhana dāsa brahmacārī
Citrakara dāsa brahmacārī

Bilvamaṅgala dāsa brahmacārī
Śrīnidhi dāsa brahmacārī
Manasātita dāsa brahmacārī
Ekanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Apramata dāsa brahmacārī
Vijita dāsa adhikārī
Upendra dāsa
Om-prakāśa dāsa
Andy Prabhu
Vinaya dāsa
Lakṣmaṇa dāsa

Ambikā-devī dāśī
Gandhivā-devī dāśī
Rādhakunḍa-devī dāśī
Sarvamaṅgalā-devī dāśī
Kṛṣṇāṅga-devī dāśī
Āryā-devī dāśī
Mokṣalakṣmī-devī dāśī
Cintāmaṇi-devī dāśī
Aditya-devī dāśī

Boston



Śrī-Vyāsa-Pūjā Homage

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

Our beloved spiritual master,

Your grace is glorified by your many disciples and by many others as well for being the only contemporary follower of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu who is actually preaching His divine message in purity and delivering the

fallen souls of this age, especially in the West. This glorification is indeed deserved by you. These activities of preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world are indeed most glorious, and you are the most glorious for performing such wonderful activities.

When glorified thusly, our lord, you do not take personal credit, but rather attribute your success in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to your always having carefully heard from and having strictly followed the instruction of your own spiritual master Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrajakācārya 108 Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda. This is the simple process which you are now teaching us. One is sure to have success in Kṛṣṇa consciousness if he simply follows the previous authorities: *mahājano yena gathaḥ sa panthāḥ*. "Traverse the path which previous ācāryas have passed." Therefore, if we simply hear from you and follow your instructions with faith, without changing or inventing anything new, our perfection of life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is guaranteed. This is your unchanging promise.

You have instructed us that the beginning of the devotional practice whereby the conditioned living entity may be enlightened from the darkness of material illusion is this aural reception of the transcendental message imparted by the *guru*, and that, in fact, eagerness to hear this transcendental message is the prime qualification for assimilating transcendental knowledge:

"The spiritual master is always prepared to impart knowledge to the disciple and specifically when the disciple is very inquisitive. Inquisitiveness on the part of the disciple is greatly necessary for the progressive disciple . . . If one is not very inquisitive about self-realization, one need not approach a spiritual master simply to make a show of discipleship . . ." (*Bhāg.* 2.3.24, purp.)

"The Lord can be realized through the aural reception of the transcendental message, and that

is the only way to experience the transcendental subject. As fire is kindled from wood by another fire, similarly the divine consciousness of man can be kindled by another divine grace. His Divine Grace, the spiritual master, can kindle the spiritual fire from the woodlike living entity by imparting proper spiritual messages injected through the receptive ear. Therefore, one is required to approach the proper spiritual master, with receptive ear only, and thus divine existence is gradually realized. The difference between animality and humanity lies in this process only. A human being can hear properly, whereas an animal cannot." (*Bhāg.* 1.2.32, purp.)

Once the disciple has properly received spiritual knowledge and instructions from the spiritual master, he must be willing to act according to the knowledge and instructions. That is the symptom of one who has properly heard and is sincere:

"There is no difference between the Lord and sound vibration coming from Him, even though He is not personally present. The best way of understanding this is to accept such divine instruction . . . One has to receive the transcendental sound from the right source and accept it as a reality and prosecute the direction without any hesitation. The secret of success is to receive the sound from the right source, the bona fide spiritual master . . . and if one is able to receive the transcendental sound from the bona fide spiritual master, his path of liberation is guaranteed. The disciple, however, must be ready to execute the order of the bona fide spiritual master . . . 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." (*Bhāg.* 2.9.8, purp.)

Thus, in your purports to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and in your personal example, you have demon-

strated that advancement in spiritual life is dependent on the disciple's proper hearing of the transcendental sound transmitted by the spiritual master, and his following his *guru's* instructions without deviation.

Our lord, it is only by your mercy and kindness upon us that we can understand anything at all. Before coming into association with Your Grace, we were all simply wallowing in the darkness of material illusion and suffering. In spite of your displaying glorious transcendental pastimes in the form of uplifting conditioned souls as fallen as ourselves, and in spite of your uncommon, causeless mercy upon us, we can barely begin to appreciate your greatness and mercy, for we are full-minded and insensitive, and we feel ashamed because we are not able to offer you proper glorification. Our blessed spiritual master, there is no way to repay you for what you are doing for us, and we hardly offer you worthy or articulate homage. But we humbly pray that you may bless us and make us determined to not deviate from your instructions, which by following we can become enlightened and happy. Please bestow your causeless mercy upon us, your fallen disciples, by instilling in us a determined eagerness to catch up

your instructions, which will liberate us from all fear, lamentation and all illusions of material existence. Kindly free us from our dangerous tendency to concoct, invent, speculate and in various ways deviate from your clear instructions due to our causeless unwillingness to surrender to Your Divine Grace. Please give us the power to hear you and thus receive your blessings:

“ . . . we must admit that we have realized definitely that the divine message from his holy lips is the congenial thing for the suffering humanity. All of us should hear him patiently. If we listen to the transcendental sound without unnecessary opposition, he will surely have mercy upon us. . . ”

(Vyāsa-Pūjā Homage to His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Prabhupāda, by Śrīla Prabhupāda)

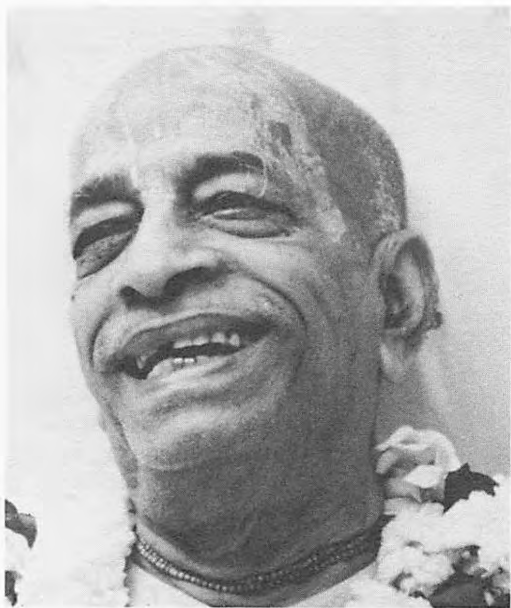
Your Grace is the only light in our lives, our only true preceptor, guide, and well-wisher. Please consider our fallen, helpless condition and bless us with your transcendental causeless mercy. Please inspire in our dull minds and sterile hearts the genuine eagerness to revive our eternal Kṛṣṇa consciousness. All glories, all victory, all glories to Your Divine Grace!

Begging for your mercy we are,

Your humble servants of ISKCON Boston

Trai Dāsa	Ladvanśī dāsa	Madanamohana-mohan—devī dāśī
Ajamīḍha dāsa	Nakṣatranemi dāsa	Gāndharvikā devī dāśī
Śivānanda dāsa	Dharmasetu dāsa	Govindavallabhā-devī-dāśī
Śrīnātha dāsa	Satāṅgati dāsa	Pramadā-devī dāśī
Mathureśa dāsa	Bhakta Phil	Mahālakṣmī dāśī
Śubhānanda dāsa	Bhakta Lonnie	Bhaktin Lorraine
Pṛthuśravā dāsa	Bhakta Ed	Bhaktin Rae
Nirañjana dāsa	Bhakta John	Bhaktin Julie
Nārīndra dāsa		Bhaktin Kathy
Agrāṇī dāsa	Sumati-devī dāśī	
Sadāśiva dāsa	Śakuntalā-devī dāśī	

Brazil



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances and our attempts to help you in spreading the dust of your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I once thought I was having so much fun playing different sports and so many other useless activities created by the demons to occupy our time away from Kṛṣṇa. There is a famous story in the western world about an ordinary man, not like yourself. His name was the Pied Piper. This Pied Piper stole all the city children from their mothers and fathers and took them to a far away place. It is not that you are like this ordinary man, but in the same way you have taken us away from our horrible material life and are taking us back to an eternal land from where Your Grace has come, where there is no birth nor death and everyone is always filled with real, eternal happiness. O Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are an eternal inhabitant of the spiritual world. Before you came here we were all suffering in stool, waking

in the mornings to go to those horrible schools to hear and learn nonsense from fools. Now by your grace we have all become like madmen to study, learn, dance and sing about the wonderful Supreme Personality of Godhead in His own abode.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given me life. I know there is nothing I can do to repay you, so please let me stay forever helping in any small way. You may send me anywhere you like, to heaven or to hell; please let me always be one of your servants at your feet. In the material world a boy falls in love with a young girl and that girl becomes the life and soul of the boy. The girl becomes everything in the world for this boy and if she was to go away, the boy would feel he had nothing to live for and would want to die. Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am praying that I may also become attached in love that same way to you, so that if I ever leave your service I will want to die also. All your children here in Brazil we are praying for your long, healthy life and that all your desires are fulfilled. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything that you have given us. Even though there is nothing we can do to repay you, may we always be enthusiastically engaged in helping you in your mission and following your simple rules.

Your eternal children,

Mahāvīra dāsa brahmacārī

Lilā Kamala dāsa

Bhakta Claudio

Bhakta Everaldo

Bhakta Marcio

Bhakta Eneas

Bhakta Lucio

Bhakta Jorge

Deva dāsa

Bhakta Joca

Luca

Bhakta Julio

Beta

Bhakta Flavio

Maria

Bhakta Bosco

Madhurasvāra-devī dāśī

Bhakta Antonio

Sonia

Bhakta Vamana

Cintia

Calcutta



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

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

Most Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We humbly offer our most respectful obeisances unto your two lotus feet. While offering *daṇḍavats*, we fall before you in this way, straight like a stick, with a straw between our teeth, and beg for your mercy. You are the representative of Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu, the original spiritual master, and therefore you are very merciful. Your hand of mercy has touched our stonelike hearts and blessed our lives with ecstatic chanting and thoughts of Lord Caitanya. As the representative of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, your mission is to deliver the fallen souls back to Godhead, and by your causeless mercy you have raised us up to the rank of Vaiṣṇava. And now, our dear beloved spiritual master, your glorification is our foremost duty.

You, alone, at seventy years of age, left the all-blissful, all-auspicious abode of Rādhā-Dāmodara Temple in Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma and set out in the bottom of a boat to save us, who are

not worthy to be saved. You came with Kṛṣṇa in the form of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*; you braved the cold New York winters; you tolerated the audacity of a puffed-up hashish *yogī*; you humbly accepted the insults of a drug-crazed teenage hippie, and, like a true Vaiṣṇava, held no malice and called him a friend. You chanted and danced the glories of Kṛṣṇa while water was being poured down upon you from an irate tenant in an upstairs apartment. You cooked and served the *prasāda*, cleaned up after us, and never requested any assistance, until finally someone said, "Can I help, Swamiji?"

Upon visiting Vṛndāvana recently, we could all only wonder at how you could leave such a wonderful place to come to the hellish Western world, but factually we would have never known Vṛndāvana had you not brought us there. It is by your mercy alone that these fallen souls, groping in the black concrete skyscraper depths of Kali Age, are being lifted by the sweet liquid song of

the holy names to the golden fields of Vṛndāvana, where the cows are coming home in the cool of the evening and where, in the sweet secret depths of Vraja, the most sought after couple resides, in the perfect ecstasy of loving devotion. You brought us home to Vṛndāvana and Māyāpura.

By the potency of the holy name, you have taken the blazing fire burning within our bodies, our hearts, our minds and our intelligence for so many untold lifetimes and extinguished it. By the ocean of transcendental knowledge emanating from your cooling lotus-like mouth, you are untying the knot of material attachment, and at last, we are being freed from the painful cycle of birth and death. You are the most expert king, guarding your unworthy subjects against the onslaught of *māyā*. You are delicate and gentle, with a lotus-like countenance. You are Kṛṣṇa's ambassador of love, and you are delivering the message of Lord Caitanya. Thus, you have traversed the world with your lotus-like feet and provided shelter for countless fallen souls.

We, here in Calcutta Yātrā, feel most fortunate that we will often throughout the year have the association of the holy *dhāma*, Śrīdhāma Māyāpura. Calcutta itself is a holy place, due to the fact that you have appeared here. Factually, according to the authority of books, we can understand that the pure devotee does not go to the holy places for purification, like the conditioned souls. So many conditioned souls go every day, all year, to relieve themselves of the great burden of their sins, leaving them at the holy places, and a great pure devotee like yourself goes there to take up the burden of those sins, thus relieving the burden of sinful activities from the holy place. Who is there who can estimate how valuable is your association, when you are purifying the holy places?

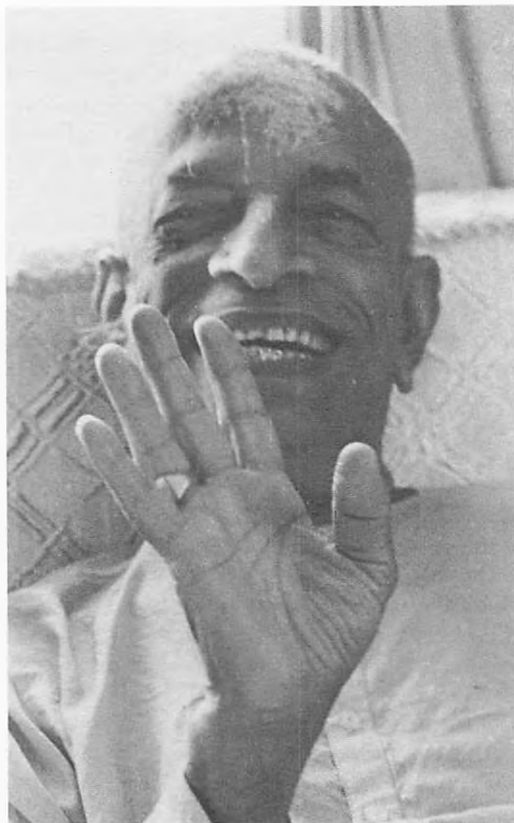
Also, from your books, we have learned that one can associate with the spiritual master directly or through his instructions, and of the

two, association with him in separation, through his instructions, is even more valuable and of greater transcendental benefit. The instruction of the spiritual master can never be neglected. Simply by following his instructions, cent per cent, to his full satisfaction, the disciple is guaranteed to go back to home, back to Godhead. Therefore, we at Calcutta ISKCON again make a firm vow and pledge, as made when we all took our initiation. We will all sincerely chant sixteen rounds of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* every day; we will follow all of the four regulative principles, cent per cent, without deviation; we will read your books every day, very carefully, and we will follow all other rules, regulations and instructions without deviation. And, without self-motivation or other vested interests, we cent per cent surrender to your lotus feet to perform our devotional service with full enthusiasm, sincerity, determination and patience. Yes, patience! Patiently, we are waiting, working very hard and waiting for you to just simply cast your merciful lotus-like glance upon us. Otherwise, our position is hopeless. You are the deliverer of the fallen and the only hope for those who want to cross over the dangerous ocean of Kali. You are the master of the ship that takes us over this ocean. O master, be merciful unto us, give us the shade of your lotus feet. Your fame is spread all over the three worlds. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to Jagad-guru.

Bhagavat dāsa
Pūrṇaprajña dāsa
Nītāicānda dāsa
Satyanārāyaṇa dāsa
Abhinanda dāsa
Tīrtharāja dāsa
Rāvaṇāri dāsa
Śyāmlā dāsa
Debu

Maṇibandha
Mādri-devī dāsī
Nārāyaṇī-devī dāsī
Sumukhī-devī dāsī
Kṛṣṇarūpā-devī dāsī
Nandahāsa-devī dāsī
Sumāna-devī dāsī
Nandalāla-devī dāsī

Caracas



We beg to offer our respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of our spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who has so kindly benedicted Caracas Mandira with his effulgent presence and predicted great things for this center. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you sat so self-assuredly, yet kindly, on the humble seat we had built for you. You appeared to tremble with ecstasy the evening of your arrival as you sang unaccompanied some lines from *Parama Karuṇā*, describing the glories of “those two Prabhus.” You are visiting your centers in order to encourage the devotees, and all the sincere assembled devotees felt their conviction swell simply by seeing your perfect example. You are

the first pure devotee to visit South America in modern history, and by your grace alone we can fully take advantage of your spreading the rays of Lord Caitanya’s benediction moon. You revealed a hint of your own glories one night by saying, “Unless I know everything directly and indirectly about this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, how can I call myself the founder-*ācārya*?” Śrīla Prabhupāda, when, O when will we be able to enter into the most profound depths of our eternal relationship with you? We can see by shyly peering into your fathomless, loving eyes that there is an entire world of ecstasy awaiting us if we can just love you. You are so kindly encouraging, “Come on, come on!” and we are fumblingly following like hesitating babies just learning to walk. You preached one afternoon to a group of psychologists, informing them that they were simply repairing the “automobile” and not touching the “driver.” You were obviously preaching on Kṛṣṇa’s behalf as you again and again drove home that point for almost a half hour. When will we preach fearlessly like you? When will we be mindful of Kṛṣṇa’s guidance as you are?

We have just homesteaded hundreds of acres of fertile land here in Venezuela, and if we are sincere, there will be thousands. We are placing a sign there, “Fundador-*Ācārya* Su Divina Gracia A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.” The mule road is just being completed and the auto road never will be. We desire to follow strictly your instructions: “I advise you not to make it very much modernized. . . . You do not require any machines. . . . better to live without any modern amenities. . . .” Our distribution of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in the Spanish language compares favorably with the top distributors in the world. That fire of enthusiasm which is consuming our lust has been kindled by your hand alone. That intelligence helping us to push on this movement in spite of government and press opposition is an expansion of your mind alone.

*You have brought light
to this darkened place;
You have brought smiles
to your disciple's face;
You alone are saving the human race.*

*We bow most humbly again and again
to the dust of your lotus feet,
O Śrīla Prabhupāda,
O Your Divine Grace!!*

Humbly submitted by the assembled devotees of Caracas
Mandira, Śrī Śrī Gurudeva Patita-pāvana Ghoṣṭhyānandi Tra-
veling Saṅkīrtana Party, and the New Mathurā, Venezuelan
Farm Community Project:

Brahmacārīs	Hemanta dāsa	Bhaktin Yoleida
Varāha dāsa, president	Jagat-cakṣur dāsa	Bhaktin Betty
Jayajagadīśa dāsa	Agūṇa dāsa	Bhaktin Janet
Havir dāsa	Vanasañcari dāsa	Bhaktin Cointa
Tamoha dāsa	Gopeśa dāsa	Gṛhasthas
Munipriya dāsa	Bhakta Carlos	Phenīndra dāsa, Tadākari devī dāsī
Kratu dāsa	Bhakta Miguel	Durantavīra dāsa, Bhaktin Lolita
Kavi dāsa	Bhakta Alfredo	Premarūpa dāsa, Bhaktin Lydia
Vareśa dāsa	Bhakta Jesus	Ūrdhvaabhāga dāsa, Modhani dāsī
Puruṣit dāsa	Bhakta Rene	Virabāhu dāsa, Karta dāsī
Rāmānujācārya dāsa	Bhakta Manuel	Bhakta Juan Jose, Bhaktin Helen—Dhruva
Antaryāmi dāsa	Bhakta Eduardo	Bhakta Mauro, Bhaktin Judith
Hari-carāṇa dāsa	Bhakta Enzo	Bhakta Franco, Bhaktin Maria
Karuṇākṣa dāsa	Brahmacārīnīs	Mother Adara Prabhu
Madhurya dāsa	Mūrti-mūrti devī dāsī	Nikhileśvari-devī dāsī
Adi-śeṣa dāsa	Tilakinī devī dāsī	Bhaktin Maritza
Hari-bhakti dāsa		



Cleveland

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. We pray that on this auspicious day of your appearance in this world, we may be blessed by you and Lord Kṛṣṇa to have your causeless devotional service in our lives, now and always, without interruption by the force of *māyā*.

We have learned from the prayers of Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura, *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi*. "By the grace of the spiritual master one receives the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, without the mercy of the spiritual master no one can make any advancement." So it is understood that the Supreme Personality of Godhead is approachable only by the causeless mercy of His pure devotee. Actually, even ordinary persons in this material world are sometimes difficult to approach, so what to speak of God Himself! No ordinary man, for instance, can go to see the president of the United States. He is surrounded by a security network, which effectively prevents inimical or unqualified men from approaching him. Of course, that is the prerogative of a powerful person. He keeps company only with his intimate associates, not with indifferent, curious or inimical men. So, the Supreme Lord also protects the inner sanctum of His loving affairs from the prying eyes of envious persons. In the *Gītā* the Lord says: "I am never manifest to the foolish and unintelligent. For them I am covered by My eternal creative potency (*yogamāyā*); and so the deluded world knows Me not, who am unborn and infallible." (Bg. 7.25)

Of course, we have read in your books about the powerful devotees and *ācāryas* in our line of disciplic succession. Such personalities as Nārada

Muni, Lord Brahmā, Dhruva Mahārāja, Prahāda Mahārāja, Mahārāja Parikṣit, etc. all performed so wonderfully the discharge of their respective devotional services that they were able to see the Personality of Godhead face to face. They attracted Lord Kṛṣṇa by their unflinching determination, austerity, constant remembrance of Him, knowledge of the *Vedas*, and so forth, all culminating in unalloyed devotion at His lotus feet. Actually, that is the real qualification for approaching the Supreme Lord, as it is confirmed in *Bhagavad-gītā*: "My dear Arjuna, only by undivided devotional service can I be understood as I am, standing before you, and can thus be seen directly. Only in this way can you enter in the mysteries of My understanding." The conclusion is that the devotional service of the Supreme Lord is only very rarely achieved, and even then, it is not available to common men, but only to those who possess extraordinary qualifications. The materialists think that devotional service is "poor man's business" but that is clearly not the fact. The Gosvāmīs, for instance, were so qualified by material standards as wealthy, successful and educated men, but even those qualifications were insufficient to award them the devotional service of the Lord. Only by the mercy of Lord Caitanya were they accepted for His service. And after achieving the Lord's service, they felt most satisfied to live just like impoverished men, taking the most humble position at His lotus feet.

The point of this discussion is that you have created our qualifications. Ordinarily, common and atrocious men like ourselves have no business rendering devotional service. Persons who are envious, unclean, devoid of pious acts and completely lacking in knowledge of the self, as

we once were, are not actually meant for devotional service of Kṛṣṇa. They are meant to suffer eternally in *māyā*! Such persons can never take up the regulative principles of devotional service, and you have also told us of your misgivings at first, as to whether or not we would be able to accept this life of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Those misgivings were just and correct, for it was actually impossible for us to become devotees of the Lord. We could not become devotees, but you were so determined that you prayed to Lord Kṛṣṇa, and thus, by your desire only, we have been permitted to enter this movement of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

You are the *ācārya*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the *ācārya* who always wants to increase the number of devotees, and your determination has made our lives very “uncomfortable.” We were quite satisfied to glide down to hell, but now we find ourselves checked by your order and instruction. It is very difficult to avoid your instruction, for it is eternal, unlike the temporary phenomena of this world. We become very unhappy on account of our stubborn reluctance to surrender to these orders, and that unhappiness and dissatisfaction weighs more and more heavily upon our hearts. Finally we must give in to you. I think that you are forcing us to become devotees. How lucky we are to have met you.

In *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* we have read that: “No one can escape the unique loving network of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu appeared to deliver all the fallen souls. Therefore He devised many methods to liberate them from the clutches of *māyā*.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are always absorbed in hearing and chanting the message of Lord Caitanya, and you are also to be understood as nondifferent from the Supreme Lord, on account of your being His most confidential servitor. In fact *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* says: “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.” Thus we cannot escape your unique loving network, for you are the manifest representation of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who has determined that it is now time for us all to return to His supreme abode. How foolish we are. How lucky we are that you have come to compel us to perfect our lives in this way.

Therefore on this all-important day of your divine appearance, we humbly fall at your lotus feet, with tears in our eyes, and beg to offer our repeated obeisances at your lotus feet, just in the manner in which you have so mercifully taught us:

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

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

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please keep us all at some small corner of your lotus feet.

Your servants at Cleveland ISKCON:

Baṭu Gopāla dāsa	Bhakta Bill
Mānasacandra dāsa	Bhakta Eric
Akhilānanda dāsa	Sukhasāgarī-devī dāśī
Pyārīcaraṇa dāsa	Gaurāṅga-devī dāśī
Bhūtabhavana dāsa	Mrgākṣī-devī dāśī
Gopati dāsa	Guṇyarūpiṇī-devī dāśī
Anādi dāsa	Kṛṣṇamayī-devī dāśī
Divyāṅga dāsa	Madhyamā-devī dāśī
Murāri Caitanya dāsa	Vājasāna-devī dāśī
Dhanāñjaya Paṇḍita dāsa	Lalitāsakhī-devī dāśī
Līlāmohana dāsa	Veṇuvilāsa-devī dāśī
Bhakta Shombe	Bhaktin Brenda
Bhakta Mike	



Costa Rica



Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā Homage

*tvaṁ naḥ sandarśito dhātṛā
dustaraṁ nistīrṣatām
kalīṁ sattva-haraṁ puṁsām
kaṇṇa-dhāra ivārṇavam*

“We think that we have met Your Grace by the will of providence, and thus we accept you as captain of the ship for those who desire to cross the dangerous ocean of Kali, which destroys all the good qualities of a human being.”

To our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We have been searching for you all our lives, and through Lord Kṛṣṇa’s mercy our searching and waiting is over. We were without life before we met Your Grace; simply dead bodies, not being able to distinguish reality from illusion. You have taken these dead bodies and given them life through devotional service. We can only bow at your lotus feet.

What kind of love could take a heart as cold as ice, and melt it into a flowing river? What kind of physician could take a pair of blind eyes and let them see the unapproachable form of Govinda? What kind of teacher could take a helpless

child, and teach him the essence of true knowledge, the end of all learning, KṚṢṆA, the Supreme Personality of Godhead? What kind of mercy could save a wretch like me? We can only bow at your lotus feet.

As a small baby is always in need of a nurse, so we are always in need of your mercy. As the young horse stands on weak legs, so we are barely standing above the horrible mire of illusion. Oh, Prabhupāda, we need your support. As the spoiled child is always asking for something, so we are always asking from you. We have nothing to give; we can only bow at your lotus feet.

My worthless words flutter as unintelligible sounds below the sublime vibrations that utter from your lotus like mouth. Oh, Gurudeva, you know that we can only speak by your mercy. Please let me bow at your lotus feet.

**Your servant,
Nārāyaṇa dāsa Adhikāri**

Brahmacāris

Śaunaka dāsa Kalpataru dāsa

Bhakti Owen prabhu

Bhakti John prabhu

Bhakti William prabhu

Bhakti Hans prabhu

Brahmacārinis

Bhaktin Maria prabhu

Gṛhastas

Nārāyaṇa dāsa

Divya devī dāsi

As stated by Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, in the essence of the *Bhāgavatam*, *catuṣṥloki*: a person interested in transcendental knowledge must inquire about it. Intelligent inquiry directed toward the source of all transcendental knowledge, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, is an integral part of the path of self-realization.

Because we are densely covered by the modes of passion and ignorance, it is impossible for us to contact Lord Kṛṣṇa directly, although He resides in the nearness of our hearts.

Therefore, in the words of Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja:

*jīve sāksāt nāhi tāte guru caitya-rūpe
śikṣā-guru haya kṛṣṇa mahānta-svarūpe*

“Since one cannot visually experience the presence of the Supersoul, He appears before us as a liberated devotee. Such a spiritual master is no one other than Kṛṣṇa Himself.”

And Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja makes the point that although the spiritual master is a servitor of the Lord, he is also a plenary manifestation (*prakāśa*) of the Lord. Lord Kṛṣṇa manifests Himself in the form of *bhakta-śreṣṭha*, or the topmost devotee of the Lord. Kṛṣṇa Himself says to Uddhava:

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

Self-realization being the goal of our human life, we must become intelligent enough to approach the spiritual master and take initiation. He is the exemplary embodiment of the Lord’s mercy, and he is empowered to bestow on us the fulfillment of our desire for self-realization. Kṛṣṇa confirms this in the *Bhagavad-gītā*:

*tad viddhi pranipātena
paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānaṁ
jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ*

“Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth.”

Also, there is an important verse in the *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad* wherein it is stated:

*tad-vijñānārtham sa gurum evābhigacchet
samit-pāṇiḥ śrotṛiyaṁ brahma-niṣṭham*

“To learn transcendental subject matter, one must approach the bona fide spiritual master in disciplic succession, fixed in the Absolute Truth.

The objective of the sincere inquirer of the Absolute Truth is established in all the *Vedas* as the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa. The practical acquisition of this objective is realized through devotional service, rendered unrestrictedly to the divine couple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda. The means for approaching this perfected platform of knowledge and service is stated in the *Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad*:

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

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

Unfortunately, our intelligence for understanding the Absolute Truth has been covered by ignorance, into which we have been forcefully thrust by our all-devouring enemy, lust. It has covered our real spiritual inclination, and if we factually desire purification we must accept no alternative than to hear eagerly, with great care and attention, the messages of the spiritual master. Kṛṣṇa warns:

*atha cet tvam ahaṅkāraṁ
na śroṣyasi vinaiḥsyasi*

“However, if out of false ego you do not hear, you will be lost.” Or, as sung by Viśvanātha Cakravartī, “Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement.”

Therefore, our only hope is to accept the lotus feet of the spiritual master, and have our senses, mind and intelligence enlivened by his instructions. This is confirmed by Narottama dāsa Thākura:

guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete koriyā aikya

“My only wish is to have my consciousness purified by the words emanating from his lotus mouth.” He further states that the spiritual master destroys all ignorance (*avidyā vināśa*).

Factually, the entire material world is like a burning forest, and the lustful desires within our hearts are equally destructive. We are destined by time to see the frustration of all our materialistic goals, just as the forest animal loses everything, including his life, when the forest

burns. But Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī sings:

*saṁsāra-dāvānala-liḍha-loka-
trāṇāya kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvam
prāptasya kalyāṇa-guṇārṇavasya
vande guroḥ śrī-carāṇāravindam*

“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.”

Our spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is bestowing devotional service on the fallen souls. We are seemingly rendered useless by our bad association and lack of practical intelligence. Yet, he is engaging us in devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

yasya prasādād bhagavad-prasādah

“By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa.” And further,

śrī-guru-carāṇa-padma kevala bhakati-sadma

“The lotus feet of our spiritual master are the only way by which we can attain pure devotional service.”

In light of so much evidence of the mercy and potency of our spiritual master, we can only beg forgiveness that we are unable to perform any pleasing service to you. Nevertheless, you are continuing to benedict us with your purificatory instructions, and you continue to engage us in service at the feet of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

By your causeless mercy only, will our struggling attempts to serve and please you result in pure devotional service unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Dallas Gurukula

**HARE KṚṢṆA HARE KṚṢṆA KṚṢṆA KṚṢṆA HARE HARE
HARE RĀMA HARE RĀMA RĀMA RĀMA HARE HARE**

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

"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."

Your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the only way that we will be able to attain devotional service because you are our spiritual master. You came to the western world, which was filled with impersonalism, and you gave us the message of Lord Caitanya. You have been so merciful on the fallen souls. You have given us the knowledge of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the *Bhagavad-gītā*. You are coming in disciplic succession and the *Bhagavad-gītā* you are giving us is bonafide because you accept Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The *Bhagavad-gītās* written by other people are not bonafide because they do not accept Kṛṣṇa as God. Thank you for this *Bhagavad-gītā*.

Your servant,
Lalitā-devī dāsi
Age 7

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. I bow to your lotus feet which are like the ocean of mercy. You give mercy to everyone, just like the moon shines even in the yard of a sinful man. You brought forth the message of Kṛṣṇa on the order of your guru and only by your coming am I now the servant of Kṛṣṇa. If I had not gotten your mercy, then I would not be delivered. Certainly you give everyone your mercy, but not everyone takes it.

The only path of learning the truth is to ap-

proach a bona fide spiritual master, inquire from him submissively and render service. If a person does not serve the spiritual master, he cannot inquire submissively. Inquire submissively means to inquire humbly. A person should give his life and soul to the spiritual master. Then if he pleases the spiritual master, Kṛṣṇa becomes pleased. Kṛṣṇa says that the spiritual master is no different than Himself, because he is always engaged in Kṛṣṇa's service. There is no difference.

I offer my obeisances again and again. You are the most dear to Kṛṣṇa.

Your fallen servant,
Līlāsmaraṇa dāsa brahmacāri
Age 10

Dear Jagad-guru,

Please accept my most worthless obeisances. You are saving the whole world from going to hell. You are saving the most fallen souls first, but also, at the same time you are saving the whole world. You are *jagad-guru*, the spiritual master of the whole universe. You are traveling to many countries and opening many temples. You are engaging the devotees in those temples and giving them instructions. At Gurukula you have given us the instruction to learn *Bhagavad-gītā*, which will be able to save us and many other fallen souls. We are sleeping in the lap of *māyā* and you are coming up to us and saying, "jīva jāgo! jīva jāgo! Wake up! Wake up, sleeping souls!" You are opening our eyes with the torchlight of knowledge.

Your fallen servant,
Kamalālohita-devī dāsi



Delhi

To Parama-puṇya Om Viṣṇupāda
Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya 108 Śrī
Śrīmad Tridaṇḍī Gosvāmi Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupāda Mahārāja,

This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, which you have kindly established, is the embodiment of your mercy. Because it directly gives one the opportunity for devotional service, it is non-different from the Supreme Lord and His pleasure potency. How can anyone begin to properly understand and glorify your inconceivable kindness to give renegades like us this engagement of devotional service unto Kṛṣṇa, who is known as Acintya. This is not only the topmost science of life, it is the only real knowledge. No one thought to and no one dared before to speak the truth, to reveal the fraud of *nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi*. Actually no one had the capacity:

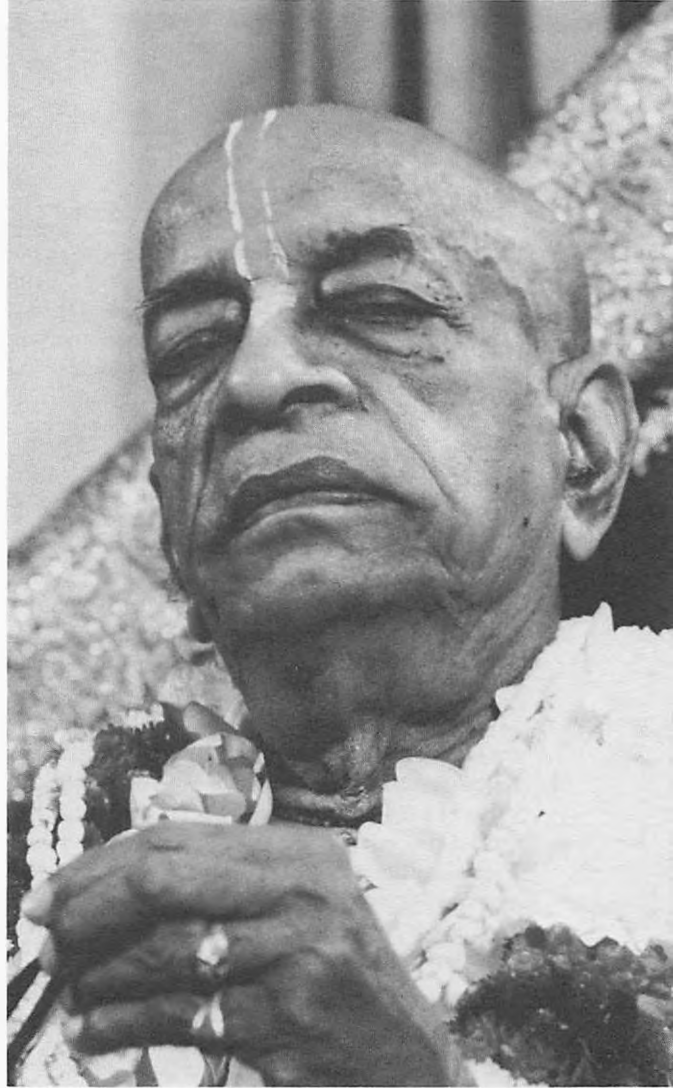
*brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bija
(Cc. Madhya 19.151)*

The living entity is entangled inextricably in the *brahmāṇḍa* or material nature of birth and death.

*āsurīm yonim āpannā
mūḍhā janmani janmani
mām aprāpyaiva kaunteya
tato yānty adhamām gatim*

“Attaining repeated birth amongst the species of demoniac life, such persons can never approach Me. Gradually they sink down to the most abominable type of existence.” (Bg. 16.20) How then, can those who cannot even get beyond the reaches of these activities of sense gratification understand the truth about Kṛṣṇa?

*brahmaṇo hi pratiṣṭhāham
amṛtasyāvyayaśya ca
śāsvatasya ca dharmasya
sukhasyaikāntikasya ca*



“And I am the basis of the impersonal Brahman, which is the constitutional position of ultimate happiness, and which is immortal, imperishable and eternal.” (Bg. 14.27) If one cannot even understand Brahman, then how can one under-

stand the supreme source of Brahman? There is no cause for this understanding.

*na me viduḥ sura-gaṇāḥ
prabhavaṁ na maharṣayaḥ
aḥam ādir hi devānāṁ
maharṣinām ca sarvaśaḥ*

“Neither the hosts of demigods nor the great sages know My origin, for in every respect, I am the source of the demigods and sages.” (Bg. 10.2) The knowledge of the scientists is bewildered by the Supreme Lord’s energies.

*tribhir guṇamayair bhāvair
ebhiḥ sarvaṁ idaṁ jagat
mohitaṁ nābijānāti
mām ebhyaḥ paraṁ avyayam*

“Deluded by the three modes [goodness, passion and ignorance], the whole world does not know Me who am above the modes and inexhaustible.” (Bg. 7.13) You are the greatest scientist because you are revealing the supreme soul of the universe. How then can we, who are fools, appreciate what you are doing for us by giving this Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*? How can we appreciate the value of a moment of your association, which has picked us out of the asuric *janmani janmani*? Everyone here is fast asleep. You have *caḥṣur unmilitam*—placed us on your lap of compassion and pried open our eyes. No one who is even slightly impure can approach Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

*yeṣāṁ tv anta-gataṁ pāpaṁ
janānāṁ puṇya-karmaṇām
te dvandva-moha-nirmuktā
bhajante mām dṛḍha-vratāḥ*

“Persons who have acted piously in previous lives and in this life, whose sinful actions are completely eradicated and who are freed from the duality of delusion, engage themselves in My

service with determination.” (Bg. 7.28) We don’t even know who to surrender to or how to surrender. You simply are the grace of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

*yasya deve parā bhaktir
yathā deve tathā gurau
tasyaite kathitā hy arthāḥ
prakāśante mahātmanaḥ
(Śvet. Up. 6.23)*

We are hopelessly caught in the grip of *māyā* and are not seeking any shelter but *māya*. Yet you are guiding us. You are clearly representing Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s greatest capacity of devotional service. You have come to call back to Godhead all conditioned souls on this planet. We are allured by seeing your greatest opulence, something we could never have dreamt of before—pure love of Godhead. *Kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*. Just a small taste given by you of Śrī Caitanya’s mercy makes us mad to want to dance. Your thousands of disciples are running everywhere like crazy, giving everyone your books. We can actually have only one prayer, and that is to become situated firmly at your lotus feet, free from any conditions. Let us pray to simply always remain in your eternal service.

Tejīyās dāsa adhikāri
Bīrsimha dāsa brahmacārī
Kṛṣṇāgraja dāsa adhikāri
Bhakta Rādhē-Śyāma
Bhakta Myles
Asita dāsa adhikāri
Bhakta Sītā-Rāma
Kṛṣṇa-gopāla dāsa adhikāri
Śrīdhāma dāsa adhikāri
Madhurā-devī dāsi
Tejīyasini-devī dāsi
Aditi-devī dāsi
Śyāmasundarī-devī dāsi
Rambhavatī-devī dāsi
Bhakta Linda

Denmark



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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All words of glorifying you are so insignificant because your mercy is so unlimited. You have given us so much; you have brought us back to life. But what can we do for you? We were untouchable like the worms in the stool. Out of your causeless mercy, you have come down and lifted us out of that hellish condition we were so attached to. In place of this you have given us the holy name, the most valuable thing. We are incredibly indebted to you. What can we do to please you? You have expressed your desire very often; translate and distribute your books!

By this principle the whole world will become overflowed by your mercy. *Saṅkīrtana* is our life and soul!

Your humble servants,

Sucandra dāsa brahmacārī
Harer Nāmānanda dāsa adhikārī
Jayagaura dāsa adhikārī
Vaidyanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Mahārathi dāsa adhikārī
Śāntimati-devi dāsi
Śīlpakariṇī-devi dāsi

Denver



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

As we rode along the highway, we watched the world—houses, cars, parks and stores—race in a blur past the open window. Each door and fenced garden, carefully manicured vine and creeper slipped by, leaving only faint impres-

sions on our observing minds. And like dreams, they slipped into obscurity, amidst the maze of similar impressions.

In contemplation, we watched, and thought how our lives, to this point, consisted of so many

similarly valueless and now dreamlike incidents. The hopes and aspirations of youth, childhood and infancy with their seeming clarity and concreteness, and the depth of parental and familial relationships, their substance now spread thin in the shallow reminiscence of our maturity, have shattered, leaving only hazy, broken and scattered remembrances. We were thinking that we have found no tangible forms and could not search out the point of our lives. Disease and the invalidity of old age lurked just beyond our youthful life, and we had nothing to show for the years we had already spent. Still, in stunned apathy, we idled our time, seeing no recourse to our aimless existence.

Into the darkness of this fallen age came His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda. Because his vision is illuminated by the divine message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu,

he speaks the eternal truth. With relentless courage and determination he has taken up the mission of Śrīla Bhaktivinoḍa, broadcasting, with perfect clarity and without the slightest distortion, the timeless wisdom of the *Vedas*. History can boast no great soul than this. To such a bona fide spiritual master we offer our most humble obeisances, falling at his feet in awe.

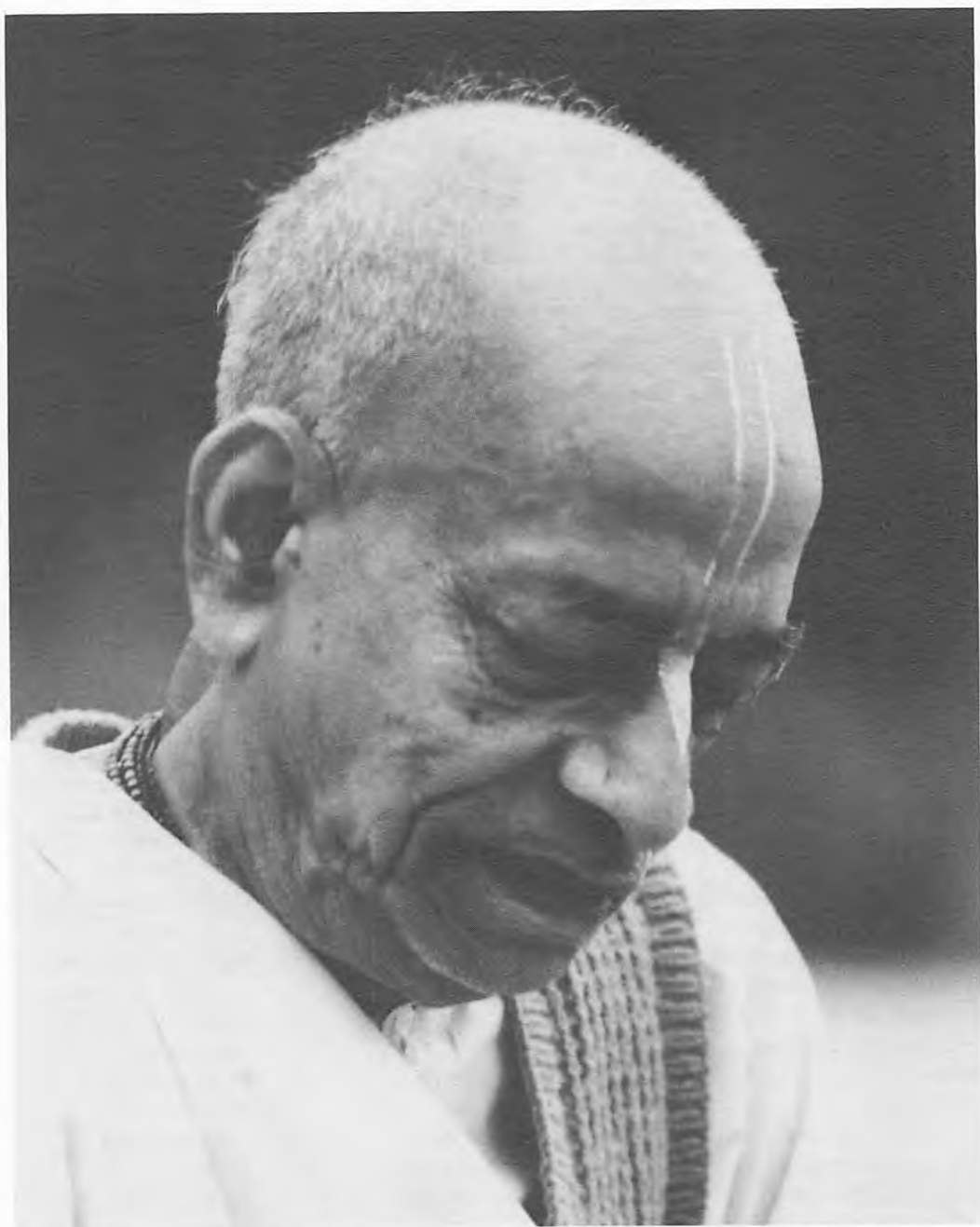
*namo om viṣṇu-pādāya
kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-
svāmin iti nāmine*

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

Kuruśreṣṭha dāsa adhikārī
Ānandavardhana dāsa
Dhanvī dāsa adhikārī
Daśaratha dāsa adhikārī
Prāṇavallabha dāsa adhikārī
Dattātreyā dāsa adhikārī
Setubandha dāsa adhikārī
Bahulāvana dāsa adhikārī
Padmābha dāsa adhikārī
Rādhādamodara dāsa adhikārī
Kosalendra dāsa adhikārī
Jyoti dāsa adhikārī
Śrīnivāsa dāsa adhikārī
Bhakta Al
Bhakta Mike
Virācandra dāsa brahmacārī
Arthada dāsa brahmacārī
Vyāpi dāsa brahmacārī
Pañcānanda dāsa brahmacārī

Siddhānta dāsa brahmacārī
Raṅgajī dāsa brahmacārī
Bhāgadharī dāsa brahmacārī
Dugdhapāna dāsa brahmacārī
Ravi dāsa brahmacārī
Vanecara dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Cliff
Bhakta Jerome
Bhakta Andre
Bhakta Steve
Bhakta Scott
Bhakta Richard
Devī dāsī
Līlāśravaṇa-devī dāsī
Mamatā-devī dāsī
Bhāgavatī-devī dāsī
Anurādhā-devī dāsī
Bhaktapriya-devī dāsī

Khaṇḍita-devī dāsī
Jalayaśāyī-devī dāsī
Mahojjvala-devī dāsī
Nāṭakacandrikā-devī dāsī
Kadamba-devī dāsī
Bhaktin Nina
Tṛpti-devī dāsī
Dantadhara-devī dāsī
Bhaktin Cheryl
Rāmatulasī-devī dāsī
Māṇindra-devī dāsī
Bhaktin Linda
Vilvamaṅgala
Rāmacandra
Rādhāgovinda
Ātmā-devī dāsī
Arjuna
Janārdana dāsa



Detroit

“The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on the forest fire to extinguish it, so the spiritual master extinguishes the blazing fire of material existence. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the mercy incarnation of Kṛṣṇa. You are compared to a cloud which pours rain freely everywhere. By the widespread distribution of your books, which are now in so many languages, and by preaching work of your disciples in every corner of the world, your mercy has become available to everyone.

The fire of material existence is simply the

burning desires in the hearts of the fallen souls to enjoy separately from Kṛṣṇa. By giving knowledge of the all-attractive Lord and His eternal kingdom, you are transforming these sinful desires into the pure desire to serve Kṛṣṇa, and to return home to Him after death.

You have established many beautiful temples, which are small models of the spiritual world. In these temples the forgetful souls have a chance to join in Lord Caitanya's program of chanting, dancing, feasting and hearing the sublime philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

We are simply praying at your lotus feet that we be allowed to assist you, in some small way, in your service to your Guru Mahārāja. Please help us to follow your instructions strictly and distribute your books profusely.

We beg to remain your humble servants,

Govardhana dāsa adhikārī
Indravartā dāsa adhikārī
Doṣavārjita dāsa adhikārī
Kāliyakṛṣṇa dāsa adhikārī
Udayānanda dāsa adhikārī
Kṛṣṇakathānanda dāsa adhikārī
Draviṇaprada dāsa adhikārī
Vrajendralāla dāsa adhikārī
Navinakṛṣṇa dāsa adhikārī
Rudra dāsa adhikārī
Bhakta Bob
Bhakta Tony
Nīlāmbara dāsa brahmacārī
Khaṇḍaparaśu dāsa brahmacārī
Rudra Paṇḍita dāsa brahmacārī
Viśvatamukha dāsa brahmacārī

Dāruṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Mardarāja dāsa brahmacārī
Sukṛti dāsa brahmacārī
Rāmānanda Rāya dāsa brahmacārī
Jayavāmana dāsa brahmacārī
Caturbhāva dāsa brahmacārī
Kapiladeva dāsa brahmacārī
Nirantara dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta John
Bhakta Jim
Bhakta Bob
Bhakta Craig
Sitārānī-devī dāsī
Vilāsini-devī dāsī
Tajjasātmikā-devī dāsī
Trisākti-devī dāsī

Dakṣāyanī-devī dāsī
Sarvasāktimati-devī dāsī
Kūrmāyaṇa-devī dāsī
Mukhyā-devī dāsī
Mahānandini-devī dāsī
Rādhikā-devī dāsī
Bhaktin Mary
Bhaktin Sylvia
Śukti-devī dāsī
Rudraramaṇī-devī dāsī
Lekhaśravanti-devī dāsī
Gouri Sengupta
Bhaktin Nina
Aravinda dāsa
Rādhikā-devī dāsī

Edinburgh

*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

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



O dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Out of Lord Kṛṣṇa's causeless mercy He has led us to be approached by you, and by your mercy you are making Kṛṣṇa available to us. In the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, which you are giving us, Kṛṣṇa instructs Arjuna:

"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. A self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth." (Bg. 4.34)

This offering is, therefore, just like the offering of a candle to the sun.

You are the representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, who is the literary incarnation of God, and you are the unalloyed devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Whenever there is a decline in religious practice and a predominant rise in irreligion, the Supreme Lord advents Himself or sends His bona fide representative. You are the bona fide representative of the Lord. Just as Śukadeva Gosvāmī, out of his great compassion for the gross materialists, spoke the *Bhāgavatam* on the bank of the Ganges, so you, the servant of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta, are coming in the wake of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu to deliver the message of *Bhāgavatam* and the chanting of the holy names to the Western countries.

Rūpa Gosvāmī has prayed:

*namo mahā-vadānyāya
kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-
nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ
(Cc. Madhya, 19.53)*

You are distributing the devotional service of the Lord and bestowing love of God. By serving you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are finding in our hearts a desire to hear about Kṛṣṇa. By serving you, we are able to please Kṛṣṇa more than if we were to serve Him directly, for no one is more dear to Kṛṣṇa than you, who are risking everything for the Lord. By hearing the message of Kṛṣṇa from your lotus lips, our hearts are cleansed by Kṛṣṇa Himself.

*śṛṇvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ
puṇya-śravaṇa-kīrtanaḥ
hṛdy antaḥ-stho hy abhadrāṇi
vidhunoti suhṛt satām
(Bhāg. 1.2.17)*

By your instructions you are giving us access to Kṛṣṇa, for by regularly hearing the topics of the Lord, the loving service of the Lord is established. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* Kṛṣṇa explains:

“One can understand the Supreme Lord as He is only by devotional service. And when one is in full consciousness of the Supreme Lord by such devotion, he can enter into the kingdom of God.” (Bg. 18.55)

Oh, Prabhupāda, you are our only refuge! Without your grace there is no question of our advancement back home to Godhead. Only by your example can we find the strength to push on with this *saṅkīrtana* here in Scotland and therefore distribute Lord Caitanya’s message in the form of your books, magazines, records, the holy names and the Lord’s *prasāda*. Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Mahā-viṣṇu dāsa brahmacārī
Varāha-mūrti dāsa brahmacārī
Vaiṣṇavādāna dāsa brahmacārī
Raghūdvāha dāsa brahmacārī
Cittavinodana dāsa brahmacārī
Yamunā-jīvana dāsa brahmacārī
Nirañjana dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Clive

Kamalāṅgī-devī dāśī
Janārdanī-prṇthu-devī dāśī
Aukṣṇa-śakti-devī dāśī

Evanston

All Glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our most humble and respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet, which are like the soothing rays of Lord Kṛṣṇa's benediction moon.

Indeed, Your Divine Grace, being the eternal manifestation and representative of Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is seated in our hearts as the Paramātmā, knows perfectly well the best course for spiritual progress for us and all the living beings fallen in this material world, this tabernacle of birth and death. From the depths of our hearts, we are calling upon your mercy so that we may fully realize your supreme exalted position as divine emissary of the Personality of Godhead, and thus sur-

render our lives cent per cent to your eternal service. Let us cast out as no better than stools all desires for sense gratification, economic development, religiosity and even liberation, by the means of our constant meditation on the perfect worship and execution of your order. You, as Lord Kṛṣṇa's viceroy somehow or other deputed to this hellish place, are the transparent via medium of the supreme controller Himself. You are our only rest and shelter.

On this holy Vyāsa-Pūjā day, we offer our meager services, praying that Your Divine Grace will kindly accept.

dui pade laila śaraṇa...

Chicago ISKCON

Śrī Govinda dāsa	Ramāi dāsa	Ed Prabhu	Jahnāvidēvī dāśī
Sundararūpa dāsa	Caitanya dāsa	John Prabhu	Mukunda-devī dāśī
Audalomi dāsa	Trāṇakartā dāsa	Ron Prabhu	Dānaśīla-devī dāśī
Mahāmuni dāsa	Cakrī dāsa	James Prabhu	Suprabhā-devī dāśī
Mṛgendra dāsa	Rathayātrā dāsa		Valerie Prabhu
Viśālākṣa dāsa	Rāmakeli dāsa	Śrīlekhā-devī dāśī	
Candraśekhara dāsa	Jayakṛṣṇa dāsa	Rādhakūṇḍa-devī dāśī	
Pathik Candra dāsa	Rāmānanda dāsa	Govindarūpiṇī-devī dāśī	Children:
Jambavān dāsa	Madhubhartā dāsa	Damayanti-devī dāśī	
Janakanātha dāsa	Mike Prabhu	Citīśakti-devī dāśī	Sudarśana
Paratrikānanda dāsa	Nate Prabhu	Bhaktiāveśa-devī dāśī	Saṅjaya
Yamunā-tāṭacara dāsa	John Prabhu	Naiṣkarmī-devī dāśī	Śyāmasundara
Raṅganātha dāsa	Dennis Prabhu	Subhadrā-devī dāśī	Śacīmātā
Paṇḍrika dāsa	Ted Prabhu	Kalalalapa-devī dāśī	Meghakanyā
Saṅkīrtana dāsa	Denny Prabhu	Saṁhārīṇā-devī dāśī	Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī
Devānanda Paṇḍita dāsa	James Prabhu	Ananta-devī dāśī	Viṣṇupriyā
Manusuta dāsa	Ken Prabhu	Ruci-devī dāśī	

Fiji

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most eventful day, we beg you to please accept our respectful *daṇḍavats* again and again at your merciful feet.

It was such a nice day, that third of July, 1974, when you graced us at Nadi Airport, and we had your *darśana*. On that beautiful day our blissful life began the way to Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Many are called *guru*, but you actually have the qualification of *guru* and *mahātmā*. One who accepts you as his spiritual master attains the perfection of life. By giving us the practices and routine of actual spiritual life, you are making us strong in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

You should be paid all the respect due to God because you are the bona fide representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Our position, and our heart and soul is to try and please you, for without your favor there is no chance of attaining *kṛṣṇa-prema*.

We have seen many *svāmīs* and *yogīs* come from India and become popular by preaching

their concocted ideas of voidism and impersonalism. They are simply interested in name, fame, money and women. You are kindly distributing Lord Caitanya's jewel of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* and you are saving the whole world, turning it into Vaikuṇṭha with the holy vibration of the holy name of God. The people here are confused—just like we were but armed with your sublime books and shining example, we shall raise them to the standard of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We firmly dedicate ourselves to establish a worthy abode for Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

So, we humbly pray to Lord Kṛṣṇa for your continued well-being, for without you there is no way back home, back to Kṛṣṇa. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Hā hā prabhu koro doḍā, deho more pada-chāyā.

Your unworthy servants,

Deoji Punja

Karsanji Punja

Bhakta Franco brahmacārī

ALL GLORIES TO ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA!

Śrīla Prabhupāda

Your divine Grace

Your glowing face

You are all so sweet and new like the morning sun

You melt my cold dark heart

I beg from your feet never to part.

The holy name shines to everyone,

All I know is māyā's glance

But I feel hari-nāma and want to dance.

So I humbly pray for a little shade

All I have is your lovely lotus feet!

How can I ever be afraid?

Oh, let Kṛṣṇa's service be my life,

In happiness and in distress

You shall be my guide,

My only pride!

Bhakta Franco, Fiji, 4.5.75.

Gainesville

Let us offer our respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of our spiritual master and eternal father, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is conquering the resistance of the conditioned souls as a lion conquers the ineffectual resistance of the forest jackals. Thus, you are delivering us from the vicious jaws of the material energy.

On this occasion of your appearance day, it is quite fitting for us to reflect upon your position as the present *ācārya* in the disciplic succession of pure devotees, who are coming down thousands of years from the time when Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself was present on the planet.

In the Fourth Chapter of *Bhagavad-gītā*, Kṛṣṇa explains why He chose Arjuna to receive this knowledge and not someone else. Certainly, there were many qualified *karmis*, *jñānis* and *yogis* present on the planet, but Kṛṣṇa did not choose any of them to hear the message of the *Gītā*. Instead, He chose Arjuna because Arjuna was Kṛṣṇa's friend, as well as His devotee. This, then, is the real qualification. One must be very eager to always hear and chant about the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, as well as describe the wonderful loving pastimes between Rādhikā and Mādhava. If one does this in a favorable manner, without offending the Lord by calling Him insulting names like "formless," "impersonal," or "void," then he quickly attracts the mercy of the Lord and becomes His intimate servitor.

Not that one must be very adept at breathing exercises, mental speculation or ritualistic performances. Kṛṣṇa did not choose any of these personalities. To the contrary, when we were

recently in Vṇḍāvana for the Māyāpura-Vṇḍāvana Pilgrimage, we could understand that one need not be a big, big scholar or rigid *brāhmaṇa* to love Kṛṣṇa. Even simple cowherd women as the *gopīs* were far more exalted than the most learned *brāhmaṇa* because they had realized the ultimate purpose of human life: that Kṛṣṇa is the supreme lovable object and the proprietor of everything that be.

This point is further confirmed in the Sixth Chapter of *Bhagavad-gītā*, when Kṛṣṇa tells Arjuna, "Of all *yogis*, he who abides in Me with great faith, worshipping Me in transcendental loving service, is most intimately united with Me in *yoga*, and is the highest of all."

And what is that *yoga*? That is also explained. "All that you do, all that you eat, all that you offer and give away, as well as all austerities that you may perform, should be done as an offering unto Me. Always think of Me and become My devotee. Worship Me and offer your homage unto Me. Thus you will come to Me without fail. I promise you this because you are My very dear friend."

We are offering our respects, therefore, because you are the real *yogi* and are teaching the real *yoga*. You are the real representative of Kṛṣṇa because you are His intimate friend and devotee. We are therefore humbly begging for your causeless mercy, so that we might somehow or other become free from the bondage of these material desires and become steady in the service of your lotus feet. That is our only request.

**Your servants,
The devotees of Gainesville ISKCON**

Geneva

*Having undertaken
a futile search
for shelter
in a desolate landscape
of sense pleasures
and mental speculation,
I reel from one sordid desire
to another
with no end in sight.
Illusory images
punctuate the horizon,
whetting my slavish appetite
for all that is tasteless,
meaningless,
hopeless.
How long can I reel
without falling?
How often can I fall
without perishing?*

*Having felt
the caress of
Gour-Nitai's holy names
on my callous heart,
I beseech the mercy
of my Ācārya
so that I may reach
the lotus feet
of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa
in whose sacred service
reposes all truth,
beauty and hope.
May I gain the strength
not to repudiate
Your Divine Grace.
O Gurudeva! You are the
only landmark
in the bleak wasteland
of my life.*



Guru Gaurāṅga dāsa adbhikāri
Dayāmṛgya dāsa adbhikāri
Jayantakra dāsa brahmacāri
Prasannātmā dāsa brahmacāri
Bhakta Martin
Bhakta Calude
Bhakta Tom
Bhakta Juan

Ramya-devī dāsī
Bhavāni-devī dāsī
Dṛgha-devī dāsī
Hiraṇmayī-devī dāsī
Raghinī-devī dāsī



Germany

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

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

Influenced by the modes of ignorance and passion, the whole so-called civilization is drifting to hell. Kṛṣṇa says in *Bhagavad-gītā*:

*tri-vidhaṁ narakasyedam
dvāram nāsanam ātmanaḥ
kāmaḥ krodhas tathā lobhas
tasmād etat trayam tyajet*

“There are three gates leading to hell—lust, anger and greed. Every sane man should give these up, for they lead to the degradation of the soul.” (Bg. 16.21)

You are the knight who has appeared in the last minute to save mankind from spiritual death in the hell of material existence, towards which they are rushing like moths dashing into a blazing fire. Armed with the sword of transcendental knowledge, eternal spiritual kingdom received through the hands of *guru-paramparā*, you bravely

fight against all-devouring *avidyā*. And as you fight you increase more and more in spiritual strength. By your energy, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness has expanded all over the world, never tiring of releasing your attacks on *māyā* by the distribution of your unsurpassable weapons in the form of “books of knowledge.” The enemy is already reduced to struggling for his very life.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 1.88-89):

*sūrya-candra hare yaiche saba andhakāra
vastu prakāśiyā kare dharmaera pracāra*

*ei mata dui bhāi jivera ajñāna-
tamo-nāśa kari' kaila tattva-vastu-dāna*

“As the sun and moon drive away darkness by their appearance and reveal the nature of everything, these two brothers, Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda, dissipate the darkness of the living being's ignorance and enlighten them with knowledge of the Absolute Truth.”

In the same holy land of Māyāpura, the appearance land of Lord Caitanya and Nityānanda, you said this year that the sun and moon have moved from the East to the West. It is up to us to distribute the rays of that sun. It is only by your

mercy that this wonder could happen; only by the strength of your surrender to Kṛṣṇa does the sun now dispel the darkness of ignorance, here in a place which was considered by the Vedic civilization as uninhabitable.

As eyewitnesses of the great effects your movements have obtained, we can simply pray to you for giving us more and more engagements as your insignificant pages. To spread this Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the only thing needed in the present state of utter confusion. Therefore, let us, as you desire, publish your books as quick as

possible (hopefully, we will have caught up with the American book publishing by the end of this year) and distribute them also. This is the only thing to do, as you have repeatedly stressed: “*kṛṣṇa-kathā* is the only remedy for the people of the world because it can situate one in the pure consciousness of the self and liberate one from material bondage. To preach *kṛṣṇa-kathā* all over the world, as recommended by Lord Caitanya, is the greatest missionary activity, and all sensible men and women of the world may join in this great movement started by Lord Caitanya.”

Cakravartī dāsa brahmacārī
 Pṛthu dāsa brahmacārī
 Akṣara dāsa brahmacārī
 Gaurakīśora dāsa brahmacārī
 Vedavyāsa dāsa brahmacārī
 Śacinandana dāsa brahmacārī
 Tirthāṅga dāsa brahmacārī
 Aśoka-kumāra dāsa brahmacārī
 Hāraka dāsa brahmacārī
 Ratnagarbha dāsa brahmacārī
 Aṣṭaratha dāsa brahmacārī
 Avināśacandra dāsa brahmacārī
 Janmaṇīlaya dāsa brahmacārī
 Havirdhana dāsa brahmacārī
 Taponidhi dāsa brahmacārī
 Purujit dāsa brahmacārī
 Urdvarga dāsa brahmacārī
 Vamsuli dāsa brahmacārī
 Maṇidhara dāsa brahmacārī
 Rādhānātha dāsa brahmacārī
 Jalāndhara dāsa brahmacārī
 Haṁsa dāsa brahmacārī
 Durgamya dāsa brahmacārī
 Gaṅgādhara dāsa brahmacārī
 Niṣpāpa dāsa brahmacārī
 Rāma-mohana dāsa brahmacārī

Sudeṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Yadavendra dāsa brahmacārī
 Ajātaśatru dāsa brahmacārī
 Gopeśa dāsa brahmacārī
 Kṛṣṇakṣetra dāsa brahmacārī
 Bharata dāsa brahmacārī
 Ikṣvāku dāsa brahmacārī
 Talaṅka dāsa brahmacārī
 Nikhilānanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Acchedya dāsa brahmacārī
 Urāṅgama dāsa brahmacārī
 Yakṣa dāsa brahmacārī
 Rohiṇī-suta dāsa brahmacārī
 Bṛhaspati dāsa brahmacārī
 Aja dāsa brahmacārī
 Mahākośa dāsa brahmacārī
 Ātmavidyā dāsa adbhikārī
 Pṛthu dāsa adbhikārī
 Uṭhala dāsa adbhikārī
 Mahārathi dāsa adbhikārī
 Bibhīṣaṇa dāsa adbhikārī
 Surabhi-devī dāsī
 Maṇimañjari-devī dāsī
 Maddanālāsa-devī dāsī
 Indirā-devī dāsī

Viśvadhārīṇī-devī dāsī
 Śacimātā-devī dāsī
 Revatī-devī dāsī
 Kāñcanī-devī dāsī
 Rohiṇī-devī dāsī
 Darpanā-devī dāsī
 Snātā-devī dāsī
 Dinaśaraṇa-devī dāsī
 Umā-devī dāsī
 Hṛmati-devī dāsī
 Rambhoru-devī dāsī
 Mānadā-devī dāsī
 Reṇukā-devī dāsī
 Mṛdāni-devī dāsī

Robert
 Klaus
 Peter
 Hare Kṛṣṇa dāsa
 Govinda dāsa
 Angela
 Elmar
 Severin
 Daniel

Hong Kong

*bhavad-vidhā bhāgavatās
tīrtha-bhūtāḥ svayam vibho
tīrthi-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)

Wherever the pure devotees are engaged in chanting Kṛṣṇa's holy names and glorifying Kṛṣṇa's wonderful activities, Kṛṣṇa Himself is present. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you see Kṛṣṇa present everywhere, and wherever you are is a place of pilgrimage. As the personification of all holy places, you are just meant for purifying the polluted consciousness of all fallen souls throughout the three worlds. Our very life is meant for searching out a person like yourself because by finding you, our service to Kṛṣṇa begins.

A pure devotee like yourself can render any place into a place of pilgrimage, and without the presence of such persons, the holy places are sanctified in name only. You are present in every word of your instructions, and we are praying that we may have the strength to make them our very life and soul. This will change our hearts into places of pilgrimage also. When Kṛṣṇa was present on this planet, the earth was most glorified because she was never separated from

His lotus feet. We want to always have the shelter of your lotus feet by never deviating from your instructions.

We are simply amazed that you are writing so many books. If someone merely reads one of these, his life becomes perfect, and his path back to Godhead becomes clear. Even if someone touches or sees your books, he becomes more purified than by bathing in the Ganges or performing thousands of sacrifices. We are praying that we may always bathe our hearts in the cooling ocean of pure love of Kṛṣṇa contained in your books. Your books extinguish the fire of conditional life which blazes in our hearts, and because they spread the rays of Lord Caitanya's benediction moon, they are also the prime benediction for all humanity. With your books you are perfectly fulfilling the order of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, and we pray that we may always assist you in doing this.

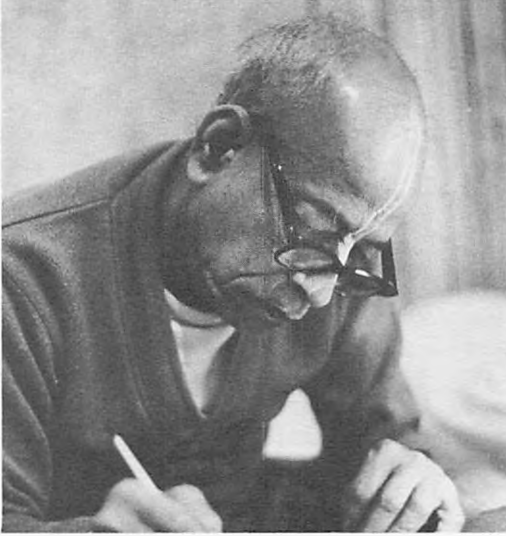
O, Prabhupāda, please glance mercifully upon us. We are praying at your lotus feet.

Hong Kong Yātrā

Pañcadraviḍa Svāmi

Vijitātmā dāsa brahmacāri
Ānirdeśyavapu dāsa brahmacāri
Pippalāi dāsa brahmacāri
Yaśomati-sūta dāsa brahmacāri

Honolulu



**All glories to Om Viṣṇupāda Paramaham-
sa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī
Śrīmad Bhaktivedānta Swamī Prabhu-
pāda,**

our beloved spiritual master. He is translating the cream of the Vedic literatures in over ten languages so authoritatively and exquisitely that he is singlehandedly destroying the voidism and impersonalism that has the world in its relentless clutches.

“We think that we have met Your grace by the will of providence (*sandarśito dhātrā*), and thus we accept you as captain of the ship (*karnadharah*) for those who desire to cross the dangerous ocean of Kali, which destroys all the good qualities of a human being.”

(*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.22)

First of all, we have to be able to separate the reality from that which isn't. In other words, we

have to want to know what is what. The *Vedas* succinctly express these veiled yet all-pervading truths. They are so extensive that we couldn't realize all of them in our lifetime. When somebody decides, without reservations, motives or self-deception, to unravel the mysteries of the *Vedas*, he soon sees that these texts make two things very clear.

1) The Supreme Personality of Godhead is Kṛṣṇa, the most powerful mystic (*Yogeshvara*) and the possessor of all-attractive transcendental opulences. The goal of our lives is to regain our currently covered personal association with Him. He dwells on innumerable planets of infinite variegatedness in the anti-material world (*nirasta-kuhakam*), with unlimited forms of dazzling splendor and sweetness. We are actually His eternal servants (*jīvera svarūpa haya—kṛṣṇera nitya-dāsa*), being spiritual in essence. Now we have come to the material world, the land of the temporary and painful material energy, due to our original envy and pride (minute independence). This was a great mistake on our part. In the spiritual sky with Lord Kṛṣṇa, everyone (everything) is of the same spiritual nature: eternal, full of knowledge and bliss (*sac-cid-ānanda*).

2) The only way to reestablish our real position, after having fallen victim to this futile alternative, is to come in contact with a bona fide spiritual master (*guru*). Be wise enough to recognize him, hear from him and surrender to him with favorable service. The *Vedas* affirm this:

tad vijñānārtham sa gurum evābhigacchet: If you want to understand spiritual matters, you must accept a guru. (*Muṇḍaka Up.* 1.2.12)

dharmasya tattvaṁ nihitaṁ guhyam mahājano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ: It is very difficult to understand

the secret of spiritual consciousness, but one who advances by the instruction of the previous *ācāryas* and follows in the footsteps of his predecessors in the line of disciplic succession will have success. Others will not.

(*Mahābhārata, Vanaparva* 313.117)

jīvañ-chavo bhāgavatāṅghri-reṇuṁ na jātu martyo 'bhilabheta yas tu: The person who has not at any time received the dust of the feet of a pure devotee upon his heart certainly is a dead body.

(*Bhāg.* 7.5.32)

Sandarśito dhātrā. We think we have met Śrīla Prabhupāda by the will of providence (the causeless mercy of Kṣīrodakaśāyī Viṣṇu). Roaming fearful and helpless, never sure if we were progressing. Then we saw the mountain range: the *guru*. Streams ran underneath the desert because they would dry up if they had to snake on top of the hot sand exterior. Sometimes the bedrock was broken here and there, and oases bubbled up onto the surface. We sampled some of these oases, but found them ultimately leaving us little more than the mirages which constantly baffled us. We always had some everchanging plan for progress but, horribly, the thought lingered in our conscious substratum that perhaps we were only going in circles. The blemish of our struggle, fear and doubt burst when we finally saw the mountain range. Now the goal is in sight.

In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which Prabhupāda is translating for us, the story of Kapiladeva, an incarnation of Kṛṣṇa from the spiritual world (*avatāra*), instructing His mother Devahūti about spiritual science is presented. *Sādhu* is a synonym for *mahātmā* (great soul), and Kapila gives important details about these *sādhus* and their elevated position:

“The symptoms of a *sādhu* are that he is tolerant, merciful (*karuṇikāḥ*) and friendly to all living entities. He has no enemies, he is peaceful, he abides by the scriptures and all his characteristics are sublime (*sādhu-bhūṣaṇa*). Such a *sādhu* engages in staunch devotional service to the Lord (*bhaktim kurvanti ye dṛḍhām*) without deviation. For the sake of the Lord he renounces all other connections, such as family relationships and friendly acquaintances within the world. Engaged constantly in chanting and hearing about Me, the *sādhus* do not suffer from material miseries because they are always fixed on Me with their thoughts (*mad-gata-cetasāḥ*). O My mother, O virtuous lady, these are the qualities of great devotees who are free from all attachment. You must seek attachment to such holy men (*saṅgas teṣv artha te prarthyaḥ*), for this counteracts the pernicious effects of material attachment. In the association of pure devotees, discussion of the pastimes and activities of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is very pleasing and satisfying to the ear and the heart (*hṛi-karṇa-rasāyanāḥ kathāḥ*). By cultivation of such knowledge one gradually becomes advanced on the path of liberation, and thereafter he is freed, and his attraction becomes fixed. Then real devotion and service begin (*bhaktir anukramiṣyati*).

(*Bhāg.* 3.25.21-25)

Kapila told Devahūti to seek attachment to such a spiritual master. Lord Caitanya also said *lavāmātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya*: “Simply a moment’s association with a pure devotee (*bhagavad-saṅgi-saṅgasya*) cannot be compared to being transferred to heavenly planets or even merging into the Brahman effulgence in complete liberation. For living entities who are destined to die (*martyānām*), association with pure devotees is the highest benediction.” (4.30.34) Any kind of inoffensive contact with



Śrīla Prabhupāda, done in fear or ignorance of his prowess, with lavish pomp, or like a pauper, will bring inconceivable benefit (*ajñāta-sukṛti*). The *Bhāgavatam* elucidates that association for sense gratification is certainly the path of bondage. But the same type of association, performed with a saintly person (*sādhūṣu*), leads to the path of liberation, even if performed without knowledge (*vihito 'dhiyā*) (2.23.55).

To associate with Śrīla Prabhupāda through his devotees, books, tapes or with him personally presents the opportunity to hear from him. He is constantly hearing about Kṛṣṇa, as confirmed by Kapila Muni in His instruction to His mother. Coming into association with him allows us to have this transcendental message transferred through our ears into our minds.

“My dear Lord, You are glorified by the selected verses uttered by great personalities. Such glorification of Your lotus feet is just like saffron particles. When the transcendental vibration from the mouths of great devotees (*mahan-mukha-cyutah*) carries the aroma of the saffron dust of Your lotus feet, the forgetful living entity gradually remembers his eternal relationship with You. My dear Lord, I therefore do not need any other benediction but the opportunity to hear from the mouth of Your pure devotee.” (*Bhāg.* 4.20.25) Hearing the *Vedas* from mental speculators, will not help us. By hearing from the spiritual master, everything becomes transparently clear. The submissive disciple (*snigdhasya śiṣyasya*) is endowed with favor from the spiritual master (*Bhāg.* 1.1.8). He lives transcendently and continues to remember the Lord even at the end of life when the power of remembrance is slackened due to derangement of bodily membranes.

Bhakti kurvanti ye dṛḍhām: Kapiladeva gives us information that the spiritual master is engaging in staunch devotional service to the Lord with-

out deviation. In the *Bhagavad-gītā*, Lord Kṛṣṇa says, *sādhur eva sa mantavyaḥ*: a *sādhū* is a strict follower of devotional service (*sevayā*). It is thus further confirmed in this verse of the *Gītā* (4.34) that he imparts realization because he has already realized the truth.

Mahat-sevām dvāram āhur vimuktes: “Service to a *mahātmā* is the royal road to liberation.” The *Bhāgavatam* says by regular service to the pure Vaiṣṇavas, one can clear the dirt from his heart and thus enjoy supreme peace, liberation from material attachment and satisfaction automatically (*prasīdato 'tyanta-śamam svataḥ*) (4.21.40). To become enwrapped in the pastimes of the spiritual world, which is the process called Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we have to gain the higher taste of wanting nothing more than to always hear about, glorify and remember Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and His transcendental pastimes. The methodology of the most intelligent aspirant is service to the *guru*. “O twice born sages, by serving those devotees who are completely freed from all vice, great service is done. By such service, one gains affinity for hearing the message of Vāsudeva, (Kṛṣṇa)” (*Bhāg.* 1.2.16). Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura, a great *ācārya* in our line of disciplic succession says *chāḍiyā vaiṣṇava-sevā nistāra pāyeche kebā*: Unless one serves the spiritual master and *ācāryas*, one cannot be liberated. In the *Bhāgavatam*, Mahārāja Rahūgaṇa inquired from the great saint Jāḍabharata how he could attain this liberation from material entanglement. Jāḍabharata replied, *vinā mahat-pāda-rajā bhiṣekam*: “O King, the perfectional stage of devotional service cannot be attained without being blessed by the dust of the feet of great devotees.”

So this dust from the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda is of utmost importance. And just what is the dust of his lotus feet? It is his orders.

Spiritual science has no room for directionless sentiment. If we don't see this, then we are being bewildered by that which is not (*māyā*).

*ācāryera mata yei, sei mata sāra
tānra ājñā laṅghi' cale, sei ta' asāra*

If we at all want to advance in spiritual life, we must take the order of the spiritual master as our life's mission. The Upaniṣads say that to one who has staunch faith in the words of the spiritual master and the words of Kṛṣṇa (yathā deve tathā gurau), the secret of success in Vedic knowledge is revealed.

The spiritual master is personally present in his order (*vāṇī*) and picture. Śrīla Prabhupāda, by the grace of Lord Kṛṣṇa, singlehandedly established our international society because he did not deviate from the order of his spiritual master, His Divine Grace Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivṛājākācārya Aṣṭottaraśata Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī. When Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta left the mortal world in 1936, he ordered all of his disciples to follow the desire of Lord Caitanya in preaching this Kṛṣṇa consciousness. *Ṗṛthivite āche yata nagarādi grāma sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma.* "Move all throughout the world and preach in every town and village."

He did not name a successor, but so many of his disciples immediately squandered a huge amount of funds and energy in court squabbles to try to win the post of *guru*. Therefore, because they intentionally deviated from their spiritual master's order, they lost their preaching potency. In fact, most of them never even took it up. But Śrīla Prabhupāda, unlike many of these others, did not have much personal contact with Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta. Yet Prabhupāda followed his spiritual master's orders. And now he is the spiritual master of the world (Jagad-guru), the current representative of the spiritual chain (Brahma-sampradāya) which descends from Lord Kṛṣṇa through Brahmā, the empowered creator of the universe.

Kapiladeva concluded His discourse with Devahūti by describing that, through association of pure devotees, hearing the pastimes of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa liberates one from all material contamination (*mukti*), and then actual *bhakti* begins. When we achieve complete freedom from that energy which is superfluous to us, then we once again meet Lord Kṛṣṇa in the spiritual sky and actually reawaken our dormant, eternal relationship with Him. This is called *paraṁ gati* or the supreme goal. Śrīla Prabhupāda is not Lord Kṛṣṇa or God, but he is as good as God because he is the confidential servitor of the Lord (*sākeśād dharitvena . . . kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya*). All advancement that a disciple makes toward reestablishing his eternal relationship with Kṛṣṇa must go through the facility of the spiritual master (*yasya prasādād bhagavatprasādāḥ*) and if (*yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi*).

"My Lord, devotees like your good self are virtual holy places personified (*tīrtha-bhūtaḥ svayam*). (*Bhāg.* 1.13.10) "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. We here at ISKCON Honolulu are inconceivably blessed to have Śrīla Prabhupāda's personal association for our purification. The grounds here offer him a mango tree in the front yard complimented with a backyard bamboo hut under one of the largest banyan trees in Hawaii, and the only whole set of Pañcātattva deities (Lord Caitanya and associates) in our whole movement. And we, the devotees, are attempting to offer him some humble service and follow his orders. This is not just some nice material arrangement, but on the contrary, that which Śrīla Prabhupāda has given is Vedic, and because it is perfectly bona fide, those who are following it are getting the result of clearing away all illusions and realizing their actual position as loving servitors of Kṛṣṇa.



ALL GLORIES TO ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA!

Your servants at ISKCON Honolulu

Manasvi dāsa adhikārī
 Vraja-kiśora dāsa brahmacārī
 Niścintya dāsa brahmacārī
 Godruma dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhūmna dāsa brahmacārī
 Lakṣmaṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Kardama dāsa brahmacārī
 Māyāpura-candra dāsa brahmacārī
 Madhvācārya dāsa brahmacārī
 Vāsudeva Ghoṣa dāsa brahmacārī
 Rāma-lakṣmaṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Kāṇva dāsa brahmacārī
 Yaśodāḍulāla dāsa brahmacārī
 Nītāi-gauracandra dāsa brahmacārī
 Pāṇḍu dāsa brahmacārī
 Kailāsa-candra dāsa brahmacārī
 Hṛṣikeśa dāsa adhikārī
 Harivāsara dāsa adhikārī
 Raṅga-raṅjana dāsa adhikārī
 Premārṇava dāsa adhikārī
 Bhakta Michael
 Bhakta Howard
 Bhakta Steve
 Bhakta Eric
 Bhakta Derrick

Ikṣvākūrāṇī-devī dāśī
 Gopilā-devī dāśī
 Sitā-devī dāśī
 Kadamba-devī dāśī
 Tāruṇā-devī dāśī
 Deśampūnyati-devī dāśī
 Jayaśrī-devī dāśī
 Bhaktin Carissa
 Rohiṇī-devī dāśī

Hyderabad



Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Really, we were born in the darkest ignorance, and you out of your causeless mercy opened our eyes with the torch of transcendental knowledge. We offer our respectful obeisances unto you.

Really, how merciful you are, how broad-

hearted you are, how magnanimous you are. Really, you are in the perfect stage of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Let us be excused, our Śrī Gurumahārāja.

It is not sheer flattery or exaggeration. It is our heart-felt feeling that you are a bright example of a *sthita-prajña* personality. While going through the *sthita-prajña* description in *Bhagavad-gītā*, we were wondering how a person could be a *sthita-prajña* on the mundane plane. Really, when we come in touch with you we find that you are the very same personality who is *sthita-prajña*.

We are rejected fellows, great sinners, stone-

hearted persons, wicked fellows and very degraded, fallen souls. We have no good qualities; nothing is good in us. Still, you are so merciful, so magnanimous that you accept us as your disciples.

We are wicked fellows, for we do not know how to pay respects to the spiritual master and how to serve him. The false ego in us is very obstinate, very puffed up. Therefore, very often, we commit mistakes and offenses. Still, you are so merciful and magnanimous that, in spite of our mistakes and offenses, you give us shelter at your lotus feet.

Really, you are *vāñchā-kalpa-taru*, a wish-fulfilling tree. We have personally felt that whenever we have cherished any desire, it is fulfilled then and there. But Gururūjī, we cannot get any satisfaction in it. We know not how to utilize a chance, suitably and profitably, in Kṛṣṇa's service. We feel that we are still in a state of bewilderment because we have not yet gotten Kṛṣṇa, *kṛṣṇa-prema* or *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. It is only your causeless mercy that can bestow it on us. We want only this.

In the words of Kuntī-devī, let us say;

*tvayi me 'nanya-viṣayā
matir madhu-pate 'sakṛt
ratim udvaha-tād addhā
gaṅgevaugham udanvati*

"O Lord of Madhu, as the Ganges forever flows to the sea, without hindrance, let my attraction be constantly drawn unto You without being diverted to anyone else." (*Bhāg.* 1.8.42)

Similarly, we want our attraction to be constantly drawn to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, without being diverted to anyone else. We want to

receive the constant flow of *guru-kṛpā*, your causeless mercy, by receiving which the ignorance and bewilderment will be dispelled and real *jñāna-sūrya*, pure *kṛṣṇa-prema* and *bhakti* will be revealed unto us.

We have very wicked minds. They are like mischievous imps, cherishing many desires, but it is our prayer to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that you kindly do not fulfill such desires which will create hindrances on the path of our transcendental progress. Kindly only fulfill those desires that will help us to achieve *kṛṣṇa-prema* and *bhakti*.

May God give you long life and good health to guide us eternally on this path of self-realization. We are so foolish that we know not anything about spiritual realization or how to tread the precipitous path of spirituality. Kindly guide us eternally.

Hare Kṛṣṇa Your eternal servants,

Mahāṁsa Svāmī	Amiyavilāsa dāsa
Acyutānanda Svāmī	Prabhākara dāsa
Gauragovinda Svāmī	Rāghaveśa dāsa
	Chelāpati dāsa
Ānandamaya dāsa	Tatpara dāsa
Mahāvīrya dāsa	Mahābala dāsa
Gopeśvara dāsa	Gopati dāsa
Praghoṣa dāsa	Ānanda Brahmacāri
Vasu Ghoṣa dāsa	Chenaiya dāsa
Rādhāramaṇa dāsa	Satyanārāyaṇa-priya dāsa
Bahuśīra dāsa	Palikā-devī dāsi
Rāmaśraddhā dāsa	Kamlā-devī dāsi
Sucarudeva dāsa	Vṛndāvanī-devī dāsi
Rāghavendra dāsa	Rasaparāyaṇa dāsa

London (Bhaktivedanta Manor)



*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

*dhyāyaṁ stuvāms tasya yaśas tri-sandhyāṁ
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

"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 sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūṇyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

By Kṛṣṇa's causeless mercy, a conditioned soul meets guru. By guru's mercy one can reach Kṛṣṇa.

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

"By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master no one can make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day, I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master." (*Gurv-aṣṭaka*, 8)

You are showering us all with your mercy—Kṛṣṇa's mercy—opening our eyes with the torch of knowledge. The truth which you are giving us is as brilliant as the sun lighting up the darkness of our minds and cleansing our hearts of all sinful desires. When the sun rises, the light of the glowworms disappears. Similarly, the Absolute Truth which you are giving completely destroys all the speculative and nonsense philosophies of this mundane world. You are fulfilling the desires of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvati, by spreading

these teachings in the western countries, by flooding all the continents with love for Kṛṣṇa, and by finding ways to get Kṛṣṇa into everyone's home.

You are fulfilling the prediction of Lord Caitanya that the holy names of Kṛṣṇa would be heard in every town and village. You are the most dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa because you are preaching the message of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, which alone can save the dreaming philosophers' polluted minds.

You are fulfilling the desire of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura that from all over the world *bhaktas* would come to the holiest spot, Śrīdhāma Māyāpura, to chant the glories of the most munificent incarnation of Godhead, Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, on His appearance day.

All the millions of people born in India were ordered by Lord Caitanya to preach the holy name. Only you are doing this. You have completely taken shelter of your spiritual master's instructions. Our only hope is to take shelter of your instructions.

Everyone in this world is a slave to *māyā*, chained by lust, anger and greed and surrendered to sinful activities. Your love for your spiritual master and Kṛṣṇa has saved us from this prison house. Everyone in this material world is sinking in the quicksand of illusion, but you are standing on firm ground, rescuing all who hold on to you by following your instructions. Everywhere you go becomes a holy spot, a place of pilgrimage, but being such crows, we had no desire to go to the places of the swans. Kṛṣṇa tells us: "Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master." Kṛṣṇa instructs Arjuna in the *Karma-yoga* Chapter, verse 29:

*prakṛter guṇa-saṁmūdhāḥ
sajjante guṇa-karmasu
tān akṛtsna-vido mandān
kṛtsna-vin na vicālayat*

"Bewildered by the modes of material nature, the ignorant fully engage themselves in material activities and become attached. But the wise should not unsettle them, although these duties are inferior due to the performer's lack of knowledge."

But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are kinder than the Lord Himself because you have come to deliver Kṛṣṇa to even snakes like us. Somehow or other, even the lowest of creatures can be delivered by your mercy. If only we can follow your instructions and please you. This is our only hope.

You are so great that, on behalf of Lord Caitanya, you are accepting so many disciples born of low-class, meat-eating families. No other spiritual master would do this. You are the only spiritual master today; there is no one else who can give the soul protection, who can wake the soul from his deep sleep. Despite so many difficulties and disturbances caused by our inability to follow your instructions, you still kindly offer us the shelter of your lotus feet, asking us to please chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. You are giving such an easy process to develop love of Kṛṣṇa. If only we would have as much faith in you as you have in your spiritual master. Then we would be able to help you spread love of God.

You are teaching us just as a loving father teaches his children to behave. Somehow tolerating our foolishness, you are patiently teaching us to chant the holy names without offense. In this Kali-yuga, that is the only process to lead one to love Godhead, which alone can satisfy the burning desires of the soul. You are greater than the Ganges River, which sanctifies after prolonged use, because just a moment's association with you is far, far more effective. You are an ocean of mercy, you are the bona fide representative of Śrīla Vyāsa; you are our only shelter; you are the dearest friend of Lord Kṛṣṇa in this world; you are the Lord's most confidential servitor. Only by following your instructions can we be saved.

Bhaktivedanta Manor ISKCON London

Bhaja Hari dāsa adhikārī — president
Mukunda dāsa brahmacārī
Patita-uddhāraṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Pārtha dāsa Brahmacārī
Narahari dāsa brahmacārī
Vṛṣabha dāsa brahmacārī
Kṛpāmaya dāsa brahmacārī
Dhīrāsānta dāsa brahmacārī
Triveṇṭ dāsa brahmacārī
Ādikartā dāsa brahmacārī
Rāsarasika dāsa brahmacārī
Vrajendra-kumāra dāsa brahmacārī
Ravimocana dāsa brahmacārī
Ānandamaya dāsa brahmacārī
Dhanvantarī dāsa brahmacārī
Gokulānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Advaita Ācārya dāsa brahmacārī
Mahāmana dāsa brahmacārī
Tanumadhya dāsa brahmacārī

Premānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Caurahari dāsa brahmacārī
Jananānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Kīśora dāsa adhikārī
Rohiṇinandana dāsa adhikārī
Jayalakṣṇama dāsa adhikārī
Janaka-rāja dāsa adhikārī
Balabhadra dāsa adhikārī
Balāyudha dāsa adhikārī
Rādhā-kṛṣṇa dāsa adhikārī
Bhakta John Hammersley
Bhakta John
Bhakta Ross
Bhakta David
Bhakta Jamey
Bhakta Philip
Bhakta Ian
Bhakta Tony
Bhakta Lawrence

Rādhāpriyā-devī dāśī
Ramya-devī dāśī
Karpadinī-devī dāśī
Ratnaranhīnī-devī dāśī
Rucirā-devī dāśī
Gokularāṇī-devī dāśī
Viśākhā-devī dāśī
Jagaddhātṛī-devī dāśī
Helen
Maeve
Janine
Baby Rukmiṇī-devī dāśī
Baby Rādhākūṇḍa-devī dāśī
Baby Yamunā-devī dāśī
Baby Kalindī-devī dāśī



London

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

O beloved spiritual master, please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

It is stated in *Bhagavad-gītā* that one must accept a bona fide spiritual master, inquire from him submissively and render service unto him, if one wants to learn the Absolute Truth.

Dear spiritual father, we are tired of this material existence and are worn out by the constant kicking of *māyā*. In fact, we have become just like dead men. Just as a spark becomes extinguished when it falls out of the fire, so the living entity who falls out of the spiritual world and loses his connection with the Lord becomes dull and unenthusiastic.

However, the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa is so merciful that He always wants to help us, even though we are thanklessly trying to reject Him. Therefore He has sent you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to reawaken us from the deep sleep of material existence. This, you are doing most successfully. You are following the example of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, distributing *prasāda*, and preaching forcefully the message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā*.

By the mercy of the spiritual master one can achieve the mercy of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, no one can make any advancement.

One should never attempt to bypass the spiritual master and think that he can worship Kṛṣṇa directly. This is a very great offense. Rather, one should try to become the most humble servant of his spiritual master and take shelter of his lotus feet. One should be prepared to render any kind of service—even the most menial task—because devotional service of any kind is the most precious gift; its value cannot be measured by any material means. Thus, if the spiritual master becomes pleased, Kṛṣṇa also becomes pleased, and the living entity also becomes satisfied. The pleasure of the spiritual master is the only criterion for advancement in spiritual life.

Just as Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu ordered, you are also requesting every man to take this Kṛṣṇa consciousness and distribute it all over the world.

So we are praying at your lotus feet that we may be able to take this instruction to heart and make it our foremost desire, our very life and soul. Thus, begging for your mercy and protection, we will endeavor to push forward this wonderful movement, which you have so kindly created to help the conditioned souls go back home, back to Godhead.

Again and again, we offer our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Your servants

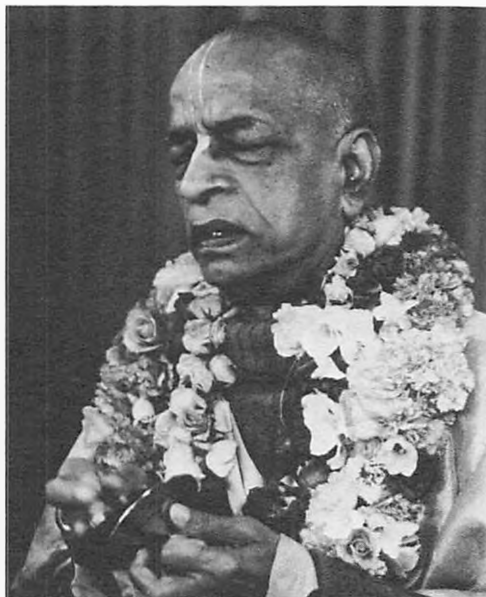
Rādhā-London-īśvara-dhāma,

Ranchor dāsa adhikārī
Prabhaviṣṇu dāsa brahmacārī
Vicitravīrya dāsa brahmacārī
Raghuvīra dāsa brahmacārī
Subhaga dāsa brahmacārī
Sarvasāgara dāsa brahmacārī
Jagadbandhu dāsa brahmacārī
Devadharma dāsa brahmacārī
Ratnanābha dāsa brahmacārī

Mohana dāsa brahmacārī
Yaśodādulāla dāsa brahmacārī
Vairabhājana dāsa brahmacārī
Gauracandra dāsa brahmacārī
Jagajjīvana dāsa brahmacārī
Vrajendranandana dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Ray
Bhakta Rodney
Bhakta Hugh

Bhakta Kṛṣṇadāsa
Līlāsakti-devī dāśī
Jalasthita-devī dāśī
Padma-devī dāśī
Sāvitri-devī dāśī
Añjana-devī dāśī
Kṛṣṇaśeṣa-devī dāśī
Kulāṅganā-devī dāśī
Devamayā-devī dāśī

Madras



Vyāsa-Pūjā Offering

*The order was to spread this Kṛṣṇa consciousness by His Divine Grace,
Due to lack of faith, they all thought they would lose face.*

*One great soul from high above,
Decided to try because of his divine love.
Across the "forbidden sea" he began to fare,
To this sampradāya it was mighty rare.
Only a few rupees he took
And the Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Kali-yuga's only book.
During the voyage he became very sick,
To Kṛṣṇa's pure devotee it's a loving kick.
Finally reaching the distant shore,
It appeared most difficult to locate even one vegetarian store.
Experiencing many hardships, and bearing the cold,
His Divine Grace like a lion was bold.
To Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet he had an eternal hold.*

*Every day he preached in the park.
 To try with his love to remove them from the dark.
 Sometimes he would chant and sometimes he would dance,
 This was Caitanya's process to give them all a chance.
 Not to engage in rigorous tapas, is the Kali-yuga message for all
 the mass.
 His Divine Grace came to deliver this simple message.
 Even though he received so much flak,
 Still his determination would not crack.
 Now in every town and village you are beginning to hear,
 That which is eternally very dear.
 That transcendental sound, which brings back the soul
 Connected with love, to that Supreme Whole.
 So if one thinks that His Divine Grace is an ordinary person,
 Open your ears and try to listen.
 It's stated in the śāstras that to spread this bhakti throughout the
 world,
 That great soul must be empowered by the Supreme Lord.*

Just one drop of your mercy satisfies the real self. Just one
 glance from your tender eyes cools my mind. One smile from
 your lotus lips captures my thoughts. Your staunch walk fixed
 my future, and your fiery words destroyed my past. You are the
 embodiment of perfection, and your humility smashes my ego.
 When I sit near you I feel safe even in this burning fire of *sam-*
sāra, and when you are far I remember your pure presence.

O divine father, let me break open this heart of steel and cry
 for your mercy.

Śravaṇānanda dāsa
 Bhāvabhūti dāsa
 Stryadhīśa dāsa
 Trikiṇvāsa dāsa
 Armanātha dāsa
 Ātmānanda dāsa



Mauritius



Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my obeisances and prayers. As you must know, some devotees are exceptional, while others are neophytes struggling for devotional service. I am a devotee of this second type. Along with your disciple Viñāhara dāsa brahmacārī, I have been sent far, far away from the mainstream of devotees and I feel a bit stranded without their association. Sometimes we joke that this is ISKCON Alcatraz, where sinful devotees are sent. For myself, I may explain to you that my character reference is summed up very nicely in Śrīla Bhaktivinoda's prayer "O Gopinātha." I pray that by your mercy, in order to fulfill the desire of Lord Caitanya, all of us can become as qualified as you would like us to be. Our only business is to represent you, and that task is very difficult. As your greatness is unfathomable, so, as a conditioned soul,

my stupidity and foolishness is of equal measure. It is your greatness alone that has made this movement a success. Since we have been in Mauritius, tens of thousands of people have heard our *kīrtana* and chanted the holy name. We are teaching everyone the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra* and Nītāi-Gaurāṅga! Now, as we walk down the streets, the little children shout, "Hari Bol, Nītāi-Gaurāṅga!" and we feel the bliss of the name. We are very lucky preachers to have found such a receptive audience. I think that if you give us your mercy and keep us always preaching for Lord Caitanya, *māyā* will never catch up to us, and you may be proud to call us your servants.

Prabhānu dāsa brahmacārī
Viñāhara dāsa brahmacārī

Māyāpura

*jagato yaḥ svayam ekaḥ
parivartanaṁ karoti
tasya mad-guru-devasya
māhātmyam ahaṁ ceṣṭeya*

(1) I must explain the glory of my spiritual master, who alone is causing the transformation of the world.

*ācārya-devaṁ śaiṁsanti
veda-śāstra-ṇi sarvāṇi
daṇḍavatāṁ sahasrāṇi
tasya pādāyor dadāmi*

(2) All the scriptures are glorifying the ācārya. I offer my obeisances to his feet thousands of times.

*kṛṣṇeti bhāṣayati lokān
śūdrāṇi āpi tathā mlecchān
śuddhayati mām evāpi
yas taṁ stavyaṁ stavāmi*

(3) I glorify him, who is most praiseworthy, because he is making the whole world utter the name “Kṛṣṇa,” even śūdras and mlecchas. He is even purifying my fallen self.

*jīvo 'haṁkārālaṅkṛto
nimajjati bhavadadhaḥ
yadyapi sa nimajjati
tathāpi kāmam icchati*

(4) The living entity, decorated with false ego, is drowning in the ocean of material life. Yet, even though he is drowning, he still desires sense enjoyment.

*hṛdayantaḥ-stho bhagavān
sarva-lokān upādiśat
kaścin na śrotuṁ śaknoti
kāma-vṛtena cetasā*

(5) The Supreme Lord, situated within the heart, has given direction to every living being, but no one is ever able to hear Him due to lust and contaminated intelligence.

*kintu yadā bhraṣṭa-jīvo
harim icchati jñātum
tat-kāle guru-rūpeṇa
sa hariḥ prakāśayati*

(6) But when the conditioned soul desires to know the Lord, at that time the Lord reveals Himself in the form of the spiritual master.

*bāhir ādeśaṁ śrutvā
mūḍho jīvo mohān muktaḥ
bahiḥ-kṛṣṇo bhāve tasmin
antaḥ-kṛṣṇaṁ darśayati*

(7) Hearing the instructions from without, the conditioned soul becomes free from illusion. In this way the external Kṛṣṇa reveals the internal Kṛṣṇa.

*dāsatvasya sadācāro
yasya jñāmy asaiṁsayam
tathāpi sa gurur asti
prakāśaḥ paramātmanaḥ*

(8) I know without a doubt that the spiritual master's character is that of a servant; nevertheless I accept him as the manifestation of the Supreme Soul.

*kṛṣṇadāsa-kavirāja-gosvāmi kahilenam
yadyapi āmāra guru-caitanya dāsa
tathāpi jāniye āmi tānhāra prakāśa*

(9) Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja says: “Although I know that my spiritual master is a servitor of Lord Caitanya, I know him also as a plenary manifestation of the Lord.” (C.c. Ādi 1.44)



*guru-paramparā-ṣṭhitam
bhakti-niṣṭham suśāstra-jñam
ity uktam śāstreṣu
jānāhi tam tal-lakṣaṇaiḥ*

(10) Know the spiritual master by the symptoms given in the scriptures. He is in the bona fide disciplic succession; he is fixed in devotional service and displays complete knowledge of the scriptures.

*tas mād guruṁ prapadyeta
jijñāsuḥ śreya uttamam
śabde pare ca niṣṇātaṁ
brahmaṇy upaśamāśrayam*

“Any person who is seriously desirous of achieving perfection must seek out a bona fide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation. The qualification of a spiritual master is that he must have realized the conclusion of the scriptures by deliberation and arguments and thus be able to convince others of these conclusions. Such great personalities who have taken shelter of the Supreme Godhead, leaving aside all material considerations, are to be understood as bona fide spiritual masters.” (Bhāg. 11.3.21)

*premā-bhāṇḍara-grhāt
sa pañca-tattvānugo guruḥ
premoddharati śiṅgham hi
tad-vitarāṇam karoti*

(12) Being a true follower of the Pañca-tattva, my spiritual master takes prema from its storehouse and distributes everywhere.

*kadā guro tava sevām
ananyām eṣiṣyāmy aham
māyayā saha yuddho 'yaṁ
mām klamayaty anāśryaam*

(13) O Gurudeva, when will I desire only your unalloyed service. This battle with the material nature is wearying me, for I have not taken shelter.

*bhavān deva dadātu me
pada-chāyā manā-mayām
tvad anayas triṣu lokaṣu
śaraṇam na bhaved guro*

(14) O lord, please give me the shade of your lotus feet. Other than you, no one can give shelter in these three worlds.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādī-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

We have no qualification to write this eulogy in praise of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda. Nor do we ever expect to be so qualified. Śrīla Prabhupāda is not an ordinary

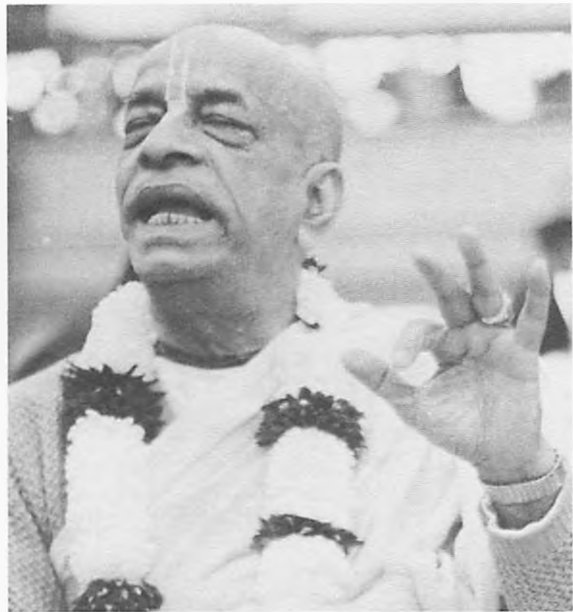
man. Ordinary words fail to convey his transcendental qualities. But we are not deterred in our meager attempt to glorify this great soul. We are sure that such attempts, although doomed to be inadequate, will nevertheless act to purify us. We are in great need of such purification. From the core of our hearts, we thank His Divine Grace for giving us this opportunity to purify ourselves.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is the direct representative of God on earth. He is the external manifestation of the Supreme Lord, and as Kṛṣṇa says: "My dear Uddhava, the spiritual master must be accepted not only as My representative but as My very self. He must never be considered on the same level with an ordinary human being. One should never be envious of the spiritual master, as one may be envious of an ordinary man. The spiritual master should always be seen as the representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and by serving the spiritual master, one is able to serve all the demigods." (*Bhāg.* 11.17.22)

This is not idle praise, but is practically observable in the behavior of Śrīla Prabhupāda. His personality is decorated with all godly qualities. He is never subject to the influence of material nature, nor does he ever fail to control his senses. His mind, body, words and life are all cent per cent engaged in the service of the Lord.

Thus he is one with the Lord in quality. And just as Kṛṣṇa is all good to those who come in contact with Him, similarly Śrīla Prabhupāda's contact purifies even a rascal like me.

Without his blessing no one can make spiritual advancement. If he is displeased, the disciple's whereabouts are unknown. To see his body is the perfection of the eyes. Speaking his praises is the perfection of the voice. Touching his body brings a state of ecstasy. Hearing his voice is the constitution of the ears. We bow to his lotus feet again and again. We wish everyone the opportunity of having his association.



Jayapataka Svāmi
Trivikrama Svāmi
Jananivāsa dāsa
Satadhanya dāsa
Pañkajāṅghri dāsa
Madhusvita dāsa
Tapomaya dāsa
Medhavi dāsa
Sadānanda dāsa
Aprameya dāsa
Sumahat dāsa
Rādhakunḍa dāsa
Yogānanda dāsa
Hiraṇyagarbha dāsa
Vyenkata dāsa
Bhakta Ray
Bhakta Guna
Bhakta Kalipada
Bhakta Śubhabandhu
Anakadundubhi dāsa
Gaṇapati dāsa

Gurukula

Śubhadālaya dāsa
Gaolaya dāsa
Kauraveśvari dāsa

Prabhāva dāsa
Uddhāra dāsa
Nīlāmbara dāsa
Bhakta Ajit
Bhakta Betu
Dvārakādhiśa dāsa
Ekendra dāsa
Bhakta Devsingh
And many others.

Vṇḍāvāna-vihāri-devi dāsi
Svādi-devi dāsi
Kāmadhuk-devi dāsi
Mayūra-devi dāsi
Rāṣṭrapālikā-devi dāsi
Alo Rani
Kṛṣṇa Rani
Manju Rani
Anu
Geeta
Sundari
Suchi Rani
Nityānanda dāsa
Sashi
Amiyābali
Kamala-kṛṣṇa
Priyānātha
Ananta

Mayapura-candrodaya-mandira Traveling Saṅkīrtana Party

*ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāpaṇam
śreyah-kairava-candrikāvitaranam vidyā-vadhūjivanam
ānandāmbudhi-varadhanam pratipadam pūrṇāmṛtāsādanam
sarvātma-snapanam param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam*

“Glory to the *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana*, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death. This *saṅkīrtana* movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.” (*Śikṣāṣṭaka*, 1)

All glories, all glories to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda. By his causeless mercy he is extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence within the hearts of all fallen, conditioned souls who have come forward to receive his mercy. The science of love of God, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, is open to everyone, and His Divine Grace appeared on this day for the purpose of carrying on the divine disciplic succession of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa (*evam paramaparā-prāptam*) and spreading the rays of the benediction moon of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. In this age of Kali, the golden moon has risen over that holy dhāma Śrī Māyāpura. By the mercy of Gaura-

Nitāi, Śrīla Prabhupāda desires to take us back to home, back to Godhead through this process of the *saṅkīrtana* movement: chanting, dancing, feasting on Kṛṣṇa prasāda, and—so very dear to our beloved spiritual master—distribution of his books. By rendering service to him and studying the knowledge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, one may approach Kṛṣṇa. There is no other way to obtain perfection. Therefore, on this most auspicious day we fall at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, in hopes that we, the members of Śrī Māyāpura-Candrodaya-mandira traveling party, may somehow or other help your Divine Grace spread the rays of the benediction moon.

All Glories to Your Divine Grace

—Śrīla Prabhupāda Ki jaya—

Śrī Māyāpura-candrodaya-mandira TSKP]1

Gargamuni Svāmi and men

Śrī Māyāpura-candrodaya-mandira TSKP]2

Bhavānanda Gosvāmi

Sudāmā Gosvāmi

and men



Melbourne

Part I

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā offering-1975.

*Śrīla Prabhupāda, I want to serve you.
To you, I owe my life and soul.
You are Kṛṣṇa's mercy.
You have such strength that the whole universe can be
delivered by your grace.
I choose to take your mercy.*

*Śrīla Prabhupāda, I want to repeat your words.
When I do this, others hear you speaking.
Your power of reason cannot be defeated.
Your love for Kṛṣṇa is what everyone really wants
You boldly challenge the fools of night, but kindly give them a
glimpse of day.*

*Śrīla Prabhupāda,
I choose you.
I choose your love
I choose your mercy.
I choose your knowledge-bearing books.
I want to hear you speak.
I want to serve you.
I want to distribute your mercy (prasāda, chanting, books).*

*Hear, O denizens of Earth!
He knows Kṛṣṇa, Whom you always sought.
He brings the life that Lord Caitanya brought.
He can save you from repeated birth and death.
He can show you life's eternal breath.*

*Taste his mercy!
Read his books!
Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa!*

Part II

Geologists scrutinize the earth. They try to find its order.

Others study water, fire and air.

Theorizing, they put these things to uses of their own design.

Ether, men disclaim, for they can't perceive it, and mind, intelligence, false ego—these are matters “to be discussed.”

However, in one single *Bhagavad-gītā* verse which our Spiritual Master has translated, all of these elements are listed in their factual place as Kṛṣṇa's separated material energies.¹ In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* these things are intricately defined, soaring far beyond the tick-tock lines of mental speculation.² Thus, the wandering guessers are left far behind. In fact, they are thoroughly defined.³

This *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* “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*.”⁴

“This knowledge is the king of education, the most secret of all secrets. It is the purest knowledge, and because it gives direct perception of the self by realization, it is the perfection of religion. It is everlasting, and it is joyfully performed.”⁵

Anyone can speculate about the *Bhagavad-gītā*, but only one great soul has repeated Kṛṣṇa's words as they are, for the present day world. Only one surrendered soul has presented Kṛṣṇa as He is, for you and me. Examine the evidence! Try to appreciate this gift. It is the greatest gift. It is the matchless gift. The gift he has given is eternal.

Try to read our spiritual master's books.⁶ Vyāsa-pūjā is a time to appreciate the spiritual master's glories. He has given us our very life. If you read his books, you can begin to appreciate his glory. He is a pure unalloyed devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa.⁷

“The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire, so the spiritual master extinguishes the blazing fire of material existence, or repeated birth and death. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities.”⁸

—The devotees of ISKCON Melbourne.

1. Bg. 7.4
2. Bhāg. 3.26-27 (all); Bhāg. 2.5.26-29.
3. Bg. 7.15-16
4. Bhāg. 1.3.43.
5. Bg. 9.2.
6. *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*,
Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam,
Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta,
Nectar of Devotion,
Kṛṣṇa the Supreme Personality of Godhead,
Teachings of Lord Caitanya,
Śrī Īsopaniṣad.
7. Bg. 4.2,3,34.
Bg. 9.13,14;
Bg. 10.9;
NOD. page 58;
Cc. Ādi. 1.58;
Bhāg. 1.1.15;
Bhāg. 1.1.22;
Bhāg. 2.8.7.
8. Śrī Gurb-aṣṭakam, 1.



Miami

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā Homage

On the appearance day of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda from his disciples at Miami ISKCON:

Our spiritual master is himself the perfect example of spiritual life because he is always keeping the instructions of his spiritual master in his heart. He has no other concern; therefore, he is never confused but always fixed. He is fulfilling the principal desire of his Guru Mahārāja by enthusiastically printing books, and this effort has amazed the whole world. He has maintained the same attitude of preaching by constantly annihilating the Māyāvāda philosophy, which has kept us locked in a vacuum of ignorance.

In this age of Kali, it is practically impossible to become elevated even to the mode of goodness, not to speak of approaching the platform of purified goodness where the Supreme Person Śrī Kṛṣṇa is reached through discharge of pure devotional service. But our spiritual master is such an expert preacher that simply by reading his books

anyone can become transformed and destined to become a devotee of Kṛṣṇa. In fact, we do not find anyone in history who has salvaged such fallen and wretched persons from their race to hell as our spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Therefore, let us all take advantage of this blessed day to offer our most humble and grateful obeisances at his lotus feet.

I am most fortunate to have come in contact with such a glorious personality as Śrīla Prabhupāda and I feel very obligated to his eternal service even though I am impurely discharging it. And this above everything else is bringing great pain to my heart. Therefore, let me fall down again and again at the lotus feet of Lord Nityānanda and Lord Caitanya, praying to them to give me the benediction that somehow or another I might satisfy Śrīla Prabhupāda with my paltry attempts at devotional service; then my life will be complete.

Miami ISKCON

Abhirāma dāsa adhikāri
Narahari dāsa brahmacāri
Rāghava dāsa brahmacāri
Sulocana dāsa brahmacāri
Śrīman Paṇḍita dāsa brahmacāri
Dharma dāsa brahmacāri
Rādhā-Gopinātha dāsa adhikāri
Sṛñjaya dāsa adhikāri
Tahohara dāsa adhikāri
Caitanya-jivana dāsa brahmacāri
Nandanācārya dāsa brahmacāri
Īśa dāsa brahmacāri
Janārdana dāsa brahmacāri

Jagatratā dāsa brahmacāri
Raghunātha dāsa brahmacāri
Trimalla Bhaṭṭa dāsa adhikāri
Luṅga-gaṇeśa dāsa adhikāri
Rāma dāsa brahmacāri
Bhakta Alan
Bhakta Rick
Bhakta Tim
Bhakta Wayne
Bhakta Andy
Bhakta Gary
Bhakta Mike
Bhakta Sunil
Bhakta George
Bhakta Chris

Bhakta Jim
Bhakta Alfonso
Bhakta Lance
Bhakta Ched

Śrutirūpā-devī dāśī
Sulocana-devī dāśī
Nartaka-gopāla dāśī
Vṛndā-devī dāśī
Devadhiti-devī dāśī
Mantriṇī-devī dāśī
Akāñcanī-devī dāśī
Bhaktin Holly
Bhaktin Bernadett
Bhaktin Sandy

Bhaktin Marsha
Bhaktin Tony
Bhaktin Donna
Bhaktin Bonnie
Bhaktin Kay
Bhaktin Peggy
Bhaktin Maria

Pūrṇimā-devī dāśī
Lakṣmī-devī dāśī
Yamunā-devī dāśī
Kṛṣṇaprema dāsa
Mañjari-devī dāśī
Candra-devī dāśī
Julie

Montreal

Lord Kṛṣṇa explains how rare a soul it is who takes to the loving devotional service of the Lord and achieves His lotus feet. How rare it is indeed, and how fortunate we are to have received the association, service and mercy of such a pure and steadfast devotee of Kṛṣṇa as Your Divine Grace, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Weak and devoid of intelligence, there was no brightness in our future; only sure death awaited us. But now our path of uncertainty has been altered by the pure words flowing from your lotus mouth. Hindering doubts are being vanquished one after another by your deep sastric intelligence and devotional enthusiasm. No more will we be tricked by pseudo-religionists, philosophers or material scientists.

How your incomparable gift of pure service to Lord Kṛṣṇa in the method of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu came to our doorstep we may never know, but let us fullheartedly try to take up the mercy you are bestowing with the same steadiness and eagerness that you unflinchingly exhibit. Please give us the strength to remain pure in our motives, sincere in our vows and always fully and enthusiastically engaged in serving your every desire. Such pure determination and strength can only come from you, the dearmost servant of Kṛṣṇa, the protector of all surrendered souls. Out of your unlimited compassion, you are tolerating all our shortcomings and urging us all to invest more and more energy into Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement to benedict all suffering humanity. Our only prayer, dearmost Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that you kindly never reject us from the shade of your magnanimous lotus feet, which are the shelter for so many. Without your mercy, we are nothing and surely would again die. Our unending respectful obiesances unto Your Divine Grace. You are the only means to Kṛṣṇa.

All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! ISKCON Montreal

Śivarāma dāsa brahmacārī	Māyāpura-śaśī dāsa adbhikārī	Vārūṇaī-devī dāśī
Śukra dāsa brahmacārī	Lee Prabhu	Sarvamayī-devī dāśī
Bhartṛhari dāsa brahmacārī	Luc Prabhu	Judy Prabhu
Priyabhakta dāsa brahmacārī		Mahāprabhu Patricia Prabhu
Priyabandhu dāsa brahmacārī	Mīraṇī-devī dāśī	
Keśīśatru dāsa brahmacārī	Lalitā-devī dāśī	Mitravindā
Puṣkarākṣa dāsa brahmacārī	Medhyā-devī dāśī	Sanātana
Bhakta Arthur	Copikā-devī dāśī	Mahāprabhu
Bhakta Alain	Bhaktin Elizabeth	
Bhakta Bevin	Bhaktin Joyce	Special Friends: Samir Choudhury
Śrīpati dāsa adbhikārī	Bhaktin Louise	Gururaja
Rūpa-vilāsa dāsa adbhikārī	Urvaśī-devī dāśī	Thirmal and Ambika Bhat



Nairobi

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā Offering

Dear very revered and most merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are dead without you, without your grace. All our joy is simply due to your mercy. You are the lord and master of us, your devotees. Please enliven us with just one drop of your mercy so that we can glorify you.

You have so mercifully drawn us from the pursuit of fake ecstasy; you have shown us that the false rapture we were seeking in dark filthy places is simply nothing. Real joy, real bliss, is open and free. Your disciples are experiencing this in towns and villages, halls and fields, roads and wooded paths all over the world. All glories to *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana*, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years together.

Dry logicians and scientists, false religionists and teachers waste their lives and those of their follower over a glimmering of understanding of a spark of the splendor of the Supreme Person. They cannot approach Him because only by loving devotional service is He to be known as He is. This is the science and the logic that you teach. You are His most confidential servitor, and as such you are worthy of all honor. Dear master, please bless us so that we can come alive to the urgency of life, the imminence of death and the all-embracing necessity for loving service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, there is no love in the material world. We have searched and searched, distorting our minds and defiling our bodies, seeking the pure experience. There was nothing so pure or so absorbing that it could help us to

forget the anxieties of birth, death, old age and disease. We were so uneasy before we met your mercy, and so puffed up, thinking that we had found happiness. You are so kind that you have given us the supremely lovable object, Kṛṣṇa, but you haven't asked us for anything in return. As a result we are obliged to try to give you everything—our bodies, our senses, our minds and our hearts.

You worship Govinda, the Primeval Lord, who is adept in playing His flute, with blooming eyes like lotus petals, His head decked with peacock's feather, with the figure of beauty tinged with the hue of blue clouds, and His unique loveliness charming millions of cupids. The form of Kṛṣṇa is not a fanciful creation of imagination formed after visualizing the beautiful things of the world. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are so pure in your desire to take us all back home, back to Godhead, that you have not held anything back from us. The substance of your ecstatic love for your spiritual master is not private. You have revealed it for us all to benefit eternally.

Please give us your mercy so that we can come alive for you and strive to push forward this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, as you are striving to push it forward and benedict all the conditioned souls. Your spiritual master, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmi Mahārāja, used to pace up and down in his room like a caged lion, as he tried to think how he could push on this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and please his

spiritual master. Please, please give us your mercy so that we can come alive—for Kṛṣṇa. There is nothing to live for—nothing to live for except to receive your mercy, and to spread it to all.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, in this African Yātrā we feel that we are on the brink of a spiritual revolution. By the distribution of your transcendental literature, by the distribution of *bhagavat-prasāda* and by the ecstatic chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, countless thousands will be purified and benedicted. By your grace we can set up Gurukulas and *varṇāśrama* colleges to educate thousands in *bhāgavata-dharma*, the supreme science, the practical realization of ecstatic love of God. By your mercy we can set up *varṇāśrama* to their natural propensities. The land is here, the people are here, and the knowledge you have given us is here. We meditate on the determination with which you set the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement moving in the Western world. When no one was prepared to accept your transcendental message, the transcendental vibrations from your lotus mouth, still you remained constant in your endeavor to fulfill the desires of your spiritual master.

You are a pure devotee, the outward manifestation of the Supersoul, the teacher by example for this fallen, quarrelsome age and the appointed guide to take us back home. We came to you poisoned with intoxicants; we abused you; we made you serve and wash our plates; we mistreated you in so many ways, but still you befriended us, loved us and preached to us until you dropped from exhaustion.

Dear lord and master, please, please give us a fraction of your faith, determination, enthusiasm and devotion. We will set this whole African continent ablaze with ecstatic love and devotion for Kṛṣṇa.

You have given us so much. We can never repay you in countless lifetimes. We are so fallen and poor in understanding that we can never

glorify you or thank you sufficiently. Yet you are pleased to love us as individuals and to accept our efforts to please you.

śrī-guru-karūṇā-sindhu, please let us drown in your fathomless sweet mercy. This material body is a lump of ignorance, and the senses are a network of paths leading unto death. Dear Prabhupāda, as a result of countless lifetimes of actions in passion and ignorance we have inherited death. We have only your mercy to enliven us, only your mercy to sustain us and only your mercy to look forward to. Please, please accept our slight service, and let us live in the ocean of your mercy.

We, your fallen servants, are very much begrudging in our appreciation. Still, everyday we are dancing triumphantly and joyfully singing and chanting your praises. Without you, we are simply helpless children. Please give us the shade of your lotus feet.

ISKCON Nairobi

Chāyavana dāsa Gosvāmi

Śarma dāsa brahmacārī
Hāsyānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Jalakāra dāsa brahmacārī
Caitya-guru dāsa brahmacārī
Rāsānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Mahākratu dāsa brahmacārī
Mahābhujā dāsa brahmacārī
Ajāmila dāsa brahmacārī
Nirāgadeva dāsa brahmacārī

Jñāna dāsa adhikārī, Līlāvati-devī dāsi

Bhakta Lucas
Bhakta Seom
Yogīśa dāsa adhikārī

Sarva-vit dāsa brahmacārī

Daṇḍa dāsa

Bhakta Justin

Bhakta Abraham

Bhakta Sebastian

Bhakta James

Bhakta Peter

Bhakta Juma

Bhakta Alphonso

Bhakta Kimani

Bhakta Paskali

Bhakta Nyaburu

Bhakta Obamba

Śuci-devī dāsi

Yāśasvinī-devī dāsi

Pārvatī-devī dāsi

Śaktimati-devī dāsi

ISKCON Mombasa

Dinanātha dāsa brahmacārī

Nava-yogendra dāsa brahmacārī

Rkṣarāja dāsa brahmacārī

Padmalocana dāsa brahmacārī

Caraṇāravinda dāsa brahmacārī

Tribhaṅgānanda dāsa brahmacārī

Hetu dāsa adbhikārī, Vana-devī dāsi

Bhakta Joseph

Bhakta Mwangi

Bhaktin Monica

Bhaktin Pauline

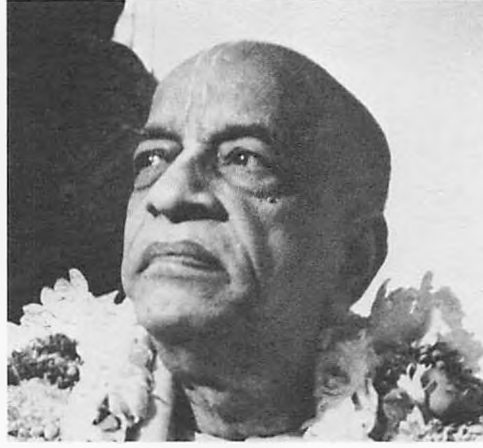
Bhaktin Wanjiku

Bhaktin Njeri

Bhaktin Mary



Nāma-haṭṭa — Tokyo



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

I offer my respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of my spiritual master, by whose mercy a dumb man can speak and a lame man can cross over a mountain.

On this auspicious day let us offer our prostrated obeisances at the lotus feet of our dear spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We can only pray to take firm shelter at the lotus feet of our spiritual preceptor for he can protect us from māyā's *glamor* and deliver us Kṛṣṇa's favor.

We can only hope to be able to serve the lotus feet of our spiritual master birth after birth, life after life that's all we desire: simply to serve.

O Prabhupāda,
Give us shelter under your lotus feet
which can save us from constant material defeat
let's make them our only safe retreat.

Gurukṛpā Svāmī
Yaśodānandana Svāmī

Varṁśidharī dāsa brahmacārī
Varṁśivadana dāsa brahmacārī
Yajñapati dāsa brahmacārī
Bhāna Bhaṭṭa dāsa brahmacārī
Puṇḍarika dāsa brahmacārī
Kṛtāgama dāsa brahmacārī
Māyāpura dāsa brahmacārī
Nadiyā dāsa brahmacārī
Dhanyavāda dāsa brahmacārī
Bhānu dāsa brahmacārī
Mathurā-mohana dāsa brahmacārī
Śrī-caraṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Bhoktā dāsa brahmacārī
Loka-śāraṇya dāsa brahmacārī
Hemāṅga dāsa brahmacārī
Mahāsaumya dāsa brahmacārī
Jaya dāsa brahmacārī
Bhuvaneśvara dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Ryan

Satyadeva dāsa adbhikārī
Sadānanda dāsa adbhikārī

New Dvārakā



With no knowledge of the science of God (Kṛṣṇa consciousness) one falsely concludes that the world is for the pleasure of the living entities. Because of this ignorance he may try to adjust the various situations of his life by fruitive activities, thinking that the resultant actions will make him happy. Caught up in these different profit calculations he cannot see that no situation within this world can supply life without miseries. The obvious miseries of life, namely birth,

death, old age, and disease, are invariably present anywhere and everywhere in the material world. Furthermore, according to the *Bhagavad-gītā*, a person not sufficiently exhausted by one life of futile grasping for material pleasures is faced with a more engulfing future:

*dehino 'smin yathā dehe
kaumāraṁ yauvanam jarā*



*tathā dehāntara-prāptir
dhīras tatra na muhyati*

"As the embodied soul continually passes in this body from boyhood to youth to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body at death." (Bg. 2.13) Riding on this insatiable desire to enjoy material things we are actually rotating through different bodies and species of life, hopelessly sampling the myriad of pleasures offered by each. Hankering to have one pleasure and lamenting for having lost another, we are helplessly lured up and down the evolutionary scale. Hope after hope, entanglement after entanglement, life after life, and worst of all, never asking the most obvious question, "Why?"... It is into this literal holocaust that the pure devotee has voluntarily descended.

Only the pure devotee is conspicuously free and uncontaminated by the desires of this material world, yet he walks among us relatively unknown. A drowning man, distracted by his struggle for life, may sometimes avoid his rescuer; and similarly we have avoided him, the pure one. Fortunately, kindness such as his cannot go unnoticed for long. It is only a matter of time before his identity as *jagat-guru*, or the one who can save the whole world, will dawn upon us.

Appropriately, on this blessed day, *Vyāsa-Pūjā Tīthi*, the anniversary of his appearance in this world, we, the members of the New Dvārakā Community of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, would like to submit for the benefit of all living beings the following points concerning the factual identity of our beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

The true representative of God is mercifully present before us. However, without some identifying qualifications it will be difficult to separate his sovereign position from the score of mas-

querading pretenders who invariably congregate around the fame and fortune of spiritual life. To avoid an unwanted maze of confusing choices, a decisive criterion; i.e., "*guru, śāstra, and sādhu*" is necessary. This is the welcome set of checks and balances which invariably establishes true spiritual fact. Any claim in actual spiritual circles is subject to the unanimous favor of these three. It is for this reason that bogus spiritual masters make a practice of avoiding strict adherence to the predecessor spiritual masters (*guru*), the Vedic scriptures (*śāstra*), and all great saints and saintly persons (*sādhu*).

Standing out quite clearly above the bogus claims, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda comes in an unbroken chain of spiritual masters:

*evam paramparā-prāptam
īman rājarāyo viduḥ*

"This supreme science was thus received through the chain of disciplic succession, and the saintly kings understood it in that way." (Bg. 4.2) This disciplic succession, known as the powerful *Brahmā-Mādhva-Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Sampradāya*, transcends all barriers of time and goes back, unbroken, to the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself. Thus the standard of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is met:

*śrī bhagavān uvāca
jñānam parama-guhyam me
yad vijñāna-samānitam
sa-rahasyam tad-aṅgam ca
grhāṇa-gāḍitam mayā*

"The Personality of Godhead said: 'Knowledge about Me as described in the scriptures is very confidential, and it has to be realized in conjunction with devotional service. The necessary

paraphernalia for that process is being explained by Me. You may take it up carefully.’” (*Bhāg.* 2.9.31) Each spiritual master in this succession was carefully trained by his predecessor and given the spotless knowledge of God with specific instructions: “It must be preserved so carefully that if even one word is out of place the whole message may be contaminated.” The chain has been unmarred now for over 5,000 years and is today in the hands of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda having been passed to Him by His spiritual master Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda.

Secondly, Śrīla Prabhupāda’s every word is in perfect accordance with the vast library of Vedic literatures. The *Vedas* are the oldest, largest and most complete scriptures on earth.

*śruti-smṛti-purāṇādi-
pañcarātra-vidhiṃ vinā
aikāntikī harer bhaktir
utpātāyaiva kalpate*

“Devotional service of the Lord that ignores the Vedic literatures like the *Upaniṣads*, *Purāṇas*, *Nārada Pañcarātra*, etc., is simply an unnecessary disturbance in society.” (*Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu*). These Vedic masterpieces foster all truths in all factual scriptures and include in depth knowledge on aspects of life ranging from simple diet to the intricacies of creation itself.

*vedaiś ca sarvair aham eva vedyo
vedānta-keṇ veda-vid eva cāham
(Bg. 15.15)*

Having been compiled by the Supreme Lord in His literary incarnation as Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana

Vyāsa, the *Vedas* are considered an incarnation of Godhead. Śrīla Prabhupāda’s every word can be checked against the Vedic *śāstras* and found to be strictly undeviating.

So *guru*, *śāstra*, and lastly now *sādhu* all direct in precisely the same way. There will never be any contradiction found in these three sources. In the Tenth Chapter of *Bhagavad-gītā* Arjuna claims that: “All the great sages such as Nārada, Asita, Devala and Vyāsa” confirm the truth of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The revered six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana are praised:

*ei chaya gosāñi yāra, mui tāra dāsa
tāñ-sabāra pada-reṇu mora pañca-grāsa*

“I am a servant of these six Gosvāmīs. The dust from their lotus feet are my five kinds of food.” (Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura). These six Gosvāmīs, who are still proclaimed as the greatest scholars of modern history, unanimously conclude Kṛṣṇa’s supremacy in their writings such as *Haribhakti-vilāsa*, *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu*, and the *Ṣaḍ-sandharbhas*, etc. Kṛṣṇa consciousness is further emphasized by the mercy incarnation of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Himself:

*ataeva āmi ājñā diluṇ sabākāre
yāhāñ tāhāñ prema-phala deha’ yāre tāre*

“I order every man within this universe to accept this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and distribute it everywhere.” (Cc. *Ādi*, 9.36). His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda’s teachings and exemplary actions, unlike the score of other so-called *gurus*, do not vary from this absolute standard.

Nor will they ever vary, either from *guru*, from *śāstra*, or from *sādhu*. Each factor in this threefold



proof acts to check the other two, and vice-versa, so that no flaw can possibly slip by. This is the final security lock on the air-tight nature of the Absolute Truth. In matters of this importance, it is better, of course, to be safe than sorry. One may take iron for gold if he does not know the qualities of gold. Similarly, one may accept a false pretender for the real *guru* if he does not know the true test of a bona fide spiritual master. Śrīla Prabhupāda is evidence of all these Vedic truths and in His writings He has left Himself completely available for the objective analysis of both aspirant devotee and ruthless skeptic. Due to these points and many others, we are strict

and undeviating in one-pointed praise of our worthy preceptor. He alone is worthy of the title "Ācāryadeva"! Our glorification of him may climax again and again but it will never be sufficient. Still we beg that if anyone is able to duplicate his above mentioned qualifications, please, at this time, make yourself known. Otherwise be quick in admitting your dire predicament, express your utter need for receiving his mercy, and give up all other motives for existing, humbly surrendering yourself at the holy lotus feet of His Divine Grace Śrī Śrīmad A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Mahārāja Prabhupāda, *jagat-guru*, spiritual master of the entire universe!

Brahmacārīs

Adhi deva dāsa
 Ahovala Nṛsimha dāsa
 Ameyātmā dāsa
 Arcita dāsa
 Bhārgava dāsa
 Bhava dāsa
 Bhūtavhṛt dāsa
 Bill
 Bopadeva dāsa
 Cakradhara dāsa
 Chitraka dāsa
 Dan
 David
 Devāmṛta dāsa
 Dharmakṣetra dāsa
 Draviḍa dāsa
 Eddy
 Gadāgraja dāsa
 Gajapati dāsa
 Gilbert
 Gopavṛndāpāla dāsa
 Gopavṛndeśa dāsa
 Gopiparāṇadhana dāsa
 Gregory
 Harer nāma dāsa
 Harikeśa dāsa
 Hāsyapriya dāsa
 Indradeva dāsa
 Jagannātha dāsa
 Jamie
 James
 Jayādvaita dāsa
 Jayaśacinandana dāsa
 Jim
 Jitamṛtyu dāsa
 Jitavrata dāsa
 Jose
 Kṛṣṇa Kānti dāsa

Larry

Lokanātha Gosvāmī dāsa
 Luis
 Mādhava dāsa
 Mahāvīrya dāsa
 Maheśvara dāsa
 Maṅgalānanda dāsa
 Matsya dāsa
 Michael
 Micky
 Mihialis
 Pavamāna dāsa
 Peter
 Prabhu dāsa
 Pūjana dāsa
 Puṇḍrika dāsa
 Rabīndranātha dāsa
 Rādhāballabha dāsa
 Rakṣana dāsa
 Rāmeśvara dāsa
 Santoṣa dāsa
 Sārvabhauma dāsa
 Śrīkānta dāsa
 Surānanda dāsa
 Terry
 Tulasī dāsa
 Uśika dāsa
 Vaiyāsaki dāsa
 Vilāsa Vighraha dāsa
 Yamarāja dāsa
 Brahmacārīnīs
 Bhava devī dāśī
 Caturā devī dāśī
 Dikṣāvati devī dāśī
 Donna

Dorrie

Duḥkahantrī devī dāśī
 Gaurī devī dāśī
 Goloka-vāsī devī dāśī
 Jadurāṇī devī dāśī
 Karen
 Kuśala devī dāśī
 Labaṅgalatika devī dāśī
 Lalitācāra devī dāśī
 Lakṣmīpati devī dāśī
 Mādhavī devī dāśī
 Madonna
 Omkāra devī dāśī
 Padmāhāra devī dāśī
 Ragātmikā devī dāśī
 Sitā devī dāśī
 Surāsa devī dāśī
 Terry
 Vṛndāvana Vilāsinī devī dāśī

Householders

Acyuta dāsa, Śyāma devī dāśī—Premānanda devī dāśī
 Agni deva dāsa, Balāi devī dāśī—Nandini devī dāśī
 Bharadrāja dāsa, Rukmiṇī devī dāśī
 Vīra Kṛṣṇa dāsa, Bhūvana Pāvini devī dāśī
 Vīra Rāghava dāsa
 Brahmarūpa dāsa, Nirkula devī dāśī
 Brahmovitta dāsa, Payasvinī devī dāśī—Bhakta dāsa, Vṛndā dāśī
 Caitanya Simha dāsa, Racitāmbāra devī dāśī—
 Jaya Rādhe devī dāśī
 Dāmodara dāsa, Mṛganetrī devī dāśī—Gulāba devī dāśī
 Dāruka dāsa, Vṛṣṇī devī dāśī

Deva deva dāsa, Tuṅgabhadra devī dāsī
 Dharmadhyakṣa dāsa, Rasāṅgī devī dāsī—Kṛṣṇa
 Caitanya dāsa
 Hayagrīva dāsa
 Jagannātha Suta dāsa, Naradevī dāsī—Kuntī
 devī dāsī
 Jayarāma dāsa, Śāstra-mayī devī dāsī
 Jayatīrtha dāsa, Mañjula devī dāsī
 Kālacandra dāsa, Mohanasinī devī dāsī
 Karuṇāsindhu dāsa, Sarala devī dāsī—Anaṅga
 devī dāsī
 Kīrtirāja dāsa, Haripūjā devī dāsī—Rāgalekhā
 devī dāsī
 Kṣetrajña dāsa, Mīna devī dāsī
 Kuvera dāsa, Revatī devī dāsī—Govinda dāsī,
 Kṛṣṇa-nandana dāsa
 Lāla Kṛṣṇa dāsa, Pārvatī devī dāsī—Lilā dāsī,
 Chandravālī dāsī, Dvārkaḍīśa dāsa
 Locana dāsa, Kṛṣṇa Vilāsini devī dāsī—Ratha
 dāsī
 Madana Mohan dāsa, Vṛndāvanēśvarī devī dāsī
 Madhukaṇṭha dāsa, Karlapatī devī dāsī
 Madhusūdana dāsa, Kañcanbala devī dāsī
 Mahājana dāsa, Śaraṇāgata devī dāsī—Haraḥ
 devī dāsī
 Manya dāsa, Lynda—Garuḍa dāsa, Nimāi dāsa
 Milhildhīśa dāsa, Rasamañjari devī dāsī—Maṇ-
 ḍalibhadra dāsa
 Muralīvadana dāsa, Koumadakī devī dāsī
 Navadvīpa dāsa, Varāṇasī devī dāsī—
 Chandrakāntī devī dāsī
 Nanda Kīśora dāsa, Jāhnavā devī dāsī
 Nara-Nārāyaṇa dāsa, Nīscintya devī dāsī—
 Śakuntalā devī dāsī
 Nitāi dāsa
 Parīkṣit dāsa, Bhadra devī dāsī—Tulsyānanda
 dāsa, Kṛṣṇa Prema dāsa
 Parvata Muni, Nikuñjāvāsini dāsī—Sāmba dāsa
 Prajāpati dāsa, Satarūpa devī dāsī—Sadānanda
 dāsa, Śrīmad Bhāgavatam dāsa

Puru dāsa, Jambavatī devī dāsī
 Rāmalāla dāsa, Champaka devī dāsī
 Raṇadhīra dāsa, Sandinī devī dāsī—Rādhāṣṭmaī
 devī dāsī
 Robin and Lisa
 Rṣabha deva dāsa, Kunkum devī dāsī—Vai-
 jayanti devī dāsī
 Sauśīliya dāsa, Danta devī dāsī
 Siddheśvara dāsa, Lakṣmīpriyā devī dāsī—Kuntī
 devī dāsī
 Śrutaśrava dāsa, Prayāga devī dāsī—Ranjita
 dāsa, Viṣṇupriyā devī dāsī
 Stoka Kṛṣṇa dāsa, Sahā devī dāsī—Bhāgavata
 dāsa, Nitāi dāsa
 Svarūpa dāsa, Kāṅka devī dāsī—Kṛṣṇa Kumāra
 dāsa
 Tīatārthī dāsa, Jagaurinī devī dāsī—Subāla dāsa
 Tradhīśa dāsa, Nagapatnī devī dāsī—Jan-
 māṣṭamī, Dharmapatnī devī dāsī
 Vṛndāvana Candra dāsa, Vidarbha Kanyā devī
 dāsī—Nimāi Candra dāsa
 Yadubara dāsa, Viśākhā devī dāsī
 Yugala Kīśora dāsa, Kīrtimati devī dāsī—Yadu-
 nandana dāsa
 Braja badu devī dāsī
 Karuṇāmayī devī dāsa and Dāsa
 Karuṇāmayī devī dāsī and Yamala dāsa, Arjuna
 dāsa
 Kīrtidā Kāmyakā devī dāsī and Nimāi dāsa
 Kṛṣṇalaulyā devī dāsī and Subhadra dāsī
 Mamatā devī dāsī
 Monmohinī devī dāsī and Nimāi devī dāsī
 Phalini devī dāsī and Kṛṣṇa dāsa
 Rādhābhāvanī devī dāsī and Mālikā devī dāsī
 Śacī devī dāsī and Bhakti-rūpa dāsa, Kīrtana-
 rasa dāsa
 Śāṭhī devī dāsī and Bhadrāsena dāsa
 Śatadarī devī dāsī
 Ujjala devī dāsī and Gopāla Bhaṭṭa dāsa
 Vilāsini devī dāsī

New Gokula (Vancouver-Bridgesville)



Our repeated obeisances are paid unto the lotus feet of our spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who has so mercifully allowed us to engage in the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana, and who has freed us from the mire of material existence. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we bathe your lotus feet with our tears of gratitude, and we anoint our bowed heads with the dust of your lotus feet.

*jivāñchavo bhāgavatāṅghri-remuṇā na jātu
martyo 'bhilabheta yas tu*

"The person who has not at any time received the dust of the feet of a pure devotee of the Lord

upon his head is certainly a dead body." (Bhāg. 2.3.23)

You have told us here at New Gokula:

*mātrā-sparśās tu kaunteya
śītoṣṇa-sukha-duḥkha-dāḥ
āgamāpāyino 'nityās
tāms titikṣasva bhārata*

"O son of Kunti, the nonpermanent appearance of happiness and distress, and their disappearance in due course, are like the appearance and disappearance of winter and summer seasons. They arise from sense perception, O

scion of Bharata, and one must learn to tolerate them without being disturbed.”

The words emanating from your lotus mouth, and your gift to us—Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana—have given us the strength to carry out our first winter at New Gokula. May your lotus feet be our only attachment past the moment of death into eternal time. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your words are the light of the sun which dispels the darkness of ignorance. We are so fortunate to have been allowed to step into the light of your mercy. We beg the Lord, Hṛṣikeśa, that we may never deviate from the mercy of your instruc-

tions. We beg the Lord that our offenses shall not drive us away from the service of your lotus feet.

You have taught us to worship Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Madana-mohana and to worship the cow. We are offering liquid religiosity to the Supreme Lord and we are seeing the earth become sanctified by your mercy. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray that our service will attract others to take shelter of your lotus feet.

All glories unto you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, from the devotees of New Gokula.

Bahudak dāsa adbhikāri
Bāla Kṛṣṇa dāsa adbhikāri
Janisphā dāsa adbhikāri
Jñānagamyā dāsa brahmacāri
Kāla dāsa adbhikāri
Kutichak dāsa adbhikāri
Mahidhara dāsa adbhikāri
Pārtha dāsa adbhikāri
Prabhupāda dāsa adbhikāri
Rocana dāsa adbhikāri
Prasasya dāsa adbhikāri
Adhi-yajña dāsa brahmacāri
Dadhi-hartā dāsa brahmacāri
Dakṣiṇa dāsa brahmacāri
Gaṇapati dāsa brahmacāri
Kalki dāsa brahmacāri
Kṛpānidhi dāsa brahmacāri
Maheśa dāsa brahmacāri
Mathurā dāsa brahmacāri
Padmapāṇi dāsa brahmacāri
Paśupati dāsa brahmacāri
Patraka dāsa brahmacāri
Puṇya-kīrti dāsa brahmacāri
Rameṣṭha dāsa brahmacāri

Rohita dāsa brahmacāri
Svapanna dāsa brahmacāri
Bhakta Peter
Bhakta Dennis
Bhakta Danny
Bhakta Jim
Bhakta Gordon
Bhakta Stephen
Bhakta Harry
Bhagavati-devi dāsi
Lilāmañjari-devi dāsi
Kṛṣṇakumārī-devi dāsi
Madhumati-devi dāsi
Padyāvali-devi dāsi
Pracetanā-devi dāsi
Ratirūpa-devi dāsi
Subhavrata-devi dāsi
Sunana-devi dāsi
Svahana-devi dāsi
Uttama-devi dāsi
Yaśomati-devi dāsi
Bhaktin Margrette
Bhaktin Marianne
Bhaktin Carol

Bhaktin Paula
Dhārīṇī-devi dāsi
Gitā-devi dāsi
Jayabhadra-devi dāsi
Kamalākṣi-devi dāsi
Klamahāra-devi dāsi
Lelihāna-devi dāsi
Lola-devi dāsi
Mahojjala-devi dāsi
Rudrāṇī-devi dāsi
Bhaktin Alice
Bhakta dāsa
Varāha dāsa
Bhakta Jason
Aruṇati-devi dāsi
Kuñjabihārī dāsa
Narottama dāsa
Nītāi-Gaurāṅga dāsa
Candrahāsa-devi dāsi
Devaki-devi dāsi
Janaki-devi dāsi
Lalitā-devi dāsi
Rasādi-vilāsi-devi dāsi
Bhaktin Jessie

New Orleans

Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda,

To completely appreciate your transcendental glories is possible only by a devotee whose devotional service to Kṛṣṇa is perfectly mature. We are just fledgling neophytes taking up your instructions on how to go back to home, back to Godhead and therefore we are feeling frustrated by our inability to properly praise our spiritual master. But one thing we are always careful to remember—that all our happiness and advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is due to your causeless mercy and kindness only. The *Vedas* state that by the mercy of the *guru* one achieves Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and we are able to appreciate Your Divine Grace in this way.

At your New Orleans center we have worked hard to please and glorify our eternal master, Your Divine Grace. Just as Nityānanda Prabhu thought that if He could deliver the most fallen souls Jagāi and Mādhāi, Lord Caitanya would be more glorified, we are thinking that whatever we accomplish will be to your glory. Factually all our progress to push on this movement for the highest welfare of humanity is simply due to your spiritual potency and superexcellent devotion to the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

This year, you have purchased a wonderful farm near this temple and you have established a cow protection program, with crops on all the fields. At this center you have brought a dozen more souls to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, making devotees out of meat eaters. Here, you have installed white marble Gaura-Nitāi Deities, who are enthusing all the assembled devotees to chant and dance the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra* in ecstasy. And you have expressed interest to visit us meager disciples soon.

All this and the continuation of our advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness attests to your transcendental greatness.

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Nityānanda dāsa
Vimala dāsa
Vṛkodara dāsa
Cārurūpa dāsa
Yogendra Vandana dāsa
Jvarājita dāsa
Dvibhuja dāsa
Rajendra dāsa
Madhvācārya dāsa
Cirañjīva dāsa
Ameyātmā dāsa
Īśana dāsa
Tony
Tom
Paul
Vic
Mahendranātha dāsa
Munirāja dāsa
Lee
Śānti-devī dāśī
Kanyā-kumārī-devī dāśī
Maṅgalā-devī dāśī
Bhaktilatā-devī dāśī
Madhumati-devī dāśī
Sanātani-devī dāśī
Katie
Caraṇa-devī dāśī
Rājanātha dāsa
Rasaparāyaṇī-devī dāśī
Virendra dāsa
Barbara
Sarasvatī
Āryan
Vibhāvati
Jim
Hamsinī-devī dāśī

New Vṛndāvana

Vyāsa-Pūjā Homage

“Our Spiritual Master is the Ocean of Mercy, the friend of the poor, the Lord and Master of the devotees. Oh Master, be merciful unto me. Give me the shade of Your Lotus Feet. Your fame is spread all over the three worlds.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

No one can estimate the extent of your mercy. The spiritual master is the incarnation of Kṛṣṇa's mercy and Kṛṣṇa Himself cannot measure His own potency since it is always increasing. Your kindness upon us is always increasing, for you turn no one away. Accepting nothing for yourself, you are always striving in so many ways to entice and inspire, somehow awaken our desire to give more to Kṛṣṇa.

It is said that the test of a great mind is to be able to hold two opposing ideas which are generally taken to be opposite: idealism and practicality. You are distributing, by the grace of Lord Caitanya, the supremely pure gift of love of God. In your books you have intricately described the symptoms of the pure devotees blessed with such love. All this is far beyond our experience. Yet, you do not leave us to daydream or lament, speculate or concoct. But for each one of us you have left concrete instruction, minute for minute outlines for molding our lives.

We have all come without qualification. Still, you have engaged us, given us service. In the material world, they've run out of jobs. But there is no unemployment in ISKCON.

We were all born with no sense of duty. Lower than *sūdras*, disrespecting everyone—we unbroken dogs, we could only make noise and fight. But you have given us responsibility, put trust in us. Now we have to try to repay you for your confidence.

Devoid of all good qualities, we approached you for the wrong reasons. But you have given us

the right means of approach. So we must become humble.

Ignorant of the goal of life, we searched in darkness. Out of compassion, you told us of Kṛṣṇa. We must utilize this knowledge.

By right, you are the proprietor of our lives, though we still try to cheat you. Our way of life, our goal, our happiness—our families, friends and means of sustenance—our work, enjoyment, philosophy and satisfaction, these are all gifts from you. There is nothing left from our old lives except for bad habits. You have purchased us thoroughly.

So here we are assembled, a clan of your disciples, ignorant and irresponsible, untrained and devoid of all saintly qualities—and you have told us to build Vṛndāvana. Who can we approach for help? Again we must address our prayers to you. Please open our ears and soften our hard hearts. Your instructions are all here. From your books and example, by the order of your representative we can know how to serve you.

But we are all hopelessly addicted to *māyā*. Even when trying we cannot surrender. Always subject to illusion, we causelessly neglect your wishes although no one could be so kind as yourself. Still, you have ordered us to become devotees, and that is our hope. As a touchstone changes all to gold, you have the power to purify even us. Our faith is in you—we have only to listen and to live as you tell us to.

The Inmates of New Vṛndāvana

New York



*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vāṇi-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

“By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.” (*Gurv-aṣṭaka*, 8)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

From so many variegated walks of life, we have stumbled to fall at your lotus feet and unabashedly beg your cooling glance and lotus words. Our actual position as conniving rascals, thieves and ungrateful beggars becomes acutely and painfully apparent after even minimum exposure to the glaring torchlight of eternal knowledge, of which you are the profoundly merciful representative. Your causeless, unanticipated shining appearance into the dark night of our lives forces us to wonder at the expertise of your timing. You are our Gurudeva, a dauntless, transcendental hero, bearing the beacon of hope and brandishing *Vedānta*, the sword of truth to slice through the overwhelming nightmare of duality and contradiction of which this material illusion is composed. The witch *Māyā* withdraws in reverence and shame from the illumination of your presence.

“Godhead is light. Nescience is darkness. Where there is Godhead there is no nescience.”

In this humble position, we lay prostrate beneath your lotus feet, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, begging for your unreserved guidance and continued blessings upon our feeble attempts to carry Lord Caitanya's glorious *saṅkīrtana* movement into the minds and hearts of all mankind.

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

Begging to remain your worthless servants,

Ādarśi dāsa brahmacārī
Alaṅkāra dāsa brahmacārī
Añjana dāsa brahmacārī
Anuttama dāsa brahmacārī
Bhadra Sena dāsa brahmacārī
Bhaktivinoda dāsa brahmacārī
Bhṛgupati dāsa brahmacārī
Caturvyūha dāsa brahmacārī
Dāmodara Paṇḍita dāsa brahmacārī
Darpaha dāsa brahmacārī
Devakīnandana dāsa brahmacārī
Gopijana-vallabha dāsa brahmacārī
Indriyeśa dāsa brahmacārī
Kuṇḍali dāsa brahmacārī
Kīrtideva dāsa brahmacārī
Pañcaratna dāsa brahmacārī
Pañkajanābha dāsa brahmacārī
Paramārādhya dāsa brahmacārī
Pravartaka dāsa brahmacārī
Preraka dāsa brahmacārī
Romapāda dāsa brahmacārī
Sadācāra dāsa brahmacārī
Śrīla dāsa brahmacārī
Sunanda dāsa brahmacārī
Tāraka dāsa brahmacārī
Vidyābhūṣaṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Viprahita dāsa brahmacārī
Vipramukhya dāsa brahmacārī
Viṣṇugadā dāsa brahmacārī
Vrajendranandana dāsa brahmacārī
Yogendra dāsa brahmacārī
Billy Prabhu
Bob Prabhu
Bruce Prabhu

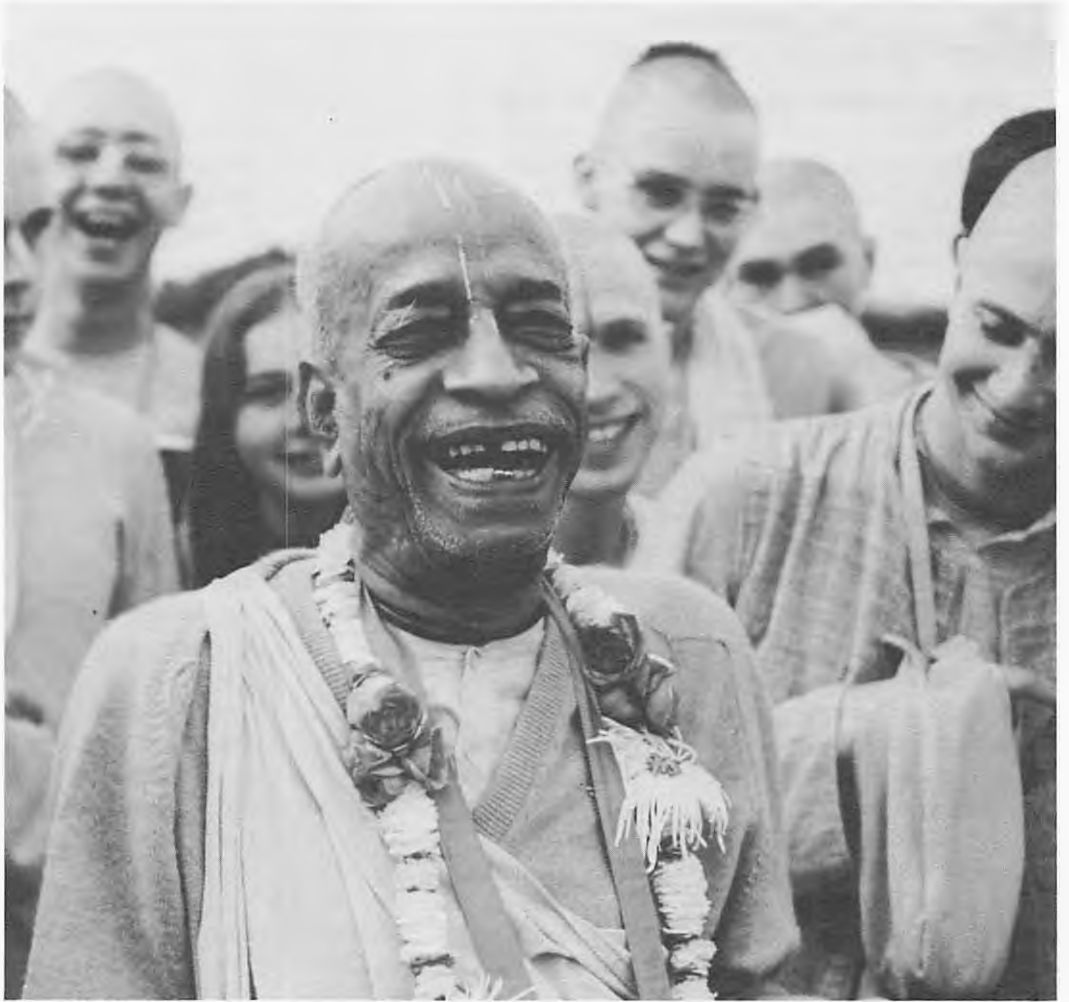
David Prabhu
Donny Prabhu
Frank Prabhu
George Prabhu
Harvey Prabhu
Jimmy Prabhu
Jeff Prabhu
Jeff Prabhu
Jeffrey Prabhu
Joe Prabhu
Joel Prabhu
John A. Prabhu
John L. Prabhu
John M. Prabhu
John W. Prabhu
Kurt Prabhu
Luis Prabhu
Peter Prabhu
Richard Prabhu
Ādipati dāsa adhikārī
Arthur Prabhu
Gaurahari dāsa adhikārī
Janeśvara dāsa adhikārī
Nick Prabhu
Paramānanda dāsa adhikārī
Pratyatoṣa dāsa adhikārī
Ṭhākura Haridāsa dāsa adhikārī
Toṣaṇa Kṛṣṇa dāsa adhikārī
Will Prabhu

Alārka-devī dāsī
Araudrā-devī dāsī
Bhūmi-devī dāsī

Harapetraṇi-devī dāsī
Īśā-devī dāsī
Kamalātikā-devī dāsī
Kamrā-devī dāsī
Merulmālā-devī dāsī
Parāśakti-devī dāsī
Śilavatī-devī dāsī
Śikhaṇḍī-devī dāsī
Beth Prabhu
Eileen Prabhu
Judy Prabhu
Merylee Prabhu
Miriam Prabhu
Julie Prabhu
Faith Prabhu
Pracī-devī dāsī
Alexis Prabhu
Praphullamukhī-devī dāsī
Uśā-devī dāsī
Linda Prabhu
Satyabhāmā-devī dāsī
Urmilā-devī dāsī
Pāñcalī-devī dāsī
Sunita-devī dāsī
Rene Prabhu

Kṛṣṇāṣṭamī
Woody Prabhu
April Prabhu
Arjuna dāsa
Mādhavendra Purī dāsa
Premānanda dāsa
Mādhava dāsa

Ottawa



*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-presthāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracārīne
nirviśesa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīne*

Even the most illusioned and sinful living entity cannot continue his degraded activities if he has the association of a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa. Because of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, a whole batch of eternally damned souls is breaking free of the shackles of death and springing up into eternal life. You are giving us the highest platform of activity and knowledge. Our simple task is to learn to absorb it all.

The very first principle of success is:

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

Therefore we are constantly trying to remember that our connection with Kṛṣṇa is there only because of your mercy. Kṛṣṇa is displaying the spiritual world by your invitation. Because of His love for you, He is allowing us to live in His direct presence, even though we are so offensive.

You have taught us everything we know; you are giving us the intelligence to realize it, and by your unlimited perfect qualities, you are attracting us to continue. If we can become absorbed in appreciating you, then that is our realization of actual transcendental knowledge, for you are transcendental knowledge personified.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for being so selfless in giving everything you are to us. We are so pleased to realize that it will take eternity to receive it all.

Amśu dāsa adhikārī
Dharmarāja dāsa adhikārī
Śrīvāsa dāsa brahmacārī
Rāghava Paṇḍita dāsa brahmacārī
Kṛṣṇadāsa dāsa brahmacārī
Śāśvata dāsa brahmacārī
Jayabalarāma dāsa brahmacārī
Lakṣmīnātha dāsa brahmacārī
Trilokanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Maurice

Bhakta Bernard
Jagatikanda dasi
Ṣaḍbhuja-devī dāśī
Kāraṇa-kāraṇa-devī dāśī
Rātri-devī dāśī
Mother Maureen
Mother Diane
Kṛṣṇacandra-devī dāśī
Jāhnava-devī dāśī

Paris

Our Eternal Spiritual Father, please accept our prayers offered with love and devotion, humbly placed at your Lotus Feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda:

You are the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead. Your lotus feet alone can save one from repeated birth and death, because only by hearing from you can we know Mukunda, the giver of liberation.

You are so dear to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and are always engaged in the *samādhi* of the highest devotion to His lotus feet, and yet so mercifully you have come to this material world to guide us back to home, back to Godhead.

You are the mercy incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. You are the external manifestation of the Lord dwelling in the hearts of all living entities. You are the perfect preacher of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, because you are the person *bhāgavata*.

You can make everyone Kṛṣṇa conscious, even the stone-hearted. If they follow your instructions, they can melt in love for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. You are the only master, giving purely the mercy of Lord Caitanya to everyone.

You are the voice, singing or speaking, which dispels with purifying vibration the bewildering pain of illusion.

You are the life and soul of all fallen souls who have taken shelter of you. We are ever seeking your cooling glance, which is a soothing balm of

moonlight and sweet sandalwood pulp on our *māyā*-stricken hearts.

You are *jagat-guru*, the spiritual master of the universe, and the most exalted personality in the universe, because you are most mercifully extending your lotus-like hand to all the fallen conditioned souls, to lead them back to home, back to Godhead. You have no thought for yourself. Your only desire is to serve Lord Kṛṣṇa.

You are the exaltation of all the representatives of the Supreme Lord in the universe, the hope that we have sought for in innumerable births, the most needed Personality for all suffering conditioned souls. You are the cooling shade from the scorching material inebrieties, the refreshing elixir for the thirsty hearts of the *jivātmās*, the soothing balm for the pains of material existence. You are most dear to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

You have eyes that shine like the moon, and your hands by expansion move like a ballet dancer. Your lotus feet are like lotus petals, and your lips bring the nectar of the *nāma*, *guṇa*, *rūpa* and *līlā* of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Your smile charms all your disciples, and your dancing and chanting bring bliss to the hearts of all. Who can describe your kindness?

May we stay always with you, serving your lotus feet, helping you to fulfill your mission.

O servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī!

O preacher of the message of Lord Caitanya!

O deliverer of the western countries, we offer our respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet, and feel very satisfied to remain in this position forever.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! Your worthless sons and daughters:

Mādhavānanda dāsa adhikārī, Kauśālya devī dāsi

Yogeśvara dāsa adhikārī, Jyotirmayī devī dāsi

Maṇibandha dāsa adhikārī, Kānta devī dāsi—

Svarūpa Dāmodara dāsa

Vyāla dāsa adhikārī, Jaya Lakṣmī devī dāsi

Harivilāsa dāsa adhikārī, Parijata devī dāsi—

Nitāi-Gour dāsa

Acintyarūpa dāsa adhikārī, Govardhana devī

dāsi—Gāyatrī devī dāsi

Janaprāṇa dāsa adbhikāri, Kratuśreṣṭha devī dāsī
 Umāpati dāsa adbhikāri, Ilāvati devī dāsī
 Dvijavara dāsa brahmacārī
 Purī dāsa brahmacārī
 Narendra dāsa brahmacārī
 Rāmadāsa brahmacārī
 Mādhavendra Purī dāsa brahmacārī
 Jagadādija dāsa brahmacārī
 Svastika dāsa brahmacārī
 Andre
 Crister
 Weera
 Aziz
 Jacques
 Śrī Hariṇī devī dāsī
 Jyeṣṭhā devī dāsī
 Mahāmedhā devī dāsī
 Navalāṅga devī dāsī
 Saradi devī dāsī
 Mathilde
 Anne
 Josie

 Farm

 Viśvambarā dāsa, Satarūpā devī dāsī
 Īśvara dāsa, Hariṇī devī dāsī—Śacīdevī dāsī
 Maṇihāra dāsa, Amekhala devī dāsī—Mādhava
 dāsa
 Arcā dāsa, Sambhavi devī dāsī—Kalā dāsa
 Haribālānanda dāsa, Kamalakartī devī dāsī—
 Lakṣmī devī dāsī
 Devadatta dāsa, Draupadī devī dāsī—Devakī
 Bhaktidharma
 Richard and Annie—Valerie
 Avyaya dāsa, Viśeṣa devī dāsī—Satya
 Viṣṇurāta dāsa, Uśāmatī devī dāsī—Caitanya,
 Raghunātha
 Vedāṅga dāsa, Brahmajananī devī dāsī

Śakṣī Gopāla dāsa, Kṛpāmayī devī dāsī—Gaura
 śakti
 Bhavasindhupoṭa dāsa, Kāmadhenu devī dāsī—
 Rasa devī dāsī
 Olivier
 Jalapriyā devī dāsī—Bhakta Vṛndā, Carāṇa-
 Padma, Vṛndā devī dāsī
 Kṛṣṇa Bamanī—Mañjarī, Gauravāṇī
 Ratimañjarī—Sujata, Gopī dāsī
 Merumālā
 Ārādhyā
 Marie-therese
 Rosemary
 Therese
 Alka

Traveling Saṅkīrtana

Indradyumna dāsa
 Prabhāva Vighraha dāsa, Jagatkīrti devī dāsī
 Rādhikā-ramaṇa dāsa
 Adīśekhāra dāsa, Mahinabhuśara devī dāsī
 Sankasa dāsa
 Canurāsī dāsa
 Jayakula dāsa
 Mahābala dāsa
 Rāsāda dāsa
 Bhuta Bhavana dāsa
 Sahasranurdhana dāsa
 Prasannātmā dāsa
 Vṛṣakīrti dāsa
 Brajīśma dāsa
 Indriya Damana dāsa
 Prakāśātmā dāsa
 Bhīma dāsa, Maithilī devī dāsī
 Daṇḍakāraṇya dāsa, Kānti devī dāsī
 Jivadayā dāsa, Daṇḍakeśī devī dāsī
 Gopasvāmī dāsa, Saṣṭvapāvana devī dāsī
 Denny and Annie



Phoenix

Once upon eternal time, in a
place where no materialists go
Confidential inquiries were made
about experiences below.

"Good brothers, ever in full knowledge,
with your faces radiating bliss—
You were rotting in the Iron Age;
Please tell me how you attained this."

"Yes," one said, "even my human birth,
I thought, would not steer my course from hell.
For it endured only a moment;
the chances of reaching here were nil.

But I once had the experience
of seeing a liberated soul.
Whilst thinking of him, death swiftly came,
and awarded me the supreme goal."

"It must be he!" cried another,
"whose pleading released me from sleep's tight hold.
I'd never rise to do my duty,
though time and time again I was told.

But his teachings I heard faithfully
I even distributed my share.
Isn't it wonderful that this dulled mind
Could become perfectly aware?"

"Yes, the influence of this saintly man
is overwhelming, I must agree.
The truth, as he explained it,
left no room for my quarrelsome tendency."

One said, "Friends, I am your servant,
and since in these stories we do delight,
Let us increase the ecstasy by
hearing how I was freed from my plight.

My difficulties, not uncommon,
lay in the teachings I had received
Before our spiritual master
disproved the theories I believed.

I had heard that after life was void
or, at best, an impersonal light
Into which we merged our identity.
So I lost concern for wrong and right

And did as my senses told me,
But became confused as things grew worse
Until I heard from him of karma
and Kṛṣṇa, the essence of Vedic verse."

"And you surrendered?" was asked.
"For me such fortune would never come near.
But the few cents I had donated once
was enough to let me join you here."

"It is his glory," they concluded,
"that we are now happy and free
from the perpetually disturbing
life of irreligiosity.

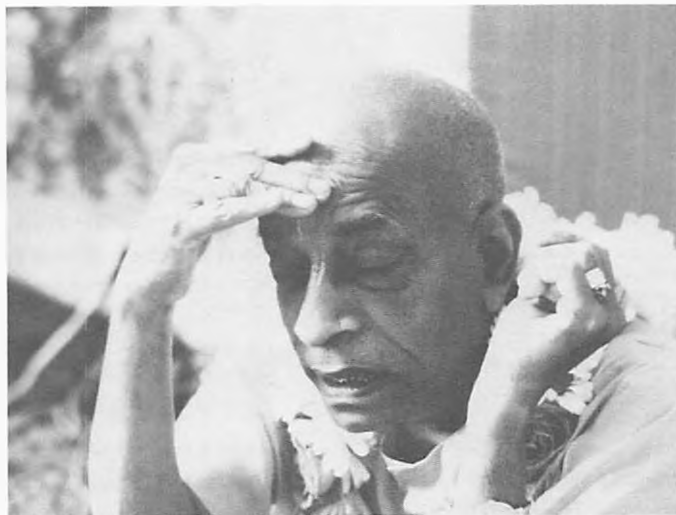
Let us go on as he has taught us
in the selfless service of the Lord
Let us please him with the love
that long within our hearts was stored."

All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Nalinikānta dāsa adbhikāri
Janapāvana dāsa adbhikāri
Viśvaretaḥ dāsa adbhikāri
Darpada dāsa adbhikāri
Bhakta Malcolm

Ratneśvarī-devī dāśī
Dānakeli-devī dāśī
Bhaktin Pam
Brad, Lou and Raina
Dennis, Cindy and Woodstock
Henry Chaney and family

Portland



*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vāṇi-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We beg to offer our most humble obeisances at your feet, on this most blessed appearance day of Your Divine Grace. Had you not appeared before us with the transcendently sublime Vedic wisdom, surely our dilemma of repeated birth, death, old age and disease would have remained unsolved for thousands of years. As imperfect and conditioned souls, our own sentimental words are inadequate expressions of thanksgiving. Instead we refer to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (3.7.36) where Mahātmā Vidura declares:

“Those who are spiritual masters are very kind to the needy. They are always kind to their followers, disciples and sons, and without being asked by them, the spiritual master describes all

that is knowledge.”

Any intelligent person who is sincerely endeavoring to expand his knowledge of the absolute realm should seriously consider the advice of Lord Kṛṣṇa in *Bhagavad-gītā* (4.34):

“Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth.”

Such a seer of truth is Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, who came in a line of pure disciplic succession from Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Because you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, heard patiently from Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta, your words now echo the transcendental potency of the Lord Himself. By your transcendental books and lectures, you are so

kindly distributing Kṛṣṇa's message all over the world. Thoughtful citizens who can understand your literature receive practical spiritual direction in accordance with all revealed scriptures and all saintly persons of the world. You are Jagad-guru: you are working for the benefit of all.

The *Upaniṣads* have instructed us that "Only unto one who has implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of Vedic knowledge revealed." (*Svet. Up. 6.23*) Faith is awakened simply by executing regulated devotional service under the guidance of a bona fide spiritual master. As recommended by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, any lowborn disciple who, humbling himself, engages everything in the service of the spiritual master, quickly attains the desired results. This is confirmed in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* First Canto, Chapter Two, text eighteen. Those complacent souls who accept worthless fakes as *guru*, and those who feel no need to approach a spiritual master are condemned throughout the Vedic literature. In *Bhagavad-gītā* (3.32) Lord Kṛṣṇa states:

"Those who, out of envy, disregard these teachings and do not practice them regularly are to be considered bereft of all knowledge, befooled and doomed to ignorance and bondage."

We, in Portland, as your most incompetent students, have decided to stay in each other's association and stick tightly to your divine instruction. We are told in *Bhāgavatam* (3.7.29):

"By serving the feet of the spiritual master, one is able to develop transcendental ecstasy in the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is the unchangeable enemy of the Madhu demon, and whose service vanquishes one's material distress."

On this we all agree.

Your humble servants in Portland,

Dinabandhu dāsa adbhikāri
 Mahābhārata dāsa adbhikāri
 Anubhāvananda dāsa brahmacārī
 Jyeṣṭha dāsa brahmacārī
 Kṛtākṛta dāsa brahmacārī
 Sarvadṛk dāsa brahmacārī
 Pati dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Scott
 Bhakta Ron
 Bhakta Michael
 Bhakta Candolph
 Bhakta Matry
 Bhakta Alvin
 Anantātmā dāsa brahmacārī
 Devarṣi dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Jeff
 Bhāgavata Ācārya dāsa adbhikāri
 Bhakta Kṛṣṇaṅgi
 Bhakta Rāmānujācārya
 Bhakta Vṛndāvana dāsa
 Bhakta Mark
 Bhakta Doug
 Bhakta Jahari

Akutī-devī dāsī
 Śikhāṇḍī-devī dāsī
 Kusumāpitā-devī dāsī
 Bhaktin Tanya
 Bhaktin Barbara
 Līlā-devī dāsī
 Bhaktin Karen
 Bhaktin Shakira
 Abhaya-devī dāsī
 Maladhātṛī-devī
 Bhaktin Julie
 Bhaktin Anne

ALL GLORY TO ŚRĪ GURU AND GAURĀṄGA!

**Our dearest father and spiritual master,
Śrīla Prabhupāda,**

You have created for us a life of good fortune, and you are our life and soul. Please accept our prostrate obeisances offered at your lotus feet, which are always decorated with the flower offerings of your flower-like devotees. You have appeared and poured forth your boundless mercy upon us, who are bereft of any other friend or shelter in this world. We wish simply to become worthy to be your children, to reciprocate the loving kindness you have shown to us. Please accept us.

Our good master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we cannot even imagine anything of the real significance or auspiciousness of your appearance in this world which we have been forced to appear in. But Providence is indeed merciful, for we have been blessed with the chance to meet with you and fall down at your lotus feet, hearing the message of Godhead emanating from your lips. The pure vibrations proceeding from your lotus mouth are the only solace to our hearts and minds, which are so full of lust. You have told us that this Kali-yuga we are living in is an ocean of faults, but we are not sorry to live in Kali-yuga as long as we have you as our master. We feel now that we have tasted the nectar of hearing your glorious songs and lectures, in praise of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Śrī Kṛṣṇa, there is nowhere we wish to be except in touch with those pure

sound vibrations. We pray that we may never be unable to hear and recall the sound of your offerings of praise to the Lord.

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, the time of your appearance in this dark world is a time when everyone rejoices and remembers the infinite mercy of the supreme Lord upon the conditioned souls. And we believe that this is the time when your spiritual master rejoices most of all. For it is you alone who have kept alive his great desire to confer the blessings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu upon the whole of humanity. We offer our small token of appreciation.

Your aspiring devotees in Puerto Rico:

Raghupatiprāṇa dāsa brahmacārī,
Dharmapada dāsa brahmacārī
Yaśodājīvana dāsa brahmacārī
Gopa dāsa brahmacārī
Munipriya dāsa brahmacārī
Pāvanadeva dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Don Delio
Bhakta Hector
Bhakta Michael
Bhakta Ernesto
Bhakta Eliut
Bhaktin Julie
Bhaktin Angela

Rome



gurudeva!

*krpā-bindu diyā, koro' ei dāse,
tṛṇāpekṣhā ati hina
sakala-sahane, bolo diyā koro'
nija-māne sprhāhīna*

Gurudeva, give to this servant just one drop of mercy, I am lower than a blade of grass. Give me all help. Give me strength. Let me be as you are, without desires or aspirations.

*sakale sammān, korite sakati
deho' nātha! yathā-yatha
tabe to' gāibo, harināma-sukhe,
aparādha ha'be hata*

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

*kabe heno kṛpā, lobhiyā e jana
kṛtārtha hoibe, nātha!
śakti-buddhi-hin, āmi ati dina
koro' more ātma-sātha*

When will such mercy fall to this one
who is weak and devoid of intelligence?

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

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

*yogyatā-vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi,
tomāra karuṇā sāra
karuṇā na hoile, kāṇḍiyā Kaṇḍiyā
nā rākhibo āra*

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

We don't have any qualification to glorify you,
Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are the greatest per-
sonality today in all the three worlds.

By your causeless mercy, you have given us
your association and the opportunity to glorify
you.

Let us, in this ever-increasing, most magnifi-
cent event of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, promise you once
more with firm determination to dedicate our
life and soul to follow all your instructions, and
to propagate, as it is, this Kṛṣṇa consciousness
movement all over the world.

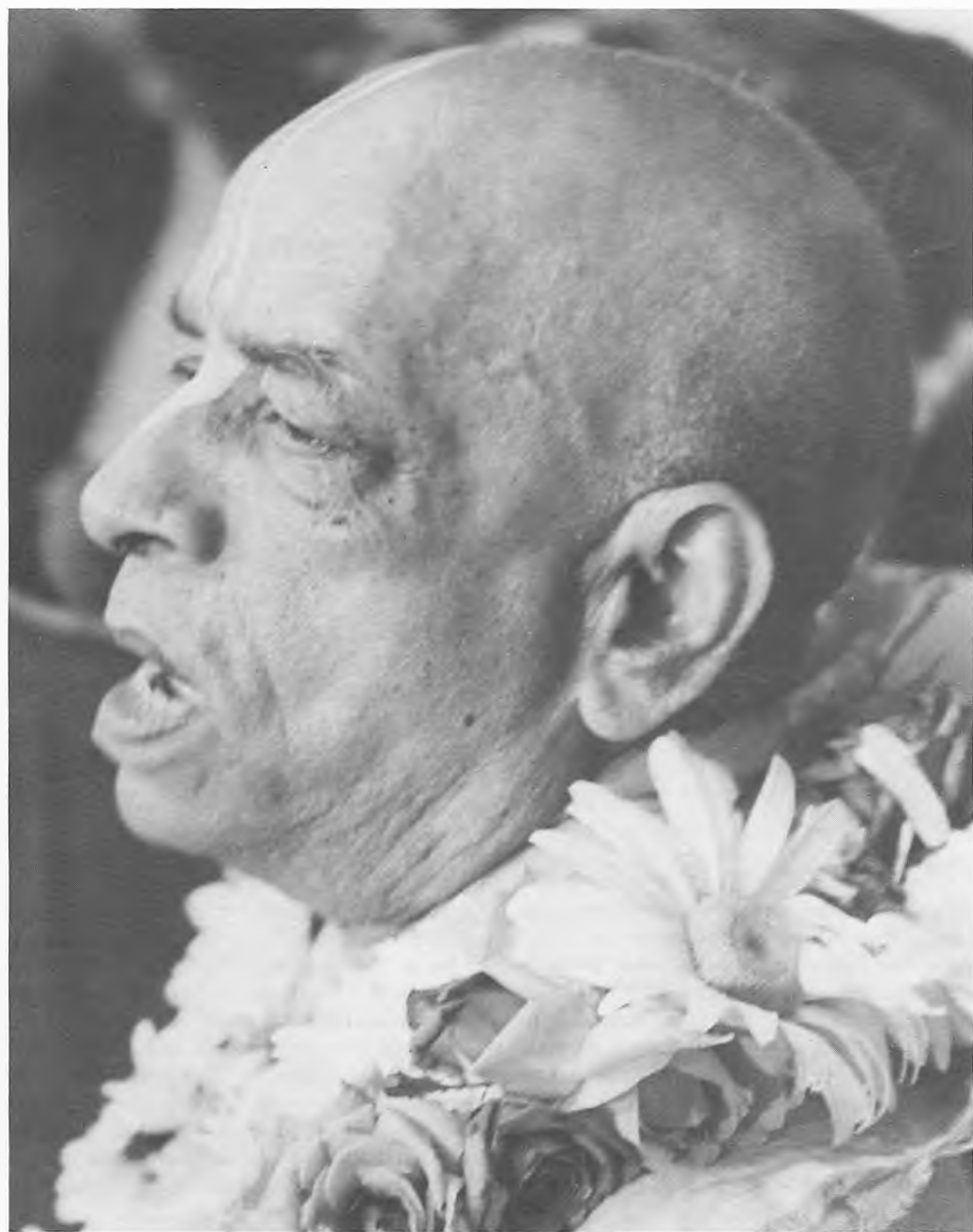
Please accept our prostrated obeisances at your
lotus feet, and remain with us many more years
because if not, we will not be able to maintain
our lives.

SRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA PATITA-PĀVANA!

Haihaya dāsa adbhikāri
Somaka dāsa adbhikāri
Pāñcājanya dāsa brahmacāri
Śrīraṅga dāsa brahmacāri
Yavanaha dāsa brahmacāri
Mṛtyuhara dāsa brahmacāri
Manonātha dāsa brahmacāri
Ama dāsa brahmacāri
Paraśurāma dāsa brahmacāri
Bhakti Angelo
Bhakti Orlando
Bhakti Vito
Bhakti Marco
Bhakti Tonino
Bhakti Giovanni
Bhakti Bernard

Narmadā-devī dāsi
Mṛdā-devī dāsi
Ālikṛṣṇa-devī dāsi
Bhogini-devī dāsi
Bhaktin Sabrina
Bhaktin Luciana
Bhaktin Micaela
Bhaktin Angela

Abhaya-caraṇāravinda dāsa
Dhruva dāsa
Satī-devī dāsi
Bhaktin Colette



San Diego

FOR PRABHUPĀDA

*We've waited so long to be taught
All that we ought to know.
This whole life was passing before our eyes
With no rhyme or reason, but now
There is the shelter of your lotus feet
And your gentle guidance to learn.*

*O spiritual master, we pray for remembrance
And intelligence to follow your instructions
To the end of this journey.
Everything is passing so quickly—let us serve
And not be deviated. We fear to fall!*

*We are always suffering from our desires—
Only by your mercy can we serve and
Be lifted from this ocean of sense enjoyment.
Your mercy is all that we have and all that we are.
Prabhupāda, help us to surrender.*

*For all of our disqualifications
You have accepted us as your disciples.
I beg to follow the code of behavior
You have given to make one pure.
Let us serve in these offensive bodies—
Please accept any love that you allow us to give.*

Vyāsa-Pūjā Homage

O most merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda, how can we repay the infinite debt that we owe you? Before your appearance in the West, we were forced to settle for the smallest trickle of transcendental knowledge. But now, Your Divine Grace has flooded us with the endless Vaiṣṇava philosophy of the *Vedas*. Previously, we had to remain content thinking of God as an inconceivable greatness, as an abstract force who had created everything, but was indescribable and unknowable. You have revolutionized the whole theology of the West and directed countless

people from all over the world toward the most secret and intimate aspect of God. As Kṛṣṇa has declared: “Whoever knows Me as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, without doubting, is to be understood as the knower of everything, and he therefore engages himself in full devotional service, O son of Bharata. This is the most confidential part of the Vedic scriptures, O sinless one, and it is disclosed now by Me. Whoever understands this will become wise, and his endeavors will know perfection.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 15.19—20)

Therefore, because you are enlightening countless conditioned souls and are turning them towards the real light of spiritual realization, you are the most dear to Kṛṣṇa: "For one who explains the supreme secret to the devotees, devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end he will come back to Me. There is no servant in this world more dear to Me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear." (*Bhagavad-gītā* 18.68—69)

Furthermore, Lord Kapiladeva tells His mother Devahūti: "...I do not find a greater person than he who has no interest outside of Mine, and who therefore engages and dedicates all his activities and all his life—everything—unto Me without cessation." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.29.33)

Thus, there is no finer benediction than being in your holy association, for you are fully absorbed in the loving mood of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu—*śravaṇam kīrtanam*—hearing and chanting the glories of the Supreme Person, Śrī Kṛṣṇa. In this way you are engaging everyone in

the *saṅkīrtana* movement, giving all the conditioned souls the opportunity to go back to Godhead. Thus, of all that is glorious in this world, your mercy upon these fallen souls is the most glorious.

We, however, still devoid of any real compassion, devotion or sense of duty, remain your offensive, perverted reflections. Nevertheless, because your shelter is our only salvation, we must shamefully impose ourselves on you, begging to continue in your service. And we must also pray for the pure desire to please you in that service, free from any lust for personal gain. You are the perfect *ācārya*, following, as you say, "blindly" the instructions of your Guru Mahārāja, in the face of all opposition. And in spite of our reluctance to follow your example, still you receive us so magnanimously and fill us with your mercy.

We can never repay you. You are giving us this matchless gift of love for Kṛṣṇa. Please let us forever remember this gift and remain eternally obliged, fallen at your feet.

Your unworthy servants at San Diego Yātrā,

Guṇagrāhi dāsa adbhikāri
Mathurānātha dāsa adbhikāri
Matāṅga dāsa brahmacārī
Bhadravardhana dāsa brahmacārī
Kusākrata dāsa brahmacārī
Dūradharṣa dāsa brahmacārī
Sarvadarśana dāsa adbhikāri
Madhukāra dāsa adbhikāri
Murārimahitī dāsa brahmacārī (1)
Murārimahitī dāsa brahmacārī (2)
Śacīdulāla dāsa brahmacārī
Dvārakārāja dāsa brahmacārī
Maheśavāsa dāsa brahmacārī
Vaiśī dāsa brahmacārī

Kalpavṛkṣa dāsa adbhikāri
Dhanurveda dāsa adbhikāri
Bhakta John
Bhakta Paul
Bhakta Raymond
Bhakta Dan
Bhakta Dan
Bhakta Carl
Bhakta David
Bhakta Kṛṣṇa dāsa
Bhakta Barry
Bhakta Comet
Bhakta Candra
Bhakta Madhusacandra dāsa

Kīrtikā-devī dāsī
Vrajadevī dāsī
Gopīnātha-devī dāsī
Līlāsakti-devī dāsī
Sajjanajivana-devī dāsī
Kriyāsakti-devī dāsī
Sonapuri-devī dāsī
Madhu-devī dāsī
Śatānanda-devī dāsī
Janaśakti-devī dāsī
Bhaktin Sharon
Bhaktin Wish
Bhaktin Narada

San Francisco



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

“Like the sun, your goodness can travel in the three worlds, and like the air, you can penetrate the internal region of everyone. As such, you are as good as the all-pervasive Supersoul. Please, therefore, find out the deficiency in me, despite my being absorbed in transcendence under disciplinary regulations and vows.” (*Bhāg.* 1.5.7)

Although born in a well-to-do family, having all material goods I could ever desire, and having been given a healthy body, still I was never satisfied until I made contact with Your Divine Grace. You have revealed the shortcomings in me that left me always unsatisfied, in spite of all material boons. By your words, you have slashed all the illusion of this world from my mind and forced me to accept that I am not the supreme proprietor, the supreme enjoyer or the supreme

friend of all living entities. Rather, I am but an insignificant pawn of the energy of Kṛṣṇa, God, and I am unhappy because I steadfastly refuse to apply this knowledge to my every action.

In *Bhagavad-gītā*, it is stated that every action performed for personal sense gratification binds the performer to this material world. Unfortunately, I am so nonsensical that, although I hear your teachings, I repeatedly disregard your mercy. Thus, being so full of desire for personal name and fame, I suffer again and again. My only hope is that you will patiently tolerate my billions of offenses at your feet. Someday, I hope, you will so severely chastise me that I will be coerced into acting in full Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I have such doubt in my ability to come to that point of unalloyed surrender unto your divine feet, but I have faith

that, by your mercy and desire only, I may someday be saved. This faith in you is my sole reason for existing; without you, I would immediately die. Please engage me in your service of Lord Caitanya's tree.

We were fools in the darkness, but you gave us the holy name, which shines like the rising sun. You gave us the light of mercy to see that we are the menial servants of a branch of Lord Gaurāṅga's golden tree.

We were dead men, but only by your divine grace can we now dance and chant in ecstasy, filling our hearts with nectar from your lotus lips, which invite us to serve and be a golden branch of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's *saṅkīrtana* movement tree.

Every early morning, we rise with the holy name in our ears and hearts. There is nothing

else to be had in all three worlds. Then we bathe, and we prepare ourselves to see the holy eternal forms of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda, to clean Their temple and to honor Their *prasāda*.

It is only by your ocean of divine mercy that we are allowed the chance to be eternal servants of a branch of Lord Śrī Gaurasundara's shimmering golden tree. There is no way for us to repay. We can only beg for more service, so that we will be fully engaged in spreading this mercy of love of Godhead, flooding this planet over by your divine will. What more can we ask? Except that, by your grace, please, please help us to be more serious and sincere, and help us "desire to desire" to get a higher taste for Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's holy name and service to Lord Caitanya's universal tree.

Bhakta dāsa adbhikārī
 Bahulāśva dāsa adbhikārī
 Laṅkeśa dāsa adbhikārī
 Yudamānya dāsa adbhikārī
 Mahārāja dāsa adbhikārī
 Jīva dāsa adbhikārī
 Makhana Taskara dāsa adbhikārī
 Vaikuṇṭhanātha dāsa adbhikārī
 Lokanātha dāsa adbhikārī
 Tapanā Mīśra dāsa adbhikārī
 Kṛṣṇa dāsa adbhikārī
 Śuklāmbhara dāsa adbhikārī
 Varṇa dāsa adbhikārī
 Jayānanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Hanumatpreseka dāsa brahmacārī
 Kṛta-karma dāsa brahmacārī
 Lokasāraṅga dāsa brahmacārī
 Haripada dāsa brahmacārī

Rakṣaṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Bala dāsa brahmacārī
 Indranātha dāsa brahmacārī
 Nagarāja dāsa brahmacārī
 Pravacara dāsa brahmacārī
 Vigitātmā dāsa brahmacārī
 Parvata Muni dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhoktā dāsa brahmacārī
 Buddhi Maheśvara dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Ray
 Bhakta Chris
 Bhakta Paulley
 Bhakta Ed
 Bhakta Doug
 Bhakta John
 Bhakta Joe
 Bhakta Tom

Sāranāma-devī dāśī
 Karuṇāmāyī-devī dāśī
 Dhaniṣṭhā-devī dāśī
 Jīvana-devī dāśī
 Vihārīṇī-devī dāśī
 Maninī-devī dāśī
 Kamatavī-devī dāśī
 Saraḍiyā-devī dāśī
 Vrajasundarī-devī dāśī
 Ātmamāyā-devī dāśī
 Kaumudī-devī dāśī
 Kelilalitā-devī dāśī
 Līlā-smaraṇam-devī dāśī
 Madanasinī-devī dāśī
 Kalpalatikā-devī dāśī
 Bhaktin Diane
 Bhaktin Darlene
 Bhaktin Janet

Santo Domingo

O dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please let us offer our most humble and prostrate obeisances at your divine lotus feet. You are so magnanimous and merciful upon us that, even though we have no qualification, you accept us as your disciples. This is the highest gift in the world. There are innumerable living entities traveling throughout the different planets of the universe, and of them only a few are fortunate enough to meet a pure devotee. A pure devotee is a rare thing. You have come to this demoniac place to teach love of God (*kṛṣṇa-prema*), but being unfortunate and foolish, we are so much absorbed in the modes of materialism that we cannot appreciate your greatness.

O beloved master, Kṛṣṇa said in *Bhagavad-gītā*, “Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master” (*tad viddhi pranīpātena*), but you are so merciful that you have come to these Western countries, full of voidism and impersonalism, to teach us the ultimate aim of life: Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead (*vāsudeva-parā gatih*). Before you came, we were lost in the world of illusion (*māyā*), spending our nights uselessly sleeping and our days decorating our bodies. By your mercy, you have ransomed us from this material bondage. Only you could do it because only you are a genuine and perfect devotee of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

O venerable Vaiṣṇava, O ocean of mercy, we humbly beg you, please let us remain as your eternal servants. We do not find the strength to carry on alone the *saṅkīrtana* of the holy name of Hari. Please bless us, by giving us just one drop of faith with which to obtain the great treasure of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.

O blissful prince of Vaikuṇṭha, since your bliss is always increasing, we know that Kṛṣṇa is yours, and only you have the power to give Him to us. You can deliver any benediction to any liv-

ing entity. We are simply begging you to turn your face, bright like the sun, upon us. Only your glance can purify everything from the dust of material existence.

O powerful *mahātmā*, since you are the external manifestation of Kṛṣṇa, you are also the most powerful soul within this universe. Because of this fact, you are beyond our understanding. We can only beg you to forgive us for this fallible attempt to say something about your glories. We are drowning in this ocean of nescience, and not one pure word can come out of this polluted consciousness.

O greatest saint among the saints, Śrīla Prabhupāda, if you examine us, you will find no qualities. Your mercy is all we are made of. We are very small devotees with only you to depend on. So please, be merciful upon us. Let us remain always like a speck of dust at your divine lotus feet.

Your eternal servants,

ISKCON Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Rādhā-Śaraṇa dāsa adbhikāri
Gobhaṭṭa dāsa adbhikāri
Amalaharināma dāsa brahmacāri
Minākṣi dāsa brahmacāri
Bhakta Alma
Bhakta Nestor
Mahānandī-devī dāsi
Mādhurya-devī dāsi
Viraya-devī dāsi
Śubhānanda-devī dāsi
Rukmiṇī-devī dāsi
Kṛṣṇa-devī dāsi
Govinda dāsa
Bhaktin Luisa
Guru dāsa

Seattle

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. One hundred eight glories to the topmost wandering mendicant and swanlike devotee of the Lord, Your Divine Grace.

*vāñcā-kalpatarubhyaś ca
kṛpā-sindhubhya eva ca
patitānām pāvanebhyo
vaiṣṇavebhyo namo namaḥ*

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto all the Vaiṣṇava devotees of the Lord, who can fulfill all the desires of everyone, just like desire trees, and who are full of compassion for the fallen souls." You have so kindly come to these Western shores, which are overburdened with materialism, voidism, and impersonalism. Out of your never-ending compassion for our fallen position, you are delivering *kṛṣṇa-prema*—love of God—thus replacing our attachment to the frailties of this material world with love of Kṛṣṇa. Truly, you are that desire tree because you have fulfilled all our material hankerings by giving us Kṛṣṇa. You are the most munificent; because of your patience and determination you have tolerated so

much on our behalf. We are even indebted to Your Divine Grace.

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

"I, who am standing in darkness, do humbly offer my respectful obeisances to my spiritual master, who is forcing my eyes open with the blazing torchlight of knowledge."

Forcing our eyes open is your kindness upon conditioned souls like us. Because of our wandering in the realms of ignorance for millions of births, we are very reluctant, if not stubborn, to accept the reality of your instructions. But, this devotional service is so powerfully pure that our stoneheartedness is melting away. Just by your association, we are becoming ever-enlivened to serve Their eternal Lordships, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Blessed is the day that Your Divine Grace came into our lives.

On this most blessed of events, the following devotees at ISKCON Seattle do offer our most respectful obeisances unto you:

Śukadeva dāsa adbhikārī
Prabhānu dāsa adbhikārī
Anagha dāsa adbhikārī
Dhamaghoṣa dāsa adbhikārī
Bir Rāghava dāsa adbhikārī
Jyotirāditya dāsa adbhikārī
Ṣaṣṭa dāsa adbhikārī
Ojasvī dāsa adbhikārī
Bhakti Charlie
Kāmsārī dāsa brahmacārī
Sīmha dāsa brahmacārī
Jagadādīja dāsa brahmacārī
Aja dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakti Tom

Bhakti Ron
Bhakti Mike
Bhakti Tom
Bhakti Kato
Bhakti Mark
Bhakti Bruce
Jagamohinī-devī dāsī
Jagadīśvarī-devī dāsī
Dhanaśrī-devī dāsī
Kāntimati-devī dāsī
Birmala-devī dāsī
Sārada-devī dāsī
Kṛṣṇapriya-devī dāsī
Viṣṇupriya-devī dāsī

Bhakti Cathy
Prṣṇigarbha-devī dāsī
Ragmathani-devī dāsī
Mādhurya-līlā-devī dāsī
Bhakti Laurie
Bhakti Joni
Patram dāsa
Prahāda dāsa
Bhaktim Zoe
Bhaktim Phebbe
Śrīdāmā dāsa
Yamunā dāsī
Rūpa-manohara dāsa
Śāntim dāsa



South Africa

Let me offer my humble obeisances from the core of my heart to my spiritual master, Oṃ Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda. Were it not for him, I could not even begin to imagine the self-made hell I would be in, at present.

What is the special quality of my Gurudeva that evokes the unconditional self-surrender of my many sincere Godbrothers?

The spiritual master is the representative of Lord Nityānanda. As such, one who has attained Śrī Guru's lotus feet will be surely freed from all material desires. He will be a fit candidate to chant the holy name offenselessly. How long will I remain a materialistic rascal, devoid of the desire to surrender to Śrī Gurudeva? Let me fall at his lotus feet at this very moment, so that I may offer myself as his menial servant. The sound of my spiritual master's voice thrills my heart. I want to continually drink in that vibration which produces genuine health.

Let me not be unchaste like a prostitute, nor idle like the tree. I long to cling to and serve his lotus feet at every moment of my too short life. I long to be awakened from the horrible nightmare of repeated birth and death. My Gurudeva is the most benevolent personality in the three worlds, as he has risked accepting even an insincere wretch such as me for a disciple. As a matter of duty, let me not dishonor my Gurudeva for some trivial whimsy. To lose the shelter of Śrī Gurudeva is to be hurled again into

the cesspool of foul stinks, darkness, and ever-painful associations. I implore everyone! Do not take the shelter of my Gurudeva lightly! He carries the lotus-eyed Supreme Personality of Godhead within his lotus-like heart. If one experiences even the dim reflection of my Gurudeva's mercy, he will immediately reject everything else as worthless and empty. Anyone who is actually interested in his own true well-being will never ignore the shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Let me also offer my respectful obeisances to my many Godbrothers, who are like so many moons reflecting the soothing mercy and teachings of my spiritual master. Let us strive together to please Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who is also known as Viśvambhara (the maintainer and leader of all living beings), as this is the heartfelt desire of His Divine Grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your unworthy servants,

Puṣṭakṛṣṇa Svāmī

Dhīrāṅga dāsa brahmacārī
Jagadguru dāsa brahmacārī
Pārthasārathī dāsa brahmacārī
Gokulendra dāsa brahmacārī
Rāmānuja dāsa brahmacārī
Riddha dāsa brahmacārī
Sākṣīgopāla dāsa brahmacārī
Rocanī-devī dāsi

Śrīla Prabhupāda's Traveling Party

*We are thoroughly diseased men,
Hoping to become healthy again,
Drowning in ignorance and passion,
Overburdened with sinful reaction.*

*So many offenses we have committed.
In the spiritual world will we be permitted?
For us, there is not a single chance
Without your fully satisfied glance.*

*Falling to the ground many times each day,
Ready to endeavor as you say,
Constantly remembering you are no ordinary person,
Thinking otherwise, our disease will only worsen.*

*You are greater than the demigods by all measure.
Satisfying you is actually real pleasure.
We sincerely beg to stay
At your lotus feet every step, every day*

*Boldly giving up all personal consideration,
You travel extensively from nation to nation,
Preaching by day and writing books by night.
There has never been a man of such might.*

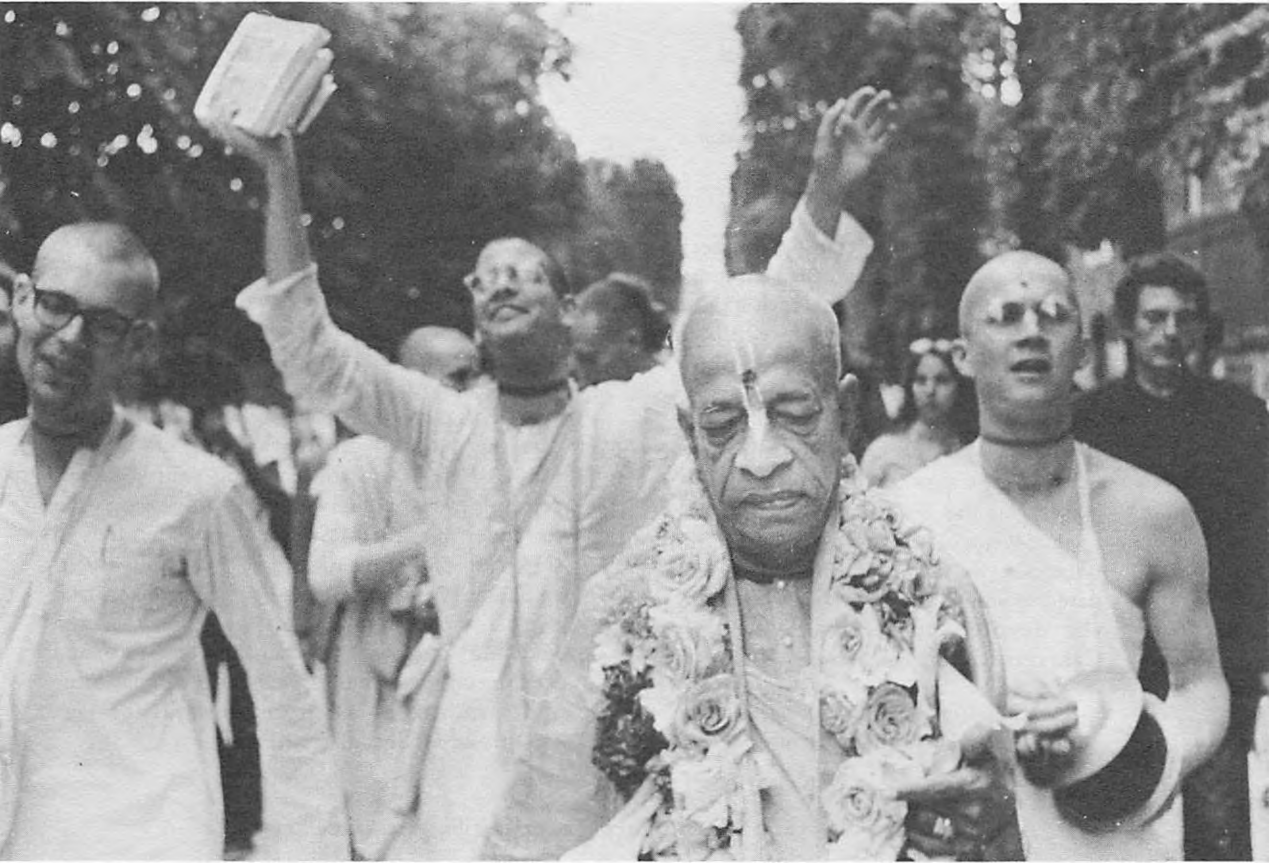
*Smashing atheists, scientists and bogus gurus,
And establishing facts, eternal truths.
You either convince them or they flee away in fear.
If they read your books, their minds become clear.*

*Your books astound the greatest of learned men,
Introducing them to their dearest friend.
Translating these books, you are going through great pains,
Showering pure knowledge on our dull-headed brains.*

*We pray to assist you in these most tremendous deeds,
By providing for every one of your needs.
We sincerely beg to stay
At your lotus feet every step, every day*

Paramahansa Svāmī, Personal Secretary
Śrutakīrti dāsa adhikārī, Personal Servant

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara Saṅkīrtana Party



Vyāsa-Pūjā Offering

On this appearance day of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda, we are remembering the prediction of Śrīla Bhakti-vinoda Ṭhākura: "Soon will appear one who will spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya all over the world." Your Divine Grace is that rare devotee, and we bow down to your lotus feet again and again. Your Divine Grace must have some intimate connection with Lord Caitanya, otherwise how is it that in five hundred years none of the great devotees have pushed the wave of love of Kṛṣṇa so far as to

reach the desert-like hearts in the Western world. We wish we could understand your special position in relation to Lord Caitanya, but as we are only your foot stool and dogs, we can only take your mercy and purify ourselves so that someday we may be enabled to glorify Your Divine Grace properly.

Apart from our inability to glorify Your Divine Grace, we learn from the *Bhagavad-gītā* (18.68-69):

*ya idaṁ paramaṁ guhyaṁ
mad-bhakteṣv abhidhāsyati*

*bhaktiṁ mayi parāṁ kṛtvā
mām evaiṣyaty asaṁśayaḥ*

*na ca tasmān manuṣyeṣu
kaścin me priya-kṛttamaḥ
bhavitā na ca me tasmān
anyaḥ priyataro bhuvi*

“For one who explains the supreme secret to the devotees, devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end he will come back to Me. There is no servant in this world more dear to Me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear.” Not only was this said to men of earth, but Kṛṣṇa spoke of your glories even to the demigods in heaven. In the *Nectar of Devotion*, it states that the spiritual master is the sum total of all the demigods. We ponder on the position of Your Divine Grace. Even if we could travel to the ends of millions of universes, we could gain nothing of value compared to your lotus feet. Your glories are sung by the devotee poets like Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī in *Śrī Gurv-aṣṭaka* (5):

*śrī-rādhikā-mādhavayor apāra-
mādhurya-līlā-guṇa-rūpa-nāmnām*

*pratikṣaṇāsvādāna-lolūpasya
vande guroḥ śrī-carāṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited, conjugal pastimes of Rādhikā and Mādhava, and Their qualities, names and forms. The spiritual master aspires to relish these at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.” The spiritual master is always engaged in assisting the *gopīs* in the transcendental loving affairs of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Most important to us is the shelter of your service. For it is your pleasure, realized through carrying out your orders, that protects us from Māyā. Were it not for knowing your pleasure, certainly we would have lost the holy inspiration to tender our small devotional creepers. It is in this truth and realization that we perceive your splendor. We can therefore joyfully exclaim that there is no end to the ecstasy of serving and knowing the pleasure of Your Divine Grace, and we are confident that this pleasure will continue and sustain us in our march towards the Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara Traveling Saṅkirtana Party

Bus No. 1

Viṣṇujana Svāmī

Gurudāsa Svāmī

Tamāla Kṛṣṇa Gosvāmī

Bhūgarbha dāsa adbhikārī

Brikasaugha dāsa brahmacārī

Mātārāja dāsa brahmacārī

Gaurāṅga dāsa brahmacārī

Dāmodara dāsa brahmacārī

Rāmasena dāsa brahmacārī

Bhakta Richard

Bhakta Ken

Bhakta Jack

Bhakta Jim

Bus No. 2

Sudāmā Gosvāmī

Dhṛṣṭadyumna dāsa brahmacārī

Bhūmna dāsa brahmacārī

Tīrthapāda dāsa brahmacārī

Gauridāsa Paṇḍita dāsa brahmacārī

Kāśīnātha dāsa brahmacārī

Choṭa Haridāsa brahmacārī

Madhvācārya dāsa adbhikārī

Rāmadāsa brahmacārī

Bhakta Mike

Bus No. 3

Ādi-keśava dāsa brahmacārī

Vidura dāsa brahmacārī

Dravaṇākṣa dāsa brahmacārī

Traidāsa adbhikārī

Rasātala dāsa brahmacārī

Lakṣmī-Nṛsiṁha dāsa brahmacārī

Viṣṇudāsa brahmacārī

Śrīkara dāsa brahmacārī
 Yadu Gaṅgul dāsa brahmacārī
 Puṣpa-gopāla dāsa brahmacārī
 Pratāparudra dāsa brahmacārī
 Rāga-putra dāsa brahmacārī
 Vasu-gopāla dāsa brahmacārī
 Ācāryaratna dāsa brahmacārī
 Sataugati dāsa brahmacārī
 Maheśvara dāsa brahmacārī
 Subuddhi dāsa brahmacārī
 Sureśa dāsa brahmacārī
 Mīśra Bhagavān dāsa brahmacārī
 Gokula dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Brian
 Bhakta Rick

Bus. No. 4

Parivrajakācārya Svāmī
 Dānavīra dāsa adbhikārī
 Matureśa dāsa brahmacārī
 Śrī Manta dāsa brahmacārī
 Śrī Rāma dāsa brahmacārī
 Garuḍa Paṇḍita dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta James
 Bhakta Lynn
 Bhakta Jim

Bus No. 5

Kavicandra dāsa adbhikārī
 Premādhava dāsa adbhikārī
 Gaṅgā dāsa brahmacārī
 Paramātmā dāsa brahmacārī
 Gopeśa dāsa brahmacārī
 Yadunātha dāsa brahmacārī
 Vidyānanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Frank
 Bhakta Mike
 Bhakta Ken
 Bhakta Jim

Bus No. 6

Brahmā dāsa brahmacārī
 Apūrva dāsa brahmacārī
 Jayadharma dāsa brahmacārī
 Anādi dāsa brahmacārī
 Vivasvān dāsa brahmacārī
 Hāsyagrāme dāsa brahmacārī
 Prapūjaka dāsa brahmacārī
 Jagat Sakha dāsa brahmacārī
 Dṛśya Kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Dṛṣṭa dāsa brahmacārī
 Caitanya Candra dāsa brahmacārī

Airport Saṅkīrtana Party

Tripurārī Svāmī
 Pragoṣa dāsa brahmacārī
 Buddhimanta dāsa brahmacārī
 Sārvabhauma dāsa brahmacārī
 Gajahanta dāsa brahmacārī
 Devānanda Paṇḍita dāsa brahmacārī
 Nikātmā dāsa brahmacārī
 Janakīnātha dāsa brahmacārī
 Bagadhārī dāsa brahmacārī
 Sura dāsa brahmacārī
 Vaiśiṣeka dāsa brahmacārī
 Pañca-tattva dāsa brahmacārī
 Kāśīrāma dāsa brahmacārī
 Caraṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Dhruva dāsa brahmacārī
 Saṅjaya dāsa brahmacārī
 Kalki dāsa brahmacārī
 Gokulacandra dāsa brahmacārī

TSKP No. 1

Yogēścandra dāsa brahmacārī
 Govinda Datta dāsa brahmacārī
 Rāja Vidyā dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Elliott

TSKP No. 2

Janārdana dāsa brahmacārī
 Gopāla Ācārya dāsa brahmacārī
 Śaṣṭhīvara dāsa brahmacārī
 Gaṅgā Mantri dāsa brahmacārī

TSKP No. 3

Pyāri Mohana dāsa brahmacārī
 Baḍa Hari dāsa brahmacārī
 Uddhava dāsa brahmacārī
 Karṇapūra dāsa brahmacārī

TSKP No. 4

Prahlādānanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Kavi Datta dāsa brahmacārī
 Śivānanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Jñāpaka dāsa brahmacārī

TSKP No. 5

Gaṇapati dāsa brahmacārī
 Sarvopama dāsa brahmacārī
 Ratnabāhu dāsa brahmacārī
 Mahā-mantra dāsa brahmacārī

Head Office and Bus Construction

Keśava Bhāratī dāsa adbhikārī
 Dayāla Candra dāsa brahmacārī
 Vipra dāsa brahmacārī
 Acyuta dāsa brahmacārī
 Sulocana dāsa brahmacārī
 Kamalākānta dāsa brahmacārī
 Patatrīrāja dāsa brahmacārī
 Kamalānanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Kānu dāsa brahmacārī
 Rajendranātha dāsa brahmacārī
 Yādava dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Patrick



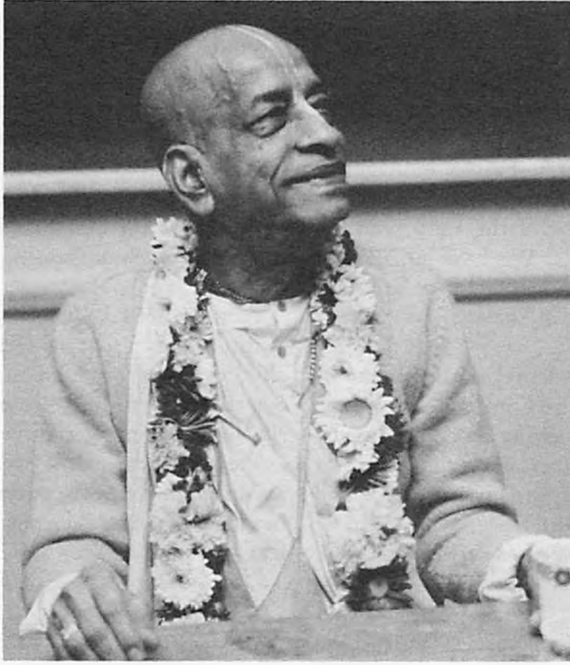
Our dear father Śrila Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most fallen obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet! Upon this momentous occasion of your holy appearance day, we pray for you to simply help us understand your mission. We have taken our birth in the Western world, which is full of impersonalism and voidism, and we have therefore failed to understand the purpose of life. Now we have become your disciples and have learned that Kṛṣṇa is God. Next our duty is to go forward, to seek out our relationship with Him. In Bombay (7-29-74) you told us: “Kṛṣṇa is very kind. Engage all your senses for understanding Kṛṣṇa with devotion and faith—with love. The love is the basic principle for understanding Kṛṣṇa. But develop your love. He wants that you should also love Him and give Him something. That He wants. Therefore He comes (*paritrāṇāya sādhuṇām*). He is asking out of love—that you try to love Him. Kṛṣṇa’s so kind. And still you are not taking the opportunity of understanding Kṛṣṇa. Just see how much unfortunate we are.” Therefore we humbly pray that you will help us to actually understand your identity and the real purpose of this Kṛṣṇa consciousness process. In Atlanta you were asked, “Prabhupāda, how can we please

you?” You replied, “Develop your love of God.” We therefore humbly pray that we will all stop this impersonalism and voidism forever and fully utilize this opportunity you are giving us. We will try to become free from this bankrupt condition and fully develop our love for Kṛṣṇa. Kindly help us to please you in this way.

Makanlal dāsa
 Prāṇa dāsa
 Jagaddhātā dāsa
 Bhīma dāsa
 Caturātmā dāsa
 Prāṇada dāsa
 Janajanmādi dāsa
 Rādhā-dāmodara dāsa
 Purandara Paṇḍita dāsa
 Vikarṣaṇa dāsa
 Bhakta David
 Bhakta Larry
 Bhakta Glenn
 Tilaka dāsī
 Kelikāṇcakī-devī dāsī
 Dakṣiṇivārī-devī dāsī
 Ātmarāmā-devī dāsī

Stockholm



More enlightening than thousands of suns, you have benedicted the entire world by coming to the West to fulfill the desire of your spiritual master. There seems to be no proper way to express what you have done for us.

In all the ancient literatures of devotional service, the spiritual master is always considered to be either one of the confidential associates of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī or a manifested representation of Śrīla Nityānanda Prabhu.

You are the most exalted person in all the universes, our great and dear master. You deliver the suffering living entities from the burning condition of life, just like a cloud pours water on a forest fire. This mercy of yours overflows the entire universe with love of God.

You are an ocean of inestimable qualities. Your glories are immeasurable. What words or sentiments can do justice to your character? We can only pray that you will overlook our incom-

petence and allow us to continue our meager service to your lotus feet, with ever-increasing enthusiasm. Thus, perhaps we may one day help you, as you fulfill the prediction of Lord Caitanya, by flooding the depths of *Māyā's* dungeon with the sanity which comes only from service to you and to the Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Your mercy is so great that in spite of our wretched service you dispel little by little the thick darkness of our ignorance. You are certainly the only being in this universe that can bring peace and happiness. Your unique strength can arrest the effects of Kali-yuga. Please accept us at your lotus feet so we may serve you forever.

Your causeless mercy has given us the hope to find with joy and confidence the relationship that binds us to Śrī Kṛṣṇa, even in this phenomenal world.

The shadow of your lotus feet refreshes our hearts from the burning fire of material life.

They are the rivers that fill up the reservoir of eternal nectar. You are the compassion of the Lord, the saviour of the conditioned souls. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We offer thousands of respectful homages to the lotus feet of our spiritual master. You are the most confidential servitor of the Lord, and we are the most fallen souls. We have no idea of your real greatness, but nonetheless we ask your mercy; allow us to stay in the shadow of your lotus feet.

You are the transcendental embodiment of perfection in service to the Lord, who cannot be understood by simply studying the *Vedas*, nor by undergoing severe penances, nor by charity, nor by worship, but only by pure loving service and devotion to your lotus feet.

You are as good as the Personality of Godhead, because your association is transcendental to everyone and everything. Just by seeing you or hearing you everyone in His service is given enlightenment and enthusiasm. No one can really describe your auspiciousness. Following in the footsteps of your spiritual master, you have released a flood of love of Kṛṣṇa throughout the whole world, and it will steadily drown the universe in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. O Gurudeva, how can we glorify you with our frog-like tongues, so contaminated with material filth?

We cannot understand you, nor the transcendental abode where you come from. But by your incomparable kindness you have opened our eyes. Now we can see that we have been cheated by so-called advancement and sense gratification, and have been thus led into the darkest ignorance and frustration.

Before your merciful eyes there is no difference between a professor and a streetsweeper, a black man and a white man. There is no scarcity of conditioned souls like ourselves, but you have the strength and the enthusiasm to deliver us all.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are our only shelter. Please give us the shade of your lotus feet, so that the arms of the illusory energy, and the hindrances on the devotional path will never reach us.

Just as Lord Caitanya made the tigers and snakes chant the holy name, so you have come to preach to us, even though we were living lower than hogs and dogs.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are like a parent. Without the attentive service of his parent, a child cannot grow to manhood. Similarly, without the care of the spiritual master one cannot rise to the plane of transcendental service.

Please let us assist you in spreading this *saṅkīrtana* movement everywhere. We are offering our *daṇḍavats* to your transcendental lotus feet.

Your most fallen servants of the Stockholm Yātrā,

Ālanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Dvārakeśa dāsa brahmacārī
Smitakṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Citraketu dāsa brahmacārī
Aristahe dāsa brahmacārī
Jan Prabhu
Vaclav Prabhu

Śrīhārīṇī devī dāśī
Ārcya devī dāśī

Ajita dāsa adbhikārī, Kṛṣṇa-premī devī dāśī
Vegavān dāsa adbhikārī, Padmavatī devī dāśī

Muralidhara dāsa

Sydney, Australia

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

*namas te sārāsvate deve
gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādī
pāścātya-dēśa-tāriṇe*

I offer my respectful obeisances to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this planet because of his taking shelter at the Lord's lotus feet.

O servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, you are so kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the Western countires, which are full of impersonalism, and voidism.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I fall down at your lotus feet to receive your mercy, which is always flowing like the waters of the Ganges.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the mercy incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and as such, those who submissively hear your message can drink the nectar and swim unlimitedly in the ocean of nectar.

*tad viddhi praṇipātena
paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānān
jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ*
(Bg. 4.34)

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the bestower of *kṛṣṇa-prema*, delivering the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Lord Caitanya is known as *mahā-vadānyāvataṛa* which means He is the most magnanimous incarnation of the Lord.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, Lord Kṛṣṇa first

imparted the Vedic knowledge into the heart of Lord Brahmā, the first created being (*tene brahma hṛdā*), and this fully ripened fruit is passed on carefully without any damage through the disciplic succession to Mādhavendra Purī, Īśvara Purī, Lord Caitanya, the six Gosvāmīs, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta and now Your Divine Grace, you are melting our stonelike hearts with this same knowledge.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your gracefulness is unexcelled wherever you travel. Your opening of Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira was glorious, and is still being relished by all your disciples.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your association is more valuable than millions of priceless gems. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your association is not limited to your personal form, but is ever-expanding in the form of your many books.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I would like to have the sincerity to express my gratitude in a way befitting your exalted position.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I thank you for saving me from the deathlike ocean of material suffering, and I pray to the Lord that I will never give up the service of your lotus feet.

**Your tiny servants of
ISKCON Sydney**



Tehran

*cakṣudāna dila-yei, janme janme prabhu sei
divya-jñāna hṛde prakāṣita*

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Everyone in this world has a color, a tint, a pair of "rose-colored glasses" in which they see themselves as the central point of existence. They go around preaching their own brand of "mine or I" ism very proudly. The so-called intelligent ones even claim to be aware of the multi-colorings and incorporate these higher perceptions into false claims of mastership. Everyone is pretending to know something, to be able to teach something, without admitting their own limitations and desires arising from colored senses and mind. Thus, no one has peace, nor can anyone give peace. None of the materially designated colors match the soul; rather, they are sources of misery to the soul.

You have made us aware of these colors that have been blinding us, by being completely free from them yourself. Your effulgence is without any tint. Whatever you do is transparent, expressing the natural brilliance of your soul's devotion to Kṛṣṇa. Your preaching is transparent (directing us to the Absolute Truth through logic, conviction, patience and confirmation by Vedic evidence). Your eating is transparent. (On our behalf, you accept hundreds of opulent offerings, yet you yourself eat barely enough to keep body and soul together.) Your walking, hearing, joking, sitting, dressing and arguing are all transparently related to Kṛṣṇa. You can call someone a rascal and then offer him *mahā-*

prasāda. You show us the proper utility of everything by relating it to devotional service. Therefore, the *Vedas* sing of your character and call you the transparent via media to the supreme proprietor.

You are too practical and wise to ask us to drop our own polluted colors. You don't find fault with us. Instead you ask us to engage whatever we have for the cause of *bhakti*. To the extent we live in your instructions, we also become transparent and truly qualified to distribute your mercy. We should never think "Now we have become devotees. Now we are finished, no more to learn." No. Now you are giving us the chance to begin. Now you have let us actually see the dark shades of ignorance that have been covering us.

We no longer have license to pass judgments with our limited, colored vision. The beacon of pure, transparent light, service to Godhead, has become manifest through you. In a humble spirit, we ask for strength to follow.

Ātreya Ṛṣi dāsa adhikārī
Navayauvana dāsa adhikārī
Rāmānanda Rāya dāsa brahmacārī
Āli Prabhu
Vidhi-bhakti-devī dāsī
Mañjarī-devī dāsī
Mandakīnī-devī dāsī



Toronto



“We were born in the darkness of ignorance and our spiritual master has opened our eyes with the torchlight of knowledge. O dearmost Śrīla Prabhupāda, we offer our respectful obeisances unto you.”

*namo namas te 'stu sahasra-kṛtvāḥ
punaś ca bhūyo 'pi namo namas te*

*namaḥ purastād atha prṣṭhatas te
namo 'stu te sarvata eva sarva*

“We offer our respectful obeisances unto you a

thousand times, and again and yet again. Obeisances from the front, from the behind and from all sides.”

*sarva-yoniṣu kaunteya
mūrtayaḥ sambhavanti yāḥ
tāsāṁ brahma mahad-yonir
ahaṁ bija-pradaḥ pitā*

All 8,400,000 species of life are given birth through the agency of the material mother and

father. But the great soul, he who is in knowledge of Kṛṣṇa, is very rare (*jñānavān mām prapadyate, sā mahātmā sudurlabhaḥ*), and he receives, through the mercy of Kṛṣṇa and the *guru*, a precious gift, a second birth, thus beginning an eternal life of spiritual reawakening (*tathā dikṣā-vidhānena, dvijatvaṁ jāyate nṛṇām*).

*śīta ātapa bāta variṣaṇa
e-dīna yāminī jāgi' re
viphalā sevinu kṛpāṇa durajana
capalā sukha-lava lāgi' re
(Govinda dāsa)*

In freezing cold, scorching heat, terrible wind and rain, through innumerable days and nights, we have awakened and slept, fruitlessly serving society, friendship and love and having to bear agitation and frustration for it.

*samsāra-biṣa-nale dibāniśi hiyā jvale
jūḍāite nā kāinu upāya
(Narottama dāsa)*

All matter is on blazing fire, and it is always burning our hearts. Though ablaze, we have no desire to escape. Though our minds and bodies burn, we remain bound, trying to enjoy this holocaust.

But your words are penetrating our hearts with the rain of transcendental knowledge (*dibya-jñān hṛde prokāśito*), thus extinguishing the fire of material desire (*samsāra-dāvānala-liḍha-lokātrāṇāya kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvaṁ*), melting the covering of stone which is enshrouding our afflicted hearts, and rekindling our dormant desire to serve Kṛṣṇa (*jīvera svarūpa haya kṛṣṇera nitya-dāsa*) with the blazing fire of your pure *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*.

Out of pure compassion, you have become our eternal father (*janme janme prabhu sei*), leading us out of the mire of *samsāra*. And what makes low-born *mlecchas* and *yavanas* deserving of such favor?

*yogyatā-vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi,
tomāra karuṇā-sāra
(Bhaktivinoda)*

“If you examine us, you will find no qualities. Your mercy is all that we are made of.”

You are transforming *nitya-baddhas* into *kṛpā-siddhas* by the agency of your association, just as bell metal is turned to gold by the agency of mercury (*yathā kāñcanatām yāti kāmasyaṁ rasa-vidhānataḥ*).

*durlabha mānava janama satsaṅge
tāraha e bhava sindhu re
(Govinda dāsa)*

“In this world it is very rare to obtain a human birth, and rarer still to get the association of *sādhus*, by which the material ocean of emotions is crossed.”

*akṣoḥ phalaṁ tvādrśa-darśanam hi
tanoḥ phalaṁ tvādrśa-gātra-saṅgaḥ
jihvā-phalaṁ tvādrśa-kīrtanam hi
sudurlabhā-bhāgavatā hi loka*

“O devotee of the Lord, the purpose of the visual sense is fulfilled simply by seeing you, and to touch your body is the fulfillment of this bodily touch. The tongue is meant for glorifying your qualities because in this world it is very difficult to find a pure devotee of the Lord.”

Kṛṣṇa states in *Bhagavad-gītā*:

*jñānam te 'haṁ sa-vijñānam
idaṁ vaksyāmy aṣṣataḥ
yaj jñātvā neha bhūyo 'nyaj
jñātavyam avāśiṣyate*

“I shall now declare unto you in full this knowledge both phenomenal and noumenal, by knowing which there shall remain nothing to be known.”

*rāja-vidyā rāja-guhyam
pavitram idaṁ uttamam*

*pratyakṣāvagamāṁ dharmyaṁ
susukhaṁ kartum avyayam*

"This knowledge is the king of education, the most secret of all secrets. It is the purest knowledge, and because it gives direct perception of the self by realization, it is the perfection of religion. It is everlasting and is joyfully performed."

Adhyātma-vidyā vidyānām: "Of all sciences, I am the spiritual science of the self."

By revealing this most secret of all secrets, the science of self-realization, you are rendering the highest welfare for all living beings.

*yo vā etad akṣaram gārgy aviditvāsmāl
lokāt praiti sa kṛpaṇaḥ
(Bṛhad-āranyaka Upaniṣad)*

You are delivering us from our miserly and animalistic condition of life and elevating us to the platform of not *brāhmaṇa*, not *vipra*, but *Vaiṣṇava*.

*kibā vipra kibā nyāsi śūdra kene naya
yei kṛṣṇa-tattva-vettā sei guru haya*

"It does not matter whether a person is a *vipra* or born in a lower family or is in the renounced order of life. If he is master in the science of Kṛṣṇa, he is the perfect and bona fide spiritual master." (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*)

It is also stated in the *Vedas*:

*ṣaṭ-karma-nipuṇo vipro
mantra-tantra-viśāradaḥ
avaiṣṇavo gurur na syād
vaiṣṇavaḥ śvapaco guruḥ*

"A scholarly *brāhmaṇa*, expert in all subjects of Vedic knowledge, is unfit to become a spiritual master without being expert in the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. But a person born in a family of a lower caste can become a spiritual master if he is a *Vaiṣṇava*."

You are distributing love of Godhead, following directly in the footsteps of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His associates, without considering who is a fit candidate and who is not, nor where such distribution should or should not take place. Unconditionally, you are distributing love of Godhead at every opportunity.

O Mahā-bhakta, you are *ātmārāma*, satisfied simply by discharging loving service to Kṛṣṇa.

Sakala-sahane bolo diyā koro nija-māne spṛhāhina: "Please give us strength. Let us be as you are, without desires or aspirations."

*nikuñja-yūno rati-keli-siddhyai
yā yālibhir yuktir apekṣaṇīyā
tatratī-dākeṣyād ati-vallabhasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam
(Viśvanātha Cakravartī)*

O Śrī Guru, you are a personal associate of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, who is the personification of Kṛṣṇa's internal pleasure potency, *hlādinī śakti*, and the embodiment of pure devotional service. Please be merciful unto us and allow us to gain Her favor. There is nothing more powerful than your causeless mercy. *Guro prasādo balavān na tasmād ballavataram.*

O Paramahansa, you are the phenomenal manifestation of Kṛṣṇa and are directly empowered (*vibhūti*) by Lord Balarāma, the original spiritual master. By satisfying you, one can advance in spiritual consciousness. By pleasing you, one pleases Kṛṣṇa. You are not bound by the *guṇas* or ropes of illusion. Kṛṣṇa Himself says in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*:

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

"One should understand the spiritual master to be as good as I am. No one should be jealous of him or think of him as an ordinary man because

the spiritual master is the sum total of all the demigods.”

Also, in the *Padma Purāṇa*, it is stated: *guruṣu nara-matir yasya vā narakī sah*. “One who considers the spiritual master to be an ordinary human being is possessed of hellish intelligence.”

O sublime teacher, we have not yet experienced the effect of seeing Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet, which are adorned with the marks of a thunderbolt, a goad, a banner and a lotus. The splendor of their beautiful ruby nails resembles the orbit of the moon and dispels the thick gloom of one’s heart. But by rendering service to your lotus feet, though that service be insignificant, the thick gloom of our hearts is becoming dispelled because service to the *mahā-bhāgavata* is greater than service to Kṛṣṇa.

Nor have we experienced the effect of seeing Kṛṣṇa’s benevolent smile, which, for all those who bow to Him, drives away the ocean of tears caused by intense grief. But your all-compassionate smile is filling the cold chambers of our hearts with the warmth of love of God.

O Gurvendra, you are following in the footsteps of the six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana:

*kṛṣṇotkīrtana-gāna-nartana-parau
premāmṛtāmbho-nidhi
dhirādhira-jana-priyau priyakarau
nirmatsarau pūjita
śrī-caitanya-kṛpā-bharau bhuvi
bhuvo bhārāvahantā-rakau
(Śrīnivāsa Ācārya)*

You too are always engaged in chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa and dancing. You have said that the bona fide spiritual master is he who always speaks about Kṛṣṇa. You are constantly glorifying Kṛṣṇa by your actions, your words and your thoughts. You too are like an ocean of love of God, for you are drowning us all in an ever-increasing *sac-cid-ānanda* existence. You too are

popular both with the gentle and the ruffians, for you purify all by your contact.

*gaṅgāra paraśa haile paścāte pāvana
darśane pavitra kara ei tomāra guṇa*

“Merely by the touch of the waters of the sacred Ganga, one becomes liberated, even if he is the lowest of mankind. But just by seeing you, the same effect is achieved.”

*anuvrajāmy aham nityam
pūyeyetyanghri-reṇubhiḥ*

Whatever you do, you also are pleasing to everyone, and are fully blessed by Lord Caitanya, which is proven by the fact that this ISKCON *saṅkīrtana* movement continues to increase. Thus, you also are engaged in missionary activities meant to deliver all conditioned souls in the material universe. And you are fulfilling Lord Caitanya’s prophecy: *pr̥thivite āche yata nagarādi grāma sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*. “My holy name will be heard in every town and village throughout the world.”

Due to your causeless mercy, the holy name is rising in our hearts like the shining sun, and is dissipating the darkness of ignorance. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu has said:

*nāma vinu kali-kāle nāhi āra dharma
sarva-mantra-sāra nāma, ei śāstra-marma*

“In this age of Kali, there is no other religious principle than the chanting of the holy name. The holy name is the essence of all Vedic hymns. This is the purport of all revealed scriptures.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*)

The scriptures offer many remedies to cure the material disease, but one needs an expert physician to prescribe the best remedy according to time and circumstance. And you are that expert physician of the soul.

Kṛṣṇa’s holy name alone can render all

benediction upon the living beings, including the supreme benediction, *kṛṣṇa-prema*.

*kṛṣṇa mantra haite habe saṁsāra mocana
kṛṣṇa nāma haite pābe kṛṣṇera caraṇa*

“Simply by chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, one can obtain freedom from material existence. Indeed, simply by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa one will be able to see the lotus feet of the Lord.”

*etādṛṣi tava kṛpā bhagavan mamāpi
durdaivam idṛśam ihājani nānurāgaḥ
(Śikṣāṣṭaka)*

Out of kindness, Kṛṣṇa enables us to easily approach Him by His holy names, but we are so unfortunate that we have no attraction for them.

O Gurudeva, we were all fools attempting to enjoy the illusory fools’ paradise. But by accepting the shelter of your lotus feet, we are discovering that the holy names and the Lord are identical, and that simply by chanting we are becoming relieved of all material conditions. Now, we are wondering in anticipation:

*nayanam galad-asru dhārayā
vadanam gadgada-ruddhaya girā
pulakair nicitam vapuḥ kadā
tava nāma-graṇe bhaviṣyati*

“When will our eyes be decorated with tears of love flowing constantly when we chant the holy name? When will our voices choke up and the hairs of our bodies stand on end at the recitation of the holy name?” (*Śikṣāṣṭaka*)

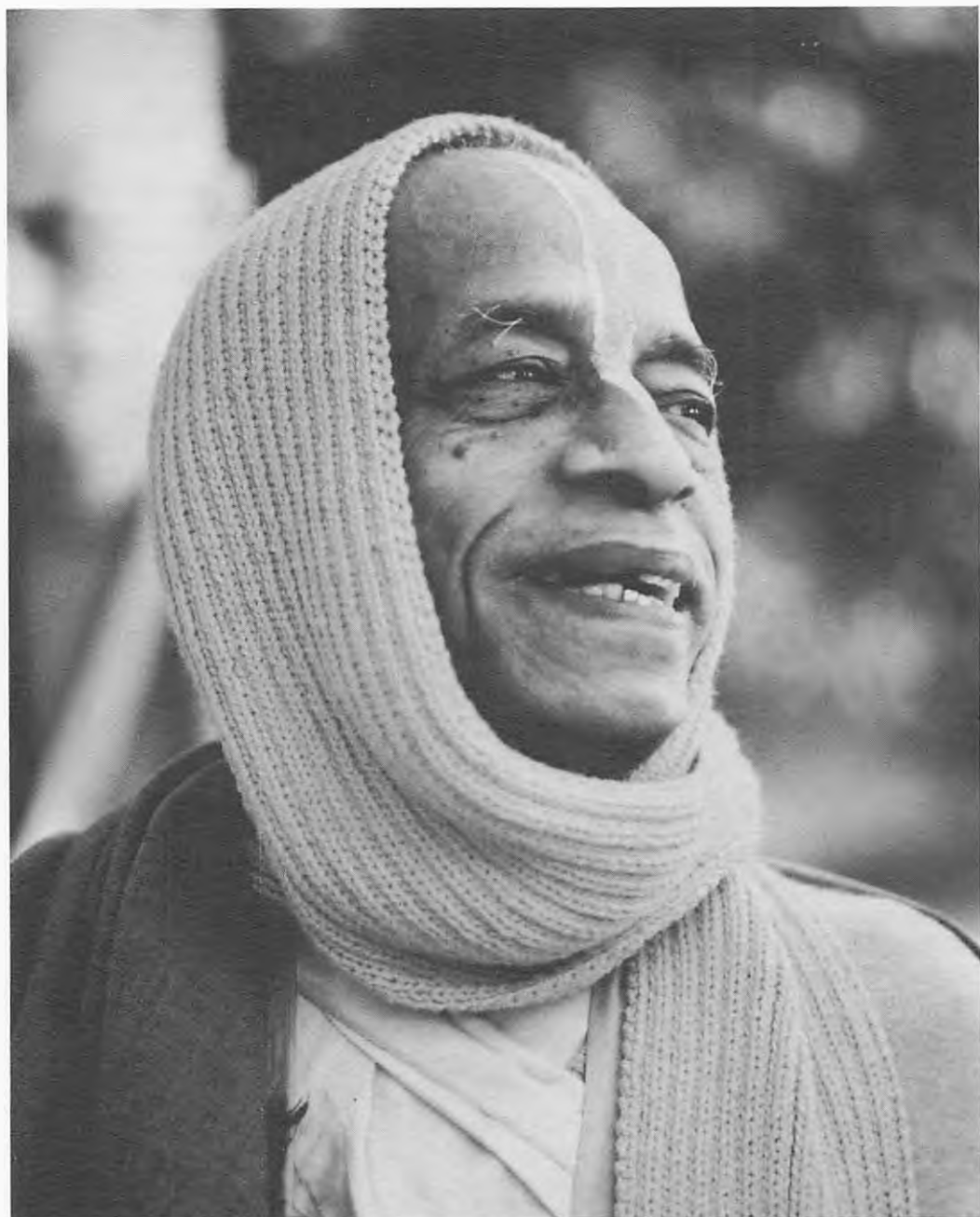
*tumi kṛpā kori’ śraddhā-bindu diyā
deha ‘kṛṣṇa-nāma-dhane
kṛṣṇa se tomāra kṛṣṇa dite pāra
tomāra śakati āche
āmi to ‘kāṅgala ‘kṛṣṇa’ ‘kṛṣṇa’ boli’
dhāi tava pāche pāche*

“O Prabhupāda, please bless us by giving us just one drop of faith with which to obtain the great treasure of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa is yours; you have the power to give Him to us. We are simply running behind you shouting, Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa.”

Uttamaśloka dāsa adbhikāri
Āyodhyapati dāsa adbhikāri
Kṛpāsindhu dāsa adbhikāri
Kṛṣṇa-kathā dāsa adbhikāri
Vicāru dāsa adbhikāri
Duryodhanaguru dāsa adbhikāri
Trilokanātha dāsa adbhikāri
Ravindra dāsa adbhikāri
Bhakta Dan
Bhakta Tony
Śauri dāsa adbhikāri
Drupada dāsa adbhikāri
Viśvakarmā dāsa brahmacāri
Giriyaḍava dāsa brahmacāri
Tārakanātha dāsa brahmacāri
Bhaktimārga dāsa brahmacāri

Nakādi dāsa brahmacāri
Govinda-bhakta dāsa brahmacāri
Raghumisra dāsa brahmacāri
Baladeva dāsa brahmacāri
Revatiprāṇanātha dāsa brahmacāri
Bhakta Chuck
Hārumāra dāsa brahmacāri
Bhakta Rodney
Bahisṁmati-devi dāsi
Śrikāri-devi dāsi
Atigarvita-devi dāsi
Anala-devi dāsi
Bhadrapriyā-devi dāsi
Vṛndā-devi dāsi
Kṣīracora-dev dāsi
Māyavatī-devi dāsi

Bhaktin Joy
Bhaktin Margaret
Rādhā-devi dāsi
Pratimā-devi dāsi
Praharaṇa-devi dāsi
Mālini-devi dāsi
Jyotirāditya-devi dāsi
Paurṇamāsī-devi dāsi
Tribhuvaneśvari-devi dāsi
Bhaktin Subhaja
Rūpa
Sanātana
Kṛṣṇa dāsi
Bhaktin Natalie
Lakṣmaṇa-devi dāsi
Mohini-devi dāsi



Vṛndāvana



*Just as the sun rises in the east at the break of day,
So the brilliant sun of Jagat-guru has risen in our soul.
Before he came life was like death, dark and grey,
Trying desperately to satisfy insatiable senses, thinking that was our goal.*

*Just as moths attracted by the light fly into the fire,
And just as flies are attracted to the stool,
So we foolish jīva souls have come into the mire
Of illusion, and put ourselves under Māyāvādī's rule.*

*Forgetting who we were and looking in a desperate attempt for love,
We have searched on many a mountain, valley and stream,
Looking like madmen everywhere below and above,
Becoming frantic, 'nothing is real, it's all a dream.'*

*And then when everything was lost, nothing left,
Nowhere to go, no one to love, no more hope,
A brilliant light appeared before us (in the West)
And said "Come on, cross over this ocean, I am your boat."*

*Oh, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have saved us from this hell,
From degradation, misery and strife.
You have picked us up out of that deep dark well
And given us the priceless gift of eternal life.*

*You have taught us that our dearest friend and lover is Govinda,
You have brought us to His abode, Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma.
You have given us back our eternal dhāma
And have distributed freely Kṛṣṇa prema, no more karma.*

*We are fallen souls with no qualification.
Still, we pray to help you serve your Gurudeva,
And in this way always stay in your association.*

*And so on this holiest Vyāsa-Pūjā day,
We honor you with the greatest reverence and love.
Your glories are known far and wide in every which way
On the earth, down below and up above.*

*You are the greatest of all, our father, master and friend,
And so we wish to offer you the Vyāsa seat.
To describe your glories there can be no end,
We simply pray to be situated eternally at your lotus feet.*

Jaya Gurudeva!

Signed by the devotees of Vṇḍāvana Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma-mandira

Akṣayānanda Svāmī
Dhanañjaya dāsa adhikārī
Ānanda Mahārāja
Praṇava dāsa adhikārī
Mahākṣa dāsa brahmacārī
Gaṇanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Prahāda Rakṣāsa dāsa brahmacārī
Mahāvarāha dāsa brahmacārī
Akiñcna dāsa brahmacārī
Akrūra dāsa brahmacārī
Bhāvānanda Rāya dāsa Brahmacārī
Candrāvalipati dāsa brahmacārī
Gopālavṇḍa dāsa brahmacārī
Jāṭismara dāsa brahmacārī
Lohitākṣa dāsa adhikārī
Mūrti dāsa adhikārī
Jagadānanda Paṇḍita dāsa brahmacārī
Nayanābhirāma dāsa adhikārī
Pṛthuputra dāsa adhikārī
Prabhāsa dāsa brahmacārī
Saccidānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Pūrṇacandra dāsa adhikārī
Rādhe Śyāma dāsa adhikārī
Bhakta Richard
Viśāla dāsa adhikārī
Patraka dāsa brahmacārī
Apūrva dāsa brahmacārī
Dṛupada dāsa adhikārī
Gopati dāsa brahmacārī
Huñkāra dāsa brahmacārī
Krodaha dāsa adhikārī
Narottamānanda dāsa adhikārī
Om̐kara dāsa adhikārī

Pradyumna dāsa adhikārī
Prasannātmā dāsa adhikārī
Patitana-pāvana dāsa brahmacārī
Rājasekhara dāsa brahmacārī
Shambunatha Pandey
Śivanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Urukrama dāsa brahmacārī
Śreṣṭha dāsa brahmacārī
Kemraja Sastri
Hari Prasad Sastri
Anantaram Sastri
Kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Girivaradhārī dāsa brahmacārī
Smarahari dāsa brahmacārī

Bālagopāla-devī dāśī
Daivaśakti-devī dāśī
Arundhati-devī dāśī
Mahāmāyā-devī dāśī
Viśvadevī-devī dāśī
Raṅgavati-devī dāśī
Mahatī-devī dāśī
Mahāvegavati-devī dāśī
Nirmalā-devī dāśī
Rasajñā-devī dāśī
Viśālinī-devī dāśī
Kīśorī-devī dāśī
Bhaktin Kīśorī
Sevānandī-devī dāśī
Vanamālanī-devī dāśī
Sita Ram Prabhu
Asita dāsa adhikārī
Dhīranāyaka dāsa brahmacārī

Washington, D. C.

*bhavad-vidhā bhāgavatās
tīrtha-bhūtāḥ svayaṁ vibho
tīrthi-kurvanti tīrthāni
svāntaḥ-sthena gadābhṛtā*

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

“Saints of your caliber are themselves places of pilgrimage. Because of their purity, they are constant companions of the Lord, and therefore they can purify even the places of pilgrimage.”

“One should respect 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.”

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

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

Our Beloved Master,

Please accept our prostrate obeisances hundreds and hundreds of times at your lotus feet. It is by your mercy that we have any ability to appreciate your qualities. By hearing your divine words, the most ignorant child can distinguish between truth and falsehood. He can

escape the most subtle doctrines and theories, which snag the best of the *yogis*, *jñānis*, elevationists and liberationists. He can cross the insurmountable ocean of illusion, and comprehending the ocean of truth, enter into the eternal realm of pure devotional service to Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, tasting the sweetest transcendental

rasa. Therefore we bow down to you. Our only wish is to have our consciousness purified by the words emanating from your lotus mouth. Your words are our life and soul.

You are our connection with *śāstra* and Kṛṣṇa, and are to be respected on the same level with the Supreme Lord. With your grace we cross over all impediments. Without your grace we find neither perfection, happiness nor the supreme goal of life. You are the confirmation of all the *śāstras* and the living receptacle of our meager service to Kṛṣṇa, who is otherwise forever beyond our reach. We are praying at your feet that we may never fall victim to a notion or doctrine opposing your teachings.

Before meeting you, we could not distinguish between a spiritual person and an outstanding materialist. Not knowing who or what to follow, we were constant victims of the theories. Constantly cheated by our own minds or by others' minds, we had no idea what disease was plaguing us, how deadly serious it really was, or what sort of solution would cure it. You came to us when we were blinded by lust. You hold the torchlight of knowledge and discrimination. Now we are gradually seeing, by your grace, that devotional service (*ahaituki-bhakti*) is the only spiritual path, and that the pure *bhakta* is the only true spiritual man. The pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa, who is immersed in the bliss of pure love of God, is totally free of all defects and selfish desires. Being genuinely detached and unmotivated, he can never cheat us or lie. So, such a pure devotee alone (a pure Vaiṣṇava) is qualified as *jagad-guru*, and no one else can ever be. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are such a devotee.

Fully relishing the transcendental name, form, qualities and pastimes of Lord Caitanya and of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, you are the ocean of compassion, and mercy spills out of you in an endless flow of teachings and books. You have come to possess Kṛṣṇa by the strength of your devotion. The maker and the goal of all *śāstra* is your confi-

dential associate. You can deliver the most fallen souls, bringing them to the highest level of Vaiṣṇava. Because of you, anyone in any part of the world can reach the highest perfection and in turn, distribute mercy by delivering your mercy as it is.

Parivrājakācārya Svāmī

Vṛṣakai dāsa adhikārī
Vipinapurandara dāsa adhikārī
Bidancandra dāsa adhikārī
Brahmā dāsa brahmacārī
Aindra dāsa brahmacārī
Tamāla Kartika dāsa brahmacārī
Varutapa dāsa brahmacārī
Bhavanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Yajña dāsa brahmacārī
Yadunātha dāsa brahmacārī
Daṇḍī dāsa brahmacārī
Puṣpavān dāsa brahmacārī
Abhay Charan dāsa brahmacārī
Kṛṣṇa Gopāla dāsa brahmacārī
Vārdhanya dāsa brahmacārī
Ambujākṣa dāsa brahmacārī
Aghārī dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Frank
Bhakta Harry
Bhakta John
Bhakta John
Bhakta Robert
Nandī-devī dāśī
Sāravādī-devī dāśī
Sudhācārī-devī dāśī
Padmāmālānī-devī dāśī
Ugrasena-devī dāśī
Ananṅamañjarī-devī dāśī
Vilāśī-devī dāśī
Bhaktin Donna
Bhaktin Louise
Bhaktin Marget

Winnipeg



Dear Śrila Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

O beloved spiritual master, sometimes, due to the material diseases of the conditioned soul, we find it very difficult to fully appreciate the causeless mercy which you are freely bestowing upon us. We are all so weak and devoid of intelligence; please allow us to be with you always. Being the direct representative of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, you also are *patita-pāvana*, friend of the fallen. Since we have no spontaneous attraction for serving the lotus feet of Prabhu Nityānanda (*nitāi pada-kamala*), how else but by your inconceivable mercy can we maintain any kind of enthusiasm and determination in our devotional service? For so many births

and deaths we have been maddened by a false concept of bodily life and bound up by hundreds and thousands of material desires. But now we have all the mercy necessary to cross over the ocean of material suffering. We simply have to take it. As Govinda dāsa prays:

*durlabha mānava janama satsaṅge
tāraha e bhava sindhu re*

“The Lord, being full and free from problems, can wholeheartedly care for His devotees. His concern is how to elevate and protect all those who have taken shelter at His lotus feet. The same responsibility is also entrusted to the spiritual master. The bona fide spiritual master’s concern is how the devotees who have surrendered to him as a representative of the Lord may make progress in devotional service. The Supreme Personality of Godhead is always mindful of the devotees who fully engage in cultivating knowledge of Him, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.” (Cc. Ādi, Vol.1, purp. p.63)

*sādhavo hṛdayam mahyam
sādhūnām hṛdayam tv aham
mad-anyat te na jānanti
nāham tebhyo manāg api*

“Saints are My heart, and only I am their hearts. They do not know anyone but Me, and therefore I do not recognize anyone besides them as Mine.” (Cc. Ādi, 1.62)

You are so compassionate upon the fallen conditioned souls, now it is our duty and responsibility to follow your instructions without deviation. At every moment, let us pray as Bhaktivinoda prayed: “It is so difficult to find the strength to carry on alone the *saṅkīrtana* of the holy name of Hari. Please bless us by giving us just one drop of faith with which to obtain the great treasure of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Give us all help. Give us all strength. Let us be as you are, without desires or aspirations.”

*sākeśād-dhara-tvena samasta-sāstrair
uktas tathā bhāvayata eva sadbhiḥ
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam
(Gurv-aṣṭakam, 7)*

*īśvara-svarūpa bhakta tānra adhiṣṭhāna
bhaktera hṛdaye kṛṣṇera satata viśrāma*

“A pure devotee constantly engaged in the loving service of the Lord is identical with the Lord, who is always seated in his heart.” (Cc. Ādi, 1.61)

Being fully absorbed in the transcendental pastimes of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and being a soul thoroughly surrendered to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, we understand that everything emanating from your lotus mouth is the Supreme Absolute Truth. The Lord, being situated within your heart as the Supersoul, reveals perfect absolute knowledge to

you from within. We must always pray for the desire to hear from you and to execute your instructions without restriction.

Although we do not deserve your mercy and are so offensive in our actions, you are still benedicting us with your immeasurable loving kindness and blessing us with the most valuable jewel, the *mahā-mantra*: *Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.*

We are humbly thanking you and prostrate ourselves at your lotus feet on this holiest of all holy days. May we please you with our lives and always strive to increase our service to your transcendental feet just as you are always increasing the ecstasies of your beloved Gurudeva Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda.

Your eternal servants,

Nandikeśvara dāsa adhikārī
Kāmsahantā dāsa adhikārī
Tamohāra dāsa brahmacārī
Nātha dāsa brahmacārī
Dharma-prāṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Vyāpaka dāsa brahmacārī
Bhūdeva dāsa brahmacārī
Jitarati dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Bob
Bhakta Derek
Bhakta Joe
Mandari-devī dāsī
Lokadṛṣṭi-devī dāsī
Jaganmātā-devī dāsī
Subhadra-devī dāsī
Bhaktin Patty
Bhaktin Joanne
Bhaktin Susan
Bhaktin Audrey
Bhaktin Sandra

OHE! VAIṢṆAVA ṬHĀKURA

by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura

1

*ohe! vaiṣṇava ṭhākura, doyāra sāgara,
e dāse karuṇā kori'
diyā pada-chāyā, śodha he āmāya,
tomāra caraṇa dhori*

O venerable Vaiṣṇava, O ocean of mercy, be merciful
unto your servant. Give me the shade of your lotus
feet.



2

*chaya bega dami', chaya doṣa śodhi',
chaya guṇa deha' dāse
chaya sat-saṅga, deha' he āmāre
bosechi saṅgera āśe*

Teach me to control my six passions; rectify my six faults, bestow upon me the six qualities, and offer unto me the six kinds of holy association.*

*The six passions are those pertaining to words, the mind, anger, the tongue, the stomach and the genitals. The six faults are over-eating, attachment to material things, inability to follow regulative principles, sense gratification, useless idle talk, and impure habits. The six positive qualities are enthusiasm in practicing devotional service, firm faith in devotional processes, a strong desire to attain *prema-bhakti*, a favorable service attitude, avoidance of non-devotees, and appreciation of the company of devotees. The six methods of association are to go to an assembly of devotees, to invite devotees into one's home, to discuss and hear devotional topics, to take the *mahā-prasāda* of devotees and to offer *mahā-prasāda* to devotees.



3

*ekāki āmāra, nāhi pāy bolo,
harināma-saṅkīrtane
tumi kṛpā kori', 'śraddhā-bindu diyā,
deha' kṛṣṇa-nāma-dhane*

I do not find the strength to carry on alone the *saṅkīrtana* of the holy name of Hari. Please bless me by giving me just one drop of faith with which to obtain the great treasure of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.



4

*kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāra,
tomāra śakati āche
āmi to' kāṅgāla, 'kṛṣṇa' 'kṛṣṇa' boli',
dhāi tava pāche pāche*

Kṛṣṇa is yours; you have the power to give Him to me. I am simply running behind you shouting, “Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa!”



