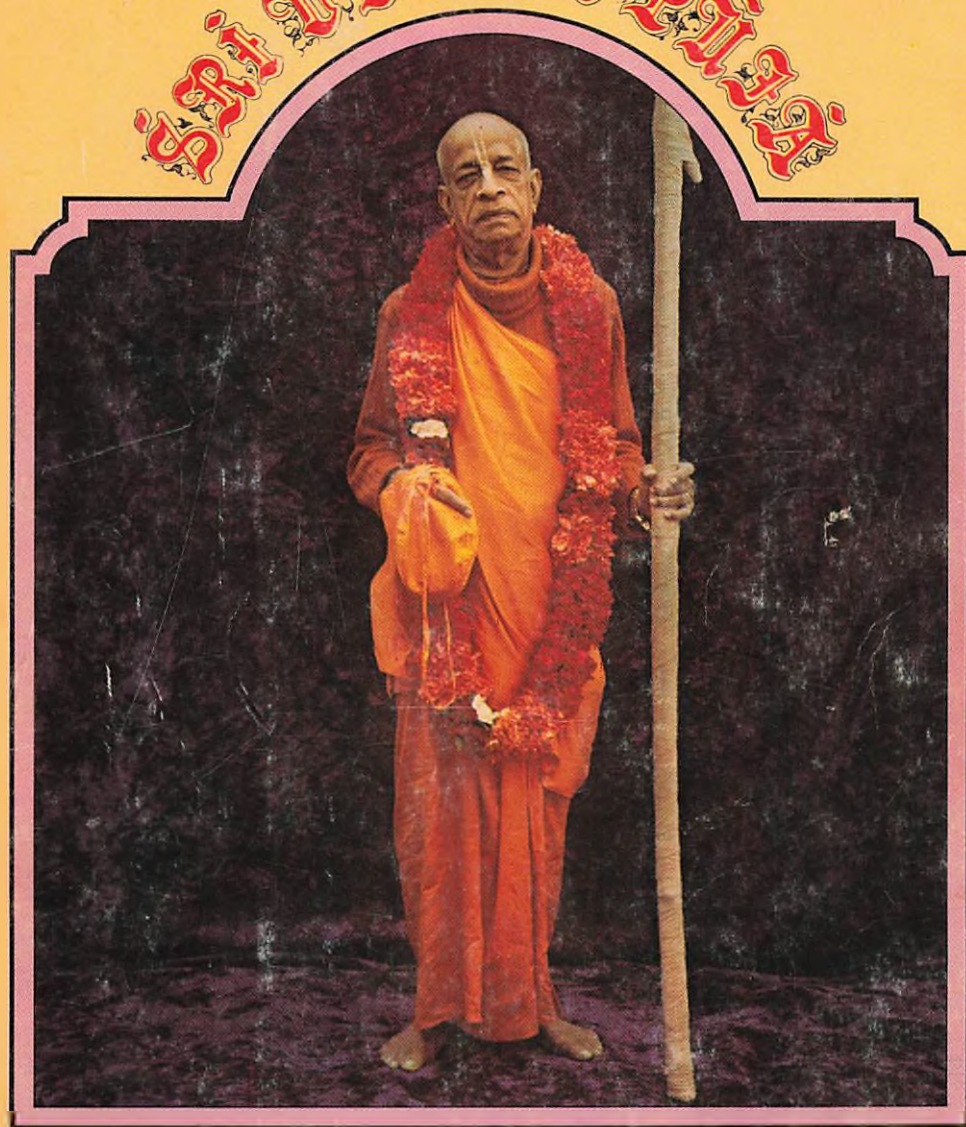


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हृषीकेश ८४८७ ❀ THE MOST BLESSED EVENT ❀ August 22, 1973

The Appearance Day of our Beloved Spiritual Master

His Divine Grace

OM VISNUPĀDA PARAMAHAMSA PARIVRAJAKĀCĀRYA AṢṬOTTARA-SATA SRI-SRIMAD

A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI MAHĀRĀJA PRABHUPĀDA

Founder-Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Om M.

ŚRĪ UYĀSA-PĪṬĀ

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Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā
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The Meaning of Vyāsa Pūjā

Vyāsa Pūjā is the bona fide spiritual master's appearance day.

Śrīla Vyāsadeva very wonderfully compiled all the Vedic literatures. He is the original spiritual master for anyone following the Vedic way of spiritual realization. Therefore, the spiritual master is known as the representative of Vyāsadeva because he carries the message of Vyāsadeva throughout the world. Out of the millions of Sanskrit verses composed by Śrīla Vyāsadeva the whole of Vedic knowledge is summarized in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* which is known as the ripened fruit of the desire tree of Vedic knowledge. The ripened fruit is received hand to hand through disciplic succession and anyone who does this work in disciplic succession from Śrīla Vyāsadeva is considered to be his representative. Thus the appearance day of the spiritual master is

worshiped as Vyāsa Pūjā. In this connection, the exalted seat on which the spiritual master sits is called Vyāsāsana (the seat of Vyāsa). The system of offering respect to the spiritual master is current in all sections of Vedic followers. We of the Gauḍīya Sampradāya offer our humble homage annually on the appearance day of our spiritual master and this auspicious moment is called Vyāsa Pūjā.

We dedicate this volume with thousands of *daṇḍavats* at the lotus feet of our eternal spiritual master, Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara Śata Śrī Śrīmad A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda Mahārāja, who is so mercifully delivering the transcendental message of Vyāsadeva for the welfare of all living beings.

The DISCIPLE SUCCESSION

Vedic knowledge, which contains information of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Kṛṣṇa, our relationship with Him, and how to develop love of Him, is not a question of research. Our research work is imperfect because we are researching things with imperfect, perishable senses. We have to accept perfect knowledge which comes down, as is stated in *Bhagavad-gītā*, by the *paramparā* disciplic succession. We have to receive knowledge from the proper source in disciplic succession beginning with the supreme spiritual master, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and handed down to a succession of spiritual masters. Vedic knowledge is received from transcendental sources, and the first words were spoken by the Lord Himself. The words spoken by the Lord are different from words spoken by a person of the mundane world who is infected with four defects. A mundaner 1) is sure to commit mistakes, 2) is invariably illusioned, 3) has the tendency to cheat others and 4) is limited by imperfect senses. With these four imperfections, one cannot deliver perfect information of all-pervading knowledge.

This transcendental knowledge of the *Vedas* was first uttered by the Personality of Godhead to Brahmā, the creator of this particular universe. From Brahmā, the knowledge descended to Nārada, from Nārada to Vyāsadeva, from Vyāsadeva to Madhvācārya, and in this process of disciplic succession the transcendental knowledge was transmitted by one disciple to another till it reached Lord Gaurāṅga, or Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, who posed as the disciple and successor of Śrī Īśvara Purī. The present Acāryadeva is the eleventh disciplic representative from Śrī

Rūpa Gosvāmī, the original representative of this transcendental tradition in its fullness from Lord Caitanya. The knowledge that we receive from him is not different from that imparted by the Godhead Himself and the succession of *ācāryas* in the preceptorial line of Brahmā. The *ācārya* is the living representative of Vyāsadeva, the divine compiler of the *Vedas*, the *Purāṇas*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Mahābhārata* and the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

One who interprets the divine sound, or *śabda-brahman*, by his imperfect sense perception cannot be a real spiritual *guru* because, in the absence of the empiricist's proper disciplinary training under the bona fide *ācārya*, the interpreter is sure to differ from Vyāsadeva, the prime authority of the Vedic revelation, (as the Māyāvādīs do). Such an irrelevant interpreter, therefore, cannot be accepted as the *guru* or *ācārya*, howsoever he may be equipped with all the acquirements of material knowledge. On the other hand, one who has received the transcendental knowledge by aural reception from the bona fide preceptor in the disciplic chain and has sincere regard for the real *ācārya* must certainly be enlightened with the revealed knowledge of the *Vedas* which is permanently sealed to the cognitive approach of the empiricists. As it is stated in the *Svetāśvatara Upaniṣad*:

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

"Only unto those great souls who have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master, simultaneously, are all the imports of the Vedic knowledge automatically revealed." The practical process of accepting knowledge in this spirit is called *paramparā*, or disciplic succession.



As stated by Lord Kṛṣṇa in the Bhagavad-gītā:

aham sarvasya prabhavo
mattah sarvaṁ pravartate
iti matvā bhajante mām
budhā bhāva-samanvitāḥ

"I am the source of all spiritual and material worlds. Everything emanates from Me. The wise who know this perfectly engage in My devotional service and worship Me with all their hearts." (Bg. 10.8)

Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the original reservoir of all knowledge. From Him alone the bona fide disciplic succession of transcendental knowledge descends. He is the origin of knowledge, He is the object of knowledge and He is the goal of knowledge. Furthermore, it is by His mercy only that one contacts a spiritual master in the genuine disciplic chain. By His all-pervading cognizance, He can understand the desire and sincerity of a conditioned soul and lead him, from within the heart, to the spiritual master. Thus Kṛṣṇa appears before the devotee as the spiritual master.



Lord Brahmā is the first created living being within the universe, as well as Lord Kṛṣṇa's first disciple in disciplic succession. He is empowered by Lord Kṛṣṇa to create all manifestations in the universe. By virtue of his austerity, the Lord revealed the Vedic knowledge to him from within his heart. He is the author of the Brahma-saṁhitā.



Nārada Muni is the son of Lord Brahmā. He has received the transcendental message from his father, and is thus eternally engaged in distributing this message for the benefit of all conditioned souls. On the vibrations of his transcendental vīṇā he can travel through all material and spiritual worlds. He first brought the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra to this planet earth.



Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana Vyāsadeva is the disciple of Nārada Muni and the original author of Vedic literature. As the literary incarnation of Kṛṣṇa, he could see by divine vision the impending horrors and godlessness of this age. Thus, under Nārada's instruction, he compiled the Vedic literatures for the fallen souls of this age.



Srī Madhvācārya appeared in disciplic succession in the 12th Century and preached all over India. As the disciple of Srīla Vyāsa-deva, Madhvācārya always stressed that God and man are separate individual personalities, even after liberation. Thus his philosophy is known as dvaita, or dual.



Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the special mercy incarnation for this age, appeared in disciplic succession from Srī Madhvācārya approximately 500 years ago for two purposes. First, He appeared to deliver the fallen souls by giving them the only effective process for self-realization in this age—chanting the holy names of God. By chanting, dancing and tasting the remnants of food-stuffs offered to Kṛṣṇa, one can immediately develop his dormant love of God, thus achieving the perfectional stage of life. Secondly, the transcendental mellow of devotional

service to Kṛṣṇa is so sweet that Kṛṣṇa Himself appeared in the mood of Rādhārāṇī, Kṛṣṇa's foremost devotee, just to taste it. It has been stated by Srīla Nārottama dāsa Ṭhākura that anyone who understands Lord Caitanya and His pastimes to be non-different from Kṛṣṇa will immediately experience love of God. Lord Caitanya was always absorbed in chanting Kṛṣṇa's holy name and pushing on the saṅkīrtana movement throughout the world. In this way, as the supreme teacher, He set the example for everyone.



The six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana, of whom Rūpa and Sanātana Gosvāmī are pictured here, were Lord Caitanya's direct disciples. Under His order, they rediscovered the transcendental village of Vṛndāvana where Lord Kṛṣṇa performed His glorious pastimes 5,000 years ago. After hearing from Lord Caitanya, they wrote volumes of literature explaining and giving directions for devotional service to Kṛṣṇa. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness is based on the guidelines given in these books. Although Rūpa and Sanātana had become outcastes from brahminical society by engaging in the service of Mohammedans, Lord Caitanya raised them to the topmost position in the Vedic order as gosvāmīs, or spiritual masters for all classes of men. This is proof of the potency of the saṅkīrtana movement.



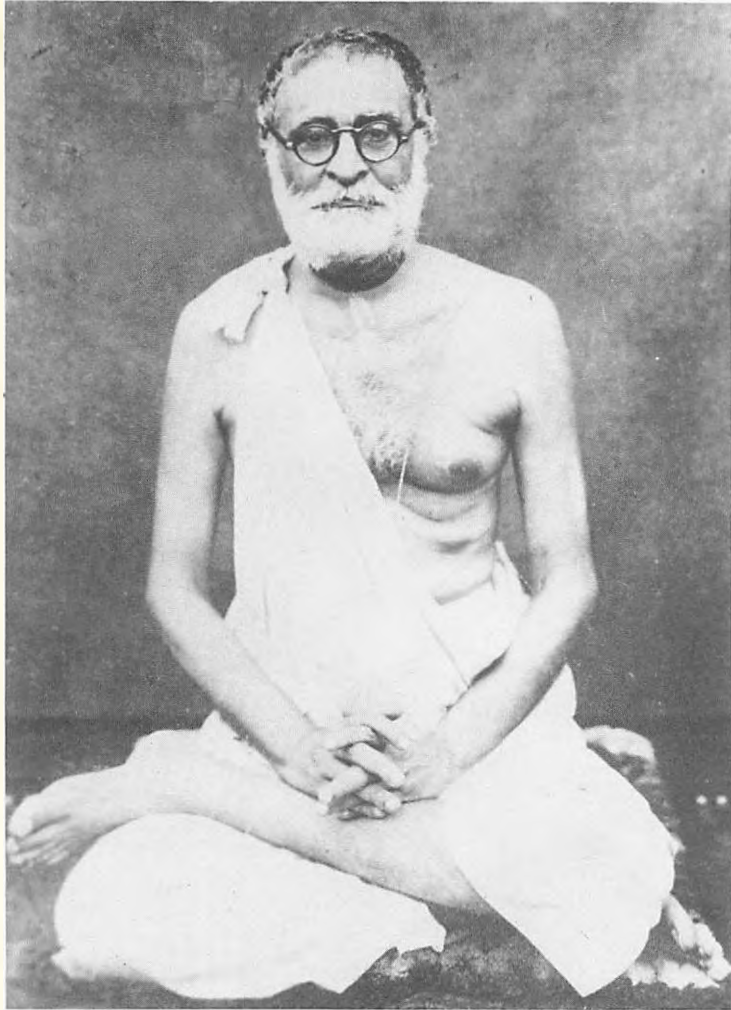
Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī, the spiritual master of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, is praised as follows: "I offer my respectful obeisances to Śrī Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī, who is respectful to the entire Vaiṣṇava community and who discovered the place where Lord Caitanya appeared."



Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura is the pioneer of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western world. His book on Kṛṣṇa consciousness, "Lord Caitanya—His Life and Precepts," was introduced at McGill University in Canada in the year 1896. Śrīla Bhaktivinoda prayed for a "ray of Viṣṇu" to appear as his child, and, as a result, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura took birth as his son.



Gaura Kīṣora dāsa Bābājī, an intimate associate of Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, was chosen by him to be the spiritual master for his son, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. He was renunciation personified, being always merged in a feeling of separation and intense love for Kṛṣṇa. He was extraordinarily humble and dedicated to the service of Kṛṣṇa.



His Divine Grace Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa 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 Rupa 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 Purī
The holy place,
My Lord and Master
His Divine Grace.
2. Oh! my Master
The evangelic angel.
Give us thy light,
Lite 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,
Paying 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 hast moved.
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.





Books by
His Divine Grace
A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPĀDA



*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate-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
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

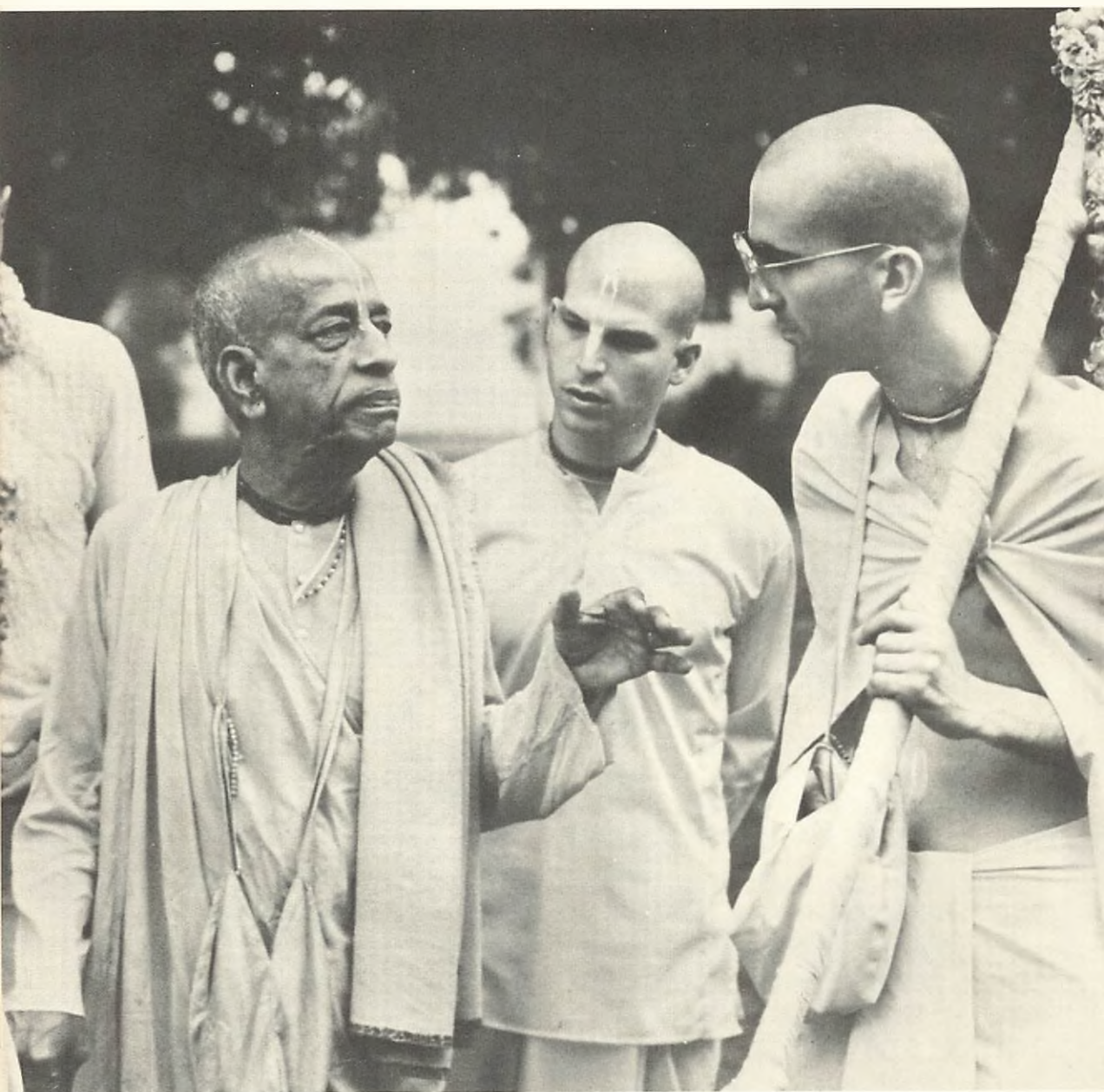
“Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master,
servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are so kindly teaching the message
of Lord Caitanya and delivering the Western countries,
which are filled with voidism and impersonalism.”

ŲYĀSA-PŲJĀ Homages

FROM THE
G. B. C.

The G.B.C. (Governing Body Commission) is an international committee formed by Śrīla Prabhupāda
to organize and govern the growing ISKCON world.

Each member has the responsibility to enthuse the devotees in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and
see that they follow the regulative principles outlined by Śrīla Prabhupāda.
As direct representatives of the spiritual master, they are fully authorized
to answer all questions concerning the devotional service of Lord Kṛṣṇa.



Eight Couplets on His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda:

A ray of light breaks through the night,
giving us hope, restoring our sight.

Our love for Kṛṣṇa was covered in dust
of anger, greed, and heinous lust.

We had no goodness, nor kindness, nor shame,
but you gave us Kṛṣṇa in the form of His name.

Your mercy is boundless, blissful and pure;
still we are hesitant to take to the cure.

Though clouded over by envious desire,
your lotus feet may we now aspire.

Let Caitanya's message carried by you,
transform our lives, tell what is true.

For God has descended in the form of His name,
and so you have come, to deliver the same.

We look up to you, a lion bold,
please give us courage, so we may not fold.

Invocation

His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda—

Sambandha—who carries the torchlight of tran-
scendental knowledge,

Abhidheya—who delivers the nine-fold aspect of
service to Kṛṣṇa as the follower of Rūpa
Gosvāmī,

Prayojana—who chants constantly the glories of
Kṛṣṇa, immersed in ecstatic love.

O spiritual master, O Gurudeva, we are wan-
dering lost and bewildered, thrown hither and
thither by the cruel currents of material life.

*brahmāṇḍe bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-lata-bīja*

Please give us shelter at thy lotus feet. You
carry within your heart the effulgent personality
of Godhead.

*premāñjana-cchurita-bhakti-vilocanena
santaḥ sadaiva hṛdayeṣu vilokayanti
yaṁ śyāmasundaram acintya-guṇa-svarūpaṁ
govindam ādi-puruṣaṁ tam ahaṁ bhajāmi*

And your presence is a veritable *tīrtha* (holy
place) where all may be purified.

*bhavad-vidhā bhāgavatās
tīrtha-bhūtāḥ svayaṁ vibho
tīrthikurvanti tīrthāni
svāntaḥ-sthena gadābhṛtā*

You are empowered to speak the message of
God and deliver His love to those who can hear
you. To those who can hear you, you never
stop speaking. As you shower the mercy of
Kṛṣṇa's love upon this burning earth, we stand
in awe before your grandeur, glory and endless
soothing grace.

*saṁsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka-
traṇāya kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvam
prāptasya kalyāṇa-guṇānavasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is receiving benediction
from the ocean of mercy. Just as the 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 obei-
sances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual
master.”

Bali Mardan dāsa Gosvāmī
G.B.C.—ISKCON Press and New York City
Bhaktivedanta Book Trust



Let me reflect upon my spiritual master, Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktivedanta Goswāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda, who is my very life and reason for existence. I pray that I can always remember him in my attempt to go back to Godhead. Wherever he may travel he goes in the one absolute direction, and I beg that he takes me with him. Please let me cling to you Śrīla Prabhupāda because you are the perfection of the soul.

To preach the message of *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is the climax of knowledge. It is the greatest challenge because everyone who has come to this material world harbors the weapons of envy and hatred towards the Supreme One. Therefore such work of the pure devotee is transcendently pleasing to Śrī Kṛṣṇa. My master has chosen to enter the arena on Kṛṣṇa's behalf fighting the haughty challenges of slaughter houses, prostitution and the laws and graft of big business and their police henchmen. You have faced them with conviction in your spiritual master. You have fought with them, sung to them, preached to them and brought them to surrender, rebirth and contentment. My powerful father, let me take shelter in your fearlessness and fight along your side.

Without purity, no one can lead. But you

have shown the world that your life belongs only to Kṛṣṇa, and your words have never differed from your actions. In this world there is nothing so pure and sublime as you and your mission. As such you can attract the lowest mind to have faith in Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. O standard of the universe! Please purify my wretched being so that I can give some service to the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya.

Because you are Kṛṣṇa's friend and devotee you are situated in complete and perfect truth. In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* it is described that the nature of the Absolute Truth is His ability to release people from the miseries of material existence. Only a blind man could not see how you have brought fortune and auspiciousness to the most fallen. The demonic teachers who are respected and worshiped by the foolish class of men only bless their followers with distress and anxiety. My teacher and guide, please let me share in your wisdom and help you relieve the burden of the world.

In this material world even goodness is conditional. Although one may give something in charity, if the recipient is ungrateful the charity stops. But you are like the rain cloud that pours the mercy of love of God even on the rocks. Each time it rains the same rocks again receive water. You are the ultimate in mercy. Even

though offenses are constantly committed at your lotus feet, you still offer blessing after blessing. Śrīla Prabhupāda you are just like Lord Nityānanda. May my stone heart melt in the glow of your compassion.

Because the ocean is so deep the disturbances on the surface cannot reach into its depth. In the same way there is no way to measure how deep you have gone into the loving affairs of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, or how much you are feeling for your spiritual master. Because of this you are never disturbed by the duality of this material world. But my mind is so fickle that even though I stand on the edge of the ocean of nectar I think of sitting in the mud of sense gratification. May my mind also become deep in love for Kṛṣṇa and thus be a source of ecstasy in this life.

To broaden the sway of your spiritual master's plan you gave up everything. For the ordinary person to give up family, wealth and society would be like giving up one's life. But you had strict faith in your spiritual master that one should live only for Kṛṣṇa's cause. Weak as I am, my countless attachments pull me like horses from every side. O Gurudeva! Heaviest of the universe! Please bless my mind, body and speech with unalloyed devotion to your feet.

Because you are aware of the supreme plan of the Absolute Lord you have no hankerings for the temporary pleasures of this material world. Whatever gain comes or whatever is taken away you consider as the mercy of the Lord and thus the ropes of material entanglement can never bind you. For you something has value when used in Kṛṣṇa's service. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please keep me from being carried away by the waves of false needs. Please let me take shelter in your simplicity.

Today people are so frantically searching for the end to violence, but to learn non-violence they must come to you. Every moment that one has your auspicious association, he comes that much closer to immortality. Even if the trees and grass are present when you chant the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, they become elevated. How

glorious you are! You have become the shelter of every species of life!

Your only motive is to deliver the truth that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and chanting the holy name will release one from all miseries of life. If no one accepts your message still you will not alter your position. And if one fortunate soul becomes liberated by taking to Kṛṣṇa consciousness you see it as success for your mission. Like a log drifting in the river, somehow I have stopped at the port of your lotus feet, the entrance to Vaikuṇṭha. Let me glorify you whose every limb and motion sing of the truth.

You are the most fortunate because you know the transcendental position of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa is the never-failing friend, the ultimate proprietor and the highest enjoyer. Therefore there can be no illusion or anxiety for you. Please awaken me from my slumber and take me to Kṛṣṇa consciousness so that I too can have transcendental peace.

Countless living entities move throughout the universe sentenced to birth and death by the nature of their work. They peer out through a myriad of eyes, each giving a newer version of illusion. Before they can ever become satisfied in life, death again comes. Let me therefore run to your expansive arms of freedom. Please carry me back to my real home beyond this dark place.

On your request we go into the festering cities to deliver the holy names. How have I been able to join in this most merciful movement, being empty of compassion? Insult stings my mind and ignites my anger. Intolerance rises like a belligerent beast. Please let me drink of the waters of your forgiveness and learn how to love.

May each year of my life free me more from my bondage to material life and take me closer to your lotus feet. I do not want to fool myself—please take pity on me Śrīla Prabhupāda and take me back to Godhead.

Bhagavān dāsa Adhikārī

G.B.C.—France and the Mediterranean



It was in 1969 that one of us discovered an old issue of a magazine published by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Mahārāja containing an homage written by Śrīla Prabhupāda to commemorate the appearance day of his spiritual master. When it was brought to Śrīla Prabhupāda's attention he said we could also write down our Vyāsa Pūjā appreciations, as he had done 40 years before, and publish them in a special book. We had very little time to inform all the temples to rush us their offerings, and as they came in only a few days before the deadline, we had to edit, compose and paste it all up for being printed in great haste. Our men worked well into the early morning for several days. On the morning of Vyāsa Pūjā several finished copies arrived in Hamburg temple where Śrīla Prabhupāda was staying. He was quite pleased and had the book read aloud to him.

That Vyāsa Pūjā of five years ago is memorable to me because we were able to please our spiritual master by our service. This is the very meaning of Vyāsa Pūjā. A disciple is always a debtor to his spiritual master. How can he repay

what the spiritual master has given—devotional service? Imagine a friend agreeing to lend you any sum and when you repaid it he would immediately lend you double the sum, on and on, so that whenever you repaid you would immediately become a debtor for double the amount. The disciple is therefore ever alert as to how to please the spiritual master, and the spiritual master kindly provides needs so that the disciple can serve him as a menial servant. The spiritual master will even appear to be infirm so that he seems to be dependent upon his disciple's service. This exhibition of the reciprocation of *bhakti* was also shown by the Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa when He appeared as an ordinary child and was threatened by so many demons—just so that His devotees would constantly think of His welfare and protection.

With each yearly issue, the Vyāsa Pūjā book surpasses the first 1969 issue. Now that there are so many devotees, the temple presidents and GBC are asked to write representatively. The appreciations are thoughtful and not sentimental and the get up and the illustrations become nicer each year. That 1969 Vyāsa Pūjā is important because it demonstrated that by mutually cooperating we were able to please the spiritual master. If one of us had failed in his part, the deadline would have been missed. For me, then, the significance is that I feel obliged to admit that my being able to please my spiritual master is ultimately dependent upon my Godbrothers. Throughout these several years of serving and learning from Śrīla Prabhupāda, it has been their example that has convinced me of Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings. I suspect that if I had been the sole disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda in all the world I would not have been able to advance in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. My Godbrothers are all so many *śikṣa gurus* because they have all taken shelter one hundred per cent of our great *dikṣa guru*, Śrīla Prabhupāda. So on this Vyāsa Pūjā Day I glorify my spiritual master who has created so many representatives to teach and encourage me to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. It is a fact that anyone who becomes Kṛṣṇa conscious is very great and rare, *yatatam api siddhānām/ kaścin mān*

veti tattvataḥ (Bg. 7.3), but of those who are Kṛṣṇa conscious, he who can make others Kṛṣṇa conscious is the greatest, *bhavitā na ca me tasmād/ anyañ priyatāro bhuvi*. (Bg. 18.69)

His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda is the real spiritual master and *ācārya*. He teaches Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone, regardless of time, circumstances, culture or religion. He is so expert that he can elevate any desiring candidate to the topmost position of qualified brahmin. Thus, he is the *jagat guru*, the spiritual teacher for the world. Others may claim to be *jagat guru* but they have not been even outside of India or even outside their own state in India. So what do they know about *jagat*, the world? Anyone who tries to compromise Śrīla Prabhupāda's achievement is foolish and envious like a jackal. In the jungles the jackals howl together very boisterously and sometimes they come to think themselves the lords of the jungle, forgetting that the lion is the real king. They go on howling but as soon as the lion appears and gives one roar, they all scamper. So for all the so-called spiritual masters, *yogīs* and *svāmīs*, Śrīla Prabhupāda's achievement is very embarrassing.

As a disciple, I am the best testimony for Śrīla Prabhupāda's achievement. What he has given me no one else could—neither scientist, professor, mentor, philosopher, writer, parent nor politician. He has freed me from birth, death, old age and disease—*janma mṛtyu-jarā-duḥkhaiḥ*. And only one who is freed from the miseries of the material body and the mind can really be happy—*vinukto 'mṛtamaśnute*. So in the ecstasy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness I am prepared to incessantly glorify my spiritual master.

For a devotee, anyone who helps him in his devotional service to Śrī Kṛṣṇa or His representative is a friend, and an enemy is anyone who hinders his service. By the grace of my spiritual master I have so many friends in ISKCON. The purpose of ISKCON is that by associating together in living, studying, working and worshiping, we remind each other of Kṛṣṇa and our relationship with Him. By preaching and cooperating together to broadcast the holy name and the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness on a

worldwide scale we also remind the people in general of Kṛṣṇa. The result for all devotees within the society is that they are individually enhanced as well as being able to make the highest contribution to the welfare of all people of all parts of the world.

Our spiritual master has called ISKCON a sample of Vaikuṇṭha, the spiritual abode, where there is no anxiety. A sample of a very nice thing is meant to captivate us. Just like the Fuller Brush man sometimes comes to visit at your door and the first thing he does is give you a free sample brush. Being a sample, it is not very expensive, but it is nice and it is free, and so you become inclined to see what he is carrying in his case, resulting in your purchasing scores of his elegant and expensive goods. Similarly the spiritual master has given us a sample of the spiritual abode where everyone is constantly remembering Kṛṣṇa—the cowherd boys, the *gopīs*, the beasts, the cows, the trees and the insects. ISKCON is organized so that in every activity we remember Kṛṣṇa. *Buddhi-yogam upāśritya, maccitaḥ satataḥ bhava* (Bg. 18.57). We have not had to pay anything to join; we've just taken freely as much as we like of chanting, dancing, feasting and learning philosophy. The result is that we are now mad after going back to Godhead at any cost.

The sample is meant to attract us, but we should not confuse it with the regular full line of goods for which we have to pay. ISKCON is not the same quantity of perfection as is Kṛṣṇaloka. In ISKCON we are being trained up for entering the spiritual world by learning how to surrender everything. *Sarva-dharmān parityajya/ mām ekaṁ śaranam vraja*. We should not become discouraged if sometimes our God-brothers exhibit some resemblance to material inebrieties. That must be there because none of us are pure devotees. Because we are in this body and have some connection to it, sometimes we lapse back into the habit of becoming agitated by its needs and desires. But the vision of a devotee is fixed. He sees Kṛṣṇa within everyone, he sees everyone serving Kṛṣṇa and he sees equally, *paṇḍitāḥ sama-darśinaḥ* (Bg. 5.18). He does not

criticize or chastise his God-brothers nor does he adulate them extravagantly. It is one thing to encourage one another in our service, but is another thing to extoll certain devotees because of confusing their material qualifications for spiritual advancement. For a devotee, flattery is something not wanted.

It is by the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa that we grow healthy in spiritual life. Although the chanting is so powerful that it eradicates more sins than we can commit, still the effectiveness of the chanting depends on the quality of the utterance—how eager we are to have Kṛṣṇa. When we begin chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa we must pass from the sinful stage to the intermediary stage, or clearing stage, before we can achieve the purified stage. In the clearing stage we become more and more enlightened, *nāśayāmy ātma-bhāvastho/ jñāna-dīpena bhāsvatā* (Bg. 10.11). It is a gradual phenomena, like the dawning of the sun. At dawn there is no longer the darkness of night and we can see things, but we are still not in the brilliant sunlight of the day. But we know that because the sun has now dawned, if we wait patiently, the full light of the sun will surely come. So let us all cooperate fully like an army of spiritual masters to faithfully serve the mission of our spiritual master, each man to his best capacity, and free from all doubt and hesitation. Armed with the weapons of knowledge and detachment, *jñāna* and *vairāgya*, we should stand and fight against forgetfulness of Kṛṣṇa. Let us become *prakṛti*, a means of pleasure for our spiritual master, and let him manipulate us as he wishes so that to his slight touch we will dance like puppets. On this Vyāsa Pūjā Day let us all bow down and supplicate ourselves as follows: "I know no one but Kṛṣṇa as my Lord, and He shall remain so even if He handles me roughly by His embrace or makes me broken-hearted by not being present before me. He is completely free to do anything and everything, for He is always my worshipful Lord unconditionally."

Brahmānanda dāsa Gosvāmī
G.B.C.—Africa



I have been given this commission to write about the glories of Śrīla Prabhupāda and find myself unable to adequately fulfill it. Śrīla Prabhupāda stands supremely glorified by all that he is and all that he radiates. So I feel like a man offering a candle to the sun in that it is not what I can offer that is significant as much as the spirit in which it is done. Whatever I can say has no value that is not derived from him.

The exuberance in others that prompts them to offer flowing rivers of praise is well enough done by them. However, if I were to merely echo them I would not highly esteem my own honesty. For me personally to offer similarly grand speeches would be to court the estate of flattery. I do not feel qualified to summarize the qualities of my spiritual master any more than I do to pass judgments on them. I do not pretend to be able to appreciate everything about him. But still I aspire to dedicate myself to his service. I want to cling to that spirit of devotion

throughout all turmoils of worldly existence.

It seems to me that the best form of gratitude is not susceptible of being reduced to a facile phrase but finds its expression in the sincere desire not to misrepresent the spiritual master. I see him as the forever living inspiration of the universal church of humble love for God. I do not like to see him misrepresented and yet I cannot feel that I am able to champion the cause of his representation against the forces of self righteousness, superficiality and sectarianism. It is the responsibility of the disciple not to betray the spiritual master by his insincerity. Devotion to God is the source of all sincerity. I can only pray to be established in love of Godhead by the mercy of my spiritual master and to be forgiven for my blundering attempts at his service.

Gaurasundara dāsa Adhikārī
G.B.C.—South America



Suppose you wanted to offer some service to the president of the nation—how would you go about it? After thinking on it for some time, we can conclude that it simply isn't possible. The president is so great that an ordinary citizen has no power to approach him. Similarly, if someone wants to serve God then how will he do that? Where is God? What is His name? What does He look like? And what does He want from us in the way of service? If we cannot even see God then how will we begin to serve Him? Most will conclude that because we have not seen Him, He doesn't exist. Others will imagine that God is impersonal, or void, and still others will declare that they are themselves God or that everybody is God.

In the *Bhagavad-gītā*, Kṛṣṇa who is actually God Himself, declares to Arjuna "Just try to approach a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render him all kinds of service. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth. And when you have thus learned the truth you will know that all living beings are in Me and are Mine." When the President wants to give information about his activities he sends his representative before the press, TV and Radio, who must accept his words as authorized information. Otherwise, they may invent so many things, but such information cannot be accepted as authorized. Similarly, in the material world, if we want to understand God then we have to be prepared to accept the words of the bona fide representative of God, the spiritual master. The spiritual master is the confidential agent of the Supreme Lord, and the conditioned souls have the opportunity of understanding and rendering service to the Supreme Soul Kṛṣṇa only in the degree

that they are able to please the spiritual master. An ordinary citizen cannot approach the president. But if he can somehow or other gain the favor of the president's most confidential servant, then it becomes very easy. This fact is supported by Śrīla Viśvanātha Chakravartī: "The spiritual master is honored as much as the Supreme Lord because of his being the most confidential servitor of the Lord." Then again he says, "Without the grace of the spiritual master no one can make any advancement in spiritual life."

But if there are so many people claiming to be spiritual masters, how can I know who the bona fide spiritual master is? The answer is: The spiritual master is that person who has perfectly heard, and is delivering without any adulteration, the words of Kṛṣṇa coming down from the disciplic succession going directly back to Kṛṣṇa 5,000 years ago when he spoke *Bhagavad-gītā* for the enlightenment of all mankind.

The spiritual master is transparent. The spiritual master is not giving his opinion or fashionable interpretation of God, nor will he claim that he is God. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* it is stated that "the great souls who are not deluded are under the protection of the divine nature. They are fully engaged in devotional service because they know Me as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, original and inexhaustible. Always chanting My glories, endeavoring with great determination, bowing down before Me, these great souls perpetually worship Me with devotion." In the purport of this verse it is stated that a *mahātmā*, or spiritual master, cannot be manufactured by rubber-stamping an ordinary man; the spiritual master must show positive symptoms. In other words, he must be

engaged in chanting the glories of the Supreme Lord without any other engagement. Everyone, from the street sweeper to the king, is engaged in glorifying someone and hearing the glories of someone. But the spiritual master can be distinguished from all others by the difference in subject matter. The spiritual master is glorifying Kṛṣṇa.

The spiritual master is simply engaged in delivering the words of Kṛṣṇa. The spiritual master is just like the post man who brings a letter without adulterating it by adding something or scratching something out. When Kṛṣṇa says that everyone should surrender to Him, the spiritual master does not interpret, but simply points out the truth of Kṛṣṇa's words and makes it clear by his own exemplary behavior that we have to surrender to Kṛṣṇa.

The spiritual master is not a particular person but the spiritual master is the principle of truth. There may be many spiritual masters, but the spiritual master is one, just as there may be many mathematics teachers but each one is teaching two plus two equals four. Therefore, the teacher is one. The duty of the disciple is to become himself a spiritual master by distributing the message of Kṛṣṇa as he has received it from the lips of his spiritual master. In *Bhagavad-gītā*, Kṛṣṇa also says, "For one who explains this supreme secret (of *Bhagavad-gītā*) to the devotees devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end he will come back to Me. There is no servant more dear to Me in this world than he, and never will there be one more dear."

Without a spiritual master there is no question of spiritual life, just as without a father there is no question of material life. The father impregnates the mother and thus birth is made possible. Spiritual life is the second birth, and it is made possible by the spiritual father. Just as a bird is born once in the egg and twice when he becomes free from the darkness of that egg, everyone of us was born in ignorance, conditioned by this material body due to false identification, and the spiritual master has descended from the spiritual platform to help us break the illusion of bodily identification. The prayer in

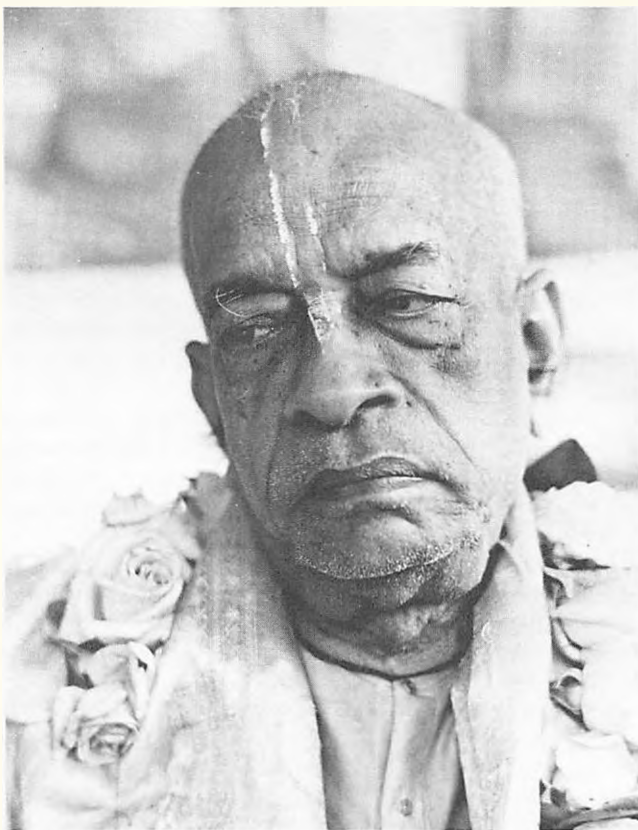
this connection is: "I offer my most humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master. While I was standing in the darkness of ignorance, he forced me to open my eyes with the torchlight of knowledge."

God is not impersonal or void but from the scriptures and the spiritual master we learn that God is the supreme living being, or the leader of all living beings. God is not lying lost like an inert stone waiting to be found; nor is He insentient as some imagine the Truth to be. On the contrary, as it is stated in the *Vedānta-sūtra* the Absolute Truth is the origin of everything. The origin of everything cannot be impersonal, but must be the supreme intelligent living being amongst all other living beings. Therefore we can understand that everything is moving under the direction of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The spiritual master is an emissary of God moving in this material world under His dictation. The spiritual master is empowered by the Supreme Lord to accept service on His behalf and to deliver the whole universe back to home, back to Godhead.

The disciple should never credit himself with finding the spiritual master, what to speak of finding or understanding God. Personally I do not know anything of God, and neither I can claim any understanding of my spiritual master. All I know is that he has taken me in and due to his causeless mercy he has allowed me to make myself a place under his lotus feet. Whatever he does is good; whatever he says is true. He may be wrong, he may be right, but he is always right. *Śāstras* say that to one who has firm faith in his spiritual master and the words of the scripture alone are all the truths of spiritual science revealed. So let everyone take advantage of this opportunity and resolve always to pray for eternal guidance at the lotus feet of our spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda, who is so kindly taking us back home, back to Godhead.

Harṁsadūta dāsa Adhikārī

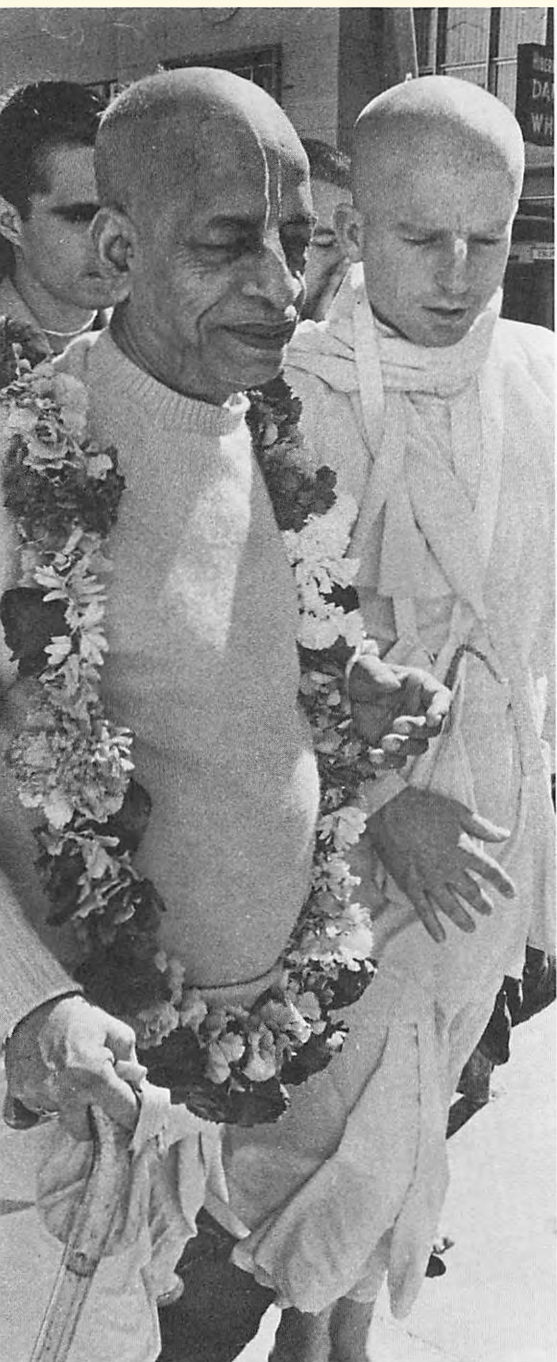
G.B.C.—Germany and Eastern Europe



1. Kṛṣṇa's representative
is now among us here,
appearing like a human being,
dispelling all our fear.
2. Our vision has been clouded
by *māyā*'s blinding glare,
and thus we have become absorbed
in a contaminated affair.
3. But *māyā* has been kicking us
and now we're asking why.
Why do I have to suffer?
Am I just born to die?
4. This is simply Kṛṣṇa's plan—
to bring us all back home,
and by the grace of Śrī Guru
this factor can be known.

5. The atheistic men assert
that there can be no God,
or I am God and you are God
or everything is void
6. But Kṛṣṇa's e'er beyond the reach
of verbal jugglery,
and those who try to use this trick
prolong their misery.
7. For the present age of Kali-yuga
there is no other way
to fully understand the truth
than to chant the holy name.
8. This message has been brought to earth
by Caitanya Mahāprabhu,
who is the Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself
in golden hue, not blue.
9. Now Lord Caitanya's messenger,
Śrīla Prabhupāda,
is clearing up the nonsense
rascal's theories on God.
10. The friend of every living being
and dearest to the Lord,
engaged in the highest welfare work
for the benefit of all the world.
11. By the mercy of Lord Caitanya
and Śrīla Prabhupāda
in every town and village
they'll be chanting names of God.
12. Kali is the most degraded age
and full of imperfections,
but on account of this *saṅkīrtana* movement
there's thorough purification.
13. Somehow or other it has occurred
and who can posit why?
The waves of Prabhupāda's mercy
have reached such a fool as I.
14. I have no appreciation
for what has come to be.
I have no qualification,
and still he has accepted me.

Jagadīsa dāsa Adhikārī
G.B.C.—Canada



I offer my most worthless obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda who is the ocean of mercy and the personification of all the *Vedas*. His only desire is to deliver all the fallen and ignorant persons from the bondage of *māyā* and for this he prays to Kṛṣṇa constantly and schemes day and night. Simultaneously, with the Absolute Truth as delivered by Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī he vigorously strives to smash all the nonsense *yogīs*, philosophers, scientists and assorted rascals. This is also his causeless mercy. How else will they all be relieved from the diseases of adversity to submission and service to the actual Supreme God? For these demons, Prabhupāda is death and havoc personified, so fierce and determined, with his ignorance-destroying dissertations which he tirelessly delivers from early morning till the late hours of the night, day after day. He will not relent or settle for one inch of compromise. Total acceptance of the Vedic conclusion and absolute surrender to Kṛṣṇa's superiority and glory are his only terms. He writes volumes of literature, each one saying the same thing: surrender to Kṛṣṇa; and he tirelessly pours his heart and soul into distributing this life-giving knowledge of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. He has no other thoughts or objectives, and cares for no other subject or topics than *Kṛṣṇa-kathā*. He always attacks the rascals with a kick on the face and he blesses the devotees with, "Come on" and "Jai." "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa" is the first word and the last, and service to his lotus feet is everything in between.

All Glories to Śrī Guru, Śrīla Prabhupāda.
Karandhara dāsa adbhikārī

G.B.C.—Western United States
Bhaktivedanta Book Trust



My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble *danḍavats*. In Your Divine Grace's garden in Los Angeles, I was seated amongst a few disciples at your lotus feet ("the disciple learns love from the spiritual master"). We were softly chanting *japa*, waiting for you to speak something (revelation). The joyful sound of *kīrtana* was coming from the temple room, and you said (by your causeless mercy), "Was it *you*, Gargamuni? Or was it someone else who asked me if these *kīrtanas* were disturbing me in the garden?" You laughed beautifully, raising your eyebrows high, and said, "It is *Vaikuṇṭha*!" At that very moment the sound from the Temple poured out the side-entrance door, down the path and up through the garden gate, enveloping us all in a tangible ocean of nectar. Completely immersed, the hairs on my miserable body standing on end, I continued softly chanting *japa* that was nectar into the nectar air. Part of me, all too sure of my polluted condition, waited for the end of this endless moment that would never be lost ("all varieties of *rasas* or mellows turn into eternity"). The evening rays of pale, yellow-gold sunlight, slanting overhead into the trees beyond the garden wall, were emanating from Lord Kṛṣṇa's body, and He felt very near, as if behind the far garden wall (*acintya-bhedābheda-tattva*).

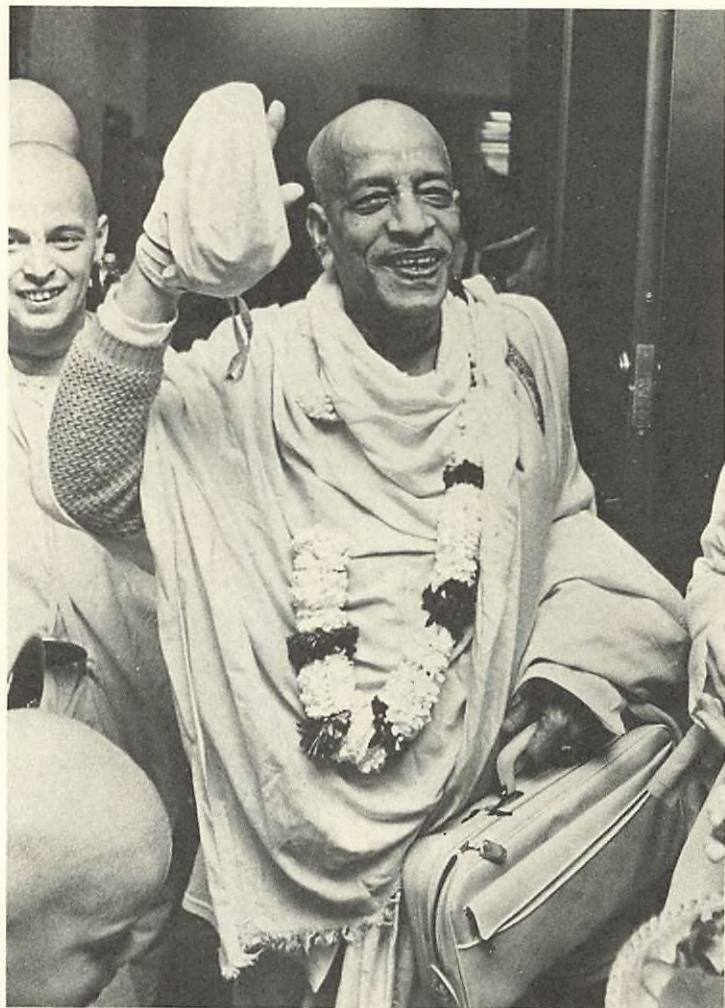
Everything is revealed in the river of nectar

flowing from your lotus lips (the Absolute Truth). We can see only the *ādhibhautika* persons and the endless permutations of material energy as they appear on our eyeballs. We cannot even see one another, glowing with the light of a thousand suns. Only the illusory energy do we see, hiding ourselves as eternal spirit-souls. And, as the clouds passing near the full moon makes the moon appear to be moving, but only the cloud is doing the moving ("you must regard everything philosophically"), similarly, we cannot see the real form of Your Divine Grace before us. Yet, by the sound of your voice as recorded in your wonderful books (*uttama-śloka*), we can see by the light of higher intelligence, so that this material world at last has value in service to Kṛṣṇa ("*ṛte 'rtham yat pratiyeta, na pratiyeta cātmani*").

Now I pray to surrender, renouncing the false role of overlord and controller, and I beg, in the face of numberless immediate personal discrepancies, to somehow be retained in Your Divine Grace's exalted service. I pray this finds you increasingly enthused by good news from all over the growing ISKCON world.

Your most fallen disciple,
Rūpānuga dāsa Gosvāmī

G.B.C.—Eastern United States



One's own spiritual master is his link with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He is not a father for just one body, but he is eternally the father. Why is the day on which a disciple honors his spiritual master called Vyāsa Pūjā? It is called Vyāsa Pūjā because a bona fide spiritual master carries the message of Vyāsadeva throughout the world. Vyāsadeva compiled all of the Vedic literatures. There are certain "realist" philosophers who do not believe that there was any person by the name Vyāsadeva. Their idea is that anyone who is distributing Vedic knowledge is called Vyāsadeva. This class of philosophers are impersonalists, and they cannot appreciate how one person could write so many books; so they disbelieve. Actually, Vyāsadeva's accomplishment is very astonishing. In a letter he wrote in 1970, our spiritual master Śrīla Prabhupāda has explained: "Before Vyāsadeva all the Vedic scriptures were taught and received verbally in disciplic succession. Both the students and the spiritual master of those ages were so sharp in their memory that once they heard a transcendental message from their spiritual master the message was immediately imprinted into their brain and considered as a written language."

Vyāsadeva appeared at the dawn of the age of Kali, just when all moral deterioration was about to begin due to the cursing of Mahārāja Parīkṣit by an upstart brahmin boy. Vyāsadeva is a real person, a powerful incarnation of Kṛṣṇa, and he is accepted by all Vedic authorities. He is known as Mahā Muni as he is also the spiritual master for all who follow the Vedic literature. No one in history can compare with him as a poet, philosopher, writer, etc. His influence is so great that it cannot even be calculated. He composed millions of Sanskrit verses and we are just trying to understand a fragmental portion of his work. Vyāsadeva summarized the whole Vedic literature in his mature work, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which is known as the ripened fruit of all the *Vedas*. This was done under the

guidance of his spiritual master Nārada Muni. This ripened fruit is received hand to hand through the disciplic succession. Anyone who does the work of Vyāsadeva in disciplic succession from Vyāsadeva is considered to be the bona fide spiritual master. On his appearance day the spiritual master is honored, and that celebration is called Vyāsa Pūjā. Furthermore, the seat on which such a bona fide spiritual master sits is known as the Vyāsāsana.

It is accepted by those who are followers of the Absolute Truth that the Absolute Truth is one. That knowledge of the Absolute Truth, the source of all sources, is coming from the Vedic scriptures compiled by Vyāsadeva. Therefore, one who is an actual spiritual master has to speak the message of Vyāsadeva without change. The so-called *guru* of the impersonalist class cannot actually be accepted as a spiritual master or *guru* because he is not in line with Vyāsadeva. The message of Vyāsadeva is that Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. It is stated in the *Bhagavad-gītā* that Arjuna proclaims Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Brahman and this is affirmed by Vyāsadeva, Nārada, etc. Throughout the whole Vedic literature the conclusion is: Kṛṣṇa is the source of all incarnations and all manifestations, including the impersonal Brahman. This same message is delivered in this age by Lord Caitanya who stressed that one should simply chant the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, the *māha-mantra*. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda is therefore a bona fide spiritual master in the line of Vyāsadeva. There is no question of one's being a *guru*, however, if he is teaching the subtle form of atheism known as impersonalism.

In this age of hypocrisy and quarrel, no one is actually following the teaching of Lord Kṛṣṇa in the *Bhagavad-gītā*. But our spiritual master is following and by His Divine Grace we are also following. By the above evidence of Vyāsadeva's position we can see that only the appearance day of our spiritual master can be honored as Vyāsa Pūjā. No one else is glorifying Kṛṣṇa, and

so any *guru*-disciple relationship outside of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is a useless waste of time.

It is stated in the *Vedas*, “Only unto those great souls who have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all truths of the Vedic knowledge automatically revealed.” Our spiritual master has described in his translation of the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* that Lord Caitanya supported this verse in the Vedic literature by personally believing in His spiritual master’s words. Just as Lord Caitanya introduced the *saṅkīrtana* movement on His spiritual master’s order, in the same way our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement started with the belief of Śrīla Prabhupāda in the words of his spiritual master, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Goswāmī Mahārāja. Śrīla Prabhupāda writes of them: “He wanted to preach, we believed in his words and tried somehow or other to fulfill them; now this movement has become successful all over the world. Therefore faith in the words of the spiritual master is the secret to success.” As disciples, our position is to dedicate our life and soul to the orders of the spiritual master. This is the way to perfection; and in that way, by helping the fallen mankind to realize their original position of love of God and to be happy in this world and the next, one also works on the highest welfare platform for all humanity.

It is natural for the disciple to crave the favor and intimate association of the spiritual master. But the actual essence of how to capture this intimate association is revealed in these words by Śrīla Prabhupāda: “Whoever is following my instruction, teaching the message of Lord Caitanya 24 hours a day, is my personal servant.” So that association with the spiritual master in intimacy is ours if we simply serve by distributing his literature on *saṅkīrtana* or by whatever is our duty—preaching in class, working in the Spiritual Sky incense company or in the office or temple duties. If we perform our duty with full determination and enthusiasm for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness, if we cooperate and assist him in this mission by cooperating with our God-brothers who are also doing this work, then in that way we will associate with the spiritual

master and Kṛṣṇa. Since we are devotees of Kṛṣṇa, by associating with the spiritual master we can associate with Kṛṣṇa. If one follows the orders of his spiritual master in separation from him he can experience the highest ecstasy of spiritual life and attain to love of Kṛṣṇa. The orders of our spiritual master are simply to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and to follow the rules and regulations of *sādhana bhakti*, that is, to chant sixteen rounds offenselessly, to refrain from the four prohibitions and to preach, preach, preach! So it should be understood that he is giving us Kṛṣṇa, if we can only understand and accept. If we chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and are true to his orders then we are always with our spiritual master.

It is also a fact that the spiritual master takes on the offences of his disciples. It is a very serious affair; those who become initiated disciples of the spiritual master have that responsibility. Śrīla Prabhupāda described that the spiritual master sometimes suffers and gets diseased for his “misdeed” of taking on so many disciples on the order of Lord Caitanya. Of course we are engaddened to honor our spiritual master on this day, Vyāsa Pūjā, but beyond that day, every hour, every moment, we have to be merciful to our spiritual master who is taking all risks for us. Merciful means we must carry out his orders, and work hard and remain pure by following all of his instructions. There is no question of a devotee breaking any prohibitive rules or of not taking part in the daily preaching work. We must represent him purely with body, mind and words and always be preaching in an uncompromising way. We must preach that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and that we are all His parts and parcels, and everyone is intended to go back to home, back to Godhead for eternal, blissful life with Kṛṣṇa.

There is no question that Śrīla Prabhupāda is the perfect *guru*. The question is whether we can respond to his teachings fully. That is our whole life’s mission.

Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswāmī
G.B.C.—Central United States

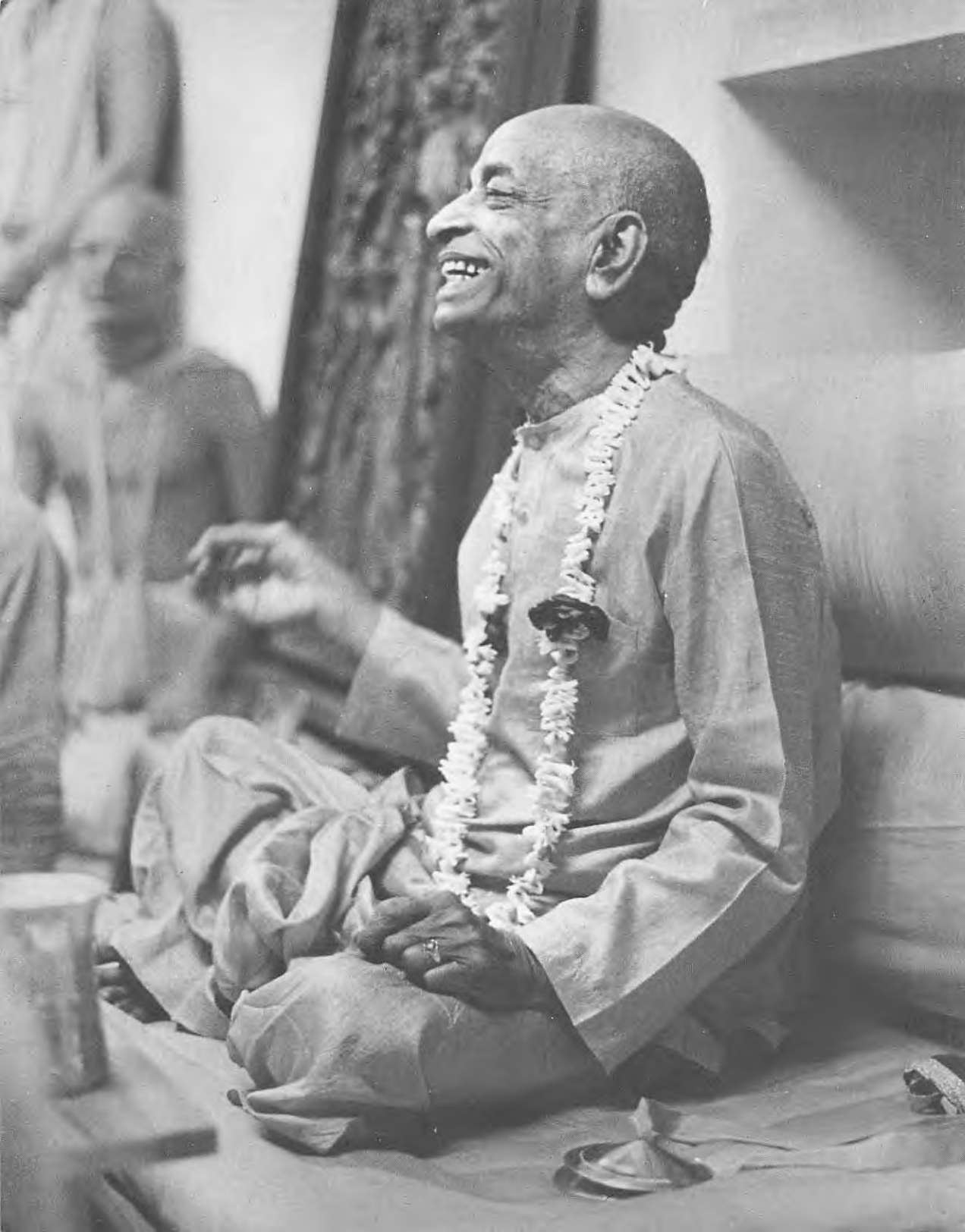


To India you have sent us, your eldest children, to assist you in providing for our God-brothers and sisters abroad two spiritual abodes where all may come and be revived—Śrī Māyāpura Dhāma and Śrī Vṇḍāvana Dhāma. Your plan is that we all work to save the world, but preaching is difficult and sometimes fatiguing. So you have indicated these two lands of Māyāpura and Vṇḍāvana as spiritual oases where all devotees may come and be refreshed.

On behalf of all my God-brothers and sisters

who are serving you here in India, we pledge ourselves wholeheartedly to provide these spiritual paradises to all of your disciples. Let everyone come to be devotionally enriched with new inspiration and greater enthusiasm for pushing forth Lord Caitanya's movement. May we serve Your Divine Grace by serving your devotees.

Tamāla Kṛṣṇa dāsa Gosvāmī
G.B.C.—India



VYĀSA-PŪJĀ
Homages



FROM
ISKCON
CENTERS
around the world

All Glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga

Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the most merciful person of this age.

You are spreading Lord Caitanya's saṅkīrtana movement in the western world and accepting as your disciples even the most fallen. Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda, in this age, where we have especially short memories, you are mercifully giving everyone a chance to constantly remember the glories of the Lord as stated in your translation of the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam.

Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are communicating with everyone on an international scale. . .and yet you can love each one of us individually.

Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda, to watch you play with a child makes one forget oneself and causes the three worlds to appear joyful.

Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda, the remembrance of your glance, your stance and your smile always negates the miseries of the material world.

Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda, to think of you makes me feel ashamed, and yet happy and proud.

All Glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Adelaide ISKCON

Paṇḍava dāsa

Renuka Sūta dāsa

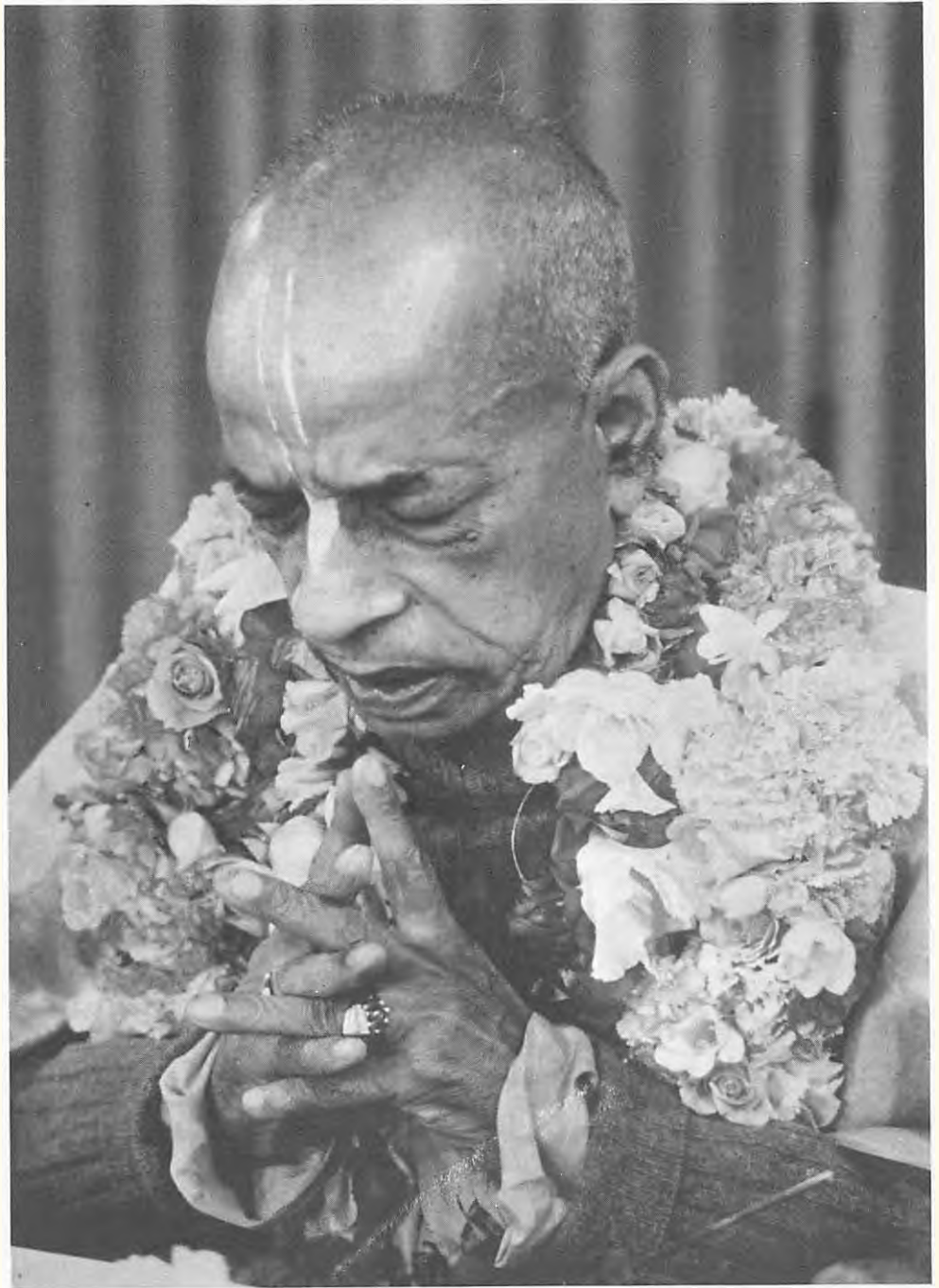
Sahadeva dāsa

Somendranātha dāsa

Bhārata dāsa

Cittahārī dāsa

Ray Prabhu



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
 nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe
 om ajñāna-timirandhasya jñānāñjana-śalakāya
 cakṣur unmilitam yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

In *Bhagavad-gītā* Kṛṣṇa states: “Out of compassion for them I, dwelling in their hearts, destroy with the shining lamp of knowledge the darkness born of ignorance.” His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda is the surrendered mentor of his spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, and he is successfully carrying that shining lamp of knowledge to the western world. With the inexhaustible, all-perfect, transcendental message of Vyāsadeva, he is illuminating its darkest bastions of ignorance and suffering. It was pure, selfless compassion which inspired Śrīla Vyāsadeva to set down the transcendental message of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* for the benefit of all suffering beings. And it is the same selfless desire of all Vaiṣṇavas—the desire for pure, unalloyed devotion to the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa—which lives in the heart of our beloved *gurudeva*, Śrīla Prabhupāda. In that perpetually all-auspicious mood of devotion to his *gurudeva*, Śrīla Prabhupāda is fulfilling his spiritual master’s desire. We can clearly affirm this by the results of his endeavors since His Divine Grace’s arrival in New York in September, 1965.

Just prior to his arrival in America, Śrīla Prabhupāda offered this prayer to Kṛṣṇa, seeking the benediction of pure devotion and the ability to convince us of the transcendental message of loving devotional service to Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Lord. In this prayer, the essential qualifications and qualities of a bona fide spiritual master, or representative of the Absolute Truth, are perfectly recognizable. Because he is fully surrendered to the Absolute Truth, he receives in full measure the grace of the Supreme Lord, and thus he is able to bestow that grace on

others. Śrīla Prabhupāda begins: “My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, You are so kind upon this useless soul. But I do not know why you have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me.”

A pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa always accepts every condition of life, even the most uncomfortable, as Kṛṣṇa’s kind mercy. At the advanced age of 70 years, Śrīla Prabhupāda left material comfort behind him, sailing for America for one purpose—to please his dearest spiritual master.

“But I guess that You have some business here, otherwise why should You call me here to this demoniac place. Most of the population here is covered by ignorance and passion, and I do not know how they will be able to understand the transcendental message of Vāsudeva.”

To fulfill the desire of the bona fide spiritual master is to fulfill the desire of Kṛṣṇa, for their desire is the same—to bring us back home, back to Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Godhead.

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

What appears impossible is made possible by Kṛṣṇa because Kṛṣṇa has unlimited potency. One who is truly surrendered to Kṛṣṇa recognizes this truth and lets Kṛṣṇa act through him. This is the meaning of self-realization—realizing Kṛṣṇa, the Absolute Truth, in all of one’s activities. One who acts in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, because he is accepting fully the causeless mercy of the Lord, is non-different from the Lord’s mercy, just as an iron rod heated in fire becomes like the fire itself. Śrīla Prabhupāda continues:

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

No one can be convinced of the truth by one who is not living the truth. The truth is that we must surrender to the Supreme Lord and His mercy, the spiritual master. The absolute potency of the spiritual master lies in his full surrender to his spiritual master in the line of disciplic succession from Kṛṣṇa. In this way the self-realized spiritual master acts as the transparent medium through which one can realize Kṛṣṇa.

“All living entities have become under the control of the illusory energy by Your will, and therefore, if You like, by Your will they can also be released from the clutches of illusion. If You so desire, I wish that You may deliver them, and by Your such desire only, all of them will be able to understand Your message.”

Thus, a qualified spiritual master gives all credit for the success of Kṛṣṇa's mission to Kṛṣṇa, taking no credit for himself. Situated in service to the Supreme Lord, who is all-powerful, he is the greatest optimist, feeling the greatest assurance that everyone will some day be receptive to the divine message of love for Kṛṣṇa.

“Somehow or other, You have brought me here to speak about You, now it is up to You to make me a success or failure as You like. You are the Lord of the whole creation, so if You like You can make my power of speaking as suitable as they can understand.”

Those who refuse to recognize the unlimited potency of the Supreme Lord fail to understand that He is capable of communicating His message to the conditioned souls through the potent words of the spiritual master. The spiritual master is expert in making the transcendental message understandable under the dictates of time and circumstance. Śrīla Prabhupāda continues:

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

We can see that Prabhupāda's faith in Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Soul of all living beings, is bearing fruit in the measureless benediction of glad-

dened, reawakened souls now glorifying the Lord with the pure sound vibration of the holy names. Let us offer our most humble obeisances, falling at the lotus feet of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda who is surrendered to the lotus feet of Bhakti-siddhānta Sarasvatī. He alone can lead us to that place of eternal dance with Govinda, the Reservoir of all pleasure, Kṛṣṇa. As he is surrendered to Him who prays at last to Lord Kṛṣṇa:

“I am just like a puppet in Your hands, and You have brought me here; now You can make me dance as You like. I have no devotion, neither have I any knowledge, but still I have been designated Bhaktivedānta; now if You like You can just fulfill the real purport of Bhakti-vedānta.”

Because in fact he is filled with devotion and knowledge, the highest devotion and knowledge obtainable, the purport of Bhakti-vedānta is indeed being fulfilled in the most fruitful tree ever to blossom forth on this planet, loving devotion to the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Tulasī dāsa brahmacārī
Jagaddeva dāsa brahmacārī
Hari Kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Aṅga dāsa brahmacārī
Ātmānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Śrutadeva dāsa adhikārī
Gauracandra dāsa brahmacārī
Kṛṣṇakṣetre dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Mauricio Prabhu
Bhakta Michael Prabhu
Bhakta Dennis Prabhu
Bhakta Gerrit Prabhu
Bhakta Joey Prabhu
Bhakta Willem Prabhu
Bhaktin Judey Prabhu
Bassie Prabhu
Bhaktin Karey & daughter Bhaktin Rādha
Kunjamandana devī dāsī
Kīśorī devī dāsī
BhaktiKīśorī devī dāsī
Bhaktin Katharine

Our Dear Spiritual Master and Father,

We beg to offer our most humble and respectful obeisances at Your Divine Grace's lotus feet on this most blessed event of your appearance day.

Your Divine Grace is rightly seated upon the most glorious throne (*Vyāsāsana*) because you are fully conversant in all systems of philosophy and are presenting the powerful *Bhāgavatam*, in defiance of all other systems, exactly in the viewpoint of Śrīla Vyāsadeva. Thus your divine instructions are the firm ground upon which we stand.

We pray to remain in the service of your lotus feet, for the beloved devotee of the Lord can favor the neophytes more liberally than the Lord. Your Divine Grace has favored us by your divine appearance in this remote land of America. It is remote because it is so far away from the birthplace of our Lord Caitanya and the divine command, *saṅkīrtana*.

Your Divine Grace has appeared as the well-wisher for all conditioned souls. Therefore you are eager for the spiritual improvement of the general public. Peace and friendship is impossible for a society which is detached from the association of God and His devotees. Therefore, Your Divine Grace has come here and has formed this glorious ISKCON *saṅkīrtana* movement to turn our faces from the nescience towards the light of devotional service to the Supreme Person, Kṛṣṇa. By the mercy of Your Divine Grace's association, we too can join Lord Caitanya's universal *saṅkīrtana* party and thus reach the perfection of our lives.

Your Divine Grace is overflowing this morbid world with the message of love by Your Divine Grace's translations and purports. Therefore we are humbly begging to be engaged in this sublime cause under your divine instructions. We are praying at your lotus feet that we take these instructions to our hearts, and as our very mis-

sion in life, go out and distribute your divine mercy to everyone.

We pray that this meets Your Divine Grace in the best of health.

Putting ourselves under your divine protection, as eternal servitors,

Atlanta, ISKCON

Balavanta dāsa adbhikārī
Janmañjaya dāsa adbhikārī
Rādhā Mohana dāsa brahmacārī
Jayasena dāsa brahmacārī
Sudāsa dāsa adbhikārī
Gokularañjana dāsa brahmacārī
Kardama Muni dāsa brahmacārī
Amoghālīlā dāsa brahmacārī
Jayadharmā dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Robert
Bhakta Rusty
Bhakta Bill
Bhakta Henry
Bhakta Walter
Bhakta Bill Kelsey
Bhakta Mac

Anāṅgamañjarī devī dāśī
Ballabhī devī dāśī
Śravaṇamaṅgala devī dāśī
Tara devī dāśī
Devyānī devī dāśī
Sukṣmarūpiṇī devī dāśī
Bhaktin Mischella
Bhaktin Shirley
Bhaktin Sue
Bhaktin Heather
Bhaktin Beth

In material existence everyone is busily engaged in activities based on the bodily misconceptions “I” and “mine.” The Vedic knowledge, however, informs us that we are eternal servants of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Kṛṣṇa, and consciously or not, we are engaged in His service. Material existence means that we are unaware of our eternal relationship with Lord Kṛṣṇa. Thus we feel ourselves to be in a most unnatural situation.

To aid the living entities entrapped by ignorance, Lord Kṛṣṇa periodically incarnates or sends His bona fide representatives to disseminate information concerning the path back to Godhead. There are numerous welfare organizations to aid suffering humanity, but they fail to see the soul within man’s material body. Thus, they ignore entirely the real malady—the absence of genuine spiritual life. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, thirty-second in a 5000 year old unbroken line of spiritual masters originating from Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself, is delivering knowledge beyond the illusory pretensions of our material relationships.

In 1966, His Divine Grace sat in a lower east-side New York park, chanted Hare Kṛṣṇa and told us that our complicated existence of material enjoyments robbed us of our understanding of the Absolute Truth. Today there are over 60 centers around the world distributing that stolen knowledge of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Thus thousands of disciples are taking shelter under His Divine Grace’s instructions, and are finding comfort and light from his lotus feet.

As stated in the *Brahma-saṁhitā*, the original Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, has an eternal transcendental form, full of bliss and knowledge. He is called Govinda because He is the “reservoir of all pleasure.” His pure devotees are connected with Him in a reciprocal relationship of love, and thus enjoy unlimited and unceasing happiness. As a desert

is devoid of water, the material world is similarly dead and dry, being a place where one does not experience the sweet mellows of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, the present *ācārya*, has been sent to us by Lord Kṛṣṇa, to practically demonstrate and relate the means of reviving our dormant Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. As Lord Kṛṣṇa states in the *Bhagavad-gītā*:

“Whatever action is performed by a great man, common men will follow in his footsteps. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues.” (Bg. 3.21)

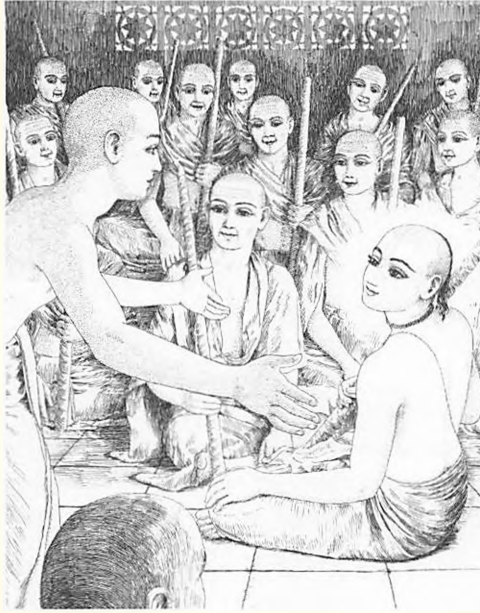
Śrīla Prabhupāda’s unceasing efforts to broadcast the Supreme Lord’s glories throughout the world prove him to be the great soul or *mahātmā* that Lord Kṛṣṇa describes—

“Always engaged in chanting My glories, endeavoring with great determination, offering homage unto Me, they worship Me with devotion.” (Bg. 9.14)

In the *Vedas* it is stated that mundane sound vibrations are different from the objects they describe. But the name of God, the words used to describe His name, form, qualities, pastimes etc., being absolute, are non-different from the Personality of Godhead. Chanting of the names of God, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hara Rāma, therefore engages one in a direct relationship with the Supreme, the perfection of which is demonstrated in unalloyed devotion. It is only this natural love for Lord Kṛṣṇa that can save us from our incessant hankering and lamentation over dead material things.

“I am simply an instrument for my master,” His Divine Grace declares. If somehow we can make his example our life, then we may attain the most attractive possession of pure love for God. All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Prahlādānanda dāsa
Dharmabhāvana dāsa
Bhakta Lani



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
 nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, our lord and savior,

You have too kindly instructed these fallen souls to preach the message of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu. We like this assignment very much, but it is very difficult for us because we are like helpless and faithless bugs floating on their backs in a dark ocean. We beg for your causeless mercy upon us so that we can overcome our terrible inability to render service to you. According to Sukadeva Gosvāmī, simply by hearing the transcendental glories of the Lord one achieves unflinching faith. So we cannot hear enough of the nectar of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's holy name and pastimes. We aspire to the association of devotees who, like the six Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana, constantly discuss and chant the glories of the Lord together. We beg that you be pleased by our insignificant attempts to serve you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, out of the limitless depths

of your compassion, you have walked amongst the most wretched and sinful persons, humbly begging them to sing the holy name. It is truly a miracle that you have even charmed persons as low and unfortunate as ourselves into singing God's name. You are carrying on the work begun by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya and His dear friends, Ṭhākura Haridāsa and Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu. And they must be extremely pleased with you. If we could only please you with our preaching efforts, as you have pleased them, then we might be able to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa free from offenses. Thank you for giving us this wonderful opportunity. We beg to remain at your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servants,
 Paramahamṣa dāsa gosvāmī
 Parivrajakācārya dāsa gosvāmī

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
 nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Only after offering our respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet many, many times can we describe a few qualities of your transcendental glories.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are destroying completely the materialistic view of the mundane scientists with their chemical conception of life and consciousness. As far as we, your servants, are concerned, we are no longer under the grip of this nonsense—that life comes from the void or life comes from matter. Under this material conception of life, we have suffered many, many births and deaths. Now, after hearing you, we have been lifted to the Vaiṣṇava platform, however unqualified we may be. In fact, your knowledge of the transcendence is so pure and potent, that after even a few moments hearing the transcendental message of the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, we are prepared to challenge all of these rascals, who are disguised as learned religionists, scientists, teachers, etc.

Under your shelter, Lord Caitanya's *saṁkīrtana* movement has been spread all over the world. Soon everyone will know of the holy names. Because the spreading of the holy names is the desire of the Supreme Personality of God-

head, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, your spreading of the *saṁkīrtana* movement is unchecked. Your Divine Grace has been empowered by the Supreme Lord to do so. And now we feel alive and happy just to try and follow your instructions, and to distribute the Lord's holy name and your transcendental books, which can deliver all fallen souls from the clutches of birth and death.

Every sane man and woman who reads your books will surrender to your lotus feet.

Dear servant of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, you are the pure devotee of the Lord and the shelter of all conditioned souls. May our service and devotion to your lotus feet increase up to the limits of the endless ocean of your mercy upon us.

All Glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga! All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Baltimore ISKCON
 Sama dāsa
 Sammita Dāsī
 Bhakti Mark
 Bhaktin Donna

*At the height of confusion you came—
 To deliver the holy name.
 We thought God was dead like a stone.
 You taught that He is an eternal person.
 Proprietor, enjoyer and everyone's friend,
 so you defined God by whom you've been sent.
 "In the beginning a chunk was floating in space."
 "Humbug!" you say, and laugh in their face.
 Some claim "We'll make man deathless."
 From you we know this is madness.
 The lord and master of all I survey,
 but who is not anxious on the final day?
 From the topmost planet down to the lowest,
 birth and death wherever thou goest.
 No need to manufacture or speculate—
 hearing your words liberates.
 I am so happy that you're taking me home,
 I tried to express this in my poem.
 Humbly before you I bow
 because you are everything I know.*

Śivānanda dāsa adbhikārī	Bhakta Hans
Alanātha dāsa brahmacārī	Bhakta Hans
Puruṣit dāsa brahmacārī	Viśvarūpa dāsa brahmacārī
Bhibhiṣaṇa dāsa brahmacārī	Tīrthāṅga dāsa adbhikārī
Surabhī dāsī	Jessart
Madana Mohana Mohinī dāsī	Ama dāsa brahmacārī
Gopī dāsī	Gobhaṭṭa dāsa brahmacārī

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most sincere prostrate obeisances at your lotus feet. We beg to thank you for bringing us under the jurisdiction of the internal potency of the Lord. On our own account there is nothing significant to say, and even our fallen nature is uninteresting to mention. On your account, your liberated qualities are transcendental and innumerable, and we wish that we had enough strength of heart to describe them properly.

Those devotees who have some substantial service to back them can sincerely glorify your wonderful transcendental qualities, and they

can feel transcendental bliss by discussing your qualities. I personally am aspiring and praying to be engaged in their service, those who have actually surrendered unto you.

Your eternal servants,

Hṛdayānanda dāsa Gosvāmī
Vīṇā Kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Puru dāsa brahmacārī
Bāhu Śīra dāsa brahmacārī

Bhakta Tom and Bhakta Alan

Bhagwat Dharma Discourse Yātrā

*From India's sacred shore you came
approaching the West fixed in aim
to speak Kṛṣṇa Consciousness all around
by preaching and writing the holy sound.*

*Your Divine Grace has executed this mission
so selfless, so relentless without diminution.
You are teaching the fallen what is their real life
devotional service to God, free from anger and strife.*

*Your brilliance is like the sun at noon
and your presence alone is an infinite boon.
Such a person Bhagwat is inconceivably rare
and by your grace alone we are able to fare.*

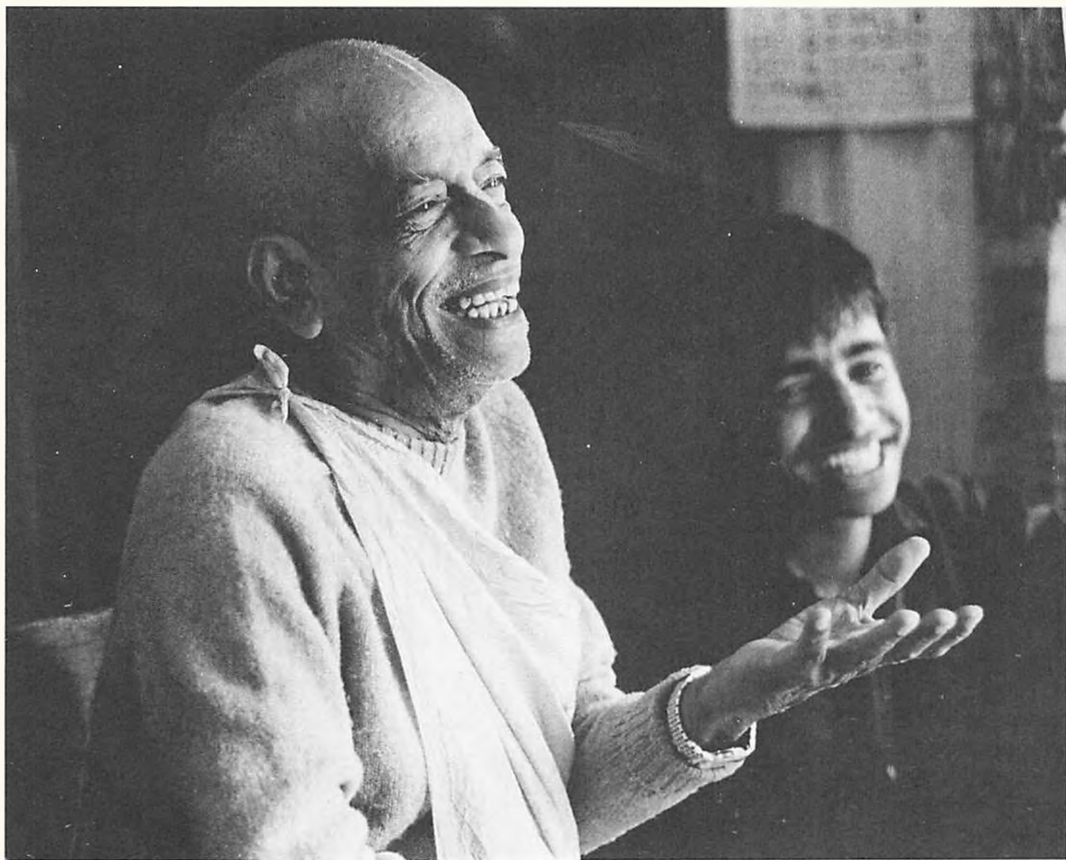
*Our pioneer Bhaktivinode has predicted
Europeans and Americans he has depicted,
chanting and dancing together—not imagination
but reality now due to your determination.*

*In Bhagavad-gītā Lord Kṛṣṇa says
of all devotees, the preacher is the dearest of His.
So that preaching you have done in the most wonderful way
by a flood tide of scripture and pure example each day.*

*Your purity of principles no one can top
and your preaching work no one can stop.
You have spread Kṛṣṇa's glories to each village and town
and no impediment exists that can ever push you down.*

*So as your disciples, our duty is clear—
Your message, intact, must be spread far and near.
To this we do pledge with full heart and soul—
The saṅkīrtana yajña will be our prime goal.*

Your servants at ISKCON Boston



We offer our respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is always situated in transcendence, beyond this temporary material world, and whose wondrous lotus feet offer eternal shelter for the surrendered soul.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to you. You are the captain of the ship that can save us from the whirlpool of material duality by sailing us to the eternally fertile shores of Goloka-Vṛndāvana.

Kindly forgive us. Our lack of sincerity prevents us from offering all respect to you. We know that you are giving us the most priceless gift of eternity free of charge: blissful association

with the embodiment of all opulences, Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the reservoir of unlimited spiritual mellows. Our minds, which have bathed in stool and urine, are factually being washed clean in the transcendental ocean of devotional service. You are so kindly taking us by the hand, like children awakened to see the first dawn. You are prodding us gently, walking with us, leading us out of the darkness of our feverish mentalities, to show us Kṛṣṇa's dazzling beauty.

You have said that a devotee would much rather dance with Kṛṣṇa than merge with Him. Thus you are inviting us to the spiritual sky where all the perfect beings are eternally engaged in their dance of love, free of any tinge of ma-

terial inebriety. Out of natural attraction, we can no longer resist this invitation. We look around us, marvel at the paltry intelligence of our former cohorts and wonder that only a few months ago we were wallowing in the same ignorance, filthy in body, filthy in mind. And so we come to realize that it has been through your divine association alone that we have gained the intelligence to understand our most obedient real position at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

*The spiritual master of the universe,
Whose lotus words are the vibration
Of flawless transcendental knowledge,
Of love for Kṛṣṇa, pure.*

He has kindly accepted us as his spiritual sons and daughters.

Thus, although we are trying to feel some appreciation for what you are doing for us, we feel ashamed at the coldness of our hearts. Although we deserve nothing, still we pray at your lotus feet for the desire to render some small, sincere service on your behalf.

The Lord addresses his pure devotee, Brahmā, "All of Me, namely My actual eternal form, My transcendental existence, color, qualities, and activities—let all be awakened within you by factual realization." (S.B. 2.9.32) Thus Kṛṣṇa benedicts the surrendered soul with His personal association. ". . . In that joyous state one is situated in boundless transcendental happiness and enjoys himself through transcendental senses. . ." And now, as Kṛṣṇa's representative, full of compassion, you are offering to all the same supreme benediction, transforming this forsaken planet into glorious Vṛndāvana.

How foolish are the impersonalists and voidists burdened with the disease of mental speculation, denying their spiritual senses and decrying the very existence of God. And what a mission it is to spiritualize this planet which is so ridden with these material infections. We know that this responsibility is ours: to aid you heart and soul in this endeavor, and thus we offer our *daṇḍavats* again and again and pray that we may realize the pertinence and serious-

ness of our lives in your service. The Lord says in *Bhagavad-gītā* As It Is, Chapter 10, verse 9, "The thoughts of My pure devotees dwell in Me, their lives are surrendered to Me, and they derive great satisfaction and bliss enlightening one another and conversing about Me." You alone are glorifying Kṛṣṇa with every breath. You alone are enlightening the whole planet about the appearance and activities of the Lord. You alone are teaching how to sport in the ocean of mercy on waves of transcendental sound.

Calling Kṛṣṇa's name, you beckon all. . .
Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare
Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma,
Hare Hare.

Your unworthy servants at
Buffalo ISKCON

Guṇagrahi dāsa adhikārī
Ajitānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Chedirāja dāsa brahmacārī
Kavi dāsa adhikārī
Madhuhāra dāsa brahmacārī
Lalitānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Vasudāma dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta David C. Olson
Bhakta Ron Bernstein
Bhakta Larry Bernstein
Bhakta Claude Crocker
Bhakta Tom Miller
Bhakta Kevin Cajstraw
Bhakta Jim
Bhaktin Cathy Crocker
Bhaktin Kande
Bhaktin Lindsay Scheu
Bhaktin Kṛṣṇa Dāśī
Bhaktin Dawn O Mally
Bhaktin Gabriel
Kīrtikā devī dāśī
Pūrvacittī dāśī
Kṛṣṇa Bhāva dāśī
Sītā devī dāśī
Bhakti Jotindra



Our most beloved, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we fall to your lotus feet and there begin our prayers of glorification. You are Lord Kṛṣṇa's most intimate friend, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are just like a sun. You rise over the earth planet to give the light of *saṅkīrtana*, the chanting of the Lord's Holy Name.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are like the cow who will give milk in any pasture. Anywhere in the world you may go, you are giving the milk of love of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are like the bee who hovers around the lotus flower; you are drinking the nectar of the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya, but instead of hiding it away like the bee, you let the honey flow without stop from your mouth in the shape of the glories of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the perfect guide; you have taken our hands and are so gently bringing us to the lotus feet of our Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the light of devotion pervading the entire universe. Only in the presence of that light can we see ourselves as eternal, blissful servants of Their Lordships Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the servant of the *gopīs*, the bringer of ecstasy; were each day with you a night of Brahmā, we would only long for more hours to serve you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are like the touchstone which changes iron into gold; you are transforming our hard iron hearts into molten gold, shining with the love of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are most dear to everyone, and the most merciful being in this world. All glories to you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are most kind to fallen souls; you've lifted us from material bondage and have taught us how to engage in Kṛṣṇa's service; we will serve you birth after birth without any condition.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are so transcendently situated on your Vyāsāsana, just waiting patiently for your children to come home, a brilliant jewel, dissipating the dark night of Kali.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are our only shelter; there is no love or happiness except at your lotus feet. Please let us always satisfy your desire, which is solely to please our Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the shelter of all fallen souls. We are hankering after your blessing which will turn our mind, body and soul unto Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the messenger of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. You have taught us how to worship Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, the highest pleasure of life. Kindly let us live under the shadow of your lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the protector of all surrendered souls and the well-wisher of all devotees. May we please remain at your lotus feet forever.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are everything to us; without you there is nothing.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the reservoir of all knowledge, and the most confidential servitor of Śrī Gauraṅga Mahāprabhu and all His associates, such as the six Gosvāmīs headed by Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī. You are distributing their message of the nectar of devotional service. Your love for them carries you all over the world, giving this most precious gift.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the love of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, who was thinking always how to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. And you have appeared to carry on this great mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the only ray of hope for the people in their presently degraded and suffering condition. Due to the contact of this contaminated material atmosphere, we are forgetting Kṛṣṇa, and you have graciously come to remind us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are the life of those sincere searching souls, who have surrendered; you are the source of our energy, knowledge and love for the Lord, which enables us to serve you with undying faith and determination.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are like a desire tree which fulfills all desires. And you are fulfilling our innermost hearts' desire—namely service at the lotus feet of the Holy Couple, Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are most dear to Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and by your mercy She is showering us with Her blessings in the form of entrance into the service of Her Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You are undoubtedly the most magnanimous personality, to have accepted such fallen souls as us. We have been waiting in eternity just to take refuge in the dust of your lotus feet.

We are all humbly begging to eternally remain in the cooling shade of your lotus feet.

Mādhavānanda dāsa adbhikāṛī
Kausalya devī dāśī
Tīśān dāsa adbhikāṛī
Vibhavatī devī dāśī
Ramaṇīya dāsa brahmacārī
Ekanāth dāsa brahmacārī
Gurudeva dāsa brahmacārī
Ranchor dāsa brahmacārī
Pañca-Dravida svāmī

Satchidānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Nārāyaṇī devī dāśī
Tuṅga Bhadra devī dāśī
Saradīya devī dāśī
Sacīmatā devī dāśī
Sumāra devī dāśī
Susan prabhu
Sailendra prabhu
Mr. Chatterjee Prabhu

We offer our respectful obeisances at the feet of our eternal father, our blessed spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

We glorify our spiritual master, the Lord's most confidential servant,
 who gave meaning to our lives,
 who taught us that we are not God but His eternal servants
 who taught us to sacrifice everything for the Lord's service in love and devotion.
 who showed us unfailing faith and dependence in Lord Kṛṣṇa.
 who is giving refuge to the unfortunate,
 who gives love and mercy to all, of any kind, any color,
 who gives without personal motivations the words of the Lord, *Bhagavad-gītā* *As It Is*,
 who taught us how to preach, how to take *Bhāgavata Prasāda*, how to dance in the glory of the Lord.

Only by our spiritual master's grace are we alive and happy today. So as your disciples, we will carry out your instructions for making the world a happy place by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. And with love and kindness we will give others the same marvelous opportunity that you have so kindly

afforded all of us—to go back home, back to Godhead. Haribol!

Your eternal servants in Venezuelan Temple

Argenis Prabhu
 Manuel Prabhu
 Jesus Prabhu
 Nelson Prabhu
 Joaquin Prabhu
 Rafael Prabhu
 Illan Prabhu
 Carlos Prabhu
 Satyajit Prabhu
 Patita-Pāvana Prabhu
 Silven Prabhu
 Anthony Prabhu
 Nora Prabhu
 Consuelo Prabhu
 Elba Prabhu
 Marabai Prabhu
 Rumini Prabhu
 Candravāli Prabhu
 Nalinayatāsanā Prabhu
 Candraśekhara Prabhu
 Citsukānanda dāsa adhikārī

Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please allow us, with body, mind and words, to eternally present our humble offering
at your lotus feet:

*Freedom of spirit is your gift,
we fallen souls you so mercifully uplift.*

*And free from desires on the sensual plane,
by chanting Lord Kṛṣṇa's holy name.*

*In the midst of Māyā's night,
you reveal a world of light,
free from death, old age and fright.*

*A glimpse of a life beyond this world of misery,
is your gift for those who want to see*

*More valuable than a precious gem,
your mercy from Lord Kṛṣṇa stems.*

*A land of bliss, knowledge and eternal life,
a realized alternative to this world of strife.*

*You've given us life on this planet of death.
For this we owe you every step and breath.*

*Lord Kṛṣṇa is God, and we, His servants eternally.
This Absolute Truth you've revealed so mercifully.*

*Jagat-Guru, the representative of Lord Śrī Balarāma,
in your service we pray to become strong*

*Our debt to you we cannot repay.
Accept our lives, therefore, we humbly pray.*

Your disciples at ISKCON Chicago

Śrī Govinda dāsa adhikārī	Damayantī devī dāsī	Mr. & Mrs. Ambarish Pathak
Lakṣmī Nārāyaṇa dāsa adhikārī	Īcchāmatī devī dāsī	Bhakta David Walwark Prabhu
Auḍulomi dāsa adhikārī	Naiṣkarmī devī dāsī	Bhakta Andy Prabhu
Suṇdhararūpa dāsa adhikārī	Kṛṣṇa Kumārī devī dāsī	Parasāra dāsa brahmacārī
Suvrata dāsa adhikārī	Sarvādī devī dāsī	Bhakta Kevin Prabhu
Bhṛṣakapi dāsa adhikārī	Abhay Charan dāsa	Bhakta Tom Prabhu
Urukrama dāsa brahmacārī	Śrīlekhā devī dāsī	Bhakta Paul Prabhu
Sāndīpani Muni dāsa adhikārī	Sudarśana dāsa	Bhakta Brian Prabhu
Yaśomatinandana dāsa brahmacārī	Bhaktin Kathy prabhu	Bhakta Mark Prabhu
Rādhā-Śyāma dāsa brahmacārī	Bhaktin Pat Prabhu	Bhakta John Prabhu
Pīyūṣkānti dāsa brahmacārī	Bhaktin Lynn Prabhu	Bhaktin Ruth Prabhu
Śalajī dāsa brahmacārī	Bhaktin Mireya Prabhu	Joshua Sanjya
Hari Hara dāsa brahmacārī	Anyā Prabhu	
Kailāśacandra dāsa brahmacārī	Mr. & Mrs. Shesha Reddy	



Dear Godbrothers, Godsisters and friends everywhere,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your feet. All Glories to our ever well-wisher and Divine Master, Srīla Prabhupāda!

In the ordinary sense, most of us have never met and we probably never will. We have been dispatched by the order of His Divine Grace to all parts of the world and must now bear each other's separation. Yet astonishingly enough our International Society for Krishna Consciousness is somehow existing, and in a most extraordi-

nary, transcendental sense, we all know each other very well. So on this happy and thoughtful occasion, we are actually gathered together on the transcendental platform of *bhakti* just to offer our sincere obeisances at the lotus feet of our all-conquering Gurudeva, Oṃ Viṣṇu-pāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Srī Srīmad Bhaktivedanta Gosvāmī Mahārāja—our dear Srīla Prabhupāda.

We naturally feel unprepared and unqualified to properly glorify our spiritual master on this holy day of Vyāsa Pūjā. We must admit regretfully that we possess neither the erudition nor

the realization to rival that of the noble *ācāryas*, including Śrīla Prabhupāda Himself, who have paid homage to their own *gurus* with such sweet and appropriate words of love and genuine surrender. Therefore we first offer our humble obeisances unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, and unto His plenary expansion, Lord Nityānanda Prabhu, as well as to His Avatara, Śrī Aḍvaita Ācārya, His manifest internal energy, Śrī Gadādhara Paṇḍita and His perfect devotee, Śrī Śrīvāsa. Our prayer is that we may be able to present some suitable homage at the lotus feet of our spiritual master on this blessed day of his appearance.

As we have it from the unimpeachable teachings of His Divine Grace Ṭhākura Bhaktivinode, the order of the spiritual master is inseparable from the very life and soul of the disciple. This is also confirmed in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*: *jīvañchavo bhāgavatāṅghri-reṇuṁ na jātu martyo bhilabheta yas tu* (Bhāg. 2.3.23) “A 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.” For just as a dead body cannot move, so unless one receives the blessings of association with a pure devotee of the Lord, he cannot move along the path to spiritual perfection. And what is that perfection? *Etāvān eva yajatām iha niḥśreyasodayaḥ bhagavaty acalo bhavo yad bhāgavata-saṅgataḥ* (Bhāg. 2.3.11). “All the different kinds of worshipers of multi demigods can attain the highest perfectional benediction, which is spontaneous attraction unflinchingly fixed upon the Supreme Personality of Godhead, only by the association of the pure devotee of the Lord.”

My dear prabhus, how shall we measure the extent to which our consciousness has already been transformed by our brief association with His Divine Grace? We are at once reminded of the proverbial frog in the well who, while trying to estimate the vast extent of the ocean in terms of his domestic units, i.e., well-widths, simply burst in frustration. Shall we say that our present range of vision is twice that of our former days? Four times? One hundred times? No! There is

clearly no comparing the dark, narrow well of material existence with the unlimited vistas of devotional service which are now opened before us by his causeless mercy. *Tulayāma lavenāpi na svargaṁ nāpunar-bhavam bhagavat-saṅgi-saṅgasya martyānām kim-utāśiṣaḥ* (Bhāg. 1.18.13) “The value of a moment’s association with the devotee of the Lord cannot be compared to the attainment of heavenly planets or liberation from matter and what to speak of wordly benedictions in the form of material prosperity, which is for those who are meant for death.” Just see how our lives have changed, my dear friends. Once, we accepted as axiomatic truth that the crowning glory of human life was none other than the base animal propensities enacted liberally and free from the burden of conscience. Indeed, we were then prepared to defend the society of dogs and hogs against all philosophical attacks from more pious, thoughtful men or the different scriptures. Echoing the raucous sentiments of the multi-media “*gurus*”, we were prepared to stamp out the present corrupt regime, and to replace it with a full-fledged society of mongrels. Such was the nature of our intelligence. Just see how wonderfully we have been reformed. *Yat pāda saṁśrayaḥ sūta munayaḥ praśamāyanāḥ sadyaḥ punanty upasprṣṭāḥ svar-dhunyāpo’ nusevayā* (Bhāg. 1.1.15) “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.”

Now our position is the most auspicious. For we have been given the chance, without qualification, to render devotional service unto the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s most confidential servant, Śrīla Prabhupāda. *Suśruṣoḥ śradda-dhānasya vāsudeva-kathā-ruciḥ syān mahat-sevayā viprāḥ puṇya tīrtha-niṣevanāt* (Bhāg. 1.2.16) “O twice-born sages, by serving those devotees who are completely freed from all vice, great service is done. By such service, one gains the affinity for hearing the messages of Vāsudeva.” *Naṣṭa-prāyeṣv abhadreṣu nityaṁ bhāgavata-sevayā bhagavaty uttama-śloke bhaktir*

bhavati naiṣṭhikī. (Bhāg. 1.2.18) “By regularly hearing the *Bhāgavatam* (ie. the “messages of Vāsudeva”) and rendering service unto the pure devotee, all that is troublesome to the heart is practically destroyed, and loving service unto the glorious Lord, who is praised with transcendental songs, is established as an irrevocable fact.” In this way our lives will know perfection. *Dhautātmā puruṣaḥ kṛṣṇa pāda-mūlām na muñcati mukta-sarva-parikleśaḥ pānthaḥ sva-saraṇam yathā*. (Bhāg. 2.8.6) “A pure devotee of the Lord, whose heart is once cleansed by the process of devotional service, never relinquishes the lotus feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa because they fully satisfy him, as the traveler is satisfied at home after a troubled journey.”

So on this Vyāsa Pūjā day let us reaffirm before the lotus feet of our spiritual master our full commitment to his divine mission without reluctance or petty in-fighting. And what is the nature of that mission? Simply this: to flood the world with the sweet nectar of Kṛṣṇa-premā, the highest and purest love of Godhead now available to all within the ever-fresh pages of the *Srī Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and within the most holy *mahā-mantra*, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. By the uncompromising order of his own Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, our worshipable master has dedicated his precious life to this wonderful cause.

It is Śrīla Prabhupāda alone who is enthusing the whole world for chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. It is Śrīla Prabhupāda alone who has dared to denounce the venomous propounders of impersonal and atheistic philosophies, now posing as respectable clergymen, educators and scientists, and force them to stand exposed at last before the astonished eyes of the world as the real arch-enemies of progressive human civilization. It is he alone who has accepted for himself untold trouble and very real pain just to purify us and free us from all evil affinities and the reactions to our black-heart deeds. And all the while he heaps the glory upon us, saying: “I consider you all as the representatives of my

Guru Mahārāja, now playing as my affectionate disciples.” It is he alone, our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, who has filled up our near-deaf ear holes with the most relishable sweet nectar of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, and who has single-handedly given us the means to place these transcendental literatures into the unsuspecting hands of housewives, truck drivers, hippies, students, merchants, service men, scientists and even tribesmen all over this most fortunate planet. It is Śrīla Prabhupāda alone who possesses the insight to see that the great glorious days of Śrī Kṛṣṇa *saṅkīrtana* are now almost upon us and has ordered us off to Māyāpura to learn the art of making thousands of *mṛdaṅga* drums—enough for every single town and village. It is our dearmost Śrīla Prabhupāda alone who has given us bead-bags filled with *Tulasī* beads, i.e. the means to remember the lotus-eyed Lord twenty four hours a day. It is Śrīla Prabhupāda alone who is our very life and soul, upon whom our thoughts dwell, our eyes and ears are focused and our only hope rests. My dear masters, let us bow down our heads in the dust at his lotus feet. All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servants at
Cleveland ISKCON

Baṭu Gopāla dāsa
Prabhānu dāsa
Mānasacandra dāsa
Dan Cunningham
Pyaricharan dāsa
Akhilānanda dāsa
Premārṇava dāsa
Fernando Macaspac
Sīta Rāma dāsa
Madhuvrata dāsa
Rasikānanda dāsa
Harvey Mechanic
Sukhasāgarī dāsi
Guṇamayī devī dāśī
Gaurāṅga dāśī
George Vutetakis



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

The Absolute Truth is one. Amongst the ranks of intelligent society—philosophers, religionists, and transcendentalists—this is a universally accepted principle. And although seen from many angles of vision and understood in many degrees of completeness, there can be only one complete, of which everything in existence is but a part and parcel. All degrees of incompleteness are experienced due to a poor fund of knowledge from the inaccessibility of Absolute understanding to our limited material understanding.

So, as the Absolute is one, the real religion, the eternal service of the eternal Absolute Personality of Godhead cannot be a sectarian faith or relative understanding. There is one Supreme Source of all emanations and all phenomenal and numinous existences are eternally related in an unbreakable tie of service to that Fountainhead of being.

In many places and in different times and circumstances, by the will of the Supreme Lord,

the absolute world becomes manifest on this mundane plane. The absolute world, the abode of the Supreme Lord of all expansions, is a world where everything has the same purpose. The sky, trees, animals, inhabitants and the very land itself are all of the same eternal nature, and all are nondifferentially engaged in the service of the Lord. This transcendental truth appears differently to our limited designative understanding and is thus seen in many styles and creeds of sectarian conception. Nevertheless every living being, as part of the same complete whole, has the same natural function to fulfill. In relation with the Absolute all varieties of emanations are subordinate and therefore servants.

We have understood, then, that the original teacher or spiritual master is one. He is the Lord, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. As the primal source and master of everything, who but He can know of the real constitution of His energy? Therefore He is the original and the only teacher. When the Lord comes or sends His

representative in the form of His son or servant, His message remains the same. But the path of service, by which one might approach Him, has been forgotten. Thus since time immemorial we have been lost within the maze of this material nature in different species as men, animals, demigods, plants, etc. Simply by hearing the messages coming down from the Absolute through the proper channels, this ignorance can be removed and our dormant service attitude can be completely revived.

In the beginning of creation, as the Lord released all living entities unto the supervision of this material nature, He also made provision so that they might return again to the spiritual world. It is explained in the revealed scriptures that He entrusted this knowledge to the first living being, Lord Brahmā, with the command that he distribute it to his descendants, the inhabitants of the material nature.

*evam paramparā-prāptam
imam rājaśayo-viduḥ
(Bg. 4:2)*

Thus from one to another, from the beginning of creation, this supreme wisdom has been passed down from the saintly kings, sages, and teachers of the past into the modern age. Therefore, whoever has heard from the Absolute through this disciplic chain, and has molded his life to exemplify this knowledge, is the real *guru*, the representative of Kṛṣṇa. And from him we must hear.

We can distinguish a self-realized Kṛṣṇa-conscious man by the symptoms which he exhibits. In this way, we can be sure that we are hearing from the proper source. Kṛṣṇa says in the *Bhagavad-gītā*: “*satataṁ kīrtayanto mām. . .*” “they are always engaged in chanting My glories. . .” Therefore, just as a man who is sexually inclined speaks and acts always in relation with sex-life, so a man fixed in the Absolute Truth acts only for the Absolute. In everything that he does—his thinking, eating, speaking and in every movement—he is glorifying the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Such a man, 100% absorbed in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, is the real spiritual master.

On this auspicious day, seventy-eight years ago, such a rare soul appeared. This is the occasion upon which we are presenting this meager offering in a humble attempt to thank him for the message which he has preserved intact, teaching us by his example how to practically apply it. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda is the modern representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, living now within our midst. He comes in a chain of spiritual masters and saints extending back to the first living being, Lord Brahmā. In every action he performs he fully exhibits the symptoms of a man fixed in perfect knowledge. He speaks of nothing but the Absolute, his body is 100% engaged in the service of the Absolute and he lives untinged by the relative world in which he appears. It is said that by a moment's association with such a person one can achieve the perfection for which we have searched thousands of lifetimes to find. We offer our most humble obeisances unto him.

ISKCON Denver

Kuruśreṣṭha dāsa brahmacārī
Ānanda vardhana dāsa brahmacārī
Rādhā Dāmodara dāsa brahmacārī
Cārucandra dāsa adhikārī
Prāṇaballava dāsa adhikārī
Mākhaṇa Taskara dāsa brahmacārī
Mahā-Śakti dāsa brahmacārī
Dvījati Pūjāka dāsa brahmacārī
Dattātreya dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Brad
Bhakta Mike

Madhūryalīlānanda devī dāśī
Anurādhā devī dāśī
Nanditā Gokula devī dāśī
Sudarśaṇī devī dāśī
Rāma Tulasī devī dāśī
Bhaktin Mary
Bhaktin Judy

To One Who is Great

To whom does one pay homage?
To one who is great?
Yes. . .
But, who is great?
And how is he great?

Some men are considered great
Because they've done wonderful things
For their country and fellow man,
Like penicillin,
And abolition.

But what good is curing one disease
Or freeing some people from slavery,
When most of the others
Are still sick,
Or still slaves?

If only someone could cure them all.
Or free them all.
But who?
And how?

Does such a person exist
With the potency and skill
To cure everyone?
And free everyone?

One who can cut the ropes
Of material bondage,
Who can cure our hearts
Of their sinful desires?

To be sure, there is one.
But how is he called?
What is his name?
And how is he known?

He is called *ācārya*,
Guru,
Pure devotee,
Saint.

He is known by his message
Of love of God,
And by knowledge presented
Without contamination.

He is known by his mercy;
By distributing freely
Both the way and means
To get back to Home.

He is known by his actions.
Every move is perfection.
He teaches by example
And he gives us direction.

To his disciples, he is Śrīla Prabhupāda,
Most intimate devotee
Of the Supreme Person,
Kṛṣṇa,
His friend.



A bona-fide teacher
In an unbroken chain
Of teachers and students—
The *paramparā*.

The potency of Kṛṣṇa
In his every word,
He can cure us and free us
If only he is heard.

He's the greatest of great men
Because his motivations are selfless—
To deliver the fallen souls;
Without him we are helpless.

So if paying a tribute
Is what we desire,
We should pay it to one
Who is purely inspired.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,
The most humble of men,
To you we pay homage,
Again and again.

The purest of devotees;
Incarnation of Mercy
So great and so rare
No one can compare;

To you we pay homage
And offer humble respects,
For you can cure every man
And help get us back,

To home,
To Godhead.

brahmacārīs:

Badarīnārāyaṇa dāsa	Karl prabhu
Indravarta dāsa	Tony prabhu
Yamunataṭācara dāsa	Michael prabhu
Draviṇākṣa dāsa	Kamal
Carūpa dāsa	Manu
Ekeśvara dāsa	Rajendra
Jagadīśvara dāsa	Dharam
Randy prabhu	
Pat prabhu	brahmacārīnīs:
David prabhu	Vilāsinī dāśī
Steve prabhu	Lalitā śakhī dāśī
Bob prabhu	Kṛṣṇa Mayī dāśī
Chuck prabhu	Dakṣayānī dāśī
James prabhu	Marsha prabhu

gṛhasthas:

Govardhana and Sītārāṇī
Narottamānanda and Sītāla
Gopālabhaṭṭa and Krodhaśāminī
Doṣavarjita and Taijasātmikā
Richard and Angie
Bob and Mary
Tony and Sylvia
Chris Raftis

Children:

Gwen	Katherine
Tony	Nick
Anthony	Roger
Jennifer	

*saṁsāra-dāvānala-tiḍha-loka-
trāṇāya kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvam
prāptasya kālāyāna-guṇārṇavasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“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.”

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda who has taken full shelter at the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Of all the qualities of the spiritual master, “mercy” is the most extraordinary. We learn from the *Upaniṣads*, “*Om pūrṇam adaḥ pūrṇam idam*” . . . that everything is perfect and complete because it has emanated from Kṛṣṇa, who is perfect and complete. Therefore, despite the fact that our presence in the material world is ordained by divine will, the spiritual master is beyond the coverings of the material universe. This is the “causeless mercy” of Kṛṣṇa’s pure devotee, who sees the ultimate frustration and futility of material existence for all living entities.

Once while in Paris, an illiterate vagrant came to our Temple. The devotees offered him *prasādam* and a bath. Later, he said that he would like to return. We informed him that we had *ārātīka* at 4:30 each morning and that we welcome anyone to take part in our activities.

He was there at *ārātīka* the next morning and also asked to chant *japa* with us. He could not even read, as was apparent when I showed him a sheet of paper on which the *mantra* was written. But, nonetheless, he was able to chant the holy name and thereby derive the greatest benefit possible in this human form of life. Even the greatest material scientists of today, who are glorified by the general mass of people and who are generally too proud to chant the Lord’s holy name, in millions of years of experimenting could not derive the benefit that this illiterate man derived in one utterance of Hare Kṛṣṇa.

I simply hope that I shall always remember such instances of my spiritual master’s mercy upon even the most fallen creatures. In such a way, I hope I shall never lessen the importance of my Gurudeva’s mission. By taking full refuge at the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda, we find the mercy of Lord Caitanyadeva Himself.

Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless me that I may be attracted to bathe in your mercy, even if only for a short time. I beg to remain with full-heart your menial servant, and the servant of your servants, eternally,

ISKCON South Africa

Puṣṭa Kṛṣṇa Svāmī

Janakarāj dāsa brahmacārī

Kṣudhi dāsa brahmacārī



The Messenger

Behold a messenger of Godhead comes—*HE HAS COME, HE HAS COME!!*
 The most cherished prize of life this messenger has won
 And he's giving it out freely for all those who are sincere.
 He does not ask you for blind following, he requests you lend an ear,
 And he'll fill you up with nectar and he'll tell you of the love
 That is pouring, falling freely from that vast abode above,
 Where truth is never challenged and all souls accept the fate,
 Eternal service unto Godhead, golden key to opened gate . . .
 Beyond Viroja's river span in the Maha-tattva cloud,
 Devotees run and play with He of all good qualities endowed.
 They are happy in that land of bliss having never left His side,
 What do they know of the wretched place where you and I abide?
 . . .the pit, the sewage trench where each soul rots in death,
 Awaiting Māyā's morbid messages, succumbing to her baited breath.
 Of all *jīvas*, one quarter dwell from Krishna torn apart,
 Fools embracing heartaches cannot know the heart of all hearts.
 Thus Krishna sent our Prabhupāda to come and save us all,
 Like frogs who listen for the thunder, we should listen for his call.
 As the frogs begin to croak when agitated by the clash,
 We should agitate complacent tongues to chant, and to his feet should dash!
 "Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy" is the sublime request he makes,
 Of highest bliss this *paramhansa* or swan-like soul, partakes.
 This—the same eternal teaching Nārada gave Dhruva and Prahlāda,
 Is now presented as it is for those who yearn for love of God.

“Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and be happy,” such a small request,
 Yet just a meager handful come forward to pass the master’s test.
 Oh, fickle, cruel world, why hast thou waited for to hear?
 Are there only a small number of you who are at all sincere?
 The same words of truth our master gives were also given long ago,
 There is no flashy innovation, no gaudy spectacle or show.
 The same message, the same words printed ‘pon a million leaves. . .
 Distributed into your hands, but is it that you lack belief?
 . . .that a soul as great as he could have descended from afar,
 Can you not accept it that the moon outshines the brightest star?
 Or have we, as his disciples, failed to present it as it is?
 Oh, world, is this the excuse you use to continue with the way you live?
 Forget the pock marks that can’t mar the beauty of the brightest moon.
 World! Can’t you see you’d better listen and change your habits soon?
 Despite your pittance of piety, Death has his noose about your neck;
 But chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra* and generations you’ll protect!
 Chant this Hare Kṛṣṇa and realize an honest Vaiṣṇava’s life,
 Of devotion, joy, fulfillment and freedom from all sorts of strife.
 Chant and see the valued lesson in realizing “I’M the fool.”
 Hear the message of the Bhagwat, Vyāsadeva’s effulgent jewel.
 . . .And the brightness of its lustre more and more will shine within
 As the hearing of its nectar releases one from an eternity of sin.
 May His Grace be with us that this message will be heard in every
 Scottish town,
 And that all souls in the Scottish lands will come forth to spread
 the holy name around!

Thus pray most humbly,

The devotees of YOUR gigantic ISKCON Edinburgh, Scotland

Patita Uddhāraṇa dāsa	Guṇarāj dāśī	Helen and Leslie Nurse Prabhus
Sambanātha dāsa	Dayāmayī dāśī	Willy and Jenny Prabhus
Sanātana dāsa	Allison Bryce	Keith Young Prabhu
Anakdundibhi dāsa	Terry McDonald	Dr. Nanda Kishor Agarwala Prabhu
Premrūpa dāsa	Fiona Tait	Thon and Maggie Prabhus
Caraṇāravinda dāsa	Ruth Sweetman	Yannick Kukulka
Sananda Kumāra dāsa	Doṣavarjita dāsa	Gordon Campbell
Acintyarūpa dāsa	David Hoey Prabhu	Ruth Holbrook
Sarvamaṅgala dāśī	Dukarma dāsa	Joyce Reynolds
Vṛndāvanabihariṇī dāśī	Denise Prabhu	

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

KṚṢṆA KṚṢṆA KṚṢṆA KṚṢṆA KṚṢṆA KṚṢṆA KṚṢṆA HE!!

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

As Lord Kṛṣṇa has stated in *Bhagavad-gītā*:
pitāham asya jagato

mātā dhātā pitāmahaḥ

(Bg. 9.17)

“I am the father of this universe, the mother, the support and the grandsire.”

After having been stationed here in Glasgow for about one month, we are having up to 40 guests each evening. The curious thing is that most of these guests are under 10 years of age. As the pure servant of the father of all living beings, you are displaying all His fatherly qualities perfectly. Otherwise, why would all of these wonderful souls come hankering at the door night after night just to hear about your activities around the globe—and also to hear about the ever-refreshing marvels of the beautiful flute-player, Kṛṣṇa.

With new-found love and affection in their eyes, they queue up with bottles of milk, fruit and coins to put on the humble makeshift altar of our apartment. Unloved, dirty and innocent, they have all unanimously declared you as their spiritual father, without doubting your promise of Kṛṣṇa for a moment.

By the mercy of the Lord, and by your personal benediction, perhaps I shall one day be-

come as pure and innocent as these young souls.

Let us always be thinking of how to increase our work for you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda—on and on and on—never stopping or slowing down.

We beg to remain the most useless servants at your lotus feet:

Kiśora dāsa

Surarāma dāsa

Dhīraśauta dāsa

Young devotees and angels:

Margaret Douglas	Owen
Eleanor Brewer	Frank
Mo Lockhead	Frank
Joye McPherson	Jim
Joyce Pairs	Alex
Anne	Margaret
Linda	Lalhemne
Margaret	Elizabeth
Jeanette	Susanne
Yvonne	Elizabeth
Robert	Jessie
John	Elizabeth
George	Isobelle
Albert	Ann Prabhu



“Children at the age of five are sent to the *gurukula*, or the place of the spiritual master, and the master trains the young boys in the strict discipline of becoming *brahmacārīs*. Without such practice, no one can make advancement in any *yoga*, whether it be *dhyāna*, *jñāna*, or *bhakti*.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* purport, Chapter 6, verses 13-14).

All glories to the divine lotus feet of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, our divine loving father, who has so mercifully benedicted us with the awe-inspiring gift of training these great souls according to his divine instructions. We are always feeling foolishly inadequate to perform such an auspicious service. Devotional service at Gurukula is an ocean of purification.

These children are the immense potential of the future. All day long they are vibrating *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam śloka*s, chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, dancing, eating *prasādam*, learning Deity worship, cleaning—being trained up in the *yuga dharma: bhakti yoga*.

“Lord Caitanya said that a teacher should behave properly even before he begins teaching. One who teaches that way is called *ācārya*, or the ideal teacher. . . The teacher cannot manufacture rules against the principles of revealed scriptures. . . The king or the executive head of a state, the father and the school teacher are all

considered to be natural leaders of the innocent people in general. All such natural leaders have a great responsibility to their dependents; therefore they must be conversant with standard books of moral and spiritual codes.”

Śaṅkīrtana is constant here; at every moment we are evidencing by our actions the example the children will follow. Mercifully, we have the example of Your Divine Grace towards which to direct them. Constantly they mirror our weakness and pettiness of character, forcing us to strive harder to achieve a better example, forcing us to become convinced, forcing us to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Mutually we are all growing together. Surely their growth will outstrip our own. To serve the lotus feet of these devotees, whose preaching will revolutionize the consciousness of the planet, is unknown, immeasurable pleasure to anyone save yourself and the devotees who are relishing its nectarine taste. It's like a great and thrilling secret: here in Dallas, Texas are the future saviors of the planet by Your Divine Grace.

To play even a small part in their flowering fills the devotional heart with satisfaction and gratitude. There is no way we can ever properly express our eternal indebtedness to Your Divine Grace for this *tapasya*, which is giving us such pleasure. Here are the student offerings:



Our most beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Lord Caitanya recommends hearing as the most important means of self-realization in this dark age of Kali. If we eagerly try to hear the transcendental words flowing from your lotus lips then one day we will become freed from all material hunger, thirst, fear and lamentation and be able to leave behind the dark dense forest of illusion in this material world.

This is your promise to us, the most fallen souls. You are an endless ocean of mercy and one who dives into it will find no end. That ocean can swallow all misgivings and purify everyone by its waves.

Please let us help you to carry these waves of your supreme message to the last dry spot, even if all we can say is: "My dear sir, you are so nice, so intelligent, so rich, so learned, but please forget it all for a moment and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa."

The basic principle for spiritual advancement is that one has to accept a spiritual master. This you showed us by your own example. You are obeying the orders of your Guru Mahārāja perfectly. You are setting the highest example of what devotional service means. You are always giving us freely what no one else is able to give but you are never tired. In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* you stated: "Spirit is never old and therefore on the spiritual plane, service is never tiresome."

On the Absolute platform of rendering service to Kṛṣṇa, devoting the senses to engagement in the work of Kṛṣṇa, and spreading Kṛṣṇa's message, one can transcend all designations like nationality, birth, race, etc. How can we ever conceive how much you are giving? You said on the spiritual platform there is only giving, but we have nothing to give you in return. We can only hope, that by your grace we will develop a little drop of serving mood.

You are like a cloud, that showers water everywhere. Somehow we have also been showered by your mercy, even though we are lower than dogs. By your great mercy you have made it possible for such fallen souls of this Kali-yuga to go back home, and the only qualification

necessary for this is that we take shelter at your lotus feet. Your lotus feet do not touch the swamp of this material world and that is why anyone who lifts himself out of the swamp, taking shelter at your lotus feet, will be freed from all miseries. It is said that by the mercy of the spiritual master we receive the blessings of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, advancement is impossible. Thus since we have no intelligence or desire to serve Kṛṣṇa, we can only seek shelter at your lotus feet. But even of this we are not capable because we are servants of our senses and have therefore lost all intelligence. But by the association of a pure devotee like you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, even the most perverted of men can develop love of Kṛṣṇa. That is why it is our honest desire that you grant us shelter at your holy lotus feet, O Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are only dirty beggars but you are so kind to engage us in holy activities. Please do not thrust us from you. Please forgive offenses that we commit again and again. You are our only rescue. Repeatedly we offer our worthless obeisances unto you. When will you bestow upon us your blessings so that we can understand your purity and become serious to serve you, O Śrīla Prabhupāda?

May Kṛṣṇa be so merciful to us and help us to finally surrender unto your lotus feet and appreciate your appearance in this material universe more and more.

Your most fallen servants,

Nirmhilānanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Uthal dāsa brahmacārī
 Haveouamonanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Aṣṭarātha dāsa brahmacārī
 Ātmavidyā dāsa brahmacārī
 Uktala dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhārata dāsa brahmacārī
 BhaktaEtdreaz
 Jaya Gaura dāsa brahmacārī
 Rāj dāsa brahmacārī
 Gaura Kiśora dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Oietmar

Kṛṣṇa says in the *Bhagavad-gītā*:

“The living entity in this material world carries his different conceptions of life as the air carries aromas.” (Bg. 15.8) By your mercy, we learned that we are travelling from universe to universe, from planet to planet, accepting different types of bodies according to our desires for sense pleasure. We were born, grew old, became diseased and had to die again and again, millions and millions of times—who can estimate the number? Not only that, but the human form of life is very rare. Who knows how often we have missed the point—to give up the attempt to enjoy material nature independently and surrender unto a pure devotee of the Supreme Lord?

One day we were walking in a particular universe, on a particular planet, in a particular town, on a particular street, hearing the wonderful unknown sound vibrations of young people in saffron robes chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. They were your disciples, distributing the message of Lord Caitanya to Jagāi and Mādhāi: The living entity is an eternal servant of Kṛṣṇa and by forgetting this eternal relationship has become crazy and is transmigrating under different conceptions of life from body to body, simply following the fruitless restlessness of his mind. But by chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa and engaging under the guidance of the spiritual master, the living entity can change his conception of life, giving up love for matter and

developing love for Kṛṣṇa. In this way he can go back home, back to Godhead.

Srīla Prabhupāda, we are forever indebted to you. We can’t find the right words to express our gratitude, thinking that every word we may say is just false whether it sounds humble or not.

So we shall just go on following your instructions—chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, going on *saṅkīrtana* in the streets, distributing your literature and trying to please you, despite our incapacity.

Pr̥thu dāsa brahmacārī
Veda-vyāsa dāsa brahmacārī
Śacīnandanadās brahmacārī
Havirdhana dāsa brahmacārī
Rāma Mohana dāsa brahmacārī
Premcand dāsa brahmacārī
Mahārātī dāsa brahmacārī
Tīrthada dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Erich
Bhakta Norbert
Bhakta George
Renukā devī dāsī
Hṛmatī devī dāsī
Santīmatī devī dāsī
Kāmākṣī devī dāsī
Bhaktin Marlies
Bhaktin Ruth



ALL GLORIES TO ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA

We offer our respectful obeisances unto our Prabhupāda, the perfected servant of Saraswatī Gosvāmī and flower of the Madhva-Gauḍīya Sampradāya. Prabhupāda has replaced the proud meanderings of our contaminated minds with the accurate Vedic version. He has purified our bodies with the ambrosial oil of God-centered living and has provoked our unwilling knees to gladly bow to the Supremely Wonderful Person. If we can always remember you, Prabhupāda, we will never know fear. If we can always hear your voice we will always be serious. If we can just engage our bodies following your instructions we will always act correctly. If we can continuously pray for your protection we will always be safe. We beg you for the love to be your servants.

Bhurijana dāsa
Jagattarini dāśī
Saṅjaya dāsa
Victor Ling
Sherub Yew
Patricia Yew
Eddy Chan
Lee Ming Kwong
Larry Mak
Raymond
Mr. Wong

Janet Chow
Teresa Chow
Richard Bellord
Maggie Chueng
Dr. Muckerjee
Sunil Khemaney
Kaminee Khemaney
Suby Khan
Lal Hemrajani
Ram Hemrajani
Charles Tang Wing Chung

and all the Children whom by the mercy of your pure love have learned to sing Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.



In the human form of life, our consciousness provides a unique opportunity. Unlike our conscious and semi-conscious brethren, the fishes, reptiles, birds, beasts and plants, we possess the aptitude for examining the involvement of our consciousness with that which is not compatible with the self.

Philosophy and religion as well as the sciences and arts, while not embraced by all men, are the exclusive pursuits of consciousness enveloped in the human form. He who embraces the opportunity to scrutinize his position exhibits a rare vivacity. His concern is aimed at truth. If he is serious, he is given guidance towards the attainment of his goal by the direct mercy of the Supreme Truth Himself, *Srī Kṛṣṇa*.

Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead is confirmed in the *Srī Isopaniṣad* as the proprietor and controller of all that be, animate and inanimate. In the *Brahma-saṁhitā* *Kṛṣṇa* is glorified as the cause of all causes. It is *Kṛṣṇa*'s potency alone which can deliver the conditioned living entity from the suffering generated by his involvement in material existence.

In the *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Kṛṣṇa* is therefore called Mukunda, the giver of liberation. And it is by His kind direction, not by the puny efforts of our quibbling, measuring and judging, that we achieve a view of the Absolute Truth and gradually learn to abide in concert with Him. The conditioned living entity has imperfect senses and his mind is prone to mistakes and cheating. So he will not find it possible to extricate himself from his suffering by means of such fallible equipment. Even though they are confronted by disease, old age, birth and death, many will go so far as to deny that they are suffering.

The limitations of material involvement can be overcome only by accepting the help of *Kṛṣṇa*'s special agent of mercy, the spiritual master, who appears in the line of disciplic succession authorized in the revealed scriptures. Such a spiritual master should be offered the rapt attention of all sincere aspirants to blissful, eternal and fully conscious spiritual life.

Taking shelter of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, we, the foolish materially encumbered spiritual parts and parcels of the Supreme All-Love, *Srī Kṛṣṇacandra*, can be free to take up the primary constitutional function of all His parts who may be either in or beyond the limits of time and space—to serve *Kṛṣṇa* favorably with no reservations.

Pride and envy have plunged us into the depths of the painful, illusory struggle for material happiness. Pride bars us from admitting the possibility of one who is above our scrutiny and judgement, and envy prods us to viciously plot the ruin of anyone better than ourself. These two enemies must be exorcised and no other weapon is fit for the task save the fine-edged scalpel of transcendental knowledge in the expert, benevolent hands of the '*sādhū*' or spiritual master.

May all good men embrace the purifying influence of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda who has appeared in the disciplic succession from *Srī Kṛṣṇa*, Lord *Brahmā* and *Srī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu*. *Srīla Prabhupāda* is offering to deliver to whoever is sincerely thirsty the nectar of the conscious relationship between

the parts of Godhead and Godhead Himself, Kṛṣṇa. To effect this deliverance we are encouraged by His Divine Grace to take up the Hare Nāma *saṅkīrtana*, the congregational chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*, and to adhere to the guidance of the authorized message of the past great teachers of the disciplic line from Lord Brahmā. By association with topics of Godhead love for Kṛṣṇa blossoms in the heart. Let all good men take up association with him whose only business is to glorify Godhead in all his words and deeds.

Now and again, in the midst of devotees taken to the chant of Hari, there appears one who is never covered by *māyā* (illusion). He is to be called Śrīla Prabhupāda or one to whom even great men naturally surrender. May we

take shelter of the lotus feet of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda 108.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Thank you Śrīla Prabhupāda for your kindness. May you be pleased to accept whatever service that, by your mercy, we can perform. May you be pleased to bless us with unadulterated love for Kṛṣṇa as we are weary and must seek your protection.

Śaśisekhara dāsa brahmacārī
for ISKCON Hawaii

Gaurasundara dāsa adhikārī
Govinda dāśī
Śaśisekhara dāsa brahmacārī
Taruna Kānti dāsa brahmacārī
Rādhā Govinda dāsa brahmacārī
Balākhilya dāsa brahmacārī
Phenapa dāsa brahmacārī
Prahādahlāda dāsa brahmacārī
Suparṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Jīvana Kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Gaura Govinda dāsa brahmacārī
Kanva dāsa brahmacārī
Ānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Russell Noles
Today Darby
Tom Kasecky
Ron DeFeo
Tom Bleak
Mark Rickerson
Phillip Granito
Peter Lacroix
Reggie McGovern
Gary Bronner
Jayaśrī dāśī

Suki dāśī
Jaquetta Buell
Debbie Figueroa
Beatrice Matusow
Kya Pond
Louise Donahue
Helen
Saruchī dāśī
Cecil
Tom McCarthy
Cole McFarland
John Carr
Steve Wolff
Bob Fulton
Brian Miller
Ralph Mastriani
Paul Gizzon
Chris Gallacgac
Mike Durkin
Michael Rothstein
John Bishop
Mr. Peter Burwash
Capt. Charles Brooks

Brahmanya Tīrtha dāsa adhikārī
Labuṅga Mañjarī dāśī
Śyāmasundara
Bhaktalladin
Bill Penaroza
Barbara Penaroza
Bhakti dāsa
Greg Johnson
Kathy Johnson
Gaurasundara dāsa
Bakreśvara dāsa adhikārī
Kalavati dāśī
Murli dāśī
Skip Harmon
Lee Harmon
Govinda dāśī
Wayne Nishiki
Celine Nishiki
Kai Kai
Jim Titcomb
Terry Titcomb

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

It is only by the boundless and causeless mercy of Your Divine Grace that we conditioned souls are, at long last, turning our heads, eyes and ears away from the fantasy world of bodily consciousness and selfish desires. Whereas we have been standing in darkness through countless births, you are rushing forward to bring us the light of transcendental knowledge. With this light you are dissipating from our hearts the cloud of illusion, born of a desire to believe the concoctions of so-called friends, relatives, scientists, and scholars. Now, armed with the weapon of *bhakti-yoga* which you have so kindly offered, we are able to see through the illusory vision of the material mind and approach the Supreme Absolute Truth, Kṛṣṇa.

We at Houston Yātrā offer our repeated obeisances unto the glorious lotus feet of Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are teaching us the essence of the *Vedas* in the line of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Indeed, Lord Caitanya Himself delivered this *saṅkīrtana yajña* to the conditioned souls of Kali-yuga that they might have the opportunity to revive their dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness and thereby return to their rightful position at the lotus feet of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. As prescribed by Lord Caitanya Himself, the most beneficial purifying sacrifice to be performed by the conditioned soul in this age is the congregational chanting of the *mahāmantra*: Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. Lord Caitanya prayed to Śrī Kṛṣṇa: "Your holy name alone can render all benedictions upon the living beings . . . You have so kindly made approach to You easy by Your holy names." But it is you, O merciful Jagat-guru, who is making our approach to these holy names so easy because you provide the all-important link between these transcendental names and our materially contaminated senses.

O eternal Father, you are so devotedly carrying this torchlight of Vedic knowledge from your predecessor and Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda. Because of this alone, the knowledge remains pure

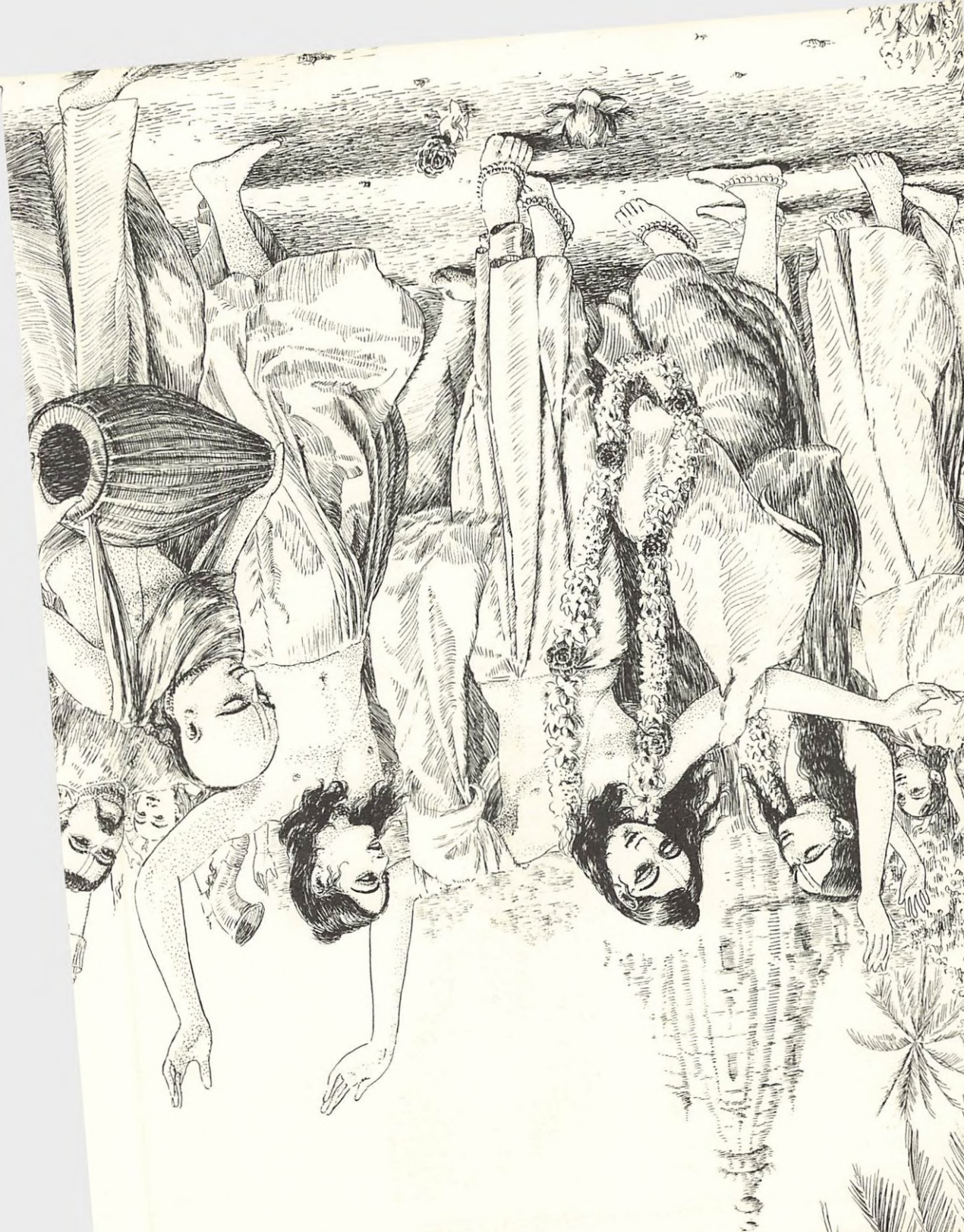
and uncontaminated, beyond the word-jugglery of so many nonsense Māyāvādī, impersonalist scholars. Because we are assured of your authority in transcendental matters by the luminous purity of your message, we therefore offer our obeisances, indeed our lives, at your transcendental lotus feet. With our consciousness lying in darkness we cannot see or understand Kṛṣṇa directly. But the Lord is so kind. He has sent you as the external manifestation of Supersoul, His localized aspect in everyone's heart. And if we can simply hear the knowledge which you are transmitting, then we can, by your mercy, come to realize our true constitutional position as eternal servants of the Lord. So we simply pray for the desire to remain at your feet and humbly protect this transcendental knowledge from the venom of the mundane wranglers.

Our eyes have remained in darkness for so long that we cannot even appreciate your transcendental beauty and wisdom. And our lips are far too contaminated by mundane sound vibrations to even consider being able to offer homage worthy of glorifying yourself and your divine message. So we at your Houston temple simply pray for the humility to bow our heads submissively at your glorious lotus feet and to become . . .

Your eternal servants in the service of
Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Giridharī dāsa adhikārī
Vinode Vanidevī dāsī
Rṣabhadeva dāsa adhikārī
Kum̐ Kum̐ devī dāsī
Līlāvatī devī dāsī
Bhaktin Clarice and Bhakta Blue
Bhaktin Melinda
Sahadeva dāsa brahmacārī
Vimala Prasāda dāsa brahmacārī
Anadiḥ dāsa brahmacārī
Siddhavidyā dāsa brahmacārī
Kīrticandra dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta John Wollermann
Bhakta Dave Watkins
Rasāmṛta dāsa brahmacārī





Dear Eternal Father,

Srila Prabhupāda, O representative of Śuka-deva Gosvāmī,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your transcendental feet.

It is known that you are the only bona fide *ācārya* from the disciplic succession who is preaching the message of Lord Caitanya: *prthivī te āche yate nagar ādi grām sarvatre pracher haibe more nāma*. In the Age of Kali, all the bogus masters who are misleading the people can't hold a candle before you. How can we compare your causeless mercy, O servant of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja? Please accept our most worthless obeisances time after time at your lotus feet, and please forgive the offenses that we commit in your service.

Guru-kṛṣṇa prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bhīja. "By the grace of *guru*, one can get Kṛṣṇa and by the grace of Kṛṣṇa, one can get a bona fide *guru*." O Srila Prabhupāda, simply by hearing from you we can get relief from the fire of material nescience, simply by following your instruction we can enter into the association of His Lordship Kṛṣṇa in the eternal abode. Thank you very much

for giving us the golden opportunity to become purified by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare, following your instructions and by studying your holy books.

All glories to you, Srila Prabhupāda! You are a pure devotee of the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa and a perfect disciple of His Divine Grace Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja. All glories to you, our divine preceptor His Divine Grace Tridaṇḍī Gosvāmī Abhay Caran Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda Mahārāja.

All glories to you. All glories to Your Divine Grace. We are always praying for your good health.

Akṣojānanda Svāmī
Mahāṁśa Svāmī
Haridās dāsa brahmacārī
Mahendra dāsa brahmacārī
Caitanyaguru dāsa brahmacārī
Ānandamaya dāsa brahmacārī
Pālikā devī dāśī



Service in separation is union in separation. Service renders physical laws elastic. Time and space repair to the background, and devotional service stands exalted. Association through sound, the spiritual master in sound, never leaves, never is lost or forgotten. The constant unexpected guide, the art of service, is to hear. Real hearing. To hear and immediately assimilate in the mind and senses and then to manifest the sound in service—that is “hearing.” Hearing that stops when the speaker stops is not hearing. It is listening, merely a sensation. Śrīla Prabhū-

pāda’s tongue and lips and voice are not limited. They have no beginning and never end in the hearts of those who can hear. Just like electricity carried by different conductors (aluminum and copper conduct but also resist electricity; it is not until we come to silver and platinum that there is no resistance), some things are revealed from master to disciple, and others, due to the contamination of envy, are resisted or temporarily blocked. But the iron is getting hotter, and soon it will be red hot—because his fire is very hot, because he is the pure conduc-

tor of the descending fruit of *Bhāgavata-rasa*, to be drunk through our ears and passed on to those dehydrated on the desert of void, in the *rasaless* realm of *nirākāra* (formlessness). Ideas which harbor all misunderstandings are cultured there. And the seeds of devotion fructify very slowly in such a desert. But he sends rain: his voice rains down torrents to enrich us. *Śrīvatām̐ sva-kathāḥ-kṛṣṇaḥ*: “Just hear about Kṛṣṇa, talk about Kṛṣṇa, sing about Kṛṣṇa, cry for Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa.” Prabhupāda in *kīrtana* is pouring rain upon us that we may grow and bear fruits, sing and inspire dancing, write and be read, speak and be heard by those who can “hear.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, when will we hear you? “When you are willing to hear like Mahārāja Parīkṣit. When you desire to hear more than any other thing. When you are pure enough to transmit what I say intact. When you can hear me even when I am not physically present before you. Then it is real hearing, hearing and chanting. Our mission is to make people hear and chant, but first *you* must learn to hear.”

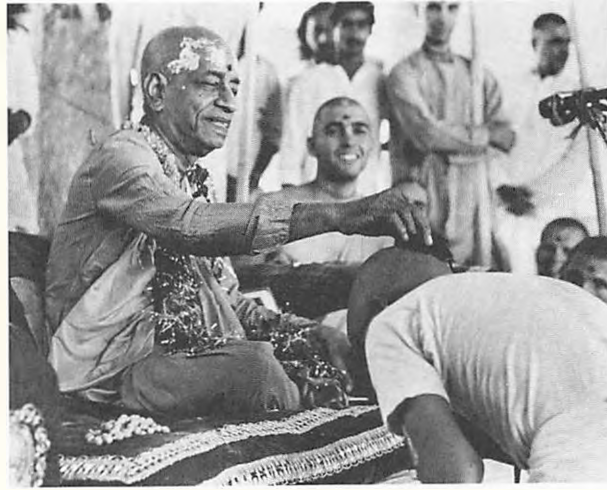
Śrīla Prabhupāda has heard. He has heard Sarasvatī. He has heard Gaura-kīṣora, Bhaktivinoda, Jagannātha, Valadeva, Viśvanātha and Narottama. He has heard and is always hearing them. Just as they were sent to chant, so he has been sent. And we have been sent to hear, to assimilate and to go on chanting, to be heard by many more who are coming. That is the difference between His Divine Grace and all of the others, all the “men of knowledge,” “men of science,” “men of politics,” “men of power and influence.” They are all, honestly or dishonestly, attempting to find the truth, or God, or happiness, or whatever, but Śrīla Prabhupāda has come from the Truth, down to us to give something, to chant something. They are all striving, practicing, fighting, struggling, sometimes even succeeding in achieving their goal. But Prabhupāda is there, there with Kṛṣṇa, calling down to them who are fighting, struggling, and us who are practicing and striving. He is calling to us to join him in the chanting and hearing.

We are traveling for him through deserts, deserts of sand and scorching Indian May asphalt and searing winds that dry *dhotīs* in two minutes. And we are traveling for him through deserts of void hearts scorched by Saṅkara and forced to take shelter under the rocks where it is damp and dark, where even sense gratification is bland and cold. But still they are reluctant to come out—afraid, bitter, angry and, worst of all, envious. But we know more than they think we know because His Divine Grace has told us. He has told us what no one could ever conclude by study or degrees or science or *yoga*: Kṛṣṇa. . . dancing. When they hear, most cannot understand. Some see and are amazed. “We never knew anything like this—Kṛṣṇa beyond the light, beyond the *guṇas*. I thought I had it all worked out, but baffled, baffled. Now we see, and we are dwarfed again (which is our true size).” And they give, they give their energy, the kidnapped Sītā that they cannot enjoy but hoard in anxiety. And the Jeeps move to the next desert, successful. Śrīla Prabhupāda; “Yes, the Jeeps idea is successful because it was my idea. That is my disease—I cannot think of any small plan, only gigantic plans. Cover all of India in your Jeeps. You never have to stop. You are free to go anywhere. You have my blessings.”

By Your blessings everything can happen—and is happening all over the world, in the deserts. Your rain makes them like fruitful valleys and your devotees like lakes who preserve the *rasa* and nurture the land, the sandy waste, into a garden.

May your rain never stop pouring on us. May there never be another drought. May the clouds never fade away.

Tridaṇḍi Achyutānanda Svāmī
Gargamuni Svāmī
Tamāla Kṛṣṇa Gosvāmī
Harikeśa dāsa brahmacārī
Śrīdhara dāsa brahmacārī
Suṣavilāsa dāsa brahmacārī
Parameśvari dāsa brahmacārī
Dinanātha dāsa brahmacārī



*ALL GLORIES TO THE LOTUS-EYED ŚRĪ KṚṢṆA!
ALL GLORIES TO ŚRĪ GURU AND GAURĀṄGA!
ALL GLORIES TO ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA!*

Greatest Merciful Ācārya,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at Your Grace's lotus feet. We are all fallen souls and have no qualifications to be Kṛṣṇa's servants. We do not know much of Kṛṣṇa's philosophy and have no other shelter than you. Please give us a little place at your lotus feet and through Your Grace's kind and merciful instructions we will be able to serve Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

We all thank Your Grace for visiting us here in Jakarta just to let us taste the nectar of devotion to Śrī Kṛṣṇa. During Your Grace's stay here it was so very blissful and full of knowledge that it is hard to forget. We are not satisfied yet with our service and wish we could do more to spread Kṛṣṇa's teachings here.

Without Your Grace's translated books we could have never relished that drop of nectar of devotion. We are covered by Kṛṣṇa's illusory energy so much that we have forgotten our true and eternal relation with Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. Until your devotees brought your message to us, we had only wasted this human form of life. Your Grace is the only true representative

from Śrī Kṛṣṇa who can inform us of the uninterpreted and true verses of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

It is due to Your Grace's mercy that thousands and thousands of people are reading Śrī Kṛṣṇa's pastimes and eternal messages. The *saṅkīrtana* movement lead by Your Grace comes directly from Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and reminds us of our eternal relationship with Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Thus we are able to relish the taste of the nectar of devotion of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

We beg to remain
Your Divine Grace's eternal servitors,
Dharamdāsa dāsa
Aravindākṣi dāsī
Hareśa Prabhu
Maheśa Prabhu
Puṣpa Prabhu
Vidyā Prabhu
Kamala
Ūṣa Prabhu

To our divine spiritual father, Śrīla Prabhupāda

You have entered into our lives at different times and places,
 Turning tormented expressions into shining-happy faces.
 Thought of you purifies one's existence and even past relations;
 To hear and serve you can liberate backward and forward generations.
 The only happiness is to love, and you give the love of the highest region.
 Those who take this gift from you form the all-auspicious legion.
 Instigating and unifying a chorus of glorification,
 Across the globe you go making a transcendental nation.
 Your verbal view of modern day defeating sham scientific speech,
 Your innermost repose, Vṛndāvana, existing far beyond mundane reach.
 The aspirant, continuing the cosmic drama of ever-evolving life,
 Comes to your feet, the catalyst, to that destination free of strife.
 Your disciple expands your shelter to the rare ones who seek,
 Inviting them to associate with you in the sublime company you keep.
 To be able to participate in the *saṅkīrtana* mission of the Lord,
 Is a boon that our words and mind cannot possibly afford.
 In clear appreciation, in honest reciprocation . . .
 We can only offer you our life and service.
 But increasingly we want, blessed by Śrī Kṛṣṇa, to please you . . .
 O the efficacious purity of your presence! O how the fallen need you!

Rṣabhadeva dāsa adbhikārī	Bhakta Gaurāṅga dāsa
Asurakula Nāṣana dāsa brahmacārī	Śivānideva dāsa
Bhojadeva dāsa brahmacārī	Cinmayī dāsa
Bhakta Vern	Tarakadevī dāsa
Bhakta Glen	Bhaktin Cynthia
Bhakta Jim	Bhaktin Judy
Bhakta Jeff	Bhaktin Miguel
Bhakta Kelly	Bhaktin Sharon
Bhakta Bob	Bhaktin Psalm

Śrī Vyāsa Pūjā
To Our Dearest Spiritual Master 1973



We all humbly offer our heartfelt obeisances and appreciations for the unlimited blessings bestowed by Your Divine Grace. In this confusing age of bewildering cataclysms, a source of actual spiritual enlightenment is indeed rare. But you stand above foolish man's candle light probe into Kṛṣṇa's actual nature. For those conditioned souls groping in the pitch darkness of *māyā's* labyrinth, Your Divine Grace extends a friendly hand of guidance to anyone fortunate enough to accept. In the murky vortex of *māyā's* cauldron, you are the calm eye of the storm, giving a universal panacea. Because you continually bathe in the effulgence of Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa's divine love emanating from the spiritual realm, we can have a transparent via media to that beautiful fountainhead of creation. Saturated by thoughts of the divine form of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, your association purifies our diseased mentality.

Due to your compassionate nature you have taken the duty of transforming crows into swans. Appearing as an old man, you are actually an eternal youth always dancing with Kṛṣṇa. Sometimes we can even hear Kṛṣṇa's flute through the din, playing as you dance. Although you originally appeared as a poor mendicant, we can see that Kṛṣṇa has given you inestimable wealth.

We have tried the medicine offered by the false *gurus* and choked on its poison. But Your Divine Grace has not tried to alter the original message of Kṛṣṇa. Thus, because your prescription is unadulterated, it has unlimited efficacy. Being a perfect mystic, the transcendental land of Vṛndāvana is injected into the grey clouded men of Kali by your potent words. Then your message creates a metamorphosis in the sullen living entities; they become bright faced and exhilarated, and appear as jolly madmen, overwhelmed with the intoxicating effect of Kṛṣṇa's divine name. By associating with the dust of your transcendental lotus feet, thousands of such happy madmen have appeared.

As the most beneficent Paramahansa, the essence of all knowledge of the entire creation has

been extracted and simplified by you. Both the most erudite and the most intelligent can easily take refuge of your humble request: "Come back home to play with your dearest friend, whom you have forgotten." That friend, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Lord of everyone's heart, is known most intimately by you. We were all dried up on the burning desert of mental speculation and sense gratification. You have presented us an unlimited ocean of immortal nectar.

How can we thank you in an appropriate manner? We shall eternally remain grateful and

in your debt for freely distributing this great wealth of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to us.

Simply by serving the pure devotee all the demigods become pleased. We also feel great satisfaction in your service, because you are pleasing Śrī Hari, Kṛṣṇa. The greatest wealth in the universe is association of a pure devotee. He knows the name, form, pastimes and paraphernalia of the Lord. We hope to somehow or other become your assistants by bringing more and more persons into your association. Thank you so very much.

Your humble servants, ISKCON London

Revatīnandana Svāmī

Nabhasvatī devī dāśī

Ranchor dāsa adbhikārī

Devadatta dāsa adbhikārī

Vāmanadeva dāsa adbhikārī

Kauśika dāsa adbhikārī

Svayambhūr dāsa adbhikārī

Sarvasvarit dāsa adbhikārī

Dhanañjaya dāsa adbhikārī

Vaikuṇṭhanātha dāsa adbhikārī

Bhaumadeva dāsa brahmacārī

Dhīrāṅge dāsa brahmacārī

Tribhuvanāth dāsa brahmacārī

Pārtha dāsa brahmacārī

Jaya Hari dāsa brahmacārī

Vilvamaṅgala dāsa brahmacārī

Jananānandana dāsa brahmacārī

Purāñjana dāsa brahmacārī

Subhāga dāsa brahmacārī

Advaitācārya dāsa brahmācārī

Śakṣī Gopāla dāsa brahmacārī

Mahā-viṣṇu dāsa brahmacārī

Mohana dāsa brahmacārī

Tīvara Purī dāsa brahmacārī

Bhaja Hari dāsa brahmacārī

Haribolānanda dāsa brahmacārī

Vimuktisaṅga dāsa brahmacārī

Vrajendra Kumāra dāsa brahmacārī

Ravindranāth dāsa brahmacārī

Dhīraṇyīka dāsa brahmacārī

Tīrthasādhaka dāsa brahmacārī

Muktyānanda dāsa brahmacārī

Govindānanda dāsa brahmacārī

Vicitravīrya dāsa brahmacārī

Giridharadharī dāsa brahmacārī

Rohitānandana dāsa brahmacārī

Tribhāṅgānanda dāsa brahmacārī

Vidyābadhu devī dāśī

Śucī devī dāśī

Balagopāla devī dāśī

Svatī devī dāśī

Draupadī devī dāśī

Līlāśaktī devī dāśī

Aṣṭaśakhī devī dāśī

Ḳāma kantī devī dāśī

Syāmasundarī devī dāśī

Pūrṇacandrā devī dāśī

Jaya Lakṣmī devī dāśī

Kāmadhuk devī dāśī

Rāmadevī dāśī

Gaṅgāmayī devī dāśī

Mālatī devī dāśī

Indirā devī dāśī

Bhakta Michael

Bhakta Brian

Bhakta Thomas

Bhakta Pierce

Bhakta Noel

Bhakta Roger

Bhakta Eddy

Bhakta Sammy

Bhakta Steve

Bhakta Richard

Bhakta Roy

Bhakta Edward

Jagannātha

Śivadjvara

Dhruvānanda

Devakī

Bhakti Dharma

Bhaktin Shirley

Bhaktin Barbara

Bhaktin Jane

Bhaktin Dilly

Bhaktin Anna

Bhaktin Vivian

Bhaktin Roslin

Bhaktin Mrs. Sharma



*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

In our modern world, there is such a great mass of conflicting statements about the purpose of our valuable life that the people of the world are at a loss to find genuine engagements for their energy. In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* this is compared to the noise of an ocean. When we approach the shore of an ocean, there is a confusion of names being uttered, yet if one inquires the meaning of these names, nothing can be found. In the same way, all the names and designations of the material world will end just as the bubbles formed in the ocean rose to the surface and merged into the greater atmosphere. Men who are a little advanced often find themselves expounding a series of denials, saying to themselves, "not this, not this." Unfortunately the mind rebels and refuses to accept such negative assertions, asking, now that we have restricted and proscribed so many things, what do we positively propose? The materialists live a life of denials, trying to avoid the painful exigencies of material existence. But they find that the so-called pleasures which they seek to pit against a harsh and inimical world are themselves temporary and lead to a negative state of exhaustion and death. The mind therefore seeks a positive goal in spiritual life to soothe and restore the chaffed condi-

tions of material association. Therefore when it is confronted with more and subtler varieties of negation, the mind will inevitably refuse to accept such conclusions. The need is therefore for a positive statement of spiritual existence.

Śrī Gurudeva is one, and there can be no denial of this fact. There is no question of sectarianism in the teachings of the real *ācārya*; his statements are the statements of the Supreme Absolute and therefore bear the impress of the imperial seal of the transcendental autocrat. In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* one sloka states,

*vettha tvaṁ saumya tat-sarvaṁ
tattvatas tad anugrahāt
brūyuh snigdhasya śiṣyasya
guravo guhyam apy uta:*

"And because you are submissive your spiritual masters have endowed you with all their favors. Therefore you can tell us all you have learned from them." Two words are significant, *saumya* and *snigdhasya*. These words mean pure, simple and submissive. Because the *ācāryadeva* is submissive to the desires and requirements of his Guru Mahārāj, the seed of spiritual insemination is placed within him and he becomes fertile with transcendental knowledge. Our Spiritual Master's Guru Mahārāja, Bhaktisiddhānta

Sarasvati, once stated that the *guru* is able to speak exactly according to qualifications of the audience. Therefore there is a reciprocation which must involve both parties, the hearer and the speaker. If the hearer is pure, simple and submissive, then the speaker is able to engender the highest spiritual perfection through the medium of transcendental sound vibration. On the other hand, if there is some defect in the listener's moral stance, then the level must be lowered to an acceptable platform. It is up to the *guru* to find the exact level on which to present the unalterable truths. “. . . In the Third Canto, twenty-fifth Chapter, twenty-second verse, of the *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Lord Kapila says, ‘My dear mother, when a person is actually in association with devotees, the sublime potency of My devotional service can be experienced.’ In other words, when a pure devotee speaks, his words act upon the hearts of the audience. . . (and have) the potency to inject spiritual life within the audience.”

The message of Gurudeva therefore cannot be opposed or debated, because there is a contradiction between the process of analytical reception and analytical destruction. One may choose one or the other, but if we choose the latter weapon to thrash out the Absolute Truth we will be up against a wall and have no means of defeating it. The conditioned soul has four defects and thus his potential knowledge is confined within the prison wall of the material manifestation. The processes of the elevationists and the *yogīs*, only serve to approach the indolent, lax and unlimited feature of the Absolute without finding a shred or trace of the originating Supreme Energetic. Even the successful *yogīs*, who through the grace of Supersoul contrive to penetrate the effulgent boundary of the realm of Viṣṇuloka and arrive in the anti-material planets, are not allowed to remain but must return to their designated station in temporary material existence. Therefore it is concluded by all saints and *ācāryas* that the best, easiest and most secure means of approaching the truth is through the descending process. The descending process invokes two inherent

factors for a full dose of receptivity—the *guru* and the Supreme Lord. This is stated in the *Caitanya Caritāmṛta*, “*guru-kṛṣṇa kṛpāya-pāya bhakti-latā-bīja*.” By the grace of Kṛṣṇa one receives the spiritual master, and by the grace of the spiritual master, one receives Kṛṣṇa.

In the upliftment of the fallen souls in this age, the spiritual master is declared to be even more merciful than the Supreme Lord Himself. The spiritual master knows what is the business of the Supreme Lord and he is therefore willing to go one step further than is required of him to pick up those souls who would otherwise be out of touch with the Absolute Truth of devotional service. Again *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam* reveals. “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.” The pure devotees of the Lord therefore traverse this mortal plane in the same way as the leaves of the lotus which stand a bare inch above the waters. There is a waxy coating over the leaves of the lotus flower so that even if there is an inundation of contamination it is immediately dissipated because it finds no crevices or flaws in which to rest. In the same way, being confident of the protective *yoga-māyā* covering of the Lord, the pure devotee strides forth to face every danger just to rehabilitate the crippled mentality of the people in general. For this reason the worship of Śrī Gurudeva is considered the ultimately auspicious form of worship. The spiritual master may indicate that one should worship and serve the Supreme Lord, but the Lord is more pleased by the worship of his most humble servant than He is of His own worship. “In the *Padma Purāṇa*, there is a nice statement praising the service of the Vaiṣṇavas or devotees. In that scripture Lord Siva tells Parvatī, ‘My dear Parvatī there are different methods of worship, and out of all such methods the worship of the Supreme Person is considered to be the highest. But even higher than the worship of the Lord is the worship of the Lord’s devotees.’”

Lord Śiva is a great *mahājana* or expert authority on the process of devotional service and therefore his statements are accepted by all bona fide devotees. Throughout the history of the world many varieties of religious practice have been propagated according to time, place and circumstance, and in relation to the mentality of the people. Rūpa Gosvāmī declared that amongst all of these, that religion which promotes pure love of God is foremost and first-class. Nevertheless, higher even than the worship of the Lord is the worship of the Lord's devotees. The devotees are compared with the vice-Lord. By providing the vice-Lord with every variety of service, submission and adherence, in reality one is serving the Lord Himself in the best possible manner. Nevertheless, Ācāryadeva never considers himself to be the Lord. Rather the praises and honors he receives are forwarded to the Lord in the same way the viceroy forwards all honors and riches to the lawful king of the country. Because of his scrupulosity in forwarding everything to the Lord, the *ācāryadeva* becomes qualified to receive all honors, and the best way of honoring the Lord is by honoring Śrī Ācāryadeva. This fact is confirmed in the following statement, "Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself, addressed to Arjuna, 'My dear Pārtha, one who claims to be My devotee is not so. Only a person who claims to be the devotee of My devotee is actually My devotee.'"

Therefore especially in the modern age of Kali or quarrel and confusion, the recommended method of worship is to place oneself at the lotus feet of the pure devotees of the Lord. There is one such pure devotee who has appeared in the western world for the salvation of the most fallen *mleccha* class of men, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Svami Prabhupāda. At this auspicious moment of Vyāsa Pūjā *tithi* let us all remember that it is causeless mercy alone which motivates the activities of the pure devotees, because they are not under the stringent laws of Dūrga's prison house. Therefore his appearance can neither be predicted, expected or demanded. He appears out of his sweet will, or at the command of his Guru Mahārāja.

Therefore we can only pray as follows:

*śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala bhakti sadma
vando mui sāvadhāna mate
yānhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava tariyā yāi
kṛṣṇa prāpti haya yānhā hate*

"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."

All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, All Glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!!!

Adhideva dāsa	Ṭhākura Haridāsa dāsa
Arjit dāsa	Uśika dāsa
Asurakala Nāśana dāsa	Vāmanānanda dāsa
Balaka dāsa	Andy
Baninātha dāsa	Billy
Bamśidhari dāsa	Dave
Bhadravardhana dāsa	Greg
Bhuvaneśvara dāsa	George
Brajera dāsa	Frank
Brahmānanda Purī dāsa	Hamsa
Cidānanda dāsa	Joel
Gaṅgādas dāsa	Leon
Gaṅgānārayaṇa dāsa	Richard
Gopavṛindapāla dāsa	Rory
Jitaprāṇa dāsa	Bob
Jitavrata dāsa	Svarūpa Dāmodara dāsa
Kadamba Kānana dāsa	Larry
Kalarūpa dāsa	Śruti Kīrti dāsa
Lakṣmana dāsa	Kuṅja Behārī dāsa
Mathurā Mohana dāsa	Rakrasāja dāsa
Paṇḍu dāsa	Vopadeva dāsa
Pratya Toṣa dāsa	Hari dāsa
Raghunandana dāsa	Paramahansa—Prahāda
Rāmlāla dāsa	Anasūya dāsi—Ahlādīnī
Rāmeśvara dāsa	Jayaradhe dāsi
Rāvāṇartākara dāsa	Karuṇamayī dāsi—
Śacīḍulāla dāsa	Nimi Bhakti Prahāda,
Sureśa dāsa	Sheela
Tejomāya dāsa	Kīrtida Kanyāka dāsi

Labaṅgalatīka dāsi
 Mādhavī dāsī
 Paṇḍurāṇī dāsī
 Pātrī dāsī
 Prṇī dāsī
 Rādhā Kuṇḍa dāsī
 Rāsaparāyaṇī dāsī
 Sandipanī dāsī
 Śīlavatī dāsī
 Śrīla dāsī
 Taraṇī dāsī
 Ujjvala dāsī—Gopāla Bhaṭṭa
 Vṛndāvana Vilāsinī dāsī
 Caitanya dāsī—Gandharī,
 Draupadī dāsī
 Kandavasī dāsī
 Annabhāva dāsī
 Glenice—Kaśimu
 Katherine
 Linda
 Morissa
 Rādhā
 Sara
 Toni
 Chris
 Marian—Lisa, Lynette
 Lucie
 Cookie
 Babru dāsa, Satyakī dāsī
 Bir Raghava dāsa, Bir Mala—Yamunā
 Devendranāth dāsa, Bhagavaccittā dāsī—
 Viśakhā
 Dineśvara dāsa, Bhagavatī dāsī—
 Baladeva
 Gaṇendra dāsa, Dvījapriyā dāsī—
 Govinda dāsa, Gopāla dāsa,
 Gopīnātha dāsa
 Kāliyā Kṛṣṇadāsa, Hṛṣaktī dāsī
 Karandhara dāsa, Śacī devī—Bhakti Rūpa
 Karuṇāsindhu dāsa, Saralā dāsī—Anaṅga

Kavicandra dāsa, Mahāsinī dāsī—Bhakti dāsa
 Kṛṣṇa Kantī dāsī, Herapañcamī dāsī—Uttara
 Kuvera dāsa, Revatī dāsī—Govinda dāsa
 Lāla Kṛṣṇa dāsa, Parvatī dāsī—Līlā, Candra Gaṭī
 Locana dāsa, Kṛṣṇa Vilāsinī dāsī—Ratha dāsī
 Madhukaṇṭha dāsa, Karālapati dāsī
 Muralivādana dāsa, Kaumadaki dāsī
 Nanda Kumāra dāsa, Paurṇamaṣṭamī dāsī
 Madhukara dāsa, Līlāsaktī dāsī
 Mahājana dāsa, Śaraṇāgata—Hara
 Naranārāyaṇa dāsa, Dinadayadri dāsī
 Mūrti dāsa, Mahātī dāsī
 Pradyumna dāsa, Arundhatī dāsī—Aniruddha dāsa
 Rādhā Gopinātha dāsa, Vṛndā dāsī
 Raghavindu dāsa, Vijayalakṣmī dāsī
 Raṇadhīra dāsa, Sandinī dāsī—Rādhāmaṣṭamī
 Saptarātha dāsa, Hemalāta dāsī
 Satrājita dāsa, Śrīlakṣmī dāsī
 Satsaṅgānanda dāsa, Yaṇapriyā dāsī
 Śrīdāma dāsa, Monmohinī dāsī
 Śrutasrava dāsa, Prayāg dāsī—Bhakti Raṇajit dāsa
 Stoka Kṛṣṇa dāsa, Saha devī—Bhagavat
 Sṛṇjaya dāsa, Devadīdhitī dāsī—Lakṣmī dāsī
 Svarūpa dāsa, Kaṅka dāsī
 Toṣana dāsa, Dakṣiṇa dāsī—Govinda dāsa
 Tradhis dāsa, Nagapatnī dāsī—Janmaṣṭamī dāsī
 Tripurāri dāsa, Agnī dāsī—Bhakti Sureśa
 Vaikhānas dāsa, Navīna dāsī—Kalindī
 Visal dāsa, Vilāsinī dāsī
 Danavir dāsa, Kamalā dāsī
 Gandharvā dāsī—Derry
 Umapati dāsa, Śīlavatī
 Harer Nāma dāsa, Prabhavatī dāsī
 Bṛhad Bhānu dāsa, Isusaram dāsī—Tree, Sunshir
 Bruce, Noreen
 Hal, Barbara—Kama
 Lewis, Sandra
 Terry, Julie—Christen
 Jerry, Aja—Hanuman
 William, Mary



In material life, there are many renowned personalities who are glorified as great seekers of the truth. To seek after something means to attempt for that which is not presently in hand. These so-called "great seekers" of truth are not possessors of the truth. On the other hand, the pure devotee is a soul linked eternally to the Supreme Truth through transcendental relationship. Therefore, he is one who has achieved the highest goal of truth, knowledge and bliss.

Seeking in this material world is implemented through the perceptions of our six senses, including the mind. These material senses are all limited faculties which are not capable of directly perceiving the subtle building blocks of the cosmos. How, then, can the transcendental source of the fine and gross mechanisms of this material world, and the existences which lie beyond it, be understood by such blunt equipment as these material senses? The limits of perception may be increased by utilization of machines, etc., so that material knowledge increases, but since the basis is limited, all such knowledge falls short of the unlimited source of all knowledge. In other words, the system of attaining knowledge by increasing from the limited base of sense perception can never envelope the Absolute Truth, Lord *Śrī Kṛṣṇa*.

Thus, the empiric philosophers seeking after the truth are persons who have taken the wrong road to the true perception of life. The spiritual master in the line of disciplic succession is not an empirical seeker after the truth because he has purchased the truth by his unalloyed devotion. Lord *Kṛṣṇa* is the Supreme Authority on absolute knowledge as He Himself is the Absolute Truth. All information is perfectly available from the person who knows the complete network of total existence and the Supreme Source of existence, Lord *Śrī Kṛṣṇa*. Since His position is beyond the range of ordinary communication, how can contact be made? Actually *Kṛṣṇa* initially made contact by revealing Himself to His devotee. *Kṛṣṇa* Himself is therefore the original spiritual master or preceptor. Once the devotee has achieved full perception of *Kṛṣṇa* by His mercy, his knowledge is perfect and com-

plete. This perfect and complete knowledge has been handed down through disciplic succession or a chain of spiritual masters originating from Lord Kṛṣṇa and coming down to His Divine Grace 108 Śrīla A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

There is a vast gulf of difference between even the greatest of empiric philosophers or material scientists, who are still groping in the dark, and the perfected devotee carrying the torchlight of knowledge received as handed down through the line of spiritual masters at whose head stands the Lord Himself. Due to their excessive preoccupation with material darkness, the frustrated empiric seekers futilely curse the darkness and falsely conclude that either there is no ultimate truth or that the truth must be ultimately devoid of personal attributes. There is no advantage to making such unsubstantiated conclusions out of frustration. It is far better to accept the shelter of the bona fide spiritual master who has achieved the essence of the truth.

His Divine Grace 108 Śrīla A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda is such a pure spiritual master linked with Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Absolute Truth, through the eternal chain of disciplic succession. Śrīla Prabhupāda has taken the order of his spiritual master in hand and carried it throughout the world. His Divine Grace has fulfilled many predictions in ancient scriptures regarding the spreading of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *saṅkīrtana* movement. One prediction made nearly one hundred years ago by a great *ācārya* in the line from Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, namely, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, states that people throughout the world will come to Śrī Māyāpura, the place of the Lord's advent and pastimes as Lord Caitanya, and, together with the Indian *bhaktas* or devotees, will engage in worship of the Lord's holy name by performance of *saṅkīrtana*. Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura further predicted that at Śrī Māyāpura a spiritual city will evolve filled with temples and sanctity. In this respect also, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda has begun work towards fulfillment of the prophecy by the construction of ISKCON's Śrī Māyāpura Candraya

Temple, and by personally supervising and advising on how to develop the many programs to make a perfect spiritual environment for advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

There is no one more kind or more merciful than the bona fide spiritual master. His efforts are never wasted. His kindness is not squandered on scentless flowers, but blossoms in the fragrant distribution of love of Kṛṣṇa. At Śrī Māyāpura, Śrīla Prabhupāda's kindness in engaging his devotees in the distribution of mercy in dynamic ways is unlimited. Although caste-conscious priests and priests' family members see temporary designations like Hindu, Moslem, Christian, black, white, *brāhmaṇa*, *śūdra*, etc., and object to the distribution of Kṛṣṇa *prasāda* or mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda does not care for such fanatics, but goes on distributing, boldly chanting the name of the Lord to all who will accept the mercy. Thus he is giving all fallen souls, deluded into identification with the external body or mind, the chance to revive the dormant spark of love of God within their hearts. Śrīla Prabhupāda's English and Sanskrit School is so potent that after a short duration the students decide to dedicate their lives to the cause of the Supreme Lord and become perfect. This potency is due to the purity of purpose and presentation with which His Divine Grace is presenting the message of Godhead. Therefore, the whole world should appreciate the greatness of His Divine Grace.

Not only does Śrīla Prabhupāda want to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, but once it is spread, he wants it perpetuated. Therefore he has begun at short notice such projects at Śrī Māyāpura as making *mṛdaṅgas*, *karatalas* and clay models of Kṛṣṇa pastimes. Devotees are congregating from all over the world, to serve in these transcendental activities. Thus Śrīla Prabhupāda's alluring plan for displaying the pastimes of the Lord, which can release the viewer from the clutches of material attachments, is just another example of the potent methods employed by the greatest exponent of Vedic knowledge in the world today.

Many so-called spiritualists have gone abroad

from India and, after some flurry of propaganda and disciple-making, have returned and built some structure, thus finishing their overseas preaching. Such bogus *yogīs*, surrounded by their female supporters, cannot show the real potency of spiritual existence. Śrīla Prabhupāda, however, did not rush back to India for gaining esteem in the homeland, but stayed for better or worse to establish and really give the help and spiritual guidance which the whole world is crying for. Now, only after firmly establishing Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, His Divine Grace is putting his attention towards constructing a spiritual city which, by showing ideal life, will be unique in the world. Śrīla Prabhupāda's translations of the Vedic scriptures have revealed the importance of the places where the Supreme Lord has exhibited His pastimes while appearing on this earth. Now the task of preparing a place for receiving the thousands of devotees who want to worship and respect these holy places has begun.

Life in this age is of very short duration, but in that short time it is possible to become attached to Kṛṣṇa and His devotees. Just as we become attached to our family and friends, we may join Kṛṣṇa's family, which is actually our eternal existence, and make friends with Kṛṣṇa's devotees. Then, instead of frustration at seeing our temporary relations finished off one by one by the relentless hands of time, our eternal relations with the Lord and His devotees will always keep us filled with eternal knowledge and bliss. The real spiritual master offers full satisfaction to his disciples.

Quick happiness and distress are available in this material world, but they are worthless. Easy come—easy go. Real happiness in spiritual life alone is of permanent value. What can we offer to such a magnanimous person who, amidst the broken-glass-like pieces of this impermanent and transient material world, is giving the jewel of permanent spiritual existence? If there is duty to our friends, family, country, etc., although they offered us only temporary benefits, how great then is our duty to the spiritual master who has offered us the only thing of real value?

In perfect devotion our hearts would weep for the blessing of our spiritual master, and in anxiety to serve him our limbs would tremble and hairs stand on end, but we are so unfortunate to be lacking such sincerity. We can only pray for the day when we may sincerely be able to dedicate our every thought, breath and action in the service of our spiritual master, who is so dear to us. There is nothing more which we have left to give. It is ours to work for the day when all the fallen souls may be so fortunate as to see the opportunity and make their lives perfect by taking shelter of the pure devotee. Repeatedly we “*Māyāpura-nivāsīs*,” “residents of Māyāpura,” offer our lives and souls at the lotus feet of the pure devotee of the Lord, His Divine Grace 108 Om̐ Viṣṇupāda Śrī-Śrīmad A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, in humble and respectful obeisances to our most beloved and eternal spiritual master and father.

signed,
The “*Mayapura-nivāsīs*”

Bhavānanda Gosvāmī
Tāmala Kṛṣṇa Gosvāmī
Jayapataka Svāmī
Gargamuni Svāmī
Pañca Dravida Svāmī
Pañcajanya brahmacārī
Prabasa brahmacārī
Janānīvāsa brahmacārī
Gaurśakti brahmacārī
Ajamil brahmacārī
Dinadayal dāsa brahmacārī
Satchi ḍulāl Prabhu
Dvija-Hari dāsa brahmacārī
Pavamana dāsa brahmacārī
Śrīmatī devī dāsī
Bhaktijana dāsa brahmacārī
Shaladaṅga dāsa brahmacārī
Prabas Prabhu
Hariharah dāsa brahmacārī

Part I – THE DISSIPATION OF NIGHT

Thy birth was pure, thy thoughts were clean,
 Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa thou never forgot.
 Due to father's kindness thou had thy *Ratha*,
 Thou imitated *pūjā*, and caught from youth
 A hatred for gambling, illicit sex, intoxicants, and animal slaughter.
 Such a birth is rare in this world.

*"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master.
 Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him."*

Thou met thy *guru*, auspicious day,
 And from his feet thou never strayed.
 A master beyond death is the *guru* dear,
 Potency sufficient to flood the whole world
 By injecting Kṛṣṇa-*kathā* into every ear.
 Such a master is rare in this world.

*"Only by the mercy of the spiritual master can one obtain the mercy
 of the Lord."*

There is a terrible land here
 Where demons build staircases to the sky,
 Where the innocent cow is slaughtered,
 And where the citizens constantly cry.
 Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda, the light of the world,
 Seeing the plight of such conditioned souls, wrote
 'Please just go there, and try
 To water the seed as Caitanya taught.'
 Such a request is rare in this world.

*"The splendor of the sun, which dissipates the darkness of this
 whole world, comes from Me."*

Bhagavad-gītā, the Song of God,
 And *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the nectarean fruit,
 Were brought by thee like the morning sun,
 Which rises golden and majestic in the east,
 And brings peace from the ghosts of the moonless night.
 Such literature is rare in this world.

Part II – THE NEW DAY

“O Kṛṣṇa, I totally accept as truth all that You have told me.”

Wonderful times have just begun,
The Māyāvādīs from the field are running,
Smashed by thy book distribution forces.
The public catches up the mighty song,
Thy mace alone appears above the rest.
Such a fight is rare in this world.

*“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.”*

Thy flag flies beneath the noon day sky,
All nations, all men take shelter
Where no shadow casts its fearful face.
At thy feet they bow and pray,
‘Save me, Oh lord, from Yamarāj’s sway.’
At thy nod, the *kīrtana* begins—
Drums, *karatālas* thunderously crash,
Then the voices of billions raised on high,
Hands in the air, a tear in every eye,
Dancing in step, men, elephants, dogs, and even the tree
Sway in the celestial breeze which has brought thee here.
Such a victory is rare in this world.

Melbourne ISKCON

Cāru dāsa adbhikārī
Gaṇeśa dāsa brahmacārī
Harṣa dāsa brahmacārī
Chris Prabhu
Gary Prabhu
Phil Prabhu
Hon Pei Prabhu
Donna Prabhu
Baibhabī devī dāsī
Yāyatī devī dāsī

Śucalā devī dāsī

Ṛṣabha devī dāsī
Kāmarūpa devī dāsī
Cheryl
Sue

Melbourne Rathayātrā Work Crew

Charles Prabhu
Dīpaka dāsa
Hari Saurī dāsa
Gaura Maṇḍala Bhaumī
Vidyāraṇya dāsa



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
 nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

On this most glorious day of his appearance we pray at the lotus feet of our spiritual master for continued service and we beg to have the benediction of offering eternal homages and obeisances to his divine person. With soul-searching and insufficient means we attempt an impossible task—proclaiming and glorifying the inestimable purity and magnificence of our most exalted *gurudeva*. By his unflinching example we are stirred to follow in his footsteps and offer ourselves at his lotus feet. They are the only shelter from the onslaught of material

illusion and forgetfulness of our true position as insignificant servants of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

It is stated in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*: “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.” (*Bhāg.* 1.1.22)

Śrīla Prabhupāda has guided this transcendental ship, the *saṅkīrtana* movement, through

the whirlpools and storms of material existence. He has salvaged countless lives that were floating adrift in material sense-gratification or cast ashore on the barren rocks of mental speculation and the desire for self-annihilation. Our individual and collective debt to him remains eternally unpaid.

He alone has done the impossible, what no else would have even attempted. Carrying out wholeheartedly and enthusiastically the orders of his spiritual master, he came to teach us the highest truth of divine service and love of Godhead. By his purity, he attracted us to the glorious light of the Vedic truths and by his example the most fallen souls were able to give up addiction to intoxication and illicit sex, and accept regulative principles for purification under disciplinary vows.

In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the potency of the pure devotee is described: "Like the sun, your goodness can travel everywhere 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. . ."

By contact with a pure Vaiṣṇava, or unalloyed devotee of the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the impure are made pure. Thus, the uncontaminated truth of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is being broadcast worldwide, and propagated from numerous spiritual oases or training schools for a legion of Vaiṣṇavas. Vaiṣṇavism has been spread around the planet. In this age of quarrel, hypocrisy and materialism, the highest perfection of spiritual life, or *viśva-dharma*, the universal religion, coming directly from the Supreme Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, has been bestowed without discrimination to all. By his causeless mercy, he has manifested the torchlight of knowledge, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavad-gītā*, as well as the brilliant sun of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to illuminate the dark night which covers all forgetful souls.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your greatness can be seen in the blossoming of the divine lotus of *bhakti* in the hearts of your disciples. The seeds of divine love which you lovingly planted in

these most barren souls are fructifying under the incessant showers of your magnificent mercy.

You are the personification of all scriptural injunctions and of pure devotional service to Śrī Hari, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the final purport of the *śāstras*. You are the perfect *ācārya*, or "*mahātma*", whose only life purpose, as shown by your spotless example, is described in *Bhagavad-gītā*: "Always chanting My glories, endeavoring with great determination, bowing down before Me, these great souls perpetually worship Me with devotion." (Bg. 9.14).

We thus pray to the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya to give us eternal association with His most confidential servitor, Śrīla Prabhupāda. May we with all the seriousness at our command fully carry out his instructions which we have taken as our life and soul.

Jayate, Jagat-guru, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

ISKCON MONTREAL QUEBEC

Uttamaśloka dāsa adhikārī (president)

Visvakarma dāsa brahmacārī

Adhiyajña dāsa brahmacārī

Māyāpura sha sha dāsa brahmacārī

Jaya Balarāma dāsa brahmacārī

Gokulānanda dāsa brahmacārī

Bhakta Stuart

Bhakta Peter

Bhakta Denis

Bhakta Andre

Bhakta Michel

Bhakta Gaetan

Bhakta Rejean

Bahirsmatī devī dāsī &

Rādhā-Gopīnātha dāsa

Jyotiraditya devī dāsī

Candra devī dāsī

Sarvamayī devī dāsī

Bhaktin Jade

Bhaktin Lucie

Bhaktin Pat



*eipe con brahmite cono bhagavanoji
guru-kṛṣṇa kṛpāya pāya bhakti-latā-bīja
(C.c. Madhya 19.151)*

No one can trace the history of the living entity's entanglement in material nature. It is said that the living entities have been traveling through the universe from body to body since time immemorial. Due to association with material energy the living entities mind has been infected with the desire for sense gratification. Thus the eight-fold layers of earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence and false ego have covered his pure being. In this way he is suffering in the cycle of *samsāra* (repeated birth and death.)

When the living entity comes in contact with material nature his pure consciousness (*bhakti*) becomes transferred into *kāma* or lust. Impelled by this lust, which is born of contact with the quality of *rajas* (passion) he engaged in all types of sinful acts. Thus, a living entity in pure consciousness is covered by his eternal enemy

known as lust, which is never satisfied and which burns like fire. It is said in the *Manu-smṛti* that lust can never be satisfied regardless of how much sense gratification one engages in, just as fire does not become extinguished by a constant supply of fuel. When there is a fire in the forest, no man can extinguish it. Only when the rain clouds pour water on it can the blaze be put out, and that is a rare occurrence. Rarer still, however, is the association of the *guru* who can extinguish the blazing fire of material existence (by the rain of transcendental knowledge.)

guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja

By the mercy of Kṛṣṇa one comes in touch with the *guru*; by the grace of the *guru* the *bhakti-latā-bīja* (seed of devotion) is planted in one's heart. As the seed is watered by the process of *śravaṇaṁ kīrtanam*, hearing and chanting the transcendental message of the *guru*, the *bhakti* creeper grows beyond the covering of the material energy. Piercing through the material cover-

ing, it enters the spiritual atmosphere where it bears fruit which is known as *prema* or love of Godhead. The devotee, having tasted that mature fruit of devotion, becomes merged into the ocean of bliss.

Therefore we fall down at the feet of Om Viṣṇu-pāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī-Śrīmad A.C. Bhaktivedānta Gosvāmī Mahārāja and eternally thank him for coming to this mundane plane and giving us the transcendental seeds of the *mahā-mantra* Hare, Kṛṣṇa and Rāma. It is not out of mundane sentiment that we chant Jaya Prabhupāda. But we vibrate his holy glories because simply by hearing his divine message we are experiencing the extinguishing of the fire of material desire. His words possess the power to perform surgical incision on the self and thereby separate the pure spirit soul from all kinds of false designations. Although I am totally unqualified, on this holiest of days, I will place the dust from his lotus feet on my head and humbly try to speak on his unlimited glories as I have realized them by his mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is the ambassador from the spiritual realm. He not only excels us in every respect, but he is to be worshiped on an equal level with the Godhead by all those who are desiring to enter into the mood of pure *bhakti*.

Bringing us the message of Brāja, the message of unconditional surrender, Śrīla Prabhupāda stands as the healing herb for our present mental disorder.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is the sole agent by which we can establish our forgotten relationship with the all-love, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

In order to be set free from the chains of *kāma* (lust) which perverts our pure nature, we, as sincere seekers of freedom, must crave Śrīla Prabhupāda's help. He is the transparent agent who can safely escort our march free from the chains of the four-fold miseries of sinful life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda could never be an obstacle to the divine harmony which we desire. His motive is only to bring us from our present discord to total unity. Therefore his instructions

must be accepted as the sole solution to our incompatible position.

To be humbler than a straw in the street means to always remember the lotus feet of our beloved *guru mahārāja*. We must always feel ourselves helpless in our every step toward Kṛṣṇa. Therefore our eternal prayer is to catch the shelter of his lotus feet so we may be protected from the evil inclinations of the mind.

In this age of Kali, Kṛṣṇa is reached by the method of offenselessly chanting His holy name. It is Śrīla Prabhupāda who bestows on us the gift of offenseless chanting. It, therefore, stands to reason that it should be our utmost duty to worship his lotus feet with the rising of every sun.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī quotes one *śloka* from the *Bhāgavatam*: "That teacher is no teacher, that father is no father, that mother is no mother, that kinsman is no kinsman, that friend is no friend, if he cannot save one from the jaws of death, if he cannot give one admittance into eternal life, if he cannot enlighten one beyond the ignorance which addicts one to the sensual pleasure of this material world." All glories unto you, O deliverer of the transcendental message of the *Bhagavad-gītā* As It Is. You are the ever-well wisher.

Know it for a fact that if we forget the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda, then we certainly fall under the clutches of ignorance. It is the mercy of His Divine Grace that protects us and makes us immune to attachment for objects other than the Absolute Person, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

The highest benediction that Śrīla Prabhupāda can bestow on one is to turn the mind always from desire for personal comforts and fix it on the lotus feet of the Divine Couple in Brāja, Śrī-Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Śrī Caitanya and Nityānanda are the sole means through whom Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava are understood. Therefore, when one feels a spontaneous desire to take part in Their movement it is understood that such a fortunate soul has been blessed with the mercy of Śrī Gurudeva.

He who is constantly showing us how to serve Godhead is none other than Śrīla Prabhupāda.

If one is fortunate enough to obtain the holy dust from your feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, then only can he perceive the true nature of the transcendental world. It is by your mercy alone that we are understanding anything about this purest of subject matters, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which we have no right to even discuss. There is no other way of obtaining Kṛṣṇa *bhakti* except by the method of worshipping your lotus feet. We therefore fall down at your feet and offer our humble obeisances at every moment.

We are all amazed at the constancy of your service to Godhead. We pray that we may also attain a similar constancy in our service unto your lotus feet. Bless us that your message may forever appear in our minds and on our tongues so the world may taste the sweet nectar of your divine instructions. We pray to always serve Kṛṣṇa under your expert guidance. And may our aversion to devotional service which is due to our age-old association with the material energy be destroyed by your divine companionship.

I, personally, am full of false pride. I frankly confess that I am always trying to make myself stand out by the ugly method of speaking ill against others. The truth of the matter is that I have no good qualifications. Your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda is all that I have. If by remembering your lotus feet I can find the strength to accept that I am full of imperfections, that will be a great benediction.

I know that if I can cultivate a devotional attitude towards your lotus feet, I am sure to get the final goal of life. If, however, I am unable to get your mercy, then life holds no desirable end for me.

On this holiest of days we humbly thank thee for your causeless mercy on the fallen souls. That mercy, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, stands as an eternal monument of your benedictions. May we, by your grace, realize the substance of the *Bhāgavata* and, inspired by its beauty, deliver its message to every man.

All glories to he who has revealed the Absolute Truth as the divine cowherd-boy of Braja.

Bahulasva dāsa adhikārī
Karuṇa-mayī devī dāsī
Haihaya dāsa adhikārī
Abhay Caraṇāravinda dāsa
Arjuna and Yamal dāsa
Turya dāsa adhikārī
Śaktimatī devī dāsī
Siddhasvara dāsa adhikārī
Narmada devī dāsī
Lakṣmīpriyā devī dāsī
Jaya Rāma dāsa adhikārī
Elizabeth Prabhu
Rāma Govinda dāsa adhikārī
Raquel Prabhu
Oscar Prabhu
Rādhārāṇī devī dāsī
Rohinī-kumāra dāsa adhikārī
Indradeva dāsa brahmacārī
Nandanandana dāsa brahmacārī
Taruṇa-kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Adhokṣaja dāsa brahmacārī
Amṛtānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Madana-manohara dāsa brahmacārī
Rādhā-kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Satrajita dāsa brahmacārī
Ned Prabhu
Hugo Prabhu
Bhakta Raul
Bhakta Carlos
Isaias Prabhu
Raul Prabhu
Alfredo Prabhu
Bhakta Alfredo
Rolando Prabhu
Bhakta Santos
Mario Prabhu
Bhakta Luis
Cirilo Prabhu
Rodolfo Prabhu
Bhaktin Malena
Bhaktin Conception
Bhaktin Rosa Maria
Bhaktin Silvia

All Glories to your holy feet Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are our spiritual master and savior.

Through your mercy, we can hear all about our true home and how to go there in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which is the true essence of all the *Vedas*. You have revealed the most sublime and intimate knowledge to us.

Many have come claiming to be “wielders of divine light” but only you have fulfilled all the Vedic requirements to qualify as “Jagat Guru,” and only you have brought such pure joy to our hearts that we can give up all types of material happiness.

There is nothing invented or shallow in your purports, because you alone are the knower of Siddhānta (the conclusion of knowledge) and the true disciple of Vyāsadeva. Therefore, we surrender our ears to your strong voice which, like a sharp sword, slashes our demoniac mentality and simultaneously fills us with thoughts of Kṛṣṇa.

Because we have come from such a godless culture, sworn to a sinful life of intoxication, meat eating and illicit sex, we feel that you have worked a special miracle to bring us to the standard of even *viddhi-bhakti* which is rarely achieved by the gross sum of transcendentalists, what to speak of others. We therefore accept you as the true representative of Lord Caitanya because no one else could empower you with the ability to counteract the effects of this age of Kali.

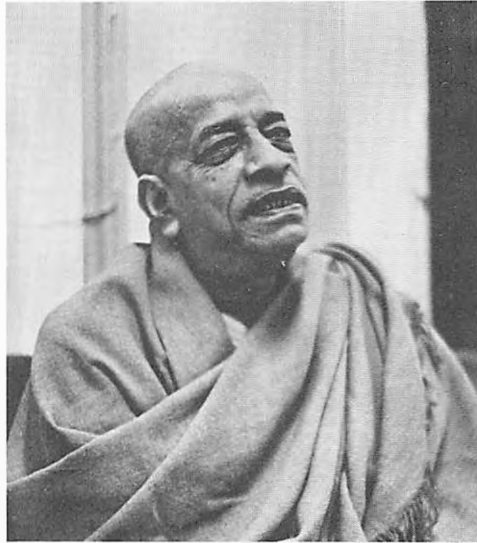
We pray that our lives will be living testimony to your perfect devotion to the cause of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and the orders of your Guru Mahārāja, who requested you to preach Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in the English speaking countries.

We pray also that we will be able to continue your work with such vigor that it will be a credit to your good name. And that your instructions will perpetuate themselves in our dull memories.

And we are praying daily to Lord Nṛsiṃha that you can be relieved of the burden of our

sinful activities and remain healthy because you are our only hope.

Abhirāma dāsa adbhikārī
Yādavācārya dāsa adbhikārī
Madana Mohana dāsa adbhikārī
Rudra dāsa adbhikārī
Bhakta Vatsala dāsa adbhikārī
Sādhānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Rāji locana dāsa adbhikārī
Āja dāsa brahmacārī
Gadī dāsa brahmacārī
Rāsa Parāyaṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Dharma dāsa brahmacārī
Vijaya devī dāsī
Cit-Saktī devī dāsī
Vṛndāvanēśvarī devī dāsī
Rādhikā devī dāsī
Bhakta Līlā devī dāsī
Romanī devī dāsī
Navasī Devī dāsī
Bhaktin Barbara
Bhaktin Marie
Bhaktin Holly
Jīvānuga dāsa brahmacārī
Bhava Bhūti dāsa brahmacārī
Saṅkarṣaṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Carl
Bhakta Howard
Bhakta Richard
Bhakta Joel
Bhakta Pual
Bhakta Ken
Children:
Pūrṇima devī dāsī
Brahmanie devī dāsī
Bhaktin Lorie
Bhakta Ken
Bhakta Neal
Sundarānanda dāsa brahmacārī



Wir beugen uns verehrend vor den heiligen Lotusfuben unseres geistigen Meisters A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, der uns erzwungen hat die Augen zu öffnen mit dem Fackelschein der Erkenntnis, als wir in der Kunkelheit der Unwissenheit standen.

In dieser illusionären Welt führt ein Blinder den anderen und alle fallen in den Ozean der sich ständig wiederholenden Geburten und Tode. Zwischen all diesen Blinden aber gibt es einen Sehenden, und das bist Du, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Es gibt viele Sterne am Himmel, aber Du bist wie die Sonne, weil Du Kṛṣṇa in Deinem Herzen tragt. Alle anderen Prabhus beugen sich vor Deinen Lotus fuben, weil Du wieklische Vertreter Hari's bist. Due bist in der Lage all diese, von Māyā verblendeten Seelen zurück nach Hause, zurück zur Gottheit zu Führen. Deshalb sind wir unsagbar verschuldet und Dich zufried-enzustellen muß unser Lenen bestimmen.

Das Singen der heiligen Namen, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare, in jede Stadt und jedes Dorf zu verbreiten, dabei

wollen wir Dir "helfen" um Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu's Voraussage zu erfüllen.

Deine ewig dienende Kinder

Sucandra dāsa adhikārī

Bhuśakti devī dāśī

Vaiṣṇavī dāśī

Yamunilāya dāsa brahmacārī

Ikṣvāku dāsa brahmacārī

Akrūra dāsa adhikārī

Basanta dāsa brahmacārī

Aśoka Kumāra dāsa brahmacārī

Durgāma dāsa brahmacārī

Jñāna Vighraha dāsa brahmacārī

Avinas Candra dāsa brahmacārī

Bhakta Ralph

Bhakta Richard

Bhakta Frank

While we were in our darkest hour
Our eyes were blind, we could not see.
Just like a blooming lotus flower
You blossomed forth to set us free

From the bondage of Māyā's darkness
To the light of Kṛṣṇa's sun.
The mercy of Your Divine Grace
Shines on everyone.

And when we asked you for the Truth
You said Kṛṣṇa's name is absolute.
To the chanter, the Lord awards the shelter of His lotus feet,
And thus by chanting His holy name our lives can be perfect and complete.

You are the golden *paramahamṣa*
And all the universe is your lake in which to float.
You bring the nectar across Māyā's rough and darkened waters
And you are gliding us home in the transcendental boat.

We prostrate humbly at your lotus feet
Your fallen servants we beg to remain,
Actively engaged to serve you throughout eternity.

Your Humble Servants:

Chayavana dāsa brahmacārī
Bhagavat dāsa brahmacārī
Sarma dāsa brahmacārī
Hari Kṛpa dāsa adhikārī
Jagad-guru dāsa brahmacārī
Daśārha dāsa brahmacārī
Rasānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Hayāsanānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Andrew
Venugit devī dāsī
Bhakta Kiran
Bhakta Yashma

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
 nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Deluded by the glaring allure of material sense gratification, we were being dragged into the whirlpool of *māyā*, deeper and deeper into the cycle of species of life. Somehow, by Kṛṣṇa's arrangement, we were thrown up from the bottom muck of ignorance to the human species of life. But, ignorant of our supreme interest, we were simply being swept again down the river of death, birth, old age and disease. Now by Your Divine Grace, we have landed on the shore of your lotus feet.

Although we are the most impure, you are the pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa, '*apapāvidham*'—pure and antiseptic. Thus by your own love of God you are freeing us from the labyrinth of Godlessness.

The *Bhāgavatam* tells us that "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." Certainly although we felt like dead, dry sticks, now your students are also becoming blazing fires of love of Godhead.

By serving you we are getting a taste for searching after Kṛṣṇa. This confirms that you

are *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 messages of Vāsudeva." (*Bhāg.* 1.2.16) And again in the *Bhagavad-gītā* it is written: *satataṁ kīrtayanto mām*. "Always chanting My glories, endeavoring with great determination, bowing down before Me, these great souls perpetually worship Me with devotion." So you are the *ācārya* of the chanting of the holy names. You are always spreading the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, banishing ignorance as the sun banishes night, declaring Kṛṣṇa to be the Supreme Personality of Godhead, original and inexhaustible, and eradicating atheism and voidism.

You have saved so many souls from the miseries of life by giving them the Vedic literatures as they are. You have not bluffed us but have gone straight to the point: *Vedaiś ca sarvair aham eva vedyo vedānta-kṛd veda-vid eva cāham*. "By all the *Vedas* I (Kṛṣṇa) am to be known; indeed I am the compiler of Vedānta, and I am the knower of the *Vedas*." (Bg. 15.15)

You have infused into us the search after the Absolute Truth. In the *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam* it is written, “What is the value of a prolonged life which is wasted, inexperienced by years in this world? Better a moment of full consciousness, because that gives one a start in searching after his supreme interest.” (*Bhāg.* 2.3.17). Before meeting you we were blind to our interests, sleeping while you were awake. But now you have called us to Kṛṣṇa and we have heard you crying for Him just like a child crying for his mother. Then you told us not to waste this precious life, for not even a moment can be replaced by millions of gold coins.

You have realized the conclusion of the scriptures: *vāsudeva sarvam iti*. This is the power of the spiritual master, as confirmed by such great authorities as Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī: “The qualifications of the 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. Everyone should try to find such a bona fide spiritual master in order to fulfill his mission of life, which is to transfer himself to the plane of spiritual bliss.” (NOD pg. 58) By your very life, words, intelligence and action you are giving unbreakable testimony in glory to the Lord. In Bombay, on the last day of our “Hare Kṛṣṇa Festival,” we saw you dance and watched you circumambulate the Deities twice, clapping and smiling and turning so respectfully so that your back would not be to Them. The third and fourth times around you put your hands in the air and you were jumping. Effortlessly, you lifted the whole assembly far beyond this temporary material manifestation. We were exhilarated and we bounded around full of joy upon beholding this wonderful sight. An instant later it was over and again you were very grave. You are so kind to display to the fallen conditioned souls these wonderful manifestations of ecstatic feeling which arises from pure

devotional service to Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. In Māyāpura you reminisced fondly with your Godbrother Śrīdhara Svāmī of the early days in your first meeting with His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda and of the events which followed, and in the end you shed tears. Then you danced with Śrīdhara Svāmī and your disciples wept with joy upon seeing this exchange of love between two surrendered servants of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda.

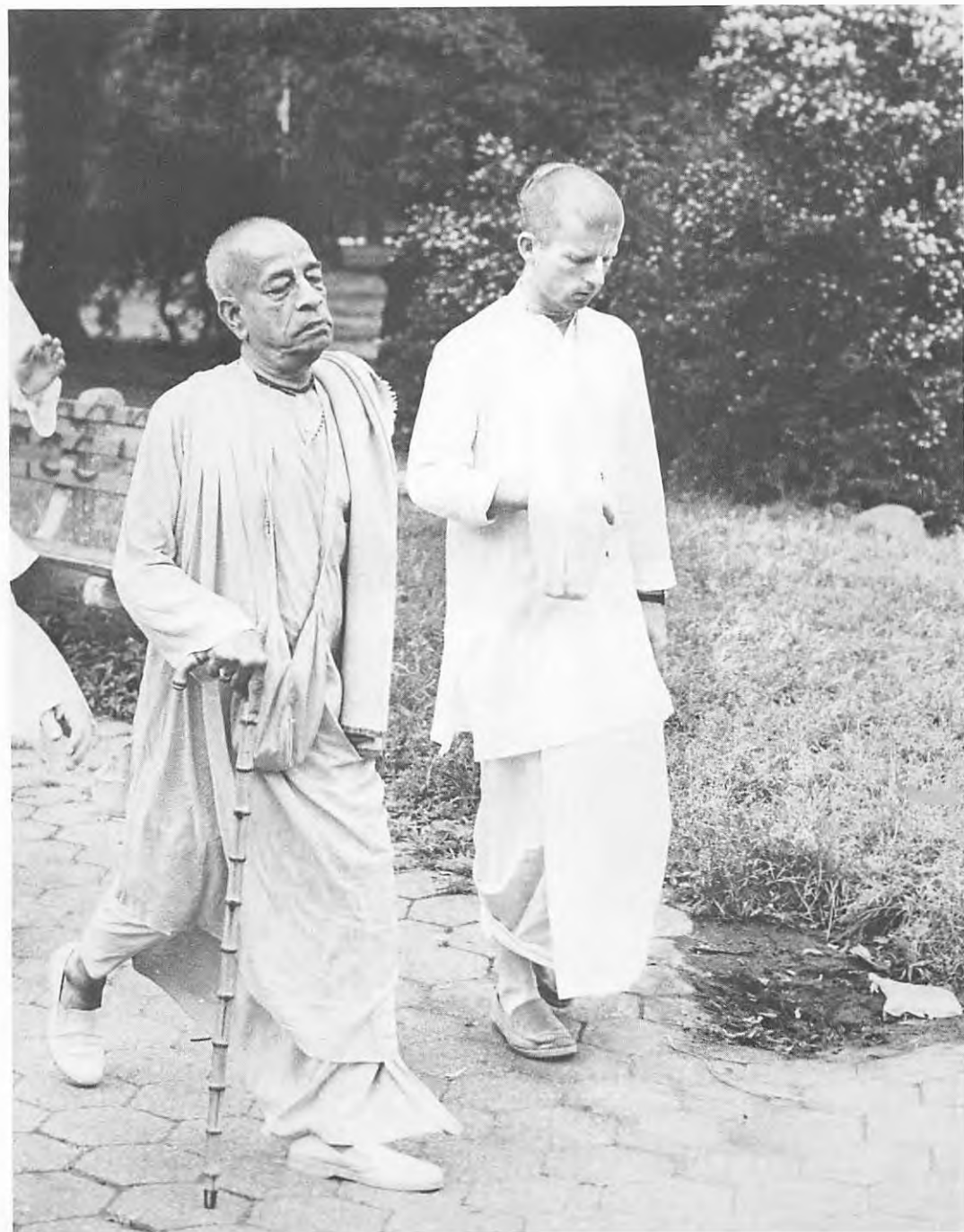
Although we cannot begin to comprehend or understand your actions and feelings, simply by seeing these symptoms of ecstatic love manifest in your person we are brought closer to that long lost goal of following in your footsteps and rendering pure unalloyed devotional service to Their Lordships Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

*mahāprabhoḥ kīrtana-nṛtya-gītā-
vādita-māḍyan-manaso rasena
romāñca-kampāśru-taraṅga-bhājo
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is always engaged in chanting and hearing the message of Lord Caitanya and sometimes is dancing in ecstasy. Sometimes he feels quivering in his body because of spiritual trance. I offer my respectful obeisances unto such a spiritual master.”

Kṛṣṇa is the source of all knowledge, remembrance and forgetfulness, and you are Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s most confidential servitor. Therefore, we are praying for your mercy that we may always retain the ecstatic mood of your perfect devotional service to the Supreme Lord. Let our minds always rest on you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. May your lotus feet eternally remain the object of our attraction.

Your most fallen servants,
Tejīyas dāsa adhikārī
Madira devī dāsī
Yadubara dāsa adhikārī
Viśakhā devī dāsī



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We here at New Gokula-dhāma are not a very scholarly crew. Our efforts to please you are mottled with many imperfections. So we are a little shy to offer our homage to you. We know it will be inadequate.

We perceive in you a great ocean of wisdom, experience and compassion. These virtues originate in Śrī Kṛṣṇa and are transmitted to you via the completely pure disciplic chain. Empowered in this way with the Lord's own potency, you are salvaging our ruined lives. Before your appearance in the West we had not met one in whom we could place our trust. Disillusioned with parents, politicians and educators who seemed intent on riding their sinking ship to the bottom of the sea, we were searching a way out.

Scores of pseudo-religionists, psychedelic philosophers and damnation day clubs offered us the other side of the same coin. "Zero out . . . annihilate yourself . . . merging brings relief," they proclaimed.

Mukti, bhukti, which way to go?
The twisted banyan or the great zero?

Then one day from India you came,
bearing the mercy of the holy name.

Your glance so calm against this storm,
giving peace to the battleworn.

An elegant swan from the Vedic ocean
preaching the nectar of pure devotion.

You are the gateway to Godhead and by accepting our services you have afforded us the opportunity to enter the all-blissful world of Kṛṣṇa.

You are beyond the gamut of our mundane minds and thus we are stymied in our efforts to glorify you. Sincerely we plead to remain always your humble servants and hope that you will accept this as an encomium in itself.

With our heads at your feet,
we submit this humble offering.
Tuṣṭa Kṛṣṇa dāsa gosvāmī
Beharilal dāsa adhikārī
Purundar dāsa brahmacārī
Yajñeśvara dāsa brahmacārī
Bhajanābhi dāsa brahmacārī
Hare Rāma dāsa brahmacārī
Kumāra dāsa brahmacārī
Allan Prabhu
Barrie Prabhu
David Prabhu
Bruce Prabhu
Charaka Prabhu
Gopīpriyā devī dāśī
Satyavatī devī dāśī
Mālādhara devī dāśī
Robyn Prabhu
Mary Prabhu
Sharron Prabhu
Tai-ane Prabhu



*oṃ ajñāna timirandhasya jñānañjana śalakāya
cakṣur unmilitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We wish to offer this small appreciation at Your Divine Grace's lotus feet in honor of your appearance among us, the fallen conditioned souls. Considering that Your Divine Grace is Śrī Jagat Guru (spiritual master of the universe) our appreciation can never be sufficient to match your glory.

If Your Divine Grace were not Jagat Guru

then how could you deliver boys and girls all over the world from *Māyā's* grasp (illusion)?

*Yat pāda-saṁśrayāḥ sūta
munayaḥ praśamāyanāḥ
sadyaḥ punanty upasprṣṭāḥ
svar-dhunyāpo'nusevayā (Bhāg. 1.1.15)*

"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.” You are called “Prabhupāda” because your only business is to serve Kṛṣṇa cent per cent, and so you are the representative of Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet. By accepting Your Divine Grace as spiritual master and following your instructions (for awakening love of Kṛṣṇa, God) anyone in the universe can at once be purified and take shelter at the lotus feet of the Lord.

*Mahātmānas tu māñ pārtha
daivīm prakṛtim āsṛitāḥ
bhajanty ananya-manaso
jñātvā bhūtaḍim avayam
(Bg. 9.13)*

“O Son of Pṛthā, those who are not deluded, the great souls, are under the protection of the divine nature. They are fully engaged in devotional service because they know Me as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, original and inexhaustible.”

Your Divine Grace is wonderful because, even though you are present in this material world, you remain completely detached from matter and fully engaged in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, free from all tinges of contamination.

*Satataṁ kīrtiyanto mām
yatantaś ca dṛḍha-vratāḥ
namasyantaś ca mām bhaktyā
nitya-yuktā upāsate
(Bg. 9.14)*

“Always chanting My glories, endeavoring with great determination, bowing down before Me, these great souls perpetually worship Me with devotion.”

Your Divine Grace has all the qualifications of a pure devotee and bona fide spiritual master in disciplic succession. Your activities and words are all dedicated to the service of your Guru Maharaja. Following in the footsteps of Lord Caitanya, you have written so many books

delineating the science of God, you have given freely this chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra* and you have engaged us in the pure devotional service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa.

For so long, in our nescience, we have been clinging to this body and its paraphernalia as our self-identity, and we have accepted material scientists, *bhogi yogīs* and other rascals as authorities. We had forgotten Kṛṣṇa and His love for His parts and parcels, the living entities. Due to your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our ignorance is factually being dissipated. You alone are revealing knowledge to us because you have seen the truth.

We pray to Your Divine Grace to accept our appreciations and obeisances. We pray to put aside our reluctance and quarrelsome habits and simply give a submissive hearing to your sublime message. We pray to always be in your transcendental association by following your instructions and being always engaged in your service.

*“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.”*

Your eternal servants,
New Orleans Yātrā

Nityānanda dāsa
Kuṇya Kumārī devī dāśī
Bhakta Vimala
Santī devī dāśī
Premamayī devī dāśī
Jeri
David
Mahendranātha dāsa
Roy
Yogīndra vandana dāsa
Vṛkodara dāsa
Dwight
Dvibhūja dāsa
Piyuṣkānti dāsa





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

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vānī-pracārīṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tūriṇe*

“The Earth Pays Homage to You”

In His glorious *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Veda-Vyāsa depicts the cow, the embodiment of mother earth herself, standing in tears while her bull, Dharma, the true religion, is smitten by the cruel *śūdra*-faced Kali. In this age of Kali, countless calves are daily torn from their mothers. The calf is severed from its cow-mother earth by the demonic Kali-yuga mentality—greed for money and unrestricted sense enjoyment.

Therefore the earth pays homage to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You shower rains of mercy from the dark clouds of mercy itself. Kṛṣṇa is that dark cloud, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and you are His rain of mercy. May you reign over all this poor parched earth!

Before you began chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa in New York some seven years ago, there was no refuge from the earth slaughterer Kali. Though the horrors of Kali are still with us, the avenue

of transcendence has been opened. You have given us an alternative. You have distributed the mercy of the alternative—the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

Now you have also posed another alternative in total living—your New Vṛndāvana. The cows at New Vṛndāvana are the only cows in the West that are not systematically slaughtered. Using the principle of cow protection as the foundation, you have drawn up and set forth the model of ideal life for man in this New Vṛndāvana experience. The dream is all yours, Śrīla Prabhupāda. How can we realize it? Through your mercy, through your mercy only.

Religion is man’s link to God. Veda-vyāsa celebrates the bull as Dharma, religion personified. When the bull of religion is butchered, what is man left with? When the bull of truth is sold and departed, what kind of life can man live? Kali lives in the land of blind greed for money, the passport to the land of unrestricted senses. Kali butchers both earth and Dharma and sells them for money. Without Dharma and his mother, man cannot leave Kali’s labyrinthine lands.

Many *yogīs*, bogies, *svamīs* and magicians within the labyrinth offer tinsel prizes and pampered consciences to their following, but they cannot award freedom. They cannot give new life. Only you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have given positive action, positive life styles, as exemplified by New Vṛndāvana and the many centers for Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the world.

Therefore the earth pays homage to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Now the calf and its mother can romp freely over the pastures. Now Dharma has been returned to the earth. Now they can be together again.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

NEW VRINDABAN COMMUNITY:

The Inmates of New Vṛndāvana
Kīrtanānanda Svāmī, President





“The pearls of the necklace which is hanging on the neck of Kṛṣṇa are as white as ducks; and the feather of the peacock which is decorating the head of Kṛṣṇa is colored just like the rainbow. His yellow garment is like lightning in the sky. Kṛṣṇa is like the newly arrived clouds; and the *gopīs* are just like footbells on His feet. When the cloud pours rain on the grains in the field it appears that Kṛṣṇa is nourishing the hearts of the *gopīs* by calling down His pastime rain of mercy. The ducks fly in the sky in the rainy season, and the rainbow is also seen in the sky at that time. Kṛṣṇa freely moves with His friends as a cowherd boy in Vṛndāvana; and when He plays His flute all the living creatures, mobile and immobile become overwhelmed with ecstasy, and they quiver and tears flow in their eyes.” (Teachings of Lord Caitanya, Pg. 90)

Kṛṣṇa is always calling us, calling for us to see Him again. He has no need to bother, for, certainly, we are fallen and useless. Out of envy,

we’ve made this material world our playground and now we stubbornly cling to our false independence and material attachments. And Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Beautiful, is always situated in His full, self-satisfied existence of eternity, knowledge and bliss. But nonetheless, He is always reaching down to us, reaching in through the eons of accumulated coverings, through the illusory effects of material lust. Now, in this age of quarrel and confusion, Kṛṣṇa has come once again. He has come as the spiritual master.

“The spiritual master is honored as much as the Supreme Lord because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord.” Kṛṣṇa is calling us, and Śrīla Prabhupāda is calling us. And their call is one and the same. For Kṛṣṇa’s message is just to surrender unto Him. “In return,” He promises, “I shall protect you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.” And what is Śrīla Prabhupāda’s message? “Just chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, dance for Kṛṣṇa and be happy.” Chanting and dancing

for Kṛṣṇa means complete surrender to Kṛṣṇa, for one who chants and dances develops ecstatic love of Kṛṣṇa. That is the undeniable fact, proven by the *sūtras* and by the result.

*anāyāse bhava-kṣaya kṛṣṇera sevana
eka kṛṣṇa-nāmera phale pāi eta dhana*

“As a result of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, one makes such great advancement in spiritual life that simultaneously his material existence terminates and he receives love of Godhead. The holy name of Kṛṣṇa is so powerful that by chanting even one name, one very easily achieves these transcendental riches.” (Cc., *Adi*, 8.28) Supreme purification, the association of Kṛṣṇa’s holy name, is the means and the end. Thus, the purified devotee, ecstatic and peaceful in his undisturbed love, desires only to serve Kṛṣṇa more and more, forever.

And what can we offer Śrīla Prabhupāda in return for his gifts? Now we are safe, like children in his lap. Who can guess the course of events had he not extended his hand? How horrible, how frightening it would have been. And yet, only he has delivered the message, even to the most fallen.

We do not like to think of our previous lives. But all those around us are still groping and stumbling, suffering in pain. They are afraid to take Śrīla Prabhupāda’s mercy for, if they do, they will be forced to love Kṛṣṇa, forced to surrender at His lotus feet, forced to give up their delusions of grandeur and their selfish material life. They cannot see the yawning abyss looming before them as inevitable death. What lies beyond their spot life, they do not know, and, worse, are unwilling to look.

Now that we’re hearing, now that we’ve heard, our path is clear. We must also call them, call them for Prabhupāda, call them for Kṛṣṇa. Millions of books must be printed and distributed. And, for every town and village—a shining temple, Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa’s abode. *Mṛdaṅgas* pulsing, *karatālas* ringing, Śrī Nāma Prabhu vibrating across the face of the earth, we must call them again and again by repeating—by repeating what we’ve heard intact—and by following. With a

prayer for success at the feet of Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga, let us follow exactly, whatever our disqualifications are. O Gurudeva, we surrender life and soul, at your feet. Please make us your puppets; help us to serve you with love.

Your servants,
ISKCON Press and
New York Temple

Bali Mardan dāsa Gosvāmī

Brahmācārīs
Anuttama dāsa
Apūrva dāsa
Bālajī dāsa
Bhaktivinoda dāsa
Bhārgava dāsa
Brajendranandana dāsa
Dharmakṣetra dāsa
Dhīrakṛṣṇa dāsa
Dhṛṣṭaketu dāsa
Gadāgraja dāsa
Garīyan dāsa
Gopījanavallabha dāsa
Hṛṣīkeśa dāsa
Indrapramada dāsa
Jagajīvana dāsa
Jagannātha dāsa
Jayaśacīnandana dāsa
Janārdana dāsa
Jayādvaita dāsa
Kṛṣṇamūrti dāsa
Kapīndra dāsa
Lokamaṅgala dāsa
Madhumaṅgala dāsa
Maṅgalānanda dāsa
Navadvīpa dāsa
Pippalāi dāsa
Puṣkara dāsa
Rāghavacaitanya dāsa
Rādhāvallabha dāsa
Rasarāja dāsa
Romapāda dāsa
Śatajit dāsa

Śevānanda dāsa
 Śravaṇānanda dāsa
 Śrīla dāsa
 Sumahat dāsa
 Sunanda dāsa
 Tīrthapada dāsa
 Toṣanakṛṣṇa dāsa
 Vidyābhūṣaṇa dāsa
 Vilāsavighraha dāsa
 Virendra dāsa
 Viṣṇu dāsa
 Viṣṇugadā dāsa
 Vṛndāvana dāsa
 Vrajendranandana dāsa
 Vyāsātīrtha dāsa
 Yamarāja dāsa
 Yogānanda dāsa

Brahmācārīnīs

Alārka dāsī
 Balāi dāsī
 Bhūmī dāsī
 Cāñcala dāsī
 Christina
 Devī dāsī
 Dharmakālā dāsī
 Gaurī dāsī
 Jadurāṇī dāsī
 Jitamitra dāsī
 Latā dāsī
 Mahārha dāsī
 Mamatā dāsī
 Omkāra dāsī
 Pauravī dāsī
 Rāgātmikā dāsī
 Śikhaṇḍinī dāsī
 Sunīta dāsī
 Vārāṇasī dāsī

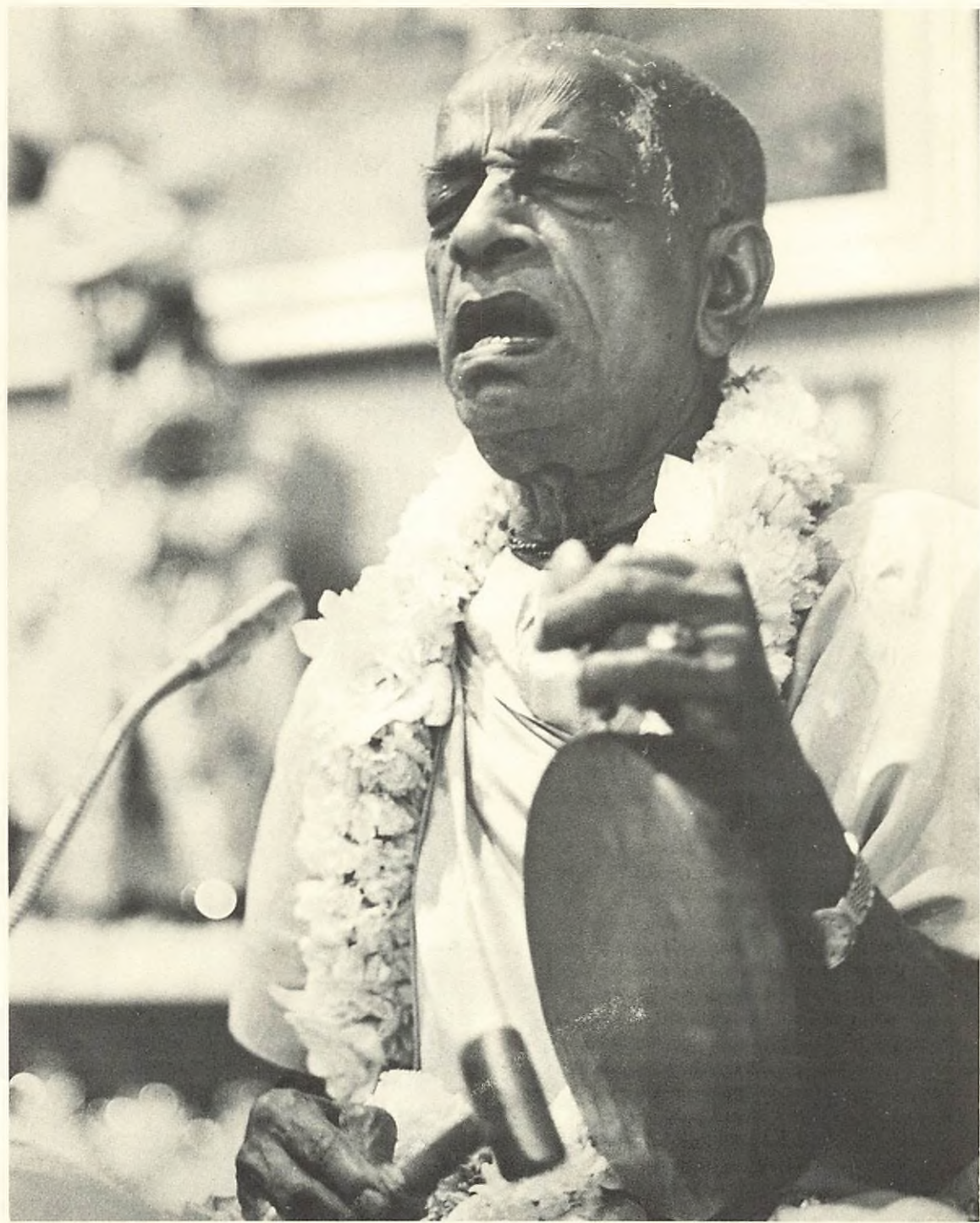
Householders

Bhadra dāsī—Parīkṣit dāsa
 Tulasyānanda dāsa

Daivaśaktī dāsī—Nayanābhirāma dāsa
 Jāhnavā dāsī—Nandakīśora dāsa
 Līlāmañjarī dāsī—Padmanābha dāsa
 Naradevī dāsī—Jagannāthasūta dāsa
 Kāñcabāla dāsī—Madhusūdana dāsa
 Rāṣṭrapālīkā dāsī—Nītāi dāsa
 Praphullamukhī dāsī—Gaurahari dāsa
 Śravaṇīya dāsī—Santoṣa dāsa
 Yogamāyā dāsī—Muralīdhara dāsa
 Antardhyāna dāsī—Jitasvāra dāsa
 Ekāyanī dāsī—Gopālakṛṣṇa dāsa
 Durlābha dāsa

Uninitiated Devotees

Alvin Prabhu
 Ahmed Prabhu
 Bharat Jagannath Prabhu
 David Prabhu
 Ed Prabhu
 Frank Prabhu
 Jeff K. Prabhu
 Jeff S. Prabhu
 Joseph Prabhu
 John I Prabhu
 John II Prabhu
 Lee R. Prabhu
 Lee M. Prabhu
 Lenny Prabhu
 Oscar Prabhu
 Peter Prabhu
 Robby Prabhu
 Ralph Prabhu
 Tom Prabhu
 Umberto Prabhu
 Wayne Prabhu
 Mark Prabhu
 Donna Prabhu
 Edith Prabhu—Osiris Prabhu
 Helene Prabhu
 Nicki Prabhu
 Susan Prabhu
 Valerie Prabhu
 Julie Prabhu



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

France is known as a country founded by revolution, both political and intellectual. Her people are accustomed to war and godlessness. But you have introduced a different kind of revolution. After this, there will be no others. Generally, revolution is followed by reform; those who fight are obliged to rebuild the society they have destroyed. But after your war there will be no ruins, no destruction, no need to rebuild. You train your soldiers to leave everything intact: their target is the heart, not the home, and their weapon is knowledge of Kṛṣṇa.

We, your disciples of Paris temple, consider our devotional services here unusually important. We are required to prepare ourselves for meeting heavy challenge, for it was here that the Western world's most influential literary figures and schools of philosophy took their birth. If the West is filled with impersonalism and voidism, it was here that these philosophies were structuralized and polished. But your piercing answers to such speculative ideologies and their propounders show the inevitable flaws.

Darwin and his anthropological tribe claim man to be a descendant of the apes. You reply, "Maybe *your* ancestors were apes; mine were philosophers. If we have descended from the apes, then why isn't there one human-like child born of an ape mother from among the thousands born every day?"

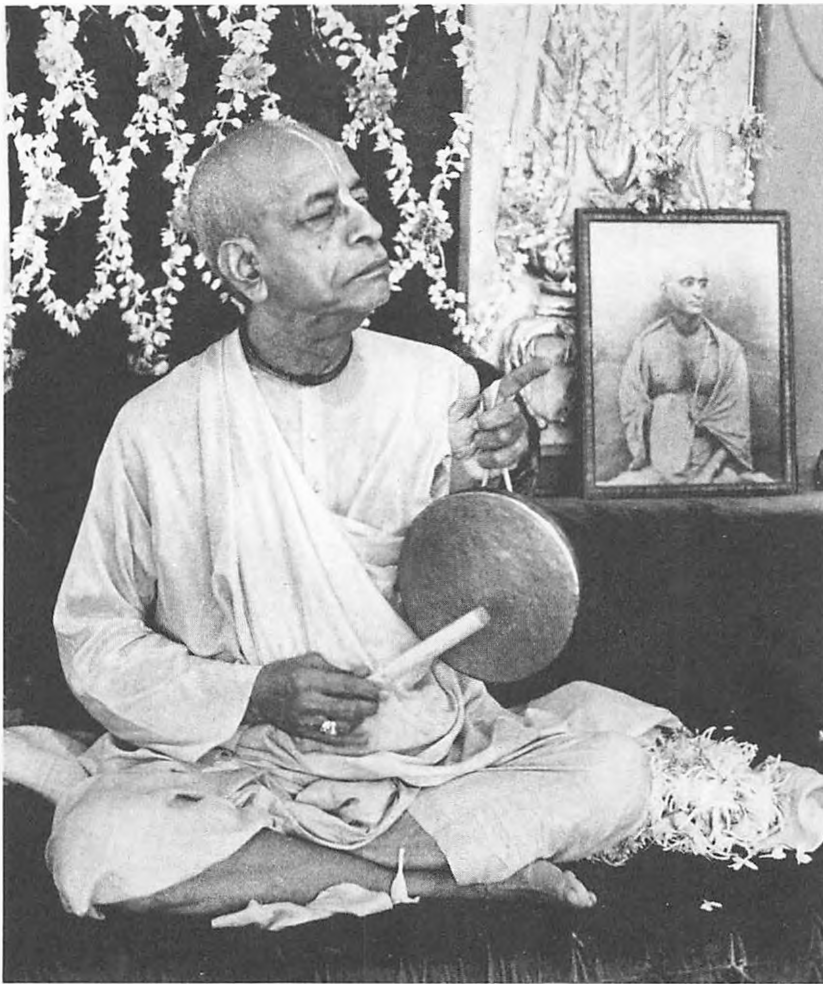
The Existentialists sometimes use the example of the chaotic movement of molecules in a pot of boiling water to show how life is absurd and how the universe has no order. You have taught us how order exists everywhere, and that one must simply have a proper perspective to see it. Looking closely, one can observe that heated molecules do move in a definite way, and that one molecule hit by another must move a certain distance and in a certain direction. Nothing is without meaning in Kṛṣṇa's creation.

Empiric philosophers claim that it is not by reasoning that one arrives at truth. No scripture or philosophy, they say, can divine any truth more accurately than direct experience. The

experience, they say, is more important than the word; the word is just a description after-the-fact of the experience. "That's nonsense," you reply. "Someone has said that? Let him experience my shoe. Then let him use his words to describe how pleasant it was."

If by learning perfectly the lessons you bestow, perfect in all respects, we can help elevate the French people from their extraordinary entanglement in *māyā*, then our mission as your representatives will have succeeded. People here are floating in a sewer of sexual and mental agitation, fed by philosophies and politics that justify such a life. No one has ever shown them as much compassion as you. In time, with proper cultivation, they will come to appreciate what you have brought them. Until then, please allow our small message of love and gratitude to speak for the thousands and millions of souls who will eventually know the bliss of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness by your mercy.

Bhagavān dāsa	Bhakta Luigi
Locanānanda dāsa	Bhakta Carlo
Viśvambhara dāsa	Bhakta Alain
Bhūgarbha dāsa	Vaiṣṇava dāsa
Yogeśvara dāsa	Arjuna dāsa
Harivilāsa dāsa	Caitanya dāsa
Indradumna dāsa	Jyotirmayī dāśī
Prābhava Vighraha dāsa	Alli Kṛṣṇa dāśī
Adhibhūta dāsa	Mondakinī dāśī
Dayāmṛgya dāsa	Kṛpāmayī dāśī
Dvijavara dāsa	Annada dāśī
Rasada dāsa	Pārijāta dāśī
Bhavasindhu dāsa	Jaya Lakṣmī dāśī
Jagadadija dāsa	Kṛṣṇa Parāyaṇa dāśī
Bhakta Sergio	Bhaktin Helen
Bhakta JoJo	Bhaktin Mary Ann
Kapila dāsa	Bhaktin Carol
Paraśurāma dāsa	Bhaktin Francine
Bhakta Claude	Bhaktin Mara
Bhakta Pierre	Bhaktin Danielle
Rādhikā-ramaṇa dāsa	Aditi dāśī
Bhakta Jean-Marie	Bhaktin Maurice
Gutugaurāṅga dāsa	Kṛṣṇa Bhaminī dāśī
Janādradi dāsa	Mañjarī dāśī
Srī Gopāla dāsa	



Our dear God-brothers and God-sisters,

Today is the day we gather together and offer praise to our most beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Svami Prabhupāda, on the most auspicious anniversary of his appearance among us in this mortal world. We have the inconceivably good fortune to be counted among his servants. Certainly we ought to praise him with all the power at our command. He left his native land at the age of seventy and sailed to strange and alien shores—to America. And in the year he arrived we were

lost in darkness, blundering without guidance through the dense woods of illusion, crying out for the unknown with no one to help us. And Prabhupāda came with shining step to us, one by one, and suddenly the darkness vanished and all those dark and fearful years before seemed like a bad dream vanquished by sunrise and daybreak.

Śrīla Prabhupāda was asked by a reporter if he considered himself the savior of the youth of America, and he replied with widening eyes: “Yes. Certainly.” And he pointed to his chil-

dren sitting there around him, saying that his movement had already saved them. "Just see," he said, like a proud father, "bright faces. . ." And immediately all of their faces became very bright indeed.

We know that Śrīla Prabhupāda is our savior. Every one of us has had the experience of seeing his former associates appearing as though they were living in another country, another planet; we saw how they were becoming more and more degraded by intoxicants, unrestricted sex-life and meat-eating, still struggling through the density of ignorance that had so miraculously been lifted from us when we first allowed the words of Śrīla Prabhupāda to enter into our ears.

He alone has told us the truth as it is. He alone has not lied. From the beginning of our lives it was declared to us from all sides that we should become satisfied by improving the "quality of life," that is, by unlimitedly increasing sense gratification. And this was a lie. Then we heard in our frustration that we could achieve the highest aim of life if we extinguished our individual existence by crashing into a spiritual fire or blowing out into a void, and that this could be had from any number of pushers of the ultimate pleasure. This was an even greater lie. The falsity of both left us suspended, baffled, trapped. Then Prabhupāda came and showed us the way out, to the transcendental variegated realm of the unlimitedly increasing opulences and pastimes of the Supreme Personality of Godhead: our home. Only Prabhupāda told us to become the most humble, and diagnosed the material disease for us as Māyāvādī life, the living entity's desire to become God. And as this is the truth, all who heard were convinced.

Śrīla Prabhupāda told us about Kṛṣṇa. Void or impersonal philosophy is the wind that feeds the fire of material existence, and we are seeing this happening before our own eyes to the people of America. If the people are taught that God is void or impersonal, then their innate and unfulfilled propensity to relish the love of Kṛṣṇa will send them searching among the perverted reflections of the degraded mundane sty. But

Śrīla Prabhupāda alone is delivering knowledge about Kṛṣṇa. He alone is ceaselessly preaching the glories of the Lord. This can attract the longings of the people back to the Fountain-head of all spiritual *rasas*. This is the end of all knowledge and it is very, very rare. Kṛṣṇa Himself declares it to be the most confidential knowledge, the most secret of all secrets. Great philosophers strain their minds for millions and millions of years through countless births before they can approach Kṛṣṇa. Yet such is the mercy of the pure devotee of God, that he can easily deliver Kṛṣṇa; and Prabhupāda came and stood on the streetcorners, handing Him out like candy to anyone who would take Him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is eleventh in the line of disciplic succession from Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and by himself he has fulfilled the prophecy of the Lord: "My name will be glorified in every town and village in the world." There are some who take the wishes of God seriously. Such a one is His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda, who told our spiritual master in 1922, on the occasion of their first meeting, to preach Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in the English language and in the Western world. We have seen the crudely printed broadsheets that were the first issues of Back to Godhead, which Prabhupāda began in 1944 and wrote, printed and distributed by himself. Our God-brothers who have read these early issues unanimously report the arousal of an intense feeling which bade them to fall at Śrīla Prabhupāda's lotus feet and worship him endlessly. The English is not easy, often irregularly composed, unpolished and seemingly spelled out with the greatest difficulty. You could not see there any promise of a career in English letters. 'Sound advice' might have counseled the author to stick to what he knew best. And yet, he kept at it issue after issue. In 1954 he retired from family life and took residence in a room in the Rādhā-Dāmodara Temple at Vṛndāvana; a photograph shows the tiny, narrow monk's cell with its cracked, peeling walls and a few crudely-fashioned pieces of furniture where

Prabhupāda rendered into English three thick volumes of *Srīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Then he had it printed with great difficulty and went out distributing. In this way for twenty years he kept faith with the order of his Guru Mahārāja in spite of all obstacles and frustration and with no hint of tangible success.

And who would have predicted it? Go and travel to any big city in the world and you find Prabhupāda's disciples there. He flies around the globe every year on a jet airplane, and he lands to the glare of television lights and the questions of the press. Now look at his books: big, big volumes, how beautifully printed and bound they are, how richly illustrated, and explaining with such exquisite clarity the science of God in impeccable English. There's an ever-increasing flood of them coming off the press, and they are being taken up in the universities as the definitive editions. Is there any other author in the world who can boast of his own great press, solely engaged in the publication of his works, and an amazingly enthused corps of expert salesmen, who sleep in trucks and work twelve hours a day without wages?

So now they tell Prabhupāda that he has worked a miracle. "Well," he replied, "I'm not a magician. But there is one thing to my credit. I have not tried to take the position of God. I have always remained the servant." Because Prabhupāda has made himself the lowest, the unresisting servant of his spiritual master, Kṛṣṇa has empowered him with all facility, and raised him to be the highest. We must forever glorify Prabhupāda for his causeless mercy in so perpetuating the sublime and miraculous institution of the Vaiṣṇava *guru*. Without the person of the Vaiṣṇava *guru*, we cannot approach the Supreme Absolute Truth. The two are inseparable. Kṛṣṇa does not allow anyone to approach Him who has not become freed from all selfish tendencies for lording it over. No one can become free from lording it over unless he surrenders himself utterly at the lotus feet of the Vaiṣṇava *guru*. One is lifted to the highest order of the Vaiṣṇavas only when one can feel himself the lowest of all. This true humility can be

found only by worshiping the lotus feet of Śrī Gurudeva.

Let us therefore catch hold tightly to Śrīla Prabhupāda's lotus feet and never let go. He will deliver all of us to Kṛṣṇa. He is the dearmost of Kṛṣṇa. We are standing tongue-tied and dumbfounded before the splendor of the transcendental majesty of Śrīla Prabhupāda. We have not the words. And we know well that if whatever devotion we have for Śrīla Prabhupāda were to perpetually increase a million-fold each day, it would not match the causeless mercy he has bestowed upon us; nor will all the service we can ever render now and in eternity be adequate recompense for his grace. All Glories, all glories, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Śrīla Prabhupāda's worthless servants
in Philadelphia,

Ravindra Svarūpa dāsa
Parṭhākānanda dāsa
Dṛiṣṭadyumna dāsa
Trilocana dāsa
Suddhajīva dāsa
Phatikchandra dāsa
Yajñabhuk dāsa
Maheśvara dāsa
Ananta Vijaya dāsa
Bhakta Jim
Bhakta Gary
Bhakta Blain
Bhakta James
Bhakta Jeff
Bhakta Cliff
Bhakta Michael
Bhakta Mark
Bhakta Kris
Bhakta Mike
Saudāmaṇī devī dāśī
Mahābhoga devī dāśī
Gopīnātha devī dāśī
Bhakta Gabriel
Bhakta Chris

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe
 nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

We are most respectfully and humbly prostrating ourselves at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for despite our many strivings, we have found no other true shelter. Although we are certainly among the most sinful, fallen wretches, yet we are in fact the most fortunate souls in all the three worlds, for, by the limitless grace of the Lord, we have obtained the association of your merciful self. Due to our having become a little bit serious about factual spiritual life, Śrī Kṛṣṇa has been pleased to bestow upon us the intelligence to be attracted by your pure, exemplary life, and thus we have become enlivened to pursue your lotus feet. . .

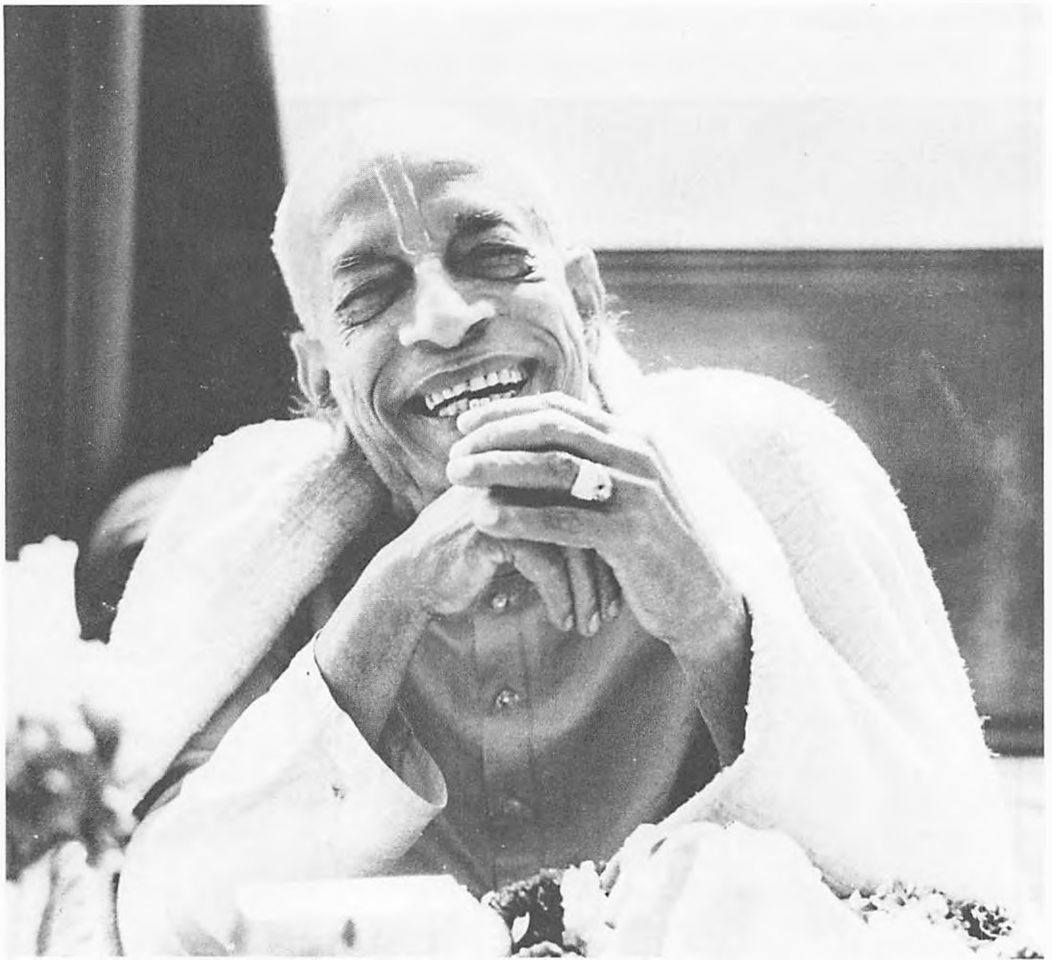
“We think that we have met Your Grace by the will of Providence, and thus we accept you as captain of the ship for those who desire to cross over the difficult ocean of Kali, which destroys all the good qualities of the human being.” (Bhāg. 1.1.24)

And now, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who are the perfect living example of humility, patience, tolerance, compassion and undeviating, cent-percent submission at the lotus feet of your Guru Mahārāja, (bearing upon yourself the weight of our past sins), are leading us up out of the realm of the living dead (who are lost to themselves amidst the deepening shadow of death). You

are offering to us that gem after which all conditioned souls are searching for millions upon millions of births, the highest gift: eternally perfect, absolutely unconditional and unlimitedly ecstātic hankering for the intimate association of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava. . .

We are praying, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we shall always possess the strength and determination to never deviate from your sacred service. In this way, and only in this way, will we ever be able to fulfill our duty, which is to fully accept and pass on to others the gift which you are offering. Please accept our heads at your lotus feet, and do with them as you wish; we aspire to become perfect tools in your hands . . . All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Mahendradāsa adbhikārī
 Sukhadā devī dāsī
 Lalita Kumāra dāsa adbhikārī
 Jambavatī devī dāsī & Mitra
 Brahmadāsa brahmacārī
 Candrabhānudāsa brahmacārī
 Kṛpamayadāsa brahmacārī
 Bhakta Raymond brahmacārī
 Narī devī dāsī
 Bhaktin Peggy



To our dearly beloved spiritual master,

We, your sons and daughters of Portland Temple, beg to join together with all your other wonderful spiritual children in offering our utterly worthless obeisances and futilely inadequate prayers in glorification of your divine lotus feet. Your lotus feet hover just above this abysmal material world to bring to our crippled and depraved selves the cooling moonlight of our Lord Caitanya's divine command: Chant Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Material existence is often compared with

a blazing forest fire. In the forest, fire takes place without being set or desired by anyone. In the same way, the pangs of the material atmosphere attack us without our wanting such tribulations. We make our feeble attempts to foil these troubles in the shape of personal sense gratification and so-called advancement of material science only to be defeated by *māyā* and her endless torrent of tricks. Similarly, we may dream of stopping the material miseries, but they are actually the nature of this world.

The indications of Vedic wisdom is that to

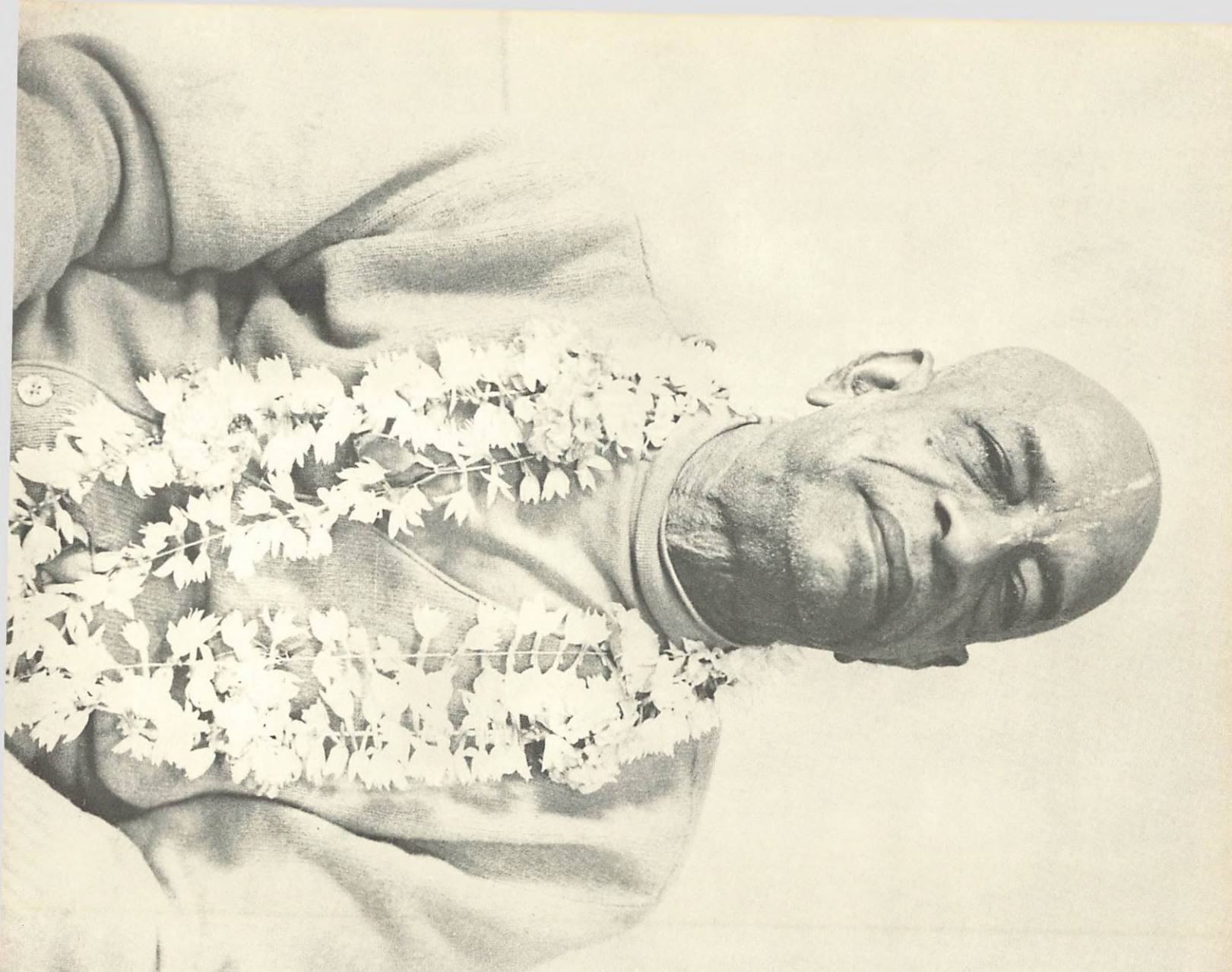
solve these perplexing problems of life we must surrender ourselves wholeheartedly at the lotus feet of Srī Gurudeva, the wise and bona fide spiritual master. The instruction of the *guru* is not to make some plan of temporary enjoyment. It is to take us beyond this flickering duality of pleasure, pain, birth and death to our eternal repose at the lotus feet of Srī Kṛṣṇa, the all-beautiful Personality of Godhead, where we can endlessly engage in His transcendental loving service. When we are being chased by a tiger in a dream the real solution lies not in searching for safety in the dreaming state but to simply wake up. Similarly, by his forceful words of instruction, the *ācāryadeva* is trying to wake us up from the sleep of material illusion and bring us to the understanding that we are pure spirit and belong to Kṛṣṇa. Thus we are offering this homage unto you, O Srīla Prabhupāda, and begging for your mercy. May we follow the injunctions of all revealed scriptures, the footsteps of all the great authorities and your own personal example. With wholehearted attention and enthusiasm, may we hear and serve your divine instruction.

Eons of years ago, at the dawn of creation, the Lord imparted the knowledge of the *Vedas* unto the heart of Brahmā, the first living creature. Brahmā then imparted the same knowledge to his sons and disciples to spread this glorious science of God throughout the creation. They in turn delivered the same message to their disciples. Even now, Brahmā's most famous son, Nārada, is broadcasting the same message throughout the universe. That is the Vedic process of descending knowledge or receiving knowledge from higher authorities. After all, how can we ascend to such knowledge? Due to our imperfect senses, cheating tendency, mistakes and illusions, we must fall short in our attempts and become obliterated on the rocks of voidism and impersonalism. Thus, in the revealed scriptures it is imperatively enjoined that one must receive knowledge through disciplic succession. The Lord Himself has explained this in *Bhagavad-gītā* with the words "*evam paramparā prāptam. . .*"

Therefore, it is not out of frail sentiment but with real knowledge and full faith that we pay this humble tribute to Your Divine Grace as our spiritual master. You are the embodiment of all saintly qualities such as humility, peacefulness, self-control and mercy. And most importantly, you are delivering to us the same knowledge imparted to Brahmā in ages gone by: that the transcendental sports of Srī Kṛṣṇa, the Personality of Godhead, as exhibited in Vṛndāvana, constitute the highest peak, the acme of transcendental realization. We have no doubts that you are a perfectly qualified bona fide spiritual master and we submit our wretched selves before you, begging by your unflinching mercy to become qualified disciples of your goodself. We have full faith that if somehow or other we can cling to your instructions, after many crores of births and deaths within this filthy material world we may someday be able to render some insignificant service to repay the priceless gift you have bestowed upon our undeserving selves. Maybe then we will actually understand the purport of the verse by the great Ācāryadeva Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura: "The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as the cloud pours water on the forest fire to extinguish it, the spiritual master extinguishes the blazing fire of material existence."

All Glories to you Srīla Prabhupāda!!

Your servants in Portland,
 Dīna Bandhu dāsa adbhikārī
 Ākūti devī dāsī
 Bhagavat Ācārya dāsa adbhikārī
 Kaśumapitā devī dāsī
 Deva Deva dāsa brahmacārī
 Anantātma dāsa brahmacārī
 Anubhavananda dāsa brahmacārī
 Śikhandī dāsī
 Bhakta Dwight
 Bhakta Bruce
 Bhakta John
 Kālakantha dāsa brahmacārī



Our dearly beloved father, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious day we offer our respectful obeisances unto you, Your Divine Grace. By the will of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Śrī Kṛṣṇa, you have come as Jagat-guru, spiritual master of the universe, and by that same supreme will you have appeared in the western world to dispel the influence of voidism and impersonalism. We offer our respectful obeisances unto you again and again.

You are delivering us from the illusion of birth, death, disease and old age. Yet had you not come, who would have told us about the message of Kṛṣṇa, the path back to Godhead, the way back to home? Who would guide us, who would show us the way or teach us how to escape this world of death? You are the personified mercy of Kṛṣṇa, come to save us from the dark well of ignorance. You are delivering us to the transcendental abode of Lord Govinda, which is made of touchstone and filled with desire trees. We offer our respectful obeisances unto you again and again.

Your Divine Grace is only one of a kind. You are propagating the glorious Śrī Kṛṣṇa *saṅkīrtana* Movement of *Śrī Pañca-tattva*. You have said yourself that you are single-handedly carrying out the message of Lord Caitanya. For yourself you need nothing, but in compassion for others you remain in the material world to give anyone who will come forward a chance to receive your mercy. You are our eternal master. We owe our life breath to you. We offer our respectful obeisances to you again and again.

Of what use is this life without your association? All the money in the world cannot help us. No amount of material success can help us. Indeed, there is no success without you. Without your grace, everything is a futile endeavor. Empty. Hollow. Your plan alone can bring happiness to the planet. Only the foolish turn away and do not recognize your prowess or surrender to your mission. Some may talk of liberation, but there is no transcended life outside your order. Your instruction is the only lifeline for the planet, what to speak of your lowly disciples.

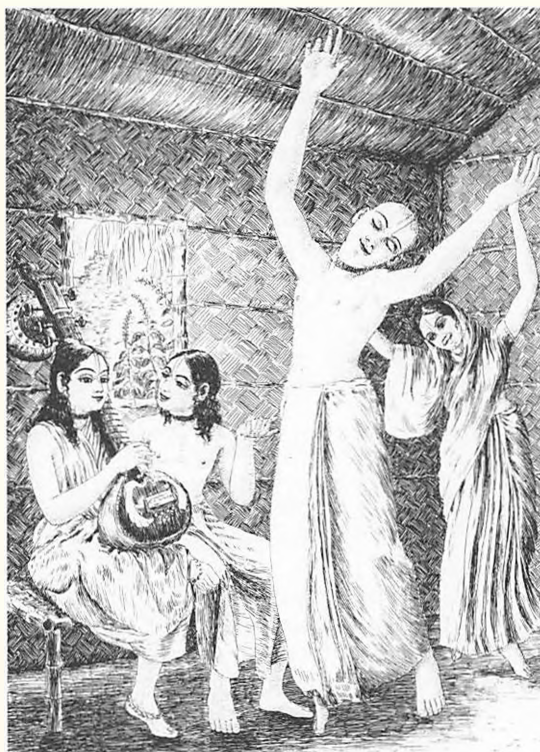
We offer our respectful obeisances unto you again and again.

Oh Nāmācārya, you have given us the holy name, the chanting of His glories. Wherever there is chanting of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, there is Kṛṣṇa Himself. So you have brought Kṛṣṇa Himself and without your mercy no one can approach Him. Kṛṣṇa says that "those who say they are My devotees are not really My devotees, but those who say they are the devotees of My devotees, they are actually My devotees." Therefore, you are our only link with Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto you again and again.

Our dear father Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are weak and devoid of intelligence. Our only hope and joy is your association. We humbly appeal to your compassionate nature, that you may continue to raise us towards pure devotion, so we can help you to carry on this movement. Your careful guidance is our only strength, your mercy is all that we are made of. Without your protection we would all remain amongst the society of hogs, dogs, camels and asses. Now you have given us the light of *śāstra*, which is the weapon against darkness and death. Armed with your most precious gifts, your books, we can stand against the warriors of illusion, taking shelter of your blessings. We offer our respectful obeisances unto you again and again.

Makanal dāsa adbhikārī
Bāhuśīra dāsa brahmacārī
Mahā-muni dāsa brahmacārī
Saucīlya dāsa brahmacārī
Tilaka devī dāsī
Bhakta Paul
Bhakta Allen
Bhakta Tom
Bhakta Steve
Bhakta Jim
Bhakta Johnathan
Bhakta Chuck
Bhakta Lance

Bhakta Doug
Bhaktin Karen
Bhaktin Nancy
Bhaktin Ginette
Bhaktin Mary
Bhaktin Geanne
Bhaktin Debbie
Bhaktin Becky
Bhakta Don
Bhaktin Sylvia
Bhakta Dean
Bhaktin Jane



We offer our obeisances unto the lotus feet of our spiritual master who has forced open our eyes blinded by the darkness of ignorance with the torchlight of knowledge.

Most Revered Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, your insignificant children, do offer our prostrated obeisances unto your feet, which are worshipable by everyone throughout the three worlds.

Lord Śiva once told the maid Parvatī, “My dear Parvatī, there are different methods of worship, and out of all such methods the worship of the Supreme Person is considered to be the highest. But even higher than the worship of the Lord is the worship of the Lord’s devotees.” (Nectar of Devotion, page 103)

Similarly, in the *Ādi-Purāṇa*, there is a state-

ment by Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself to Arjuna, “My dear Pārtha, one who claims to be My devotee is not so. Only the person who claims to be the devotee of My devotee is actually My devotee.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, how can we claim to be Kṛṣṇa’s devotees? Certainly not directly. By birth we are lower than *candalas* (dog-eaters). Only due to your continual blessings and causeless mercy upon us are we beginning to once again feel the joyful, blissful presence of Kṛṣṇa within our hearts.

It is confirmed by Ācārya-deva Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī: “*Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo, yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto’pi, dhyāyaṁ stuvaṁs tasya yaśas tri-saṁdhyam, vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam.*” (Śrī-Gurvaṣṭakam 8) By the mercy of the spiritual master one is benedicted by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual

master no one can make any advancement. Therefore I should always remember my spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have performed the greatest miracle. It is not that you are just healing the sick or giving bread to the hungry. No, by your association alone, you are changing our very hearts. Just as Nārada Muni once turned the coarse, sinful hunter, *mṛgārī*, into a great Vaiṣṇava, so you have picked up thieves, drug addicts, and worse and have made them flower-like, bright faced, dancing devotees of Kṛṣṇa.

Your Divine Grace is so potent that simply by associating with you through your greatest gifts (your books) the course of men's lives throughout the world are being changed, although they have never seen you.

The materialists cannot see how this is taking place. But those who are serious about human life can see that your disciples are not ordinary. No, they are extraordinary. Nowhere else in the world can one find men and women who are actually becoming free from sinful existence. You have taught your students what the four pillars of sinful life are—flesh eating, gambling, intoxication and illicit sex-life—and you have taught us how to avoid these activities of damnation.

*viṣayā vinivartante
nirāhāṛasya dehinaḥ
rasa-varjaṁ raso 'py asya
paraṁ dṛṣṭvā nivartate*
(Bg. 2.59)

“The embodied soul may be restricted from sense enjoyment, though the taste for sense objects remains. But, ceasing such engagements by experiencing a higher taste he is fixed in consciousness.” In other words, because you have successfully engaged us in the thrilling eternal loving service of the Lord, how can we be attracted to the pale and temporary glitter of the material world?

As the perfect *ācārya*, you have convinced us of the conclusion of the *sāstra*.

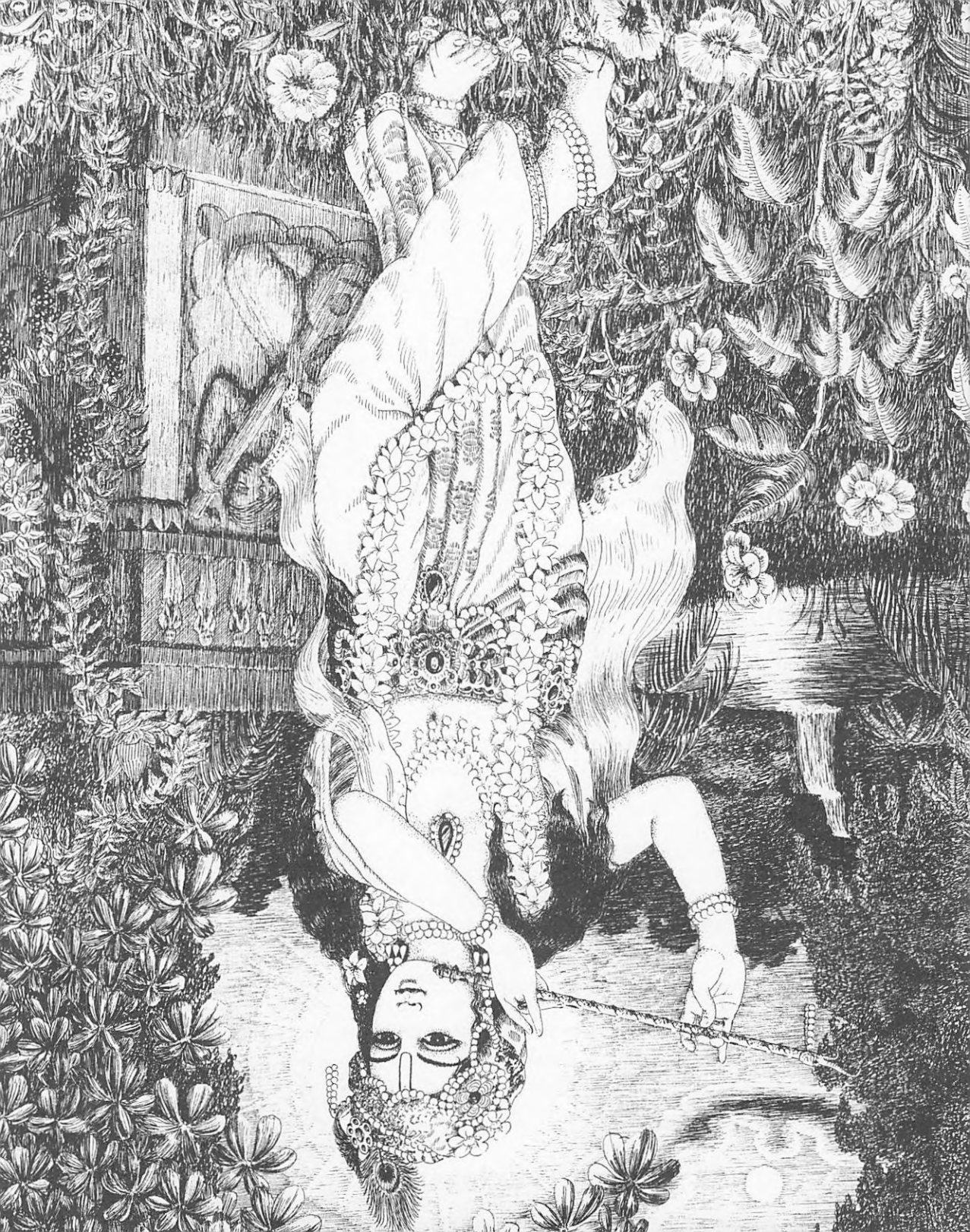
*sarva-dharmān parityajya
mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja
ahaṁ tvām sarva-pāpebhyo
mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ*
(Bg. 18.66)

“Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reaction. Do not fear.” You are practically showing how to surrender to Kṛṣṇa, and by following your example we are free from fear. We are confident that Lord *Nṛsiṃhadeva* is watching out for our welfare.

Our only problem, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that we feel totally inadequate and incapable of ever rendering any meaningful service to you and your *saṅkīrtana* movement, and this gives us great pain. We are so selfish that we are still praying to your unlimited compassionate nature that you will ask Lord Kṛṣṇa to accept us as surrendered souls and protect us from Māyā's dangerous clutches.

*ALL GLORIES,
ALL GLORIES, ALL GLORIES
TO ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA! JAYATE!*

Your eternal servitors,
Bhakta dāsa
Mahātma dāsa
Nṛsiṃha Caitanya dāsa
Taracandra dāsa brahmacārī
Kalacand dāsa brahmacārī
Sureśvara dāsa brahmacārī
Kasta Krata dāsa brahmacārī
Braja Kiśora dāsa brahmacārī
Śaraṇam dāśī
Maheśvarī dāśī
Pratyāya dāsa brahmacārī
Danvanthari dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Ray
Bhakta Ron
Bhaktin Ann
Bhaktin Barbara
Bhaktin Rose



Deep in forgetfulness of our *sanātana-dharma*,
 Trusting material scientific conclusions,
 Hoping to taste success in exploiting nature,
 We make preparation for our evolutionary descent.
 Our lust, our hankering knows no bounds.
 Our spirit—dominating, passionate, prideful—
 A savage drive towards our own self-destruction,
 Our bliss-starved minds in frustration
 Search for relief in the conception
 Of void-imperson, the result; confusion, our hearts fast drying.
 Then the appearance of Your Divine Grace
 Bringing the truth of Goloka-Vṛndāvana
 Where form-senses-love are all absolute.
 Even limited senses, even minds full of envy
 Can glimpse the beauty of all you teach
 Oh swan-like devotee, our most merciful savior,
 You transform any soul who will simply submit.
 Please allow us a position at your lotus feet;
 Please accept our service, though offensive and tainted;
 Please tolerate our inability to express our gratitude.

Your servants,

Bhūtātma dāsa brahmacārī
 Yogeścandra dāsa brahmacārī
 Goṣṭhavihārī dāsa brahmacārī
 Śrī Kānta dāsa brahmacārī
 Śaṅkarānanda dāsa brahmacārī
 Sārvabhauma dāsa brahmacārī
 Kṛta-karma dāsa brahmacārī
 Kṛtagāma dāsa brahmacārī
 Nīmāi dāsa brahmacārī
 Yajñapati dāsa brahmacārī
 Sarvadarśaṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Nalinī Kānta dāsa brahmacārī
 Bhūmna dāsa brahmacārī
 Rakṣaṇa dāsa brahmacārī
 Jambavan dāsa brahmacārī
 Janakanātha dāsa brahmacārī
 Karṇāmṛta dāsa brahmacārī
 Pravacāra dāsa brahmacārī
 Vījītātma dāsa brahmacārī
 Chirañjīva dāsa brahmacārī
 Jagat Prabhu dāsa brahmacārī
 Pāvana dāsa brahmacārī

Nityanātha dāsa brahmacārī
 Vanabatta dāsa brahmacārī
 Yuddhamanyu dāsa brahmacārī
 John Prabhu
 Mark Prabhu
 Bob Prabhu
 Rob Prabhu
 Jocko Prabhu
 Larry Prabhu
 Iver Prabhu
 Paul Prabhu
 Lakṣmīpati devī dāsī
 Ratneśvarī devī dāsī
 Jīvana devī dāsī
 Havīrdhānī devī dāsī
 Maṅgala devī dāsī
 Mṛdapiyā devī dāsī
 Mandanasinī devī dāsī
 Candranīva devī dāsī
 Lokanātha dāsa adhikārī

Brajasundarī dāsī
 JaiKīṣhāna
 Jayānanda dāsa adhikārī
 Trai
 Candanācārya dāsa adhikārī
 Kostorika dāsī
 Keśava Bhārati dāsa adhikārī
 Kaulinī dāsī
 Jayadeva
 Gajendra dāsa adhikārī
 Śucītra
 Pūrṇima
 Viśvaretha dāsa adhikārī
 Brajasvarī dāsī
 Hari Ballava dāsa adhikārī
 Kuśa devī dāsī
 Devaprashta dāsa adhikārī
 Bhavatarinī dāsī
 Karuṇāmayī # 1
 Karuṇāmayī # 2



*teṣāṁ satata-yuktānāṁ
bhajatāṁ prīti-pūrvakam
dadāmi buddhi-yogaṁ taṁ
yena mām upayānti te*
(Bg. 10.10)

“To those who are constantly devoted and worship Me with love, I give the understanding by which they can come to Me.”

The spiritual master is the bona fide representative of the Supreme Lord and he should be served with a humble submissive attitude.

*tad viddhi praṇipātena
paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānāṁ
jñāninas tattva-darśināḥ*
(Bg. 4.34)

The *śāstras* tell us that if we want to understand the Absolute Truth we must approach a bona fide spiritual master. The spiritual master must be approached with a humble, submissive attitude. Otherwise, inquiries will not be effective. By submissive inquiry and rendering service to the spiritual master, he will impart knowledge to us. This is possible because he has seen the Absolute Truth. And what is the truth? That is explained in the next *śloka*:

*yaj jñātvā na punar moham
evam yāsyasi pāṇḍava
yena bhūtāny aśeṣāṇi
drakṣyasi ātmany aho mayi*
(Bg. 4.35)

“And when you have thus learned the truth, you will know that all living beings are but part of Me—and that they are in Me and are Mine.”

This is the message that we have received from our spiritual master. *aham brahmāsmi*—I am not this material body but pure spirit soul. We are all living beings, and we are all part and parcel of the Supreme Lord (Kṛṣṇa). And our eternal constitution position is to render loving devotional service at the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord. (*nitya-svarūpa-kṛṣṇa-dāsa*)

The spiritual master is not a fad. It is a very serious proposition.

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

“The spiritual master is honored as much as God on account of his being the most confidential servant of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and is followed by all authorities. Therefore I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master who is a bona fide representative of Śrī Hari (Kṛṣṇa).” (*Śrī Gurvāṣṭakam*, 7th *śloka*)

Because of the mercy of the spiritual master we can actually make progress in knowledge. Real knowledge is knowledge of Kṛṣṇa. Real

knowledge means spiritual knowledge. Life is coming from spirit. And spirit is coming from God. Matter cannot produce independently. God is not a dead stone. But God is life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in every town and village we vow to take this chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra* and to expose the fake scientists who are saying that God is dead. This world is actually Kṛṣṇa’s and it should be used in Kṛṣṇa’s service; therefore we as Vaiṣṇavas cannot sit back and let the world go to ruination.

We pray to the Supreme Lord that we will be able to carry out the mission of our spiritual master and to go home, back to Godhead, in this lifetime.

All Glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!

Śukadeva dāsa adbhikārī
Jagamohinī devī dāśī
Hari Basara dāsa adbhikārī
Gopikā devī dāśī
Smarāṇānanda dāsa adbhikārī
Saṁsāramocana devī dāśī
Bhakta Zion Shelden Prabhu and
Judy Prabhu
Devan Prabhu
Zachary Prabhu, Keśava dāsa
Pat Hales Prabhu and Jane
Gopenar dāsa brahmācārī
Karṣārī dāsa brahmācārī
Ojaśrī dāsa brahmācārī
Mūrti Macohara dāsa brahmācārī
Bhakta Eric Prabhu
Bhagavan dāsa brahmācārī
Bhakta Don and Karen Prabhu
Bhakta Shannon Prabhu
Bhakta Jean Gruffre
Lakhimā devī dāśī
Viṣṇupriyā devī dāśī
Śikhāndī devī dāśī
Bhaktin Betty
Bhaktin Tobī
Bhaktin Debbie
Pṛṣṇi Garbha devī dāśī



108 glories to our beloved Gurudeva, the wandering mendicant and topmost swanlike devotee, the greatest preceptor who has taken shelter at the lotus feet of Lord Viṣṇu.

Srila Prabhupāda, please give us a place at your lotus feet.

In the *Nectar of Devotion*, Your Divine Grace quotes from *Padma Purāṇa* wherein Siva tells Parvatī, “My dear Parvatī, there are different methods of worship. Out of all such methods of worship, the worship of the Supreme Person is considered to be the highest. But even higher than the worship of the Lord is the worship of the Lord’s devotee.” From this we can understand that you are bestowing the greatest blessings upon everyone.

In this age of Kali there are many personalities on this earth like scientists, political leaders, etc., who pose themselves as being very expert and advanced in knowledge. They are like glow worms, and their glowing attracts the innocent people who become misdirected and confused in this way. But in the midst of this confusion, Srila Prabhupāda, you have appeared like the sun and in all your shining glory you extinguish the vain glowing of the glow worms.

O Srila Prabhupāda, now, as Lord Caitanya’s movement is about to be introduced in Sweden, we unworthy students and unwilling tools simply pray that we will always remember that

your pleasure should be the object of our every action. When Lord Kṛṣṇa entered *Dvāraka* after His long absence, the citizens felt as if they had regained their lives, and they prayed to Him: “Oh Lord of the universe, You are our father, mother, friend, Lord, spiritual master and worshipable Deity. By following Your footsteps we have become successful in every respect. We pray therefore that you continue to bless us with Your mercy.” So now also, by your unfathomable mercy, the citizens of Stockholm will be given the same opportunity of regaining their lives.

Srila Prabhupāda, at this time we humbly pray that we can eternally be your faithful servants, and that what we do will be very pleasing to you. You are our life, Srila Prabhupāda, our most beloved, and your mercy is our only hope. Our lives are completely vacant without you. Please let us always depend on you as a dog depends on the kindness of its master.

All glories to your divine lotus feet.

ISKCON STOCKHOLM

Ajita dāsa adhikārī
Samita Kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmachārī
Kṛṣṇa Premī devī dāsī
Vegavan dāsa adhikārī
Padmavatī devī dāsī

Invocation

*O Lord, for once I do a noble deed
And Thy help I must implore
Let my masters, lust, anger and greed,
Inspire me no more*

*Let devotion be the motive
And humility the crave
In making words a votive
At the feet of Śrī Gurudeva.*

We beg to offer our most humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of our spiritual master. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, the most confidential servant of the Supreme Lord. He is so kindly watering the seeds of devotion in our hearts with the ocean of Lord Caitanya's distribution of love of God. He is our eternal father and guide, and by his pure and perfect direction he is bringing us back to home, back to the spiritual world.

Srila Prabhupāda, by Your Divine Grace, all of our aimlessness and frustration have been vanquished, and we are feeling ourselves happy in the service of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Knowledge of the science of Kṛṣṇa is so powerful that it can relieve the whole world of miseries, born of ignorance. Please, therefore, help us in distrib-

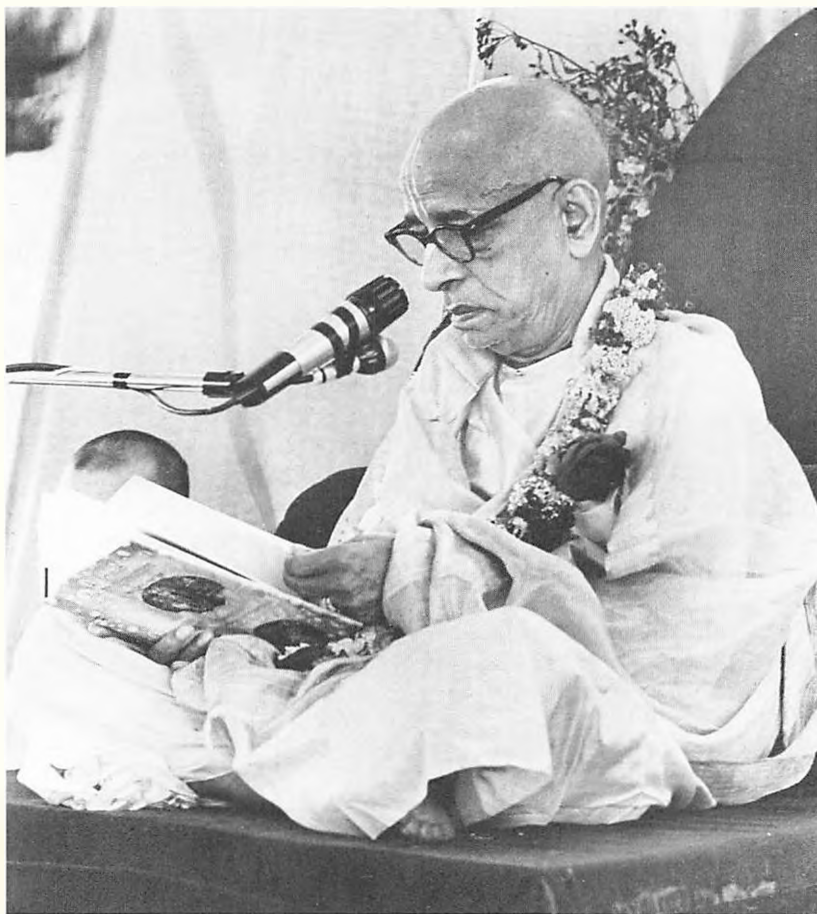
uting Kṛṣṇa consciousness and in advertising you as the hero and saviour of the world.

All Glories to Your Divine Grace!

Your eternal sons and servitors,

**Sudāma Mahārāja's Traveling
Saṅkīrtana Party,**

Sudāma dāsa Gosvāmī
Nālinīkānta dāsa brahmacārī
Bhūmna dāsa brahmacārī
Viśvaretaḥ dāsa adhikārī
Bhakta Lee
Kṛṣṇa Caitanya dāsa brahmacārī
Bhulānanda dāsa brahmacārī



Our Dear Lord and Master,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

How can we find the words to glorify Your Divine Grace? Certainly our tiny minds are limited; we can still remember our past misconceptions. So what can we say on our own? We can only repeat the perfect knowledge of the revealed scriptures which emanate from the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

A pure devotee is the rarest kind of soul. No one is more dear or rare than a pure devotee of the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. This is confirmed

by Kṛṣṇa Himself in the *Bhagavad-gītā*. It cannot be our own imagination. You are displaying boundless power to deliver us from this ocean of temporary names and dreams called the material world. Just by hearing your words, chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa and remembering your instructions, there is a deep feeling in our hearts which we have never experienced before. Thus, you are the transcendental magician who has waved the wand of love of God over our hearts and turned us on the path back to Godhead. Kṛṣṇa says that this experience is factually the mercy of His pure devotee, the self-realized soul. Only

by the mercy of the spiritual master can one realize his eternal loving relationship with Kṛṣṇa. Therefore the pure devotee or spiritual master is honored as much as the Supreme Lord.

A real spiritual master has a real spiritual master. Your spiritual master also had his spiritual master and this chain of spiritual masters begins with Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself. Therefore, because you are simply repeating the words of your Guru Mahārāja, you speak with the authority of God. These words can purify any fallen soul who agrees to hear them. That is also stated in the scriptures—by hearing from a pure devotee who is completely surrendered to Kṛṣṇa, one becomes completely purified. All we must do is hear the words of such a great soul—and you are that great soul. It is a proven fact that your words can penetrate our dirty hearts and make us leap in ecstasy, dance and shout the holy names of the Lord. Our lives are so sublime now that we have no interest besides Kṛṣṇa. So the connection with Kṛṣṇa is complete by Your Divine Grace. The proven fact stands: you are a pure devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, a bona fide spiritual master.

Srīla Prabhupāda, you have no sin nor have you any doubt. You are a spiritual jewel, flashing upon the darkness of this world. You are the softest of the most merciful hearts, but you destroy illusion with a lightning-like sword of knowledge. You overpower the world of faithless men by the great bursting-forth of the bright sun of your knowledge just as the sun in the sky overpowers the foggy mist and the darkness of night. Your knowledge is supreme because it is coming from Kṛṣṇa, and that knowledge is fully revealed in the pages of your books.

May we all become pure reflections of your mercy so that others may share in the greatest gift. May all bow down at your feet and greet a pure devotee of the Lord with body and soul. May they see the eternal mercy that is there in your face, in your smile, in your tears of love of Godhead, in your prayers, in your books, in your purifying order, in your plans so great, in your feet, and in our hearts.

*Chanting now with folded eyes,
Giving Kṛṣṇa all you own,
Pure as gold and soft as lotus,
You are our eternal home.*

The Devotees of Sydney, Australia:

Dīpaka dāsa adhikārī
Amogha dāsa adhikārī
Vidyāraṇya dāsa brahmacārī
Jayadharma dāsa adhikārī
Nakula dāsa brahmacārī
Balarāma dāsa brahmacārī
Śivanātha dāsa brahmacārī
Rāma Prasāda dāsa brahmacārī
Gaura Gopāla dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Dick
Bhakta James
Bhakta Oudrija
Bhakta Bruce
Bhakta Doc
Bhakta Robert
Bhakta Glen
Bhakta Hans
Kurma dāsa brahmacārī
Narataki devī dāśī (Rasmin)
Rasarāṇī devī dāśī
Ambikā dāśī
Atri dāśī
Bhaktin Marilyn
Bhaktin Jean
Bhaktin Sue
Cekitana devī dāśī
Bhakta Hans
Bhakta Toran
Bhakta Bob
Bhaktin Moti
Bhaktin Donna



On the occasion of your appearance on this planet,
the most auspicious event in the three worlds,
Vyāsa Pūjā, 1973

*Our eternal master,
His Divine Grace Oṃ Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrajakācārya 108
Sri Śrīmad Bhaktivedānta Svāmī Prabhupāda
"Tomāra hṛdaye sadā govinda bisrāma"*

One must understand the rarity of the pure devotee and furthermore, the rarity of obtaining his association. Even to the great sages and demigods God Himself is inaccessible, for the

layers of this material creation are indeed very subtle. Furthermore He is the Absolute Will in Himself, free to appear and disappear as He pleases. He holds the right of unapproachability

by the infinitesimal individual's will. He Himself is totally without obligation to the whole that He has willed to exist.

But inaccessible as He is (*vedeṣu durlabham*) even by the most secret knowledge, He is always known to the pure devotee. It is not that God is prejudiced. He is freely offering the knowledge in His direct words; *Vedas*, *Vedānta-sūtra* and *Bhagavad-gītā* are visible to all men. But in spite of the gift, we, being enthralled by *māyā*, are apt to create our own conditional meanings. To totally escape this conditioning is very difficult indeed. So it is accepting this knowledge that will bestow on us the meaning of the scripture as it is and will lead us to the supreme *dhāma*.

The process is just to accept authoritative sources, or *paramparā*, directly manifested as the *guru* who is fixed in that final goal. Simply because we have continually refused to accept any authority other than our own is the *guru* rarely visible and generally ignored. However, we must declare that we have found such a person, worshipable by all, in Your Divine Grace. We need not speculate on how or why we have been so fortunate to receive this opportunity to meet, take faith in and even attempt to follow you. Somehow we have been found, and by steady practice of an infallible process we have comprehended the absolute principle you teach. To one who surrenders unto you, who are none other than a direct representative of Kṛṣṇa, the Vedic knowledge becomes self-evident.

You taught us not only the distinction between the ephemeral pleasure of *saṁsāra* and the absolute bliss of *svarūpa siddhi*, our constitutional position in the *param-dhāma*, but also, more rare, the ultimate name of God, Kṛṣṇa, the ultimate form of God, His qualities, His activities and His entourage. You taught us our own individuality and our relationship to Kṛṣṇa. And you taught us the means to achieve that end. Knowledge of Kṛṣṇa is the ultimate of all study, *rāja-vidyā*. Nothing more remains to be taught or learned. You taught as

ācārya, straight, without deviation, self-interest or flattery. From your position of realized knowledge and faith, and by your invaluable example, you persuaded us of the actual existence of Kṛṣṇa.

Kṛṣṇa, by His mercy, is in all of us. But in you He is shining through at every moment. Seeing the ultimate Kṛṣṇa at all times, you have surpassed all demigods, sages, vedic scholars and *yogīs*. Just by your pure unalloyed love and devotion to Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa has become obliged to reveal Himself. You are truly *mahātma*. You alone could have planted the seed of *bhakti*, the opportunity of the highest perfection, in our barren but nevertheless hankering hearts.

Your mercy alone, giving the *yuga-dharma* of Śrī Caitanya, has enabled even the most fallen of Kali-yuga to retread the road towards Godhead. Your mercy alone has relieved us of our insurmountable sins. Your mercy alone has extinguished the *saṁsāra* of material existence. Your mercy alone has permitted approach to Kṛṣṇa and has given us a taste of the true nectar. Without your mercy we now have nothing of value.

Kṛṣṇa is with you at all times. It is a fact which few people will understand. But we know it is true. You are truly the most dear to Kṛṣṇa. We know that you are leading us to the Supreme God. But what can we do, with no qualifications, no good quality except the mercy that you bestow on us? We only pray that you accept the praises and services we give you and forgive all the faults.

“*Karuṇa nā haile kāṇḍiyā kāṇḍiyā prāṇa nā rākhiba āra*”

Your unworthy servants,
Trivikrama Mahārāja
Satyānanda dāsa brahmacārī
Satyadeva dāsa adhikārī
Bhānu dāsa brahmacārī
Mahāguṇa devī dāśī
Kiyomi prabhu



*saṁsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka-trāṇāya kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvam
prāptasya kālyāṇa-guṇārṇavasya vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

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

The spiritual master is compared to a full rain cloud, and Kṛṣṇa, God, is the ocean. The clouds form over the ocean and deposit needed water on the land. To supply water to the land is the mercy of the ocean. When there is a forest fire, the land is most in need of water because the only hope for the inhabitants is that a rain cloud will appear to douse the flames. No amount of effort on their part will help control the fire.

Lord Caitanya appeared in the Age of Kali as the most merciful incarnation of Kṛṣṇa. He is so readily giving the highest perfection of life, pure love of God, to even the most fallen conditioned souls. Our spiritual master has taken full advantage of this mercy and is now distributing love of Kṛṣṇa all over the blazing earth, asking everyone to awaken, chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and thus become relieved from the suffering of material existence.

To take advantage of the soothing effects of such a downpour of mercy one must simply follow the bona fide spiritual master's instructions and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa. To get even more

mercy, one should help Kṛṣṇa's representative, the spiritual master, to distribute Lord Caitanya's message to all living entities.

I offer my humble obeisances at the lotus feet of my spiritual master, and pray that I may be of some service to him in his mission.

*mahāprabhoḥ kīrtana-nṛtya-gītā-
vāditra-māḍyan-manaso rasena
romāñca-kampāśru-taraṅga-bhājo
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is always engaged in chanting and hearing the message of Lord Caitanya and sometimes is dancing in ecstasy. Sometimes he feels quivering in his body because of spiritual trance. I offer my respectful obeisances unto such a spiritual master.”

Lord Caitanya's message is that everyone should chant the holy names of the Lord constantly. Our spiritual master has taken up the instruction of the Lord as his life and soul, and he has taken up the mission of the Lord—to spread this chanting to every corner of the world. The

Lord claims such a preacher of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness to be most dear to Him, and therefore the spiritual master is the full recipient of the mercy of the Supreme Lord. Therefore he is always in trance, meditating on the names and songs of the Lord and feeling transcendental ecstasy. Sometimes such ecstasy manifests in different bodily symptoms such as standing of the hairs on end, shedding of tears, becoming stunned, etc. Such symptoms are not to be imitated, but are the natural consequence of chanting the holy name in pure love of God.

I offer my respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of my spiritual master in whom this transcendental mood is manifest, and who is melting my stonelike impersonalist's heart with the nectarean message of Lord Caitanya.

*śrī-vigrahārādhana-nitya-nānā-
sṛṅgāra-tanmandira-mājanādaḥ
yuktasya bhaktāṁś ca niyujjato 'pi
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

"The spiritual master is always engaged along with his disciples in the temple worship of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. I offer my respectful obeisances unto such a spiritual master."

Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī has written that Śrī Mūrti worship and *saṅkīrtana* go hand in hand. The Six Gosvāmīs, although engaged continuously in the missionary activities of Lord Caitanya, all had their own Deities, who they worshipped with great care and attention.

The training of the neophyte devotee completely depends on the expert spiritual master who knows how to lead the disciple on the path back to Godhead. Here Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura has described the spiritual master engaging the disciples in the matter of decorating and dressing the Deity, as well as cleansing the temple of the Deity, etc.

In the Second Canto of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, it is described how Mahārāja Parīkṣit, a great devotee from childhood, would worship Kṛṣṇa by imitating the family Deity worship, even while playing with dolls. Śrīla Prabhupāda also has described how as a child

he was encouraged in the same way by his family. Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī has written that this engagement in Deity worship from childhood is a symptom of a *mahā-bhāgavata*, a great devotee of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who has so kindly given us the vision of the Lord.

*catur-vidha-śrī-bhagavat-prasāda-
svādv-anna-trptān hari-bhakta-saṅghān
kṛtvaiḥ trptiṁ bhajataḥ sadaiva
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

"The spiritual master is always offering four kinds of foodstuffs to the Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa. When he sees the devotees are eating *bhagavad-prasāda*, he is satisfied. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master."

The spiritual master attracts the conditioned souls in the age of Kali with the simple formula of dancing, singing, hearing of the Absolute Truth and tasting foodstuffs offered to the Lord. Without the spiritual master there is no way of offering anything to Kṛṣṇa. It is only because of Kṛṣṇa's love for His pure devotee that one is able to contact the Supreme Pure and thereby revive his own natural purity and love for God. When the devotee takes the remnants of foodstuffs which the spiritual master has offered to Kṛṣṇa the spiritual master is satisfied. The satisfaction of the spiritual master is the key to advancement in spiritual life.

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

*śrī-rādhikā-mādhavayor apāra-
mādhurya-līlā-guṇa-rūpa-nāmnām
pratikṣaṇāsvādana-lolupasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

"The spiritual master is always anxious to hear and chant about the wonderful pastimes between Rādhikā and Mādhava, which are all in the modes of loving exchanges (*mādhurya-līlā*), as well as about Their qualities, names and forms. The spiritual master aspires after relishing these

things at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances to such a spiritual master.”

The spiritual master is very anxious to chant and hear about Kṛṣṇa. In the *Gītā* also Kṛṣṇa says:

*mac-cittā mad-gata-prāṇā
bodhayantaḥ parasparam
kathayantaś ca mām nityam
tuṣyanti ca ramanti ca*

“Their thoughts dwell in Me, their lives are surrendered to Me, and they derive great satisfaction and bliss enlightening one another and conversing about Me.”

One can recognize the quality of a man's character by the sound vibration he makes. The pure devotee speaks to glorify the transcendental activities of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. He is not interested in glorifying mundane personalities of the material world, whose activities are being conducted under the influence of the three modes of material nature. He is experiencing the sweetness of the mellow of the Supreme Couple, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, whose activities are completely transcendental to material qualities.

Neither does the spiritual master artificially try to stop speaking as the Māyāvādīs do. He knows that the Absolute Truth is sentient, possessing form, attributes, name, etc., and because they are supreme he wishes to glorify them. The taste of such glorification is most relishable and therefore the spiritual master desires to distribute this taste to everyone. I offer my respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of my spiritual master who has poured nectar in my thirsty ear and revived my sleeping soul with the holy sound.

*nikuñjayāno ratikeli-siddhyair
yā yālibhir yuktir apekṣaṇīyā
tatratidākṣādati-vallabhasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“The spiritual master is very much expert in assisting the *gopīs* who are engaged in the perfection of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa conjugal love affairs. At different times they make different tasteful arrangements for such spiritual exchange, and the

spiritual master is there to assist in the affairs. I offer my humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.”

The spiritual master, although apparently engaged in activities on the material plane, is actually absorbed in the transcendental realm of Goloka Vṛndāvana. There he is engaged in eternal *rāsā* with the Lord. If his relationship with the Lord is in the flavour of conjugal love, then he assists the *gopīs* who are assisting Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in their all-perfect, all-blissful love affairs. Thus Lord Caitanya prays to become *gopī-bhartur-dāsa-dāsa-dāsanudāsa*, the servant of the servant of the servant of the protector of the milkmaids of Vraja. The better position in transcendental terms is to become the servant of the servant far removed.

Therefore, I offer my obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master, of whose transcendental *līlā* I know absolutely nothing, but whose mercy to the most fallen, such as myself, is easily perceptible.

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

“The spiritual master is honored as much as the Supreme Lord because of his being the most confidential servitor of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and is 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].”

“One should understand the spiritual master to be as good as I am,” said the Blessed Lord. “Nobody should be jealous of the spiritual master, thinking of him as an ordinary man, because the spiritual master is the sum total of all the demigods.”

The spiritual master, even though honoured as though he were God, remains always humble, thinking of himself as the eternal servant of God. He actually sees Himself as the servant of all, even his disciples, who are being trained by him in the science of God.

Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

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

“By the mercy of the spiritual master, one is benedicted by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, no one can make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember my spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.”

The mercy of Kṛṣṇa is that even the most fallen soul can be lifted up from the material ocean and re-established in his constitutional position as Kṛṣṇa's eternal servitor. The Lord has arranged that such mercy is not to be received directly, but is revealed by His authorized representative in disciplic succession. Such an authorized representative can elevate the conditioned soul to his liberated status by revealing the science of God (*Bhagavat-tattva-vijñānam*) to him. Without receiving this mercy from a pure devotee of the Lord there is no possibility of understanding the transcendental Personality of Godhead who lies beyond the range of the material senses and mind. I beg for the mercy of my spiritual master that I will never forget him for even a moment, and will never stop offering my obeisances at his lotus feet.

Jagadīśa dāsa adbhikārī
Rocana dāsa adbhikārī
Aṁsu dāsa adbhikārī
Drupada dāsa brahmacārī
Dharmarāja dāsa adbhikārī
Duṣṭadura dāsa brahmacārī
Girijadhava dāsa brahmacārī
Hara-kumāra dāsa brahmacārī
Hiraṇyagarbha dāsa adbhikārī
Kaśīrāma dāsa brahmacārī

Mathurānātha dāsa adbhikārī
Rūpa Vilāsa dāsa brahmacārī
Sāṁvitānanda dāsa adbhikārī
Śrīpati dāsa adbhikārī
Vicarū brahmacārī
Yugalkiśora dāsa adbhikārī
Bhakta Peter
Bhakta Ken
Bhakta John
Bhaktin Felicia
Yadunandana
Nirmalacandra
Yugalaprīti
Bhaktimati
Bhakta Greg
Bhaktin Lisa
Bhakta Jeremy
Varuṇī devī dāśī
Lakṣmīmūnī devī dāśī
Urvasī devī dāśī
Manohara devī dāśī
Saucārya devī dāśī
Kṣama devī dāśī
Jagatikaṇḍa devī dāśī
Vraja devī dāśī
Kīrtimatī devī dāśī
Svāhna devī dāśī
Prahāraṇa devī dāśī
Paśupati devī dāśī
Atigarvita devī dāśī
Bhaktin Susan
Bhaktin Gerry
Bhaktin Marlene
Bhaktin Linda
Bhaktin Cynthia
Travelling Party
Subala dāsa Svāmī
Bala-kṛṣṇa dāsa brahmacārī
Divyānanda dāsa adbhikārī
Ayodhyapati dāsa brahmacārī
Kṛpāsindhu dāsa brahmacārī
Tarakanātha dāsa brahmacārī



My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your feet. We are finding that by accepting you as our spiritual master you are transforming ourselves and the world from lonely drifters in a miserable place to blissful devotees in *Vaikuṇṭha*, the anxiety-free abode. This miracle is being granted by association with you. By this precious gift we are becoming cleansed just as garbage in the street is purified by contact with the powerful rays of the sun. By your mercy, a nation that was absorbed in the literature of the crows—sex and violence—is now blessed with an inundation of mercy that we are allowed to vigorously distribute—the science of the soul and the sweet pastimes of the Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. You have planted the seed of knowledge

and devotion deep in our hearts by the medium of spiritual sound vibration. And, as the perfect gardener, you are cultivating with the nutrition of spiritual discipline and regulative principles the most precious fruit, love of God.

In this age of hypocrisy and cheating, the instructions of Kṛṣṇa to the fallen souls are perverted by persons overcome by an intense desire for bodily sense gratification. Thus the transcendental potency of all the great scriptures of the world has been diminished by the unqualified tinkering of speculators and religionists, who are thrashing in the tangles of sectarianism. Into this region of ignorance, where pretentious, self-proclaimed savants offer sugary illusions to those hungry for real knowledge, you have come

as the manifestation of Kṛṣṇa's mercy. As it is stated by Kṛṣṇa in the *Bhagavad-gītā*, "Even if one is considered to be the most sinful of all sinners, when you are situated in the boat of transcendental knowledge you will be able to cross over the ocean of miseries." The more detailed information as to how to obtain this knowledge is then given: "Just try to learn the truth by approaching a bona fide 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." Only a person who is free from all material desires can know intimate and confidential information about the Personality of Godhead. And only a person who is transcendently situated has the right to comment on such transcendental knowledge. When perfect knowledge is communicated by one who is completely qualified to act as spiritual master then this knowledge has the ability to pierce the layers of contaminated consciousness and spark the growth of real self-development.

You have rescued us from the control of our seething minds whose deep and shameful absorption in the principles of *kāma*, or lust, deteriorates all the good qualities of the human being. Your transcendental instructions have freed us from enslavement to old habits and masters and your devotion to Kṛṣṇa is so all-attractive that our attention has been turned from the flickering glitter of the material energy to the eternal peace and satisfaction of devotional service, *bhakti-rasa*. Decorated with all the finer sentiments and noble qualities of the perfected saints, you have attracted even us who had become the cynical and renegade defiers of all authority. Even those who cannot understand your words are attracted by your sublime character.

In the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, Third Canto, Fifth chapter, Vidura says: "O my Lord, great philanthropic souls travel on the earth on behalf of the Supreme Personality of Godhead to show compassion to the fallen souls who are adverse to the sense of subordination to the Lord." And again in the first canto, Chap. 19, verse 32-33,

King Parīkṣit says: "O *brāhmaṇa*, by your mercy only you have sanctified us, making us like unto places of pilgrimage, all by your presence here as my guest, by your mercy, we, who are but unworthy royalty, become eligible to serve the devotee. Simply by remembering you our houses become instantly sanctified. And what to speak of seeing you, touching you, washing your holy feet and offering you a seat in our home?" Just as the atheist cannot remain in the presence of the Personality of Godhead, so also the invulnerable sins of a man are immediately vanquished in your presence, O saint! O great mystic!

From these statements evidencing the great appreciation shown by self-realized souls for the pure devotees of the Lord, we can only fall at your feet and marvel at the mercy of the Lord who has allowed us to serve you. All glories to this most holy day of your appearance.

Bahudak dāsa adbhikārī
Nirupama devī dāsī,
Dharmātma dāsa adbhikārī
Kutīchak dāsa adbhikārī
Sujana devī dāsī, Bhaktasūta
Prabhupāda dāsa adbhikārī
Janispriya dāsa adbhikārī
Bhogavatī devī dāsī
Rabīṅgra dāsa adbhikārī
Māyāvātī devī dāsī, Mohinī
Pāitrika dāsa brahmacārī
Kṛpanidhi dāsa brahmacārī
Riddha dāsa brahmacārī
Gaṇapati dāsa brahmacārī
Mahāriddhi dāsa brahmacārī
Maheśa dāsa brahmacārī
Bhakta Jacob,
Bhaktin Devaki
Bhakta Kuṅjabehari
Rohita dāsa brahmacārī
Larry Prabhu
Gary Prabhu
Gilles Prabhu
Kṛṣṇakathā dāsa adbhikārī
Anala devī dāsī



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We offer our heartfelt obeisances to you, the best spiritual father of the whole cosmic situation. As you beckon us, we follow you with the faltering steps of babies entering the realm of purity. "Don't be afraid, Kṛṣṇa will protect," you say with your chest expanded like Bhīṣma-deva, to encourage us to become 'Abhay Charan das'. How fortunate we are to be called Vaiṣṇavas. By your example everywhere, you represent all the great *ācāryas* for all time and space. You are the *ācārya* with all potency, as grave and exact as His Divine Grace Bhakti-siddhānta Prabhupāda, warm, personal, compassionate, a knower-of-all-worlds and encouraging like His Divine Grace Bhaktivinode Thākura. We see you sitting and writing at night as Bhaktivinode did, the sound of the gas motor fan puttering in the background; all of Navadvīpa meets your gaze. As renounced as Gaura Kiśora dāsa Bābājī, chanting for the whole world to hear it, you see all souls as devotees just as Śrī Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī saw the tiger. You sing with soft-throated authority just like Śrī Narottama dāsa Thākura, and you are just like the embodiment of Śrī Viśvanātha Cakravartī. You represent Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī-pāda, the *Rasa-tattva*. You inspire *Sambandha*,

Abhidheya and *Prayojana* as Sanātana Gosvāmī's *Siddhānta-tattva*. You are the embodiment of *Vidhi-tattva* as seen in Śrī Gopāla Bhaṭṭa's *Hari-bhakti vilāsa*. As the servant of Śrī Raghunātha Gosvāmī, you are eternally honoring all Vaiṣṇavas, and as Śrī Raghunātha Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī reads, so when you read the holy *Bhāgavatam*, your eyes fill with tears. As the great Śrī Kṛṣṇa dāsa Kavirāja has envisioned, you are bringing the holy *Mahā-mantra* to the lips of middle-aged women polishing their formica kitchens and to over-stuffed businessmen jostling one another in crowded subways. You teach with such clarity and simplicity for we common men could not hear you any other way, being so dulled by the material modes. Just as Śrī Jīva Gosvāmī, you know every aspect of Kṛṣṇa's Vaiṣṇava philosophy. On morning walks you see in the leaves of trees examples of *Govinda-bhāṣya* in the clouds, the *Vedānta-sūtra* in the animals. And then you ask us questions to let us realize what you see, just as the magician pulls rabbits out of top hats, you pull *kṛṣṇa-prema-bhakti* out of stone hearts.

You carry on the tradition of Jagat Guru Śrī Mādhavendra Purī and defeat the impersonalists; in the line of Śrī Madhvācārya, you satisfy

the hearts of all devotees that surrender to you. How fortunate we are to contact your lotus feet, to know anything about Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, the *Śrīmad-Bhagavad-gītā*, the *arca-vigraha* of Their Lordships Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, the endless associates of the Supreme Lord, and now all of the wonderful and glorified Godbrothers that have gathered at your lotus feet. If you had not come to preach all this, we would not have had the opportunity to learn it, and revive others. What have we done, we who are so full of greed, envy, umbrage and lust, to deserve to serve you in Holy Vṛndāvana Dhāma. It is incomprehensible to us how vast your mercy is upon us. For now we are forming a close team, joyously building a wonderful Nanda Mahārāja's house just for Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma. We jump and work in the sands of Rāmaṇa Retī, wash in the water of the embracing Yamunā River, respect the holy *prasāda* prepared by Anand Prabhu, place our heads at the feet of Śrī-Śrī Rādhā-Madana-Mohana, Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, Śrī Rādhā-Gopīnātha, Śrī Rādhā-Rāmaṇa, Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda, Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara, Śrī Rādhā-Syāmasundara, and Śrī Rādhā-Giridharī. We are cooled from the scorching heat by the sandal-tulasī tastes of *Mahā-prasāda*. We are washed by the *Caranāmṛta* of the Lord, and take the *parikrama* of Govardhana and Rādhā-Kuṇḍa. Here all of your examples of the species functioning in the modes of material nature become manifest: pigs eating stool instead of halva, camels eating thorny twigs, elephants rolling in the dust just after the bath, monkey mothers carrying their babies precariously swinging in the treetops, asses working like asses just for a mouth full of grasses, and then kicking each other for some sex life, cows grazing peacefully in the forest, and peacocks dancing with feathers unfurled like a whole *kīrtana* party with arms upraised. 'Hari Bol!'

Last night a nimba tree fell down in a storm and just missed hitting our house, but, as always, Kṛṣṇa protects his devotees, and no one was harmed. We expected rather to see Nālakuvera

and Maṇigrīva emerge resplendent with helmet and jewels!

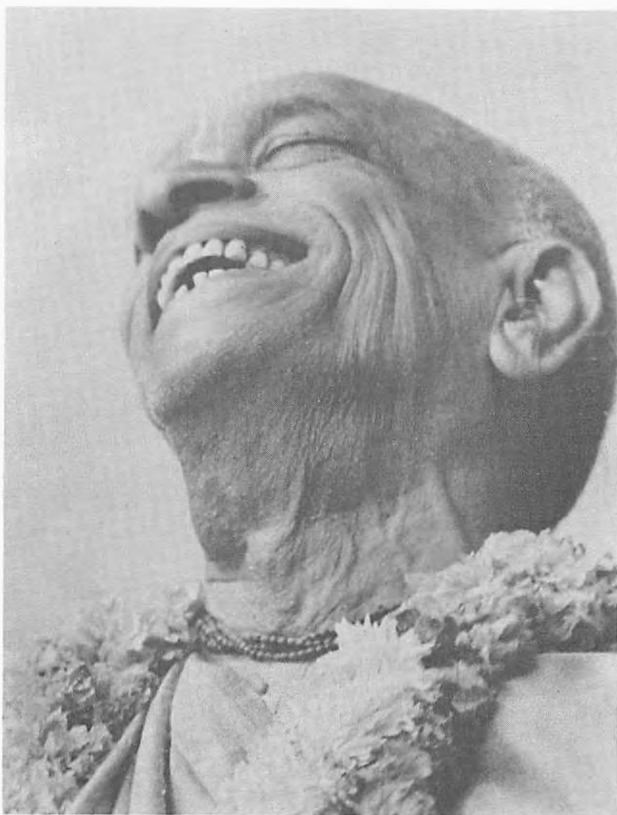
Now you have allowed us these unserious devotees to serve you in your eternal home town. We beg only to follow in your footsteps by following your instructions and nothing more. Eternally you reside here in Vṛndāvana with Śrī-Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, the cowherd boys, headed by Lord Balarāma, the demigods, and the host of pilgrims whose sins have been washed away by the River Yamunā.

You are the center of our life just as Lord Kṛṣṇa is the center of life in Vṛndāvana Dhāma. Here the holy name is on every mouth, *tilaka* adorns every beautiful face and bead-bags are the extensions of all the hands. The work is hard, the service is trying, but the rewards are too great. Here everything is done for Your Divine Grace, our dearmost spiritual master and father.

"śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala bhakti-sadma vando mui sāvaadhāna mate yāhāra prasāde bhāi. e bhava tariyā yāi kṛṣṇa prāpti haya yāhā hate. śrī guru karuṇā-sindhu. adhama janāra bandhu lokanātha lokera jīvana hā hā prabhu kara dayā. deha more pada-chāyā ebe yaśa ghuṣuka tribhuvana."

Our goal is to remember your instructions at every moment. By so doing we may one day become Kṛṣṇa conscious and then, representing you and your Guru Mahārāja, we may obtain the goal of life that we seek. We must always remember that we are representing you and must act as you do with all our heart and soul. We are eternally thanking you again and again for accepting us as your disciples.

Gurudāsa adhikārī
Yamunā devī dāśī
Satyavrata dāsa brahmacārī
Tatpur dāsa brahmacārī
Gunārṇava dāsa brahmacārī
Anand Prabhu
(Śrīla Prabhupāda's Godbrother)
Hṛṣīkeśānanda Svāmī



O! When will that day be mine when I shall become serious about this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement! O! When will I stop creating offenses at the lotus feet of my divine spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and his disciples,—at the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, the Lord, and all living beings! O! When will I just take to the streets with a humble heart and an armload of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books, engaging humanity in serving God! O! When will I give up my petty independence and surrender to the order of Śrīla Prabhupāda! O! Lord Kṛṣṇa, though I am trying to resist You, please engage me in Śrīla Prabhupāda's service. By some trick counteract my sinful tendencies. Pay no attention to my mind. The only desire

deep within my heart is to become Śrīla Prabhupāda's beloved.

Thus pray,

Dharmapāda dāsa	Hāsyakārī dāsa
Varuthapa dāsa	Lakṣmīvan dāsa
Jim brahmacārī	Bhakta Mark
Bhakta Ed	Bhakta Neil
Varuṇa dāsa	Rathāṅgapāṇi dāsa
Dāmodara dāsa	Jim adhikārī
Manakumārī devī dāsī	Rāmbavati Devī
Vilāsī devī dāsī	Bhaktin Pam
Mṛganettri Devī	Rūpa Mañjarī Devī
Pañcalī Devī	Jaya Devī
Gulab Dāsī	Vṛndā Devī



1

*śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala bhakati-sadma
vandoṇ mui sāvadhāna mate yāñhāra prasāde bhāi
e bhava tariyā yāi kṛṣṇa-prāpti haya yāñhā ha'te*



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.



2

*guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete kariyā aikya
arā nā kariha mane āśā śrī-guru-caraṇe rati
ei se uttama-gati, ye prasāde pūre sarva āśā*



My only wish is to have my consciousness purified by the words emanating from his lotus mouth. Attachment to his lotus feet is the perfection that fulfills all desires.



3

*cakṣudāna dila-yei, janme janme prabhu sei
dviya-jñāna hṛde prakāśita prema-bhakti yāhā haite
avidyā vināśa yāte, vede gāya yāñhāra carita*



He opens my darkened eyes and fills my heart with transcendental knowledge. He is my lord, birth after birth. From him ecstatic *premā* emanates; by him ignorance is destroyed. The Vedic scriptures sing of his character.



4



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

Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura





