

# ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA TRIBUTES

27 AUG 2024 Celebrating the  
appearance day of our  
beloved spiritual master

“ One must go to the guru. And who is guru? *Guru, śrotriyaṁ brahma-  
niṣṭham*—“One who has heard from the *paramparā* system and he has become completely convinced in the understanding of Brahman.” ”

Śrīla Prabhupāda lecture, *Bhagavad-gītā* 7.4  
19<sup>th</sup> February, 1974—Bhaktivedanta Manor, UK

ŚRĪLA  
PRABHUPĀDA  
TRIBUTES



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27 AUG  
2024

OM VIṢṆUPĀDA  
PARAMAHAMSA  
PARIVRĀJAKĀCĀRYA  
AṢṬOTTARA-ŚATA

ŚRĪ ŚRĪMAD  
A. C.  
BHAKTIVEDANTA  
SWAMI PRABHUPĀDA

FOUNDER-ĀCĀRYA OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA  
CONSCIOUSNESS

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PRABHUPĀDA  
TRIBUTES



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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this year's *Śrīla Prabhupāda Tributes*, a collection of *Vyāsa-pūjā* offerings from Śrīla Prabhupāda's direct disciples.

All of Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciples are welcome to write an offering for this yearly book, regardless of their personal history, present circumstances, personal views, or institutional affiliation.

The book provides an opportunity for all of Śrīla Prabhupāda's direct disciples to express their realizations, reflections, and gratitude – and for other devotees to read and reflect upon what these disciples have expressed.

Following traditional Vaiṣṇava etiquette, we have placed the offerings from *sannyāsīs* first, and then those from Śrīla Prabhupāda's other disciples, all in order of seniority by initiation. We make no judgments about the *āśrama* status of our contributors. When a devotee signs his offering with a *sannyāsī* name, we publish it with the name submitted. In the back of the book you'll find an index to all the contributors in alphabetical order.

When the book comes out each year, we welcome you to start reading from it as soon as you receive it – *ahead* of the day of *Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā*. That way the book can help fill your mind with thoughts of Śrīla Prabhupāda and his devotees as the sacred day of *Vyāsa-pūjā* draws near. And later the book can serve as a source of memories, insights, inspiration, and history, preserving the words of those who wrote.

If you're Śrīla Prabhupāda's direct disciple, but haven't been included in this year's book, we warmly invite you to send an offering for next year's. And everyone please spread the word. The place to find out more about the book and submit an offering is [www.sptributes.com](http://www.sptributes.com).

If you have any suggestions for improving the book, please write to us at [sptributes@gmail.com](mailto:sptributes@gmail.com).

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and to all of his disciples and followers.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*Your servant,*

Pradyumna Dāsa  
Production Manager

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- Our main donor from the UK, who wishes to remain anonymous and offers this service in loving memory of H.H. Bhakti Charu Maharaja
- Bhaktivedanta Manor, London, UK

## The Tributes Team

Every member of the *Tributes* team (listed below) has offered their time and service on a voluntary basis.

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Thank you to Ānanda Tīrtha Dāsa for sharing and editing many of the *sannyāsī* and some of the initiated disciples offerings which also appear in the BBT *Vyāsa-pūjā* book.





TRIBUTES  
BY  
SANNYASI  
DISCIPLES



Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

I'm currently struggling with my Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I want to attain *rāgānuga-bhakti* such as what is described in writings –always dreaming of Kṛṣṇa and never forgetting him while in the fully “awakened” state. Those great souls are immersed in spontaneous love of Kṛṣṇa. I chant my rounds, associate with devotees, and read scripture only out of sheer obedience, not out of spontaneous love of Kṛṣṇa. Anyway, I am committed to perfecting my Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

You imply in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* that the stage of *bhāva* is the final state of Kṛṣṇa consciousness (*Madhya-līlā* 23.14–15). This level can be attained straightaway or after many lifetimes, depending on our personal level of spiritual advancement. Unfortunately, for me, at age 82, initiated 58 years, I have yet to achieve that level of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*.

Nonetheless, although plagued with insomnia and migraines daily, among other health-related tribulations, I consider myself fortunate, because I met you when I was 25 years old. So even though I am unfortunate in many ways, I have to count my blessings. For example, I am still alive and practicing some form of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and a few others are willingly helping me without remuneration. This is all due to your mercy and blessings upon me.

In your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* 6.24, you tell the incident of a sparrow whose eggs were stolen by the ocean. When the sparrow asked for her eggs to be returned, the ocean didn't consider her request. The sparrow then took drops of ocean water into her tiny beak with the aim of drying up the sea. The ocean simply laughed at her for what you called her “impossible determination.” The sparrow's action carried on for some time. Then it so happened that the giant Viṣṇu carrier, the eagle named Garuḍa, heard about this and came at once to see his small sister bird. He learned all about her obstinance and threatened the ocean that he would dry her up. The

ocean then became extremely frightened and returned the sparrow's eggs immediately. In the same section, you cited the well-known and relevant English verse, stating that "God helps those who help themselves." It is only my determination (*dhairyāt*), like that of the sparrow, that keeps me going.

As time goes on, I get deeper realizations about your status. Some opine that you have come from Kṛṣṇaloka and that your sublime qualities can only be attributed to one who has come from Kṛṣṇa's abode to this material world to benedict the fallen human beings of this planet. While I don't necessarily subscribe to this point of view, still, your inimitable qualities and your personal history on earth are proof positive that you have achieved perfection.

*Your servant,*

Mukunda Goswami

Initiation: 1966, September—New York, USA

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## Umapati Swami

---

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

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

The Torch of Knowledge

Eight o'clock. Evening. I feel tired. My eyes burn. My body feels heavy. I can hardly keep on chanting Hare Krishna.

I look across the room at Jagannāth, Baladeva, and Subhadrā.

I sigh. "Let me walk up to the altar," I tell myself, "and take one last look at Krishna before I retire for the evening."

I rub my eyes.

"No," answers my mind. "I'm too tired. I don't feel like standing up. And I'll only commit offenses."

I dig my elbows into the armrests of my padded chair, trying to push myself up. "Come on. What have I got eyes for anyway?"

Now I push the heels of my hands into the armrests, and with a big heave I stand up. I walk over to the altar to get a good look at Jagannāth, Baladeva, and Subhadrā.

Jagannāth's big round eyes make my doubts evaporate. His bright black skin reflects the light, and His red lips have a big smile. His jutting arms taper down to fine hands.

Then my eyes go leftward to Baladeva. Skin white as milk, large almost oblong eyes, and another big red-lipped smile. Fine hands. I take a deep breath.

In the middle stands Subhadrā looking every inch a princess, the cloth that covers her modest head draping down to her feet. Golden skin and large eyes. Cannot see her arms. And, of course, a lovely smile.

"Why did I hesitate?" I ask myself. "The sight is so beautiful."

This happens every time I look at them. Their beauty takes me by surprise. But how can the same sight surprise me again and again?

I have seen beautiful things in this world: the beauty of cities like Paris and San Francisco, the beauty of tropical forests in Brazil and Ivory Coast, the beauty of famous women like Marilyn Monroe and Brigitte Bardot. But has any of this beauty ever surprised me day in and day out, year in and year out like the beauty of Jagannāth?

And with every moment of surprise comes the answer: Śrīla Prabhupāda has let me glimpse the beauty of Krishna's world. The beauty that keeps increasing.

Now I do not dare to say that I see the spiritual world. No. Far from it. My eyes focus firmly on the fleeting, pain-inducing pleasures of this material sphere. But Prabhupāda has done something. He has taken a torch and let a shaft of light pierce my material darkness.

He did it the first time I heard him speak, but I never noticed it till now. Worse yet, how many times have I picked up the sprinkling can of pride and poured the water of speculation on the flame? But it doesn't go out. No. Prabhupāda never gives up on me.

I rub my head. I stagger into my bedroom and plop down into my desk chair. I open a desk drawer and see the *Bhagavad Gītā As It Is*. I look at the picture of Arjuna and Krishna on the cover.

"This is it," I think. "This is the torch. And Prabhupāda's typewriter on Second Avenue was the match that lit it."

Like the world that it reveals, the *Bhagavad Gītā As It Is* contains endless surprises. Yes. I can count the pages, I can count the verses, I can even count the words, but I cannot count the times I have found something there that I had never seen before, even after years of reading the book.

Prabhupāda writes:

“[Krishna’s spiritual master said,] ‘You are above all blessing, yet it is my duty to bless You. I therefore give You the benediction that whatever You speak will remain as eternally fresh as the instructions of the Vedas. Your teachings will be honored not only within this universe or in this millennium but in all places and ages and will remain increasingly new and important.’”

Śrīla Prabhupāda continues:

“[Because of] this benediction from His teacher, Lord Krishna’s *Bhagavad-gītā* is ever-increasingly fresh and is renowned not only within this universe but in other planets and other universes also.” (*Kṛṣṇa Book 45*)

I had read other English editions of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, but I never cared enough to read them twice. Prabhupāda’s explanations in *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* alone let the brilliance of Krishna’s words shine out and showed me the eternal surprises within.

Is this not the mark of a true spiritual master? That he not only describes the glories of the spiritual world but also gives the disciple a preview? I had heard from other teachers, yes, but no one ever gave me a look beyond the material darkness.

Not until I met Prabhupāda.

“The Supreme Absolute Truth is a person,” said Prabhupāda that evening on Second Avenue.

And the torch flamed for the first time.

“It’s Krishna! It’s Krishna!” Prabhupāda shouted one morning. His voice resounded through the storefront like a lion roaring as he slammed his hand on the table. “It’s no unborn within Krishna! It’s Krishna!”

The second flame flared up.

The third flame? A handwritten comment on a printed page: “God is standing in front of Arjuna, and the foolish commentator wants Arjuna to turn around and look inside.” (It didn’t look like Prabhupāda’s handwriting, but whoever wrote it surely heard it from him.)

And finally? *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, the roaring flame for everyone to look at and see. Not just for me. For the whole universe.

Still, my stubborn mind keeps trying to put out the flame. But Prabhupāda never gives up on me.

Let me beg him one more time:

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

For many years I have begged you for indulgences. Today I want to beg for something else. I want to beg for intelligence. I am begging you to hand me the torch like an Olympic relay and to give me the intelligence to shine the light for others exactly as you have shone it for me. No more, no less.

Let me open the eyes of others as you have opened mine. If I have to beg for one thing in this universe, can I beg you for anything better than this?

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You just give and give and give. And you only take for yourself as much as you need in order to keep on giving. Please ask Lord Krishna to bless me with intelligence so I can become like this.

Everything about you is perfect. Please grant me that I may live eternally as your unwavering follower, yes, and that I may hold the torch in a firm and steady grip.

*Your most humble servant,*

Umapati Swami

Initiation: 1966, September—New York, USA

Current location: New York, USA

---

## Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami

---

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Here is my yearly homage to you for the *Tributes* book. I have faithfully written an homage every year. I don't remember how they came out, but this year I wish it to come out with sincere praise of you. This year in particular I want to thank you for giving us the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra and the vow to say sixteen rounds every day. Some years I have not chanted as well as others. In very recent years, I didn't do well at all. In the last year I have been hampered with a physical disease, and it made my *japa* subpar. But very recently I have recovered from my poor *japa* due to disease. I am chanting better than ever before. And I am chanting over the minimum sixteen. Nevertheless, I am far, far away from chanting with deep prayers to you. I love reading quotes by *ācāryas* like Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and others and how they praise the holy name. When I read them, I become inspired. They praise the holy name and say it gives them



bliss; it enables them to increase their love of Kṛṣṇa, and they then gain appreciation for all the devotees in the Gauḍīya *sampradāya*. But it is you especially, Śrīla Prabhupāda, out of all the Vaiṣṇavas who are giving us the holy name, who I am most grateful to. You have given me the holy names, and now finally as I grow older and precariously come to the end of my life in this body, I have come to appreciate your gift of the holy names. I pray to you with gratitude and with wishes that I may come to a better standard of chanting the holy names, the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. I am coming to realize that the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra contains all auspiciousness and can enable us to attain love of God and love of humanity and all living beings. It was you, Prabhupāda, who gave me the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra in 1966. I know many devotees in your ISKCON movement who are sustaining themselves by chanting the mantra you have given them. I am not the best chanter by any means; I am a small chanter, and one who still chants with offenses. But I have caught on to the fact that Hare Kṛṣṇa is my single best chance to please you and to please the Supreme Lord.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have told us the meaning of the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra is to pray, “O Lord, O energy of the Lord, please engage me in Your service.” You have told us the essence of chanting is found in the fourth verse of the *Śikṣāṣṭakam*, where one prays to please not ask for anything else but to be engaged in the Lord’s service. It is you, Prabhupāda, who has given us this gift, to chant thinking oneself a straw in the street, and to cry out for humility, the gem of a Vaiṣṇava.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, let me always think of you and the great saints, and Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, and Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda. Let me remain just an atom at the Lord’s lotus feet, and an atom at your holy feet. Let me come to the standard of inoffensive chanting, and then I will please you.

I know you want your disciples and followers to be very active and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I have tried to do this for decades since 1966. Now I am not able to be so active. But now I cling more to the gift you have given us of chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. My particular vocation, which I think you have given me, is to write Kṛṣṇa conscious books. I have done as much as I could in this regard, but now my time is running out. What I concentrate on most of all is chanting the Lord’s holy names: *Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare/Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*. Let me please

you by chanting this mantra without offenses and being kind to all living beings.

Your flawed disciple,

Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswami

Initiation: 1966, September—New York, USA

Current location: New York, USA

## Jayādvaita Swami

---

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I can only marvel at my good fortune at having met you and come under your shelter. When I first joined your society of devotees, I was just a confused young kid. I came to a storefront in New York City and joined the *āśrama*. When the devotees spoke about their guru, he seemed genuine — “enlightened,” we might have thought—and joining seemed the right thing to do. But I had no idea of the fullness of your teachings, the vitality and depth of who you were, or the worldwide stature your movement would achieve. I also had no idea of how foolish I was and how much I was in need of your mercy.

Over time, so much unfolded. I had so many opportunities to serve you – sometimes in person, or most often by helping produce your books or in other ways serving in the temple or serving your mission. I lived a life enriched by the association of your devotees, by the chanting of Hare Krishna, by the beautiful *Bhāgavatam*. You gave us Mayapur, you gave us Vṛndāvana, you gave us even this material world as a place for the service of Krishna. You gave us prescribed duties to perform and gave us the service of training others in those same duties.

Decades later, I still have no idea of the fullness of your teachings, the vitality and depth of who you are, and what your movement will go on to achieve. I still don’t recognize how foolish I am. But I know that anything good in my life is possible only by your mercy. And I know that there are still—always—great and small opportunities

to serve you. Please always keep me as a servant at your lotus feet.

*Your servant,*

Jayādvaita Swami

Initiation: 1968, March—New York, USA

Contact: jswami@jswami.info

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## Jayapatāka Swami

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīnī*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracārīṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I submit my respectful homage unto your divine lotus feet.

By your Divine Grace’s blessings, this year I completed my Bhaktivedānta degree, and I present it to you as an offering. Although I have read *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* many times, this time I read your Bhaktivedānta purports even more carefully. You mentioned that your purports are your ecstasies. It’s always so blissful to read each word, which is full of profound knowledge, potency, and love for Lord Kṛṣṇa. I am eagerly waiting to do the Bhakti-sārvabhauma course now. And I’m encouraging the devotees to take up śāstric courses like Bhakti-śāstrī, Bhakti-vaibhava, Bhaktivedānta, and Bhakti-sārvabhauma – something you desired. Many devotees are now taking their Bhakti-śāstrī, Bhakti-vaibhava, and Bhaktivedānta degrees and in this way becoming philosophically stronger as they systematically read your books.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, during the annual Śrī Gaura-Pūrṇimā festival this year, we inaugurated the TOVP’s east wing – the Narasimhadeva wing – during a grand, three-day festival. His Grace Ambarīṣa Prabhu, Svāhā Mātājī, and the team are doing wonderful service with this magnificent temple. In the presence of most of the GBCs, we inaugurated Lord Narasimhadeva’s altar. We’re also working on the Museum of the Vedic Planetarium (MOVP) along with the Bhaktivedānta Institute (BI) so we can present the *Vedas*

as good science in our exhibit wing. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to put all our efforts into fulfilling your instructions and desires for the TOVP. We pray to Your Divine Grace that the TOVP can be completed on time so we can offer it to Your Divine Grace.

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Vyāsa-pūjā of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda. All the Sārasvata Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas gathered on our ISKCON campus and celebrated for three days, glorifying Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda. Even UNESCO recognized this day and marked it on their calendar.

As I do every year, this year I had also planned a Spiritual Safari, in which your grand disciples generally participate. It will be in Vraja-maṇḍala this year. I left Māyāpur to join the Safari, but I fell sick and had to be admitted to the ICU in a hospital in Delhi. Currently, my physical health is not very good, but otherwise, by your Divine Grace's blessings, I continue to travel and preach as much as possible, working through my assistants, as Your Divine Grace instructed. We plan to install Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's lotus footprints in Vraja-maṇḍala, with the Safari devotees in attendance, in April 2024. As I now can't be there physically, I asked His Grace Jananivāsa Prabhu, along with the Safari devotees, to install the lotus footprints on my behalf. We are endeavoring to fulfill our *param-guru om viṣṇupāda paramahaṁsa parivṛājakācārya aṣṭottara-śata* Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's desire to establish at least 108 lotus footprints of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu in the land of Bharata. We're trying to establish these lotus footprints in Gaura-maṇḍala, Vraja-maṇḍala, East India, South India, and western India.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, my caretakers keep telling me that I should not travel but should stay in one place. Yet I wonder where I would be if Your Divine Grace hadn't traveled at your advanced age. Somehow, I am trying to fulfill your instructions to me, but I don't think I have even done a fragment of what I would like to do for Your Divine Grace. Please bless me that I can become an instrument in spreading the mercy of Lord Caitanya far and wide.

*Your servant,*

Jayapatāka Swami

Initiation: 1968, July—Montreal, Canada

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti itī nāmīne*

Going out every day with the *harināma* party during this year's Śrīla Prabhupāda Marathon was certainly a transcendental experience. But trying to distribute Śrīla Prabhupāda's books was a transcendental experience on another level because suddenly I became an instrument of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission. Practically everyone I approached became someone I was happy to be around, and I offered them Śrīla Prabhupāda's and Lord Caitanya's mercy of transcendental knowledge. As I felt comfortable in people's company, many of them felt comfortable in mine. So whether they were from Slovenia, Italy, Germany, France, or anywhere else, it didn't matter because practically everyone took one or more of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books and was enthusiastic about contributing to the *saṅkīrtana* movement.

This reminded me that when necessary, Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement with convincing logic and reason. However, in the Jhārikhaṇḍa forest, amongst the tigers, deer, and birds, He gave them His experience of *kṛṣṇa-prema* by emanating loving energy from His heart because of His absorption in Lord Krishna and His pastimes. His love for Lord Krishna was so intense that the animals were immersed in an ocean of spiritual loving feelings. Indeed, the elephants rolled on the ground in ecstasy, and the tigers and the deer embraced and kissed each other.

Śrīla Prabhupāda mentioned that although we may not have the intense focus on pure devotional service that Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu had to make animals dance and chant and perform *saṅkīrtana*, we can still try to enter into the mood of distributing His mercy to others. Then, out of His kindness and compassion, He will manifest His internal energy through us and at least make ordinary people dance in their hearts and participate in His movement. We may be Lord Caitanya's insignificant instruments, but if He empowers us even a little bit with His transcendental energies, the mundane world can suddenly turn into Vaikuṅṭha. Then wonderful things happen.

*Your servant,*

Prahladananda Swami  
Initiation: 1969, February—Buffalo, New York, USA  
Current location: Ljubljana, Slovenia

## Trivikrama Swami

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My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you Śrīla Prabhupāda!

I have been thinking more lately, now that I am an old man, about how you taught us how to leave our bodies in your final pastimes. By great good fortune I was there with you in Vrindavan in those final days. One thing, in retrospect, that stands out to me now, was your desire to leave without showing any kind of miracle.

We read how it is a fact that the pure devotee has all mystic powers at his disposal. You could have easily left quickly in a painless way but instead chose not to show anything “unnatural”. Some of my Godbrothers suggested that they could give their youth to you in exchange for your old age, but you weren’t interested. You were again, and always, the Ācārya, teaching by example, and it was a vivid example. As you told one of my Godbrothers who recoiled in seeing you in such a debilitated state; “Don’t think it won’t happen to you.”

In Christianity we see what happened when the Ācārya, Lord Jesus, showed so many mystic feats. His followers, instead of trying sincerely to follow in his footsteps, as he had wanted, concluded wrongly that he was God and only he could be without sin. So they went on sinning.

It is natural and sure that all of us who have come to this material world will have to give up our bodies. We should not “hope against hope” that we will be an exception to this rule. But we can be confident that this will be our last birth in this material world if we stick strictly to your instructions of chanting Hare Krishna without offense and following the regulative principles.

To do this of course will require austerity, but as we learn from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.5.1, performing austerity is what distinguishes us from the animals. Lord R̥ṣabhadeva told His sons:

My dear boys, of all the living entities who have accepted material bodies in this world, one who has

been awarded this human form should not work hard day and night simply for sense gratification, which is available even for dogs and hogs that eat stool. One should engage in penance and austerity to attain the divine position of devotional service. By such activity, one's heart is purified, and when one attains this position, he attains eternal, blissful life, which is transcendental to material happiness and which continues forever.

Only by your causeless mercy can I hope to come to this platform.

*Your lowly servant,*

Trivikrama Swami

Initiation: 1969, April—Buffalo, New York, USA

Current location: Orlando, Florida... Traveling to Eastern Europe.

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## Gopal Krishna Goswami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

This year we are celebrating your 128<sup>th</sup> Appearance Anniversary. Because of your purity and determination, the Krishna Consciousness movement has spread to every corner of the world. In the purport to *CC Ādi Līlā* 7.164 you have stated “the Goswamis not only engaged in writing books but also constructed temples, because both are needed for preaching work.” You had stated that both distribution of books and construction of temples should continue side by side on parallel lines.

In the next few days, on the auspicious occasion of Rāma Navamī, we are going to inaugurate a new temple in Rohiṇī, Delhi. You had spent considerable time in Delhi. Residing in the Rādhā Dāmodara temple in Vrindavan, you would regularly travel to Delhi to get your books published and distribute them. As you did not have enough funds, you would travel from Mathura to Delhi in a 3<sup>rd</sup> class compartment. After establishing ISKCON in the West you had returned to India to preach to the Indians who had forgotten their Vedic culture. Your vision of Delhi focused on the fact that Delhi was the most important city in Asia. According to Tejas Das who was the President of the Delhi temple until 1976, “Prabhupāda wanted to do

programs every week in different parts of Delhi. Prabhupāda kept increasing his desire to have temples in Delhi from 8 to 18 centers! He wanted influential people to be invited to these programs”.

Prabhupāda, due to your causeless mercy we have almost achieved the target you gave us. During the 1975–77 period, I went with you to many locations to obtain land to build a temple. After a long struggle we obtained a very significant piece of land in South Delhi. Śrī Śrī Rādhā Pārthasārathi deities were first installed by you at Ananda Niketan in a rented facility. Later on, they were moved to another rented house in Bengali market. Finally, a beautiful temple was built for the pleasure of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā Pārthasārathi, Śrī Śrī Gaura Nitāi and Śrī Śrī Sītā Rāma Lakshmana Hanumān. This Project was inaugurated on Rāma Navamī in 1998 by the late Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who praised you and your movement. Then we obtained a second temple in Punjabi Bagh. This temple has also attracted thousands to Krishna consciousness. Gradually your movement went on expanding and ten temples were opened in different locations. Currently we have 6 major temples under construction. As I mentioned above, the Rohiṇī temple will be inaugurated on Rāma Navamī, 2024. Located on the main road, this temple is a very grand and artistic presentation. It will also be one of the temples where significant attention has been given to many details. For the very first time Panchatattva deities will be installed outside Bengal in India! Presently we have temples under construction at Kurukshetra, Dwarka, Ghaziabad and two other locations. By your causeless mercy we have achieved the target you had given, that of constructing temples, gradually growing from 8 to 18 temples in Delhi! Often, devotees are amazed by the number of temples we have in Delhi! All this has become possible only due to your purity and the tapasya you performed in Delhi. We are reaping the fruits of the seeds planted by you.

On this auspicious day, I beg you for your mercy that I may continue to serve you eternally.

*Your eternal servant,*

Gopal Krishna Goswami

Initiation: 1969, May—Montreal, Canada



My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace and to your sublime, causeless mercy.

In recent years, recognizing the crucial importance of devotee care, devotees throughout the movement have opened hospitals, hospices, and other facilities; organized mentoring and counseling programs; and made accommodations for devotees of all ages and abilities. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were the embodiment of devotee care, always looking after us, your disciples, to ensure our physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

After the first Delhi pandal, at Dalmia Bhavan, when Yamunā Devī fell ill and was recuperating in isolation in a closet in the devotee quarters, she remembered, “Śrīla Prabhupāda noticed I was missing, and I was later told that he had inquired many times where I was.

“One day I became aware of the door being opened, and I turned to see Śrīla Prabhupāda’s lotus feet walking into that closet room. . . He placed his hand on my head and inquired, ‘Yamunā? How are you doing?’ Firstly I said, ‘I am always thinking of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.’ Then I explained my symptoms, and he said, ‘I think this is jaundice [hepatitis] . . . Now I will take charge of your recovery. You will never get well in these conditions on the floor.’

“Śrīla Prabhupāda had a hospital bed brought in for me and moved me into a room right next to his, with floor-to-ceiling windows, neem trees outside, and a fan. And I remember being propped up in this bed, and he came in every day to check on my progress.

“He also called in an Ayurvedic doctor and gave me a diet for jaundice. He said I had to take something called *petha*, a wax gourd or a white kind of pumpkin taken raw. It’s covered in a thick layer of caramelized sugar, so to me it looked like a ghastly thing to eat. Śrīla Prabhupāda said, ‘This is your medicine. You have to eat it every day; and you also have to drink sugarcane juice.’ So, I remember the first time I took a bite of *petha*; it tasted like the most bitter, horrible thing because of the jaundice. Śrīla Prabhupāda would personally stand and watch me eat the *petha*, and he would actually smile and chuckle.”

You were especially protective of your women disciples, and in India you had them ride to programs with you in your car. During the 1970 Indore pandal festival, when a man reached up and pulled

on one of the women's saris, you immediately stopped your dancing, rushed to the edge of the stage, and swung your kartals toward the man's face, shouting "Stop this!" Although little-noticed by the crowd, your burst of lionlike ferocity impressed and inspired us, and we knew that we were all under your protection.

More than once, you stopped your own Vyāsa-pūjā to inquire about devotees' health and welfare. "In one case," Mālatī dāsī recalls, "you asked after the well-being of a devotee who hadn't been there for some time. When the devotee explained that he had been in poor health, you asked, 'Are you getting what you need? Are you being taken care of? If you need anything, ask me.'"

I too was a beneficiary of your personal care. When I joined, my parents had some doubts. They did not object to my remaining in the movement, but they did not want my health to deteriorate, and they wanted me to be stationed near home. When they came to visit me in Calcutta, you encouraged me to spend time with them, to ease their worries and let them know that I was being well taken care of—which I was.

You received them warmly and graciously. When they expressed their concerns to you directly, you told them, "Do not worry; I will take personal care of him." And when they remained apprehensive, you said, "Let him stay with me in India for some months more, and I will take personal care of him. Then, when I return to America in April, he can come with me."

Still thinking of my poor health and long absence from home, however, my mother began to cry. I was quite thin, and she was concerned. People in the West had the idea that if you didn't eat meat, you wouldn't get enough protein.

To cheer her up, you gave her a *sandeśa*. At first, she wouldn't accept it, but your kind and gentle persistence prevailed. You told her, "These sweets—*sandeśa* and *rasagullā*—are made of cheese and are very high in protein." Then you said, "Giriraj, you must take at least two dozen *sandeśa* and *rasagullā* every day. Then you will become strong and healthy."

You assured my parents, "I will personally see that he is supplied with sufficient *sandeśa*. Do not worry." Everyone was thoroughly pleased and satisfied by your loving dealings. As my father was leaving the room, he remarked, "Well, I can say two things about your master. He is a brilliant organizer, and he really knows how to deal with people." And in my father's system of values, those were

the highest compliments.

You also cared for us by protecting us from becoming discouraged in our service. Establishing the Juhu temple required a great deal of funding, for instance, and there were many legal and practical complications. During one period I would go into the city and stay all day every day to meet with people. It was quite a distance, and I would travel there and back in a crowded train and to and from the train station in a crowded bus. Usually I would return just in time to take some *prasāda* and attend the *kīrtana* and class.

At the end of one day I was feeling particularly discouraged. I'd gone to many people, but most of them had refused to meet me and the one or two I had met were not interested in helping. Not one person had contributed in any way. When I told this to you, you said, "Don't be discouraged. If you sincerely try your best to please Krishna, Krishna will be satisfied—even if others are not."

After another long day, I staggered up to your room, exhausted, to give my report. You looked at me and asked, "How are you feeling?" Only then did I notice how weak and sick I was. "Well, frankly speaking, Śrīla Prabhupāda," I replied, "I feel a little tired." You already knew, and you immediately ordered some grapes for me, which you said were good for strength and energy. You insisted that I eat them in your presence, and after a minute or two you asked if I was feeling stronger. Yes, I replied, I was. "To work very hard for Krishna for two days," you concluded, "and then to recuperate for three days, that is not a very good proposal."

You also cared for the children. In Los Angeles you would distribute cookies to them after the Deity greeting. In Juhu, on your instruction, we held classes for the tenants' children, and many of them would attend *maṅgala-ārati* or the evening program. You even had us schedule *maṅgala-ārati* a little later so that it would be easier for our neighbors to attend. The whole area surrounding Hare Krishna Land was "a pious quarter," you said, and you wanted us to do whatever we could to maintain a school for the local children, who, as young as they were, learned our regulative principles and how to offer food to Krishna.

Before you left Bombay, you directed that we should establish our own Krishna conscious school system. You wrote me from Sydney, "As soon as possible we should open our own school and teach children Krishna consciousness through English medium—that is one of our programs. Our school will not be government recognized,

because we cannot follow the government syllabus. We want to teach only Krishna consciousness. . . . I know many parents are eager to educate their wards through English medium. If we can introduce this system, our girl disciples may be engaged for teaching them: a little English grammar, reading and writing, geography, arithmetic, history, Sanskrit, but all of them should be Krishna conscious—that is the *Bhāgavata* program.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as your Krishna consciousness movement spread throughout the world, caring for the devotees remained one of your most prominent concerns. And, inspired by your instruction and example, we are trying to continue that effort, promoting devotee care and prioritizing devotees’ physical, mental, and emotional health as well as their spiritual well-being.

Hare Krishna.

*Your eternal, grateful servant,*

Giriraj Swami

Initiation: 1969, July—Boston, USA

Current location: Carpinteria, California, USA

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## Hridayānanda dāsa Goswami

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīnī*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I bow to your lotus feet. Many, many times you taught us that your global strategy – your strategy to save this planet – was to establish your Gaura-Nitāi’s mission powerfully in the West, especially in America. That way, the world would follow. You also told us that if we could increase your mission, that we should at least maintain what you bequeathed to us.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to do that. The Western branch of your movement, preaching to Americans, Europeans, Australians, etc., is but a fraction of what you left us. I base this analysis on the metrics that you personally taught me: how many

new temples, how many devotees, etc. I pray to you that you please empower us to understand the gravity of the historical situation so that your followers can unite and restore the relevance and power of your Western mission.

*Your servant,*

Hridayānanda dāsa Goswami

Initiation: 1970, February—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: Florida, USA

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## Danavir Goswami

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To His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Your Divine Grace has taught me that all the imports of Vedic knowledge become revealed to one who has implicit faith in the guru and Lord Krishna. Accepting a guru is absolutely necessary because it's not easy to get out of this material world. There are so many pitfalls, and we are so blind: we have no qualifications ourselves. A blind man cannot find his way out of the forest or over a mountain. He needs to be guided by somebody who has expert vision. Not only does the guru have expert vision himself, but he can revive our vision even though we are born in the darkness of ignorance.

The present *guru* repeats what he has heard from the mouth of his spiritual master who had also reiterated what he had heard from the mouth of his spiritual master. This is a depiction of disciplic succession through which the pure teachings of the Vedic instructions are refreshed and revitalized each generation through the commentaries of the sincere Vaiṣṇavas. Your Divine Grace rescued the Vedas from misinterpretation and from becoming lost in oblivion.

Indeed your glories are inestimable. We are most fortunate to have met Your Divine Grace. I pray for the privilege to eternally

serve your lotus feet. Thank you.

*Insignificant servant,*

Danavir Goswami

Initiation: 1971, February—Los Angeles, California, USA

## Śacīnandana Swami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

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

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Offering homage to you on your auspicious Appearance Day puts me in the fortunate position to express my gratitude to you directly. You have given me the greatest of gifts – Kṛṣṇa consciousness – that ordinarily cannot be attained in millions of lifetimes. Let my life thus be an offering of gratitude to you. The best way to express gratitude is by rendering service, but apart from my other services for you, today I will also say something through the pages of this Vyāsa-pūjā book which I hope gives you pleasure.

Feelings of gratitude have accompanied me throughout my life as your disciple. But those feelings have grown even more since the time I began to study your translation and purports of the *Bhāgavatam* more seriously. That created something like a revolution in my heart, equipping me with a vision and inner strength that is clearly not normal for me, nor possible on my own. I now understand a little more why your *sevā* to translate and comment on the *Bhāgavatam* was your topmost priority.

Before you even went to the West, you first produced the First Canto of Vyāsadeva's masterpiece. You explained to a group of Sanskrit scholars in Vṛndāvana who were hesitant to encourage your desire to go to the West that, primarily, it was not you who wanted to go. It was the *Bhāgavatam*. You simply carried it.

Every morning you dedicated the first and best hours of the day to complete your presentation on the *Bhāgavatam*. You requested the

Lord to let you live long enough to finish your work. Then in your last days on this planet, you continued translating with complete clarity and full command over the Vaiṣṇava philosophy – an inconceivable example of determination in the loving service of Guru and Kṛṣṇa, as well as an unheard of reverence for the *Bhāgavatam*.

As my ongoing study leads me again from canto to canto, and I review my notes to reflect on what struck me from each chapter, I feel you rising in my heart. This is exactly as you predicted whenever you spoke about the effect of *vāñī*. As a result, I feel closer to Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the entire spiritual reality, which otherwise all remains hidden behind the covering veil of *māyā*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I now understand better how your presentation of the *Bhāgavatam* is incredibly special. I am unfortunately still an unworthy receiver, but nevertheless extremely grateful for what you've given. And although I feel sometimes helpless because of my impurities, I am hopeful. There is good reason for hope. You once spoke about what happens to someone who has taken shelter at the lotus feet of a pure devotee:

There is Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura's *Prārthanā. Āśraya laiyā bhaje, kṛṣṇa nāhi tare tyāge*: 'One who takes *āśraya*, shelter of a devotee, Kṛṣṇa does not give him up. Kṛṣṇa accepts him.' *Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādah*... Because if that person who is giving shelter, if he's pleased, Kṛṣṇa is immediately... If he recommends a fool, "Oh, Kṛṣṇa, here is a devotee," Kṛṣṇa will accept immediately. It doesn't matter whether he's a fool or rascal. Because he is recommended by the representative, he will be accepted (Room Conversation, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1970, Indore)

On this auspicious day, I fall down before you. I don't have such good words in my mind or in my mouth. Let me therefore end with the words of Prahlāda Mahārāja, who expresses his firm commitment to the service of his spiritual master, Nārada Muni:

*evam janam nipatitam prabhavāhi-kūpe  
kāmābhikāmam anu yaḥ prapatan prasaṅgāt  
kṛtvātmasāt surarṣiṇā bhagavan gṛhītaḥ  
so 'ham katham nu visrje tava bhṛtya-sevām*

My dear Lord, O Supreme Personality of Godhead, because of my association with material desires, one after another, I was gradually

falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the general populace. But Your servant Nārada Muni kindly accepted me as his disciple and instructed me how to achieve this transcendental position. Therefore, my first duty is to serve him. How could I leave his service? (*Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* 7.9.28)

Please always bestow your glance of mercy on your undeserving disciple. That mercy is my greatest treasure, life after life.

*Your humble servant,*

Śacīnandana Swami

Initiation: 1971, February—Hamburg, Germany

Current location: Germany

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## Kavicandra Swami

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**P** Patita Pāvan, pure, perfect

**R** Regal

**A** Available

**B** Bold, brave, beautiful, beyond

**H** Helpful, holy

**U** Understanding

**P** Patient, powerful

**A** Auspicious

**D** Deep

**A** Active

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

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīnī*

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

“I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet. Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Bhaktisiddhānta



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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Words can only give a small clue to the reality of your glories. You showed a perfect example at all times and thereby inspired many to unconditional surrender, and you are inspiring more and more all over the universe.

Although you are most grave, you showed an incredible sense of humor. I heard one conversation where you said, “If you go to a prostitute, you should go in the morning.” This surprised all present. Then you added: “You will see her true nature.” This is another side of your *acintya-śakti*.

Since the greatest devotional poets, historically and currently, have written so much, I am a fool to try to write something poetic. I only pray that I may have some sincerity so that even though I am almost illiterate, I might give you some pleasure.

Currently, I am traveling with a group of followers of your dear servant, His Holiness Jayapatāka Swami. Despite crippling diseases, his love for you is giving him more and more preaching power. Our current project is to install Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s footprints, following the example of your Guru Mahārāja. Many have been installed beautifully around Vraja-dhāma.

I can only quote Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Gosvāmī to express my position:

*jagāi mādhāi haite muñi se pāpiṣṭha  
purīṣera kīṭa haite muñi se laghiṣṭha*

“I am more sinful than Jagāi and Mādhāi and even lower than the worms in stool.”

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

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

*emana nirghṛṇa more kebā kṛpā kare  
eka nityānanda vinu jagat bhitarē*

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

*preme matta nityānanda kṛpā-avatāra*

*uttama, adhama, kichu nā kare vicāra*

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

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

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

*mo-pāpiṣṭhe ānīlena śrī-ṛṇḍāvāna  
mo-hena adhame dilā śrī-rūpa-caraṇa*

“Although I am sinful and I am the most fallen, He has conferred upon me the lotus feet of Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi-līlā* 5.205–10)

You are the perfect representative of Lord Nityānanda and have delivered me to His *pada-kamala*. I was thinking of a list of things to thank you for and could only think, “Thank you for everything.” Your books and any books about your *līlās* are saving the universe. Please allow me to serve – no one else could be so merciful. And you are empowering so many disciples to carry on your mission. You are giving much more than I deserve, and that is actually a test. I pray that I don’t ever believe I deserve such mercy.

Your poetry is sublime, and every line speaks volumes. You wrote in a letter to Rāyarāma Dāsa in 1967, “‘The Absolute is sentient Thou hast proved / all impersonal calamity Thou has moved.’ These lines were presented by me to my spiritual master and he was highly pleased with me. Let me follow the same principle and my Guru Mahārāja will bless me.”

*Aspiring for a service attitude,*

Kavicandra Swami

Initiation: 1971, June—Los Angeles, California, USA

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## Mahāviṣṇu Swami

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktioedānta-svāmīn iti nāmine*

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

Your special, amazing actions with your beloved disciples always speak louder to me than any words. It was back at the Māyāpur festivals in 1976, '77. It was your *guru-pūjā* time, in front of our small, original, brass Rādhā-Mādhava Deities. I was new to India and had only been initiated for five years. We did not know what to expect.

Each morning on your *vyāsāsana* you were surrounded by your many ISKCON *sannyāsīs* and leaders. As *śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma* was being sung, we each came forward, offered flowers, and paid obeisances to you.

As the tempo of the *kīrtana* rose, the dancing of the *mahārājas* got wilder and wilder. In front of you, their divine father, Gurukrpā, Madhudviṣa, Tamāl Krishna, and others were carried away, showing you their crazy tribal hippie dance styles, waving their *daṇḍas* as if in armed combat! We watched in awe as the nectar of the holy names engulfed us too.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, every day from your *vyāsāsana* you watched our fun and, nodding, rocking, smiling, you encouraged us to make the *kīrtana* take off more and more. When we saw your ecstatic face, we shared the bliss of Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement! You were actually approving our *kīrtana* madness!

Then what do you do? You start throwing all the offered flowers from your body out over the dancing devotees! It is crazily spontaneous. You bless us children again and again, then recite the *prema-dvāni* prayers. "Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!" Then your class.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us the seed of ecstatic spontaneous *kīrtana* to spread all over the world ... love of Kṛṣṇa.

*Your humble servant,*

Mahāviṣṇu Swami

Initiation: 1971, August—London, UK

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## Smita Krishna Swami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Thank you for your patience and kindness on this disciple. By your power, the Hare Krishna movement is going on around the

world and that includes the Scandinavian countries. The good news is that at our farm community in Sweden, Almvik, there is an active and spiritually alive presence. I am happy to still be alive to see this happen. Time and tide are wearing on our aging bodies. I hope to learn from you to use this body in spite of age in the service of guru and Krishna. I pray to you that I may be able to see the continuation of this Hare Krishna movement.

Your servant,

Smita Krishna Swami

Initiation: 1971, August—Hamburg, Germany

Current location: ISKCON Almviks Gard, Sweden

Contact: skswami@spray.se

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## Bhaktivaibhava Swami

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

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

“I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet. Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.”

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura was longing for the day when he would see the Eastern and Western people united, chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa and dancing together in ecstasy. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura took up this mission and spread the *saṅkīrtana* movement throughout India, and he requested some of his disciples to travel to England to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That was Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura’s first attempt. He was very anxious about spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western countries.

Swami Sadānanda and Baron von Koeth (both from Germany) came together with Swami Bon to India. Bhakti Bhūṣaṇa Mahārāja and I visited Baron von Koeth in Munich in the early days. He told

us some stories about his travels with Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Each night on the campus Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī preached to his German disciples and guests and expressed his desire to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West.

Finally, Śrīla Prabhupāda fulfilled that desire and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. He brought devotees from America, Europe, and other continents to Śrīdhāma Māyāpur, Vṛndāvana, Jagannātha Purī, and other holy places in India, chanting the holy name with local Vaiṣṇavas and dancing in ecstasy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda said:

One of my friend dragged me. [laughing] [laughter]  
I was at that time Nationalist, and manager in a big chemical factory. My age was about twenty-four years. So one of my friend, he asked me that “There is a nice *sādhu*, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. He has come in Calcutta. So let us go and see.” So I was reluctant. I thought just like so, “There are so many *sādhus*. So I am not very much...” Because I had very bad experience; not very good. So I said, “Oh, these kind of *sādhus*, there are many.” You’ll be glad to know that even my in young age or early age – it was Kṛṣṇa’s grace – even amongst my young friends, I was considered the leader. [laughing] [laughter] In my school days, in my college days, in my private friendship, some way or other I became their leader. And one astrologer, sometimes he read my hands. He said in Hindi, *kukum chale na*[?]. *Kukum chale na* means “Your hand speaks that your order will be executed.”

[Govinda Dāsī found some old Indian newspapers from the 1970s in her attic, in boxes, and one had an article about Śrīla Prabhupāda, written by an well-known astrologer: “Nobody can read this chart; if they say they can, they are simply lying. This personality comes and goes at his own sweet will; he is not bound by anybody or anything. The stars are lined up perfectly – there is no question of karma. He is working directly under the will of God. And when he writes, his pen does not have in it ink. His pen has in it fire which will burn the ignorance of the whole world.”]

So anyway, it was Kṛṣṇa’s grace. I would not go, but

their point of view was that unless I certified that *sādhu*, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, he'll not be accepted. Therefore he dragged me. So I went to see Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura on that day. On the first meeting, just we offer our obeisances. It is the practice. So immediately he began his talking that 'You are all educated young men. Why don't you take up Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's cult and preach all over the English-knowing public? Why don't you take up this matter?' So I argued with him in so many... At that time I was Nationalist. So I told that "Who will accept our message? We are dependent nation. Nobody will care." In this way, in my own way, in these younger days... But we belonged to the Vaiṣṇava family, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda, Rādhā-Govinda. That is our worshipable duty..., er, worshipable Deity. So I was very glad that "Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa cult, Caitanya Mahāprabhu's..., this *sādhu* is trying to preach. It is very nice."

So at that time we had some talks, and of course I was defeated by his argument, my argument. [laughter] And then, when we came out, we were offered *prasādam*, very nice treatment, the Gauḍīya Maṭha. And when I came out on the street, this my friend asked me, "What is your opinion of this *sādhu*?" Then I said that "Here is the right person who has taken up Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's message, and now it will be distributed."

So I was at that time a fool, but I opined like this. And I accepted him as my spiritual master immediately. Not officially, but in my heart. That was in 1922. Then, in 1923, I left Calcutta on my business tour, and I made my headquarter at Allahabad. Allahabad is about five hundred miles from Calcutta. So I was thinking that "I met a very nice saintly person." That was my thinking always. So in this way, in 1928, there was a Kumbha-melā. At that time, these Gauḍīya Maṭha people came to Allahabad to establish a center there, and somebody else said, somebody informed them that "You go to that Prayag Pharmacy." My drug shop was named as Prayag Pharmacy. My name was also there. "You go and see Abhay Babu. He is religiously...

He will help you.” These Gauḍīya Maṭha people, they came to see me. So, “Sir, we have come to you. We have heard your good name. So we want to start a temple here. Please try to help us.” So because I was thinking of these Gauḍīya Maṭha people, that “I met a very nice, saintly persons,” then as soon as I saw them, I was very much englandded – “Oh, here are these persons. They have come again.”

So in this way, gradually, I became attached to these Gauḍīya Maṭha activities, and by the grace of Kṛṣṇa, my business also was not going very well. [laughter] [laughs] Yes. Kṛṣṇa says, *yasyāham anughṛṇāmi hariṣye tad-dhanam śanaiḥ* [SB 10.88.8], means if somebody wants to be actually devotee of Kṛṣṇa, at the same time keeps his material attachment, then Kṛṣṇa’s business is He takes away everything material, so that cent percent he becomes, I mean to say, dependent on Kṛṣṇa. So that actually happened to my life. I was obliged to come to this movement to take up this very seriously. And I was dreaming that “Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura is calling me, ‘Please come out with me!’” [break] So I was sometimes horrified, “Oh, what is this? I have give up my family life? Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura is calling me? I have to take sannyāsa?” Oh, I was horrified. But I saw several times, calling me. So anyway, it is by his grace I was forced to give up my family life and so-called business life. And he brought me some way or other in preaching his gospel. (Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Disappearance Day lecture, December 13, 1973, Los Angeles)

Now, Śrīla Prabhupāda is calling all of us to let go of wasting our time in useless sense gratification and assist him in continuing to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every nook and corner of this planet. The whole world will eternally be indebted to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

*Śrīla Prabhupāda’s servant,*

Bhaktivaibhava Swami  
Initiation: 1971—Germany

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
Hare Kṛṣṇa,

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

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

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who saved the whole world by spreading *sanātana-dharma* (the chanting of the holy name of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa) all over the world.

Today is the Appearance Day of Your Divine Grace, and yesterday was the divine appearance day of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. The Lord appears in the material world to give pleasure to his pure devotees and annihilate the miscreants from the face of the world. You are most dear to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu because you fulfilled their prophecy by spreading the holy name of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. You would always start your lectures by reciting:

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

“I was born in the darkest of ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge.” You acknowledged that it was your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, who had enlightened you with the transcendental knowledge Nārada Muni had imparted to his disciple, Śrīla Vyāsadeva. In this same way, you imparted this same knowledge to the whole world and each of us in a simple way. We are indebted to you, life after life. Śrīla Prabhupāda to glorify you is like holding a candle to the sun. I have no personal qualification. Only your causeless mercy gives me the hope by which I survive in this miserable material world and serve Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

You gave me *sannyāsa*, saying that I should preach, chant a minimum of sixteen rounds, and follow all regulative principles strictly. I am trying to do that, and your mercy is my hope, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You have given life to fallen souls like me and many more.

*oh!*



*vaiṣṇava ṭhākura, doyāra sāgara,  
e dāse korunā kori'  
diyā pada-chāyā, śodho he āmāya,  
tomāra caraṇa dhori*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please give me strength so that I take your words as my life and soul and glorify Your Divine Grace and the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, wherever you take me in this lifetime and hereafter. I beg at your lotus feet again and again. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*Your insignificant servant,*

Nava Yogendra Swami

Initiation: 1971—India

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## Romapāda Swami

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

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

My dear and most respected spiritual master and eternal father,

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

Loyalty to you is my life and soul. Through you, coming to the stage of selfless devotional service becomes a possibility; otherwise not. One of the primary inspiring verses for me from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* of late is 2.3.10:

*akāmaḥ sarva-kāmo vā  
mokṣa-kāma udāra-dhīḥ  
tīvreṇa bhakti-yogena  
yajeta puruṣaṁ param*

In the Bhaktivedānta purports, you cite one Sanskrit passage from Jīva Gosvāmī's *Krama Sandarbha*, where he explains the meaning of "desirelessness," or *akāma*: *bhajanīya-parama-puruṣa-sukha-mātra-sva-sukhatvam*. This phrase has been a continuous refrain of meditation for me, in part because I hold Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī in a special place in my heart, along with Rūpa Gosvāmī and Your Divine Grace. You exemplify, as do Rūpa Gosvāmī and Jīva Gosvāmī, this message of having no desire except the happiness of Kṛṣṇa, which in turn manifests your happiness.

My aspiration and prayer to you today is that I may receive sufficient strength and purity in your association and through your service, through *tīvra-bhakti*, to achieve this same objective. Having no desire other than Śrī Kṛṣṇa's happiness means no other desire than your happiness.

An avenue to reach that position, as I have learned from you, awakens from offenseless chanting or coming to the stage where *śuddha-nāma* is at the center of my heart. On this day, your Vyāsa-pūjā, I pray to you for these two simple and sublime benedictions.

My life is yours. You can do with me as you like. Nonetheless, please note that this is my aspiration in service to you and to Kṛṣṇa.

*Your eternal servant,*

**Romapāda Swami**

Initiation: 1971—Boston, USA

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## **Bir Krishna dasa Goswami**

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnya-vādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus

feet. All glories to your Divine Grace.

I was recently reading Lord Kapiladeva's instructions to his mother Devahūti in the Third Canto of the Śrīmad Bhāgavatam, wherein He tells her that transferring one's attachments of this world to attachments for great souls, is the secret to attaining Krishna consciousness. In this context he also gives the qualities of those great souls:

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

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

Such a *sādhū* engages in staunch devotional service to the Lord without deviation. For the sake of the Lord he renounces all other connections, such as family relationships and friendly acquaintances within the world. (SB 3.25.22)

Engaged constantly in chanting and hearing about Me, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the *sādhū*s do not suffer from material miseries because they are always filled with thoughts of My pastimes and activities. (SB 3.25.23)

O My mother, O virtuous lady, these are the qualities of great devotees who are free from all attachment. You must seek attachment to such holy men, for this counteracts the pernicious effects of material attachment. (SB 3.25.24)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you manifest all these saintly qualities to the highest degree.

I am praying fervently at your feet to allow me to be attached to your *vāñī* and *vapuḥ*. I pray to live my life simply to hanker for your approval.

In conclusion, if a disciple is very serious to execute the mission of the spiritual master, he immediately associates

with the Supreme Personality of Godhead by *vāñī* or *vapuḥ*. This is the only secret of success in seeing the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Instead of being eager to see the Lord in some bush of Vṛndāvana while at the same time engaging in sense gratification, if one instead sticks to the principle of following the words of the spiritual master, he will see the Supreme Lord without difficulty. Śrīla Bilvamaṅgala Ṭhākura has therefore said:

*bhaktis tvayi sthīratarā bhagavan yadi syād  
daivena naḥ phalati divya-kīśora-mūrtiḥ  
muktiḥ svayaṁ mukulitāñjali sevate 'smān  
dharmārtha-kāma-gatayaḥ samaya-pratīkṣāḥ*

“If I am engaged in devotional service unto You, my dear Lord, then very easily can I perceive Your presence everywhere. And as far as liberation is concerned, I think that liberation stands at my door with folded hands, waiting to serve me—and all material conveniences of dharma [religiosity], *artha* [economic development] and *kāma* [sense gratification] stand with her.” (*Kṛṣṇa-karṇāmṛta* 107) If one is very highly advanced in devotional service, he will have no difficulty in seeing the Supreme Personality of Godhead. If one engages in the service of the spiritual master, he not only sees the Supreme Personality of Godhead but attains liberation. As far as material conveniences are concerned, they automatically come, just as the maidservants of a queen follow the queen wherever she goes. Liberation is no problem for the pure devotee, and all material conveniences are simply awaiting him at all stages of life (*SB* 4.28.51, purport).

*Your servant,*

Bir Krishna dasa Goswami

Initiation: 1972, January—Dallas, Texas, USA

Current location: Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Contact: birkrishnagoswami@gmail.com

## Ganapati Swami

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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who has opened up my eyes, which were blinded by the dense darkness of ignorance, with the torchlight of transcendental knowledge.

This world is a dark place, and it is getting darker every *yuga*, every year, every day. Yet most people cannot see, or allow themselves to see, how dark it is. I look at young people and see how expectant and hopeful they appear to be (at least in public) yet I conclude I would not want to trade places with them, nor want to be an agent for bringing more souls into the world at this time. The exploding suicide rates confirm this bleak reality. Indeed, I sometimes wonder how anyone who perceives this world as it is can even refrain from resorting to suicide! But still, most push on, either because, 1) they are diverted by numerous distractions in the shape of sex, sports and other entertainment, drugs, or “comfort” animals, or 2) they maintain a flicker of hope due to having some faith in, or a degree of, spiritual connection.

So I must offer my profuse thanks to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for opening my eyes to this reality. Although I’m “sufficiently experienced”, without your grace I would be just as blinded as any others—*paśyann api na paśyati*.

Who can imagine how this place must have looked to you when you stepped off the Jaladuta fifty-nine years ago? No one was as aware of its acute pain and suffering to the degree that you were. And yet, you were not discouraged by that vision, for you were absorbed in your loving relationship with Guru and Kṛṣṇa, relishing the mellows of devotion at every moment and thus internally full of happiness—*viśvaṁ pūrṇa-sukhāyate*. Indeed, that vision rather surcharged your compassion and sense of urgency to alleviate the situation. Only due to your presence did we realize that there was hope, a purpose beyond the overwhelming darkness and confusion, one that makes it all worthwhile—and that is love. Not a superficial,

sentimental, frivolous kind of “love”, but the kind that:

- Was so grave and serious that it governed your entire being
- Sometimes forced you to helplessly exhibit *sāttvika-bhāvas*
- Resonated in your voice as you:
  - Chanted Hare Kṛṣṇa *kīrtana* in ecstasy
  - Prayerfully sang *bhajans* like *Gaura Pahou* and *Hari Haraye Namaḥ Kṛṣṇa*
  - Glorified and defended your Lord against all critics
- Was visible in your eyes as you:
  - Gazed at the Deities you invited to preside in your temples
  - Offered *ārati* to your spiritual master on his *tirobhāva*
  - Pierced through layers of our egos to see and stir our souls
  - Gleamed with joy as you proudly watched us chanting and dancing in bliss
- Didn't discriminate between gender, race, faith or even species (“take the bug to the window”)
- We witnessed your tireless superhuman efforts to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness around the world
- We felt a drop of by being in your presence, and that inspired us to try to achieve it ourselves
- Was so real that we knew its object must also be real—indeed, Absolute Reality Himself!

But perhaps just as significant was the fact that, although we perceived God through you—who are *sākṣād-dhari* and his “transparent via medium”—and veritably worshiped and served you as such, you never allowed us to mistakenly conclude that you were God. As you know, that illusion has been prevalent in the followers of imitation “*avatāras*” since the time of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and remains so till today. But you stood up and boldly proclaimed the guru to instead be the Supreme Servitor of the Lord. Therefore, as Śrī Caitanyadeva is the Golden Avatāra, you are the Gold Standard of all gurus.

*Your insignificant servant,*

*Ganapati Swami*

Initiation: 1972, April—Los Angeles, California, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Fifty years have passed since you visited us in Germany. In the summer of 1974, devotees from all over Europe came to be with you. For many of them, it was the first time they would meet their spiritual master in person.

At the Frankfurt airport, a large *vyāsāsana* had been placed in the VIP lounge. Gananath held a colorful embroidered umbrella over your head, and, while more than a hundred devotees were chanting, Hansadutta washed your lotus feet with a mixture of yogurt and rose petals.

On arrival at the temple, we crowded into your room hoping for some nectarean, wisdom-laden words from your lotus mouth. While your secretary was running back and forth to bring the luggage, you turned to us who were sitting on the floor in expectation and said: “You should always be busy like him,” indicating that just sitting around was not very useful.

The next morning we accompanied you on a brisk walk through the corn fields that led from the castle to the nearby village. You denounced present-day society as having created a fool’s paradise and asked us to tell them: “You are all fools. Yours is a fool’s paradise. This is life, what we are doing.’ Teach them so that the fools will understand what is life.”

After breakfast, Hansadutta took you on a tour of the castle. Unexpectedly, you suddenly stood in the door of the translator’s room where I was preparing the German edition of *Teachings of Lord Caitanya*. You asked me to read out loud, which I did while you were listening with a big smile on your face.

Every morning we would meet you in a room that had been converted into a make-shift recording studio. You would sit at a harmonium and sing —without any rehearsal—one of your favorite Vaiṣṇava songs while we accompanied you on *mṛdaṅga* and *karatālas*. After each recording, you sat listening to it absorbed in deep meditation which led us to call the double album *Kṛṣṇa Meditation*.

One afternoon you received Prof. Dürckheim, a well-known German author, who had studied Zen Buddhism in Japan and was now teaching students this path of enlightenment. The professor’s main concern was how to teach self-realization as an experience and

not just theoretical knowledge. During the conversation which lasted for almost two hours, you explained from different angles of vision how the very fact that a devotee engages in devotional service is a sign of self-realization. Apparently, the professor did not understand and kept bringing up his doubts and own philosophical ideas, but you explained patiently, again and again, the basic principles of the Kṛṣṇa conscious experience.

Another visitor was a Benedictine monk who observed the Greek Orthodox rites by chanting the Jesus Prayer. You appreciated his dedication and explained that the word “Christ” was another version of the word Kṛṣṇa. During the next day’s morning walk, you encouraged the priest to continue chanting and to propagate the chanting of God’s name in Germany. It did not matter whether people would chant “Christ” or “Kṛṣṇa”.

We had organized several public preaching programs, but not many people attended. You attributed the sparse attendance to the fact that people were not interested in hearing a talk about philosophy. You gave us the same recommendation you had given two years earlier in Amsterdam, that we should mainly distribute *prasādam* so that people would become purified and thus enabled to understand the philosophy.

Although memory is fading, I still remember and cherish those many moments spent in your precious *vapuḥ*-presence. As it is said in the *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, by even a moment’s association with a pure devotee, one can attain all success.

Fortunately, not only I, but anybody can have not only a moment but unlimited association with you via your books, lectures, and conversations. All glories to your ongoing vani-presence.

*Your grateful servant,*

Bhakti Gauravani Goswami

Initiation: 1972, July - Paris, France

Current location: New Vraja Mandala, Spain

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## Dhirasanta dasa Goswami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I can easily see a relationship between Vidyāpati Ṭhākura’s song



*Tātala Saikate* and my personal life. Out of his great humility, he has questioned his own dilemmas in life, praying to Lord Mādhava that he is feeling totally despondent because of spending his life wandering about in a half-alive condition, spent his life in utter disgrace, and now, at the end of his life, he is fearful of death.

He concludes the song by saying, O Lord! There is no shelter other than You. Therefore, I place my hope only in You. The responsibility for my deliverance from the material world is entirely Yours.

Bhaktivinode Ṭhākura has expressed similarly, praying to Lord Gopinātha and confessing that he is a wicked materialist who is always addicted to worldly desires and has no good qualities.

He says, “I do not know what devotion is, and my worldly mind is absorbed in fruitive work. I have no strength or transcendental knowledge, and this body of mine is not independent and free from the control of material nature.”

He concludes his song by saying, “O Gopinātha, You are my only hope; therefore, I have taken shelter at Your lotus feet. I am now Your eternal servant.”

The difference between these wonderful personalities and myself is that it is improbable they were as fallen as they say they were. But they are undoubtedly talking about me, who is in a fallen condition. So, if their prayers to Lord Krishna highlight those of us who have fallen, it makes sense to conclude we should offer similar prayers, too.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have often pointed out that we are repairing our relationship with Krishna, so we should chant or pray with remorse. We are crying to Krishna, begging, please accept me, please accept me. If one cries sincerely, all offenses will disappear, and Krishna will take us by the hand and give us whatever is needed for our perfection.

Chanting the holy name is not like a board game. One does not need that kind of strategy, as if one could be successful at “doing” this by one’s power. Quite the contrary, the feeling of utter helplessness and dependence upon Krishna is the key to unlocking the treasures of success.

I understand everything is there by the grace of Śrī Śrī Guru Gaurāṅga. I do not need to search anymore; I am also beginning to understand the feeling of helplessness and dependence. Unfortunately, it is just a feeling or theoretical knowledge, and I long for the day when I can end mechanical meditation and ask, beg,

or cry for help.

One needs only the sincere expression in one's heart that he wishes to serve the Lord, to take shelter of the Lord, and with a hope that spiritual love for Krishna will awaken.

You also once said, "It is impossible for the *jīva* to single handedly avoid and overcome the illusion of distraction. However, by the mercy of the Lord, this is accomplished with ease. Therefore, it is essential to prayerfully beg for the Lord's grace with great humility, for this is the only means to master the higher perfection of Krishna consciousness." Lord Caitanya emphasizes that a devotee will not attain love without attachment to Krishna. He cannot achieve perfection without love, even if he renders devotional service for a long time.

I am on the last lap of my time in this body, and you have given me many resources to achieve the highest human perfection and return to our spiritual home in the spiritual world. I am tired of this material world and want to return home. But I cannot do this alone.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have helped me see or conceive of things properly, opening my eyes and heart with transcendental knowledge. If you now feel I am worthy, please create pure emotions within me, to feel a longing to be with Krishna, and develop a more intimate relationship with the eternal associates of Krishna. You are an eternal associate of the spiritual world; I beg you, please, arrange my deliverance from this material world.

*Your loving servant,*

Dhirasanta dasa Goswami

Initiation: 1972, July—London, UK

Current location: Lithuania

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## Krishna Kshetra Swami

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*Śreyah and Preyah*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I take this occasion of celebrating your blessed appearance in our midst as an opportunity to offer prostrated, heartfelt obeisance to your lotus-like feet. I then turn to offer prostrated obeisance to the lotus-like feet of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda—your own beloved spiritual preceptor who, 150 years ago in this year, blessed the world

by his appearance.

Several times you shared with your disciples how, with just a few powerful words, Śrīla Sarasvatī Ṭhākura changed your life as a young man, giving you a clear and definite mission, namely, to preach Krishna consciousness in the English language. I can understand that he whom you immediately recognized as your eternal *guru-mahārāja* had already been desiring to spread the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the wider world when he met you, who were at that time a young college student. In his mind and heart he was already envisioning a spiritual dwelling for the whole world and, as we all know, you in particular took this vision to heart in such a way as to make it a wonderful reality.

And, taking this vision to heart, you expanded and deepened it, and demonstrated how it is possible to reach and touch many “unlikely” hearts, one of which was mine, when I was fortunate to meet you in Paris in the summer of 1972. It would be two years later, in Germany, that I mustered the courage to ask you my burning question: “How can I give up material desire?” To which your immediate answer was “No desire! Desire only for Krishna,” and to which you added examples of how one might serve Krishna: “You can drive a car for Krishna!” – a fitting example, considering that my service at that time was as the temple driver. It was a “practical example,” which just recently I came to further appreciate in light of a surprising comment of Śrīla Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, discussing *śreyah* and *preyah* (on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1936, during his final Vyāsa-pūjā celebration in his manifest presence):

Two streams come from independence, *śreyah* [that through which we get eternal benefit] and *preyah* [temporary happiness]. Wherein *śreyah* and *preyah* have become one, meaning that service to the Lord has become one’s object of happiness, is a situation where everything is good for us. When *preyah* is merged into *śreyah*, then our true auspiciousness takes place. (quoted in *The Mission: Śrīla Prabhupāda and His Divine Agents*, Swami B. B. Bodhayan, Mandala, ND, p. 53)

On this occasion I wish to appreciate more deeply how you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, demonstrated by your boldness how these two apparently opposing aims—the temporal and the eternal—could be perfectly “merged” in the resolve to share the vision of the previous

*ācāryas* with the world.

As we now mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His Divine Grace Śrīla Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's appearance, I also seek your blessings to simply appreciate that your *guru-mahārāja*, being the powerful preceptor that he was, attracted many special souls to his shelter. From among his numerous disciples Śrīla Sarasvatī Ṭhākura awarded *sannyāsa* to several of his male disciples, and several more later received *sannyāsa* initiation from one or another of his *sannyāsa* disciples. According to the recently published book *Our Mission: Śrīla Prabhupāda and His Divine Agents* (compiled by Swami B. B. Bodhayan Mahārāja), altogether thirty-eight of Śrīla Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's disciples became *sannyāsīs*, and three disciples accepted *bābājī-veśa*. All of these devotees, each in their own ways, were remarkable in their devotion, learning and preaching, as described in the book *Our Mission: Śrīla Prabhupāda and His Divine Agents*, which includes an especially extensive and deeply appreciative account of yourself, your life and your great accomplishments.

While fully honoring your instruction to not associate with your godbrothers (all of whom have, I believe, now departed this world), I pray for the good wishes and blessings of all Śrīla Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's disciples upon us, your disciples and followers, to deeply imbibe the spirit of devotional service that you demonstrate—of artfully bringing *śreyah* and *preyah* into perfect harmony in all your words and actions. And may our *parama-guru*, Śrīla Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, be especially kind upon us, as a grandfather is especially kind to his grandchildren.

*Your aspiring servant,*

Krishna Kshetra Swami

Initiation: 1972, July—Paris, France

Current location: Poland

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## Lokanāth Swami

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My Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, the Saviour of the whole world. In celebrating your 128th Appearance Day I recognise that your spiritual movement continues to expand farther and wider with

each passing moment, month, and year, fueled by the widespread distribution of more and more of your books. Your followers have multiplied, drawing closer to you as you illuminate their path with the torchlight of knowledge

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-salākayā  
caṣur unmlītaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

Your pure fame will surpass that of Jesus and Mohammed, making you the *Jaḡad-guru*, *Gauḍīya ācārya* and especially ISKCON founder *ācārya* for all Vaiṣṇavas in every town and every village worldwide. Your books will continue to illuminate hearts for the next ten thousand years – *ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana* – we would like to see your fame spread all over the three worlds.

On the occasion of your 128th Birth Anniversary I am reminded of very many significant anniversaries that coincide with this special occasion, all to be celebrated in 2024.

Firstly, we recently marked the grand celebration of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's 150th Birth Anniversary in Māyāpura, sponsored by ISKCON and held on your Māyāpur Chandrodaya Mandir Grounds. This three-day mega event, attended by heads of all the Gauḍīya Maṭha and their followers in large numbers, saw international participation from thousands of ISKCON devotees. Prabhupāda's Annakṣetra distributed hundreds of thousands of plates of *prasāda*. I was thinking that you must be highly pleased with our endeavors in organizing a Gauḍīya Maṭha-ISKCON reunion.

During this year's Māyāpura festival, we also celebrated the twentieth *Brahmotsava* of Pañca-tattva with another *Mahā-Abhiṣeka*. By your divine grace, I had the opportunity to sing for Them and perform *Abhiṣeka* for all the Pañca-tattva Deities, a humbling experience indeed. On the occasion my thoughts were that Pañca-tattva continues to reach out in the form of the holy names to more towns and villages, and Nāma Prabhu draws them back home, back to Māyāpura Dhāma – from *Nāma* to *Dhāma*. Māyāpura will undoubtedly become the foremost place of pilgrimage on the planet, and the Pañca-tattva Deities will be revered as the most worshipped and worshipable. Māyāpura will truly become the United Nations of the Spiritual World, as predicted and strongly desired by Your Divine Grace.

On Rādhāṣṭamī this year, All India Padayātrā, the mother of

all Padayātrās, will mark forty years of uninterrupted Padayātrā across India. Originating from Dvārakā in 1984 on Rādhāṣṭamī to celebrate the 500th Birth Anniversary of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, this Padayātrā had traversed eight states of India covering 8000 kilometers in eighteen months to reach Māyāpura. Originally intended to conclude there, the overwhelming success of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's fifth centennial was so beyond our imagination that we could not stop. So we carried on circling and zig zagging, but never stopping. Throughout several years the mother of Padayātrā has given birth to several different state Padayātrās taking Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, the holy names, your books and Your Divine Grace, in *mūrti* form, wherever they journey. In 1991 the GBC were so impressed with your Padayātrā vision that they passed a resolution which stated – “To bring the congregational chanting of the holy name to every town and village of the world through organized *padayātrā* festivals!”

This year's Janmāṣṭamī marks the 5250th birthday of our Dear Lord Kṛṣṇa and it is celebrated by ISKCON all over the world, in more than one hundred-and-fifty countries now. In 1965 you had held a Janmāṣṭamī celebration on the Jaladuta cargo ship. Now that one small event on that cargo ship has given birth to a worldwide celebration of Janmāṣṭamī in thousands of locations in a manner never before seen. You showed the world that Kṛṣṇa is not a mythological figure. He is REAL. We have His exact birth time, year and place, His personal details and so much more. Your Krishna conscious movement is enlightening the world about Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

The long-awaited moment had finally arrived at the beginning of this year 2024 as the new Rāma-mandira in Ayodhyā opened its doors to devotees and pilgrims from around the world. The inauguration ceremony was a moment of joy and celebration, with spiritual inspirational leaders, political figures, and devotees coming together to witness this inspirational and revolutionary occasion inaugurating a new era to revive and thrive Sanātana Dharma – making India “Viśva-guru”. I was thinking that you, Gaurāṅga's Senāpati Bhakta, your books and Your ISKCON are already playing that role of that Viśva-guru., It is worth noting that Your Divine Grace had long before this opened a Rāma temple in London, the capital of England, and in Washington DC, the capital of America as well as over one hundred Rāmacandra, Kṛṣṇacandra, Caitanyacandra

temples all over the world, fulfilling predictions made on the day of your birth 128 years ago.

The year 2024 also marks the 375th Disappearance Anniversary of Saint Tukārāma who had disappeared two days after Gaura Pūrṇimā. A Vaikuṅṭha *vimāna* had descended on the banks of the River Indrāyaṇī in Dehu, on the outskirts of Pune City. Tukārāma ascended the plane and took off amidst tumultuous chanting of the holy name. This historic unprecedented event was witnessed by thousands assembled there. It is said that at the actual departure time every year the trees around the location begin shaking and trembling. He propagated the holy names of the Lord. He was a performer and promotor of Dindi Padayātrās in Maharashtra and composer of four thousand *abhaṅgas*, devotional poetry. Your Divine Grace called him Tukārāma Ācārya. I knew and followed Tukārāma Mahārāja from my very childhood.

In response to my feedback about the progress of the travelling *saṅkīrtana* party, Your Divine Grace responded in a letter dated 30 July 1977, “Our Lokanāth Swami is just like Saint Tukārāma. The whole of India and specifically your Maharashtra are enthused with Kṛṣṇa. Now you have to revive their Krishna consciousness. This is Tukārāma’s country, but they are all becoming bad politicians. So, revive them by the process of the *saṅkīrtana* movement. I am very glad that you are preaching village to village and will cover all of Maharashtra.”

It is this instruction that now forms the basis and theme of yet another anniversary, your humble servant, (Lokanāth Swami’s) seventy-fifth birthday on 17 July 2024 – Reviving Krishna consciousness in Tukārāma’s country.

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, as my material body continues to age, I humbly pray that my enthusiasm for delving deeply into your writings and for sharing their profound wisdom with others will only increase until that time that I breathe my last breath.

*Let me always be a servant of your lotus feet.*

Lokanāth Swami

Initiation: 1972, October—Vrindavan, India

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I offer my prostrated obeisances to your lotus feet.

Fifty-nine years ago, on this sacred day, you were aboard the *Jaladuta* cargo ship and about to cross the Arabian Sea. You were practically alone, as there was only a small crew of working sailors and a captain aboard. At that time, at the age of sixty-nine, you had a meager forty rupees and did not know a single person where you were destined to go.

A few days before you boarded the ship, you went on a pilgrimage to Māyāpur-dhāma to beg for the blessings of your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda, at his *samādhi-mandira*. The sole reason for you to risk your life on this impossible mission was to serve his instruction with limitless compassion, to bring Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's message to the Western World in the English language.

After thirty-eight days at sea, while tolerating seasickness and heart attacks, you arrived in America and eventually came to New York City. There, in your own words, you were "wandering like a homeless vagabond," seeking someone to hear Lord Caitanya's message.

The next year, in 1966, on the day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, in a small run-down storefront on the Lower East Side, you held the first initiation ceremony for eleven young American hippies of the counterculture. Most of them had only been coming for a month or so and had no clear idea what initiation actually was. At the time, they were the whole movement.

The next year, in 1967, your health deteriorated and you decided to return to Vṛndāvana, where Kṛṣṇa would either end your physical life or grant you the health to push forward your Guru Mahārāja's mission. That year, on your Appearance Day, you were in your simple room at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple.

Upon your health improving, you departed from Vṛndāvana to the West a second time, circling the world again and again to spread the pure message of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and the holy names of Kṛṣṇa.

I remember your Vyāsa-pūjā in 1972. You were personally present while hundreds of wonderful devotees gathered on a hilltop at New Vrindaban to hear you speak and lead *kīrtana*. In your overwhelming



personal presence, we were united as a spiritual family to celebrate your limitless glories. We offered our lives in gratitude to you while chanting, dancing, and feasting.

Today, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on your Vyāsa-pūjā, millions of your followers in all parts of the world are worshiping you with hearts and souls. In magnificent temples, spacious parks, prestigious auditoriums, and sanctified homes your glories are permeating. It is truly a festival of gratitude.

Still, your Vyāsa-pūjā is a sober opportunity for each of us to personally meditate on how Your Divine Grace has transformed our lives and opened the doors to the spiritual world of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. It is a day to contemplate the quality of our own sincerity in how genuinely we are striving to please you.

According to the sincerity in which we personally reciprocate with your mercy by living in the shelter of your instructions, Paramātmā in each of our hearts will bless us with spiritual progress.

Genuinely expressing our gratitude to you by following your teachings and assisting in your mission is our sweet path of surrender. By striving to love the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, through hearing and chanting, and to respectfully cooperate with one another in devotional service, are the ways you instructed us to please you. We pray to always remember that your causeless compassion is our only real qualification.

In a world being torn apart by brutal wars, imminent catastrophic climate changes, deathly diseases, and the unavoidable complexities of quarreling, fighting, and division, where false ego, lust, anger, and greed prevail, we need to take your message with all urgency. You have given us shelter in the association of those who strive to personally love Kṛṣṇa.

We can see as a testament of your mercy how sincere devotees from different sides of opposing battling nations can still honor one another as Vaiṣṇavas. This is possible when we choose to surrender to the path of *bhakti*, as you have given it. Śrīla Prabhupāda, when focusing on your life and teachings, devotee relationships can transcend racial, religious, social, or ideological conflicts and we can be united as Vaiṣṇavas. Such devotional communities and Vaiṣṇava character can awaken the joy of pure *bhakti* within the suffering hearts of a population being devoured by the blazing flames of Kali-yuga. This is the supreme benediction of the *harināma-saṅkīrtana* movement you so mercifully bestowed upon us and entrusted to us.

How can we ever repay you?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I beg forgiveness for my countless shortcomings. I am a hypocrite fallen soul crying for your mercy and praying to serve your beloved servants.

Rādhānāth Swami

Initiation: 1973, February—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

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## Bhakti Prabhupāda Vrata Dāmodara Swami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, my eternal spiritual father.

At this late date, I can report that I am still “on the planet,” as they say. Had I not met you fifty-eight years ago, I would have been long gone, condemned to forms of life much lower than human.

But before meeting Your Divine Grace, before starting to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* (the “Great Chanting for Deliverance”), I was human in name only. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have carefully taught us the distinction between a real human being and a *dvi-pada-paśu*, the animalistic entity who misuses, or simply fails to utilize, his rare human body (despite its big brain), remaining a mere “two-legged animal.” But you pointed to Vedic culture as the means of elevation from animal life to actual human life. You also assured us that, despite the ignorance prevalent in this degraded Age of Kali, such culture is essentially available to us by Kṛṣṇa’s and Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya’s unfathomable mercy. Moreover, as Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī put it, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is “the singular fruit of all the *Vedas* ... the sun risen in the darkness of Kali ... (and) the bestower of saintliness to the unsaintly.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your “matchless gifts” comprise the panacea for the hell of Kali-yuga. You offer its inmates the golden opportunity (coming down to us from the Golden *Avatāra*) to be blessed with a brilliant alternative to the dark futures that would have ensued.

I pray at your divine lotus feet to provide me with increasing shelter from the awful shenanigans of the misleaders of this “demon-crazy” so-called “democracy.” Surely, as your Guru Mahārāja put it, this world (now, more than ever) is “no place for a gentleman.”

*I also pray for the determination to seriously study your books every day.*

All glories to you, the specially empowered great general of Lord

Caitanya’s army of preachers!

*Your worthless servant,*

BPV Dāmodara Swami

Initiation: 1973, March—Boston, USA

Current location: Miami, Florida, USA

## Keśava Bhāratī dāsa Goswami

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

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

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnya-vādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept millions of my heartfelt obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet on this 128<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Your Divine Grace’s appearance. How can one properly praise you, who accomplished a feat that no one else in history has been able to do – to write, publish, and distribute transcendental literature in such quantity, in such simple, accessible, and digestible language, so as to cross the barriers that separate people. You touched and uplifted people from all nations, all races, all religious faiths, all educational levels, and every social status. And you convinced them that there is an Absolute Truth – and that He’s a person. You broke down all the barriers, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and for that the whole world will eventually be eternally grateful.

In the beginning you taught people how they could be better Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and so on. What creative genius! Then, you showed everyone by your saintly character that you embody the perfection of all the major spiritual and religious

teachings of the world – and that perfection is possible to achieve.

And what did you give, exactly, to help them achieve it? You gave the holy name of God, Kṛṣṇa – or whatever name they had – and taught them how to chant it purely to the whole world!

There is no knowledge as pure as the name; there is no vow as powerful as the name. There is no meditation more effective than the name nor any fruit greater than that attained by the name. There is no greater renunciation than the name; there is no greater peace than the name. In this world there is no greater pious activity than taking the name nor any quicker progress than in the name. The name is the highest liberation, the highest freedom, the highest destination, the highest peace, the point of no more searching. The name is the highest devotion, the name is the purest inclination of the soul. The name is the highest love and the direct remembrance of the Lord. The name is the cause of all causes, the Supreme Lord – most worshipable – and is a form of guru that brings one to the Lord. (*Harināma-cintāmaṇi*, chapter 8)

Once, a reporter asked you what will happen when you die. Your response? “I will never die; I shall live for[ever in] my books and you will utilize.”

In this way, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you delivered the whole world. It’s just a matter of time.

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

*Your eternal servant,*

Keśava Bhārati dāsa Goswami

Initiation: 1971, June—Los Angeles, California, USA

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## Partha Sarathi dasa Goswami

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My dear beloved spiritual master Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

The past year or so I’ve been admitted to hospital about four or five times. During my last stay, I was fortunate to have a private room with a large window. I could see the Durban beachfront in the

distance. This is the same beachfront Your Divine Grace walked on when you visited South Africa in 1975 for nineteen days. I even got a pair of binoculars and could see the same hotels.

Thank you for coming to South Africa and inspiring your disciples and followers. At that time there were only eight or nine devotees, and we had a rented house. That was ISKCON South Africa. Now the Society has expanded with about twenty centres and around two thousand initiated grand disciples.

I started re-listening to your 1975 South African interviews and lectures. Your maiden talk was at the Durban City Hall, where you quoted numerous Sanskrit and Bengali references. The essence of your lecture was to encourage the Indian community to help spread Krishna consciousness in South Africa.

I pray that your followers can continue to co-operate, at least by engaging in institutional co-operation. I conclude this offering to your lotus feet by quoting from a lecture you gave on 9 December 1973, "Now we have by Krishna's grace built up something significant in the shape of ISKCON, and we are one family. Sometimes there may be disagreement and quarrel, but we should not go away. These inebrities can be adjusted by co-operative spirit, tolerance and maturity. So I request you to kindly remain in the association of devotees and work together. The test of our mutual co-operative spirit is to push on this movement and not make factions or deviate."

Please empower us and allow us to engage in a mutual co-operative spirit so we can maintain and expand your contribution to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's preaching mission.

I take shelter of your lotus feet and the shelter of all your sincere followers from the past, from the present, and from the future.

Humbly begging to remain,

*Your servant and the servant of your servants,*

Partha Sarathi dasa Goswami

Initiation: 1973, May—London, UK

Current location: Durban, South Africa+

Most Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda

All glories to your divine lotus feet in which countless souls struggling to understand the actual goal in life have found shelter. My most humble obeisances.

Your appearance in this “world of names” has been directly orchestrated by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself. Not just another great soul but you are an intimate and confidential associate of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

In this most poisonous Age of Kali you have brought the perfect medicine directly received from the Chief Physician Himself Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

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

Traveling the globe 14 times in just 11 years at great physical expense you tirelessly delivered the means for eternal happiness, perfect knowledge and the rare opportunity to offer devotion service to the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Opening temples, writing and distributing books on the “science of self realization”, delivering countless lectures on the identity of the Supreme Lord, His names, forms, qualities and activities, meeting important people of this world with the timeless message of eternal life in the spiritual realm without compromising the Truth or patronizing sophistry.

Even if the sinners reject religion or flee to foreign countries, I will send *mor senāpati-bhakta* [My military field commander] to go there and deliver them. (Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to Nārada Muni, *Śrī Caitanya-maṅgala Sūtra Khaṇḍa*, Song 12, texts 564–565)

A personality will soon appear in order to preach the teachings of Śrī Caitanya and move unrestrictedly over the whole world with His message. (Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura, *Sajjana-toṣaṇī*, circa 1885)

Śrīla Prabhupāda you have ushered into this Dark Age of Kali the eternally bright light of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s prediction

*“pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma, sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma –*  
My name will be spread in every nook and corner of every town and  
village of the world.”

It is our duty, your sincere disciples and followers, to continue  
by your mercy and guidance to help make Mahāprabhu’s prediction  
a living reality. Although we are like the squirrel who kicked grains  
of sand in order to take part in helping bridge the ocean to Lanka.  
Grateful for a life of service to the Divine Couple which you have  
mercifully bestowed on us.

*Your eternal servant,*

**Candramauli Swami**

Initiation: 1973, August—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

Current location: Ljubljana, Slovenia

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## **Bhakti Caitanya Swami**

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My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories  
to you, the savior of the world, and of me.

I am now at the age that you were at when you were so  
actively spreading Krishna consciousness around the world. I am  
appreciating the efforts you made from a different perspective from  
which I usually appreciate them – I am appreciating how you did so  
much despite the old age of your body, and despite the illnesses and  
other physical inconveniences you faced.

Particularly the last two years I have faced numerous physical  
problems, and although I am carrying on and doing what I can  
to serve your ISKCON movement, still sometimes it really is  
not easy at all.

But then I think of what you did Śrīla Prabhupāda. How you  
were faced with serious health difficulties, but you never let them  
get the better of you. What an incredible example of unbreakable  
determination! Even sometimes when you were incapacitated, still  
you preached and did the needful to spread Krishna consciousness.

Just recently I was reading from the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the 10<sup>th</sup> Canto  
of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which is the last part of your books you recited  
while with us in this world. In the purport of Verse 53 you said:  
“According to the association of different natures, one receives a

particular type of body. *Kāraṇam guṇa-saṅgo 'sya sad-asad-yoni janmasu* (Bg. 13.22). Therefore we should always seek good association, the association of devotees. Then our life will be successful.”

It sounds very typical of your preaching, and of what we read in your purports, but then today I was watching a video of your last days, and I came across part of a clip in which you were speaking these exact words. There was a group of disciples surrounding you as you struggled to get these words out, barely able to speak into the microphone which was inches away from your mouth.

I realized that this was the actual session which was then transcribed and printed in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in the purport of Verse 53.

What an amazing experience it was to see how you were giving us your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* purport while in this practically impossible physical condition. It was unbelievable. How were you able to do it? What an example of dedication and perseverance.

And then I thought further. This is part of the purport of Verse 53, but then you continued on to give us another eleven purports, some of them quite long. This is something completely superhuman.

So your example in this regard is very sobering when one thinks of the sufferings of old age and disease one is facing. If I can carry on in your service, doing something of some use to your ISKCON, until the day my physical body drops, that would be appropriate. That will at least be some offering to you, following in your footsteps, which may be worthwhile.

I pray to be able to serve you like this. Please be kind and allow me this opportunity.

Hoping this meets you well.

*Your humble servant,*

**Bhakti Caitanya Swami**

Initiation: 1973, September—London, UK

Current location: South Africa

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## **Bhaktimarga Swami**

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



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

## **COME TO MAKE A CHANGE**

Prabhupāda, you have come to make a change  
And as we marvel at your awesome range

You intrigue us with your ability to bend  
Having formulated a neat east/west blend

We love you for this fair, inclusive approach  
Letting us know that ALL can climb the coach

And engage in the incremental ladder of bhakti  
When we make inner peace and sign a treaty

The treaty is between soul, brain, mind, sense  
An alignment set in a row like a fence

Directed to your divine feet and words  
Feet – to become humble, words to reach worlds

You left India for the shores of America  
Where all is efficient even when one orders liquor

Now the west is becoming a state of chaos  
Walls are defaced with something stronger than crayons

But Bharat isn't much prettier or better  
The entire globe is a hole where lives the Mad Hatter

All nations chase the rabbit to lower depths  
Existing like grim prisons of foul thoughts and breaths

Holy sites are nasty, needing renovation  
Sewage and plastics create a bad situation

Vices deposit in every remote obscure corner  
Regardless of where you go, you are a foreigner

It's hard to relate to our disjointed world  
Will sanity ever settle when all has been hurled?

You taught us the answer is in individual purging  
And not through gratification or a useless merging

Your intervention has done it for those you drafted  
With your sweet logical persuasion you have crafted

It encourages us to further clean up our act  
To clean our heart and a world that's hacked

Bhaktimarga Swami

Initiation: 1973, September—Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Current location: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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## Śivarāma Swami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Some years back I watched the heart-moving ISKCON film “The Joy of Devotion.” The most poignant part was at the end, where one of your grand-disciples, a *gurukula* teacher, eloquently explained how she did not want to see your mission spoiled. Her exact words were, “I just don’t want his mission to go in vain.”

That sentence touched me to the core and encapsulates my frame of mind as I pass on my preaching and leadership responsibilities to the next generation of devotees.

Yet my concern is more than for the continuity of the Hungarian *yātrā*, its book distribution, *varṇāśrama* development, deities, and devotees. My concern is for the continuity of the greater ISKCON that you established. The ISKCON for which you descended from Goloka, for which you toiled, for which you fought like a protective lioness. My concern is for the ISKCON that carried your mood of devotion, your preaching spirit, your teachings, and your many projects. Will it endure? As your disciples pass on to their next destination, will their successors grasp what you wanted, how you wanted it done, and then do it?

I don’t know!

After fifty years of struggling to maintain your mission, I feel helpless when even now I see departures from your standards, teachings, and orders. What, then, will the future bring?

O divine master, it is all in your hands.

As for me, this old man can only pray and pray that you will inspire future generations to do your will, to make known your glories to the world, to care for ISKCON better than we did.

After all your efforts and the efforts of your followers, I don't want to see your mission go in vain.

*Your servant,*

Śivarāma Swami

Initiation: 1973, September—Montreal, Canada

Current location: Budapest, Hungary

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## Ramāi Swami

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, recently I had the opportunity to travel to Rishikesh, and while there, I read from Tamāl Krishna Goswami's diary about your visit there in May 1977. This was after the Māyāpur festival, when you were ill.

Apparently, while in Bombay, Sriman Narayan and Ram Krishna Bajaj had come to see you. Sriman Narayan was the former Governor of Gujarat, and Ram Krishna Bajaj was the chairman of Bajaj Industry. When they heard that you were not feeling well, they suggested you go to Rishikesh, on the bank of the Ganges. Tamāl Krishna Goswami wrote:

When we got to Rishikesh, Prabhupāda was ill. We were staying in a very nice house, Ganga Darshan, overlooking the Ganga. As soon as we got there, Prabhupāda started having his massage and told me, "Bring Ganga Jal." I immediately put on my *gamcha*, got a *lota*, and dove into the Ganga from the second floor. I swam back with the

*lota* and brought it to Prabhupāda, who immediately took a full glass of Ganga water and then belched. Prabhupāda said, “Ah, accepted,” smiled, and was very pleased. Then he immediately ordered, “Go out and get *kachoris* and *jalebis*.” One shop in Rishikesh was famous for its *jalebis* and *kachoris*. Prabhupāda said, “Hot *jalebis* is a cure for sore throat. Now it is a little cold, so we must get hot *jalebis*.” We ate hot *jalebis*, and he said, “Whenever you have a sore throat, eat fresh, hot *jalebis*.”

Visiting a holy place of pilgrimage like Rishikesh was certainly wonderful, but when I read about your activities there, my happiness grew a hundred times. Remembering you is always blissful, Śrīla Prabhupāda, whether in the form of your instructions, example, or pastimes. I consider it special mercy even to be able to think of you at all. To do so always leads to thinking of Rādhā, Kṛṣṇa, Lord Caitanya, and His devotees. I pray that I will always remember you and be engaged in your service.

In fortune, knowledge, wit, and tact,  
You had the wisdom and skill to act

Your glory shall forever remain  
And in time it will grow and gain

The world was plagued in ceaseless ire  
Who but you could put out the fire

Virtues that none could match were thine,  
Right from your birth you had gifts divine,

With friends and disciples, a master began  
To counsel, encourage and prepare his plan

Oh, mighty saint of unending fame,  
An emissary, spreading the holy name

As nectar by a mortal is found,  
As rain upon the thirsty ground,

As gain of what we sorely miss,  
As sudden dawn of mighty bliss,

Who could describe what you achieved  
The depth of which could not be perceived

Traveling and preaching with effulgent light  
Bold but compassionate, an amazing sight

Distributing the message of a world beyond  
Describing the Lord who is our eternal bond

Forgotten but whom we loved so much  
Connected again by your gentle touch

When you directed us, as you saw fit  
We tried to follow with naught omit

Those who attained the foremost place  
Must be blessed with a special grace

Prabhupāda, Prabhupāda, we chanted aloud  
Paid our obeisances and lowly bowed

Always desired to serve your lotus feet  
The more we did the nectar more sweet

*Your insignificant servant,*

Ramāi Swami

Initiation: 1973—Melbourne, Australia

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## Varṣāṇa Swami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you on the most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. All glories to Your Divine Grace. Glories to the immeasurable sacrifices you made in order to bring the treasure of Goloka, once the privilege only of Bhārata-varṣa, to the fallen souls of the entire earth.

In the secluded bowers of the topmost planet, forever shining brightly in the spiritual sky, Lord Kṛṣṇa is served in the most extraordinary manner by the spontaneous devotion of His

*nitya-siddha* associates. There in the *kuñjas* of Vṛndāvana, both the Lord and His devotees cherish *bhakti* as food for the soul, *prema* as the real nectar of immortality, and Śrī Nāma as the very breath of life.

Among the countless means to invoke the Lord, the *mahā-mantra* is the most beloved to Him and the most potent for us. This sublime chant holds the essence of Kṛṣṇa's energies and is a touchstone that can fulfill all the desires of every soul, whether they be mortal or divine. It is truly unique, as it embodies both the highest goal and the ultimate process of worship.

Resonating with the secret whispers of Vṛndā's forest, infused with the spirit of *vraja-bhāva*, the *mahā-mantra* harmonizes the song of Kṛṣṇa's flute with the congregational response of the Vraja-vāsīs's exalted love. It is the primordial sound which activates the spiritual world and initiates *rāsa-līlā*. This esoteric reality, the original template for the patterns and movements of celestial bodies, shines through the darkness of this world to reflect in distant figures of the firmament. Adorned with jewels that sparkle like stars, they enter the arena of nighttime sky, assembling into constellations to begin their dance across the heavens.

Though the astral display offers a nightly invitation to be appreciated, interpreted, and utilized in various ways, we are dependent on the words of Śrī Guru to decipher the deepest message encrypted and reflected in the natural wonders of this world. When our vision is guided by your torchlight of knowledge and our eyes anointed by the salve of love, we begin to perceive everyone and everything as guiding us and pointing to something beyond themselves.

From this perspective, the stellar systems, through their cycles of creation and dissolution, mirror the sacraments of union and separation. Like the sun and the moon, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, upon rising from the eastern horizon, initiate Their western movement. How these incomparable luminaries brought the most exalted treasure of Goloka Vṛndāvana and distributed it to the fallen *jīvas* of Kali-yuga is certainly the most wonderful and boundless *līlā* of all. Therein lies the secrets of all secrets, which remain forever inconceivable and inaccessible, save for the influence of the *cintāmaṇi* dust of the great souls' lotus feet.

With each step of Their journey, Gaura-Nitāi further unveil the glories of the *mahā-mantra*, kindling the hearts of sincere seekers and illuminating the path of devotion for all souls. Their mission serves

to awaken humanity to the timeless wisdom encapsulated in the *mahā-mantra* through that very mantra itself.

By the infinite grace of Nitāi-Gaura, the timeless resonance of the *mahā-mantra* still pulsates with the life of Goloka Vṛndāvana, descending into this mortal realm as the anthem of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava movement. In the vibrant cosmos of Lord Caitanya's mission, the *mahā-mantra* stands as the central axis – a radiant beacon that lights the way home.

This sacred chant serves as a clarion call, shining through the veils of illusion and awakening the dormant seeds of love lying deep within the hearts of all beings. Lord Caitanya, the epitome of compassion, embodied the sublime power of this sacred mantra, embracing it as a fervent cry of the soul – a potent invocation capable of transcending all limitations of time and space.

With each resounding syllable, Lord Caitanya infused the essence of *prema* into the hearts of His followers and all within his proximity, igniting within them an unquenchable thirst for spiritual realization and holy communion. His *līlā* transforms the chanting of the *mahā-mantra* into an inclusive *sādhana*, granting a rare opportunity to please Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

With boundless compassion and grace flowing from His heart, Lord Caitanya embarked on a pilgrimage across the land of Bhārata-varṣa. Carrying the *mahā-mantra* like His priceless gem, He bestowed its sacred vibration upon all who had the fortune of encountering Him. With each utterance of the *mahā-mantra*, a symphony of devotion ensued, echoing through the landscape, permeating the atmosphere, and touching countless souls.

As Lord Caitanya traversed the length and breadth of Bhārata-varṣa, He sanctified every step with the resonance of divine love. His footsteps left an indelible influence upon the world, transforming all places into sanctuaries of spiritual awakening.

During His manifest *līlā*, Lord Caitanya prophesied a glorious future – a time when the melodious strains of the *mahā-mantra* would transcend the boundaries of His homeland, echoing far and wide across the globe. He envisioned a world where the sweet cadence of the *mahā-mantra* would spread its influence to every living being on earth, resonating in every corner – from bustling cities to remote villages, from lofty mountains to tranquil valleys.

In the vast constellation of Lord Caitanya's vision, your appearance emerges as a radiant embodiment and extension of the

glories of the *mahā-mantra*. Like the dawn breaking on the eastern horizon and gradually spreading its luminous rays westward, your influence reveals a spiritual frontier, offering hope and inspiration to seekers on their sacred journey. With each passing moment, your legacy expands, embracing the hearts of all who are touched by its golden luster.

In distributing the *mahā-mantra*, your mission offers the panacea, a remedy for all afflictions. Your movement performs the most munificent welfare activity – delivering countless souls from the cycle of birth and death while granting them shade and shelter in the supreme abode. There, the forests echo with the sweet melodies of Kṛṣṇa’s flute and His devotees respond by collectively singing the holy names while dancing in the joy of communion.

With the touchstone of the *mahā-mantra*, you have granted this most exclusive goal as our inclusive inheritance. You continue to serve as our guiding star, harmonizing our chanting and dancing with Lord’s Caitanya’s *prema-saṅkīrtana* pastimes, which in turn bestow access to the arena of the *rāsa-līlā*.

Even though the syllables of the *mahā-mantra* are available anywhere, the sublime spiritual potency living, breathing, and performing pastimes within the vibration only flows through a surrendered, humble servant of the holy name. Being an eternal resident of Vṛndāvana, you are that most perfect agent of grace. As the embodiment of Lord Nityānanda’s mercy, you grant shelter to Lord Caitanya, who is the key to awakening our dormant souls to their true and eternal nature so that we might hear, chant, and serve with spiritual senses.

Through Your Divine Grace, souls bereft of any good fortune have become so fortunate to see the pastimes of Lord Caitanya unfolding even today. As devotees gather now to celebrate the hallowed occasion of your appearance in this realm, they offer heartfelt prayers of gratitude for your ongoing presence in their lives.

When considering the blessing of being accepted as your disciples, we are reminded of the need to integrate our understanding of your *vāñī* with the worship of your *vapuḥ*, thereby aligning our inner and outer realities. To delve deep into the treasure of your *vāñī* we need only to read your books and contemplate their purports, all of which succinctly articulate your ecstasies.

Today at New Vrindaban we are savoring your commentary on *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 8.138, where we share in the wonder of



Brahmā's revelation on receiving initiation from the supreme primal preceptor, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, by means of the mantra vibrating through His celebrated flute. Even though Kṛṣṇa's flute-song reaches the ears and touches the hearts of only the most exclusively fortunate souls, you have connected and included us, by initiation, to that supreme treasure of the *Brahma-sampradāya*. As such, Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā acknowledges, above and beyond the celebration of your appearance in this world, the eternal bond between guru and disciple, divine and devotee, lover and beloved.

Through your generous bestowal of devotional service, you have nourished us with the bread of life – Śrī Kṛṣṇa – who can only be attained through the path of *bhakti*. Your deep relish for various flavors of *rasa* has imparted within us a yearning for the nectar of immortality. By the *mahā-mantra* you have graciously breathed new life into this dark and mortal world. Through the sweet vibrations of your *saṅkīrtana* you have granted a glimpse into the depths of Lord Caitanya's heart, which pulsates with the most magnanimous dimension of *vraja-līlā*.

Kṛṣṇa's mercy follows in your footsteps, illuminating the path to Vṛndāvana for all who join in your pilgrimage of song. Your selfless devotion truly reflects the boundless compassion of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and for that we are forever grateful.

May our Vyāsa-pūjā offerings extend beyond the ceremony of showering petals and flowery words. Bless us to honor you truly by surrendering our hearts to immortalizing your teachings, to embodying your spirit, and to further expanding your pastimes and precepts. May this intention infuse our meditations, offerings, our devotion, our lives, and our service to the disciplic succession, by which you connect us directly to our beloved Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself.

*Your eternal servant,*

Varṣāṇa Swami

Initiation: 1973—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

Current location: New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

Contact: varsanaswami@gmail.com

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my awed and full-hearted obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet.

Allow me to express, with deepest solemnity, my utmost gratitude for your presenting the possibility of your followers living in Vṛndāvana anywhere and everywhere. By your alerting us to the availability of this benediction, you so compassionately bring home to us a peak potential of the complete *bhakti* package you've bestowed.

Even though such spiritual graces appear so faint and far-off, how enlivening and motivating it is to know what can await dedicated servitors of your mission as they near the end of the long tunnel through material existence.

In a *Bhagavad-gītā* class given on June 25, 1974, in Melbourne, Australia, you triumphantly declared: "And as soon as you offer yourself to be enjoyed by Kṛṣṇa as servant – according to His order you serve – then immediately you are in the spiritual world. So you can become in the material world or spiritual world, as you desire. As you desire. If you want to remain in the spiritual world, this temple is the spiritual world. We are not living in Melbourne. This temple is not Melbourne. It is Vaikuṅṭha ... It is Vṛndāvana."

Our heart begs you for even the slightest fragrance of this transmundane reality.

In the *Madhya-līlā* (16.281) of *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Śrīla Gadādhara Paṇḍita, clasping Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's lotus feet, asserts that "wherever You stay is Vṛndāvana." In the purport you present a long list of Mahāprabhu's exalted associates who never visited Vṛndāvana; yet they are certified as "eternal *vraja-vāsīs*."

Next, you point out more recent great *ācāryas* who resided mainly away from Vṛndāvana. "Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura, Śrīnivāsa Ācārya, Śrīla Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, Śrī Bhagavān dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, Śrīla Gaurakiśora dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, and later, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura of Calcutta, always engaged in *nāma-bhajana* and certainly did not live anywhere but Vṛndāvana."

What follows always astonishes me. In the same purport you extend such a possibility even to your followers serving in metropolises, Kali-yuga fortresses, all over the globe. They can also live in Vṛndāvana consciousness no matter their locale for *sevā*: "Presently, the members of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement throughout

the world live in materially opulent cities, such as London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Moscow, Zurich, and Stockholm. However, we are satisfied with following in the footsteps of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and other *ācāryas*. Because we live in the temples of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and continuously hold *hari-nāma-saṅkīrtana* – the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa – we consequently live in Vṛndāvana and nowhere else.”

When will the qualification for that day of realization be mine? Only by your mercy would I even merely know about this opportunity; only by your favor can I strive for just a glimpse of it; and only by your permission can there be any hope of the slightest attainment.

*Your aspiring servant,*

Devamrita Swami

Initiation: 1974, January—New York, USA

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## Mahadyuti Swami

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīnī*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vānī-pracārīṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to you!

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1.6.26 includes the following verse, which you mercifully translated for us:

*nāmāny anantasya hata-trapaḥ paṭhan  
guhyāni bhadraṇi kṛtāni ca smaran  
gām paryaṭams tuṣṭa-manā gata-spraḥ  
kālam pratikṣan vimado vimatsaraḥ*

“Thus I began chanting the holy name and fame of the Lord by repeated recitation, ignoring all the formalities of the material world. Such chanting and remembering of the transcendental pastimes of the Lord are all-benedictory. So doing, I traveled all over the earth, fully satisfied and without being proud or envious.”

You begin your purport by saying: “The life of a sincere devotee of the Lord is thus explained in a nutshell by Nārada Muni by his

personal example.”

Yes! This is indeed a nutshell description of your exalted life, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your purport continues:

Such a devotee, after his initiation by the Lord or His bona fide representative, takes very seriously chanting of the glories of the Lord and traveling all over the world so that others may also hear the glories of the Lord. Such devotees have no desire for material gain. They are conducted by one single desire: to go back to Godhead. This awaits them in due course on quitting the material body. Because they have the highest aim of life, going back to Godhead, they are never envious of anyone, nor are they proud of being eligible to go back to Godhead. Their only business is to chant and remember the holy name, fame and pastimes of the Lord and, according to personal capacity, to distribute the message for others' welfare without motive of material gain.

Thus, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and you yourself have described your life and its purpose much better and more succinctly than I ever could! “Essential truth spoken concisely is true eloquence.” (Cc. Ādi 1.106)

My immense thanks to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your extraordinary contribution to the world's welfare, which is gradually being recognized more and more by ever greater numbers of people!

All glories to you!

*Your unworthy servant and disciple,*

Mahadyuti Swami

Initiation: 1974, January—Puerto Rico

Current location: Māyāpur, Nadia, West Bengal, India

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## Dhanesvara dasa Goswami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Let me offer you my prostrated obeisances with all the humility at my command.

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya*

*jñānāñjana-śalākayā  
cakṣur unmlītaṁ yena  
tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

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

This prayer, which I have said for fifty-plus years now, is ever-fresh. That is to say, every day, every month, and every year, newer and newer realizations come by your grace. And not just spiritually, but materially as well, that veil is being lifted in ways that most of us could never have imagined.

Of course, spiritual realization is unique for everyone... revelations by Śrī Kṛṣṇa according to each devotee’s desire and service. But the shocking revelations are not what surprise me the most. The biggest shock is the refusal of some to even examine truths that may be very harmful or very beneficial. Judgment is made upon hearing the faintest whisper of the content. These behaviors cause me to think that Maya has now taken a well-deserved holiday, since people are voluntarily choosing illusion over knowledge and understanding!

Yes, you have taught us that in the material world we live in illusions of our own making, and we are now seeing how true this is in every sphere of life. And woe is reserved for those who try to help others see what they prefer to ignore – and not only regarding the dealings of this material world, but those related to spiritual truths as well. Yet, it is our duty to do so regardless of the personal cost we may suffer as a result. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Mahārāja admonished us thus:

*It is the bounden duty of the chanter of the kīrtan of Hari to oppose clearly and frankly any person who tries to deceive and harm himself and other people by misrepresenting the Truth due to malice or bona-fide misunderstanding. This will be possible if the chanter of kīrtan is always prepared to submit to be trodden by thoughtless people if any discomfort to himself will enable him to do good to his persecutors by chanting the Truth in the most un-ambiguous manner.*

To the world’s good fortune you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, were not concerned with such repercussions, and as

the chanter of the kirtan you acted, despite being alone and penniless, armed with the greatest weapons of all – your deep faith in your spiritual master and the Supreme Lord. For which the entire world, and many generations to come, will be eternally grateful.

Please bless us to cast aside all petty concerns for ourselves so that we may also become fit chanters of the kirtan of Hari.

*Your eternal servant,*

Dhanesvara dasa Goswami

Initiation: 1974, April—Gainesville, Florida, USA

Current location: Whangarei, New Zealand

Contact: dhanesvara@gmail.com

## Nirañjana Swami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

“I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet. Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.”

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, I fall at your feet and beg you for the intelligence never to forget that it is you to whom I am eternally indebted.

If you had not plucked me out from the course I was following in my youth, what would have unfolded in the past fifty years of my life is unimaginable. I shudder to even think about it, although I must confess, sometimes I do, but only to increase my gratitude to you.

I'm painfully aware that on my credit alone, I've done nothing to earn a bright future. My future service is in Kṛṣṇa's and your hands. But no matter what lies ahead, the fact is that you've already saved me from fifty years of hell.

As you once said, "Hell is forgetfulness of Kṛṣṇa." And although I am weak and lazy to remember Kṛṣṇa, I've long since discovered that if I remember you and serve your instructions, you will not let me forget Him.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā* 1.35 you write: "The service of the spiritual master is essential. If there is no chance to serve the spiritual master directly, a devotee should serve him by remembering his instructions."

And your instructions in your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 18.64 are so clear:

Now [the Lord] is giving the most confidential part of knowledge: just surrender unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead. At the end of the Ninth Chapter He has said, *man-manāḥ*: "Just always think of Me." The same instruction is repeated here to stress the essence of the teachings of *Bhagavad-gītā*. This essence is not understood by a common man, but by one who is actually very dear to Kṛṣṇa, a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa. This is the most important instruction in all Vedic literature. What Kṛṣṇa is saying in this connection is the most essential part of knowledge, and it should be carried out not only by Arjuna but by all living entities.

By serving and remembering you, I remember Kṛṣṇa, and although I've struggled with both for the past fifty years, this constant struggle has given me hope.

*pracīnanam bhajanam atulam duṣkaram śṛṇvato me  
nairyāśyena jvalati hṛdayam bhakti-leśālasasya  
viśvadrīcīm agha-hara tavākarnya kārunya-vīcīm  
āśā-bindūkṣitam idam upaity antare hanta śaityam*

I am very weak and lazy to do even the smallest devotional service and so when I hear of the peerless and difficult-to-perform services performed by the great devotees in ancient times, my heart burns with despair. O Lord, O killer of Aghāsura, when I hear that Your waves of mercy

splash everyone from the demigod Brahmā down to the most insignificant creature, then my heart becomes sprinkled with a cooling drop of hope. [*Stava-mālā*, 2]

This hope that one day I may be able to please you and make you smile has made this otherwise useless life worthy of living.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you. Thank you. How can I ever repay you? Having asked that, however, I am remembering another instruction you gave in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.22.47: “A joker’s activities simply arouse laughter, and a person who tries to repay the spiritual master or teacher of the transcendental message of Kṛṣṇa becomes a laughingstock just like a joker because it is not possible to repay such a debt.”

Accepting this fundamental truth is the key to success. Knowing that it is not possible to repay such a debt reminds me that the never-ending effort to do so is the only way to attain the brightest future as your eternal servant.

*bhavantam evānucaran nirantaraḥ  
praśānta-niḥśeṣa-manorathāntaraḥ  
kadāham aikāntika-nitya-kiṅkaraḥ  
praharṣayiṣyāmi sanātha-jīvitam*

By serving You constantly, one is freed from all material desires and is completely pacified. When shall we engage as Your permanent eternal servant and always feel joyful to have such a fitting master? (*Stotra-ratna*, 43, Śrī Yāmunācārya)

*Prostrating myself in the dust of your lotus feet, your eternal debtor,*

Nirañjana Swami

Initiation: 1974, May—Boston, USA

## Bhakti Raghava Swami

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

I was born in the darkest ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torchlight of knowledge.

*śrī-caitanya-mano-'bhīṣṭam sthāpitam yena bhū-tale*



*svayaṁ rūpaḥ kadā mahyaṁ dadāti sva-padāntikam*

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

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

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

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

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

*OM SURABHYAI NAMA!*

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet on this your 128th Anniversary Appearance Day in this world.

Today is the most auspicious day of Lord Nityānanda Prabhu's Appearance Day, Nityānanda Trayodaśī. I seek His blessings to write this offering.

As I sit in this Turkish Airline flight (with its motto **SAVE THE PLANET**) from Ouagadougou bound to Istanbul with connecting flight to Kazakhstan, Lord Krishna has reminded me to write my yearly homage to you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, how to express my gratitude to you for this rarest of gifts, Krishna consciousness?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, how to repay my debt to you for this treasure house of eternal Vedic knowledge summarized in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*?

Although the world remains immersed in seemingly ever increasing horrific sinful activities, with grossly misguided leadership in most countries of the world, the divine message you have brought us through your tireless efforts of preaching remains ever fresh, ever pure, and as you clearly expressed, the only hope for this suffering humanity.

Somehow, by Your Divine Grace, I am privileged to be part of this ongoing miracle that is taking place. This miracle that you have started in New York at 26 Second Avenue, this miracle that continues even today in the capitals of Cameroon, Togo, and Burkina Faso. This miracle that will continue to unfold for the next 9,472 years fulfilling the coming of the 10,000 year Golden Age in this most dangerous period of Kali-yuga.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you stressed the importance of *distributing your books*. “Print as many books in as many languages and distribute throughout the whole world.”<sup>1</sup> That is the first part of your mission which you referred to as **Saṅkīrtana Movement** in your essay on *Gītā Nāgarī*, the two-pronged approach of the holy names and books.

Distributing books you stressed, **that is clear!**

You also reminded us of the importance of *reading your books*. “Regarding my books, everyone should read. I am also reading...”<sup>2</sup> This relates to the second part of your mission which you coined as **Temple Worship Movement**, again, in the same essay of *Gītā Nāgarī*.

Distributing books you stressed, **that is clear!**

Reading books you stressed, **that is clear!**

But you also underlined the importance of *studying your books*. “So, our principle is to study the books as well as to distribute the books.”<sup>3</sup> This relates to the third part of your mission which you coined as **Spiritual Initiation Movement**, congregational preaching, where one is meant to deeply study your books to become qualified and certified.

Distributing books you stressed, **that is clear!**

Reading books you stressed, **that is clear!**

Studying books you stressed, **that is clear!**

And you also pointed out the need of *living your books*. “Vedic civilization was to keep some land and keep some cows. Then your whole economic question is solved.”<sup>4</sup> This relates to the fourth part of your mission which you coined as **Classless Society Movement** where all members of the four *varṇas* are practising Vaiṣṇava devotees following the motto of Simple Living and High Thinking.

These four movements or phases comprise *Sanātana Dharma* which is non-different from *Daiva Varṇāśrama Dharma*, the Divine Culture as you so aptly translated.

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1 Arrival Address – June 20, 1975, Los Angeles

2 Letter to Govardhana, February 15, 1975

3 Arrival – May 3, 1976, Honolulu

4 Audio Transcripts, *Bhagavad-gītā* 13.35 – June 6, 1974, Geneva

Distributing your books, you stressed, **that is clear!**

Reading your books, you stressed, **that is clear!**

Studying your books, you stressed, **that is clear!**

Living your books, you stressed, **that is yet to be clear!**

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have followed in the footsteps of Śrīla Nityānanda Prabhu by taking up this most challenging mission of reclaiming all the Jagāis and Mādhāis of this material world. Therefore, you are very dear to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

On this most auspicious day of Nityānanda Trayodaśī, I pray for the causeless mercy of Lord Nityānanda Prabhu to imbibe His preaching mood.

And on this day of your divine Vyāsa-pūjā Celebration, I seek your kind mercy to become a servant of the servant of the servant, and to remain eternally fixed at the dust of your lotus feet.

I remain ever indebted unto you Śrīla Prabhupāda. Kindly forgive my offences and shortcomings. My obeisances unto you again, again, and again.

Your aspiring servant,

Bhakti Raghava Swami

Initiation: 1974, July—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

Current location: Māyāpur, Nadia, West Bengal, India

Contact: bhakti.raghava.swami@pamho.net

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## Dhanurdhara Swami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you! You requested your disciples to write their realizations. I do that by writing one article every week. In November my realization was about your glories. Please accept this short article as my homage this year:

### What Made Prabhupāda Prabhupāda

It was the late seventies, early eighties—I can't remember the exact date, but it was soon after Śrīla Prabhupāda left this world. I was given the service of inviting some of the senior Vaiṣṇavas in Vṛndāvana who knew Śrīla Prabhupāda to his disappearance festival. I first approached Śrīla Bhaktivedanta Nārāyaṇa Mahārāja, as Śrīla Prabhupāda lived in his ashram after taking *sannyāsa*. He was at first somewhat reluctant to speak, but I prodded him by asking

him to describe the qualities he saw in Śrīla Prabhupāda when he lived at his ashram as a humble mendicant that indicated who he would become later as a world *ācārya*. He thought about my inquiry deeply and then began to explain two qualities that he saw in Śrīla Prabhupāda: his boldness and his ability to relate to others.[1]

Recently, when reflecting on that exchange, I began to ponder what I thought was the prime quality in Śrīla Prabhupāda that perhaps indicated what made him Prabhupāda, the person who succeeded above all others to bring the holy name of Krishna around the world. I thought of his many attributes and came up with one—his depth of realization. When I thought about this quality, I had in mind Śrīla Prabhupāda's definition of realization that struck me when I first read the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*:

“[...] he must realize the subject so nicely that he can present the matter for the particular circumstance in a suitable manner. The original purpose of the text must be maintained. No obscure meaning should be screwed out of it, yet it should be presented in an interesting manner for the understanding of the audience. This is called realization.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.4.1)

Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission in the West was challenging. He had to explain to those who came mostly from a drug infused and sex crazed hippie culture the very high theological conception of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Krishna, in addition to a supportive culture of dharma and discipline. To effectively communicate those teachings in a suitable manner to such an audience without compromising the principles and conceptions of those teachings indeed required a very deep realization of the subject. Otherwise, how was Śrīla Prabhupāda able to make such a tradition and philosophy so alluring to those who recently came from a culture so antithetical to the Vaiṣṇava way of life?

Śrīla Prabhupāda's unique ability in this regard was highlighted for me in my early days of Krishna consciousness in an unexpected way. Eleven days after Śrīla Prabhupāda left this world, his commemoration festival was held. To honor the Indian system of spiritual hierarchy, the most senior Vaiṣṇava in attendance was given the distinction of presiding over the assembly. He was from a very high class *brāhmaṇa* family, a life-long celibate, the third person to receive *tridaṇḍī*

*sannyāsa* from Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta, and one of the most renowned preachers in the Gauḍīya Maṭha. He was especially lauded for going to the West years before Śrīla Prabhupāda to bring back to India two German converts to Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism. Obviously, Śrīla Prabhupāda far surpassed him and that seemed to bother him and was reflected in his inaugural talk: “I could have done what Swamiji had done, but I didn’t have the mentality to preach to the hippies.”

I could see that many were upset by his remarks, as they appeared to be minimizing Śrīla Prabhupāda’s greatest accomplishment. Initially I was also upset, but then I saw that he was in fact complimenting Śrīla Prabhupāda even though he didn’t mean to, for what was that mentality to preach to the hippies—it was the deepest realization of Krishna consciousness that allowed Śrīla Prabhupāda to effectively communicate the teachings of Śrī Caitanya to those with little frame of reference to assimilate it.

I thus think that, among his many qualities, his depth of realization and consequent ability to communicate was especially significant in making Śrīla Prabhupāda who he was. What do you think made Prabhupāda Prabhupāda?” [1] He described Śrīla Prabhupāda’s boldness by describing two drama’s Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote: One was a spoof on the very popular Ramakrishna Mission in Hindi called the Murga [Chicken] Mission because although a Hindu mission, they weren’t vegetarians, and the other a satire on the Gauḍīya Maṭha after it splintered where the main character was called *Bhojane Vilāsa* [the pastime of material enjoyment] Mahārāja. I don’t remember the title. Śrīla Nārāyaṇa Mahārāja also described to me a very heavy letter that Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote to the President of India. When he described to me Śrīla Prabhupāda’s ability to relate he described to me how when a senior person came Śrīla Prabhupāda was the most respectful, when a peer came he was most collegial, and when a junior came he was very affectionate.”

*Humbly in your service,*

Dhanurdhara Swami

Initiation: 1974, November—Dallas, Texas, USA

Current location: New Jersey, USA

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

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

Most dear, revered Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories, all glories to your divine lotus feet, the dust of which is sought after by the demigods and is unlimitedly more valuable than anything the demigods can offer.

At ISKCON Baroda more than twenty-five years ago, in the basement hall that then served as the temple, your dear disciple Yaśomatīnandana Prabhu was giving *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class to a handful of devotees (there were no more than ten serving full-time). We were in the Eighth Canto, Vāmana-līlā, and in response to a question of mine, Yaśomatīnandana Prabhu said, “Śrīla Prabhupāda is much more than Bali Mahārāja” – as if it were obvious and I should have known. This confounded me, and I went through some mental somersaults before registering that Yaśomatīnandana Prabhu was, of course, correct.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the sum total of all the demigods, *mahājānas*, sages, and great personalities mentioned in the Vedic literature, none of whom we would have known about had it not been for you. We offer awed respect to such great personalities, yet we do not want to be exactly like them. We are most happy to have been picked up by you, and we would not leave service to your mission even to become an exalted sage or demigod.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are greater than all the demigods, *mahājānas*, and sages combined. The demigods live for many thousands of years in their celestial abodes and offer boons to people on earth. But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, coming to earth for just a few short years, bestowed gifts that even the demigods can hardly aspire to attain.

Once, when asked if you go to see the demigods, you replied, sounding somewhat affronted, “What is the use? They may come to see me – ‘Oh, he is known to the emperor.’ I cannot go to see them. Why shall I see the demigods? We have all respect for them, but there is no need of meeting any demigod. Why should I bother my

head for meeting the demigods?" (Lecture, January 28, 1975)

All the great personalities in the universe have become great by glorifying the greatest of all; *yamī brahmā varuṇendra-rudra-marutaḥ stuvanti divyaiḥ stavair* (SB 12.13.1). You have glorified Kṛṣṇa, the supremely glorifiable, more than have Brahmā, Varuṇa, Indra, and many other great personalities combined.

In the *Viṣṇu-sahasra-nāma*, Kṛṣṇa is glorified as *Stava-priya*, "He who likes to be glorified," yet He likes it better when His devotee is glorified. There is an eternal competition between Kṛṣṇa and His devotee as to who will glorify the other more (As hinted in Cc., *Ādi* 4.193). You formed ISKCON in order to glorify Kṛṣṇa, but Kṛṣṇa also wants those of us in ISKCON to glorify *you* even more.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you did not like to see the whole world population misusing their tongues by not glorifying Kṛṣṇa, and Kṛṣṇa sent you to this world to show how much a devotee will undergo in order to expand *kṛṣṇa-kīrtana*, glorification of Kṛṣṇa. Rūpa Gosvāmī desired to have thousands of mouths with which to chant Kṛṣṇa's names (*Vidagdha-mādhava* 1.15), and you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have expanded yourself into thousands of mouths chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa all over the world. You have enlisted us in your mission to massively glorify Kṛṣṇa, but we also want to take Kṛṣṇa's side and join in the massive glorification of Your Divine Grace. *Ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana*—may your glories be spread throughout the three worlds.

Both these purposes – glorifying Kṛṣṇa and glorifying Your Divine Grace – can be served by massive distribution of your books, in which the only subject is Kṛṣṇa, yet which simultaneously inspire in the reader a deep appreciation of their author: "What kind of amazing personality could write so many amazing books, giving in-depth knowledge of the personality of God and the purpose of life, all in simple language that anyone can comprehend? And moreover, to arrange for them to be profusely distributed in multiple languages throughout the world?"

We bow down to the demigods but, by your grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we do not want to be like them. Indra, Candra, and Vāyu are great personalities, no doubt, but they do not get the opportunity to go into the streets and distribute your books. Bali Mahārāja, the other *mahājanas*, and all the demigods praise you for what you have done and what you are doing, Śrīla Prabhupāda. They admire the good fortune of we, your humble servants, who

you have engaged in this epochal task of massively expanding *kṛṣṇa-kīrtana* all over the world.

As eager as we, your servants, are to glorify you, you also want to see your servants glorified. Bhṛḡupati, Nidrā, Vijaya, and other lifelong servants of the *saṅkīrtana* mission – their names will not be forgotten. History will glorify them along with glorifying Your Divine Grace, as the demigods and *mahājanas* do even now.

*Ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana.* Let us all resolve to combinedly glorify you more and more with our words and actions. Everyone should know about you, but they don't. Everyone should join your glorification. Your Vyāsa-pūjā should become the world's greatest celebration, surpassing Christmas, Thanksgiving, Diwali, Eid, Passover, Wesak, and the rest. Heads of state should bow at your lotus feet. Public intellectuals should be lauded for their learned discourses extolling your achievements. Whole universities should be dedicated to studying your teachings.

Impossible? Let's do it! Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were empowered by Kṛṣṇa to make the impossible possible, and today worldwide *kṛṣṇa-kīrtana* is a reality. We now pray that Kṛṣṇa empowers us to make universe-wide *prabhupāda-kīrtana* a reality. *Ebe yaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana.*

This is possible, starting here on this planet, if we take seriously not only the widespread distribution of your books but also your instructions for instituting *varṇāśrama-dharma* and Kṛṣṇa conscious farms.

Book distribution and farms: these are our solid programs. They can change the whole world.

The whole foundation of animal civilization can be destroyed. (*TKG's Diary*, August 9, 1977)

If these farms become successful then the whole world will be enveloped by Kṛṣṇa consciousness. (Secretary's letter, August 10, 1977)

If we, your followers, take these words to heart (*guru-mukha-padma-vākya*, *cittete koribo aikya*, *ār nā koriho mane āsā*), the world will change, people will experience the benefits of your wisdom, and automatically, rightfully, the whole world will glorify you. With this mission in mind, may *ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana* be my motto as I enter the fag end of this spot life.



What comes next? Will I be qualified to join you again? Will you take me? If I blow it and meet the fate of an unsuccessful yogi, stuck in the heavenly planets for thousands of years, may I expound your glories to the demigods and not waste time in worse-than-useless sense gratification.

Whether in heaven or hell,

*nija-karma-guṇa-doṣe je je janma pāi  
janme janme jeno tava nāma-guṇa gāi*

Birth after birth – whatever birth I obtain due to my good or bad activities – may I sing your name and praise your qualities. (*Gītāvālī*, Song 4, Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I pray that now at last I can learn what it means to be,

*Your servant,*

*Bhakti Vikāsa Swami*

Initiation: 1975—London, UK

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## Guru Prasād Swami

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, who demonstrated unlimited compassion for all the living entities suffering in this material world. Your life in all its dimensions – actions, words, and thoughts – is exemplary and instructive. How you acted is obvious in that your actions evidence complete surrender to the will of Kṛṣṇa and the mission of Lord Caitanya. Your words form the basis of how to live our lives successfully, how to come to the point of surrender and what awaits us at that juncture. Your thoughts always reflect absorption in Kṛṣṇa through your expressions and often your posture. A second-initiated devotee chants *kṛṣṇānandāya dhīmahi*, meditating on how you are absorbed in the bliss of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Your transcendental composure evinces the presence of Kṛṣṇa at every moment of your life.

I have been meditating on how your life, during your brief

sojourn on earth where you revealed your *līlā*, had three phases: *ādi*, *madhya*, and *antya*. In the beginning you exerted so much energy and effort just to convince us to understand that we were not the body and to take Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously. You made something so sublime and divine doable. Something beyond our capacity became a living reality by your mercy and the mercy of Lord Caitanya.

In your middle pastimes, you woke us to the world of compassion, distributing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the world through book distribution, *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, celebrating festivals, and preaching. You revealed how we could engage ourselves twenty-four hours a day in devotional activities. Your very demeanor, descending from Prahlāda Mahārāja, Lord Caitanya, and His associates, was that of *naitān vihāya kṛpaṇān vimumuksa eko*: how can I selfishly think of my own comfort, whether material or spiritual, when the *kṛpaṇas*, albeit rascals and fools, are suffering without a tangible solution to relieve their pitiable condition? This intense desire to save the *jīvas* from destruction created the specific mood you had captured from your Guru Mahārāja, and was not so evident to others, even though they were saintly contemporaries.

I perceive in the last phase of your time with us an acute and consuming pensiveness to assure that your disciples fulfill and continue their Kṛṣṇa consciousness despite *māyā's* invitation to weaken or abandon their determination in devotional life. Your later lectures demand a greater degree of surrender. Your final purports to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* mention again and again the importance of hearing the *Bhāgavatam*. There, you also mention in several places the need to push on the movement and its important role in saving humanity. As I have mentioned many times, I see this concern of yours manifest in the fact that you deferred your most cherished activity, its intensity revealing your desire that the world receive Kṛṣṇa – your translation work – to assure that this movement continue as the vehicle to redirect humanity.

I beg you to give me the blessing to be a small instrument in this tremendous effort of inundating the world with *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*, even though I don't deserve it. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for allowing me to continue as your servant, despite my resistance.

*Your aspiring servant,*

Guru Prasād Swami

Initiation: 1976, April—Costa Rica

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

It is strange that someone like me can think that we understand Krishna consciousness and then a few years later, Krishna consciousness can seem like such a different place. This is undoubtedly because I, myself, am changing as I continue the journey. Since this is a journey of consciousness, as my own consciousness changes, the world seems remarkably different to me as well.

Why do I care about Krishna or Krishna consciousness? I don't see Krishna, and if I examine my own consciousness, I see only those two-dimensional representations of God that are mostly left-overs from my Catholic upbringing. God as order-giver and punisher, unyielding, unknowable and remote.

Only when I turn on my intellectual circuits, do I philosophically come to see and experience a believable God. A God that makes rational, philosophical and emotional sense.

We read in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* that Krishna is "Sweetness" [SB 10.42.4]. I know that one day, that adjective will not just be letters on a page of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*. Krishna consciousness is not just a collection of philosophical ideas—it is an EXPERIENCE. Though my intelligence and experience seem bankrupt, I must be experiencing something or I would not have stayed all these years.

I can ask myself the question, what exactly AM I EXPERIENCING? Then, suddenly, my blank page of consciousness opens up into many words. There is a Krishna Conscious Experience beyond the Krishna Conscious Philosophy. This consciousness develops.

When I first joined Krishna Consciousness, I read the words:

"A person in the divine consciousness, although engaged in seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, eating, moving about, sleeping and breathing, always knows within himself that he actually does nothing at all. Because while speaking, evacuating, receiving, or opening or closing his eyes, he always knows

that only the material senses are engaged with their objects and that he is aloof from them. [BG 5.8-9]"

This is certainly not the easiest verse in *Gītā*. Something about it, though, spoke to me deep inside. Like a cipher or a riddle. I could relate to this verse, though I could not exactly understand it. That such a thing could be said, someone, somewhere must have had the experience that corresponds to it. The English language is not easy and straightforward with this mysterious internal state of affairs described. You would not expect to see it scrawled on a subway wall or as a title for a Tik-Tok video short. Nor would you expect to hear two people sharing it at the bar in Starbucks.

Words paint a picture of experience. Such experiences are either personally had (direct) or recounted by someone who has personally had them (indirect). And, of course, some experiences are common to most people while other experiences are esoteric, not commonly experienced. Not only are some experiences not commonly experienced, but these experiences usually involve an internal situation that the English language does not have off-the-shelf terms for. In general, English is a language that is not conventionally used to describe the inner world. To speak of this inner world, one must resort to poetical and metaphoric terms and styles if the intention is to carry on using English.

Your teachings, Prabhupāda, made in your purports, say many concepts that are very immediate and directly grasped. But then there are some teachings that are mysterious. When suddenly a mysterious teaching becomes an inner realization, then Krishna consciousness becomes a "Different Place." The world itself becomes a Different Place. With a change in attitude, the world suddenly becomes a Different Place. Then Krishna consciousness must be something like the search for the perfect attitude.

When we speak of such shifts in perspective in our Krishna conscious philosophy, this is what is meant by the Krishna conscious concept of "theoretical knowledge becoming realized knowledge." When something that was obscure suddenly becomes obvious, then Krishna consciousness becomes a Different Place. But I also become a Different Person and the world suddenly becomes a Different World.

Things change starkly, when our false attachment to the material is severed. Our perception of our Place-in-the-World also changes starkly when our realization of being the body is removed. *Bhāgavatam* classes abound with such disclaimers of the body,

but our inner realizations—maybe not so much. At least I know I speak for myself.

What is changing? The knower, the world, our experience of the world, our consciousness and our sense of Place-in-the-World as well. The only thing that does not seem to change is the “words on the page.”

My world is changing, as is my place in that world. Sometimes I am not too happy about those changes, but never mind. I am coming to accept them though, and grumbling less (? maybe not). My recent preoccupation is finding the time to complete all the requirements placed in my roster and wrestling with the grogginess and tiredness that go along with completing them. My other preoccupation is getting rid of this damn frustration. The universe just never follows my perfect plan for it! Then I have to deal with all these knuckleheads—er...excuse me—devotees. Could my egotism be more plain? Maybe I am destined to go back to Godhead after a layover in Hell. How often do the flights from Hell to Goloka depart anyway? That would be good to know. Plan to Google it.

However, to one who remembers the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu even difficult things become easy just as to one who forgets the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu finds even easy things to be impossible.

Uplift me, protect me and nurture me with your nectarian vision.

Getting back to [BG 5.8–9], the body moves, a flow of events cascades sequentially from those events and every endeavor is covered by some fault, just as fire is covered by smoke. The faults are also a part of the process, the faults of others and certainly my own too. One day the Elmer’s Glue on my fingers will dry allowing me to accept this whole environment with all the warts that go with it. And I will stop wishing that Krishna consciousness had some kind of OSHA regulations.

Then, only the material senses will be engaged with their objects and that I will be aloof from them.

*Your servant,*

Candraksekharā Swami

Initiation: 1976, November—California, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Time is running out from my life without much accomplishment to please you. Seeing the absence of any accomplishment in my service favorable to your desires is my real sadness, still running. But your service to your Guru Mahārāja with such miraculous results mesmerizes me with awe and reverence. All my endeavors trying to please you always have some shortcoming, yet I feel that your kindness has pushed me to keep on serving even without tangible results. You said, “*Phalena paricīyate*,” and I look around me in despair. Yet your persistence in continuing your service remains my only hope, allowing me to move on in my service to you in anticipation of fulfilling your desires.

On second thought, if I have to leave my body halfway through, my habit of continuing my service to you will remain attached to me in my next life and after. So in that respect, I have no worries, because you have kindly accepted me as one of your last initiated disciples. This is enough for me to cling to your lotus feet for everything and eternally.

*So far, your unworthy disciple,*

Vedavyāsapriya Swami

Initiation: 1977, October—New York, USA



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### **Eight Praises of Śrīla Prabhupāda:**

We are in darkness,  
Your Divine Grace the light  
To guide us beyond  
This material night.

Your Divine Grace has shown  
The whole world's sleeping  
With hardened heart  
Against Śrī Kṛṣṇa's seeking

Yet by Your Divine Grace  
Of Lord Krishna we can hear:  
His Glorious Pastimes  
Give us boundless cheer!

Your Divine Grace  
Has proven beyond all doubt,  
The Absolute is the Supreme Person  
We cannot live without.

As World Ācārya, Your Divine Grace  
Has shown us by example  
What we each are—  
His infinitesimal spiritual sample.

Your Divine Grace  
Has given the principle of bhakti,  
The only legitimate business  
Of Lord Krishna's Jīvaśakti

Your Divine Grace is perfect.  
So what is our improvement,  
Except our hearty promise  
To push Lord Caitanya's Movement.

Who can sing full of that day  
—Our obeisances are simply lame—

When Your Divine Grace, Oh!  
Delivered the Holy Name!

In Memory of ISKCON Buffalo, N.Y.

*Your eternal servant,*

Rupanuga dasa

Initiation: 1966, October—New York, USA

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## Govinda Dasi

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Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the bright light as the doors of Kali darken.

Now, as we enter the darker doors of Kali, with wars raging all over the world, I come before you to pray for your help and guidance. I humbly beg you to pray for Lord Nrsinghadev to protect your fledgling and ailing Hare Krishna movement, and those purer souls who can and will carry forth the mission you so valiantly began.

You warned us so many times, “this western civilization will be finished in some 50 years....” You even wrote about it in 1956, long before you came to the U.S. Now we see the handwriting on the walls of time aflame with war, strife, and destruction. Just like you said.

You told us our cities will become “hellholds, bloodbaths” and they are. You told us “there will be no food in your cities” and that time is coming. *Asuras* shutting down farms is the precursor to famine.

But you also gave us the solutions well in advance: *Harināma Sankīrtana* and self-sufficiency. Now it is 2024. Over 50 years has lapsed, and we are down to the wire. With few farms and little self-sufficiency. And sporadic *Harināma* on the streets of our cities. (The chariots rolled everyday when you were here, but not now, no more.)

“Don’t change anything!” You warned. “Keep it all as it is. The *prasādam*, the offerings, the books, the holy names—keep it all carefully like the greatest of treasures—AS IT IS! Because it is! It is the greatest of treasures!”

But time’s claws and saffron arrogance chiselled away at the foundations of the “as it is.” And the foundations began to crumble. Slowly at first. Now the destruction is showing. How we have failed you! Yet I am so brazen as to beg your help at this dark hour.

Because there is hope. Reinforcements are coming from all

over the universe, from higher dimensions, eager to push on Lord Chaitanya's glorious *Saṅkīrtana* movement! Hare Krishna *kīrtanas* are still going on all over the world, albeit sporadically. Many great souls are coming here to reinstate and heal, replace and improve our fumbling attempts at serving Lord Chaitanya's mission. They will take the "as it is" banner like fiery torch-runners and light the fires of devotion all over the world. All by your grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda. They have heard your call.

It is for them that I come here to beg your help, for those beautiful souls you are sending to Earth planet. Our troubled generation is at the exit door, but it is for these special souls entering into this Earth realm that I beg your mercy, your guidance and protection.

We had our day. And what a wonderful day it was!! Dancing to the tunes of the Grand Master! Like yesterday I remember you teaching us to dance the "Swami Step!" "Raise your arms like this," you said, "now right foot over left, then left over right, yes, yes, like this, gently swaying—ah yes, like this, this is how you dance for the Lord's pleasure...." And we danced for your pleasure as well.

Like a Golden Swan you glided into our lives, taught us how to dance, how to live, and how to die. Then sadly, you glided away to your next class of students waiting for you elsewhere, to instruct another generation of *bhaktas*.

How we miss those days of joy! Yet we know you are always with us, watching over us as we flounder through the confusion of this material world. Always hoping to see you again soon in one of your other "classes" in some other dimension. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all you gave us, and continue to give us, every moment of our lives. Thank you, thank you, thank you. There are no words to really express our gratitude, but let us try. Our hearts are eagerly waiting for the next glimpse of you...even if only in a dream.

*Your servant,*

Govinda Dasi

Initiation: 1967, February—San Francisco, USA

## Mālatī Devī Dāsī

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Dearly beloved eternal spiritual master, I offer my head to your eternally divine lotus feet as my only shelter and refuge, as well as being the only cognitive shelter for everyone in the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement.

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

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

*namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyaavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

Associating with memories of your person is a form of my *sādhana* that gives me solace and hope for attaining Kṛṣṇa’s spiritual reality, even if only in partial segments throughout the day. The earliest memories are the most powerful because they were piercing holes through the dark dust covering my heart, and this was often a dramatic consciousness-changing experience coming without my own external or internal efforts. A vivid example of this was upon first sighting you at the San Francisco airport in January ’67. I suddenly found myself on the floor on my hands and knees. It wasn’t that I was making obeisances – we had yet to learn about obeisances – but it seemed to have occurred simultaneously to an emergence of a sudden great energy. I only later understood this as the spiritual energy having pierced the existing layers of the dark covering surrounding my heart allowing a moment of your glaring, fully spiritual effulgence to pierce my darkened existence. The resulting vibration was so strong I was thrown off my feet.

Your powerful presence could occur at a crossroads moment, even in a dream (which you verified as something authentic when asked if it was possible for the spiritual master to appear in dreams, although you warned one *bhakta* who asked about using LSD that what he saw in his dream was not you but *māyā* dressed like

you). There is now nothing in my life that does not come through your mercy. I continually find your mercy flowing through your transcendental purports. Therefore, the most certain way to glorify you is filtered via your own words and instructions. For example (from your purport to *SB*. 2.9.8, emphases added):

*“One has to receive the transcendental sound from the right source, accept it as a reality, and prosecute the direction without hesitation. The secret of success is to receive the sound from the right source of a bona fide spiritual master.”*

Somehow or other I had moments where I was given the opportunity to immediately accept your transcendental sound vibration and act on it immediately, without doubt or delay.

One should be qualified enough to discern such transcendental potency, and either by discriminating or by fortunate chance, *if one is able to receive the transcendental sound from the bona fide spiritual master, his path of liberation is guaranteed.*

I understand my situation is a result of “fortunate chance” having been bestowed upon me by the divine grace emanating from your compassionate heart. The first instance of seeing you in person, that January 1967 at the San Francisco airport, was otherworldly as you glided among us, welcoming us to join your world, a world we had not known existed yet nevertheless were searching after. We were the “love and peace” generation who were not finding “love and peace” until you arrived among us. Until that moment, we had no idea what “love and peace” would look or feel like.

In September 1966, you wrote in a letter to a close friend: “At his first sight of me Śrīla Prabhupāda [meaning your own Guru Mahārāja] also saw me with such love. It was in my very first darsana of Śrīla Prabhupāda that I learned how to love. It is his boundless mercy that he has engaged an unworthy person like me, in fulfilling some of his desires. It is his causeless mercy to engage me in preaching the message of Śrī Rupa and Śrī Raghunatha.”

It was on the same day, after meeting you at the airport and now at our small storefront temple, that we too began to feel your love being showered upon us in the form of truth and compassion, and we began falling in love with you. That glorious moment is forever etched in my heart’s portrait of you, the first of all my memories.

A few short months later, in July ’67, as you prepared to embark

on a journey back to India for the first time since your arrival in the West, intending to recover your failing health, you told us, “I am an old man. I may die at any time. I want you boys and girls to push on this movement.”

This statement was practically a duplicate of one written in the above-mentioned letter: “I always remind them [meaning us, his early students] that I am old. At any time I may have to say namaskara to Yamaraja, so you all try to understand this Krishna consciousness philosophy properly.”

The same thing is now happening to us, your now elderly students, many of whom have already departed. By your glorious example we have a good idea how to depart. We are confident. By your glorious example, wherein you remained fully active in terms of devotional service, even as you lay helplessly on what became your deathbed, you continued with your illuminating Bhaktivedanta purports, showing practically how there is truly no impediment to performing devotional service. You reassured us that even if for some reason we would not be able to remember Kṛṣṇa at the time of death, “Kṛṣṇa is not an ungrateful man” and He would be there for us. In the same way, we are gratefully following in your perfected footsteps.

Further in that same letter you added: “Here, the high-ranking people consider Bhagavan’s devotees to be insane. The political situation here is not good. This means that their future is not very bright [referring to the young people of that time]. Because of this condition, Srīman Mahāprabhu has come to this country. I am trying to give them the dust of His lotus feet and those who are accepting are feeling joy. *They are accepting me with love, thinking that I can give them life.*”

That love with which you showered us did result in feelings of joy – that is a fact. Tasting the joy of spiritual love was replacing the dissatisfaction of material existence, building the foundational aspects of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, that was growing by leaps and bounds without a formal blueprinted plan. Such is your mercy, which remains ever potent, for which I eternally hanker.

*Nivedana* (as you signed your letter)

I offer myself to you again and again and again

Your fallen *dāsi*,

Mālātī Devī Dāsī

Initiation: 1967, February—San Francisco, USA

## Dayānanda Dāsa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Mahāprabhu explains to Sanātana Gosvāmī: *śāstre yuktau ca nipuṇaḥ, sarvathā dṛḍha-niścayaḥ, prauḍha-śraddho 'dhikārī yaḥ, sa bhaktāv uttamo mataḥ*. "A devotee who is expert in logic, expert in *śāstra*, with resolute conviction, and with full faith is considered an *uttama-adhikārī*, the highest authority, in *bhakti*." [Cc. Madhya 22.66]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are that ultimate authority in *bhakti*. It is clear.

Expert in *śāstra*: While writing books and articles, I constantly research your writings, lectures, and conversations. As the years pass, my appreciation deepens. Recently, I have become fascinated that nearly everything you say is based on *śāstra*. Sometimes you refer to a traditional poem or saying, but most often, even your casual speech is based on *śāstra*. If I look carefully, I can often find the original Sanskrit hidden behind your English words.

Expert in logic: In their commentaries, the great *ācāryas* present questions, answers, and arguments. You do the same, both formally and casually. You always argued strongly and effectively against the Māyāvādīs, who fall short in spiritual life due to their rejection of Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. When Bhaktisvarūpa Dāmodara Svāmī began to visit, you increased your rhetoric against empirical or materialistic science. Then you established the Bhaktivedanta Institute to "kick on the face" of atheistic science. And you constantly challenged us to improve our ability to debate. You taught us to rely on *śāstra*.

Resolute conviction: One of my favorite stories is when you were walking through the newly purchased Los Angeles temple with



your disciples. It had previously been a church, and the minister approached you and said he was impressed with your disciples. You immediately responded, "You may also become." Such conviction, determination, boldness.

Full faith: Mahāprabhu states that the *sādhaka* (devotee) begins with *śraddhā* (faith). As that faith deepens, one progresses through various stages to *prema*. I cannot fathom that high stage of *bhakti*; however, I am happy that you have given practical expressions of *prema* to us. Instead of tears and rolling on the floor, you have unfurled the majesty of grand temples, the sweetness of *prasādam* and *kīrtana*, the beauty of the *mūrtis*, the affection of *sādhu-saṅga*, the fulfillment of ardent *sevā*, the mystique of Śrīmatī-tulasī-devī, the glory of *saṅkīrtana*, the attractiveness of Kṛṣṇa art, the power of book distribution, and the *śakti* of a *śaktyāveśa*. To me, those are your expressions of *prema*. Mahāprabhu asked for help distributing *prema-phala*, the fruits of love, and so you have done it.

I am grateful to you and Śrī Kṛṣṇa that ISKCON has developed so much since those early days in the first temples at 26 Second Avenue and 518 Frederick Street. At that time, I never thought it would have progressed so much.

It seems to me that ISKCON is now indestructible. From time to time, there may be problems within or outside; however, its roots are spread everywhere and cannot be stopped.

I am hoping that the mass preaching through the *daiva-varṇāśrama* movement that you envisioned will be established. Currently, it is represented by several farms, niche preaching in ISKCON, and general misunderstanding.

Most dynamic preachers have overlooked your desire to convert huge populations to *daiva-varṇāśrama*, starting with Manipur and America. It is a situation that I sometimes lament, but just as Kṛṣṇa has guided ISKCON from its small beginnings to its greatness today, perhaps in the future, He will see fit to guide the small *daiva-varṇāśrama* movement to assume control of cities, states, and countries.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for keeping the standards so high. And thank you for observing the maxim: *putraṁ ca śiṣyam ca tāḍayen na tu lālayet*. "Disciples must be beaten not coddled." You never beat us, but your tongue lashings could be more powerful than Abhirāma Ṭhākura's whip.

Your timely, well-placed strong words kept me close and saved me from falling into the abyss.

*āmi to' kāṅgāla,*

*I am your wretched servant,*

Dayānanda Dāsa

One who takes pleasure in your mercy.

Initiation: 1967, March—San Francisco, USA

## Gurudas

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As we walked 7 steps together you say, “Just see, that bird has lived in this tree for 2 weeks” pointing with your cane to bird droppings faeces by the South Lake in San Francisco. “See, even birds are attached to their apartments,” you laugh.

I laugh with you as you show me how to be a devotee of Rādhā Krishna, naturally. “First rules and regulations, and then you love Krishna spontaneously.” You show me the Vedic wisdom in simple terms.

From the beginning you took me with you in a velvet roller coaster ride. Next to you on the television show. Next to you on airplanes, in the first class train compartment, in cars, boats and rickshaws, and so many, many gatherings and *prasādam* meals.

You allowed me to render over 5,000 photos, close up in your face, on walks, and teased me by saying “Some people say that there is a superstition that photographing someone will shorten ones life,” as the camera dropped like Arjuna’s bow, and then said “What do you think of that Gurudasji?” I regained my composure and say “It is not how long we live, but what we do with our life that is important.” And you smile on me proudly and say “Yes, that is a superstition only.”

We walked, only the 2 of us in Regents Park and a football field in Gorakpur, where I asked you, “Did you play sports?” and you answer, “Yes, I was captain of the debating team.” And you showed me by winning 2 opposing arguments.

You remained calm and transcendental, as I put out electrical fire and emceeing simultaneously or during attacks from dogs, and Mr. Nair. And took me to the signing of Juhu land from Mrs. Nair.

You asked me, why me?, to confront the Hells Angels banging on the wall, to pick Radhanath Swami out of a crowd of 7,000, or to

ask the American Ambassador in New Delhi to give us free lodging. Or trying to get admittance into Jagannath Temple. Or asking me to arrange a meeting with American Ambassador Kenneth Keating. Or to arrange free exports of books in India. Getting permits. Facilitating charity registration in India. Or arrange meetings with the Abbot of Westminster Abbey.....

You see into the hearts of all entities, as you caress a flower on John Lennon's estate, saying "Nature is one of the highest manifestations of Lord Krishna on earth planet."

You hold my hand in the darkened basement of a potential Temple in an old Y.M.C.A., groping in the dark, until a beam of light showed through. And you taught me what to look for when buying land or a building: past litigations; cracks in walls; plumbing; electrical system, etc.

Why did you take me to Lalit Prasad's, and to represent you with Kings, Queens, Ambassadors, Prime ministers, Cabinet ministers, celebrities, musicians, Rock stars, writers, film makers, scientists and new aspiring devotees and many other spirit souls?

We trusted each other, and reveled in our countless moments together. You showed your playfulness and humor with me and me to Him often.

You called me into your presence, to discuss strategies of sharing, or just to have mutual darshan. You took me on so many adventures, displaying miracles and magic, like finding sweet water in the middle of salty water, pointing your cane where to dig, or when you said in Māyāpur "The farmers are praying for water," sweeping your hand downward saying "Krishna says all right, and gives", as the sky then showered rain in the morning.

"Jalebees for a cold," "Mustard oil in the morning." "Art means full belly." "Accounting means putting down the expenses immediately" "Krishna wrote the *Krishna* book", and many more truths.

So much wisdom, and fun permeated our many times together, wherein you showed me unique things, making my journey easier, By your example.

You slept less, walked faster, wrote more, travelled more, and gave and gave, with compassion and grace, and interacted with the thousands of souls, making each of us special like Krishna at the Rasa dance with the Gopis, each one an intimate relationship.

And even today sitting on my shoulder, I feel you and hear you say "Just see.....", and I think what would Prabhupāda

do (WWPD) or say?

For this humble Vyāsa-pūjā tribute, thank you very much, Prabhupāda.

*Your servant,*

Gurudas

Initiation: 1967, April

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## Balai Devi Dasi

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Constant, transcendental engagement in your service is the perfection of my life. You are the most perfect personality to appear in this Kali-yuga to reclaim the most fallen spirit souls. Your mercy is unfathomable, sublime, and unparalleled. We cannot properly express how grateful we are that you have given your whole life and energy to serving your spiritual master, the *paramparā* and Lord Śrī Krishna. You are surely *patita-pāvana*.

I pray I may always be in the association of your disciples and grand disciples to continue devotional service and follow your instructions to perfect my life and go back home, back to Godhead. Please kindly keep me in the dust of your lotus feet.

*Your humble servant,*

Balai Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1967, December—New York, USA

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your transcendental lotus feet.

It is your unfathomable mercy that you have embraced us all so selflessly. Just meditating and remembering how you had never before crossed the ocean, going to another country, landing in a place with such a foreign culture that was indeed filled with such extreme lifestyles; so much so, compared to your spotless upbringing. It is so moving, and then, what to speak of you disclosing that you never once had ever forgotten Kṛṣṇa.

Throughout the years, I am continuously learning, as more unfolds of Śrīla Prabhupāda's true magnitude of pure devotion and persevering energy. You were pushing forward through countless, relentless obstacles, following your beloved spiritual master's instructions, as it was years in the making even before coming to the West.

Sally Agarwal sponsored Śrīla Prabhupāda, when he arrived in the U.S., and went to Butler, Pennsylvania. He stayed with the Agarwal family for three weeks. While Śrīla Prabhupāda was there, Sally arranged numerous engagements for him to speak. No one was at all familiar with Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

We have been hearing, relishing *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta* along with Her Grace Daivishakti Prabhu's classes with enriching new details. In these new surroundings, Śrīla Prabhupāda exhibited such patience. Sally mentioned Śrīla Prabhupāda did not make them feel uncomfortable with meat in their home. It was then, while Śrīla Prabhupāda was there, he cooked for the family every day rice, *dahl*, *subji*, and they all ate what he had made for lunch *prasādam*. With Śrīla Prabhupāda's impeccable character in every way, Sally had said in an interview that Śrīla Prabhupāda was the best guest. To her, he was like her father-in-law and she cried when he had left their home for New York.

Forever he was showing his patience, perseverance from there onward throughout the years. From waiting in line in N.Y. to shower or being in line to wash his own bowl or plate till finally, it dawned on the fledgling newcomers to be more respectful and humble to His Divine Grace.

In Brahmananda Prabhu's account in his book, *Swamiji*, he wrote

that Śrīla Prabhupāda said, “The movement didn’t actually start in N.Y., but rather, L.A., when the devotees got the La Cienega building which was previously a church. It was a place where one could do proper Deity worship.” But it was the Deity Worship aspect that Swamiji considered essential. Śrīla Prabhupāda told Brahmananda personally, “In N.Y., I was experimenting with how to give the people the chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, but in L.A., I established a Temple, a true Temple.”

The N.Y. storefront to Śrīla Prabhupāda, was more like a preaching center where he could test the waters. Once the movement got to L.A., that’s when he considered it a movement.

When I started coming and joined at that time in N.Y. at the storefront, in my sphere of perceptivity and understanding, I saw that this ‘is’ Kṛṣṇa’s Temple!! Even though there were no Deities on the altar downstairs in the storefront, there were Their Lordships Lord Jagannātha, Śrīmatī Subhadrā Devī, and Lord Balarāma upstairs in Śrīla Prabhupāda’s quarters. Their Lordships were not dressed, and there was no curtain for Their privacy. Nevertheless, it was still such a sacred, spiritual refuge, a place of glorifying Śrīla Prabhupāda and Kṛṣṇa, definitely feeling the sanctity of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s *vāñī* presence. Really, it just genuinely felt not at all being in New York in the Bowery.

Reading this passage in *Swamiji*, put it all in perspective how grand Śrīla Prabhupāda’s prospective plans were for spreading Kṛṣṇa Consciousness all over. Śrīla Prabhupāda had said, “I cannot think anything small. That is my disease.” .....Otherwise where would any of us be!?!? Śrīla Prabhupāda pushed forward, orchestrating a worldwide movement.

Recently, I saw a beautiful picture of Śrīla Prabhupāda waiting in line at the airport with other passengers. He exuded such dignity and humility at the same time. Under the photo, there was a caption that read; “When one is fully qualified yet is humble and gentle, when one is able to keep his balance both in sorrow and in the ecstasy of joy, he has the opulence called patience.” And that is so true of Śrīla Prabhupāda!! After reading this, countless examples shine forth.

Once, was when Śrīla Prabhupāda was at the airport in the waiting area for his plane to be boarded and was soon to depart, a large group of devotees clustered around him, leaving no room for other passengers to sit. Personnel from the airport on a loudspeaker requested the entourage of devotees to move to another location to

allow the other passengers to sit down. No one budged, not wanting to leave Śrīla Prabhupāda. When Śrīla Prabhupāda heard the announcement, he, all of a sudden, immediately stood up to comply with their request. Such is Śrīla Prabhupāda's humility.

And the more that is revealed, it inevitably deepens the gratitude and realization of His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda's unwavering purity.

In *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.7.22: an excerpt of the purport;

The Spiritual Master is the mercy representative of the Lord. Therefore, a person burning in the flames of material existence may receive the rains of mercy of the Lord through the transparent medium of the self realized Spiritual Master. The Spiritual Master, by his words, can penetrate into the heart of the suffering person and inject knowledge transcendental, which alone can extinguish the fire of material existence.

And in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.25 an excerpt from a purport;

For a conditioned soul, therefore, it is very important to hear from the mouth of a pure devotee, who is fully surrendered to the Lotus Feet of the Lord without any material desire, speculative knowledge, or contamination of the modes of material nature.

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!! My glorious, beloved Spiritual Master!

I know I am insignificant as I am in awe of seeing so many devotees imbued with such sincerity and devotion. For me, it is very humbling and so inspiring at the same time. And, I am so very thankful to your Divine Grace and Śrī Kṛṣṇa for allowing me to be here. I pray forever to be lovingly engaged in devotional service taking shelter at your divine lotus feet.

Always, your aspiring servant and spiritual daughter,

Kanchanbala Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1967, December—New York, USA

Current location: San Diego, California, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

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

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, hearing you sing the “*cintāmaṇi* prayers” of the *Brahma-saṁhitā* this morning was striking. Clearly, you were not drowning in the “impersonal calamity” you gave your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, credit for having removed. Your voice was vibrant and filled with emotion as you sang – worshiping Govinda, the *ādi-puruṣa*, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, whose form is eternal and who is all-enchanting bliss Himself.

In your sonorous voice, you then prayerfully chanted of the thousands of goddesses of fortune whose only desire is to serve Govinda, who plays His *veṇu* flute in the land of transcendental gems and wish-fulfilling trees.

Govinda’s eyes are shaped like the petals of a lotus; His complexion is tinged blue, resembling a water-soaked monsoon cloud. A peacock feather graces the top of His head.

Govinda stands, each limb and part of His curved, three-fold-bending form possesses unlimited power. *Surabhi* cows surrounded Him. He is all-attractive.

The devotion in your voice reveals your secret: full attraction to He who is unlimitedly charming, in whose service you, to this day, inspire thousands on their journeys home, to His land, Goloka Vṛndāvana – a journey you yourself termed “Back to Home, Back to Godhead.”

The prayers you sang are contained in the *Brahma-saṁhitā*, a



chapter of a book Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu found while visiting the Ādi Keśava temple in Tamil Nadu. When the Lord discovered that chapter, “symptoms of ecstatic transformation – trembling, tears, perspiration, trance, and jubilation—were manifest in His body.” (Cc., *Madhya* 9.238) Mahāprabhu personally had the book copied, and after that He carried it with Him as He continued His tour of South India.

Hearing your melodious voice this morning as it captured the *Brahma-saṁhitā*’s intensity of words and its mood of love for Kṛṣṇa, I was connected to Lord Brahmā, to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura (who wrote a commentary on the *Brahma-saṁhitā*), to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, to Govinda, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and to the transcendental land of Vṛndāvana, which is filled with *cintāmaṇi* gems, *surabhi* cows, and desire trees.

Just for a moment, as I was carried by the fragrant breeze of your soothing, lotuslike, lilting voice, the unlimitedly distant suddenly seemed near and in reach.

You were and are the connection that made and makes all other connections possible. Like every other day, you saved me again, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Forever your servant,*

Bhūrījāna Dāsa

Initiation: 1968, June—Montreal

## Rukmini Devi Dasi

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīnī*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīṇe*

My Dear Eternal Father and Master, Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
I offer my repeated obeisances to your lotus feet.

Kṛṣṇa’s holy name is called *cintāmaṇi*, or touchstone. Lord Nityānanda is called *harināma pradānī devam*, the giver of that Holy Name. But, as Their divine emissary, you are both a touchstone, and the one who has given Kṛṣṇa’s Holy Name to countless millions of

people all over the world. People like me, who have no qualification to receive such a gift.

I am amazed and bewildered when I hear in your temples all over the world, people of all ages, including even small children, sitting in kirtan, with deep devotion, singing your pranam mantras, and Kṛṣṇa's holy names. Although they never met you personally, and have only heard your glories from others – now, by your mercy, they call out to you with hope, and chant the Holy Name with love and dedication.

I have no idea who you are, or what is the extent of your full greatness. And what is the true impact – both seen and unseen – that you've had, and continue to have on this suffering world... I have a deep sense that you have changed the future trajectory of our entire planet.

You selflessly, fearlessly, and repeatedly traversed the earth.

Wherever you traveled, you picked up fallen souls like me, our hearts black like coal. With unprecedented patience and kindness, you washed that coal, turning us into something that shines, reflecting your love. I know that I am not what I was. I am becoming, becoming something, someone, I don't know what. But something is beginning to shine, being polished by your love and care.

You are the captain of my ship, your Bhaktivedanta purports are the favorable winds that ply this ship forward each day. I pray to hear your dictation in my heart, to receive the right intuition from you, at each moment. And to serve your compassionate mission as you would like, without waiting to be asked.

Please keep me onboard and ferry me across to the other side of this otherwise insurmountable ocean of birth and death.

*Your eternal servant and daughter,*

**Rukmini Devi Dasi**

Initiation: 1968, July—Montreal, Canada

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## **Ranadhir Dasa**

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Please accept my humble and worthless obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Krishna continues to answer my prayers whenever I ask, and yet I usually forget to ask.

Please help me to remember to beg for help from Krishna at every opportunity by sincerely chanting His holy name.

Of course, Krishna has better things to do than waste His time on my whining pleas, but I pray that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, have not given up on me. That a wretch like me was allowed to become an initiated disciple of His Divine Grace is truly a miracle and carries the message that anything is possible, no matter how improbable.

Looking back at my foolish attempts to be of service to you, I now realize how kind and generous it was for you to have given me opportunities to be of some service. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!!!

*Your servant,*

Ranadhir Dasa

Initiation: 1968, January—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

Current location: California, USA

Contact: r.nieburgs@gmail.com

## Balabhadra Dāsa

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

*namas te sāravate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our beloved spiritual master. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

For the last 34 years, we have described our activities with the cows each year as an offering to you in the hope that these activities will please you. This year, we rescued two Gyr calves from the forest, but five cows from the ISCOWP herd passed away. In the hours before passing away, some cows had the opportunity to listen to the chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra and drink holy water from the sacred rivers of India. The ISCOWP staff buried all of them wearing a Harināma chader and a Nṛsimha Kavacha from the Lord Nṛsimha deity residing in Māyāpur, India. Here are their stories

for your pleasure.

Kāḷindī Vijaya, Holstein breed, with ISCOWP since 2015 at the age of three.

Kāḷindī Vijaya was a representative of resilient joy. Rescued from a dairy, she is famous for running about and jumping in the air when she realizes she is free from the dairy. Many of her update videos (every adopter receives quarterly update videos) show her giving affectionate licks to all members of the ISCOWP herd. Although she had all her children taken from her while living at the dairy, she still had love to give to her herd mates. She passed away suddenly for no apparent reason. Later, the vet had many tests done to find the cause. The conclusion was that sometime in her early life, she swallowed some hardware that stayed in place in her body but came loose and made havoc in her body.

Mādhava, Brown Swiss breed, with ISCOWP since 2007 as a young ox.

Mādhava was a noble and fatherly senior figure for the herd. He was very self-contained, very friendly, and sensitive to the moods of other herd members and humans. Although he was the biggest ox in the herd, he had no false ego and was well-liked by the other herd members and humans. Mādhava was kind, and we saw him licking other herd members, especially when they were not feeling well. He was extraordinarily handsome and carried himself in a very aristocratic manner. He was also friendly and charming to guests. To see him towering over the rest of the herd with his majestic presence was always a joy to the soul. He was intelligent and knew all his voice commands. Mādhava was an old ox, the leading cause of his passing. We placed holy water from the sacred Saraswati River on his lips right before he passed while he listened to you chanting the holy names.

Vaishnavī and Surabhi came home to ISCOWP on 5/20/23.

Vaishnavī and Surabhi came home to ISCOWP from the Florida forest. Vaishnavī was born on 3/3/23, and Surabhi was born on 3/30/23. Both are from the Gyr breed and are very beautiful.

They both had little exposure to people and were skittish and afraid when they came out of the trailer. When our grandson Bāḷajī, who is well-liked by the cows and is an experienced cowherd, approached Surabhi, she ran right at him and body-slammed him. Their breeder, who was there at the time, explained that the forest is full of predators like alligators, bears, panthers, and bobcats. So,

when Surabhi saw Bārajī approach, she reacted like he was a predator.

From the very first day, Surabhi acted like Vaishnavi's protector. Vaishnavī constantly stood behind Surabhi as Surabhi faced the world for both of them. Now, a year later, Surabhi and Vaishnavī play and run happily at ISCOWP. Vaishnavī is reserved in comparison to Surabhi, who is always eager to meet a human. Vaishnavī is slower to greet people and make friends. Once Vaishnavī feels she can trust someone, she remembers them and gives them loving licks.

Padmagandha, Jersey breed, with ISCOWP since 2014 as a calf.

Padmagandha was the smallest of eight calves rescued from an auction barn in 2014. As he grew, he developed sharp, pointed horns, which helped him assert himself with the other boys in the herd. Due to his small size, he developed an aggressive attitude. In his later years, he developed friendly, loving relationships with his herd mates and cowherds. Within the last two years of his life, he suffered from an infected, plugged sinus duct and stayed in the veterinarian hospital for a month to treat it and heal. A year and a half after his hospital visit, we found him down in the pasture. As the vet was trying to ascertain what was wrong, Balabhadra Dās and his daughter Lakshmi were chanting the Hare Krishna mantra to him and petting him. The vet concluded he was hit by lightning. Then he passed away. The day was Lord Balarām's appearance day.

Abhay Charanāravinda, Holstein breed, with ISCOWP since 2014 as a calf.

Abhay was one of the eight calves rescued in 2014 from the auction barn. One day, Abhay could not get up. We can usually tell when a cow is having difficulty with its legs as they limp or walk stiffly. But Abhay had been walking well. Our vet concluded he had the signs of spinal cancer. Apparently, cows from the auction barn are often unhealthy, as they have been through a lot of stress and poor conditions. Depending on the auction barn, few health standards are enforced. Abhay left his body sitting under a large Live Oak tree, listening to you chant Hare Krishna. His last drink was from the Rādhā Kuṇḍa.

Jāhnavā, Brown Swiss/Ayrshire breed, with ISCOWP since 2009 as a young heifer.

Jāhnavā was Mādhava's sister and five months older than him. She was a spunky, tough girl with a lot of energy. She also had a strong affection for Priyavrata, who had been king of the herd for many years. We would often find her giving Priyavrata long,

affectionate licks, which he accepted without objection. Otherwise, she was independent and only showed health issues in her last year of life. About a month before she passed away, we noticed she was walking stiffly. We put her in the hospital pasture so she did not have to walk too far for food and water. It was about a week before she passed away that she had great difficulty getting up. From that point, she deteriorated quickly, mostly due to her old age and arthritis. She, too, listened to you chant the Mahā Mantra and drank holy water from Rādhā Kuṇḍa.

After 34 years of protecting cows, we have personally assisted 45 cows in their passage from this material world. Our hearts ache for each one of them. They are our children, and we miss seeing them in the pasture. Currently, we have 19 cows under our care. We have room for three more and plan on rescuing them as soon as we finish fixing the fences.

We pray to you for the courage to take on more cows. We know that by rescuing them, we are saving them from the slaughterhouse and giving them a better life. The joy that comes from seeing them sitting peacefully under the large canopy of the Live Oak trees while the calves run, jump, and play without care is without comparison. We thank you for this life service, this opportunity to do some good with our lives, to serve Lord Krishna!

Thank you.

*Your aspiring servants at ISCOWP, International Society for Cow  
Protection, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, USA*

Balabhadra Dāsa

Initiation: 1969, March—Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Current location: Gainesville, Florida, USA

Contact: iscowp@gmail.com

## Bhavananda Dasa

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

One of the remarkable qualities, one among many, of a pure devotee like Śrīla Prabhupāda is his extraordinary vision for the future of ISKCON.

Those who have reached the highest perfectional stage of mystic power and can see everything in the past, present and future are called *tri-kāla-jñās*. Similarly, the devotees of the Lord can see everything clearly that is in the revealed scriptures. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.11.17, Purport).

Śrīla Prabhupāda manifested these qualities especially in laying out the masterplan for the propagation of the Kṛṣṇa Consciousness movement. When Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja and I went to Vrindavan in 1974, we stayed with Guru Das and Yamunā at the Rādhā Dāmodar temple. The rooms were just above Prabhupāda’s room. We were welcome to stay there but Prabhupāda had given instructions to Guru Das and Yamunā that every morning they should have kirtan while walking out to the ISKCON land in Raman Reti. He also instructed that any devotee who wanted to stay with them should also accompany them every morning. Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja and I were happy to do that and as we walked to Raman Reti, I noticed that the centre of the village of Vrindavan – Loi Bazaar was far far behind us. We were walking on the road, but there were just open fields all around and an occasional ashram or two. I turned to Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja and said “Gee, this is really way out in the country. Who will ever come here”. To which Tamal Kṛṣṇa replied, “Yes, I agree, but Prabhupāda wants it. So, what can we do?”. We had no vision. As most of us will know practically now, the centre of Vrindavan has moved all the way to Krishna Balaram Mandir.

Another example of our lack of vision was in relation to Juhu Beach.

Achyutānanda Mahārāja and I were in Bombay and we went to visit Śrīmatī Sumati Morarjee in her holiday cottage at Juhu beach. We took the train and walked from Vila Parle train station to her cottage at Juhu Beach. It was lovely but undeveloped. When, purportedly, one of the reasons, Madhudviṣa Mahārāja wanted to leave ISKCON Bombay and go elsewhere for preaching was because he could not see how the Juhu land that Prabhupāda wanted to purchase would be a good site for our ISKCON centre. He felt it was too far distant from the centre of Bombay. Again, as we all know, Juhu beach is a thriving populated part of the city of Mumbai. Prabhupāda saw it, but we did not.

In 1977, Prabhupāda was sitting in the park, in front of the Lotus Building at Māyāpur, which we had built for him. In the afternoons, he would come down and sit there and anyone who was visiting Māyāpur could come to the park and have his darshan. Prabhupāda

kept looking towards the front gate and looked at us and said, “Why they are not coming? Why they are not coming? I have constructed this building and the deities are here. Why they are not coming?” Now we can happily offer our obeisances to Prabhupāda and say to him – Prabhupāda they are coming! Another example of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s vision, so now in India, the general public and pilgrimage to Śrīdhām Māyāpur by the hundred thousands.

Part of Prabhupāda’s mission in developing Māyāpur is to establish Māyāpur as THE birthplace of Lord Caitanya and to establish Lord Caitanya as none other than the Supreme Personality of Godhead Kṛṣṇa Himself. To do these things, concomitant with combating the alarming increase of the atheistic thinking in the western world among the scientific community, Prabhupāda has designed an extraordinary project called Temple of the Vedic Planetarium. The TOVP is meant to combat those very atheists and bring them over to the side of theism and personalism at the Lotus feet of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Our duty is simple, to assist Śrīla Prabhupāda anyway possible to complete this extraordinary preaching vision at Māyāpur.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, it has been my great fortune to have been enlisted by you to take part in your preaching plans. My humble prayer is that whatever years or months or days or minutes or seconds are left to exist in my body are spent in service at your divine lotus feet.

All glories to the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium!

All glories to Māyāpur Chandrodaya Mandir!

and All glories...All glories for ever and ever to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Your servant,*

Bhavananda Dasa

Initiation: 1969, April—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: Sydney, Australia

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## Chintamani Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to you. You are such an empowered divine person to have done all the incredible things you accomplished at such an advanced age. Now I am at that



age and have become practically useless, so I can appreciate even more the risks and hardships you went through to try and save unfortunate *mlecchas* such as myself. I wish I could have done more for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, but sometimes just keeping myself on the “razors edge” is a real challenge.

I was remembering something that happened in New Vrindaban in 1969 when I was fortunate to have an entire month of your association. That time was a highlight of my entire life, and those memories which are etched into my brain have somehow kept me going even in difficult times. Since this offering is also read by other devotees, it may be of some interest to others, and it also shows your mercy.

When I got a copy of *Teachings of Lord Chaitanya*, I couldn't stop reading it. You saw me reading it when I was outside and with a large smile you remarked, “Oh, you are reading about Lord Chaitanya?”

Being newly initiated I was given service that new devotees are often given, such as washing pots. Getting buckets of cold well water into the large tin tub and washing the pots would take a while, but sometimes you would walk by and say something, so it was very blissful.

One day I decided to take my book into the woods so I could spend more time reading, and to make a long story short, I got lost! After hours of wandering around, I came across a farm house and the elderly couple there let me stay overnight, as it was now dark and raining. Oblivious to what was going on back at our New Vrindaban farm, I happily read my book until drifting off to sleep.

The next morning, the couple drove me to the old “Agasura Road.” Actually, at that time it was not a road, but a two-mile path that led up to the farmhouse. As I got nearer, I yelled “Haribol,” and here comes Kīrtanānanda to meet me. As we walk back, he looks angry. “Where have you been? You had Śrīla Prabhupāda so worried, he even stopped his translation!” Well, that was serious. Then he said, “I'm going to tell Śrīla Prabhupāda you are back.” And I said, “I feel like he already knows I'm back.” And he said, “Of course he does! But he still wants us to tell him!”

So, after being chastised by various *brahmacārīs* who were sure to tell me how they were out looking for me in the dark and that you were worried, and you had stopped your translating, and had said something like “you can send a 16-year-old boy around the world but you can't send a woman across the street,” now I laugh when I

remember that, because I do have a bad sense of direction. But at the time I was afraid to see you after the *brahmacārīs* told me off.

So, it was time for me to wash pots and I was outside scrubbing away when I saw you coming towards me. My heart was beating fast. You stopped and said, “Chintamani, you had this whole place topsy turvy last night.” When you saw that I was on the verge of tears, you said, “It is all right.” You were the only one who wasn’t mad at me! You cared for your disciples, even the rascals like me, and that endeared us to you. I am a useless rascal, but I am still your rascal daughter. Please don’t give up on me, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to your infinite mercy. May I be your eternal servant.

*Your rascal daughter,*

Chintamani Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1969, May—Columbus, USA

Current location: Detroit, Michigan, USA

Contact: [srinandan@aol.com](mailto:srinandan@aol.com)

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## Cathurbhuj Dasa

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

“I was born in the darkness of ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes by the torchlight of knowledge. I offer him my most humble obeisances.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

This year, on your 128<sup>th</sup> Appearance Day, also coinciding with the terrible events of wars and famine in different parts of the world and the onslaught of Kali Yuga I think it is especially poignant to re-commit ourselves and recall some of the precious gifts that you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, have given to us all, through which to conduct in devotional service to the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa.

I recall in previous Vyāsa Pūjā tributes offering (see *Śrīla Prabhupāda Tributes* 2015, at pages 162–163) my co-devotees and disciples have spoken of your truly amazing educational programmes for helping humanity at large this being a vehicle for communicating to the future leaders of society.

As recounted many times to further Kṛṣṇa’s desire and just to

save the fallen souls you took great trouble and went through great toll to sail on the Jaladuta, departing from the land of India to come to the West in 1965. I recall this because just recently we have been reading the 8<sup>th</sup> Canto Parts 2 and 3 of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* where the wonderful pastimes of the Lord have been related, including the pastimes of the Lord with Mahārāja Bali and Satyavrata Muni. The Lord's incarnation as Vāmanadeva and as the fish incarnation just to save the *Vedas* are especially pleasing to read.

As Kali-yuga ensues, we can see in the present devotees all over the world through your inspiration have been doing their bit to sail with you and serve in your epic journey to capture Lord Caitanya's mercy.

This year, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I can report to you wonderful services in London, and elsewhere under the leadership of a vibrant community of devotees. It is with such devotees along with other devotees well wishers that we have an oasis in the middle of London. The London Temple performs such beautiful festivals Gaura Pūrṇimā, Janmāṣṭamī, Rathayātrā just to name a few. There are food distribution programmes and *Bhagavad-gītā* classes. Of course there is politics and sometimes discord, but thousands are taking shelter because of the festival and spiritual welfare programmes enacted through your mercy and grace.

This very modest offering is an opportunity to reinvigorate oneself and play catch up? May we all be inspired in your service?

It is estimated that there are now between seven to eight million people plus practising Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the Western world in one form or another.

It seems to us that we should all strive to inculcate principles which are actually directed at making ourselves purer and purer and thus, forwarding the movement in a way that is compatible with your personal instructions to us.

Within centres of excellence and in buildings and temples where science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is practiced there should be a prospective where visitors are always reminded of your valuable contribution and message of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. I feel there should be a grand hall in London called "Śrīla Prabhupāda's Hall". By having such a hall this shall become magnet for attracting devotees rather than narrow sectarian interests.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your blissful and wonderful books (over one hundred) that you've left behind for all humanity, we are your

guardians. To be true to you and to Kṛṣṇa we must re-commit ourselves in our service to you. In one of your early articles and booklet entitled *Easy Journey to Other Planets* you state:

People dream, of travelling to the stars, but such travel is still far away. Ancient yoga traditions, however, describe subtle pathways by which master yogis transfer themselves to planets beyond the earth.

This book and many others take the reader to the most wonderful places in the antimaterial sky which are eternal and full bliss and beyond the reach of birth, death, old age, and disease.

In this Vyāsa-pūjā, I would humbly make the following request to your most dedicated *Śrīla Prabhupāda Tributes* team who take the trouble, and love to reach out to so many disciples.

I would like to propose that each participant should be invited to give his location, address, email contact details, and possibly a number.

This makes the offering very authentic, and allows others to express their appreciation when they have been moved and enlightened by the offerings and realisation of more senior devotees. In years to come, the contact details will prove valuable for researchers and writers who wish to use the *Vyāsa Pūjā Tributes* books to advance your mission.

So I finally return to my point which is love of Godhead. By example and by your books, you Śrīla Prabhupāda have provided us a method and a tremendous insight into developing our role and attitude in devotional service. By highly practical advice and guidance you have steered devotees along the path loving Kṛṣṇa, and imbibing the science of Kṛṣṇa without adulation. You have also mentioned the importance of Vaishnava etiquette, and *varṇāśrama*, simple living and high thinking.

Today, of all days, we seek your causeless mercy.

*Your humble servant*

Cathurbhuj Dasa

Initiation: 1969, December—London, UK

Current location: London, UK

Contact: rajinder.gupta101@gmail.com

## Karanodakasayi Visnu Dasa Adhikari

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My Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

*mūkaṁ karoti vācāraṁ paṅgūṁ laṅghayate girim  
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, although very inadequately, I am able to voice the great jubilation and ecstasy I am feeling of this process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness which you have given us.

You ordered us to take care of our health and chant a minimum of 16 rounds a day. From Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 I decided to start chanting 18 rounds a day, and then on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 I was inspired by you to chant 20 rounds. Now since Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 I have started chanting 21 rounds a day. Although this takes me four hours a day, I am in bliss afterwards and it still leaves me time to do my service and reading.

Presently, my brother Caturbhuja Prabhu and I have just started reading *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* Ninth Canto, Chapter One, entitled “King Sudyumna Becomes a Woman.” One devotee sent me a graphic of the blossoming of the *bhakti-latā bīja* from Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura’s *Mādhurya Kādambinī*. This was so inspiring to see starting from the seed of devotional service which you have planted in our hearts, to placing our heart, our faith, our *śraddhā* at your lotus feet, then gradually seeing the creeper of devotional service growing by *sādhu saṅga*, *bhajana kriyā* and *anartha nivṛtti*, until we become fixed in our devotional service of chanting the Holy Name of the Lord, *niṣṭhā*. So going from *nāma aparādha*, which is the dense darkness of night, we come to *nāma ābhāsa*, the clearing stage, when the sun has not quite arrived on the horizon yet the whole sky has lit up with daylight. As we continue the chanting process we will get a taste for it. Then our *sadhana bhakti* will develop to *bhāva bhakti*, or transcendental emotional love of God, which is but the preliminary stage to *prema bhakti* or actual love of God, which is the highest achievement of human life. And it is just as you have said simply by this process of chanting the *mahā-mantra* and following all

the rules and regulations certainly we will achieve our goal.

Chanting here means attentive chanting, listening to the sound vibration of the Holy Name as we utter it, then it will become pure chanting, *śuddha nāma*, which is likened to the sun being in the sky at mid-day, blazing in full glory. This will only be possible if we endeavour to execute our devotional service under the shelter of pure devotees.

Since Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, we have been meeting once a week at various locations, including Soho Street to see how we can get one Varṇāśrama College with every ISKCON centre. The dim light of Varṇāśrama is still burning bright in my heart, and under Bhakti Raghava Swami we are just about to complete our second reading of your book *Śrīla Prabhupāda Speaking About Varṇāśrama* compiled by Hare Kṛṣṇa Devi Dasi. How so many wonderful instructions on the 50% of our Movement are yet to be fulfilled. Our leaders need to focus on the second half of our Movement whilst maintaining the first half of *saṅkīrtana*, initiation and temple construction and worship.

Finally, for your pleasure, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as one of the five things you wanted for London, namely:

1. A set of books in every home
2. A temple in Regent's Park
3. Ten temples in London
4. Theatre for the British public
5. The British Empire of Kṛṣṇa consciousness

Last year I was informed of a course in Comedy by the CNWL Recovery College, but it was not until this year on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 till Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 that the Comedy Course came on tap for me. Following your abiding instruction to me to 'Continue your education and become Kṛṣṇa conscious' in 1973, I decided to try to perform on stage and teach Kṛṣṇa consciousness by making people laugh and perhaps follow in Madhumaṅgala's footsteps to make Kṛṣṇa laugh. So I have been on the course for 10 weeks now which will culminate in showcasing all the students' Comedy Acts on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 at The Comedy Store, off Leicester Square in London. This will be my first introduction to performing on stage, and if we can later expand it to more Kṛṣṇa conscious theatre in London that will be truly wonderful. I humbly seek your blessings in this endeavour.

*Your insignificant servant,*

Karanodakasayi Visnu Dasa Adhikari

Initiation: 1969, December—London, UK

Current location: Willesden Green, London, UK

Contact: mohan.gupta108@yahoo.co.uk, +44 (0) 7913 897 406

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## Svarupa Dasa

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Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.22.47 you wrote:

*A joker's activities simply arouse laughter, and a person who tries to repay the spiritual master or teacher of the transcendental message of Kṛṣṇa becomes a laughing stock just like a joker because it is not possible to repay such a debt. The best friend and benefactor of all people is one who awakens humanity to its original Kṛṣṇa consciousness.*

That best friend and benefactor of all people is Your Divine Grace and knowing that it is impossible for me to ever repay my debt to you, I can only pray to Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī to allow me to remain forever your humble disciple and servant, life after life.

Svarupa Dasa

Initiation: 1969, December—Boston, USA

Current location: Oceanside, California

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## Dinadayadri Dasi

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**Vyāsa-pūjā Offering at the Lotus Feet of My Spiritual Master,**

**His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda**

**August 27, 2024**

Each sound from your lips is a spiritual jewel  
But I am a most insignificant fool  
So on this most holy and auspicious day  
For undeserved mercy I humbly pray

The sound of your voice in your books makes me swoon!  
It lights up the dark like the rays of the moon  
The sound of your singing! It pierces the sky,  
A path to the Lord in the planet most high

I'm puzzled by life at this time, much to fear  
I pray to my Spiritual Father most dear  
For courage to cling to your feet at all cost  
Your voice in my heart, may I never be lost

Dinadayadri Dasi

Initiation: 1970, February—Detriot, Michigan, USA

Current location: Birmingham, Michigan, USA

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## Bhakta Dasa

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Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As your disciple who joined the grand spiritual journey under your guidance in 1969, I am eternally grateful for the transcendental wisdom and love you have bestowed upon us. Your tireless efforts to spread the teachings of Lord Krishna across the globe have illuminated countless hearts, guiding them toward the path of *Bhakti Yoga*. Your divine presence has been a beacon of hope and spiritual strength, inspiring a generation of seekers to embrace the richness of Vedic knowledge. Your books, a treasure trove of spiritual insight, continue transforming lives and instilling a profound sense of purpose and devotion. Through your grace, we have learned the true essence of selfless service and the joy of chanting the holy names.

As I reflect on the years spent in your service, my heart swells with appreciation for the journey you have charted for us, leading to the ultimate destination of love for Godhead. I pray that I may always remain a faithful servant in your mission, honoring your legacy and sharing the light of Krishna consciousness with all souls.

*Your servant,*

Bhakta Dasa

Initiation: 1970, March—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: Bangkok, Thailand



## Mahatma Dasa

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My Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

I chant sixteen rounds because you want me to.  
I follow the four rules because I promised you.

I try to be responsible because you instructed me to.  
I do things I don't like when it pleases you.

I do austerities because I follow what you do.  
I make sacrifices because I owe it to you.

I study your words to know what you want me to do.  
I teach because devotees need to know more about you.

I serve because we inherited a huge mission from you.  
I can please you if I help you serve your guru.

I stay in ISKCON because you asked all of us to.  
I try to cooperate because this is what you beg us to do.

I strive to live the kind of life you want me to;  
To be an example of what you want us to do.

Before I act I think, "What would Prabhupāda do?"  
I pray that someday I can be more like you.

I have no existence independent of you.  
Without you in my life, I wouldn't know what to do.

I am not qualified to be called a devotee true.  
Whatever good I have is only because of you.

Please use me for whatever you need me to do.  
I exist for your service and for what pleases you.

*Your servant,*

Mahatma Dasa

Initiation: 1970, March—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: Alachua, Florida, USA

Contact: mahat@aol.com

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## Aditi Devi Dasi

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My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and to all the great *ācāryas* in our guru Paramparā, especially to your spiritual master His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, whose 150<sup>th</sup> appearance day is this year. He inspired you to come to the West and to preach in English, and you have been and continue to be so successful, Prabhupāda, that now through your books you are preaching in almost all the languages of the world.

I have been remembering lately how Lord Jesus came to comfort me in the middle of the night when I was 4 years old, and had returned home after a very frightening surgery at the hospital. My tonsils and adenoids had been removed, and now that I was back at home and in my room I finally felt peaceful and safe. Jesus' face was present to me high in the room towards the ceiling, and I felt very protected and peaceful. But He did seem a little concerned. I was not afraid because He was there, even though it was in the middle of the night.

Then suddenly my mother came into the room and quickly turned my head to the side of the bed where there was (unknown to me) a bucket, and much blood flew out of my mouth and into the bucket. I was shocked...I had no clue anything was going on. That quick action probably saved my life, and I have been thinking about it recently. Was I not ready to leave with Jesus? Did I have

more lessons to learn? Did He wake my mother and remind her to check on me? I often listen to *Chaitanya Charitāmṛta* at night as I lie to go to sleep, or to listen if I should wake up and not fall back asleep. And sometimes I think, “Why has Lord Chaitanya never appeared to me as Jesus did?”

I understand that this experience with Jesus was probably from a relationship in a previous birth: perhaps that of my grandmother who had come from France with my grandfather, and who was very religious. If she wasn’t working hard on the farm, she was cooking and cleaning for her 8 children, and when free, she would be reciting her rosary. This experience was with Jesus, who had been sent by His Father to bring His followers back Home. The Father Himself had not appeared, but His representative. Likewise Prabhupāda, you were sent by your spiritual master on behalf of Lord Chaitanya, to spread His word and teach us how to love Rādhā and Krishna who had combined in His Person. So seeing you, Prabhupāda, and being in your presence, and in your service, is like my seeing of Jesus that night.

Although I had seen the devotees so many times prior to 1970, on the Berkeley campus chanting near Sproul Plaza, on Telegraph Avenue, and also in San Francisco, I never made it to the temple in San Francisco, even though I tried. I even saw the Matchless Gifts store on the Lower East Side, but it was before you had come, Prabhupāda. Little did I know what matchless gifts you would bestow upon us, your followers.

But it was at 7 Bury Place in London that I finally “visited” a Hare Krishna temple. And what more could one ask for. Inside reigned the beautiful couple Śrī Śrī Rādhā London-Īśvara who had been installed three months before, along with Their Lordships Lord Jagannāth, Baladeva and Subhadrā. The temple was stunning with purple carpet, and walls made from redwood that Shyamasundar Prabhu had sent from California. There were beautiful pillows decorating the sides of the temple. And your picture Prabhupāda at the front along with your books at your side. *Harināma* was ecstatic and the devotees were very sincere: I was especially touched by Bhakta Tom who soon became Tribhuvanāth Prabhu, and Her Grace Mandākinī Prabhu...as well as the three couples who founded the temple....and had come from San Francisco on the order of Śrīla Prabhupāda to do so.

I received initiation that summer by mail, and had to wait until

the following August to have your personal association. When you came in 1971, I cooked for you, and finally went in to receive my *gāyatrī* mantra. Within days I was again in your room and getting instructions on my future. Harivilās Prabhu had come from France and we both were in your room. You said you wanted me to go to France, to marry Locanānanda, and to help to strengthen the French *yātrā*, and then to go on to open a temple in Geneva. You said, Prabhupāda, “Geneva is not a very large city, but it is a very important one because of the United Nations.” That was a difficult assignment, and that marriage suffered.

So I have been so fortunate to have had your association in London, Paris, Vrindavan and New Delhi, and then again in Paris and New Māyāpura. You saved me, Prabhupāda, from so much useless suffering in this material world. You have inspired me, Prabhupāda, to hope that one day I can join you and my husband Jayakula das. Please help me to be as steadfast as was Jayakula Prabhu. He joined in Australia, and then met you in Jakarta in 1972. I see him in the videos: he is not yet wearing a dhoti nor is he shaved up. You signed a small blue Bhagavad Gītā that we still have. Then he came back to France and joined the temple. I see he was there at the installation; I was so busy I hadn’t noticed him. But he began immediately going shop to shop, and collecting large sums of *lakshmī*. I finally noticed him when he was pushing his collection through the treasurer’s door slot, and inquired on behalf of Yamunā about lace from Brittany, a province of western France. Some of the new girls were also going out in Paris... Jagat Kīrti, Daṇḍakeśī, and Jīva dāsī. I went out to earn my ticket to India, as Yamunā had requested I come to help before the opening of the Krishna Balarama Mandir. I was a year and a half in Vrindavan and Delhi where I was blessed by your association... although your stays were short. After the temple did not open in August of 1974, I was asked by Bhagavān to become *pūjārī* in Delhi for Rādhā Pārthasārathi because Madira was pregnant and could no longer take care. So I was engaged from *maṅgala-ārati* till I put Them to sleep at night. After some time, though, I wanted to do some preaching work also. I took some books and went door to door in a few neighborhoods. But Tejyas Prabhu thought it didn’t look good that I was doing that. So soon I returned to France and joined the women’s team. A year and a half had passed and now so many devotees were going out on *saṅkīrtana*. Jayakula now had a team of men that he took out. Ādiśekhara Prabhu was doing great book

distribution. The translators of French, Spanish, and Italian were all very busy, and beautiful books were being published in Italy for all the *yātrās*. There were 4 big vans, and the women were in the blue smaller VW van in which you had ridden to the programs in Paris in 1972. Once I had to stay back to cook for the evening program, and I got to ride in that van to the evening program with you in the front right seat....asking so many questions about different buildings in Paris.

At some point Bhagavān asked me to marry Jayakula Prabhu. He wanted us to continue *saṅkīrtana*, but to also begin the cow protection program for New Māyāpura from Jayakula's parents' farm in Brittany (western France). One time we had two huge pregnant cows in our van, and we drove the 6 hours to New Māyāpura with them breathing down our necks almost, and the first bull was born from one of them. Jayakula Prabhu departed three days before Gaura Pūrṇimā in 1980. He had been told in India that he would depart this world before he turned 40, and that this would be his last birth. He departed in February; two months before he would have turned 40. And I am confident that you were there to greet him. Our daughter was born in May. It's been 44 years since that happened. Please keep me steadfast in my chanting and hearing, and doing what service I can. Thank you for coming, Prabhupāda: you taught us not only to love God, but also to serve God, and to glorify Their Lordships Rādhā and Krishna and Their union in Mahāprabhu, and to be humble. Thank you, Prabhupāda.

Aditi Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1970, September—London, UK

Current location: Hawaii / Alachua, Florida, USA

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## Kusha Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All Glorious to your Divine Grace.

You taught us that Krishna consciousness is simple for the simple humble folks and complicated for the complicated sophisticated folks.

As we advance in years, we realize the profundity of your enlightened guidance. All that you revealed sparkles as crystal clear

fact, especially as the charm of youthful misidentification fades into the sunset of our lives.

You taught us the meaning of hell = factory.

As Kali progresses, the mundane society is organizing itself more and more into one huge industrialized, digitized, monetized, pick a number, to line up in the queue, to punch in your secure one time password, \*IMPERSONALIST\* world.

Humans are losing all dignity.

Customer service has been relegated to taking a survey, to rate your server.

But do not expect anything more than an impersonalist response, because \*that's our policy.\*

Conversely, You came to teach us about \*real love\*, spiritual love. Love that raises us up through the modes of nature, to the pinnacle of graciousness, to pure selfless goodness, *śuddha sattva*.

You taught us self discipline through the regulative principles of freedom. You taught us to become addicts of the all attractive Godhead, Krishna, through the habitual chanting and dancing, while singing the names of the Lord.

These purificatory processes tenderize our hearts, so when it comes time to let go of all identification with matter, we can relish the process of transferring our account to Goloka and no longer be bound by social security numbers, bank accounts and deeds.

Our eternal identities have always been known to you. In this way, you kindly awakened our dormant Krishna consciousness, like Bṛhaspati, uplifting his disciple, Indra, the king of heaven, who had fallen into the wretched condition as a pig. We too have wallowed in the mire of nescience.

All glorious to your awakening our slumbering souls to joyful Krishna *sevā*, sharing Krishna *prema* with all we meet.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to remain free of the clutches of this impersonal factory, military industrialized minionization of the human race.

Thank you for freeing our souls, delivering them to joyfully serve Krishna.

For **serve** we will. Thank you, your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda! Thank you!

*Begging to remain your faithful loving servant,*

## Nagapatni Devi Dasi

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To Śrīla Prabhupāda Our Everything.

You're our Master, guiding us back to home  
Keeping us fixed, not letting us roam.

You're our father, giving us our spiritual life  
Until you came there was only struggle and strife.

You're our mother, who gives all the facilities  
Never abandoning our needs and frailties.

You're our captain, steering our ship on course, through the  
modes of nature  
and all the material force.

You're our teacher, providing knowledge through your  
books and spotless  
preaching, opening our eyes and extending our reaching.

You're our provider feeding us pure transcendental mercy  
that continues to  
nurture and strengthen our urgency.

You're our general, who leads us fearlessly against our  
greatest foes, there  
are no retreats, and no defeats. Clearly, it's stated so.

You're our hope, our refuge, our redeemer. There's no place  
sweeter. Please have  
mercy keep us close to your lotus feet  
or all we will do is weep.

All glories to the greatest master, to the perfect father, the most loving mother, the foremost brave captain, the most wise teacher, the most generous provider, our fearsome general, our very dear, perfect Guru. Thank you, thank you for all you continue to do.

Your aspiring servant,

Nagapatni Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1971, February—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: Vrindavan, India

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## Trai Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I hope that I will be able to go on offering my humble obeisances to you for eternity as your eternal servant life after life.

Generally after one surpasses 70 years of age the body is weaker and has more pains and diseases so naturally one wants to retire and sit peacefully in the holy *dhāmas* and just hear and chant. The problem is that every time I think like that I remember that you STARTED this movement at this age and travelled around the world preaching, establishing temples and at the same time constantly writing your books for the benefit of the whole world. You were doing this most vigorously from the age of 75 until the age of 80!! So how can I stop?

I remember when you came to visit us at the new skyscraper temple in New York on West 55th Street. You were so happy and transcendently proud of this after only 10 years. I remember that the devotees who were in the elevator with you told us that you said you were an Arjuna monk and wanted to die on the battlefield.

How you served your Guru Mahārāja's order with full force despite so many obstacles is what inspires us to go on. Even you retired to Vrindavan the last year of your presence here to show us the example of how to die, you still continued, as you said, beating the *Bṛhat mṛdaṅga*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we cannot imitate you. You are an empowered incarnation *śaktyāveśa avatār*. We must try in our little way to follow in your footsteps and try to become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious and give this mercy to others in the form of your books and the chanting of the Holy Name.



Your eternal servant,

Trai Dasa

Initiation: 1971, February—San Francisco, USA

Current location: President Bologna, Italy yatra

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## Sarvamangala Devi Dasi

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your feet.

This year I am very late in submitting my offering although I have been contemplating Your Divine Grace more and more.

Many of my godbrothers and sisters have now departed. Practically every day we hear of someone who has passed away. Recently Shilavati Prabhu left her body. I never met her but we all knew of her service to Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī Dvārakādhīśa and how you had personally trained her up in Deity worship. What a wonderful and fortunate soul she is! How you changed the world by inviting Krishna to come and receive our service!

You appeared in our lives and gave us the truth of who we really are – spirit souls, part and parcel of Krishna, His eternal servants. The way you spoke this ultimate truth was, and still is amazingly powerful to an extent beyond our comprehension. Your rich voice echoes in our minds and hearts, diminishing the nonsense of this material manifestation. From the bona fide spiritual master ecstatic *prema* emanates and by him ignorance is destroyed. Hearing you speak awakens the sleeping soul.

After over fifty years in the Vaiṣṇava society you created in the line of Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu (ISKCON, I am only just beginning to have glimmers of realisation about how asleep I have been. So much time wasted on trying to gratify the senses, even whilst attempting to engage in devotional service. Every day it becomes more obvious that we are so lost in a reverie of misconceptions that our only hope is your mercy. You have captured our hearts with your dazzling revelations in writing and lecture, but I regret to say how my own mind is far from steady in the application of remembrance of the Lord and I am still a victim of *pratiṣṭhā*. Still, because of your instruction and guidance, there is no need to become self-absorbed or discouraged. We must “stand and fight” and give up such “petty weakness of heart.”

Age is teaching us how far we have to go to attain purity. Yet somehow your inconceivable kindness enthuses us to engage in devotional service. I am kneeling at your feet and begging forgiveness for my shortcomings and simultaneously thanking you for giving us the opportunities to serve Krishna and His devotees. You said that devotees are “out there” waiting for us to find them. There is no joy equal to this. You found us and gave us a wonderful life. It is wonderful in happiness and distress because you have given us eyes to see and ears to hear. I am a slow learner, Śrīla Prabhupāda, but my deepest hope is simply to improve. I recently read a letter you had sent to a disciple where you said we should not be proud of any service rendered or we won’t be able to improve. This isn’t a negative outlook but a reality. Hearing the truths your voice vibrates cleanses doubt and fear. Please continue to help me improve. I hope I can spend my remaining years in this body trying to be helpful to sincere seekers of the truth and sharing what I can of the mercy you have disseminated. It has to be attempted because you have given the order in spite of our disqualification.

Thank you, forever, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*Your servant, aspiring to demonstrate real gratitude by being of some use in service at your lotus feet.*

Sarvamangala Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1971, March—London, UK

Contact: [insideoutetc.sarva@gmail.com](mailto:insideoutetc.sarva@gmail.com)

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## Kshudi Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

This year is the 128th anniversary of your divine appearance in this world. This year I want to strengthen my ability to follow your instructions, be loyal to you, serve you, and help your projects to achieve success. It has been 47 years since you left this mortal world. However I know we can keep you alive and present by regular study of your books and following your instructions. I will dedicate my life to this practice. I know success in spiritual life is to follow your teachings, not diverting to other practices.

I remember how close you stuck to me when I was alone in South Africa. You put so much effort to make sure I was not there

alone. When devotees had difficulty coming to South Africa you looked for others to come help me even as busy you were. I dedicate my life to sticking close to you and not diverting to other practices and philosophies. I plan to put effort into helping other devotees. I plan to share with others how much effort you put into helping me and other devotees. Also to share with others the benefits of sticking close to you and helping others.

In this year I plan to serve you this year by following practices

1. Chanting 64 rounds most days
2. Studying your books to stay Krishna Conscious and help others to achieve Krishna consciousness

I plan to serve you in following you in following places:

1. Vrindavan 2. Laguna Beach 3. Long Beach 4. South Africa 5. Māyāpur and whatever places I am needed, while remembering I have to pace myself and not travel more than my health can handle.

I constantly remember some things you wrote to me. You wrote “I am very much pleased at responsibility you have taken to spread Krishna Consciousness” This year I want to please you in the same way.

You also wrote “I am praying to Krishna that you will have the strength and enthusiasm to carry out this mission”. Please continue to pray to Krishna in this way. I know with your shelter and prayers I can be successful in spite of my many shortcomings. Please also help me to be aware of my *anarthas* and shortcomings as well as solutions to be free of them.

*I beg to remain as your eternal loyal servant,*

Kshudi Dasa

Initiation: 1971, March—Bombay, India

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## Satadhanya Dasa

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“If you catch up Kṛṣṇa’s Lotus Feet very tightly,  
then you will not fall down.” (Lecture on SB  
1.16.8 – Los Angeles, January 5, 1974)

*‘dhyeya-madhye jīvera kartavya kon dhyāna?’  
‘rādhā-kṛṣṇa-padāmbuja-dhyāna—pradhāna’*

“Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu further inquired, “Out of many types of meditation, which is required for all living entities?” Śrīla Rāmānanda Rāya replied, “The chief duty of every living entity is to meditate upon the lotus feet of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.” (CC Madhya 8.253)

I do believe that these are ‘literal’ statements and that we are, as far as possible, to remember the *Lotus Feet of our Arcā-Vigraha Deities* installed within our ISKCON Temples— at the same time, recognizing that ‘Śrīla Prabhupāda’s Divine Lotus Feet’ are nothing less than *the affectionate and wonderful transparent-via-media to the Lord’s Lotus Feet*.

By so doing we shall certainly become more and more purified to the degree that we will gradually ‘realize’ that our *fragmented living consciousness* is ‘in reality’ differentiated from, encapsulated by, and permeating throughout the entire gross and subtle material body.

Next, it may actually become apparent to the progressively purified devotee that the so referred “*fragmented living consciousness*” is indeed very much *a part and parcel of the original source of all living consciousness, or the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the Supreme Proprietor and Controller of everything: “Aham sarvasya prabhavo...”*

Simultaneously as this all, by the divine grace of Śrīla Prabhupāda and Śrī Krishna, unfolds, one may perceive that by recognizing such natural connection between the Jīvātmā (*anu*) and the Supreme Lord (Vibhu), in truth, the Jīvātmā steadily gains some measure of control over, and is, at last, able to correctly steer and keep his *minute portion of consciousness* on a straight and narrow path of *Vaishnava Probity and Śaraṇāgati*.

And so, by “*Catching-up the Lord’s Lotus Feet*”, *step by step*, it may so come to pass that:

*vidyā-vinaya-sampanne  
brāhmaṇe gavi hastini  
śuni caiva śva-pāke ca  
paṇḍitāḥ sama-darśinaḥ*

“The humble sage, by virtue of true knowledge, sees with equal vision a learned and gentle brahmana, a cow, an elephant, a dog and a dog-eater [outcaste].” (Bg. 5.18)

And:

*arjuna uvāca  
naṣṭo mohaḥ smṛtir labdhā*

*tvat-prasādān mayācyuta  
sthito 'smi gata-sandehaḥ  
kariṣye vacanam tava*

“Arjuna said: My dear Kṛṣṇa, O infallible one, my illusion is now gone. I have regained my memory by Your mercy. I am now firm and free from doubt and am prepared to act according to Your instructions.” (Bg. 18.73)

Do not be mistaken by thinking that approaching, “*paṇḍitāḥ sama-darśinaḥ*” and “*kariṣye vacanam tava*”, is something very easy—it is Not easy—it is only easy and cheap for *Sahajiyās*! I can't help but add that for any devotee, regardless of who you are, who feels that the above mentioned platforms, albeit *spiritual*, do not properly represent their ‘more advanced status’, i.e., ‘*the sweetness of Krishna Līlā*’, I, for one, do not buy it!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, numerous times, warned and chastised us for such premature behaviour and conclusions. Note that in: “*Nāma, Rūpa, Guṇa, Līlā*”, *Līlā is last!*

First Chant the Mahā Mantra without offences, feel genuine love for and purely serve Śrīla Prabhupāda, and the rest be assured is guaranteed!

*Your servant,*

Satadhanya Dasa

Initiation: 1971, March—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

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## Jagattarini Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga.

This year for your Vyāsa Pūjā I urgently need to ask you about something. I am begging your advice, and guidance because on the deepest level of my heart, I trust only you.

Today I was introduced to a further development in the shape of intervention and control through Artificial Intelligence (AI). This is a topic that has always frightened me.

I understand that in its broadest sense, AI is intellect exhibited by machines, particularly computer systems which enable machines to perceive their environment, and using input and intelligence

provided by human kind, to take actions to maximize their chances of achieving their defined goals. This concept deeply frightens me.

A recent encounter with this machinery of control asked me to remember that AI is already widely used Internationally throughout industry, by Governments and in science.

And interestingly AI has filtered into well-known general applications, often without being called AI because once something has become useful enough and common enough it's not labelled like that anymore. It has become part of our lifestyle and almost a necessity.

Although I am aware that much technology can be used in Krishna's service in valid ways, today I reflected upon how casually, and how unconsciously I use these forms of controlling technology, without reflecting at all upon the dangers and repercussions upon society that must naturally follow, and I felt a kind of terror recognizing how the world is being reshaped, not only by these machines, but the " leadership" of demoniac men who are wicked, crazy and cruel. And I felt even deeper terror knowing that I am somewhat implicated in this also due to my unconscious involvement with such sinister technology disguised as essential and attractive.

Today from a deep place of fear I seek your protection and want your guidance in regards to my involvement in this world.

Oh dear Prabhupāda, it was you alone who stood above this crazy world and boldly spoke harsh words, condemning the rascal so-called leaders and the rascal populace who foolishly follow such dangerous people.

It was you who spoke out about how sports, movies, entertainment, TV and news forecasts are merely wasting time.

It was you who told us about ideal, noble Vaiṣṇava Kings and a society based upon religious principles, described in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. It was you who gifted me with the confidence that these stories are not merely fiction, moral stories or myths.

Oh Prabhupāda, you told me about great *mahājanas* who can be followed in order to realize perfection.

And it was you who worked tirelessly through thick and thin to translate, and insist upon the distribution of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* all over the world so that this crazy mad place could have an option, a hope, an alternative to the hellish hedonism in which we reside.

Oh dear Prabhupāda, please help me!

I want to find the courage to resist the ever so subtle as well as the grossest tendencies of mine to try and enjoy careless craziness

without recognizing the danger. Please help me to become honestly fearless by being tightly connected to you.

That seems so far away. I am so weak! Yet listening to you is beginning to make me stronger. Please hold me as I try to step forward, on the path you are defining. I want to honestly be with you.

I remain a fallen soul fearfully crying out for your mercy

*Your servant*

Jagattarini Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1971, April—Hong Kong

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## Jaya Jagadisa Dasa

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My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my unworthy obeisances at your lotus feet.

On this momentous occasion – your 128<sup>th</sup> appearance anniversary – please allow me to address an issue that strikes fear in the heart of all faithful followers, namely chastisement.

What does it mean to be chastised by the spiritual master? Does it mean he no longer loves me? Does it mean I'm being rejected by him or even excommunicated? Is it a curse, a blessing, or a little of each?

Should I condemn myself after being chastised by the spiritual master? Should I hate myself? Should I consider myself unlucky, or perhaps very lucky? Should I apologize, make excuses, or just remain silent?

Kṛṣṇa said that among punishments He is the rod of chastisement, and in Vaiṣṇava literary history there are many famous examples of chastisement. Nārada Muni chastised Vyāsadeva, Kṛṣṇa chastised Arjuna and the Kāliya serpent, Śukadeva chastised Parīkṣit, Īśvara Purī chastised Lord Caitanya, Lord Caitanya chastised Junior Haridāsa, and so on.

You once said on a morning walk: "Our Guru Mahārāja, so strict... A little discrepancy, he would chastise like anything. But we liked it very much."

Then you continued: "*Śiṣyaṁ ca putraṁ ca tāḍayen na tu lālayet.* That is Cāṅakya Paṇḍita's instruction. The sons and disciples should always be chastised. Never pat them." By "never pat them" I believe you meant never be lenient or indulge them.

In one conversation with you, Satsvarūpa Mahārāja spoke in the

voice of someone who is critical of God: “They say He should be exemplary. God should be exemplary.”

**Prabhupāda:** No. God is not bound to prove His exemplary character to you. You are a rascal.

**Satsvarūpa:** Then how will I know what to follow?

**Prabhupāda:** You learn! You come to me. I’ll teach you and beat you with shoes and teach you. Come to me. Why I am here? You come! I shall beat you with shoes and teach you. Then you’ll learn. You require some beating with shoes. You are a bad student. So I’ll do that. Yes, I keep always my shoes for my bad students.

**Gurukṛpā:** You can beat me, Śrīla Prabhupāda. I’d like that.

**Prabhupāda:** Yes. A student who is more chastised is advanced. *guru more mūrkhā dekhi’ karila śāsana* (Adi 7.71). Caitanya Mahāprabhu said, “My spiritual master saw me a grand fool. Therefore he has chastised Me.” That is the position. The more we remain a grand fool, the more we may advance in spiritual consciousness.

In ISKCON there are many examples of you chastising your disciples. Umapati Swami once said, “When Prabhupāda yelled at you, your life air would practically leave your body.”

After you chastised Navayogendra Swami, Navayogendra inquired, “Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you get angry at us, what should we do?” You responded, “You should laugh.” Navayogendra asked, “Why?” You responded, “There are so many people in this world doing all kinds of nonsense. Is there anybody checking them, correcting them? Nobody. When the spiritual master corrects his disciple it means that Kṛṣṇa is being merciful upon that soul.”

Regarding laughing as a result of being chastised, Hridayānanda Mahārāja tells two stories of being chastised by you, and in both cases, knowing that he was innocent of all charges, Mahārāja had to cover his face as he was laughing so hard.

In the first case, in Māyāpur, you were walking down the stairs of the Lotus Building and an unaccompanied attractive young female disciple was marching up the stairs so quickly that she almost collided with you. You demanded: “What are you doing?” “I’m



going to see Hridayānanda Mahārāja,” she answered. Your strident response: “Bring me Hridayānanda Mahārāja!”

And in the second instance, you chastised Hridayānanda Mahārāja heavily for not washing up immediately after eating. Mahārāja was in such a hurry to leave your quarters that – carrying his *danḍa* horizontally – it got caught in the doorway and he basically got stuck and couldn’t get out.

And there are other, more infamous examples of you chastising your disciples. The late, great Brahmānanda Mahārāja and company were temporarily kicked out of ISKCON for preaching that you were God. And Tamāl Krishna Mahārāja was repeatedly humiliated in front of prominent life members for trying to cancel the Juhu land purchase.

In a 1972 letter to Nirañjana, you write: “It is simply out of love that I chastise any of my students. It is a father’s duty to raise his son to be a strong, useful citizen, and sometimes he must reprimand him for some mistake in order to teach him. But this harshness is only for his son’s benefit. Similarly, you are all my spiritual children, and my only concern is to see that you all become strong in your devotion to Lord Krishna, so sometimes scolding may be there, but you should always remember that it is done with love and it is only for your benefit.”

To summarize, rather than indicating rejection, to be chastised by the spiritual master is infinite kindness and a rapid road to advancement. The spiritual master’s love for his disciple is unconditional and absolute, therefore I should see the guru’s chastisement as an intensified form of grace that I’m not really qualified to receive.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your disciple Śrīman Vaiṣeṣika Prabhu was a pioneer book distributor and now serves as an initiating guru and exemplary devotee within ISKCON. I heard a slogan from him which, if I can live by it, I’ll be able to accept chastisement in the proper mindset and my spiritual life will skyrocket. And what is that slogan? Vaiṣeṣika said, “I live to be corrected!”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I beg to remain a humble servant, ever chastened, at your lotus feet.

Jaya Jagadisa Dasa  
Initiation: 1971, April—London, UK

## Anadi Dasa

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After over 50 years in ISKCON, it's still quite apparent that there is nobody like Śrīla Prabhupāda. He is definitely worthy of the title "His Divine Grace".

From book publications to Deity worship, whatever Śrīla Prabhupāda did was done first class. He left for us an entire Vedic culture for the next 10,000 years, which no ordinary person could ever have the capacity to accomplish. To this Divine Grace I offer my humble obeisances.

Anadi Dasa

Initiation: 1971, May—Philadelphia, USA

Current location: Los Angeles, California, USA

## Kurma Dasa

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The sun appears to take its birth  
In the morning time above the earth,  
And then it seems to pass away  
In the evening, leaving gloom and grey.

Yet we all know from experience sure,  
From spotless *Purāṇas* clear and pure,  
That the sun eternally doth shine  
Far beyond horizon's line.

In a similar way you have appeared  
In *mlecchas'* lands that were ne'er revered  
For piety, nor cleanliness,  
Nor mercy, nor for truthfulness.

How kind of you to come to places  
Where the sinful live, whose darkened faces  
Indicate passion, wrath and greed,  
Yet to your words they've taken heed.

Bright faced now, from hearing you  
Their lives remoulded, fresh and new,  
They see you always in their heart,

And so for them you'll ne'er depart.

Prabhupāda, your steps were never wasted –  
Every spot a *tīrtha*, nectar tasted.  
Your glories dominate the mundane sphere,  
Reflected in *bhaktas* hearts so clear.

Let us pray that every place  
Where you have held the preaching mace,  
And every word that that you have spoken  
Be revealed by devotees now awoken.

Can I measure your mercy sweet?  
Oceanic compassion! Impossible feat!  
So I stand on its shore and serve without stop -  
I, Kurma dasa, pray to taste but a drop.

Kurma Dasa

Initiation: 1971, May—Sydney, Australia

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## Narayani Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Lord Caitanya has a universal vision, and he instructed us all to be guru.

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

“Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land.”  
— *CC Madhya* 7.128

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu had this universal vision, and Śrīla Prabhupāda fulfilled it. He also gave us Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu's universal instruction.

“So I hope that all of you, men, women, boys and girls, become spiritual master and follow this principle. Spiritual master—simply, sincerely, follow the principles and speak to the general public. then you become Kṛṣṇa's favorite.” — *Vyāsa-pūjā*, London, 1973

We have some gurus, not many, but actually in Śrīla Prabhupāda's

vision gurus were not meant to be a restricted number, but were meant to be unlimited.

“So we require hundreds and thousands of spiritual masters who has understood this Kṛṣṇa science and preach all over the world...Therefore we have formed this society and we, we invite all sincere souls to take part in the society and become a spiritual master, and preach this science all over the world. — Lecture, Bg. 4.34–38, New York, 1966

Śrīla Prabhupāda was asked near the end of his life: Who will be your successor?

**Interviewer:** Now, we understand, Your Divine Grace, that at this point in time, you as the titular or the actual head of the Kṛṣṇa movement in the world, you have no successor when you move into another dimension; that from the masses, from the disciples that you have throughout the world, someone will rise to take your place when you move to another world?

**Prabhupāda:** Not someone, but so many, because I am teaching all the students to work. In future. I may die, but the movement will go on, because all these young boys and girls, they are complete in knowledge of this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. So it cannot be stopped. (Radio Interview)

**Devotee:** It seems like Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu preached in India, but he left the rest of the world for you.

**Prabhupāda:** Yes, and for you. (Morning Walk, Vṛndāvana)

Similarly, Lord Caitanya also says the same thing, and Kṛṣṇa also says the same thing. Never it is, He is stressing on birth. Birth is no consideration. Nobody is responsible for his birth... He has to advance his cultural life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That is his responsibility... If I want to enter into the kingdom of God, or Kṛṣṇa, if we want to be Kṛṣṇa consciousness, there is no impediment... it does not depend on any material condition. .. *Cāturvarṇyam mayā sṛṣṭam* [Bg. 4.13]. That is a chance given, that you can become a *brāhmaṇa*, you can become a

great devotee of Lord Kṛṣṇa, and you can become the spiritual master of the world.” — Śrīla Prabhupāda  
Lecture, *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.12–13, New York, 1966

So let us all take up Lord Caitanya’s and Śrīla Prabhupāda’s instructions and become guru and liberate the world.

*Your servant,*

Narayani Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1971, June—Florida, USA

## Mahasini Devi Dasi

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On this, the most auspicious day  
Appeared on Earth Abhay Charan De

The apple of your parents’ eyes, by your own  
account a petted son  
They could not know just who you were;  
they did not know what had begun

They named you “fearless” – a name you proved in time  
Leaving alone to America to teach a goal sublime

And you, yourself, seemed not to know; tho’ well for  
the world it bode  
When clad in Gandhi *khaadi*, you met  
the son of Bhaktivinode

Your guru saw you, knew you, set your path in motion  
To fulfill his impossible order you  
would have to cross an ocean

Your parents named you well, they did,  
fearless at God’s feet  
You sailed with strong abiding faith,  
not knowing what you’d meet

How blessed are we who found you, our friend,  
indeed our savior

Our current way of life, you taught,  
was simply animal behavior

Our mental speculation, dressed up as lofty thought  
Without Kṛṣṇa at the center; everything for naught

In the vastness of this world; in the depth of time and space  
We did not earn your company; it is solely Kṛṣṇa's Grace

We pray to serve your mission, we pray to never fall  
To have you as our Ever Well Wisher  
is the greatest gift of all

*Eternally in your debt,*

Mahasini Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1971, June—New Dwarka, Los Angeles, USA

Current location: Roswell, Georgia, USA

Contact: bakaalm@gmail.com

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## Suresvara Dasa

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Thank you for never giving up on me.

In 2021 my Tribute to you, I described how you scolded me in a dream for trying to enjoy an aspiring disciple instead of serving her. In 2023 your chastisement continued when the lady lodged a formal complaint with an ISKCON office investigating leadership abuse. Last August I was found guilty of repeatedly hugging the woman (a family therapist) and ordered, among other things, to step down from all leadership roles for one year. Mortified, I resigned from the service you entrusted to me ten years ago, to initiate devotees into our ISKCON family founded by Your Divine Grace.

One should not allow oneself to sit on the same seat  
even with one's own mother, sister or daughter,  
for the senses are so strong that even though  
one is very advanced in knowledge, he may be

attracted by sex. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 9.19.17)

God only knows how many times I've read your translation and purport to that verse, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and even taught it, without realizing a word. How else could I have ignored the fire-butter nature of man-woman association spelled out so clearly by Śrīpāda Nārada Muni. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 7.12.9) Alas, "There's no fool like an old fool," especially because I was supposed to be acting as her guru.

Still, you don't give up on me.

But by giving me enough rope to hang myself, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you're making it clearer than ever that this may be my last chance to realize I'm not the body but spirit soul, and accept your long-standing invitation to come home and serve Śrī Śrī Rādhā & Kṛṣṇa.

Besides stepping down from all leadership roles this year (even to lead a *kīrtan*), I was ordered to contribute to a fund for abused devotees and take courses on the right and wrong uses of power. The courses—one religious, the other secular—have helped me see why I behaved the way I did, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and feel your translations and purports in my heart of hearts.

In this way, you've been preparing me to execute your Society's final order before my year of penance is up: to write a formal apology to the lady whose trust I betrayed, take full responsibility for what I did, and resume serving with a chastened heart so that such a betrayal never happens again.

Thank you for never giving up on me, Śrīla Prabhupāda, even when I feel like giving up on myself.

*Your aspiring servant,*

Suresvara Dasa

Initiation: 1971, July—Detroit, Michigan, USA

Current location: Tucson, Arizona, USA

Contact: suresvara@gmail.com

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## Atmananda Dasa

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your effective service to

your spiritual master and the paramparā, and to the entire world, in the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu and the Pancha Tattva!

I have become too familiar with your teachings and program – in an unhealthy way – and am suffering the results. I am experiencing feelings of lethargy, complacency, emptiness and depression.

By your tolerance and mercy, and that of Krishna’s Holy Names, as well as close, caring devotee friends, I am still able to see what’s happening.

Along with that, recently we have experienced some very serious challenges in our rural community farm project.

So, I conclude that I am being humbled, and “forced” to become more dependent on you and the Lord. Through prayer, deeper absorption in your books and lectures, and encouraging advanced association, I’m giving up my so-called independence, and struggling to become a steady instrument in your hands.

Most fortunately, I have no doubt that you are perfectly and absolutely qualified to guide me – and any other conditioned soul – to consummate, unalloyed pure devotion in Krishna consciousness. So, I have hope for myself, and recommit to taking your instructions more seriously!

When I think of how much you “suffered” in serving Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda’s will and desire, I feel embarrassed that I consider my challenges so seriously.

You had no effective support from your wife; you were gored by a bull in Delhi; you “failed” to establish anything in India (like in Jhansi); you experienced terrifying, life-threatening heart attacks on the *Jaladuta*; you were apparently alone in the US, with no support from your God-brothers (in fact, terrible criticism from some); your typewriter and *Gītā* manuscript were stolen, you had to tolerate a harrowing attack from a drug-crazed, wild, and threatening hippy, as well as the dominant atmosphere of a terribly degraded Kali-yuga city already hell-bent on destroying everything you stood for!!

The qualities you manifested to go through all of that, and not flinch or deviate for even a split second from absolute, unwavering faith in the words of your Guru Mahārāja are reassuring and strengthening for me!

You never gave up!!

More than that, your example powerfully inspires me to recommit to giving up my excuses and bad habits.



Your qualities are beyond even great, as by them you show us what it means to defy the most powerful forces of this world!!

With your transcendent, suprahuman qualities of absolute purity, tolerance, compassion, patience, determination, self-control and humility, you stepped on the head of apparently impossibly difficult challenges ... and finally, ultimately, on the head of even death itself!!

Almost no one else in history has ever done this!!

You show us what these qualities are in being – living – them, and what we can do, when we uncover them within ourselves, and live them in the service of you and Krishna.

You are certainly beyond any touch or limitation of the material energy. You are fully ensconced in the pure transcendental energy of loving devotional service to Krishna. “You were, are, in this material world, but not of it.”

I am praying to you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, that I may take your example of loving compassion, in the form of your instructions, most seriously. And I pray that you continue to support me with the strength, power and determination that I need to become your genuine disciple.

I know that if I continue in my struggle to surrender to your instructions, I will naturally become strong, confident, compassionate, powerful and effective – a little like you. Not in an arrogant or independent way, but in the way that a *kṣatriya* becomes complete and noble – a servant leader – under the guidance of his qualified and loving father or teacher.

My realization from your teachings is that one must be humble *and* strong, simultaneously, in order to surrender. It may seem like a contradiction: to be surrendered – which may have a connotation of being subservient, weak, dependent, in a demeaning way – and to be independently thoughtful, powerful and assertive at the same time.

However, you explain that we’re in a war with Māyā; that one can only be successful in Krishna consciousness if he takes full charge of his own mind and senses, defying any and all tendencies to allow them to stray for even a moment!! And when Māyā sees that we’re uncompromising and undefeatable – after all her perfect tests – she surrenders, offers her respects and leaves us to Krishna.

Here in New Zealand, we are facing many such tests, including the risk of accepting your being minimised by other well-meaning Vaishnavas who seem to believe that anyone is equal or greater than

you in terms of potency, purity, and achievements.

So yes, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am praying to you, in desperation, to continue helping me to become your sold-out and qualified representative, without being disrespectful or offensive to other great Vaishnavas!

With my most profound appreciation, gratitude and love,

*I am your aspiring servant,*

Atmananda Dasa

Initiation: 1971, July—Amsterdam, Netherlands

Current location: Whangarei, Northland, New Zealand

Contact: panorama108@gmail.com

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## Pancharatna Dasa

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

From a distant shore  
Cross a perilous ocean  
You ventured alone  
Fueled by devotion

And faith in the power  
Of the Lord's Holy Name  
To penetrate the darkness  
And defeat Māyā's game

That had captured us all  
With an illusion of happiness,  
In a prison of ignorance  
A fool's paradise.

That faith was so strong  
So deep and so wide  
It brought forth miracles  
On the Lower East Side

Of that citadel of Kali  
The great city of New York  
A capital for materialism  
A playground for its sport

Now become fertile ground  
To receive the transcendental seed  
Of Lord Chaitanya's movement  
To bring Kali to his knees

And rescue the whole world  
From the iron grip of sin  
Through ISKCON in New York  
Your battle did begin

And, though I have no qualities  
To aid you in your mission  
You allowed me in your service  
And drew out some contribution

Using this unworthy soul  
You showered me with grace  
And gave me a second birth  
Here in ISKCON's birthplace

You gave me purpose  
Like a puppet in your hands  
Lifted up from my slumber  
You pulled me into your dance

Now, I pray I can keep going  
While there's still life in these old bones  
To dance in your *sañkīrtan* party  
Calling all to come home

And leave behind this hopeless place

Of never-ending strife  
and return to Krishna consciousness  
For this, I give you my life.

*Your unworthy disciple,  
and most grateful participant in your sañkīrtan party,*

Pancharatna Dasa

Initiation: 1971, July—Washington, USA

Current location: ISKCON NYC, USA

Contact: pancharatna@gmail.com

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## Ravīndra Svarūpa Dāsa

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

This year has found me, much to my surprise, settled along with my wife, Saudāmanī Devī Dāsī, in Śrīdhāma Māyāpur itself. I hardly recognize the semi-wild outback of earlier year's annual visits. Now, from the window of my balcony, I can see the beautiful huge dome that will house the breathtaking, gigantic golden deities of Śrī Pañca-tattva, and the huge marble Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava, flanked, on each side, by four *gopīs*, each worshipping and adoring in her own way. Yet another view discloses a second special dome, which will shelter Śrī Nṛsimhadeva Himself, the shelter of all devotees.

It must be said that much of this awaits further decoration and treatment for its full richness and splendor to be realized, and I am not alone in feeling there may be no end to it.

I thank you for this great gift of yours to me and to the world.

*Your fallen servant,*

Ravīndra Svarūpa Dāsa

Initiation: 1971, July—Philadelphia, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my repeated obeisances at your lotus like feet. It has now been 47 years since you left this world. And though you left us so much, still your leaving created an emptiness that can never be filled.

I first met your disciples in Washington, D.C., when they came from New York City to start a temple in the North West section of DC near where my family was living. When I saw the *harinām* party. I was amazed! Another time, my father and sister saw the devotees doing *harinām* and my father encouraged me to find out what they were doing.

My family had lived and traveled mostly in South East Asia and the Far East as my father was a career diplomat, but in all of my 16 years I had never seen anything so fascinating! The devotees in that *harinām* party, Kanchanbala, Madhusudana, Damodar, Krishna Devi, little Vishnu Ārati and Dinesh Chandra looked to me like angels. They invited me to the Sunday feast and classes. I did go and I was very impressed by how they always spoke of you with such affection and faith. Ours was a generation that had lost faith in our elders and yet these young people had full faith in you. I wanted to find out more about you.

I was told that you had several other temples including a temple in San Francisco where you would visit and spend time. I thought that if I were to go there, I might get to meet your Divine Grace. I was in high school then but had an opportunity to go to San Francisco during Christmas break.

That Christmas of 1969, with my father's permission, I went with a friend to Marin just a little north of San Francisco, and from there I would visit the SF temple. The devotees there, Madhudvisa, Jayananda, Makhanlal, Gour Hari, Shelly, (Maitihil) Lalita and Mirabai and others had such affection for you and faith in your words. And like the devotees in Washington, they were very dedicated to spreading Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu's movement under your direction.

I felt inspired by their examples. They spent long hours on *harināma*. They had daily classes in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, and often *Śrī Īsopaniṣad* and *Teachings of Lord Chaitanya*. The Sunday feast *prasādam* was absolutely divine! They preached, distributed

*prasādam* and invited people to come to the temple. Those who came were encouraged to participate in the program, to move in and become full time devotees. I wished that I could be like them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when I joined your movement you were in Los Angeles, and new devotees like me were told that, “Service in separation is the best service. Stay and do service here”. We were also told that, “Śrīla Prabhupāda is busy writing, don’t bother him”. I was used to that because my father spent a lot of time writing and wanted quiet so that he could focus. Still, I felt embarrassed and ashamed that I foolishly thought that someone with zero qualifications like me, could get the association of someone as great as your Divine Grace.

While you were on this planet, being engaged in our various services in your movement, I would always look forward to the next time it would be possible to see you (and to be seen by you). We always looked forward to directly hearing the words coming from your lotus mouth and to get the remnants of your *prasādam* and whatever personal service we could get. In those days, your Divine Grace was never more than half a world away. I couldn’t imagine that those days would ever end. And now, my time in this world is nearly over, and I pray that I can, if not in the next life, in some future life, in some universe, somewhere be with you again and directly hear the words coming from your lotus mouth.

*Your unqualified lowly disciple,*

Tilaka devi dasi

Initiation: 1971, July—Seattle, USA

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## Vishnugada Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you first came to the Henry Street Brooklyn temple in July of 1971, I was fortunate to be in the audience. We heard you had introduced a new song, *Jaya Rādhā Mādhava*, before morning *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class. However, none of us knew the tune. So a devotee made up a tune that we chanted. After your arrival, when you spoke the first morning, I remember you saying: “Do you know this song *Jaya Rādhā Mādhava*? Do you think you can

follow me?" We enthusiastically responded "Yes!". Your golden voice rang out the first line in your standard tune...*Jaya Rādhā Mādhava Kuñjabihārī*...and we answered back. But we didn't follow your tune. We sang the one the devotee made up! You continued chanting with strength, unfazed. Gradually we caught on.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were personally present before us and even challenged us to follow, but at first we did not. It was by your continued example and instruction that we understood and followed. This incident holds a lesson for me. Now, 53 years later, your instructions and example are as powerful as ever if I/we make the effort to hear them, to go on hearing them, and follow. However, I have the tendency to make things up, to pursue manufactured ways, not your clear-cut path.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please help me today and every day truly recognize and imbibe the importance of that phrase you spoke in July of 1971: "Do you think you can follow me?" Let me rededicate myself to actively and diligently seeking out your example and guidance on all matters, both spiritual and apparently mundane. To genuinely try to understand, accept, appreciate, and follow that which you have carefully and magnanimously given. If I can do that, I am confident that one day with a purified heart, free from envy, I will have the chance to truly please you and in so doing please Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

*Your insignificant servant,*

Vishnugada dasa

Initiation: 1971, July—New York, USA

Current location: Philadelphia, USA

Contact: Vajra8@aol.com

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## Sankarshan Dasa Adhikari

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My Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

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

Your loving kindness has deeply touched my heart. Previously as a hippie singer/songwriter I was a diehard idealist on a mission to bring peace and happiness to our greatly troubled planet. Then I

discovered how you are blessing us with the formula for bringing factual peace and happiness to this suffering world. When I inquired from you regarding my idealistic mood you blessed me with the instruction that I could aspire to be *jagad-guru*, the spiritual master of the whole world. But you clearly spelled out for me what was required to come to this position. You wrote me, “All material desires become zero.” And then with your pen when you signed your name you underlined the words, “All material” to make it crystal clear that this was not some cheap thing. To truly become *jagad-guru* means that I must become 100% free from all material desires. This is a humongous challenge that I am working on every day. I truly have a long way to go. Thus, I am begging you, my most beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda, that I can take birth after birth here in this material world until I become fully qualified to deliver all the fallen souls who are suffering here in the cycle of birth and death back to home, back to Godhead.

*Your most fallen servant struggling to get out of Māyā,*

Sankarshan Dasa Adhikari

Initiation: 1971, August—Texas, USA

Current location: ISKCON Austin, Texas, USA

Contact: sd@worldleader.com

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## Yadubara Dasa and Visakha Dasi

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### Otherwise

A young woman chose  
to join a young friend in Mumbai  
It might have been otherwise.  
The two spent a month  
in the simple, sweet village  
of Vrindavan. It might  
have been otherwise.  
They heard from Śrīla  
Prabhupāda. His followers  
befriended them.

Decades passed, they married,  
They photographed, they filmed.



It might have been otherwise.  
They made movies and wrote  
books and articles and their children  
grew and they served for  
the pleasure of Śrīla Prabhupāda.  
May it never be otherwise.

Yadubara Dasa and Visakha Dasi  
Initiation: 1971, November—Vrindavan, India  
Contact: dasivisakha@gmail.com

## Advaita Ācārya Dasa & Archya Devi Dasi

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Śrī Gurudeva,

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

*namaste sārasvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

A million apologies for my offences to all the devotees, Guru and Gaurāṅga. Please have mercy and try to forgive this fallen soul.

Your compassion and mercy have touched so many lost souls  
Helping them reach the highest of goals  
Your courage and faith always astound me  
Now by your grace at last we can finally see  
Your wisdom, knowledge, and devotion is beyond all measure  
Your association, your smile are a real treasure  
*Paramahansa* is a word that comes to mind  
Compassionate, considerate, and always so kind  
I pray I have been able to serve you in some insignificant way  
And you see it fit for me to continue to do so in the future, if you may  
Your service is the transcendental key for all  
Thank you dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*Your servant,*

Advaita Ācārya Dasa and Archya Devi Dasi  
Initiation: 1971—London, UK  
Current location: Stockholm, Sweden

## Padmanabha dasa and Lilamanjari Devi Dasi

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To His Divine Grace, A. C. Bhatedanta Swami Prabhupāda:

Please accept our humble obeisances.

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

You blessed us with your appearance and association. Sometimes I feel bad knowing new disciples will never have the experience of sitting in your presence and experiencing your energy of conviction.

And that is our goal, to meditate on your unwavering conviction in this life and the next.

*Your disciples,*

Padmanabha Dasa and Lilamanjari Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1971, July—Brooklyn, New York, USA

Current location: Seattle, Washington, USA

Contact: pbrugalett@comcast.net

## Anuttama Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

As the years go by, it becomes more and more obvious how exalted a teacher you are, how special is your position as ISKCON's Founder-Ācārya, how we remain dependent upon you, and how ISKCON devotees must look to you as our example of Krishna consciousness today, and in the future.

I have recently seen evidence of two new tests that await us. To survive them, we must cling to your lotus feet for guidance and example.

First, ISKCON will soon face the passing of the entire first generation of devotees, your disciples, who served, built, and guided ISKCON. Many of these devotees today serve as *dīkṣā* gurus, *śikṣā* gurus, GBCs, *sannyāsīs*, and in other important roles. Their leadership has been essential in keeping ISKCON a unified, global preaching society. Today, the physical and mental capacities of many

of these elders are failing. Time is running out. We will not have the blessing of the physical presence of these disciples of Your Divine Grace for much longer.

That event will usher in many challenges, including: Some 2<sup>nd</sup> generation disciples will struggle without the physical presence of their gurus. Some disciples who become new gurus, or leaders of their peers, may claim superiority, or special exclusive insights from their departed gurus that sets them apart from ISKCON authority, and frees them from the necessity of serving cooperatively within ISKCON.

Another test for ISKCON has already surfaced in some places: Opulence, power, and influence. For the first fifty-plus years, ISKCON was small, and often judged with suspicion by the upper classes of society. We were an insignificant organization in the minds of many. But that is changing. Today major political figures accept (or sometimes seek) the opportunity to be featured at ISKCON events. Many of our temples, once places of austerity and simplicity, are opulent edifices that attract those who have themselves achieved material success. Some may even come to ISKCON more attracted to our opulence than our principles.

We must not hide from such success and opulence. These are gifts of the Lord, and we must engage them in the service of the Lord. Influence, power, money, and prestige provide opportunities to reach people who previously hid from, or ignored, us.

But, we must be aware of the concomitant danger such material opulences present. ISKCON, its leaders, and its members will increasingly be in danger of becoming attracted to, and deluded by, material wealth. We are in danger of being swayed by power and influence. We are in danger of being seduced to think that success sets us apart or makes us better than others.

What can we do about these new allurements? How do we withstand the loss of today's generation of Hare Krishna leaders? What hope is there for we conditioned souls, born and bred in Kali-yuga, products of materialistic societies that train us to think we are the doers, and that we deserve whatever blessings may find us?

We, the members of ISKCON today, and in the future, have only one hope. That hope is you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We must forever take shelter of your teaching, your example, and your presence in our lives. You are our Founder and our *Ācārya*. We will fail if we don't heed both your precepts, and your example.

That example is awe-inspiring. Despite all outward appearances of failure, loss, and setback, and later fame, success, and followers, you retained your fidelity to your guru and his mission. “My only credit,” you told us, was that you strictly followed the mandate given by your Guru Mahārāja.

You struggled alone, against all odds *for years*, in India before your departure to the west. You boarded the *Jaladuta* practically penniless. You endured a stormy sea and two heart attacks. You arrived to a strange land without a patron or a fixed residence. You struggled alone, again, for a year in New York. But, you remained determined to serve the Lord and your Guru Mahārāja.

Even as your movement grew, you exhibited your transcendence to outward success or failure. Some disciples squandered ISKCON’s money. Some became contaminated with *māyāvāda* philosophy. Some left altogether. Yet, you continued, undaunted. You remained fixed in the vow of absolute surrender to your Guru Mahārāja and Lord Caitanya’s mission.

Over time, tremendous influence, fame, and resources came to you. Within a dozen years you had thousands of disciples, millions of books in print, hundreds of properties, and millions of dollars at your disposal. You personally met—and boldly advised—Prime Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers, Senators, Mayors, Cardinals, rock stars, professors, activists, artists, yogis, millionaires, and more.

You stayed at the homes of some of the wealthiest families in India. But, you were not influenced by their wealth; instead you boldly taught them Krishna bhakti. You rose early in the morning *no matter what* to translate your books. You bore the endless barrage of visitors asking immature and even offensive questions. You insisted on living in humble quarters, near your disciples. You wore simple cloth. You accepted expensive gifts as expressions of love...and gave them away to others within hours or days.

As time passed, you had Manors, Palaces, and mansions dedicated to your name and your service, but you never were affected by such honors. You continued to remind us that you were “simply” the humble servant of His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Goswami Mahārāja, and that all credit was his alone.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON will continue to grow. We too, will face the challenges of success, influence, power, and the loss of leadership (and being thrust into leadership). Please let us be humble instruments in your hands so that we can shoulder these

burdens without stumbling.

The history books and *śāstras* are filled with stories of souls and communities who became proud, and who forgot their dependence upon God and guru. Let us avoid that fate by remembering that whatever we have in our lives are your gifts, God's gifts, and if we do not utilize them properly in His service, whatever we may have—fame, power, money, followers, prestige, opulence—can be taken from us in a moment.

Prabhupāda, let us now, and in future generations, always, at every moment, look to you as our guide, our mentor, and our example. The tests that face us are changing. Let us rise to the challenges we confront in a mood of deep love and heart-felt gratitude for all that you have given us.

If we forget you, and your example, and your instructions, we will be lost. If we remember you, our future, ISKCON's future, the world's future, is bright.

*Your servant,*

Anuttama Dasa

GBC Member

Global Minister of Communications

Initiation: 1972, January—Washington, USA

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## Jitamitra Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

You are the most amazing person I have ever known, and I am so grateful for the guidance I have received through your instructions and teachings. My life is completely dependent on your mercy, and I pray to become a worthwhile recipient of that mercy someday.

The undaunting task you took upon yourself in coming to America to start your spiritual revolutionary movement amongst the most ignorant and sinful people of the west can only be described as amazing.

The success you had in attracting the interest of the youth of America, at a time when such youth were renouncing all concepts of morality and religion, is simply amazing.

Your determined efforts to educate and train such fallen souls of

the west to become Vaiṣṇava devotees of the Lord is beyond amazing.

The patience you had for the inadequacies and ignorance of your fledgling disciples is amazing.

The temples and Deity worship and book production that manifested from your pure desire to please your guru and Lord Caitanya is amazing.

The seeds of devotion to carry on your mission, so carefully placed in the hearts of your followers, is an amazing testimony to your ability to make sure your ISKCON movement will continue to grow and flourish, correct and improve, and keep touching the hearts of conditioned souls for thousands of years to come.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you have given to us and everything we continue to receive due to your mercy and compassion.

*With love and appreciation from one very fallen disciple trying to remain  
under the shelter of your lotus feet,*

Jitamitra Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1972, January—New York, USA

Current location: Gainesville, Florida, USA

Contact: jitadasi@yahoo.com

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## Ajamila Dasa

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My Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I took 1st initiation from you in 1972 in Sydney, Australia. You so mercifully gave me 2nd initiation in Śrīdhām Māyāpur in 1975, in the Lotus Building, at around 11 a.m. on Gaura Pūrṇimā.

You are my only good fortune in this mundane material world along with the wonderful association of devotees you created.

I take shelter from your instructions every day, and I can feel that you are always with me personally in that way along with me listening to you chanting *japa* at night when I'm sleeping and your *bhajans* and lectures during the day.

When you physically departed in 1977 you left us with 108 temples worldwide. Now there are around 1,000 temples worldwide.

Despite all the leadership, guru fall-downs, and rampant child

sexual abuse problems, your ISKCON is still going forward. We hope and pray the next generation will succeed in sincerely taking shelter from your instructions and will carry the preaching forward in the way you intended.

Please grant me leave to enter Śrī Goloka Vṛndāvana and join you in serving Śrī Śrī Rādhā Krishna, Śrī Śrī Krishna Balarāma, and Śrī Śrī Gaur Nitāi there eternally.

*Your unworthy servant,*

Ajamila Dasa

Initiation: 1972, April—Malaysia

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## Nrsimhananda Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

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

### The Perfect Person

In your presence, shadows find retreat,  
Your aura, a symphony, tranquil and sweet.  
Each step you take, a benediction's dance,  
Guiding souls through life's intricate expanse.  
Your words, like rivers, pure and clear,  
Flow from the heart, dispelling fear.  
A guru revered, a beacon bright,  
Guiding seekers towards eternal light.  
With humility, you wear no crown,

While in every gesture, love is found.  
Your touch a balm for every ache,  
In your presence, hearts awake.  
You see beyond the veil of guise,  
To the soul's essence, where truth lies.  
With compassion as your guiding star,  
You lift the fallen, from depths afar.  
In your eyes, Godhead reflects,  
A cosmos of love, no defects.  
You lead by example, a living creed,  
In your footsteps, souls find their deepest need.  
O Prabhupāda exalted in Vaikuṅṭha's realm,

I pray to keep you always at my life's helm.  
In your presence, hearts find their ways,  
To the eternal world, where Krishna plays.

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*Premāñjana-cchurita-bhakti-vilocanena* (Bs. 5.38). Lecture Bg. 4.34–39 – Los Angeles:

And because you have to select a spiritual master, a self-realized soul. Just like if you want to study particular subject matter, you have to approach a realized person, a perfect person. Then you get. "The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth." One who has not seen the truth, he cannot.

Now, one may question, "Whether you have seen Kṛṣṇa?" So how Kṛṣṇa can be seen? Yes. A spiritual master must have seen Kṛṣṇa.

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Lecture – July 11, 1966 – New York:

We have several times discussed in this meeting that an ordinary being, just like we are, we are subjected to four principles of imperfectness. But an incarnation of God or a real representative of God, they are above these, I mean, four principles of imperfectness.

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Lecture Bg. 6.40–42 – New York, 1966:

The original person Kṛṣṇa and this statue of Kṛṣṇa is the same. Similarly, a spiritually perfect person and his photograph is the same.

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Lecture CC *Adi* 7.106–107 – San Francisco 1967:

You cannot expect perfect knowledge from imperfect person.

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Dictation CC - Seattle 1968:

Somebody may argue that if the holy name of the Lord, or the *mahā-mantra*, is so much powerful, then why there is necessity of formal initiation and other ritualistic function.

So in answer to this question, Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī has concluded that although a person who is chanting without any offense the holy name of the Lord does not require to be initiated separately. But still because the conditioned soul is presently situated within this contaminated body. It is sometimes found that he is addicted to some undesirable bad habits.

As such in order to purify from such bad habits, great *ṛṣi*s like Nārada and other sages they have recommended in their books to chant *gāyatrī-mantra* and *bīja-mantra*.

Although factually, by chanting the holy name of Kṛṣṇa everything is completed. In other words both the processes should be followed side by side. But if the initiation *mantra* cannot be followed circumstantially, simply by chanting the holy name of the Lord offenselessly, one can achieve the highest perfection.

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Lecture Bg. 9.2, March 7, 1972 – Calcutta:

This is the test. To become *guru* it doesn't matter that one has to become . . . one has to come out from *brāhmaṇa* family or high family or Hindu family or this family or that family. No. Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu says, *yei kṛṣṇa-tattva*: never mind what is. He may be European, he may be American, he may be *sūdra*, he may be whatever. That is past. That is his past life. Now, when one has become *kṛṣṇa-tattva-vettā*, really Kṛṣṇa conscious, he comes to the transcendental position. *Sa guṇān samatīyaitān brahma-bhūyāya kalpate*.

Any devotee, any devotee, *mām ca yo 'vyabhicāreṇa bhakti-yogena yaḥ sevate* (Bg. 14.26). Any devotee who has unflinching faith on *guru* and Kṛṣṇa, such devotee, *yasya deva parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau* (*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* 6.23), such person, *bhakti-yogi*. *Bhakti-yoga*, you cannot . . . without accepting *guru* there is no possibility of understanding *bhakti-yoga*. *Naiṣān matis tāvad urukramānṅhrim, niṣkiñcanānām pāda-rajo-'bhiṣekam* (SB 7.5.32). Unless one touches

the lotus feet of *niṣkiñcana vaiṣṇava*, there is no question of *bhakti-yoga*. That is not possible. *Naiṣāṁ matis tāvad urukramāṅghrim*. *Urukramāṅghrim* means Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. One cannot be attached unless he takes the dust of a *niṣkiñcana vaiṣṇava*. This is the process.

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Lecture Bg. 2.27–38, December 11, 1968 – Los Angeles:

*Niṣkiñcana* means a great personality who has become completely freed from all material consciousness. He is called *mahīyasām*. He is also great, a great soul.

So unless one takes shelter of the lotus feet or the dust of the lotus feet of a great personality who has no material affection, nobody can understand what is God. *Naiṣāṁ matis tāvad urukramāṅghrim sprṣaty anarthāpagamo yad-arthaḥ* (SB 7.5.32). As soon as one understands the spirit soul and the Supreme Soul . . . that can be understood only when one is taken shelter of a great personality freed from material contamination. This is the version of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Otherwise, it is amazement. To understand about the soul is amazement. To understand about God is amazement.

So Vedic injunction is therefore that if you are at all serious to understand *tad vijñānam*, that science, transcendental science . . . *tad vijñānārtham sa gurum evābhigacchet* (*Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad* 1.2.12). The Veda says: "Then you must find out a bona fide spiritual master," *tad vijñānārtham*, "if you are seriously interested."

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Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have made it abundantly clear that your picture, your *mūrti*, your name is as good as yourself. On the streets of New York City in the early 70's, our ragtag *saṅkīrtan* party proudly displayed your photograph knowing that anyone who even glanced at Your Divine Grace would be receiving the topmost spiritual benefit. They cast their eyes on the image of a "perfect person." Such a moment is rarely experienced throughout millions of lifetimes. Your message is perfect. Your example is perfect. Your humor is perfect. Your gravity is perfect. You are perfect.

I beg you to continue to engage me in my feeble and imperfect attempts to serve you and the Vaiṣṇavas who are trying so hard to follow you. You are perfect, more perfect, and the most perfect servant of the servant of the servant. . . . All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*I beg to remain,*

*Your aspiring servant,*

Nrsimhananda Dasa

ISKCON Television/Pyramid House/Uplifting Cinema

Initiation: 1972, April—Los Angeles, California, USA

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## Manjali Devi Dasi

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my loving obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, my spiritual Father, my divine Master, and my shelter. I sit here once again before a blank sheet of paper – no words I have can adequately communicate my appreciation and debt to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I am so unqualified to honour you, and to express my gratitude for the treasure of your divine presence in my life.

It's 52 years since you accepted me as your spiritual daughter and disciple.

Your instructions to always remember Krishna, to always serve Krishna, and to always love Krishna still guide my humble attempt to please you dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your guidance is timeless, and your divine witness tangible.

Thank you for not abandoning me Śrīla Prabhupāda, as I have had to meet life's many challenges.

Thank you for the community of your faithful devotees who continue to inspire and nurture my journey.

Through prayer, *japa* meditation, serving my Lordships, reading your holy books, and sharing the Bhakti path with others, I experience your blessings and encouragement daily.

You so kindly continue to teach me that spiritual life requires dedication, discipline, humility, kindness and gratitude. The clock is ticking, and there is no time to waste to catch your grace and follow your lead.

Please Śrīla Prabhupāda, allow me to serve you and your family of devotees selflessly and with loving devotion forever more.

I bow down humbly to you my dear Śrīla Prabhupāda with oceans of gratitude and love,

*Your aspiring servant and spiritual daughter,*

Manjuali Devi Dasi  
Initiation: 1972, May—Los Angeles, California, USA  
Current location: Somerset, UK

## Rūpa Vilāsa Dāsa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

When I first joined your society (the International Society for Krishna Consciousness) in 1971, I was, like so many others, in awe of you. I was in awe of your character, your knowledge, your other-worldly presence, your wisdom, your logic, and your compassion. Yet, you seemed to always credit others, taking little credit for yourself. You especially credited your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda, but you also repeatedly referenced the members of the *paramparā*, the *Brahma-Madhva-Gauḍīya-sampradāya*, giving them all credit for the knowledge and mercy you distributed. On September 2, 1972, in New Vrindaban, on the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration, you made, among others, the following remarks:

This perfect knowledge comes from God, or Kṛṣṇa, and it is distributed by [the] *paramparā* system, by disciplic succession. The example is just there, a mango tree. On the top of the mango tree there is a very ripened fruit, and that fruit has to be tasted. So if I drop the fruit from up, it will be lost. Therefore it is handed over, after one, after one, after... Then it comes down. So all Vedic process of knowledge is taking from the authority. And it comes down through disciplic succession. Just like I have already explained, Kṛṣṇa gives the knowledge, perfect knowledge, to Brahmā, and Brahmā gives the knowledge to Nārada. Nārada gives the knowledge to Vyāsa. Vyāsa gives the knowledge to Madhvācārya. Madhvācārya gives the knowledge to his disciplic succession, later on, to Mādhavendra Purī. Mādhavendra Purī gives that knowledge to Īśvara Purī. Īśvara Purī gives that knowledge to Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Lord Caitanya. He delivers that knowledge to His immediate disciples, six Gosvāmīs. The six Gosvāmīs deliver the knowledge to Śrīnivāsa Ācārya, Jīva Gosvāmī. Then Kavirāja Gosvāmī, then

Viśvanātha Cakravartī, then Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī, then Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, then Gaura Kīśora dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, then my spiritual master, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī. Then we are distributing the same knowledge.<sup>5</sup>

I had observed somewhat earlier in 1971 how there were articles in your *Back to Godhead* magazine about the previous *ācāryas* in the *paramparā* like your spiritual master and Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura. I could understand that their styles of writing and explaining Kṛṣṇa consciousness philosophy were very different and yet the message was undeniably the same. Increasingly, I gained faith in these exalted, intelligent, and self-realized giants of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, and became determined to learn more about them. One day, while contemplating the great *ācāryas* whose songs had been gathered and translated by Acyutānanda Swami in the book *Songs of the Vaiṣṇava Ācāryas*, I was struck by both the appreciation and blessings that you offered to Acyutānanda Swami:

I am greatly pleased to see this collection of songs composed by Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda, Narottama dāsa, and other great *ācāryas* of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava community (*sampradāya*). Songs composed by the *ācāryas* are not ordinary songs. When chanted by pure Vaiṣṇavas who follow the rules and regulations of Vaiṣṇava character, they are actually effective in awakening the Kṛṣṇa consciousness dormant in every living entity. I have advised Śrīmān Acyutānanda Svāmī to sing more songs of the Vaiṣṇava *padāvalī* and record them in books so that my disciples and others in the Western countries may take advantage of this chanting and thus advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness more and more.

I confer all my blessings upon Acyutānanda Svāmī for his genuine attempt to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I hope he will thus advance more and more and never be hampered by *māyā*. We should always remember the danger of *māyā*'s influence and endeavor to save ourselves from her great power. We must therefore always merge in the transcendental mellow of *kīrtana-rasa*, for *kīrtana-rasa* is the safest situation within this material world. Hare Kṛṣṇa."<sup>6</sup>

5 Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, New Vrindaban, September 2, 1972.

6 *Songs of the Vaiṣṇava Ācāryas*, Foreword, page x.

An inspiration came over me. If Acyutānanda Swami could get all of your blessings for his service and his translating and promoting the **songs** of the Vaiṣṇava *ācāryas*, then maybe I could receive your blessings by writing about the **lives** of the great *ācāryas*. I was a bit nervous about your warning in the *Foreword*: “We should always remember the danger of *māyā*’s influence and endeavor to save ourselves from her great power.”

On the other hand Śrīla Prabhupāda, you stated in a letter to Acyutānanda in 1971:

With great delight and interest I have gone through your “Eight Verses in Praise of My Spiritual Master.” The style is very nice and thoughtful. May Krishna bless you to improve more and more in writing the glories of our previous *ācāryas* and the Lord. Be engaged in glorifying the *paramparā* system and your life will be glorified automatically thousands of times.<sup>7</sup>

This gave me hope. Later, after some eleven years in India, I had managed to accumulate some of the writings and histories of our great *paramparā* personalities, and then for some years after that, and until the present day, I continue to gather material and write about the *ācāryas* in a mood of service to the Vaiṣṇavas, hopefully aiming to increase their appreciation and knowledge of our *paramparā* history. To date, I have written a book about you called *Without Fear*, which seemed appropriate, considering your name and wonderful history. I have also written other books which glorify your Guru Mahārāja and Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, as well as Gaura Kiśora dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, and Śrīla Haridāsa Ṭhākura.

I am praying for your blessings in this attempt to serve and please you, the Vaiṣṇavas, and the *paramparā*. I don’t have much in the way of qualification as a preacher or even your disciple, but I do hope against hope to gain your mercy for these histories of the spiritual titans of our *paramparā*. I remain at your feet and pray for your blessings,

*Your servant,*

Rūpa Vilāsa Dāsa

Initiation: 1972, June—Dallas, Texas, USA

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<sup>7</sup> Letter to Acyutānanda, August 14, 1971.

Current location: UK  
Contact: rupavi1008@yahoo.com

## Gokulananda Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

As our spiritual father, you have shown us what real love is. Although I am certainly unworthy of it, you have relentlessly showered your love and mercy so that I could somehow realize how great and magnanimous that mercy is. Your unconditional love for guru and Krishna has powerfully demonstrated to the whole world how such pure love is the greatest force in the world, that can assuredly bring us all beyond this sorry world of hopeless suffering. Your miraculous life is the living proof that if we can somehow direct all our trust and faith towards Lord Krishna and His true servants, then the path of perfection towards our real freedom and happiness also becomes open. Such conviction is your lasting legacy and truly liberating. Thus our otherwise futile existence can at long last become filled with the highest purpose and meaning, as your own miraculous life has so gloriously demonstrated.

Thank you Śrīla Prabhupāda for always being our ever-well-wisher, and for convincing us through your personal example to always stick closely to the perfect instructions of guru and Krishna. Thus we want to keep thanking you everyday of our lives for saving us from untold suffering, by gathering us all together into the ongoing miracle of Lord Chaitanya's Golden Age of His Saṅkīrtan Movement, which is visibly pushing back Kali's darkness.

*Your eager and grateful servant,*

Gokulananda Dasa  
Initiation: 1972, June—Portland, USA  
Current location: Quebec, Canada

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept my most humble obeisances.

Again I have an opportunity to glorify you, to express my gratitude and associate with you by meditating on my relationship with you.

This relationship is the most important in my life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda you are my eternal father.

It is great good fortune on me, and I can only put it down to causeless mercy on this useless soul.

You have given me the greatest gift imaginable: Kṛṣṇa. And only my own ineptitude stands between me and your Lord.

My glorification of you is totally inadequate so I thought that I might relate a story.

We understand that if one dreams of the spiritual master it is not an ordinary dream but rather his actual association. When I had newly joined your ISKCON I dreamt of you one night.

You were sitting on some tatami mats in a large room. I was the only other person in the room.

Somehow you indicated to me that I should attack you. I know it sounds crazy, even offensive and indeed that is what I thought in the dream and initially refused to do so.

You insisted however that I attack you and after all you are my spiritual master so how could I refuse.

Now at some point in my life I had been a boxer and at the time of the dream I was a young man in the height of physical strength and I guess I attacked with a certain amount of pride in my physical strength.

Following your order, I approached you running, not sure of how this would develop.

With one hand you deflected me completely and threw me across the room.

I got up, dusted myself off and became more determined to press home my "attack".

"OK, that was just playing, now we shall see". You invited me to try with a nonchalant "come-on" wave of your fingers.

Again with one hand you threw me across the room so that I landed with my ego and body (subtle) somewhat battered.

When the same thing happened again I realised that here I was attacking a *Mahā-Bhāgavata* who was also a *Mahā-Rathi*. Someone



who was so superior to me in all respects that all I could do was bow down again and again.

I cannot say that I fully understand the meaning of this dream but as with all dreams, the meaning is in how it made me feel and this dream made me feel that you were amazing in all respects and that you cared enough about me to throw me across a room (several times) and that you were powerful beyond imagining.

I pray on this, your appearance day, that one day again you will throw me and my love for you will grow and grow.

*Your most wretched servant,*

Janakaraja Dasa

Initiation: 1972, June—Bury Place, London, UK

Current location: Dunedin, New Zealand

Contact: janaka153@gmail.com

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## Vishvadevi Dasi

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My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances at your glorious lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

I thank Krishna every day for allowing me to have you as my eternal spiritual master and father, the greatest blessing that can ever be bestowed. I pray to Krishna to be allowed to forever remain at your lotus feet serving you, although I am so unqualified to do so.

In July 1969, you said;

So far as I am concerned, I have accepted you as my disciple and you have accepted me as your spiritual father. This relationship cannot be ended anymore. It is eternal. So it will be my duty always to pray to Krishna for your further and further improvement in Krishna consciousness, so you should go on serving this movement to your best capacity.

I thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for having gifted us with Krishna consciousness, and the chance to be reinstated spiritually in our eternal position at Krishna's lotus feet. For having blessed us so magnanimously with the supreme process by which to serve Him under your guidance even in this very life. I thank you for engaging

me in this sublime devotional service, and beg to remain eternally engaged. The immensity of what you so freely offer to humanity to deliver all the suffering fallen souls is so inconceivable. Thank you again and again, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Please forgive me for all the offences I have committed at your lotus feet, at the lotus feet of the Deities, the *dhāmas*, and the Vaishnavas.

*Your grateful and insignificant servant,*

Vishvadevi Dasi

Initiation: 1972, June—Hiedelberg, Germany

Current location: UK

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## Vaisnavananda Dasa

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### Śrīla Prabhupāda, The Seer of the Truth

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are a *Tattva Darśī*, Seer of the Truth, someone who has seen God and most significantly you can deliver Him to us! We simply have to follow the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you have so graciously laid out for us. Thus, you have fulfilled the order of your Guru Mahārāja, Bhaktisiddhānta Ṭhākur and disseminated the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu in the West, nay, the entire world!

The glory of the *paramparā* is defined by its virtue of passing down the Absolute Truth from your previous *ācāryas*. The knowledge remains 'as it is' identical to the original message promulgated by God Himself, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Any changes or modifications that you have implemented, however minor or innovative are all authorized in accordance with guru, *sādhu* and *śāstra*. One of the primary changes introduced by you, namely minimizing the number of rounds chanted of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* from 64 to 16 rounds,

was made for the benefit of your Western disciples, grand disciples, sincere followers, and humanity at large.

Only you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with the blessings of the *paramparā*, are allowed to modify the process of devotional service according to time, place or circumstances. No one else is authorized. The position of every sincere devotee is to honestly act as a transparent via medium and reiterate your sublime message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we thank you again and again, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for bestowing your unfathomable mercy upon us and providing the unparalleled opportunity to return back home back to Godhead!

*Your most fallen and unqualified disciple,*

Vaisnavananda Dasa

Initiation: 1972, July—Atlanta, Georgia, USA

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## Ali Krishna Devi Dasi

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The branches of the Caitanya tree formed a cluster or society, with great branches covering all the universe. (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā* 9.18)

Your Divine Grace writes in the purport: “Our International Society for Krishna Consciousness is one of the branches of the Caitanya tree.”

I think it is not improper for me to say that ISKCON Italy is a twig of that branch, and that it was inaugurated during your visit to Rome in May 1974, exactly 50 years ago.

There is a saying that recites “See Rome and die” meaning that there are so many beautiful things to see in the “eternal city” that one becomes so satisfied that one doesn’t need to see anything else in life. But we were thinking: “Let’s go to Rome, chant Hare Krishna in the streets and invite Śrīla Prabhupāda to bless all the fallen souls of this city.”

When, in London, Dhananjaya prabhu asked you for permission to go to Rome to open a center there, you said with bright eyes and a big smile: “Yes! Go there, find a place, write me, and I will come and stay with you!” You seemed very enthusiastic to visit Rome, the capitol-symbol of the Catholic Church, and impatient to come as

soon as we found a house suitable for establishing a Krishna temple.

Your Divine Grace kept the promise. After a few months we found a small “villa” with a small garden in a central area of Rome, and in May 1974, during your trip from Mumbai to the West, you stopped in Rome and stayed with us an entire week, even if the facilities we could offer you were insufficient at that time, having opened the temple only few months before.

Your body was elderly, but you were always ready to take on new challenges and tolerate any inconveniences just to arouse enthusiasm in your disciples and spread Krishna Consciousness.

Actually the comfort we could offer you was very meager: a simple room on the ground floor, a door that was not even closing properly, a small iron library, a low table with a lamp, a modest place to sit and a simple bed to rest – everything in one room. Outside the noise of a city that bursted with life: claxons at the traffic lights, chattering of people all around, shouting of children, barking of dogs, etc. You did not mind the noise; on the contrary you said that the traffic indicated that the house was situated in a very good place for preaching.

Now, whenever I think back to those days I cannot find proper words to express the awe and wonder that arose in me and in those who saw you work so intensely all day and night by preaching, inspiring devotees and guests, dictating letters, translating, writing purport, giving cooking lessons, chanting, singing and meditating in absolute concentration – all these activities perfectly accomplished in the middle of all kind of disturbances.

Every morning, around 6:00, you went out to take a walk in the beautiful gardens of Rome. Once, when you saw the Colosseum, you hinted at the temporary nature of any material conquest: “Where is now the big big Roman empire? Only ruins remain!” At 7:30 you were back at the temple for greeting the newly installed Gaur-Nitāi Deities and giving *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class. After a light breakfast you started your busy day that lasted until evening with only a brief lunch-break at 13:00.

At 21:00 you would take rest, but around midnight the lamp in your room would light up and stay on all night long. Then, while the world was sleeping and silence was all around, came for you the time to concentrate on the ancient Sanskrit texts and elaborate on them for our understanding. Is there a more evident proof of the authenticity of your compassion? Who would wake up in the

middle of the night, after a busy day to work on such complex books of knowledge for the benefit of humanity? Who would be ready to sustain such an amount of travels and discomforts at the venerable age of eighty just to make people understand the value of human life and teach them how to live in the proper way?

I can recall how enthusiastic you were when we told you that we had arranged your public conference in one of the most prestigious hotels in Rome. Actually we were a bit worried that people may not be interested and would not show up, but when you finally entered the large conference hall, about a thousand were present, even sitting on the floor, in the aisles, standing up, leaning on the wall, everyone eager to see you and hear your words. Soon your sweet compassion and pure knowledge entered deep into their hearts, and as a result many of them started coming regularly to the temple and offering services, and some became full time devotees.

During the whole week with us, you tolerated all inconveniences, without saying a word about our inadequate hospitality, lack of facilities and unqualified service. On the contrary, before starting for Geneva – next stop in your world tour – you thanked all of us and said: “Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is very pleased with your efforts in establishing a center in Rome. He will personally take you by hand and bring you with Him.” By hearing those words of encouragement we were both stunned and submerged by ecstatic feelings.

All glories to His Divine Grace, our savior!

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, our life and soul!

*Your aspiring servant,  
on behalf of the devotees serving Śrīla Prabhupāda's  
mission in Villaggio Hare Krishna, Bergamo, Italy,*

Ali Krishna Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1972, July—Paris, France

Current location: Villaggio Hare Krishna, Bergamo, Italy

Contact: [alikhishnadevidasi@gmail.com](mailto:alikhishnadevidasi@gmail.com)

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## Deva Dharma Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble *danḍavats* at your lotus feet. I would like to offer some reflections and appreciations of your

wonderfully divine personality and hope that by doing so I can please you in some way.

You wrote in one letter:

Any good soul who approaches me once for spiritual enlightenment is supposed to be depending on my responsibility to get him back to Krishna, back to home. The disciple may misunderstand a bona fide spiritual master being obliged to do so under pressure of Māyā's influence. But a bona fide spiritual master never lets go a devotee once accepted. When a disciple misunderstands a bona fide spiritual master, the master regrets for his inability to protect the disciple and sometimes he cries with tears in his eyes. (Letter to Umapati, November 23rd, 1967)

One of your disciples, Tribhuvanath Das told us of an incident which took place shortly after you installed the beautiful deities of Rādhā London-Īśvara. You were sitting on the *vyāsāsana* giving a short lecture and you stated, "So now, we have captured Krishna, and He is so merciful that all you need to do is come before Him and receive His mercy". Then you began crying uncontrollably, so much so, that tears were squirting from your eyes and wetting those devotees who were sitting by your lotus feet."

During your 17-day stay in Bhubaneswar in January 1977, you demonstrated how renounced you actually were by living in a rather small room within the two-roomed, mud-walled and straw-roofed hut we had built. Just prior to this you had attended the Kumbha Mela in Allahabad for many days, with freezing temperatures, and very basic facilities. We had arranged for you to stay at a beautiful Government guest house in Bhubaneswar, but you insisted on staying at the very remote property we had been gifted. There was running water and electricity but no proper bathroom so you made do with a concrete slab for your bucket bath in the mornings. You did not complain about anything. You were very relaxed and enjoyed many private discussions with the senior devotees and *sannyāsīs* who were also visiting. I could hear plenty of laughter coming from your room as a result of some stories you were telling about Krishna and the cowherd boys. However, one day Gour Govinda Mahārāja told you that I was leaving. I had some discussion with him previously about me wishing to go to Bombay. When you heard this you became very angry and were shouting WHY must he

leave? Bring him HERE, bring him HERE. So, Satsvarūpa Mahārāja said it's okay Prabhupāda, I will speak with him and sort it out. Satsvarūpa Mahārāja then spoke with me for over an hour but could not convince me to stay. Then he said "OKAY, if Śrīla Prabhupāda personally asks you to stay, will you stay?" I said yes. So he arranged for a meeting the following day.

When I entered your room Satsvarūpa announced "Śrīla Prabhupāda, this is Deva Dharma, he wants to leave and go to Bombay because he doesn't think he will be able to get along with Bhagavat (although this was certainly not the reason I had given him). When you heard those words your face became very sad, then as if you had a giant headache you placed one hand on the side of your head and motioned with your other hand saying "THIS is the whole problem, he cannot get along with Bhagavat, and Bhagavat cannot get along with Gargamuni, so WHAT are we supposed to do?" With that Satsvarūpa then said to me "Okay, so you will stay then?" I said yes. Naturally, I felt like the lowest creature on the planet having caused you so much distress. The next day came and most of the devotees went off for the day visiting some holy places. Hari Sauri Prabhu who had stayed back called out for some local devotee to come to Prabhupāda's room. So me being the only local devotee there I had to go to your room. Still feeling rather lowly I thought I had better show some form of remorse for disturbing you so much the previous day. As I entered your room I offered my full prostrated obeisances while praying for your forgiveness. When I sat up onto my knees I was very surprised to see your eyes were welled up with tears. I could barely see your eyes while you spoke for several minutes about wanting me to fetch several ingredients from town for your evening meal. That look which I observed on your face was not one of sorrow but instead one of deep compassion. This vision of you has been etched in my memory forever and keeps me inspired to one day be in your divine association again serving your *saṅkīrtana* mission which is so pleasing to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gourāṅga.

Śrutakīrti prabhu told us a story about some *sannyāsī* who had fallen down and left the movement. Although he was rather bitter and critical of many things, he still had a big attraction for *prasādam* so he would come to the temple restaurant almost every day. Only one *mātājī* was kind enough to speak with him most days and tried to encourage him. One day as he was standing outside waiting for the restaurant to open a car drove up and who should emerge

from the car except Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda. Instead of walking straight into the temple room where 100s of devotees were waiting to greet you, you chose to walk straight over to this fellow (*ex-sannyāsī*) and ask how he was doing. Then you asked him, “Can you please come and cook for me each day while I am here?” He was very reluctant but after you asked him three times he finally agreed. And so it was for many days this fortunate soul came each day to cook for you being assisted by the *mātāji* who had also been kind to him. So thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for another great example of your wonderful compassion and mercy.

Another one of your saintly qualities Śrīla Prabhupāda was your amazing power of discernment. You could face almost any situation, any problem, whether managerial or otherwise and find a very quick solution. This showed us that you were directly communicating with the *Paramātmā*, Lord Śrī Krishna. You could also quickly analyse an audience to deliver a suitable lecture which would inspire or arouse them into the correct action for pleasing the Lord. It was never just a fanatical sermon but a lecture which touched our hearts and made us feel like Krishna was directly speaking to us, guiding our day to day lives. We miss that personal guidance of yours so much Śrīla Prabhupāda and no-one has ever replaced you in that role.

Although you stressed so much on preaching it was equally important to be hospitable with any guest who visited the temple. You would often spend ten or fifteen minutes talking with a guest about their business or occupation before even trying to preach to them. It was also very important that they had some *prasādam* before they suddenly decided to leave. I had seen this personally in Bhubaneswar when you would call for *prasādam* for your private guests. It also had to be first-class *prasādam* with four different dishes. You were quite contented to just sit back and watch your guests eating *prasādam*. Two very wealthy business men came to see you and *immediately* you called for some *prasādam*. When I brought two plates of *prasādam* into your room they placed those plates to one side, preferring to speak with you instead. But you insisted “No you can eat now” and so they had to eat. This was your mercy for them, no big preaching, just Krishna *prasādam*. On your instructions we were feeding up to 200 people every day the same excellent quality four-course *prasādam*.

‘Preaching is the essence’ we have heard so many times, and we assume that only means book distribution, preaching and



lecturing. However, when you were asked this question in a room conversation at New Vrindaban, “So now, our men should all go out for preaching?” you responded with “Some of our men can go for preaching, but this, THIS is our REAL preaching ..... you develop this farm community and people will see from your example”. So thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for teaching us that all activities are equally important in the service of Lord Śrī Krishna Caitanya, for preaching His message, and that all devotees are equally important for their unique contribution towards your *saṅkīrtana* mission.

All glories to YOUR DIVINE GRACE, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*Begging to always remain your humble servant,*

Deva Dharma Dasa

Initiation: 1972, July—London, UK

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## Gauragopala Dasa

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Vyāsa-pūjā offering to my eternal spiritual Master Śrīla Prabhupāda, August 27, 2024.

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

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

Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, Prabhu Nityānanda, Śrī Advaita, Gadādhara, Śrīvāsādi gaura bhakta vṛnda.

Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for showing us over the years that we are all Kṛṣṇa’s eternal contributing servants in our full spiritual potential.

The following offering to you are my personal realizations inspired by your wonderful writings and lectures.

The individual *jīva*-souls (marginal living entities) have their own unique individual identity and personality that is beginningless and endless as confirmed in *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.

This individual soul is unbreakable and insoluble,  
and can be neither burned nor dried. He is  
everlasting, present everywhere, unchangeable,  
immovable and eternally the same. (Bg. 2.24)

“Surrender” does not mean one needs to extinguish their unique identity, individuality and personality to become Kṛṣṇa’s servant. Such impersonalism makes one no better than dead stone.

If you have no free will, then you are a stone.  
The stone has no free will. You want to be stone?  
Then you must have free will! (Śrīla Prabhupāda,  
Aug. 5, 1976, New Māyāpur, France)

All *jīva*-souls (marginal living entities) are independent unique individuals who can voluntarily choose how to contribute in their own unique way in their service to Kṛṣṇa.

In the spiritual world service is voluntary, some devotees want to serve Kṛṣṇa as flower; so they become flower there. If I want that, to be a flower I shall lie down at the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, then he becomes flower, voluntarily, and he can change his, from flower to human body. That is spiritual life. There is no restriction. If some devotee wants to serve Kṛṣṇa as cow, he serves Kṛṣṇa as cow, as calf, as flower, as plant, as water, as ground, field, or as father, as mother, as friend, as beloved, anything. It is inconceivable, yet a fact.” (SB 6.1.1–4, Melbourne, Australia, May 20, 1975)

In the Vaikuṅṭha planets and Goloka-Vṛndāvana, Viṣṇu and Kṛṣṇa only expect voluntary personal offerings from the *jīva*-souls because such willing service initiates loving reciprocal exchanges between the Lord and His devotees in a “two-sided” loving exchange. The unique quality of free will allows individual acts of self-expression that leads to personal offerings.

Real love or service is based on a “two-way” exchange where the student Vaiṣṇava is carefully nurtured to eventually achieve the personal goal of voluntary loving contributions that are the foundations of pure devotional service.

Such loving exchanges can only be fully expressed when the *jīva*-souls realize they each have their own independent characteristics and unique personality separate from Kṛṣṇa’s Personality, endorsed by free will.

Without free will, one would never have the vision to intelligently contribute in their relationship with Kṛṣṇa, or increase and expand one's awareness of who they are as a contributing independent individual marginal living entity (*jīva*-soul). Having "free will" therefore is the eternal constitutional make up of EVERY "marginal living entity (*jīva*-soul)," and the foundation for ALL *jīva*-soul's contributing relationship with Kṛṣṇa.

Loving devotional service is ALWAYS based on a "two-way" voluntary exchange of personal feelings manifesting as loving acts of reciprocation between Kṛṣṇa and His devotees, who voluntarily contribute their own unique expressions (offerings) of devotional service to Him as the real act of surrendering to Kṛṣṇa's will.

On the other hand, actions expressed in a "one-way" domineering mood that do not encourage personal voluntary contributions, is dangerous impersonalism.

Personalism is only possible in a "two-way" exchange of feelings and emotions that expands, enriches and multiplies loving affection, sentiment and exchanges between the *jīva*-souls and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda - "Love means you take and you give also. Suppose if you love somebody and you simply take from him, but you don't give. Oh, do you think it is very good? No, it is not good, that is NOT love that is exploitation. If I go on simply taking from you, and if I don't offer you anything, that is simply exploitation." (Bg. 9.2-5, New York City, Nov. 23, 1966)

The individual *jīva*-souls (marginal living entities) can NEVER exist independently from Kṛṣṇa however, they MUST have their freedom and independence to be a contributing individual, otherwise the *jīva*-souls are no better than impersonal puppets controlled by a puppet master.

Therefore, the *jīva*-soul's independent personality, identity and free will allows diversity and independent self expression, allowing the individual *jīva*-souls to make their own contributions or offerings, and even allows them to reject Kṛṣṇa if they choose.

All these conditions must be allowed to exist otherwise loving exchanges with Kṛṣṇa can NEVER exist.

Kṛṣṇa will always allow a separate existence for His marginal living entities (*jīva*-souls) endorsed by having free will. This allows them to have their own unique personality for the purpose of creating

a “two-way” voluntary exchange of individual loving expressions that encourage unique contributions and personal offerings.

Free will allows the individual *jīva*-souls to independently express themselves separately from Kṛṣṇa and gives them their own unique personality.

This gives the *jīva*-soul’s existence personal responsibility, purpose, creativity, hope, identity, a unique stand alone personality, allowing personal contributions of self-expression that makes the individual *jīva*-souls the independent PERSONS they are eternally.

These qualities establish the *jīva*-souls (marginal living entities) as independent PERSONS, as a spiritual bodily form whose eternal home are the Vaikuṅṭha planets and Goloka-Vṛndāvana, within Kṛṣṇa’s eternal endless pastimes.

In the spiritual world personal voluntary expressions of loving exchanges expressed through free will, are ALWAYS encouraged by Kṛṣṇa in His eternal relationship with the *jīva*-souls, this adds variegatedness, flavour, variety and mystery to the relationship between the individual *jīva*-souls and Kṛṣṇa.

The Kingdom of God therefore, is NOT a “one-sided” dominating impersonal domain devoid of free will (freedom of self-expression), that does not allow personal independent contributions or offerings to God (Kṛṣṇa), meant to expand, enrich, flavour and add mystery to the relationship.

Genuine loving relations and service are ALWAYS based on voluntary reciprocal exchanges and contributions between TWO, not just one (impersonalism)!

The impersonalist philosophy is oneness, so how there be love with just one? Is it possible? Have you got any such experience that love means one? No, love means two, there MUST be two. (SB 2.1.3, Paris, June 12, 1974)

So everyone can know that independence (free will) means one can use it properly, or one can misuse it. That is independence. If you make it one way only, that you cannot ever fall down, that is not independence. That is force.” (Māyāpur, June 20, 1973)

Free will only has meaning when the *jīva*-souls can express themselves in a two-sided relationship by contributing to the relationship’s expansion of nectarine mellows.

Love means a relationship between “two persons,” then there is exchange, then there is love. I must deal with you open-hearted, you must deal with me open-hearted, then there is love. So if you want to love Kṛṣṇa, God, then these things must be there. (Aug. 9, 1976, Tehran)

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your wonderful guidance.

*Your fallen yet inspired servant,*

Gauragopala Dasa

Initiation: 1972, July—Sydney, Australia

Current location: Australia

Contact: gauragopala@hotmail.com

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## Janmanalaya Dasa and Isvari Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet!

I try to find words of my gratitude, of glorification. Words that describe your nature, your grace, your deep, deep compassion. You allow me to relate to you as a son, as a member of your family, as a member of Krishna’s family. KRISHNA, Who wants us to be. Krishna Who wants us to relate to Him. You reached out to us as we were drowning in an ocean of tears, accumulated through thousands and thousands of years through human history.

From Vaikuṅṭha you reached out to us and somehow or other you touched my heart which was only open to the sweet illusions of this world. You advised not to find shelter in day dreams, in the illusion of a carefree existence in this world, no. But to look beyond and beneath the many layers of indoctrinations about who we are and who we should be. There, beneath all these layers lies the original self, the Krishna given personality. You encourage us to simplify our cluttered external existence, which separates us from the deep and eternal person we are. You encourage us to live from the burning core of our hearts.

And so each of us is on a journey now, embracing both the concrete situations of our lives, whilst being on an inner pilgrimage. We have to work out the details of our lives and at the same time deal with our inner life, our relation in the spiritual world, that is

under and beyond the events which try to absorb our attention.

With your fatherly guidance we rediscover our original selves, through service and through compassion for others. We might be able to support others as they look for signs of their originality.

I want to pick up and live in that spirit of emergency that you tried to implant in us. And I want to hold trust in the heritage you put in our hands. Many mistakes were made, collectively and individually. But, like one says, it may take a bundle of mistakes to arrive at something sublime.

You showed me that it is possible to jump over my own shadow (though it doesn't happen so very often). Despite all my disqualifications, I beg humbly and with gratitude for the shelter of your lotus feet, the only shelter for us all, for my family, for my wife and myself.

*Your servants,*

Janmanalaya Dasa and Isvari Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1972, July—Paris, France

Current location: Almvik, Sweden

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## Sakshi Gopala Dasa

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### THE BANNER OF GAURĀṄGA

The patchwork streets are grey and bleak—  
And aching for reprieve  
From Kali-yug' agendas  
That continue to deceive,  
Yet some who've wandered up and down  
Are drawn towards a sound  
That touches something long forgot,  
Elusive and profound.

There's something that reverberates  
Around the bars and pubs,  
The restaurants and alleyways,  
The theatre queues and clubs.  
From shopping mall to city square  
It touches heart and mind—

Stirring long-neglected consciousness  
That yearns to be defined.

Some stand in deep amazement.  
Some film it on their phone  
To share with friends and family—  
This transcendental zone  
Where sacred song and mantra  
Bring a long awaited prod,  
Uplifting *Kali-yuga* streets  
With Holy Names of God...

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa*  
*Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare*  
*Hare Rāma Hare Rāma*  
*Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

Fifty years of *harinām*—  
How times and faces change.  
Police arrests were commonplace,  
Sometimes it seemed deranged  
When courts would fine the devotees  
For conduct unbecoming,  
While from the crowds the jobs would come  
With punches, kicks, and spitting.

Illuminated rickshaws  
Now compete with bus and cab.  
Shop window's giant plasma screens  
Are anything but drab,  
Where fashions and technologies  
That no-one could have guessed  
Are promising Utopia  
To lure the dispossessed.

Police now watch approvingly  
And offer their protection.  
At times they even tap their feet  
Or nod in our direction,  
As month by month and year by year  
The crowd's appreciation

Has grown—from half a century  
Of sacred celebration...

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa  
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare  
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma  
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

The *kīrtan* rings out loud and clear  
Along the crowded street  
And passersby are drawn in  
As they're caught up in the beat—  
The ringing of the *kartals*  
And the rhythm of the drum—  
Where hymns of primal purity  
Are shining like the sun.

Sometimes they dance like madmen  
In a frenzy of excess,  
In pulsing energetic tides  
The darkness can't repress—  
And touched by chimes of sacred sound  
They feel a joyous mood;  
After lifetimes of starvation,  
Now the soul has found its food...

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa  
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare  
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma  
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

Some people stand, eyes gently shut,  
As if in yogic trance,  
Their blissful smiles of deep response  
Invite a second glance;  
While others move so gracefully,  
Like poetry in motion,  
To the chorus of the Holy Name

That beckons their devotion.



The smiling face of young and old  
Is guaranteed to please.  
Such reawakened innocence  
Enlivens devotees  
From homes and temples, near and far,  
Who've joined the *yuga-dharma*  
That purifies the heart and mind  
From cataracts of karma...

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa*  
*Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare*  
*Hare Rāma Hare Rāma*  
*Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

So many people here and there,  
From diverse creeds and races  
Who're attracted to the *kīrtan*  
Have no time for holy places.  
For atheist and cynic  
Church and temple's out of bounds—  
Yet some confide they're deeply moved  
When *harinām*'s around.

Some passersby participate  
While others walk away.  
Each to their own. The seed is sown  
To sprout another day.  
The *kīrtan*'s not to please the crowd,  
But please the Supreme Lord—  
Where pure intention wins the day  
And brings its own reward.

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa*  
*Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare*  
*Hare Rāma Hare Rāma*  
*Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

Clapping hands and dancing feet  
Invoke a deep delight.  
Some come with *tilak* on their brow  
To sanctify the night.

And one and all find unity  
Beyond the mundane frame—  
A glimpse of transcendental truth  
By grace of Kṛṣṇa's Name.

No politics can enter here.  
No race card is deployed.  
The genders are at peace again.  
The mood is unalloyed.  
Strangers dance with strangers here,  
Like long forgotten friends,  
As they give their breath to inner depths  
That heal and make amends...

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa  
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare  
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma  
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

From older folk with wrinkled brow  
And fresh-faced under-fives;  
To school groups, families, tourists, friends  
And husbands with their wives;  
From North, South, East and West  
there's diverse folk from round the globe  
Who're attracted to the  
*Hare Kṛṣṇa kīrtan* in the road.

Some respond with eagerness  
When urged to chant The Name:  
“*Hare Kṛṣṇa*” line by line—  
They think it's just a game.  
And so it is, but as they chant  
And eagerness increases  
None can gauge what karmic debt  
The Holy Name releases...

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa  
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare  
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma  
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

The potency of Kṛṣṇa's Name  
Is more than we can reckon—  
The blessing of *paramparā*,  
Chaitanya's secret weapon;  
Non-different from the Lord Himself,  
He acts in ways unseen  
To bring us to His lotus feet  
And wake us from the dream.

The gateway of Gaurāṅga's love  
Is moving street to street,  
Inspiring those who offer books  
To everyone they meet,  
Where one-on-one exchanges  
Often take them by surprise—  
The books of Srīla Prabhupāda  
Transforming people's lives.

Muslim. Christian. Atheist.  
They're purchasing the books:  
*Bhagavad-gīta As It Is*.  
—Some only pause to look—  
But then they're touched by *kīrtan*  
And the sense the urgency  
Of those who bring your matchless gifts  
To save humanity.

O Prabhupāda!  
The Banner of Gaurāṅga you've unfurled;  
The *Kīrtan* of the Holy Name  
Has spread around the world.  
We celebrate and honour  
Our indebtedness to you—  
The lifeline of your blessings,  
Ever there to guide us through.

Your shelter is our life and soul,  
O merciful *Ācārya*.  
When lovingly invoked, your name  
Transcends the mental barrier.  
In helplessness and gratitude,

Dependent on your grace,  
May our service at your lotus feet  
Reveal your smiling face.

Well wishing friend of every soul  
Who'll seek your lotus feet;  
Who'll chant Lord Kṛṣṇa's Holy Name;  
Who'll read your books; who'll eat  
The remnants of the Lord's prasād;  
Who'll catch your loving glance—  
Or participate in *harinām*  
And clap their hands and dance.

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa*  
*Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare*  
*Hare Rāma Hare Rāma*  
*Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

Around the globe this transcendental  
Sound vibration flies.  
Inconceivable, far reaching  
And unseen by mortal eyes.  
By Lord Caitanya's grace,  
The world is ringing like a bell  
And where Kṛṣṇa's name will touch the tongue—  
(In ridicule or reverence sung,  
In marble hall or city slum)  
The soul is saved from hell.

The Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra's  
Transcendental sound vibration  
Can purify all hearts, you've said,  
For real United Nations...  
One God. One Prayer. One Scripture.  
And One Duty to fulfil—  
The Service of the Supreme Lord,  
(The goal of human life restored,  
Where all may live in one accord)  
As guided by your will.

May our *kīrtan* be forever blessed,

—empowered by your grace—  
As we chant your *praṇāṁ* mantras  
Transcendental interface.  
And may Gaura-Nitāi please overlook  
Our mountain of offences  
As we beg to serve the Holy Name,  
(The Lord's Most Sacred Holy Name  
Sweet Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa's Holy Name)  
Devoid of all pretences...

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa  
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare  
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma  
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

Begging for a place in  
the dust of your lotus feet,

Sakshi Gopala Dasa  
Initiation: 1972, August—London, UK

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## Adideva Dasa

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śunya-vādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

My path was a zig-zag stumble toward  
a very vague goal, until I met you.  
Your clarity – a welcome breeze  
Your teachings – untangled my mind.

Some statements were off putting:  
(You make mistakes, you cheat, your senses  
are imperfect, you are in illusion).  
But when pondered, I saw their truth.

I, a floundering fool,  
screamed out for you-  
I, on the mainland of crime and punishment  
You, on an island of transcendence.

You kindly sent boats containing cargoes  
of spiritual knowledge.  
I ran along the shore, gathering.  
I read, I ruminated – my heart desired to reciprocate.

Your kind devotees unpacked your teachings  
for this fool's understanding.  
May I now learn to let go of my past  
and act for your pleasure.

You have moulded this misshapened lump of clay  
may I serve to your accord.

*Your servant,*

Adideva Dasa

Initiation: 1972—Austin, Texas, USA

Current location: Florida, USA

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## Krishna Kamala Devi Dasi

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā  
caḡsur unmilitam yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḡ*

No one can be equal to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. I have no words to describe how much you have done for the world.

You changed the world with your unique capabilities, strength and faith in Krishna, yet with so little material resources.

You changed people with no interest in *Bhakti* or devotion and by your mercy made them into wonderful devotees of the Lord.

I am incapable of putting in words my appreciation for you and how much you did in old age and with poor health. Tears come to my eyes when I think of your kindness, compassion and how much

you have done in such a short time.

*Your fallen servant,*

Krishna Kamala Devi Dasi  
Initiation: 1971 —London, UK

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## Prishnigarbha Devi Dasi and Svaksa Dasa

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Dear Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Svaksa Das and Prishnigarbha Dasi are here together to say eternally *Thank You* for giving us a new life and saving us.

You gave us the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra, and you left us with the desire to give it to the world, which was also a gift. We have spent years being grateful that we were your disciples, and that we got to do some book distribution when you were on the planet. Thank you for the association you have given us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and we look forward to the time when we will think of Krishna at every moment.

Your books have always been an amazing combination that cannot be described but grab the mind's attention. What a wonderful way to train the mind to think of Krishna because every time we read your books, it was always ever fresh! When I, Prishnigarbha, first read a book it was the Second Canto, all about universes and planets, and I had previously read hundreds of Science Fiction stories and was blown away by your Vedic overview, my mind lost in real universes and cosmic structure. Svaksa Das often spoke with great admiration of you, including science. For sure, your books have always been the most amazing things on the planet Mother Earth.

*Your servants,*

Svaksa Dasa and Prishnigarbha Devi Dasi  
Initiation: 1972—Seattle, USA

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## Sukla Devi Dasi

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Our Divine Guru A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Beloved and worshipped, beyond extraordinary. At an age when many retire, he decided to fulfil the orders of his spiritual

master and travel to the far side of the planet and simply sit and chant under a tree.

That such a movement began by the actions of such a pure devotee of the Lord is beyond imagination...opening temples, and the tap-tap of his typewriter in the early hours of the morning. So sweet for those that had the privilege to hear. He has left us with the jewels, the demigods and sages throughout eternity. Little do we still understand the gift imparted to us and how much we took for granted.

It was a brisk Melbourne morning as we piled out of the car, excited to be on the morning walk with our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda. Anxious to hear what nectar was to flow from those lotus lips, I was positioned directly behind Śrīla Prabhupāda. As we continued to walk, my head down I kept my eyes fixed on those golden feet in front of me. Unfortunately, beside me, my godbrother 'V Das' (not to shame him) was so eager to hear the conversation failed to do so and accidentally clipped the back of Śrīla Prabhupāda's heels. Prabhupāda stopped and turned to look at him, then returning to the path ahead, he continued. A few minutes later, the same godbrother clipped Śrīla Prabhupāda's heels again. Śrīla Prabhupāda turned again and gave a longer discontented glare at V Das, and once again returned to the path ahead. At this point I implored V Das to move back, but as would have it, he actually clipped Śrīla Prabhupāda's heels again. No one could believe it. At this point Śrīla Prabhupāda also reacted to what could only be called stupidity and turned, raised his cane and whacked him. We were all astonished and a little amused. Our guru is an Ocean of Mercy, but putting up with the blunders and indiscretion of these western devotees was exhausting. Such fumbling and zeal went on throughout Śrīla Prabhupāda's time with us, hoping each time that we would do a little better. Until one day...

*Kīrtana* began all over the world. Prayers and pleas were ringing throughout the universe for recovery. In our ignorance we were confident that he would recover, that he could not leave us, that the classes, the sweet *kīrtanas*, the smiling and humble gratitude of our feeble attempts to serve would go on. But a lesson indeed was to surface we had no control of. We are told Kṛṣṇa can be controlled by love, by the love of Rādhā, the great Vaishnavas and pure devotees of the Lord. Could this global plea not be heard? Together did we all lack devotion? Failing to keep the glorious *vapuḥ* of our spiritual



master here to believe we have any control is the greatest frailty in this world. The Lord has a plan which we can never understand. One of the most ingrained lessons demonstrated to us was how to care and serve others with so much compassion. The request of His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda was to cooperate and carry on this mission and treasure which had been handed down to us. As disciples depart now too often, we are becoming increasingly aware of the significance of *vāṇī*.

The instructions and desires of our spiritual master give us breath. Whilst we are fortunate enough to still be here to execute his plans, his mission, we must endure the separation, take a deep breath, steady our hearts and clench our hands with the desire to continue his legacy and that of the Paramparā. They have bestowed this gift to us of service to the Supreme Lord Śrī Govinda.

*Yours in service,*

Sukla Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1973, February—Melbourne, Australia

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## Bhrgupati Dasa

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories unto Your Divine Grace.

I'm very grateful that I was allowed to come in contact with your teachings. I dread to think what my life would be like if I hadn't. I regularly listen to your lectures which are a tremendous source of encouragement and inspiration to me. When I hear something that particularly attracts my attention I write it down or nowadays copy and paste it from the transcript and save it so I can use it to help myself or help others.

Hearing the śāstric knowledge, authority, insight, compassion, wit, and humour you speak with is what enables me to continue

practising Kṛṣṇa consciousness. It's also my hobby! I find it both practical and enjoyable.

Your teachings are what brought me to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, have kept me in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and have motivated me to try to share it with others for the past 51 years. I regret that I haven't taken them more seriously, yet at the same time I desire that someday I can become a pure devotee and an incredibly empowered preacher of Kṛṣṇa consciousness like you. I understand that this most likely means continuing beyond this life, but if by your mercy I'm fortunate enough to have your association again I feel confident of an auspicious outcome.

Please forgive me for all my offences and be merciful to me as I continue to try to be your disciple.

*Your very fallen and insignificant servant,*

Bhrgupati Dasa

New Dwaraka, Los Angeles, California, USA

Initiation: 1973, April—New York, USA

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## Kalakaṅṭha Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, so dear to Lord Krishna, and to your incomparable service to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, specifically your defeat of impersonalism and voidism in the Western countries.

On this auspicious day of your appearance, kindly accept this adaptation of *Śrī Gurvaṣṭakam* by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura as our meditation on your wonderful qualities.

1) The forest fire of birth and death brings anguish  
our guru's rain of mercy can extinguish.  
It comes from seas of virtues deep within him.  
*vande guroḥ śrī caraṇa-aravindam.*

2) Joyous in kirtan taught by Lord Caitanya,  
our guru dances, sings and plays *mridanga*.  
He shakes and cries as hairs arise upon him.  
*vande guroḥ śrī caraṇa-aravindam.*

3) Our guru daily teaches by example  
to serve the Deities and clean the temple.  
We bathe Their Lordships, decorate, and dress Them.  
*vande guroḥ śrī caraṇa-aravindam.*

4) Our guru offers four kinds of *prasādam*  
and then invites his students to enjoy some.  
When we are satisfied, it satisfies him.  
*vande guroḥ śrī caraṇa-aravindam.*

5) Our guru always wants to chant and listen  
about details of Rādhā's love for Krishna.  
The holy names and forms of Krishna charm him.  
*vande guroḥ śrī caraṇa-aravindam.*

6) Our guru helps the *gopīs* make arrangements  
for Rādhā Krishna's intimate exchanges.  
He is so expert, everybody loves him.  
*vande guroḥ śrī caraṇa-aravindam.*

7) All of the scriptures and the saintly persons  
declare our guru very dear to Krishna.  
We honor Krishna giving honor to him.  
*vande guroḥ śrī caraṇa-aravindam.*

8) Our guru's grace will lead Krishna to bless us.  
Without his grace, we can't make any progress.  
Three times a day I meditate upon him.  
*vande guroḥ śrī caraṇa-aravindam.*

Chanting these verses carefully and loudly  
before the sunrise will, without a doubt, be  
our ticket to serve Krishna in Vrindavan  
when these old bodies are dead and long forgotten.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for bringing these blessings of Krishna  
consciousness to our lives.

*Your servant,*

Kalakaṇṭha das

Initiation: 1973, May—Portland, USA

## Arjuna Dasa

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My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most respectful obeisances at Your lotus feet.

All glories to You and to the *saṅkīrtana* mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, which you have preached and expanded so perfectly all over the world.

With folded hands and a heart filled with devotion, I offer my humble homage to You, the spiritual luminary whose teachings have illuminated the path of countless souls.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the founder of ISKCON, You are a beacon of wisdom, compassion, and devotion.

Your tireless efforts in translating the sacred texts, especially the *Bhagavad-gtā As It Is*, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and *Caitanya-Caritāmṛta* have opened the flood gates to a tsunami of spiritual bliss for countless souls around the globe.

Your global journey, establishing temples, farms and sharing the message of Krishna consciousness, is a testament to Your unwavering dedication and faith to the order of your Guru Mahārāj in uplifting all of humanity.

The transcendental fragrance of Your selfless service and profound love for Kṛṣṇa permeates the hearts of those fortunate enough to be encountering Your Divine Grace.

Even I am one of the least among Your faithful, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, but in Your words I have always found solace, in Your guidance I find direction, shelter, fulfilment and hope.

Your legacy is a living testament to the transformative power of Bhakti-yoga and the power of resounding the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* all over the world.

The simple yet profound truths you share resonate within, guiding millions on their spiritual journey.

As I offer this homage, I express my deepest gratitude for the timeless gift of wisdom You have bestowed upon all living entities.

Your grace and devotion continues to inspire and illuminate our lives, and Your profound love for Śrī Guru and Śrī Gourāṅga remains an eternal source of inspiration.

I pray to remain faithful and bullet proof even though the constant onslaughts of Māyā continue relentlessly to bombard with such heavy weaponry!

Oh dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, Your transcendental *bhāva* and *prema* cannot be compared to anything and anyone in this world. You are the glorious transcendental maidservant of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī Herself, following the footsteps of Śrīmatī Rūpa-maṅjarī.

May I forever stand in awe of You dear Gurudev and humbly remain bowed at Your lotus feet eternally.

A more loving, benign, gracious and beloved person can never be found in this world more than You Śrīla Prabhupāda, the true preceptor of everyone.

Your darshan removes all darkness from our hearts and gives immense joy.

May I always act according to Your instructions and not cater to the dictates of my lower self.

Ceaselessly I pray to please Your Divine Grace.

This dreary world has no color without You.

There is nothing more powerful and heavier in this world, Śrīla Prabhupāda, than just a fraction of a particle of dust from your lotus feet.

All those moments being in your presence stood me still with such ecstatic emotions. These beautiful loving feelings remain locked deep within my heart even until this moment by Your kindness only.

Just today I was fondly remembering a few times when You chanted “Jaya Rādhā Mādhava” before *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes in LA and how Your Divine Grace would go so deep into ecstatic trance being transported to the spiritual atmosphere taking us along with You! Time just stood still during those special moments and felt like forever. Tears! Goosebumps! Rapture! What mercy we were all immersed in by Your ecstasies, dear loving Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Thank You, thank You, thank You, oh Divine saviour of the world!

*Your aspiring servant,*

Arjuna Das

Initiation: 1973, May—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: Texas, USA

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This year, by the mercy of the Lord, I got the opportunity to write a page on the meaning of Vyās Pūjā. I humbly submit my attempt below for your pleasure.

### The Meaning of Vyās Pūjā

*bhavantam evānucaran nirantaraḥ  
praśānta-niḥśeṣa-manorathāntaraḥ  
kadāham aikāntika-nitya-kiṅkaraḥ  
praharṣayisyāmi sanātha-jīvitam*

‘By serving you constantly, one is freed from all material desires and is completely pacified. When shall I engage as your permanent eternal servant and always feel joyful to have such a fitting master?’

With the above words, taken from Śrī Yamunācārya’s *Stotra-ratna* (v. 43), Śrī Rūpa and Śrī Sanātan Goswamis greeted Śrī Chaitanya at their first meeting (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, Madhya 1.206). The lines are composed of a statement and a question. The statement encapsulates the confident goal of the bhakti practitioner and the question gives voice to his or her loving aspiration. May Śrīla Prabhupāda be pleased with us on this Vyāsa-pūjā day!

Śrī Govinda, Krishna, origin of all, to make a home  
for wayward souls,  
In the covered portion of His space, lies down.  
This supine form a portion of His might  
And love; let’s not forget He’s doing this to help us.  
As He breathes do universes flow.

Inside the egg-shell domes – the worlds – a further  
Lord reclines, and,  
Without wife, produces he who will become the  
leader of our line.  
It’s dark; the just-created being is alone.

He struggles some, then gives his mind to meditate,  
Some thousand celestial years.

There is no guru to be seen,  
But there within the meditator's heart will Krishna, Ādi-  
Guru, show him all.  
Reveal the truth, the spiritual world, the home  
of blessed souls  
Whose joy is service.  
Reveal the role that Brahmājī will play.

The message must be handed down the ages here.  
Like a mango ripened by the sun.  
Not dropped, for mango trees are high! From hand to hand  
be handed down.  
Across the ages, on and on, to souls.  
The message is: 'Come home!'

From time to time, as time rolls round, within this universe  
where time controls,  
The age of Kali rears its head.  
The wand'ring souls who yet remain are challenged,  
Lacking time and peace and luck and memory.  
And so the message must be written down.

Vedavyās, the avatar, is with this duty charged.  
And from his name we take such words  
as 'vyāsāsan', 'vyās-pūjā'.

Like the viceroy gets some honour: presents, letters,  
contributions –  
Not a single pinch he'll touch – sends it to the royal hoard.  
Prabhupād's the same. The honour, contribution,  
all the feelings,  
All the offerings go to Krishna through the line of  
the preceptors,  
Off they go 'from downward to the upward'.

Śrīla Prabhupāda responds to his disciples' tributes in early  
September of 1969, in Hamburg, Germany:

...people, outsider, may think that 'This man is being

flattered and he is hearing his own eulogization'. But that is not the fact. It is the test, how they are receiving the message sincerely and they are expressing their feeling. So it is going to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. As it has come through the channel of the disciplic succession, all these praises will also reach to Krishna through that disciplic succession.

Earlier on that same Vyāsa-pūjā day in 1969, at a small storefront temple on Eppendorfer Weg, Śrīla Prabhupāda had defined the position of guru before the few disciples in front of him:

“It is not that a particular man is spiritual master. Spiritual master is a truth. So what is that truth? The truth is:

*samsāra dāvānala lidha-loka trāṇāya kārūṇya ghanāghanatvam.*

“The whole world is in the blaze of material pangs, threefold miseries. And a person who is authorised to deliver people from those material pangs, he is called spiritual master...

“The example is given in this verse... *dāvānala* is the Sanskrit word. The English equivalent is forest fire.... Nobody has got any interest to set fire in the forest, but it takes place automatically.... So this example is given to this materialistic life as a forest fire because nobody wants any disturbance, but disturbance is created.

“...And how that blazing fire can be extinguished? You cannot send there this fire brigade, or you cannot get some pots of water and try to extinguish that wide fire. It is not possible. Then how to extinguish it? The extinguishing is possible when there is cloud overhead and there is incessant pouring of water. ...When cloud pours water, it is so sufficient that there is no comparison. But if you want to pour water, a bucketful of water, how long you will do it?

“So spiritual master means he must be just like the cloud. How is it possible? It is possible. It is possible in this way, provided he follows the disciplic succession of spiritual master. Then it is possible. He must inherit the power from



the superior source. Then it is possible that by his teaching, by his lessons, the forest fire which is burning within our heart, it can be extinguished... This is the process.”

Fifty-five years have passed since Śrīla Prabhupāda spoke the above words. They are still true, and they will be true as long as this world lasts. He speaks the Absolute Truth. Not relative truth which is only true some of the time, which cannot solve our real problem, like the fire brigade or the pots and buckets of water in the example above.

We may resort to temporary solutions to muffle temporary problems for a while, but we are on fire; this world is on fire. That is the Absolute Truth that Śrīla Prabhupāda presents us with, time and time again. How fortunate we are that we have so many of his classes, his books, his conversations! He spent his whole time instructing us, and by the blessings of modern technology, so very many of his instructions and lessons are available to us today.

We prostrate our insignificant selves before the greatness of our spiritual master, the foremost of the Vaiṣṇavas of the modern age – not only that, but he is our saviour as well. We can count on his blessings; he has left them behind in the form of his instructions, his example, his Society and his followers. May we take advantage of them and faithfully tread the path back home, back to Godhead that Śrīla Prabhupāda has shown us and has left for the benefit of all human society.

These few words in which I have tried to explain the meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā and the person of my spiritual master are hopelessly, hopelessly inadequate. How can a dwarf catch the moon? I can only be grateful that I got the opportunity to try.

I humbly point the devotees to the five extant recordings of Śrīla Prabhupāda himself speaking on his Vyāsa-pūjā day. They are: Hamburg 1969, New Vrindaban 1972, Bhaktivedanta Manor 1973 (2 recordings) and Hyderabad 1976.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, if I may add a short sentence to this version which has become my offering to you for this year, I wanted to say that I relished very much reading and listening to those five extant recordings. It was very, very wonderful! I will not say any more for now.

All glories, all glories to you!

*Your aspiring servant,*

Govardhan Devi Dasi  
Initiation: 1973, May—Edinburgh, Scotland, UK  
Current location: Norfolk, England

## Kantimati Dasi

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My dear beloved Guru Mahārāja, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to your lotus feet!

- With every passing year, your words become more clear.
- Time is stealing days, to relinquish my fallen ways
- Material bonds and ties, a world full of lies,
- Without Your Divine Grace who fills this empty space,
- This world would be a place of zombies with no face.
- I pray that I can hear that you taught not to fear, as long as Śrī Kṛṣṇa is near.
- To leave this insane game and chant the holy name, rise above this mundane plane and know your transcendental fame...and relish the love you brought from so high above, for this I yearn to learn.
- O' dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I bow down to your lotus feet and miss you so...

I pray for the desire and ability to follow your simple instructions to 'Chant and BE Happy'!

All glories also to the assembled devotees who help and encourage me to do so.

Thank you for giving us a spiritual family to love and cherish!

*Begging to always be an aspiring servant,*

Kantimati Dasi  
Initiation: 1973, July—Seattle, USA  
Contact: kmdasi@hotmail.com

## Ramya Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I never went on morning walks with you  
I never had a conversation with you  
I never did any intimate service for you  
I never accompanied you to India  
I never garlanded you or fanned you  
I never had those sweet loving exchanges with you that  
some other devotees had

But

I did save some rose petals that you stepped on  
I did touch my head to your feet  
I did have the wonderful fortune of receiving first and  
second initiation personally from you  
I did witness you arriving at Bhaktivedanta  
Manor by helicopter  
I did once present you with a plate of fruit  
I was present at many lectures and room darshans  
I did have the incredible good fortune to be a few feet  
behind you when you danced all the way to Trafalgar  
Square at the 1973 London Rathayātrā  
I was there when you left the Manor for the last time  
I am unbelievably fortunate enough to say  
You are my lord birth after birth  
I pray that one day I may be worthy  
of being called your disciple

Ramya devi dasi

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## Badarayana Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

There is one anecdotal pastime that is super impressed upon my consciousness. You were alone with one of your leading disciples discussing many things. Then you became silent. A divinely saturated

auric energy descended upon the room. There was a purplish hue infused with the spiritual energy as if *Vaikuṅṭha* had descended. You said to your disciple *Bhavananda*, “you know I did not want to come here.” He queried, “you mean to the West *Śrīla Prabhupāda*?” “No, to this material world” you replied. “But *Kṛṣṇa* told me, “you just go and write those books, write those books. And I will arrange everything. Just write those books and I will take care of the rest”. *Śrīla Prabhupāda* is there with Lord *Kṛṣṇa* in the spiritual world, and he is given a direct order from God to descend into this realm of duality and suffering to deliver the message of Godhead in the form of the *Bhaktivedanta* purports. Amazing!

I was most fortunate to get a taste of the mercy that ensues when engaged in fulfilling this mission by becoming a young *saṅkīrtana* devotee in 1972/73. I immersed myself in this service having become inspired by *Tripurāri* and *Rāmeśvara* plus feeling the urgent call from your divine grace to help uplift conditioned souls.

I wish to share a few *saṅkīrtana* stories from recent years to illustrate the potency of your books:

Once, an intelligent woman and her friend walked up to me at Rockefeller Center in New York with deliberate intention. I had been doing *saṅkīrtana* there for many years, after legalizing it with much ordeal. She said to me, “If you could be anything or anyone in your next lifetime who or what would you be?” I was struck by the depth of the question and I answered in kind. I then inquired, “Why do you ask?” She replied, “Because one year ago at this exact same spot you asked me the exact same question!” I immediately recalled how I was using that line to introduce *Beyond Birth & Death* to people.

“So then what happened?” I asked. “You gave me one of those books”. “You mean this one?”, as I pulled out *Beyond Birth & Death*. “Yep, that’s the one,” she said. “And how did that go?” I inquired. “It totally changed my life! I began the process and have complete faith in *Śrīla Prabhupāda*’s teachings which I now practice. And I wanted to come find and thank you for selling me this book of knowledge, it was what I was always looking for.” Needless to say I was deeply moved and felt the great mercy of *Śrīla Prabhupāda* on this soul and my great fortune for being allowed to be a humble instrument.

One day *Vedaguhyā* prabhu called me and left a message. He is by nature very serious and sober minded, but his voicemail was full of childlike giddy enthusiasm. He has a legal contract to print *Prabhupāda*’s books via the KBI as the BBT, where I was a regular

customer, was out of *Beyond Birth & Death*, so I relied on him as I preferred this book. When I returned his call he exclaimed, "You'll never believe what happened today! I was at my local barbershop where I was overhearing the conversation between the guy in the chair next to me and his barber. He was relating how he had just come back from New York City. The barber asked him what his favorite experience was from his trip. He said that he met this guy at Rockefeller Center who had him cracking up with humor, had him chant an ancient mantra and then distributed a book to him. He'd been reading the book, and it was blowing his mind. He was preaching to his barber from the book. The barber kept asking, "What's the name of the book, I want to get it!?" The guy couldn't recall, try as he may. By this time Vedaguhya was jumping out of his seat hearing this pastime so he blurted out, "*Beyond Birth & Death!*" The man in the chair next door exclaimed, "That's it! How is it possible you knew?" Vedaguhya asked him to describe the person who gave him the book, and it perfectly fit my description. Vedaguhya then said, "I print these books for him! And I never get to hear how they have affected people so I'm just so grateful and blown away to hear this – thank you!"

One day I received a call from the late great Guṇagrahi Swami. He insistently spoke, "Badarayana, what did you do to my brother?" I've been preaching to him for almost 40 years to no avail. He just got back from New York City where he met you at Rockefeller Center and said you had him and his wife in stitches laughing, then dancing to a mantra and then he got *Perfection of Yoga* from you. He's been reading it as he felt moved by the experience and now finally understands our philosophy and wants to learn more! How did you do that?" I simply explained that I try to see Kṛṣṇa in their heart and their long sojourn in this world without the mercy of guru and Kṛṣṇa, but I use a bit of humor so they drop their well hardened defenses. That's all. He said, "Well it worked! Finally after all these years I can see him coming to Prabhupāda and Kṛṣṇa".

There's a miracle of mercy in these stories, the miracle of the magnanimity of Lords Nīṭāi Gaurāṅga Patita Pāvana and Their most revered associate Śrīla Prabhupāda who is the greatest general and teaching embodiment of Their mercy in this Kali-yuga. These books have a potency beyond our comprehension as they are the spiritual ecstasies of a *mahā bhāgavat paramahansa* devotee who is receiving direct personal messages from the Supreme Personality of Godhead

Himself. These books contain truths which supersede mundane sentimental conceptions of the world and give direct access to the highest truth of all truths. They also spell out the hierarchy of all things and how to see with transcendental vision reality as distinguished from illusion. Each of us has had that experience when coming into contact with your books, lifting the veil from the flowery mish mash of mundane spirituality so the brilliant light of transcendental knowledge flowed into our minds and hearts drawing us to surrender to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Each one of these stories reflects that potency, and there are countless other stories untold. The world is being populated by souls who will take up your mission in this and future generations who have received the mercy of your illuminating books. There is nothing to fear.

Nonetheless we must take caution to heed your instructions and remain fully faithful to all that you have given in your books, lectures, conversations and morning walks. You once said that things will go on nicely provided your mission remains uncontaminated. I see that faith being challenged by the tendency to subscribe to modern so-called scientific based narratives which have more faith in non-śāstric supported notions of such phenomenon as a moon landing, climate change, toxic injections to promote health, to name a few, all contrary to the *Bhāgavatam* worldview you represented as the world *ācārya*. "To one who has implicit faith in guru and *śāstra* all the imports of Vedic knowledge are revealed."

This is the most quoted verse of your manifest pastimes here. And yet I observe the tendency to marginalize your statements as uniformed, based on your alleged cultural non modern scientific upbringing. However as *mahā-bhāgavat* you are transcendental to the modes of nature and thus can see things as they are, as Lord Kṛṣṇa reveals to you everything that is necessary to know. And this is also supported by *śāstra*. Take for example the climate – according to the *Bhāgavatam* the world will not be destroyed by excessive heat until the end of this age when Lord Śiva does his dance of destruction. As your *sannyāsa* guru stated:

An objective observation of the modern global society reveals that the symptoms of Kali-yuga are abundantly evident. It is a nefarious age of deception and trickery, feint and counter-feint, misinformation and disorganization. Opportunistic politicians controlled by zealous financial magnates covertly and craftily engineer public opinion

by manipulation of the media in a relentless pursuit of ephemeral visions of illusory power rooted in the bodily concepts of 'I' and 'mine'. (*Bhakti Prajnana Keshava Maharaja*)

Your books illuminate all that needs to be known while your room conversations, anecdotal biographies and morning walks support these truths according to time, place and circumstance. As the world *ācārya* every word and action you took was a profound lesson for us all.

The world is in chaos. Modern pundits all agree that we have never been closer to WWIII. You told Rāmeśvara in Māyāpur 1976 that although WWIII was inevitable due to the killing fields of the innocent animals and children, nonetheless our book distribution could turn around the Titanic of the modern world and steer it towards safety, even preventing WWIII. That's a tall order. But you said it, thus it has weight as Guru means heavy. It must therefore be true as a potential.

In order to change this materialistic society and prevent them from gliding to hell, first thing is to educate them. All decent men want to give service to humanity, only thing is they don't have information really what is that service....by giving people knowledge that is the highest service to humanity. So we are performing the actual welfare work of society by informing everyone through our literatures who is God, who they are, and what is the relationship. In this way everyone who hears our message gets the opportunity to fulfill his actual position as human entity and become delivered from the clutches of *māyā*. (Letter to Rāmeśvara, 1973)

The more such literatures are read and distributed, the more auspiciousness there will be in the world. (Letter to Lilāvati, 1973)

All the above stories of people being touched by your books are real time examples of that auspiciousness. And the more we daily hear from you the more auspiciousness and clarity comes into our lives. Though we have many important duties, our foremost duty besides saving ourselves is saving the souls of this world. I pray to be always mindful of this and to have greater faith in your words, your mission and your example of an unrelenting stance for truth and boundless

compassion.

*Your aspiring servant,*

Badarayana Dasa

Initiation: 1973, July—Denver, USA

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## Duryodhana-Guru Dasa

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

*namaste sārasvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*janma karma ca me divyam  
evam yo vetti tattvataḥ  
tyaktvā dehaṁ punar janma  
naiti mām eti so 'rjuna (Bg. 4.9)*

“One who knows the transcendental nature of My appearance and activities does not, upon leaving the body, take his birth again in this material world, but attains My eternal abode, O Arjuna.”

My dearest eternal Gurudeva, you have said, simply by knowing this science one becomes a liberated soul. And what is the position of a liberated soul?

*tyaktvā dehaṁ – punar janma naiti – mām eti.*

By simply knowing the transcendental nature of Kṛṣṇa, he is liberated, and he is at once transferred to the spiritual sky to a spiritual planet or Goloka Vṛndāvana.

This *śloka* is indelibly imprinted on my psyche, my Gurudeva.

As Chaitanya Mahāprabhu has said:

*pr̥thivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma  
sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*

“In all the villages and towns all over the world, everywhere, the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya will be preached.”

You are the *senāpati-bhakta*, the battlefield commander that has actually brought this into fruition by fighting this battle against



nescience on many and all fronts, O Gurudeva. While you were on the planet and even in your absence, it has continued and expanded to millions of souls who have taken up Lord Chaitanya's movement. Your activities have established you as a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra*, an empowered being. How else could one have such an impact in so short a period of time? Your accomplishments bring to mind Kṛṣṇa's words:

*yad yad vibhūtimat sattvaṁ  
śrīmad ūrjitam eva vā  
tat tad evāvagaccha tvam  
mama tejo-'mśa-sambhavam* (Bg. 10.41)

“Know that all opulent, beautiful and glorious creations spring from but a spark of My splendor.”

As I look upon you, I see one of Kṛṣṇa's beautiful and glorious creations and your liberating effect on millions of souls trapped by Māyā's various and seemingly endless illusions. Jaya Gurudeva!

While I was heading up your Sanskrit Editorial Dept in Los Angeles, 1976–77, I was the first Western devotee to translate the *daśa-vidhā-saṁskāras* from Gopāla Bhaṭṭa's book, *Sat-kriyā-sāra-dīpikā*. At that time I learned that each *saṁskāra* had to be performed under auspicious astrological influences and carefully calculated. So, I had little choice but to learn Jyotish or Vedic Astrology in order to provide this service to the devotees which I have done on numerous occasions since that time. Having learned *jyotish*, it has of its own accord become my main service to humanity these 47 years. And I have been blessed with clients from 55 countries worldwide. It has also provided me with a platform to influence people spiritually and guide them to Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

Oh my Gurudeva, you once said, “In material life, one tries to become the master of everything and everyone. In spiritual life, one tries to become the servant of everything and everyone. There is no struggle in becoming a servant but there is great struggle in becoming the master.”

How could this be stated more beautifully?! I have quoted this to so many people around the world while stressing the path of *dharma* and right action for each person.

I had a spiritual awakening in 1969 at the age of 19. By 1971, I knew that my relationship with God was more important than anything else in my life. By 1972, I read your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* from cover

to cover. And that brought the deepest enlightenment ever and subsequently changed everything going forward. By 1973, I left my material life behind, moved to Toronto and joined the ashram. I had yearned to learn Sanskrit many years before that and made it my mission. Early on in Toronto, Kṛṣṇa handed me a Sanskrit Grammar book out of the blue through one of the devotees who asked if I wanted to learn it. By 1975, I was accepted into the BBT Sanskrit Editorial Dept in Los Angeles and began to immerse myself full time in Sanskrit studies and learning to edit your books, particularly the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. By 1976, I was promoted to the head of the BBT Sanskrit Editorial Dept with my staff of four devotees.

To our great shared misfortune, Gurudeva, you left the plant near the close of 1977. This came as a shock to all of us. Soon after, I was laid off at the Sanskrit Dept and was forced to go back out into the world to figure out how to make a living going forward since I had a wife and child. This wasn't an easy time for me.

My marriage ended in 1987, and by 1988 I entered into a period of deep soul-searching. I began to go into Goloka Vṛndāvana in my meditation and appeal to Rādhā and Krishna who I would meet in the beautiful groves of Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma near the Yamunā River. I had had many such meditations in which The Divine Couple would take me places and show me things and inspire me on my path. This carried on for several years.

In 2010, I had the following meditation:

I enter Vṛndāvana to see Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. I am at the top of a powerful, surging waterfall. It falls down over the cliff about 60 feet to the river below. The entire area around the river is verdant, lush jungle. As I look across the narrow but powerful surging stream which is about 10 feet wide, I see Kṛṣṇa on the other side looking back at me, smiling.

He tells me how happy He is to see me and that He has missed me. I say that I have been close by Him always and think of Him daily, but He says it is not the same as when I visit Him and Rādhā in Vṛndāvana. He points out that it is like when He first went to Mathurā. He wasn't far away from Vṛndāvana at all, but try and tell that to the *gopīs* and the *vraja-vāsīs*. He may as well have been at the North Pole. I smile and say, "Yes, I see." He says, "We are glad to have you back. We have missed you!"

"Yes, We have missed you," Rādhā confirms. She is standing right behind me on my side of the waterfall and has likely been

there the whole time! She is absolutely beautiful. As I look at Her, I catch the fragrances of sandal, jasmine, rose, musk, and some other-worldly fragrances that I do not know — not altogether but wafts of each now and then. I bend and touch her lotus feet with the fingers of both my hands and then touch my fingers to my head. Then, she looks deeply into my eyes and right through me, and I feel so much love radiating from her.

I ask if we are in Vṛndāvana since this does not resemble Vṛndāvana terrain. Kṛṣṇa says that we are always in Vṛndāvana, and yes, this does not resemble Vṛndāvana terrain, but we can manifest any kind of terrain we want in Vṛndāvana because all the molecules and all the atoms are pure *cintāmaṇi*. They are so eager to serve our slightest desire and become whatever we want them to be. These atomic particles of consciousness always feel privileged to serve and are therefore very enthusiastic and only await yet another opportunity to take any shape or form that you conceive or desire. Whereas, in the material world, the atomic particles are very reluctant to serve and to become what you may want them to be. Sometimes, it takes much time and effort to get them to manifest the shapes and forms and desires you want. That is because they have no service attitude, unlike here in the spiritual realm where service is always joyfully rendered. This is the difference between the intransigence of the ego and the surrender of the soul. Everything in the material world is permeated by ego which, by definition, wants everything for its own benefit. But in the spiritual world, everything is permeated by spirit which seeks only the pleasure of the Godhead and His surrendered servants who also seek only His pleasure. Therefore, all things in the spiritual world take place immediately as soon as they appear in the mind or as soon as a desire may arise.

I ask that Kṛṣṇa purify my heart and remove *kāma*, *krodha* and *lobha* — lust, anger and greed. He smiles and nods. I tell Him I want to come and live with Him always at the end of this life. He says, “I want you to come and live with Me always and you will.” Rādhā looks up at me and smiles, echoing Kṛṣṇa, “Yes, you will.” He tells me that I must learn to defeat Māyā at her game. “You are always in a contest with Māyā. The game is always on — 24 hours. And she is ruthless in wanting to win, to have victory over you. You must not buy into the duality — the positives and negatives. They don’t exist. They’re not real. It’s all a dream. Just like last night, you had a dream that upset you. But as soon as you awoke, it became unimportant, a

non-issue. It was just a dream which meant nothing. It is the same with Māyā. All of this means nothing — it's all a trick of Māyā to win the contest, to beat you at the game. And by the way, they are *her* rules so she obviously has an edge! He smiles. Don't let her beat you. Be vigilant always!

This reminds me of the dice game Yudhiṣṭhira entered into with Duryodhana and his uncle, the contemptible Śakuni. Yudhiṣṭhira could never beat Śakuni because Yudhiṣṭhira is not a cheater and the only way he could win was to lower himself to Śakuni's level of deceit, which Yudhiṣṭhira would never do.

I look at Rādhā who is smiling at me with love in Her eyes. I look back across the chasm at Kṛṣṇa, who is no longer there. He begins to speak once again, and He is now standing next to me. Kṛṣṇa says, "This waterfall represents the love that will pour from your heart to all the suffering souls here in the material world. This love and compassion that flows from your heart will become like a surging waterfall which cannot be stopped, slowed or checked. That is why We have brought you to this waterfall. Now ... go, beat Māyā at her game!" They smile. I bend and touch Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet with the fingers of both my hands and then touch my fingers to my head. I fold my hands in deep gratitude while we exchange loving glances.

I thank Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa for this beautiful meditation.

I only hope that one day Their blessing will manifest in my life. It is because of you alone, my Gurudeva, that I have come to know Rādhā and Krishna. I sometimes think, "Why would They waste their time on me?!" But then I remember what you said once when you told the story of the important businessman when you pointed out that Krishna is always waiting on us ...

A powerful wealthy businessman takes his dog out for a walk each evening and patiently waits on him while he is going here and there and passing stool and urine. Why would such an important man waste his time with a dog? He does this out of love for his dog. And Krishna remains waiting for us as individuals for the same reason.

Why does Kṛṣṇa do this for a person such as me? As He says to Arjuna in *Bhagavad-gītā* 4.3: *bhaktō 'si me sakhā ceti*.

"Because you are my devotee and my friend."

May I always have a place at your lotus feet, my Gurudeva. And may I always remain Krishna's devotee and friend due to your

causeless mercy ...

*With eternal love and gratitude,*

Duryodhana-Guru Dasa

Initiation: 1973, July—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

Current location: Dublin, Ireland

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## Rukmini Priya Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

All glories to you.

I am so profoundly grateful to you for having such steadfast loyalty to the orders of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī and like a true Kṣatriya holding your ground against all obstacles that presented themselves in your path.

The result is that we fallen souls now have the opportunity to participate in the journey to the spiritual world by following your teachings.

You have given us Matchless Gifts which we can never repay.

*I pray to remain,  
Your eternal seroant,*

Rukmini Priya Dasi

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## Purnamasi Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Thank you for allowing me to stay in the association of your sincere surrendered, compassionate, enthusiastic, and realized disciples and granddisciples. There are so many devotees who have, and are, developing some of your perfect Vaishnava characteristics.

I pray that I will always remain in the association and under the shelter of your followers and also develop some of their qualities.

Please allow me to serve you always in this life and the next and never leave.

*Desiring to improve my service to you and all the devotees,  
I remain, Your servant,*

Purnamasi Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1973, August—Vancouver, Canada

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## Praghosa Dasa

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It is said that to see a sense enjoyer's face is just like drinking poison. Luckily for us you were immune to that poison because of your intense love for your spiritual master who had requested you to come and talk to us.

All glories unto you!

You mercifully accepted that service to your guru as you were pained by seeing us in such a desperate condition. It is out of sheer mercy that you accepted to descend into this hellish environment.

All glories unto you!

Having forgotten our relationship with Krishna, we were erring into this dark hole of material existence, having no hope of relief from the pangs of threefold miseries. You spoke liberating words and thus gave us a chance to rekindle our dormant love for the Supreme Lord.

All glories unto you!

Lord Krishna, the Supreme Cupid, is always carrying a quiver full of arrows of love which He throws freely to entice the jivas into His Yoga Māyā. Likewise, you seduced so many tender-hearted souls with your words and directed them to the lotus feet of Lord Krishna.

All glories unto you!

To those who were overtaken by anxiety you inspired amity even in the midst of tribulation. While performing your pastimes, you always had an answer to the worriment that plagued your disciples.

All glories unto you!

Your demeanor has always been a source of inspiration, no matter what circumstances you were in. Anyone who has witnessed this quality of yours was immediately attracted to hearing what you had to say to know which direction to take.

All glories unto you!

When looking at your face and seeing your actions, we could always see that you were thinking of Krishna. Remembering you in this fashion, we have an example to follow. Even in your physical absence you remain our Ācārya.

All glories unto you!

In total control of your senses, every second of your life has been a glorification of the Lord. You spent your time correcting our devious tendencies and thanking us for our so-called good deeds although they were insignificant.

All glories unto you!

Most importantly you were spreading the transcendental knowledge in your books, your classes and conversations. You did that in the fashion of Lord Ananta Who incessantly narrates the infinite pastimes of Lord Krishna. We feel honored to be able to hand those wonderful books to the needy suffering souls.

All glories unto you!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, my gratitude for your generous heritage knows no bounds. Kindly let me remain near your lotus feet so that my remembrance of your instructions may remain forever fresh.

All glories unto you!

Praghosa Dasa

Initiation: 1973, September—Montreal, Canada

Current location: Montreal

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## Prthusrava Dasa

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā ...* I was born in the darkest ignorance, not knowing what or who is God. But to our advantage we were a “blank slate,” and the hearing of your words, full of emotion and realization, was like indelible ink on our mind and heart. And by continual hearing, that seed of bhakti was

watered, and it subsequently grew. As we go on hearing, it will surely progress to a mature plant and bear ripened fruit of love of God, which is Lord Caitanya's sublime gift.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were constantly sharing your realizations and experience with your sincere followers by describing the potency of Kṛṣṇa's holy name, His amazing qualities, His gorgeous form, and His uncommon, sweet pastimes with His devotees in Vṛndāvana. Thus, you transferred your realizations and experience to your disciples. This is the success of guru and the meaning of disciplic succession.

Let us inherit this experience of loving Kṛṣṇa from you and nurture this loving propensity, which is eternally existent within us.

*Grateful to remain your eternal servant,*

Prthusrava Dasa

Initiation: 1973, September—Boston, USA

Current location: New Talavana Farm, Mississippi, USA

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## Vaidyanath Dasa

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

please accept my obeisances at your lotus feet.

Please accept my apologies for not offering Vyāsa-pūjā obeisances to you for the past two years. These years have brought great changes in my life, and I have had to rethink some aspects of my relationship with you, my eternal Spiritual Guide. However, the repeated encouragement of my Godbrothers to write something is finally bearing fruit.

When I see you on the *vyāsāsan* in one of our ISKCON temples or on a photo, I see a person of the same age as me, while you have been considerably ahead of me in age until now. It will not be long before you are younger in your image form than my material form.



It becomes clear what Śrī Krishna explains to Arjuna in *Bhagavad-gītā* 2.12: “Never was there a time when I or you did not exist, and likewise never in the future will either of us cease to be.” Both your spiritualized body, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and mine are born and die, but our souls are eternal. However, you are no more different from your image form, in which you appear as an elderly gentleman, than you are from your lectures and books, and even in these external manifestations you remain my spiritual master eternally.

The past years have seen both the death of my two parents and the birth of two new grandchildren. While these losses and additions are subject to the laws of birth and death, my relationship with you is completely transcendental. In the face of material transformations, there has not been a moment that I felt to have lost you. Time and again you looked kindly after my spiritual welfare, speaking to me from a *Bhāgavatam* explanation or looking at me encouragingly from a photograph or your transcendental *mūrti*.

In the past years, I witnessed how different your passing away was from the passing away of my undoubtedly pious, yet not self-realized parents. Likewise, your legacy is vastly different from theirs: you left behind transcendental teachings for the next ten thousand years. Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākur writes:

He reasons ill who says that Vaishnavas ever die  
When thou art living still in Sound!  
The Vaishnavas die to live and living try  
To spread the holy life around!

You are my eternal companion, friend and spiritual master. I firmly believe that you will lead your International Society for Krishna Consciousness, to which I feel related to like a family, into the cooling shade of Śrī Krishna’s lotus feet.

*Your fallen servant,*

Vaidyanath Dasa

Initiation: 1973, October—Hamburg, Germany

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## Kadamba Devi Dasi

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Śrīla Prabhupāda,

But for you we have no link to Kṛṣṇa; no devotee association; no Deities to worship; no ISKCON temples; no books translated for our understanding, no “*śravaṇam kīrtanam viṣṇoḥ*”. You literally gave me my life.

Thank you again and again. Please allow me to understand this philosophy and to follow its guidance. The material energy is so bewildering and baffling to the entangled living entity, that we cannot understand our pitiable position. You have given us a glimpse of spiritual truth and the keys to becoming free from material bondage.

You are *patita pāvana*. Please allow me to serve your beloved Kṛṣṇa by accepting the service I attempt to offer. I know it is inadequate and full of faults. I also know that because of your love for Kṛṣṇa, He can be willing to accept it, just as a parent accepts the attempts of a juvenile child to give his or her parent a gift crafted with skills that are inadequate but that is created with love for the parent. I know my service, sincerity, and devotion are woefully inadequate, but please take me back to Kṛṣṇa.

Thank you for accepting me as your disciple.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*In gratitude,*

Kadamba Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1973, October—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: California, USA

Contact: r.nieburgs@gmail.com

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## Nitya-trīpta Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, dear master,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

Thank you for accepting me as your disciple. For many years I was

searching for the meaning of life, why am I here? what is the best way to live?

Your books have shown the clear path forward, the proper way to live, the meaning of life. Without your mercy in writing and purporting the essential Bhakti śāstras of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Nectar of Devotion*, I would literally be lost. Thank you forever.

My dear Spiritual Master, since taking shelter of your lotus feet my life has been a wonderful adventure in learning with a bit of austerity thrown in for good training. Those years in the *brahmacāriṇī* ashram, although sometimes tough, were a blessing in learning, tolerance and acceptance. Today many newer devotees do not get this wonderful opportunity.

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you gave this world the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya, delivering anyone who listens from the impersonalism and voidism that is ever present in today's societies. You have brought Lord Caitanya's mercy to the entire world. Your role in doing this is at such an advanced as is awe inspiring, especially now since I am now around the age when you set sail for the USA.

As I embark on the last chapters of this life, I would like to rededicate the rest of this life's energy to serving your mission, your lotus feet and studying deeply the wonderful jewels you have given us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am but a lowly beggar asking for your blessings and guidance as I continue serving at the Bhaktivedanta Archives so others may see and hear your message. I wish to eternally serve your lotus feet.

*Your Grateful Servant,*

Nitya-tṛpta Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1973, October—Argentina

Current location: USA

My Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this auspicious day of your glorious appearance.

Dear Merciful Spiritual Master, you so kindly appeared in this world during this dark age of Kali-yuga just to deliver the fallen souls from the repeated cycle of birth and death. Being expert in time and circumstances, you came to America despite many challenges, and attracted thousands of dissatisfied young people who were attracted to the alternative lifestyle you presented. As one sannyasi stated, “Kṛṣṇa consciousness is just love, masquerading as philosophy.”

In the mood of pleasing you by serving your beloved devotees, we began the non-profit organization, Vaishnavas C.A.R.E. in 2000 and, by your grace, we have watched it expand around the world ever since. We now have teams of devotees being trained throughout countries in Latin America and other countries where we previously never had volunteers. It is only by Your Divine Grace and the mercy of Lord Kṛṣṇa that so many devotees have stepped forward to attend our seminars called, “The Art of Caring for Vaishnavas,” which teaches the many aspects of end-of-life care for the terminally ill devotees within your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. We are grateful to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your ongoing divine inspiration and encouragement and for sending more and more devotees to join this project so that no devotee will ever have to die alone without feeling cared for and without hearing the Holy Names of the Lord when leaving one’s body. We thank you for helping us in this way and for so many other ways that you show us your guidance and mercy daily. You have been holding us up and giving us your spiritual strength to render this project for so many years. Every volunteer in Vaishnavas CARE International is beyond grateful to you for your inspiration and example.

Personally, I am begging you to please allow me to continue to serve you and your devotees in this way for as long as you desire, my dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Kindly assist me in rising above all the challenges I face along the way. When you so desire and you wish for me to move on from this *sevā*, kindly allow me to continue to serve you and your beloved servants however you desire, for all of eternity.

*Praying to remain your eternal servant,  
and the servant of your servants,*

Sangita Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1973, November—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: ISKCON Philadelphia, USA

## Partha Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Once you described the powerful *brahmāstra* weapons used by *kshatriyas* such as Arjuna and Daśaratha and how the weapons became potent by recitations of mantras and touching water. Daśaratha could hit an unseen target at night with such an arrow. Then you mentioned the similarity of the mantra, *Oṃ apavitraḥ pavitro vā...* which we chant at every initiation fire sacrifice, and you said very somberly, “do not think this is child’s play.”

“Do not think this is child’s play.” It was such a revealing statement.

I immediately recalled a verse of Sanātana Goswami that you often quoted:

*yathā kāñcanatām yāti  
kāṁsyaṁ rasa-vidhānataḥ  
tathā dīkṣā-vidhānena  
dviijatvaṁ jāyate nṛṇām*

“As a base metal like bell metal can be changed into gold by a chemical process, any person can similarly be changed into a brāhmaṇa by dīkṣā-vidhāna, the initiation process”.

By the process of initiation, you unleashed a global tsunami of bhakti which transformed and continues to transform conditioned souls into glowing Vaishnavas.

Your dear disciple, Govinda dāsī discovered an old news clipping in which an astrologer wrote of your chart in a way that illuminates the phenomenal potency invested in your *Bhaktivedanta Purports*.

Nobody can read this chart; if they say they can, they are simply lying. This personality comes and goes at his own sweet will; he is not bound by anybody or anything. The stars are lined up perfectly—there is no question of karma. He is working directly under the will of God. And when

he writes, his pen does not have ink in it. His pen has in it fire which will burn the ignorance of the whole world!

That statement is a thunderbolt of truth.

Repeated reading of your books unearths more and more radiant gems of powerful, sacred wisdom which drives out the darkness of ignorance and warms our cold hearts. Undoubtedly your books are the sought after legendary philosopher's stone which grants the elixir of immortality.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I pray that life after life I may assist you in your compassionate mission of sharing your mystic jewels of knowledge with others.

*Your servant eternally,*

Partha Dasa

Initiation: 1973, December—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: Saranagati, Ashcroft, BC, Canada

Contact: gvtcanada@gmail.com

## Citraka Dasa

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Dear, merciful Śrīla Prabhupāda,

It is with the utmost reverence that I prostrate myself at your lotus feet and offer my most humble obeisances.

On this auspicious occasion of your appearance day I extend my prayers and glorification to you with great joy and gratitude. As the years pass, the depth of appreciation for the blessings I've received from your divine presence in my life becomes increasingly profound.

You are the enlightened sage whose wisdom has transformed my material existence in ways I could never have fathomed. Through your teachings and your exemplary life, you illuminated the path showing me how to add Krishna in my life and make, as you said, my worthless "zeros" into transcendently valuable "tens, hundreds, thousands etc."

Before encountering Your Divine Grace I had become useless to Lord Krishna's enjoyment. I was ensnared in the delusion of competing with Him, trying to lord it over His own animate and inanimate property, for my self-centered pursuits, akin to an *asura*.

Of course, you taught us that, as an infinitesimal part of Krishna,

to be blissful – to be joyful – is our ‘birthright’. It’s part of who we are; it’s our natural constitutional nature. This is not sinful. But, abusing my minute independence, I had sought it separately from the Lord and that is a very sinful pursuit, I became very fallen. I have committed a very grave offense against a Person, Who not only is the Supreme Beneficiary of everything, but He is a very, very good and kind Person, He never did me any wrong, He always loved me and treated me properly! And I chose to betray His love and turned my face away from Him, choosing to ignore Him! What an offender!

So I was justly put under the jurisdiction of the external energy, where I was given the chance to realize my mistake and correct it. But this took millions of years of unconscious, ugly and arrogant existence, before something special happened.

After who knows how many births and rebirths, and not by chance, Your Victorious Grace appeared on this same planet. And after a lifetime of preparation, with unwavering resolve, compassion beyond measure and undergoing untold austerities in the process, found me and countless others in this jail. Through your books and transcendental creation, ISKCON, saved us all and instructed us how to achieve eternal happiness, existence, and knowledge in the loving service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

When you were coming to America on the *Jaladuta* steamship, as it was nearing Commonwealth Pier in Boston, you prayed to Lord Krishna, “All living entities have come 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. I wish that You may deliver them.

“I wish that You may deliver them. Therefore, if You so desire their deliverance, then only will they be able to understand Your message.”

It is only due to the fact that you prayed to Krishna for my deliverance that He did it.

Otherwise what is my qualification? When I look for my qualifications, I don’t find any. My only qualification is that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, took compassion on me and gave me your mercy: you prayed to Krishna for me, just as you say in your prayer approaching the Commonwealth Pier.

Your translations and commentaries of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava scriptures elucidate convincingly the ultimate purpose of life. So intellectually I was convinced. Yet, it was your living example that activated me fully as a soul and caused my innate loving devotional

energy to function again properly, directed to the proper Person!

When I met you, finally, in you I had found a person I could trust...a beacon of trustworthiness. I could see you were a transparent medium. The love and service that you received by us was all, completely directed towards the mission and interest of the Lord. You were not in need of anything. I admired this and it made me want to become like you!

The scriptures declare that it is a very rare and precious fortune for a resident of this world to meet a saint, a pure devotee like you. Why?

The scriptures explain that the nature of a living entity is constitutionally arranged by the Supreme Lord to experience perfect fulfillment only by spontaneously loving and serving Him.

But when the living entity misuses his minute independence and chooses to experience instead the position of *puruṣa*, is put under the influence of the illusory energy of the Lord, in the material realm. There, while becoming repeatedly frustrated in his attempts to exercise lordship, he also has the opportunity to reform himself by an education the material energy is set to provide in a rather forceful way.

But does this reformation take place only by the agency of the external material energy? Not at all. The internal energy of Krishna is in charge of the more advanced stage of education, the reconnection stage.

When the living entity comes into this world, although he is covered by a material body, his eternal nature and function to love and serve does not change. It is simply directed towards the wrong persons and ideals.

Thus, he tries to substitute his service to the Lord with loving and serving other fellow living entities. But, both, his love and service is now tinted by his identification with the body, therefore perverted and selfish and can't make anybody happy, and also the reciprocation he gets from other similarly illusioned beings is also imperfect and can't make him happy.

So by the arrangement of the material energy he realizes that there is not any substitute! For the Lord, neither there is any pure, satisfying love, free from the influence of the false ego, in the material world and all these imperfect attempts to love and serve other conditioned entities end in disappointment.

The same with trying to serve the so many "...isms" of the material dreamland.



The result of this is that deluded people of this world, without any educated alternatives, often withdraw their energy, not finding anybody or anything worthy of their love and service and they become failures, often dependent on intoxicants, in order to forget. and eventually continuing their journey to *samsāra*.

But, the learned sages inform us that the only possible remedy of such epic failures and the other agent of reformation – education is the pure devotee, the representative of the internal energy of the Lord, because the mercy of the Lord follows the mercy of such a devotee.

Indeed, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with your holy personality and transcendental qualities, attracted and directed our talents and energy expertly towards the only recipient capable of reciprocating love unflinchingly—Lord Krishna Himself. And in fact, under your guidance, we have found fulfillment and purpose by being joyfully engaged in His devotional service.

You taught us how to approach the Lord without offense or disattention, rekindling the lost art of acting for His pleasure. And this is what we now constantly practice and endeavor to succeed, following your footsteps.

Knowing this, in your infinite compassion, you equipped us with the most potent tools for reawakening this art: the holy name, the association of devotees and your transcendental literature, which contain all essentials for our path to pure devotion.

You prepared us completely for a glorious departure from this painful but reformatory material state of existence, possibly attaining freedom from the cycle of repeated birth and death forever and hopefully being accepted again in the service of Lord Krishna and His beloved devotees.

On this sacred day, I offer my deepest gratitude to Your Divine Grace for your guidance, which has led me towards the eternal reservoir of joy found in loving service to the Lord. Words fail to express the magnitude of the blessings you have bestowed upon me and countless others.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, wherever you are, I pray to you wholeheartedly to please canvass the Lord about forgiving me and reaccepting me in His service again. Please Śrīla Prabhupāda do so, please!

*With heartfelt reverence and eternal gratitude,  
Your servant,*

## Sarva-drik Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my eternal koti koti shastanga dandavat pranam in the dust of your lotus feet.

Last September I was fortunate to attend a gathering of your disciples and followers at your Ujjain ISKCON Temple. The occasion was the Vyāsa-pūjā of one of your beloved disciples, H. H. Bhakti Charu Maharaja. The Ujjain devotees chose to celebrate the Vyāsa-pūjā of their Gurudev in a unique, wonderful way. All the assembled devotees, about 900 in number, spent three days hearing about you, glorifying you, and appreciating the extraordinary spiritual impact you had in their lives and in the lives of hundreds of thousands of devotees around the world. On the fourth day, the disciples of H. H. Bhakti Charu Maharaja enthusiastically observed their gurudev's Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony. This method of observing the Vyāsa-pūjā of one of your disciples is an exemplary way to honor you, your representative, and shows what, "Preeminent siksha guru for all ISKCON devotees" means.

A few of us, on the invitation of the friendly ISKCON Ujjain devotees, took us on a tour of local historic temples. Prominent among them was the very ancient "Mahakaleshwar Mandir." This temple is tens of thousands of years old and is dedicated to the worship of Lord Śiva, "the greatest Vaishnava." Walking through the ancient granite halls and finally entering the sanctum sanctorum of the Temple we were standing before the *līṅga* form of Lord Śiva. Observing the scene, many devout worshippers, with various desires to fulfill, intently praying to Lord Śiva, I thought I should also request some special blessing from this best of Vaishnavas. But what to ask? Our Gauḍīya Vaishnava prayer is, "*na dhanam na janam na sundarīm...*" so, maybe I am just in the wrong place. But no, Lord Śiva is particularly kind to devotees of His Lord, Śrī Krishna, I thought to myself. So, what blessing should I request, what blessing can be fruitful and be truly meaningful in my life? I prayed, "Oh Lord Śiva, you are *karuṇa-mayam*, full of mercy, "*sarva kleśa haram devam*" you remove the sufferings of material life and your blessing

never goes in vain. Please bless me that I may be **useful to Śrīla Prabhupāda**, useful in any way that may please him, my Gurudev. I have absolutely no use for any other thing.”

May this simple prayer be granted Śrīla Prabhupāda, for you are the “greatest Vaishnava” in the orbit of my life. Please allow me to serve you in some way, in any way that pleases you. Even the smallest service, if accepted by you, is my greatest wealth. Your service is all I want, all I need, and all I hope for; just doing something useful for you. May it be so. Hare Krishna!

*Your eternal servant and disciple,*

Sarva-drik Dasa

Initiation: 1973, December—Portland, USA

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## Jaya Bhadra Devi Dasi

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my prostrated *daṇḍavat praṇāms* in the dust at your lotus feet. Decades ago, you appeared in my wretched life, uninvited, but so desperately needed. Your blessed servant – Riddha dasa, approached me twice within the span of a year. The second time, after reading your article “God is not Void, Life is not Zero” in the *Back to Godhead* magazine I’d received from Riddha prabhu, I left everything I knew (which was so riddled with pain, fear, confusion, and hopelessness). Sometimes you would express your love for your disciples by saying how we gave up everything to follow you, but I did not give up anything. I was saved from everything. I have never, ever regretted the day that your *saṅkīrtana* soldiers rescued me from hell.

I traveled with them from Calgary, Alberta, to Vancouver, British Columbia, and on the way I learned that not only the universe we are residing in, but unlimited other universes are existing as long as Mahā Vishnu breathes out, and that they will all be annihilated when He breathes in. This was my introduction into a new dimension – a world foreign yet somehow familiar. There, your mission and instructions were the foundation and guiding light for anyone fortunate enough to join your International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Within a few days of arriving at your ISKCON Vancouver branch, I learned about the false ego, impersonalism, the Supreme

Personality of Godhead, Deity worship, *prākṛta sahaḥjīyās*, *japa*, *kīrtan*, surrender, and the importance of distributing your transcendental literature. Everyone lived, breathed, spoke, acted, and thought only of and for you. It was such a contagious mood of devotion and surrender. We were so young, energetic and adventurous. Sometimes we would joke about what we'd be like as elderly bhakti practitioners; we would laughingly hunch over and stumble along chanting *japa*, pretending to hold a cane. Come to think of it – we never thought of you as old – certainly not the way we imagined ourselves becoming old.

How quickly the years have passed – just as scripture proclaims – our life span passes practically without our noticing it. I do not yet need a cane, but I am certainly learning how real, and how not funny it is to be in an old body. And although we always marveled at how much you were accomplishing in what you so humbly called “the fag end” of your life, how much more do we, your aging disciples and followers, now marvel!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, over the years, I would hear the devotees cite you as saying, “Don’t be surprised who leaves – be surprised who stays.” I am indeed very surprised and most grateful that you and yours have tolerated me and allowed me to stay in your company. I love to hear and serve in the association of your devoted followers. I don’t know how it will be possible for me to fulfil your instruction to go back to Godhead in this very lifetime – I can only pray that wherever I may be that I may be blessed to receive your shelter and to continue treading the path that will eventually please you by my becoming a lover of Krishna.

*Your eternally indebted daughter,*

Jaya Bhadra Dasi

Initiation: 1973, December—LA, USA

Current location: Radhadesh, Belgium

Contact: jayabhadr@gmail.com

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## Naikatma Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your most merciful lotus feet. All glories to your transcendental life and activities.

Whatever may be auspicious in our lives is due to your appearance and presence. My mission in life is to connect and stay connected to that presence, which is manifesting through your words and activities.

Imperceptive to our mundane vision, you are acting through your words and those following them carefully.

My struggle is that due to my lack of sincerity, I am constantly distracted by my flickering mind which is only cheating me. But, I know that if I stay close to your words and to your dear servants, even a wretch like myself can be uplifted from this ignorant dark place.

You dedicated your life to the mission of uplifting us out of this corrupt and fallen society. I can only pray that I may get your mercy and assist you in this mission.

*Your eternal servant,*

Naikatma Dasa

Initiation: 1973, December—Denver, USA

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## Uttama Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my deepest gratitude and respect to you. I am continually amazed how you continue to impact people, day after day, years after your physical absence from this planet. We witness this all the time, as we travel.

The sheer volume of places you blessed, the souls you impacted, the temples you opened, all the beautiful Deities in which you invited the Supersoul within your heart to reside, the variety of projects you started, the potency of the words you wrote, spoke and translated, the example you set with your *sādhana*, along with your dedication to following the order of your guru, are beyond phenomenal.

You would have been great even if you only performed a few of the above feats. It is humanly impossible that you have accomplished all this. I am in awe.

Your greatest feat in my eyes, is the causeless mercy you have shown me. I thank you again and again. Please bless me that I may somehow share that mercy with others.

*Your eternal servant,*

Uttama devi dasi

Initiation: 1973, December—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: Saranagati, Ashcroft, BC, Canada

Contact: [uttamadasi@gmail.com](mailto:uttamadasi@gmail.com)

## Parividha Dasa

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

It's all thanks to you  
That is oh so true  
Yes, it's all thanks to you  
Only us that knew

There's so much I'm grateful for  
All the knowledge that I received  
All the things that I achieved  
Thanks to you  
Prabhupāda

That time passed so fast  
Can't believe  
Almost 50 years  
Things that you have said  
We forgot, which is quite sad

Millions of eyes can't see  
What is so clear to me  
And there's no recognition  
Of your exalted position

Yes millions of eyes can't see  
What is so clear to me  
That all of us have to die  
They don't ask  
Don't ask why

It's all thanks to you  
That should be our point of view

All glories to you  
Are overdue

We should be so grateful for  
All the knowledge that we received  
All the things that you achieved  
Thanks to you  
Prabhupāda

*Your eternally grateful aspiring servant,*

Parividha Dasa

Initiation: 1973—Amsterdam, Netherlands

## Draviḍa Dāsa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year I'd like to thank you for what I consider one of your greatest gifts to us—the morning program. Of course, the morning program is composed of various jewels which are in themselves invaluable gifts:

*Maṅgala-ārati*, in which we raise our voices in praise of you, our eternal spiritual master, meditating on your kindness and compassion in delivering us from the forest fire of material life by teaching us the essence of Lord Caitanya's program—singing Hare Kṛṣṇa in congregation, worshiping the Deities according to the *Nārada-pañcarātra*, and honoring *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. In addition, we get a glimpse of your internal, intimate pastimes with Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, are reminded of your non-difference from Lord Kṛṣṇa, and get the essential instruction that your satisfaction and mercy are the foundations of our advancement in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Tulasī-pūjā*: "O Tulasī, beloved of Kṛṣṇa. My desire is obtain the service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. Whoever takes shelter of you has his wishes fulfilled. Bestowing your mercy on him, you make him a resident of Vṛndāvana. My desire is that you will also grant me a residence in the pleasure groves of Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma. Thus

within my vision I will always behold the beautiful pastimes of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. I beg you to make me a follower of the cowherd damsels of Vraja. Please give me the privilege of devotional service and make me your own maidservant. This very fallen and lowly servant of Kṛṣṇa prays, ‘May I always swim in the love of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Govinda.’” Every morning we have a chance to utter this prayer in both English and Bengali and thank you for giving us this intimate and powerful process of Tulasī-pūjā.

**Japa:** Two hours of chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa on our beads before Śrīmatī Tulasī-devī in the association of devotees. The essence of our *sādhana-bhakti!* Every morning I feel so blessed by you for this gift!

**Greeting the Deities:** “*Govindam ādi-puruṣam tam aham bhajāmi.*” Your dear devotee Yamunā-devī’s voice resounds as we drink in the blissful opulence, beauty, and compassion of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Giridhārī, and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadra.

**Guru-pūjā:** Śrīla Prabhupāda, I must admit that for me the most essential part of the *Guru-vandanā* song is *guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete kariyā aikya, āra nā kariha mane āśā:* “Make the teachings emanating from the lotus mouth of our spiritual master one with your heart, and do not desire anything else.” If we can obey this one instruction, everything else will follow naturally. It is no wonder you stressed the critical importance of attending *guru-pūjā*.

**Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam class:** The importance of this part of the morning program is stressed in the *Bhāgavatam* itself: “By regular attendance in classes on the *Bhāgavatam* and by rendering of service to the pure devotee, all that is troublesome to the heart is almost completely destroyed, and loving service unto the Personality of Godhead, who is praised with transcendental songs, is established as an irrevocable fact.” Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your incredible sacrifice in presenting to us the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* with your incomparable translations and purports—the heart of your instruction to us—and for making the *Bhāgavatam* class integral to the morning program.

And finally, **prasādam!** Unless it’s a fast day, everyday we get to honor *bhāgavata-prasādam* with our fellow devotees and blissfully prepare for another day of devotional service to guru and Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I’ve had the great good fortune of being able to attend the full morning program practically every day of my fifty-one years in your service. To be honest, I can’t imagine living without it.



I'd like to end with a little poem I wrote a few years ago but which has yet to appear in the "Śrīla Prabhupāda Tributes Book." It encapsulates my feelings on this monumental day:

## A Paean to Śrīla Prabhupāda on Vyāsa-pūjā Day

O Prabhupāda, on this great day  
When you appeared, just like a ray  
Of Kṛṣṇa's vast effulgence bright  
To give this blind world back its sight,

We thank you from the bottom of  
Our heart, and pray with deepest love  
That we may serve your lotus feet  
In every circumstance we meet.

As years go by and books go out,  
We see what life is all about:  
To serve your mission, and our Lord's,  
By spreading wide your sacred words.

As well you want us all to strive  
To let those words direct our lives.  
This safest path will lead us Home,  
No more in Māyā's realm to roam.

Your fallen servant,  
Draviḍa Dāsa

Initiation: 1974, January—Brooklyn, New York, USA  
Current location: San Diego, California, USA

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## Rangavati Devi Dasi

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To His Divine Grace, my eternal guide and spiritual sustenance, who is like a lighthouse that beckons lost souls to the Vaikuṅṭha shores of safety. In storms or calm waters the waves of the modes of nature toss and throw the vulnerable enjoyers of the worlds. His brilliant lights of knowledge, compassion and mercy are like a mountain of stability in an otherwise dwindling sense of material security.

The following quote from George Bernard Shaw is a reminder to

me how Śrīla Prabhupāda serves his Lord.

I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve.”— George Bernard Shaw

*Your aging daughter in love,*

Rangavati Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1974, January—Detriot, Michigan, USA

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## Vaiśeṣika Dāsa

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I offer my humble obeisances to my beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

Regarding receiving Kṛṣṇa’s mercy, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura writes in his *Śaraṅāgati*: ‘*kṛṣṇa*’ ‘*kṛṣṇa*’ *boli*, *dhāi tava pāche pāche* “Kṛṣṇa is yours; you have the power to give Him to me. I am simply running behind you shouting, ‘Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa!’”

A Godbrother once told me that each disciple runs behind their spiritual master, because their spiritual master is also running, as a disciple, behind their spiritual master. And all devotees are thus running after Kṛṣṇa, the supreme spiritual master.

As the Founder-Ācārya of ISKCON, Śrīla Prabhupāda has set such a pace in his service to his spiritual master, that as his followers, we are running behind him.

In a letter Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote from Bombay to his disciples in New Dwaraka on August 14, 1976, he explains this principle of running behind one’s spiritual master:

My dear Sons and Daughters,

Please accept my blessings. I am in due receipt of your letter dated August 9, 1976, and the enclosed *dakṣiṇa* and pictures of the *mūrtis* in New Dvaraka which I am having framed and put on my wall here in Bombay.

If you feel at all indebted to me then you should preach vigorously like me. That is the proper way to repay me. Of course, no one can repay the debt to the spiritual master, but the spiritual master is very much pleased by

such an attitude by the disciple. In the *Bhagavad-gītā* it is said, *vyavasāyātmikā buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana* [Bg. 2.41], “Those who are on this path are resolute in purpose, and their aim is one.” Our only business is to be fixed up in devotional service by pleasing the spiritual master. Those who are not fixed up they have various lines of action (*eka* means ‘one’ and *bahu* means ‘many’).

The real ocean of mercy is Kṛṣṇa, and it is the duty of the spiritual master to tell his disciple to come to the ocean and be happy. The spiritual master’s duty is to lead the disciple to this ocean. I am trying my best and if you try to follow surely you will benefit.

Bhaktivinode Ṭhākura has sung, “*Kṛṣṇa sei tomāra, kṛṣṇa dīte pāra, tomāra śakati āche. Ami ta ’kāṅgāla, kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa boli, dhāi tava pāche pāche.*” “Kṛṣṇa is yours and you have the power to give Him to anyone you wish. I am poor and wretched and running behind you shouting Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa!”

Kṛṣṇa is unlimited, no one can catch Him, but if someone follows the *paramparā*, he agrees to be captured. Everyone is afraid of Kṛṣṇa, but Kṛṣṇa is afraid of Mother Yaśodā. That is Kṛṣṇa’s special mercy.

I hope this meets all of you in good health.

Your ever well-wisher,

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

In the letter above, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes: “The spiritual master’s duty is to lead the disciple to this ocean. I am trying my best and if you try to follow surely you will benefit.” He reiterates this principle in his purport at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.2.30: “We have to follow in the footsteps of such devotees, for by this one easy process one can cross the great ocean of nescience just as one might cross a small hole created by the hoof of a calf.”

Anyone who wants to advance in any field of practice needs a pacesetter; this is especially true for those who want to reach Kṛṣṇa, for devotees depend only on the mercy of Kṛṣṇa for their advancement; and to please Kṛṣṇa and attract His mercy,

one must please Kṛṣṇa's devotee. Lord Kṛṣṇa says, *mad-bhakta-pūjābhādhikā*: [SB 11.19.21] "The worship of My devotees is better than worship of Me."

In the line of spiritual masters from Lord Caitanya, there are notable pacesetters, whom all devotees follow: The Six Goswamis, for example, are famous for their continuous engagement in varieties of devotional activities—writing books, excavating holy places, building temples, as well as hearing and chanting; Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, wrote over one hundred books and thousands of *bhajans*, and re-established Lord Caitanya's Saṅkīrtana movement; Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura chanted one billion names of the *mahā-mantra*, wrote and spoke Kṛṣṇa *kathā* prolifically, and laid the foundation for an international society that would inculcate Lord Caitanya's teachings to the world; and Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON's Founder-Ācārya not only did all the above, but also, using his spiritual master's blueprint, spread the Saṅkīrtana Movement to every part of the world.

Now generations to come may follow the authorized spiritual path because of the pace that Śrīla Prabhupāda set for those who wish to reach Kṛṣṇa. And what a pace Śrīla Prabhupāda set! Those who worked closely with His Divine Grace, remember that even as young devotees, it was difficult to keep up with him.

Collectively, we are all still running, according to our capacity, behind Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Here's a personal example in which I find myself running behind His Divine Grace, begging for his mercy.

Once in San Francisco, when I was blessed to sit before Śrīla Prabhupāda's desk in his room, for a *darśana*, he emphatically said to a small group of us: "You must read my books!" His statement inspired me. I already like reading his books; but now, I had a good reason to keep doing it.

A few years later, my conviction to read Śrīla Prabhupāda's books was strengthened even more, when I read his purport at *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya* 25.278: "All the devotees connected with the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement must read all the books that have been translated (the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā* and others); otherwise, after some time, they will simply eat, sleep and fall down from their position. Thus they will miss the opportunity to attain an eternal, blissful life of transcendental pleasure."

Even after so many years of trying, I am still running behind Śrīla Prabhupāda, trying to catch these instructions to fully embrace them. Along the way, I have received inspiration from those who have been running harder than me to do so.

For example, a couple of decades after hearing Śrīla Prabhupāda say, “You must read my books,” I received some divine inspiration from a dear Godbrother to follow this order more sincerely. It was during a Ratha-yātrā festival in San Francisco, when I happened to meet my scholarly Godbrother, Hanumat-preṣaka Swami. Meeting together after many years, he asked me how much I was reading Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books. When I replied that I was reading regularly, which was true, he tested me by peppering me with questions from various sections of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* – many of which I could not answer. By his mercy, I was embarrassed but inspired to read more extensively and deeply. By my Godbrother’s words, I felt Śrīla Prabhupāda prodding me, pushing me to pick up my pace in reading his books.

Later that day upon reaching my home, I took a long look at our bookshelf filled with Śrīla Prabhupāda’s beautiful books – *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *Nectar of Devotion*, *Teachings of Lord Caitanya*, *Nectar of Instruction*, *Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, and so on.

The more I thought about these spiritual treasures that Śrīla Prabhupāda had left us, the more I realized how substandard my reading of them had been. I had memorized verses, and I had read most of the books, “but how deeply had I read?” I thought. “Had I covered every paragraph of every book? Was I able to give a dissertation of each one, the way a PhD student might at the time of their oral exams?” My answer to myself was “No.”

I suddenly felt incomplete. I lamented for a few days; but then I got motivated: “I’m going to renew my vow to follow Śrīla Prabhupāda’s order to read all his books.” I thought. My next thought, however, was “But how?” “There are so many of them, and I have so little time?” I was inspired but overwhelmed.

The answer to my *but how?* question came to me the next day when I remembered a talk I had heard by Brian Tracy, a famous motivator. He had said, “To tackle big, overwhelming tasks, break them into small slices.” “Of course!” I thought. “This is a perfect test case, because, although there are so many books, each book has a finite number of pages. I will simply count the pages in each book

and then, divide the total number of pages into achievable daily slices.” “With a clear daily reading goal, no matter how small,” I concluded, “I will be able to systematically finish reading all of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books within a defined period of time.”

Excited about the prospects, I told a friend about it, and he volunteered to help me count and record the number of pages in each book.

With these totals, we designed a simple chart, listing each book’s page count. *Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, for example, has 158 pages; *Kṛṣṇa*, 706; *Bhagavad-gītā*, 868; and so on. Seeing the numbers for each book, I had a clear target to hit.

We next expanded the chart to display categories indicating how many pages we’d have to read to finish each book in a set amount of time. For example, we then knew from our chart that to read the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in three months, we’d only have to read eight pages a day. Or to finish *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* in two years, we’d only have to read twenty-one pages a day. Working with another friend, we named the system, *Be a Sage, Page by Page*. I made and distributed thousands of paper copies of this chart over a few years, and eventually turned it into an app.

After designing the *Be a Sage* system, I thought, “I will systematically read each one of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books, one page at a time.”

With my new system, my daily reading became consistent; and the more I read, the better I felt. Inspired, I added a month-long reading marathon to my yearly schedule. This consisted of spending a month during Kārtika at ISKCON’s Govardhana Bhaktivedanta āśrama to focus solely on reading Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books for at least five hours a day in the company of like-minded devotees. Over time, I also enrolled in *Bhakti-śāstrī*, *Bhakti-vaibhava*, and *Bhaktivedanta* study courses.

One day while reading aloud from the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* to a group of devotees at our Govardhana retreat during Kārtika, a thought came to me about how, by our prolonged and focused reading, we were all running after Śrīla Prabhupāda, crying “‘kṛṣṇa’ boli’, dhāi tava pāche pāche”

I thought how Śrīla Prabhupāda painstakingly wrote eighty books in a decade and that this was his way of running after his guru’s order, which was to print books. Although I cannot write books the way Śrīla Prabhupāda did, I can, however, still try to read

them with the same kind of energy and enthusiasm that he gave when writing them. Reading his books in this mood would then become my way of running behind Śrīla Prabhupāda, the way he had run behind his guru by writing them.

By following Śrīla Prabhupāda's simple order to read his books, I benefit greatly. If I miss reading his books one day, I feel a loss. Śrīla Prabhupāda told the devotees in San Francisco in 1967: "If you chant always Hare Krishna, read my books, and preach this philosophy sincerely, then Krishna will provide you with all facility, and you will not fall down into material entanglement."

By daily reading, I have also come to appreciate Śrīla Prabhupāda's statement, "I shall never die, I shall live forever in my books." Those who read his books, feel his presence.

Finally, I've come to know that I will never finish reading Śrīla Prabhupāda's divine books – not in this lifetime, nor in subsequent lives. One could spend a lifetime reading just Śrī *Īsopaniṣad*, or *Nectar of Instruction*; what to speak of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* or *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. One could write a PhD thesis on a single section of the *Nectar of Devotion*, or a single verse or purport of *Bhāgavad-gītā As It Is*.

Success comes from a series of tiny victories; some of them so small that they are hardly noticeable. When I read a single page of any of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books I count it as one of those victories. A page is so thin that I cannot measure it. But by turning one page at a time, and not stopping, I finish a whole book.

Kṛṣṇa counts and records our tiniest of endeavors in His service. Our devotional acts may seem insignificant— "as thin as a page," but they all add up.

At *Śrī Īsopaniṣad*, Mantra 17, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes: "Even if a devotee does not remember his godly service at the time of death, the Lord does not forget him. This prayer is given to remind the Lord of the devotee's sacrifices, but even if there is no such reminder, the Lord does not forget the devotional service of His pure devotee."

I pray on this day of Śrīla Prabhupāda's divine appearance that I may remember, again and again, Śrīla Prabhupāda simple order: "You must read my books!" and continue to run behind him, by reading his books, one page at a time.

*Your servant,*

Vaiṣeṣika Dāsa

Initiation: 1974, February—San Francisco, USA

## Madhusevita Dasa

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śunyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to your appearance day.

I am here in Vṛndāvana sitting in a room of the MVT remembering when, in 1975, during the inauguration of the Krishna Balaram Temple, you gave me brahmin initiation in your quarters.

You were satisfied with how I learned how to count on fingers and how I pronounced the mantras, and said “very good”.

Then you asked me to pour some water from a clay jar in a steel glass, and I tried to do so by holding and bending the clay jar with my right hand, which proved to be very difficult, the jar being quite heavy.

While I was in total anxiety because of being unable to perform the task, you bent down over me and with a disarming smile said: “Why don’t you use two hands?”.

I felt like a fool.

And I still feel like a fool.

Whenever there is a problem to be solved, a task to be performed, a project to be conceived, or a decision to be taken, unless you intervene within my intelligence to mercifully guide me, I remain a hopeless struggler.

With the passing of time my senses and mind will lose more and more strength, therefore this fool falls at your feet begging for that disarming smile to appear within my heart when the time will come to close this temporary existence.

*Your eternal servant,*

Madhusevita Dasa

Initiation: 1974, March—Māyāpur, India



## Aristaha Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet now and forever, eternally.

I am very grateful that you have accepted me as your disciple although I am so unqualified. I have to humbly admit that I still have a problem following all your instructions. Still, because you only see the good in others and neglect the bad, by your mercy I am still engaged in devotional service in your spiritual movement in the association of other Vaiṣṇavas.

Now, when the body is growing old many problems arise, such as disease and infirmity. I cannot do as much as before. Old men have to prepare themselves for the next life, a better life in the service of Lord Krishna. As we sing every morning, lifetime after lifetime you are my Lord and master, O Gurudeva, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Our aspiration is to remain your servant lifetime after lifetime. Such a divine aspiration to aspire for, to have your personal association, loving interaction lifetime after lifetime.

I humbly prostrate myself in the dust of your lotus feet and pray to become a qualified disciple.

*You humble servant,*

Aristaha Dasa

Initiation: 1974, April—Stockholm, Sweden

Current location: Almvik farm, Sweden

Contact: ekstrand108@gmail.com

## Kṛṣṇaveśa Dāsī

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda

For your pleasure on your blessed appearance day this year, I would like to share some writing I did in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of your beloved Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda at Bhaktivedanta Manor in 1973.

### **Memories of Bhaktivedanta Manor**

Material child and spiritual child. That's what I was when

fortune had me cross paths with the Hare Krishna devotees. As a twelve-year-old girl, my favourite picture of George Harrison was one of him sitting on a gothic looking carved wooden chair, the arresting feature of which was that its back soared up, up, up—as high as the average ceiling. On the seat of that one-of-a-kind chair he was sat like Jesus Christ in blue jeans. The picture got taped to the inside of my olde worlde wooden school desk top, which opened opportunely on hinges, bringing the picture squarely in front of my eyes whilst shielding me in the same manoeuvre from the watchful eye of the teacher as I snatched an admiring glance at it on many a favourable moment.

On my first visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor at the age of fifteen, summer of 1973, that unmistakable chair was there, a thousand times more spectacular in the flesh than it had been in the photo. Situated in the *prasādam* room left of the fireplace, it was welcoming me as if from a long and hazardous journey; letting me know I'd arrived at the most fabulous place on earth.

One or two more sightings of the chair I had on subsequent visits, and then the chair was gone. But the Manor remained—a mother I've returned to again and again on the winding course of my life; a place that's grown golder and more achingly special with the passing of years.

At Bhaktivedanta Manor I had my first experience staying overnight in the *brahmacārīṇī* ashram. There were two rooms for girls then—one for the up-and-coming young *brāhmaṇīs* who had already learned some of the finer arts of cleanliness and preparedness for *pūjārī* service, and one less high in standards that could be more accommodating to newbies fresh off the street (the likes of whom there were many). This insight I'd gleaned from conversations overheard in hallways in the haphazard course of landing in the unfamiliar territorial zone of Hare Krishna World. I got to stay in the latter of the two rooms—which was the big one at the end of the corridor that's now the temple president's office. There I camped out on the crowded floor in loaned old blankets with a couple dozen other ladies, next to Sarah, about my age, surmising that I was possibly in one of those "hippie pads" I'd been reading about of late—ever since being introduced to the sort of reading material one gets to partake in as a newly qualifying teenager.

Too unsettled to sleep, but too strangely in love to think about getting up and making a move, I lay patiently, if uncomfortably,

the live-long night on my five-foot, four-inch strip of hard oak floor boards, until the earliest crack of high summer dawn, when my eyes were graced by the sight of Sarah sitting up prettily in her sleeping bag passing a familiar looking, good quality French tortoise shell comb through her long, brown hair. And it was then that I got my first unforgettable lessons in don't-jump-to-conclusions, and think-before-you-speak. "You're using my comb!" I accused her, my croaky early-morning voice jarring from an accumulation of anxieties that had drip-dripped into my mind unnoticed in the course of that night of nights.

"I'm not using your comb!" she retorted in a tone that admonished me in a complexity of ways to get a grip, and my heart took a snapshot of the moment that is beautiful to this day, with a beauty that overrode the embarrassment I felt in the moment, which has been my teacher and kept me on my guard ever since to try and avoid a repetition of anything remotely similar. This was one of many small, vivid experiences I had in those first formative days at the Manor, that all seemed to fly instantly to join one another in an indelible tapestry of never-to-be-forgotten, forever valuable memories that have coloured the web of my consciousness and stayed with me always.

At Bhaktivedanta Manor I was introduced to chanting the Hare Krishna Mahā-mantra on beads, in the room that is now the theatre room but was then the temporary temple room while the permanent one was being got ready for the installation of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokulānanda. It was my first morning program—and your spiritual daughter Komalāngī was the goddess who showed me how. I remember the two of us sitting together on the floor cross legged by the western wall in the minimal light post dawn, going through the lesson while everyone else in the room impressed me over and over with a striking, continuous display of mutual trust—of ease in one another's company—as each individual in full, uninhibited abandon did whatever it took to fix his or her mind on the sound their voice was making—the sound of the holy names. One of your spiritual sons paced the floor on tippy-toes, eyes firmly closed, miraculously not bumping into anyone or anything in his path, shaking his bead bag, and chanting intensely; another sat on the floor cross legged with a blanket over his head to black out external distractions, rocking vigorously back and forth, shaking his head—and yes, oh yes, chanting intensely; and beautiful Ishwari dasi sat humbly

nearby, chanting the names just softly.

It was at Bhaktivedanta Manor that I passed the test of the spiritual master—that breakthrough moment when you surprise yourself by demonstrating beyond the shadow of a doubt that you will do whatever the devotees ask of you in Krishna’s service. In my case, it was the massive cooking pots at the back of the kitchen that had to be cleaned with cold water and an absence of washing up liquid, and reached by standing ankle deep, barefoot in a puddle of cold, dirty water, whose acceptance of my service let my heart know I’d crossed the border into the Land of Surrender.

It was in the grounds of Bhaktivedanta Manor that I sat in the grass with Kamalākāntī one glorious warm, sunny afternoon that summer. “Don’t lie down,” she said, as I made to do just that—for what else is a dyed-in-the-wool, sun-starved English girl going to do when presented with an opportunity to avail herself of one of the Englishman’s rarest and greatest pleasures.

*No more lying in the blue-green grass with the blood-orange sun power-percolating hot through my eyelids, warming my very bones? No more of that?* In the space of an interval in our conversation, a skirmish flared up in my heart, which I knew I had to adjudicate. And I made the decision there and then—to this, too, I would surrender.

“Lying down is in the mode of ignorance,” Kamalākāntī was explaining. “Not to be done in public.” And then she began to extol the glories of Lord Śrī Krishna. “Krishna is in the heart of every living entity,” she said. “And in the core of every atom.”

I found myself listening with the mood of a disciple.

“He’s in every atom of the air, the sun, the grass . . . ,” she went on, and as she spoke the sky and all our surroundings began to spin, and just for a moment a tremor went through me. And then it stopped. That was one of only two times in my life that I can say I think I experienced what the *Nectar of Devotion* reveals as ‘shadow ecstasy,’ the ecstasy we may feel when we first come to Krishna consciousness and are completely bowled over by all that is Krishna. It’s a reflection of the ecstasy we will feel all the time when we are pure devotees, and because it’s only a reflection, it disappears, the way a sun dog disappears, after only a short little while, when we commit to the hard work of purification. This experience has given me a tiny but undeniable taste of what is waiting for us at the end of our rainbow, and is what keeps me going in Krishna consciousness when I feel I can’t go on.

Vṛndāvana-Bihārīṇī danced into the kitchen, heaping jubilant, grateful praise on Lord Krishna for a scant few tomatoes that had grown in the Manor gardens, which she carried higgledy-piggledy in her hands and placed in a colander for washing. “I’ve been wanting some tomatoes for the devotees’ *dahl*,” she exulted, “and look how Krishna has granted my wish!” Clarity dawned. The devotees were too poor even to buy a few tomatoes, yet the colours, forms, and music of what I’d just witnessed sang vividly in my heart like a timeless, instructive fairy tale, reposing there ever since for me to access and be enchanted by. Pricelessness in abject poverty. The amazing hearts of the Vaishnavas. For lunch that day, a whole-mung *dahl* was served, so thin you could count the beans that made it into your bowl, and swimming with slivers of tasty red tomato. “Prabhupāda said it’s not the thickness of the *dahl* that’s important,” one devotee explained. “Even a thin *dahl* like this gives enough protein to maintain good health.”

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Up in the ashram, Pūrṇachandrā dāsī from America hung out with me for a while, explaining in her own way one of the hardest teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā* a conditioned soul can ever try to understand. “I remember when I was a little kid, riding around on my bicycle,” she said. “But where is that now? Gone! No substance to it left at all. It’s become nothing but a memory. From the perspective of the eternal soul, only those things that are eternal are real, you see? If it’s temporary, it might as well not exist.” I tried my best to understand, but still rooted 100% in identifying with my temporary material body, all I could do was consider her words in serious silence, and experience them as unfathomable. “I like it here,” I told her eventually—getting ready to change the subject—“but I don’t know about that high secure fence that runs all around the place. It cuts us off from the rest of the world.”

“What high secure fence?!” Pūrṇachandrā exclaimed. “There’s nothing like that round this place! You’re free to walk out of here any time you want!”

Well *those* words of hers were *crystal* clear. She was right and I was wrong—and I saw it. The fence was in my imagination—an emotional metaphor for a sense of isolation from material life that I was feeling acutely, like cold turkey, in the spiritual atmosphere of the Manor. I made a mental note to check it out anyway, though, just to be sure—on my way out. But something more profound

dawned on me in that moment—a revelation that very soon changed the course of my life forever: I was happy and at home in the temple—that cloistered embassy of the spiritual world—and *I was choosing to be there!*

Passing freely through the gate into Letchmore Heath, I began my walk into Radlett—to the trains that would carry me back to London, and then on to Bedford. *HARE KRISHNA, HARE KRISHNA, KRISHNA KRISHNA, HARE HARE! HARE RĀMA, HARE RĀMA, RĀMA RĀMA, HARE HARE!* sounded the rapid, staccato clacking of the train wheels on the tracks, over and over in my ears. Wide eyed, I listened in amazement to the sound actual, a buzz of energy infusing my body, exciting and relaxing me both at once. Forsooth, I was brainwashed! But really, who cared! I closed my eyes and melted into the softness of the velvet seat back, and listened blissfully till the end of the line.

It was at Bhaktivedanta Manor that I saw Your Divine Grace for the first time. You blazed into the temple room through the external fire doors like a bright orange fireball—like the sun god appearing in medium size, (or perhaps slightly smaller than medium size), to mix on an equal footing with us earthlings. And you sat on the *vyāsāsana* and delivered your class on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

It was at Bhaktivedanta Manor, before I found my place in the service of Rādhā-LondonĪśvara, that I took my first faltering steps in devotional service, sewing a purple and gold skirt for Tulasī Devī, messing up at making curtains for the back of the deity room, trying and failing at book distribution, and choosing of my own volition to take part as a young western woman in what I saw as a big and important social experiment—the attempt of western Vaishnavas to transplant the traditional Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava culture of India into our own western society, and our own personal lives. Although on balance we have learned that more of your strategy of adjusting to time, place, and circumstance is what is needed to make Krishna consciousness accessible to western people, I have no regrets or bitterness in regard to the training I received in my early years in your movement. I am now a more grounded version of myself, in touch with the reality of my material needs and conditioning, but informed and enriched by the experiences I had while being part of that great experiment undertaken with my sincere godbrothers and godsisters, which I consider to have been courageous, selfless, and totally worth a try. I am grateful beyond measure to Your

Divine Grace for every treasure I have received in this humble but fortunate life of Krishna consciousness. I know now that this lifetime of mine was meant for going back to Godhead, and I pray for the focus to make that my undivided aim, now, as I navigate through its last years.

*Your disciple always*

Kṛṣṇaveśa Dāsī

Initiation: 1974, April—Hamburg, Germany

Current location: Nottingham, UK

Contact: rose.sharanya@outlook.com

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## Nirantara Dasa

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### **The Mission**

*A poem by Nirantara Dasa & Varuni Dasi*

A devotee of Krishna  
the savior of the human race  
he came as a messenger of the Lord  
unaware of the hardships he'd face

With but very few possessions  
he set sail for the Western world  
to fulfil the order of guru  
was his duty, a calling from the Divine

Krishna is GOD!  
so let us tell the world  
by preaching the knowledge he gave to us  
we'll be purified

As he traveled for many days  
until he reached the Boston Pier  
he wrote down in his diary  
"My Lord Krishna, why have You brought me here?"

After struggling alone  
Krishna sent him many followers

to help him in his mission  
of printing books on Krishna-consciousness

Krishna is GOD!  
so let us tell the world  
by preaching the message he gave to us  
we'll be purified

Initiation: 1974, April—New York, USA  
Current location: Aliso Viejo, California, USA  
Contact: nirantaradasa@gmail.com

## Ramanatha-sukha Dasa

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda!

All Glories! All Glories! All Glories! Perpetual glories to you  
Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Another year, another Vyāsa-pūjā offering by this most insignificant servant. It was fifty years ago that you accepted me as your disciple, and I embarked on a long journey of trying to comprehend the incomprehensible, the inconceivable Supreme Personality of Godhead. There can only be one conclusion: You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the only genuine pure devotee of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. By your conviction and faith in the orders of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja, you became a “Shakti-āveśa” avatar, empowered by Śrīmatī Rādhikā (Hlādinī-Shakti) Herself, to bring the mercy and nectarean teachings of Mahāprabhu and the Six Goswamis outside of the sacred land of India. You broke open the storehouse of Krishna Prema, pure love for God, and planted the seed of Divine Love within the hearts of many thousands of lost souls during the turbulent sixties and seventies. The never to be forgotten “1967 Summer of Love” was used as a launching pad for the Hare Krishna Explosion that spread global seeds of Divine Love. You carefully watered and nourished those thousands of sprouting Bhakti Plants. With the intense care of a loving parent, you taught us the genuine science of Krishna (Rādhā) Consciousness. You alone were empowered to carry out such a sacred order of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Only you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, could have accomplished this impossible mission. Every step of the way, the Sweet Lord of



Love helped you with His mystical Bhakti Magic.

Today in April 2024, I am writing this offering as the crazy world of *māyā* stands on the precipice of WWIII. Not a blade of grass moves without the sanction of the Lord. A major social and world upheaval appears ever imminent. Some five decades earlier, you said this would happen in fifty years, and now the turbulent tides of change are swiftly moving onto the world stage, just in time to fulfil your visionary prophecy. I ponder and ask myself: Is your precious ISKCON institution ready to carve a genuine alternative path to an alternative civilisation based on Vedic spiritual science? My faith has always been and continues to be with your visionary preaching style that adjusts according to time, place, and circumstance. Whatever is favourable for the mission of Lord Caitanya's Sāṅkīrtan Movement must be the clarion call for the future of ISKCON's survival into an unprecedented destabilisation of world geo-politics. This is the Daiva Varṇāśrama that you always wanted. The Abrahamic traditions seem hell-bent on initiating an inauspicious and catastrophic environment of envy and hatred. The Dharma traditions, on the other hand, with proper Brahminical guidance and dialogue, can potentially unify under the umbrella of Lord Caitanya's divine plan. The Bhakti Magic, initiated by you Śrīla Prabhupāda, is still available. But who will be the Bhakti magicians to fully unveil the Lord's plan? The *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* has all the needed answers for a confused society on the verge of war and destruction. ISKCON must be at the mandala centre of Sanātan Dharma, unifying the various Dharma sects, and lead the way to a stable world of peace and factual transcendent knowledge.

In the coming months and years left in my life, I hope I can be of better assistance to your ISKCON institution, Śrīla Prabhupāda. There is now no time left for pettiness, envy, false-ego, and all varieties of delusional thinking. The time is NOW to fully take advantage of the teachings and inspiration of Lord Caitanya and spread the only factual saving grace to the world through your books and temple/farm communities. The holy names themselves must become revitalised and transform the negative Kali-yuga environment that is quickly closing in. It is a genuine Dharmic fight; one that I pray daily for the strength and intelligence to become a more meaningful member of your illustrious ISKCON society.

*Your insignificant and fallen disciple,*

## Yadavendra Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your global, robust and expert preaching.

Every year we are required to send a report to the Australian Government which included the following passage:

After 39 years of service all around this great country of Australia, in systematically distributing the books of Swami A. C. Bhaktivedanta, the founder of ISKCON or Hare Krishna movement, such as *Bhagavad Gītā As It Is*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Caitanya Caritāmṛta*, and others, along with some of his disciples' not-to-be-neglected vegetarian cookbooks, such as Kurma Dāsa's. With the purpose of lifting the spiritual standards of our Australian public-readers, we are now downscaling this extended travelling book distribution. Instead, we distribute books locally and continue to distribute books online. Currently, we offer to anyone in the world a free *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, version one, also called the 1972 Macmillan edition, softbound pocket edition here: <https://krishnaculture.org/special-offers/>. Our best years of travelling netted 5000 pieces of literature distributed to libraries, shops, and person-to-person. For the record, this Hare Krishna books distribution mission actually started in Paris, France, in June 1973. So all together 50 years of international service with some variations in intensity. Śrīla Prabhupāda always stressed book distribution very much. Please see <https://krishnaculture.org/book-distribution>. So we are changing in these uncertain and precarious times. We practise and promote, both privately and in the streets the chanting of the Hare Krishna *mahā-mantra*, or great, designated "chant of deliverance for this age of quarrel and hypocrisy", *Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare* and various other mantras in Sanskrit

language. With accordion and all, chanting Hare Krishna can actually be quite pleasant. Just watch the ‘dancy wancy’ kirtan by Mādhava’s rock band here: <https://krishnaculture.org/2021/09/01/3803/>, recorded in Vrindavan, Krishna’s birthplace, Uttar Pradesh, India.

It is also the Hare Krishna charitable tradition that, as far as is possible, anyone who is destitute and hungry is welcome to have a free meal at one’s home as far as possible, or at the ISKCON Hare Krishna *Food for Life* free or low-cost meals distribution centers.

Additionally, we are a repository of Hare Krishna literature published over the last 50 years including early editions of the ‘70s and ‘80s of *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Caitanya Caritāmṛta*, Śrīla Prabhupāda letters, etc. We also store a collection of 42 Vyāsa-pūjā books. Unlike the Bhaktivedanta Archives (Prabhupāda.com) in North Carolina, USA, however, we do not have a nuclear-proof vault for the preservation of the literary legacy of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

*Your insignificant servant,*

Yadavendra Dasa

Initiation: 1974, June—Frankfurt, Germany

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## Nikunjavasini Devi Dasi

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My Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances and gratitude at your lotus feet.

By the causeless mercy of Kṛṣṇa, one comes in contact with a bona fide Spiritual Master, and by the mercy of such a magnanimous Master, one will come to Kṛṣṇa.

In 1971 in England, you told Tīrthasādhaka Prabhu at his initiation, “You follow the regulative principles, chant 16 rounds and follow all my instructions, I promise to take you back to Godhead.”

Just 6 years later in 1977 at the age of 30, just 2 weeks before your departure, this came to pass. He had followed your directions and

left his body hearing the Holy Name, meditating on your picture.

This was his great fortune. Most of us have to pass the test of time, and between 30 years and old age, there are many impediments, presented by the material energy to challenge us.

Personally, after a lifetime of trying, failing and trying again, I have come to a place where, due to the realization that there is not much time left, and it should not be wasted, I am able to follow a basic *sādhana* practice, as close as possible to your directions. It is still a work in progress, and daily hearing your instructions more carefully, I get an opportunity to fine-tune my consciousness and also my gratitude to all the devotees around me who encourage me.

In 1967 in New Māyāpur, you admonished us in a class, “Please do not make me come back to save you, you make it this lifetime, I have given everything for you to make it this lifetime!”

Studying your books, hearing your lectures, hearing about the instructions you have given to your many disciples, are a perfect way to be guided.

You mentioned in a class on *Bg.* 13.2–3 in Paris in 1973, “So to make a solution we must approach Kṛṣṇa as guru, or Kṛṣṇa’s representative. Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa’s representative...they are the same. Therefore Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura says, *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādāḥ*: by pleasing guru, you can please Kṛṣṇa.

Even Kṛṣṇa is not pleased, if the guru is pleased, Kṛṣṇa has to become pleased. Because he’s representative.

Suppose you have given somebody power of attorney to do some business. So after finishing the business, if you see the paper, not very favourable, it has not been done very nicely, still you have to accept, because your representative has signed it. Yes. Therefore *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādāḥ*. Kṛṣṇa not satisfied, but if your guru is satisfied, then Kṛṣṇa must be satisfied. This is Kṛṣṇa’s obligation. Because He has sent His representative.”

In a Letter to Yeager, Dec. 20, 1970 you wrote, “If one can please a pure devotee of the Lord, such action means immediate satisfaction of the Lord, even though such a person is not officially qualified to receive the mercy of the Lord.”

And I quote *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*: “Upendra thought and prayed, “If I can just fix myself steadily in serving Swamiji, who has such love for Kṛṣṇa, then I too will become transcendental.” He felt that since it was not possible for him to see Govinda the way Swamiji saw Him, he should serve Swamiji, the pure devotee of Govinda,

and in that way become pure. “I just want to become Swamiji’s dog,” Upendra said as he left the apartment.”

In the “Guruvandanam” we pray daily, “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 over the ocean of material suffering and obtain the mercy of Kṛṣṇa.”

Experiencing the benefit of the training received from your more senior disciples over a lifetime, I have started to develop some taste in my service and regulations. Still, my focus is more on trying to please you; I have no qualification to understand Kṛṣṇa and the intricacies of devotional service. All I can do is, by the strength of the perfect process given by you, increase my desire to please you. Śrī Rūpa Goswami prays in the “Kārpaṇya Pañjikā-Stotra,” “Intense pain makes me bold, and loudly crying and taking a straw between his teeth, this sinful soul begs, ‘Please hear my appeal, filled with anguish and again and again calling out, placing his face in his hands this person cries, I who am a great fool, beg in a piteous voice please splash me with your waves of mercy.’”

This is giving me hope, because I can see that on my own strength I can not make myself be anything more than what I am, so I understand that desiring to please you has to be cultivated and felt more and more intensely.

Your stumbling but hopeful servant prays for just one drop of your mercy.

*Begging to be of service, yours eternally,*

Nikunjavasini Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1974, June—Frankfurt, Germany

Current location: Radhadesh, Belgium

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## Tattvavit Dasa

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In February, 2024 — honoring the hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the birthday of “Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda” — the Indian government issued a postage stamp. It pictures his full seated image and the Bagh Bazaar temple in the background. I visited that temple, Śrīla Prabhupāda, in January.

It’s one of the stops included in the “Kolkata Dham Darshan,”

a car-tour of places associated with your life. Another stop is on a bridge over the river where you boarded the *Jaladuta* and left for America. Beside the Bagh Bazaar temple stands a new four-floor exhibition center, the Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu Museum. State-of-the-art historical displays on Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism fill nine halls. One hall holds a black, metal printing press from Cleveland, Ohio, among other things, which was imported to India and used around 1930. You often explained why Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta named such a press the *bṛhat mṛdaṅga*.

When the commemorative stamp appeared online, I was in Māyāpur, three kilometers away from Śrī Caitanya Gauḍīya Math, founded in 1918 by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī when he was forty-four. I went there the day before the celebration of his birth (in 1874). For a long time, this Math was the headquarters for preaching Krishna consciousness in India, and it's said that in its heyday eight hundred devotees could live there. Jananivāsa Prabhu, ISKCON's head *pūjārī* in Māyāpur, tells an anecdote about the deities installed in the Math's temple (in 1925):

*Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī went to Jaipur, Rajasthan, and entered a shop to see the available Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa deities. The seller told him, "Over there, your deities are standing in the corner." Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī asked, "How do you know that those are my deities?" "Last night I had a dream," the shopkeeper responded. "These deities said in the dream: 'Tomorrow a great personality, a mahā-puruṣa, will come here to buy deities from you. We want him to serve us.' So please take them! I want to give them to you."*

While circumambulating the tomb of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, I chanted on my *nāma-mālikā* (beads) and considered a pleasant coincidence: One hundred years after his birth, in 1874, I joined ISKCON, in 1974. Eventually I took brahminical initiation, considered to be a human being's second birth, in which the guru is one's spiritual father, the teachings of the scriptures are one's spiritual mother, and the predecessor guru is one's grandfather.

God's words and the will and words of God's pure devotees are nondifferent. Conversing about their potency, you said in Atlanta on February 28, 1975, "*Guru-mukha-padma-vākya cittete koriyā aikya, ār nā koriho mane āśā*. Whatever little success I have got, it is only for this reason: My Guru Mahārāja said, 'You go and preach whatever

you learned in the English language.’ That’s all. So I came here with this faith, that my Guru Mahārāja said I must be successful. I did not show any jugglery to you, gold-making jugglery. Where is my gold? I came with forty rupees first [*chuckles*]. So these are Vedic instructions: *guru-mukha-pādma-vākya* and *śrī-guru-carāṇe rati ei se uttama-gati* — that is real progress.”

Your highly inspired, uniquely determined service to my spiritual grandfather awakens many souls to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, as ISKCON distributes your editions of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, the *Bhāgavatam*, and *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* in nearly a hundred translations. You singlehandedly produced the first international society of devotees, and every year more and more members from countries all over the world gather in Māyāpur for Gaura Pūrṇimā.

From the Śrī Caitanya Math’s main gate, I had seen in the distance the dome of the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium (TOVP). Another day, I saw the dome while riding a ferry across the Ganges. On the anniversary of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta’s birth, a two-thousand-square-foot exhibit about him was on display in a hall at the TOVP, an exhibit excellently curated by the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre in Kolkata. Even as a child, named Bimala Prasāda, he was moral and brilliant. Two days later, we inaugurated the TOVP’s new wing, the temple for Śrī Nṛsimhadeva, who protected the child Prahāda by vanquishing Hiranyaśipu, his physically abusive father.

Around the same time, ISKCON’s Governing Body Commission met and discussed child abuse in ISKCON and funding the Child Protection Office for another year. The Māyāpur community is traumatized by recent, long-standing child abuse. I did something to help. Last year, following a recommendation of an editorial advisory board, I helped commission and co-edited an article for the 2023 *ISKCON Communications Journal* entitled “A Call for Institutional Courage to Deal with the State of Child Protection,” written by Jānakī Devī Dāsī, a certified trauma professional. It describes how institutional blindness and betrayal work. Hṛdaya Caitanya Prabhu, one of five co-directors of Māyāpur, encouraged the moderator of the Māyāpur Forum to approve my request to post it online for the residents of Māyāpur to read.

On numerous mornings and afternoons in February and March, I chanted *japa* in the shaded garden or on the curved veranda of your edifying *puṣpa-samādhi*, Śrīla Prabhupāda, which memorializes your departure from the world in 1977. There I watched thousands and

thousands of rather cultured, very colorfully dressed visitors and families use the high and wide staircase — going up and coming down, or sitting on the steps to rest while their small children played on them. Observing the pilgrims on the various days of the week for almost two months helped me appreciate their spiritual culture. You invited us to India to imbibe that culture. Sometimes we are crushed in the temple by hordes of visitors inspired to come, by the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava.

You encouraged us to swim in the Ganges, but there is the calmer, cleaner, more secluded, and naturally colorful setting of the Jalāṅgī River on a sunny day in March. In late January, visiting Jagannātha Purī, a holy city on the Bay of Bengal, I and devotees from Mumbai went to the sunny beach to swim one morning. We invited along a young hotel manager who enjoyed the plates of *prasāda* we gave him. He showed us how to encounter waves without being slammed by them. Sometimes he would shout in Hindi “Foreword!”, and we would move with the current of large waves instead of crashing into them. We leaped over small waves.

In Purī, we visited Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta’s birthplace — the former home of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura — now a Gauḍīya Math temple. The Kṛṣṇa deity’s name is Nayanamaṇi-jiu: “Kṛṣṇa, the jewel of Rādhā’s eyes.” Surrounding the nearby monumental Jagannātha Purī temple is a new, wide and spacious *parikramā* path made of light-colored stone. It was inaugurated in mid-January by Odisha’s chief minister and is traffic free, decorated with many well-tended plants in soil beds. It includes benches, *chatris* for shade, bathrooms, and cloakrooms. One morning, starting around six, I chanted on my beads there while my friends from Mumbai were inside the temple for an hour or two. For us foreign non-Hindus banned from the temple, circumambulating is now a more pleasant meditation than before.

Days later, I stayed two nights at your birthplace in Kolkata and took the car tour, which included a walk in the Victoria Memorial Garden where you walked, only a kilometer from ISKCON’s temple. I also visited the renovated building where you met your spiritual master — now a quiet and splendid museum. (It opened on the centennial of the year you met him, 1922.) Congregation members serve and cook for the deities. I ate Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa’s midday *mahā-prasāda* to my full satisfaction, grateful that my pilgrimages were auspicious because of your purifying influence in my life.



Listening to the *Bhāgavatam* classes given by advanced devotees in holy places provided one of the best opportunities for introspection and reflection on leading a spiritual life.

Tattvavit Dasa

Initiation: 1974, July—San Francisco, USA

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## Krsnadasa Kaviraja Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, my divine preceptor and ever well wisher.

Bhakti Bringha Govinda Maharaja narrates:

When I first met Akiñcana dasa Bābājī, I didn't know what to say. I simply offered my respects saying "Śrīla Akiñcana Krishna dāsa Bābājī Mahārāj, *jai*."

Mahārāja then saw that I had a tape player in my hands, and so without my having to say anything he just closed his eyes and he started tapping his hands together and he sang his Maṅgalācaraṇam before singing Śrī Krishna Chaitanya. And then he started singing the Hare Krishna mantra, and it was like going into another world. He was chanting so beautifully, and it was like each syllable was drenched in *bhāva* and *prema*.

After about 20 minutes he stopped, and then he looked at me and he said, "I would like to tell you something." I said, "What is that?"

And he said, "I am an old man, and I've had a lot of experience in this world. From my experience, I can honestly tell you that there has never been a greater Ācārya than your spiritual master."

And when he said that, I became stunned because he was a disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Thākura. Then he looked up and he said, "There has never been an Ācārya in history who has performed miracles like your spiritual master (Śrīla A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda)."

And then he paused and he looked at me,  
he said, "Do you know why?"

I was so stunned, I couldn't say anything. And he said,  
"Because in history there was never a greater servant  
of Śrī Krishna's Holy Name than your spiritual master,  
because your spiritual master had so much absolute  
understanding of Śrī Krishna's Holy Name and so  
much absolute faith in Śrī Krishna's Holy Name that  
he personally carried Śrī Krishna's Holy Name through  
the length and the breadth of the world. Therefore,  
he is the greatest *ācārya* who has ever existed."

This statement is not to be taken lightly. At the time, we took it for granted that you were the only *ācārya*. You saved us from the suffering of the material world and taught us to realize that we had an eternal relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna. Your loving guidance empowered us to do amazing things, and we all felt that you were the greatest *ācārya* of all time.

However, we now have a deeper understanding of this statement by Kṛṣṇadāsa Bābājī Mahārāja as we see more souls taking shelter of your ISKCON incarnation. Your greatness does not diminish that of the previous *ācāryas*, but rather reinforces them as the source of your greatness. Now that ISKCON is growing there are and will be numerous gurus. For the next 10,000 years we must remember that you are our *Founder-Ācārya*, our pre-eminent *śikṣā* guru, and our link to the *paramparā* and Krishna. For the next 10,000 years each guru's responsibility is to help their disciples become more knowledgeable of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and help their disciples establish their own personal relationship with you. If all future disciples understand the importance of their relationship with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, then the unity in diversity, that you strongly desire, will more likely manifest.

Therefore, reading your *Līlāmṛta* and other remembrances, reading your books and hearing your lectures, and imbibing your mood of loving selfless devotion will build love and trust. As you once said "Our Society is like one big family and our relationships should be based on love and trust." (Letter to Upendra, Aug. 6, 1970) We then will be able to effectively share and spread the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the entire world.

Future generations of devotees will flourish by developing a strong relationship with you. I pray that I can strengthen my

relationship with you in order to more effectively advance in devotional service and help others to do the same.

*Your, still aspiring, disciple,*

Krsnadasa Kaviraja Dasa

Initiation: 1974, July—Ottawa, Canada

Current location: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Contact: kṛṣṇadas.chris@gmail.com

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## Rasaliladevi Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your holy, lotus feet.

All glories to your auspicious appearance day within this material world!

In our hearts, you planted the seed  
You gave us all that we need  
You saved us from lust, anger, and greed  
For your mercy, we constantly plead!

Gurudeva, by your mercy, we thrive,  
Without it, we cannot survive  
In your service, pleasure, we can derive  
Following you, into the *Bhakti* ocean, we dive!

To you we pray, please never kick us away  
Kindly allow us, in your association, to stay  
By serving your servants, day by day  
We hope that our debt to you, we might repay.

Thank you again and again, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for tolerating me and for all the truly amazing, personal sacrifices that you made in order to engage the living entities in the auspicious activities of Kṛṣṇa *bhakti*. You are simply wonderful and by your grace, our lives have become simply wonderful!

*Your aspiring servant and daughter,*

Rasaliladevi Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1974, July—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

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## Balabhadra Bhattācārya Dasa

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My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, my eternal master,

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

Your mercy upon me, is my greatest treasure. You accepted me as your disciple during the Chicago Rathayātrā in 1974, in the presence of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Kishore Kishori. While sitting at your lotus feet, just prior to receiving my name, I was meditating on how kind and merciful you were to accept such a fallen person like myself. It felt like you could see directly through me. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget.

My only hope is that I can continue and increase in my service to you, especially the service of sharing the *mahā-mantra*, and your books, with as many conditioned souls as possible. This is in pursuance of your first purpose for ISKCON, which is to systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to humanity at large.

The more I focus on reading your books – and for the most part – only your books, the more I feel inspired to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others, especially to humanity at large.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have blessed me in so many wonderful ways, and I fall at your lotus feet as your eternal servant, and I commit myself to focus on improving my service to you life after life.

*Your eternal servant,*

Balabhadra Bhattācārya Dasa  
Initiation: 1974, July—Chicago, USA  
Current location: Georgia, USA  
Contact: btillman108@yahoo.com

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## Langaganesa Dasa

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

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

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

“By satisfaction of the spiritual master, the Supreme Personality of Godhead becomes satisfied. And by not satisfying the spiritual master, there is no chance of being promoted to the plane of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I should, therefore, meditate and pray for his mercy three times a day, and offer my respectful obeisances unto him; my spiritual master.”

My Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

In pursuit of my previous homages to Your Divine Grace, I strive to compile my ‘progress report’ this year with consideration for my ebbing life in this current human life cycle.

Soon after my return from my last visit to Alachua, I traded in my deteriorated RV for a new model that is better suited for my needs here and would be a more appropriate donation to Their Lordships’ community after my demise.

As I age, my interests have turned to compiling my accumulated documentation of self-sufficiency techniques and practice into a more accessible format. So, I am writing an 11-volume book titled “Permaculture Ecovillages.”

In pursuit of the (at least partial) satisfaction of your stated “only lamentation,” which you described as: “that you had not established the Varṇāśrama system,” and that to do so, you would “...go to our ISKCON farm(s), sit down with us, and teach us how to live off the land!”

Taking this “final episode” of guidance to your disciples as a directive in my heart, I have taken steps to leave this 11-volume

book for our extended ISKCON community – established and yet to be established!

For the past year, I have collected all of my archived notes, references, and permaculture knowledge into a step-by-step description of how to establish a self-sufficient community (Permaculture Ecovillage) anywhere in the World.

At this point, the 11 volumes have each been compiled into 10+ page outlines, which have been expanded into full manuscripts. As of today, the 1–2 month procedure of copywriting and publishing volume 1 has just begun.

I expect to have at least half of them published and available to the public on Amazon, the most significant book marketplace, by the auspicious anniversary of your Vyāsa-pūjā on August 27th.

It is the Jagad-Guru’s prerogative to share his voluminous knowledge of God-consciousness with the entire population for the next 10,000 years.

It is also the prerogative of the sincere disciples to integrate these teachings with a multi-generational foundation for their self-reliance and expansion potential throughout that population!

Your desire to strengthen the social fabric with the Lord’s “Varṇāśrama System” is possible through our combined “cooperation together,” Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

*Your struggling servant in the groves of New Tālavana Dhāma!  
Carriere, Mississippi – USA*

Langaganesa dasa

Initiation: 1974, July—Miami, Florida, USA

Current location: Carriere, Mississippi USA

Contact: langaganesa@aol.com

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## Mahaman Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I have no words to thank you for the priceless gift that you have brought for all humanity directly from Goloka Vrindavan; yet I beg you to please accept my feeble attempt to glorify you, with my prayers to you for your mercy.

This year, being the 150th year celebrations of your dear Guru Maharaj, His Divine Grace Nitya-līlā-praviṣṭa Bhakti Siddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākur we especially honour His Divine Grace while remembering your statement that as a grandfather is even more merciful than the father, the spiritual grandmaster is even more merciful.

The combination of the mercy and potency of both of you is unparalleled in the history of this world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as the spiritual progeny of the Simha-Guru Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākur, your demeanour, fierce like that of a lion and yet a noble heart made of butter. Indeed you had wanted that preachers should have the courage of a British Soldier and the heart of Bengali mother; in this way the Saṅkīrtan movement will, gradually, but definitely, become the mainstream religion of the world,

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you demonstrated that Guru Prasād is the strongest Guru Prasād: *balavān na tasmād ca guru prasād balatvam...* there is nothing stronger than Guru Prasād.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is said that one cannot liquidate the debt one owes to one's spiritual master and the Lord even in the life time of Lord Brahmā, and one who thinks that he can do so is *vinod pātra* joker. Yet I pray that I always follow your instructions to the letter, and remain surrendered to your lotus feet that are the only shelter for us.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the happiest and most momentous moment of my life was when your Divine Grace touched my head with your lotus hand, and with a beaming smile on your lotus face said "jayo" to me.

This divine touch of yours, as well as your *divyavāṇī* act as "sanjeevani" for me and I pray they continue to be so.

Oh! for the day that I, giving up false ego and laziness appreciate your kindness and accept your mercy

I also pray for your profound mercy and blessings particularly in the completion of the Śrī Rādhā Govindajī beautiful temple in Indore city where you had lectured in 1972.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are my saviour and shelter. Please keep me always, eternally at your Lotus feet,

*Your unworthy servant and son,*

Mahaman Dasa

Initiation: 1974, July—London, UK  
Current location: Madhya Pradesh, India

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## Nirmala Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Prostrated *daṇḍavats* at your lotus feet.

With all that you have done for us, everything you have sacrificed for us, the love you have given us, the golden opportunity you have bestowed on us, your disciples, and all people on this planet, it all remains to me to be utterly incomprehensible. Thank you forever!

Now that I am reaching the age where you left for America, I am more and more stunned by all that you accomplished in such a short time.

You kindly accepted me as your daughter and disciple 50 years ago this July 2024. I was 17-years-old, naïve, and simple, but very enthusiastic, devoted, and dedicated to you. I had no idea how deep and greatly significant this initiation was when you handed me my beads. Daily, I remain chanting on those very beads. What I did understand in the core of my being was that you were my master, father, and teacher.

After five decades I am still praying to you and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi to become your worthy disciple and to be of some service to your profound mission.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you have given us. I couldn't imagine life in this world without you.

*Begging to eternally remain in your service,*

Nirmala Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1974, July—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

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## Radhakunda Devi Dasi

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Śrīla Prabhupāda! O most beloved in the whole world!! You have given us EVERYTHING!! Therefore we want to offer you our every thought, word, deed ....our every breath!

We want to please You by distributing Your books! Please empower us!! We are desperately missing You. When O when will



we see you again??

*Your fallen servant...feeling great painful separation,*

Radhakunda dasi

Initiation: 1974, July—Chicago, USA

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## Krishnarupa Devi Dasi

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Offering tearful obeisances at your divine feet  
Praying for grace that you I will again meet

The blistering fire and cruelty of the material world  
Continues to shroud me in a fearful whirl

Without your succour, where would I be?  
Bereft of your love, I would be  
drowning in a tumultuous sea!

Your power, your strength, and being Mahāprabhu's  
*senāpati bhakta*  
The benedicta, the blessed, in this astonishing trifecta

Fifty years have passed and I love you no less  
I'm praying to keep loving you through all the tests

And although I am a forlorn without seeing you,  
Your Divine Grace  
Keep me with you, at your feet, and my heart to place

Krishnarupa Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1974, August—Vrindavan, India

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## Aja Dasa

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

*namaste sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your feet.

For more than a half century I have now been blessed by your Divine Grace. I don't know how I was able to receive your grace. No doubt it was simply *ajñāta sukṛti*, or more likely your Divine Grace. I would see your disciples, my yet to be Godbrothers and Godsisters on the streets of Seattle, where I was desperately trying to enjoy this material world. Still, deep in my heart, I knew there was something wrong here and sought some deeper meaning. I, one time, even prayed to Lord Jesus, "Dear Lord, I want to know the highest truth, and if that's not you, then show me what is." Some time later, your disciple Kaṁsārī dāsa, approached myself and a friend with the Hare Kṛṣṇa Mahā-mantra card and asked if we could repeat the mantra. My friend made up something silly to repeat, but I chanted the Holy Names just as it said on the card...Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare. I think perhaps I pleased your devotee, and thus was given your grace.

In my first year of college, I was approached by another of your devotees, Ojasvī dāsa, who wanted me to take your book, *Easy Journey to Other Planets*. I think I gave him 25 cents. But I read it through immediately and speculated on its meaning. But still, I had taken the first book of yours, and the journey continued. Later that year, I decided to study comparative religions, and thought that your Bhagavad Gītā As It Is would be an important part of my studies. Nothing else compared. While the other philosophies just gave me more questions, Bhagavad Gītā As It Is, not only answered all my questions, but gave me answers I didn't even have questions for. And I began to visit the temple regularly.

In the summer, the devotees invited me to join them in going to San Francisco to the Ratha Yātrā where you would be present. I was not really a devotee yet, but came anyway. When you arrived at the airport, I was present with some 100 or so devotees. When you came to the driveway of the airport, your car was not yet present, so we all stood as you gazed over the assembled devotees, and myself. While I stood there, you looked into my eyes, hardly for a moment, but that gaze was unlike anything I had ever experienced. It was as if it penetrated every cell of my body, right down to my toes. THAT was Your Divine Grace, and to this day I have never forgotten it. Nor

have I forgotten the blissful experience of receiving Gāyatrī Mantra and the Sacred Thread from you in your quarters in Vṛndāvana in 1975. It was as if I had entered the Spiritual Realm itself, with you sitting as The Divine Master of it all.

Now, so many, many years later, although I have fallen far from your Grace, nothing in this material world has any charm or enticement for me. I still try to squeeze some enjoyment from my children and grandchildren, and material experiences, but know in my heart, that you are the only truly dear thing that has ever occurred in this lifetime. I look around me and wonder how anyone can think that anything has any meaning here at all. It is all *duḥkhālayam aśāśvatam* – temporary and miserable, which becomes clearer every day. Especially now, as I am fully experiencing the suffering provided by old age, which couldn't be appreciated when this body was young and healthy. The teachings are there! It is suffering. But by Your Divine Grace, I have some little parcel of Truth, and know that I am NOT this body, but an eternal spirit soul, who has been blessed with a tiny fraction of attraction for the Holy Names – Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare / Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare!

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, always remember me in your heart, and let my attachment to you and the Holy Names increase forever.

*Your insignificant devotee,*

Aja Dasa

Initiation: 1974, September—Seattle, USA

Current location: Portland, Oregon, USA

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## Bhima Dasa

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I am writing this offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, because I want to glorify your wonderful qualities. I know this will just be another feeble attempt, something like a cow jumping over the moon. Your qualities are so many and so amazing that any effort to explore them leaves one simply in awe.

To me, the most attractive quality is your purity. Nothing compares to your ability to be in the world, but at the same time always untouched by worldliness. Due to your absorption in Kṛṣṇa and your relationship with Krishna the contaminations are

far away from you.

Secondly, you are completely entwined with your service to your Guru Mahārāja. That service is inseparable from your life and soul. I can only lick outside the jar of honey when it comes to relishing that mood of service to Guru that you have. I am like an infant trying to understand what is in the encyclopedia when it comes to knowing how you surrendered to serve your guru.

This year marks the half century anniversary of my initiation. Your kindness knows no bounds. Thank you for initiating me into the chanting of the holy name of the Lord during the 1974 Gaur Pūrṇimā festival in Śrī Dhām Māyāpur.

I seek your blessings to be able to continue to serve you.

*Your hopeless servant,*

Bhima Dasa

Initiation: 1974, October—Māyāpur, India

Cuurent location: India

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## Mahakata Dasa

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisance, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I am wondering how to write your glories as everything you have done is beyond my imagination. I went all the way to Germany from Śrī Laṅkā in search of anything good that I could get in this lifetime. I was in search of many things and I was confused. At that time, I got the association of the devotees.

That is all your arrangement to save the fallen conditioned soul, and I was given shelter at a ISKCON centre in Hamburg. There I was able to understand that I was so ignorant and by the association of the devotees I was able to understand who I am, the purpose of human life and the difference between spirit and matter. This all happened

because of your glorious mercy. In this way I was fortunate to be attracted to learn more and got the chance to serve your ISKCON.

Just like how Dhruva Mahārāj said “I had been searching out some pieces of broken glass, but instead I have found the most valuable jewel”.

I was very fortunate also to serve you in Vrindavan at Krishna Balaram Mandir in 1976. I also had a very rare opportunity to do the Guru Pooja personally to you. You have instructed me to go to Śrī Laṅkā to start a centre and I took this as a great opportunity to do good for the people of Śrī Laṅkā. When we arrived in Śrī Laṅkā, there was overwhelming excitement, and the people welcomed us, and helped us to start a centre in Colombo, Śrī Laṅkā. It was all your blessings and your glory that we got all the assistance and facilities from the people of Śrī Laṅkā. Since then, I have been serving you in Śrī Laṅkā, and I hope and pray to continue to serve you life after life.

By serving you, now I feel like my life has become purposeful.

*Your humble servant,*

Mahakata Das

Initiation: November 1974 - Germany

Current location: ISKCON Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

Contact: mahakartadas@gmail.com

## Phalini Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, although I don't deserve to be forgiven, please forgive my countless offenses at your lotus feet. Kindly keep my dog collar and leash attached so that you can direct me as you like. I am your puppy, and you are my master. Though I am a naughty, rebellious, disobedient, dull-headed puppy, please don't abandon

me. Please don't kick me away, Śrīla Prabhupāda, even though I am just a pretender and a cheater, and I deserve to be neglected by you. Kindly figure out a way to bring about actual auspiciousness in the heart of this foolish creature and allow me to tag along behind your real devotees, your obedient disciples, as they follow the beautiful footprints of Your Divine Grace along the path back to home, back to Godhead.

Hoping to someday become a real disciple, I beg to remain a follower of Your Divine Grace's true followers.

*Your foolish daughter,*

Phalini Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1974, November—New Dwarka, Los Angeles, USA

Current location: Prabhupāda Village, North Carolina, USA

Contact: phalini@gmail.com

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## Jagadvira Dasa

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

I am appreciating a few of your many achievements and pray for your mercy. In 1966 you established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Now ISKCON has numerous centers in every continent, and the number is increasing as more conditioned souls are coming to learn about the science of Bhakti-yoga. You established temples and spiritual centers around the world, providing places for worship, education, and community engagement. Your first temple was in New York where young seekers started coming and attending your lectures and *kīrtans* – this is where everything started expanding, and you popularized the chanting of the Hare Krishna *mahā-mantra*, known as *Hari-Nāma Saṅkīrtana*, as the recommended process in Kali-yuga to get free from the bondage of birth, disease, old age and death. You preached all over the world, and now Lord Caitanya's *Saṅkīrtana* movement is known in almost every town and village.

“The prediction of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu is now actually coming to pass. The Krishna consciousness movement is being distributed all over the world through the chanting of the holy name of the Lord, the Hare Krishna *mahā-mantra*, and people who

were leading confused, chaotic lives are now feeling transcendental happiness. They are finding peace in *sañkīrtana*, and therefore they are acknowledging the supreme benefit of this movement. This is the blessing of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. His prediction is now factually being fulfilled, and those who are sober and conscientious are appreciating the value of this great movement.” (Cc. Ādi 9.40, purport)

You translated the *Bhagavad-gītā* and wrote your purports which are now being read in many different languages. ‘*Bhagavad Gītā As It Is*’ is unlike other editions of the *Gītā*, this one is presented as it is... without the slightest taint of adulteration or personal motivation. Also you translated many other books especially *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya Caritāmṛta* (with purports) which are now being distributed to the conditioned souls in Kali-yuga.

“I want all my disciples to become expert in this philosophy and then distribute it with great power and potency.”

“Try to always increase the distribution of my books more and more. This is our most important program for reaching the lost souls of Kali-yuga.”

“I am very hopeful that some of our students can take up this responsibility and render the best service to humanity by educating people in Krishna consciousness.”

You taught us about the spiritual and material benefits of not eating meat and following a vegetarian diet. Now we have many Hare Krishna restaurants where people can enjoy vegetarian food and also make spiritual advancement. “Our Krishna consciousness movement distributes Krishna *prasādam* and those who eat such transcendental food are sure to become devotees of the Lord.”

You initiated about 5,000 disciples into the Gauḍīya Vaishnavism tradition, guiding them on their spiritual paths and encouraging them to lead lives of devotion and service. The first, Acarya Prabhakar Dasa, was initiated in Jhansi, India in 1953. I was initiated in Sydney, Australia in 1974 and now it is 2024 – so 50 years have passed, and I am still appreciating your mercy daily. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You engaged in dialogue with scholars, religious leaders, and public figures, promoting interfaith understanding and cooperation and gaining recognition for the Krishna consciousness movement.

You said to Professor Kotovsky:

Prohibitive. No illicit sex life, no meat-eating—meat or fish or eggs, and no gambling, and no intoxication, including cigarette, tea, coffee. These also we take as intoxicants. So these four principle one has to obey, and let him chant Hare Krishna *mahā-mantra*. And by this process only, you'll find how these boys and girls are improving quickly. Process is very simple. Besides that, we have got books, volumes of books, just like *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā*. I have given them. Throughout all these years I have written so many books. And they have got ample stock for reading the whole life.

These achievements highlight your profound impact on the spiritual landscape of the world, as well as your dedication to sharing the timeless wisdom of Krishna *katha* with humanity. Thank you Śrīla Prabhupāda – what would we be doing if you had not spread the *Saṅkīrtana* movement all over the world? You made numerous significant achievements during your lifetime and as our years roll by we are appreciating your teachings and association more and more every day. “So Krishna consciousness is the medicine for the material disease and chanting Hare Krishna *mantra* sincerely is the basic ingredient of that medicine.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda kī, jaya!

*Your servant,*

Jagadvira Dasa

Initiation: 1974, November—Sydney, Australia

Current location: Okinawa, Japan

Contact: jv27648@yahoo.co.uk

## Gopisa Dasa

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your eternally merciful and sheltering lotus feet.

I'm currently in India and witnessing first-hand the ripened fruits of the seeds that you planted and cultivated with your selfless austerities and determination.

The first stop was Mumbai, a day before Ramnavami. To see



the amazing decorations, organization and enthusiasm executed by your very dear and dedicated Braja Hari das and his amazing team, was something to behold! I witnessed the procession of Śrī Śrī Sītā Rāma on Juhu Beach, a pastime that you personally instituted, and even had a chance to lead the *kīrtan* for a short while.

The next stop was a temple I only recently discovered in Bhiwandi. What an incredible oasis in the sea of suffering humanity! This holy *dhām* is graced by Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Mādhava, who rival in beauty Their glorious Lordships in Māyāpur. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you will be very proud to know that this temple, expertly managed by His Grace Śrī Sudhāma das, is working with young children and bringing them the knowledge of the Supreme Lord. Additionally, they distribute over a thousand plates of *prasādam* every day to the less fortunate, and of course they go on Harināma and distribute your books.

I'm now in Jaipur where you have an exquisite temple resplendent with carved stone and stained glass. It is dedicated to Their most merciful Lordships, Śrī Śrī Giridhārī Daujī, who stand ready to protect the world and all its inhabitants as they lovingly smile on all who come before Them. This temple is expertly managed by Pancharatna Prabhu who enthusiastically leads the residents and visitors in wonderful *kīrtanas* and has certainly done you proud judging by the activities I've witnessed.

Tomorrow, I head to Vṛndāvana. What can be said that would even begin to touch on the glory of that most amazing place! My heart is continually drawn there. Sitting in your quarters is sobering and ecstatic. Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma are very affectionate to all who take shelter of Them. I can't imagine a more perfect person to manage your home than Pañcagaṇḍa Prabhu. He is a wonderful leader, spiritual guide, and father to all your devotees and leads by example. He's always chanting with the 24-hour *kīrtanīyas* and strikes an impressive figure for any who would dare bring harm.

After seeing all these wonderful places, it is clear that your mission and service to your beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, is not only solidly fixed, but thriving!

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your dedicated devotees! All glories to the unlimited compassion and

mercy of Lord Nityānanda! And all glories to the most merciful Lord Chaitanya Mahāprabhu!

*Your servant,*

Gopisa Dasa

Initiation: 1974, December—New York, USA

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## Mahadevi Dasi

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O Śrīla Prabhupāda, Attachment to your lotus feet  
Is the perfection which fulfills ALL desires.  
By you, Ignorance is destroyed  
You are *Śaktyāveśa-avatāra*, Personally sent by Kṛṣṇa  
From Goloka Vrndavana to this material world  
Pure Embodiment of Krishna consciousness,  
We bow down with great awe and reverence.

Within every devotee, You are living everywhere,  
Especially in your Books and Classes, we can be with you  
By Your Grace, one can cross over the ocean of  
material suffering  
And obtain the Mercy of Kṛṣṇa.

Using *śāstra* from Previous *Ācāryas* to reference your words,  
That is your unique Exemplary Presentation  
of Krishna consciousness  
You are Always seeing and hearing Kṛṣṇa  
You told us, Kṛṣṇa wrote your Books  
Giving us Krishna consciousness was your life  
May I strive to please you with my life

*Śāstra-cakṣuḥ*, seeing through the eyes of Your Divine Grace,  
Even in seemingly little services, your Guidance is  
always in sight,  
*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare*  
*Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*  
Filling our hearts with Kṛṣṇa, making everything right.

You are an Ocean of Mercy, the friend of the poor

Leading us on the path of devotion, Absolute Right  
In every situation, your comforting Presence  
shines so bright,  
Illuminating our way, from darkness to light.

O Prabhupāda, I'm begging for your mercy  
and Divine Grace,  
Please let me serve you with a pure and humble heart,  
O Prabhupāda, please help me to always do and see  
What pleases you,  
Our Vṛndāvana Lords and Their devotees

Your presence in Śrī Vṛndāvana Dhāma,  
Inspires me to serve, to keep moving forward  
Seeing difficulties as devotional challenges,  
I keep aspiring to be your genuine dasi,

O Prabhupāda, In your Vṛndāvana Temple,  
you are on the *vyāsāsana*, with NITAI GOURA on the altar,  
Living in your Samadhi.  
And especially within your sacred Home.

When we read *KṚṢṆA BOOK* to you every Sunday,  
in your sacred darshan room,  
We are reading To You....To please you  
It's been more than three years, and now the  
fourth time around.  
Ever fresh, always vibrant, and even online devotees  
are following along  
Your eternal song in *Kṛṣṇa Book*

Our privilege to keep this service going,  
To see you smile at the various accents.  
You are hearing *Kṛṣṇa Book* from so many countries,  
Let us read *Kṛṣṇa Book* to you, dear Prabhupāda,  
Every Sunday, in your room, til I breathe no more.

And let me serve my Lords and Their devotees,  
Here in your Vṛndāvana Dhāma  
Til I breathe no more,  
And then after, at your lotus feet, eternally.

Your unworthy servant,

Mahadevi dasi

Initiation: 1975, February—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

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## Mrtyuhara Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept my humble and respectful obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śunyahavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

This year, 2024, marks the anniversary of your visit to Italy, in Rome.

Exactly 50 years have passed.

For this anniversary we would like to offer Your Divine Grace a ceremony on June 1st, in one of the most prestigious halls in Rome, the “Pinacoteca Comunale” and, to follow, the Ratha Yātrā Festival, planned for the afternoon of the same day in one of the most renowned places in the world, Piazza Navona.

In Piazza Navona there is the famous fountain by Lorenzo Bernini called “the fountain of the 4 rivers”, among which the Sacred Ganges is represented as well as the Danube, the Nile and the Rio della Plata.

After decades in which Piazza Navona was the place of the largest number of *Harināmas* in Italy, Lord Jagannātha decided to pay a courtesy visit to Mother Gaṅgā.

I think all these public events will make you very happy.

We know very well that we are powerless and that everything can only happen if we directly involve Your Divine Grace.

Nothing can fail if we put your divine power and presence in front of every project.

When, this year, the local municipal administration denied us the Ratha Yātrā festival in Piazza del Popolo, already occupied by a political demonstration, I immediately thought that we would certainly have a better opportunity; better than the previous one.

In fact, they immediately offered us a better place. However, in

our hearts, we wanted a higher, superior location.

Then, suddenly, we realized that your strong determination had prevailed and, surprisingly, they assigned us an even more prestigious venue for the Ratha Yātrā event.

This is just one example of how, by relying on the Spiritual Master, depending on him in every circumstance, the impossible becomes possible.

What can we do without you?

Without Your Divine Grace, we live in uncertainty, in doubt, and we are prone to think ...“but will it be possible? We’ll make it?”

Māyā puts many doubts and difficulties along our path, but all obstacles are swept away if we just trust in you and follow your instructions and your example.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, many things have happened since then, from your early years, when you were physically present.

Even if you know everything, present, past and future, I still want to tell you about it, and I think you will be proud of it.

How proud you were when you returned to India with your first disciples!

It was not an event broadcasted all over India, but you were greatly excited about it.

Returning victorious, after years of sacrifices, what a great achievement!

Now, because of you, your beloved India is exploding in Krishna Consciousness, as it did in the time of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. It is happening again!

Millions of people want to visit Śrī Māyāpur Dhāma, because you have made Māyāpur your headquarters.

Everyone in India wants to visit Vṛndāvana because you have made Vṛndāvana your place of meditation on the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Like in a Kīrtana, in a Harināma where everyone dances even without knowing the reason why, in India everybody wants to pay a visit to your places, those places where you have lived, even if many are not aware of the real reason that brings them there.

This is your astounding power.

But what really happened in these 50 years?

At the beginning of your mission, which started from India, no one listened to you, but now almost all of India knows you and wants to be close to you.

Wonderful things are happening that were unimaginable just a few years ago.

In your early days, you knocked on many doors, rulers, ministers, managers, traders, but no one gave you attention.

Conversely, now that your physical presence is no longer manifested, the Prime Minister of India has become one of your most assiduous followers and sings your glories wherever he is.

Seeing all this, millions of Indians want to know you more and more.

India, the land of Lord Krishna, had never reciprocated the efforts you had made for her.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Mahārāja, on the other end, was well aware of what was to come.

He sent you to the West, knowing that this was the only real way you would change the whole of India.

You came to the West, after no one had considered you, and some good Western boy followed you, putting his trust in you.

We were used to not trusting anyone, but we placed our trust completely in your hands, and you reciprocated by placing your trust in us exponentially.

There is a beautiful story that confirms your sincerity and genuineness as an authentic spiritual master.

In the very early years, in Mumbai, an old acquaintance of yours approached you, and seeing so many good and experienced western boys who obeyed you blindly, he told you that it would be an excellent deal to create a business opportunity from all this; to earn a lot of money.

This is a pretty obvious thing in this material world, using your knowledge and potential to make a lot of money and then enjoying the fruits that come from it.

You replied to him, “how can I deceive these good boys, they have put their trust in me, how can I disappoint them”.

This is the state of mind that you left us.

This sincerity and genuineness of yours that you wanted to grow within us too.

If you want to understand a spiritual master, observe his disciples carefully.

For this reason, we disciples must make every effort to represent Your Divine Grace, and I take this opportunity to appeal to all direct and indirect disciples of Śrīla Prabhupāda so that this state of mind

may grow within us too.

What is the lesson we have learned in these years, after your physical disappearance?

- If we want something great we must follow your example.
- If we don't want to be disappointed we must follow your example.
- If we do not want to disappoint Śrī Kṛṣṇa we must follow your example.
- If we want to be happy in Krishna Consciousness we must follow your example.
- If we want to live in peace among devotees we must follow your example.
- If we want to be successful in preaching we must follow your example.
- If we want to carry out important projects for our Movement we must follow your example.
- If we want to return to Krishna in this life we must follow your example.
- If we want to satisfy you, as you satisfied your Spiritual master, we must follow your example.

Hoping to reciprocate your trust, I hope to be able to serve you, life after life.

Despite the difficulties that the body is giving me, I hope that I can continue to serve Your Divine Grace's lotus feet in any way you wish.

*Your servant,*

Mrtyuhara Dasa

Initiation: 1975, February—Rome, Italy

Current location: Italy

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## Nartaka Gopala Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my loving obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you!

When you came to Florida in 1975 you very much appreciated that the climate and vegetation of Miami reminded you of India.

There are thousands of palm trees, banyan trees, mango, avocado, orange and many other tropical trees. You wrote in a letter, “Miami is a tropical climate, so it should be made very lush with fruit and flower trees.” —Letter to Abhirama Dasa, 1/9/76.

Now our temple in Coconut Grove, Miami, is overgrown and lush with huge stately Royal Palms, plumeria trees, mango, avocado and other flowering trees and flourishing tropical vegetation. It reminds us of you, and we hope it pleases you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for taking such good care of your disciples, and in particular, us lady disciples. The first time I went to India was 1976, and 350 devotees went to Māyāpur from the US for the Gaura Pūrṇimā Festival. We were so fortunate because that year your health was good, and you gave the lecture every single day for one month straight. It was fabulous. After 12 days in Māyāpur you went to our Albert Road Temple in Calcutta where we met you again, and after two days there we all went to Delhi for a huge three-day Ram Līlā Ground Pandal festival attended by thousands of souls. We distributed books at the pandal during the day, and you spoke at night, then everyone watched the Hare Kṛṣṇa movie.

On the morning of the last day of the pandal we got to go hear you speak at the house of ISKCON Life Member Laxman S. Agarwal, owner of Sylvania Light Bulb company, in Chanakya Puri (this is where you stayed while in Delhi this trip). They had a smaller pandal in their garden, and maybe 80 people attended.

The next day we got immensely ecstatic news. All devotees who had distributed books daily for the pandal programs were invited to do traveling *saṅkīrtana* with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! This was a tremendous thrill for all of us. Twenty devotees just fit into one bus, and we followed you being driven ahead of us in your car, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

First, we went to Modinagar where Mr. Modi received you and all of us with the town’s brass band playing the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* melody. You outstretched your hands and waved them just as an orchestra conductor waves his wand in front of the band. That night the entire town showed up to hear you speak while we distributed your books. Some photos of this temple are in Vyāsa-pūjā books where you see a huge seven-foot tall solid silver carved *Vyāsāsana*.

Next, we went to Aligarh; you stayed at the home of Surendra Kumar Saigal, owner of Tiger Lock Company, on Marris Road. We had an amazing pandal program in the evening, and we devotees



stayed at the homes of different residents of the town...two or four devotees in each house. The next morning we all went to the house where you were, and while you were downstairs conversing with the owners, we were all on the roof of the house singing *maṅgala āratik* and *guru pūjā*, running around dancing.

After Aligarh we went straight to Śrī Vṛndāvana Dhām. How wonderful to be there with you Śrīla Prabhupāda; the utter splendor and magnificence of that feeling is just beyond words. The fifth day there we had the largest *yajña* you ever held in Vṛndāvana: 35 first initiates and 33 *brāhmaṇa* initiates. I received second initiation from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, but I had to wait five full days before you had time on your schedule to give me the *Gāyatrī mantra*.

One day all devotees went on a *parikramā* to Rādhā Kuṇḍa. There were several buses, and one of them broke down when we arrived at Rādhā Kuṇḍa. The men did their *parikramā* ahead of the ladies, and then they all left to return to Vṛndāvana. Meanwhile, us ladies were one bus short so we requested all women with children to go first and those of us without kids would wait till the bus was repaired. We had to wait two hours for the bus.

When the men returned to Vṛndāvana, you asked them, Śrīla Prabhupāda, “Where are all the women?” One of them said he heard that a bus had broken down. You immediately became alarmed and sent one devotee to the police station to see if they had any news about the situation. Whereas it seemed that the men had not bothered to involve themselves or do anything about it, you set the example by saying. “I am concerned that when I am gone the women will not be taken care of.”

Thank you for taking such good care of us with your loving concern. It still touches my heart almost fifty years later.

Very dear, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your association, so many people developed the utmost respect, admiration and affection for you. Please help me to serve you so that others may be given the blessings of your saintly association as well.

*Your servant,*

Nartaka Gopala Dasi

Initiation: 1975, February—Miami, Florida, USA

Current location: ISKCON Miami/ISKCON Alachua, Florida, USA

Contact: nartaka@windstream.net

“I will never die, I will live forever in my books, and you can take advantage”

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most auspicious 128th Vyāsa-pūjā, in the year 2024, you’re more available today for sincere seekers than ever before, thanks to today’s technology, your living *vāñī* presence is at our fingertips 24/7.

WW3 happening with the collapse of society going on as you predicted.

This is the time of my life that I’ve been preparing for, the battlefield of the 21st century is our mind, not letting no one take control, finishing rounds by sunrise.

The more people will be materialistic, the world will be burdened. Therefore there must be war, pestilence, famine, to clear these rascals, clear them out. (Vrindavan, September 22, 1976)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, the good news in this time of war, your disciples are making available any and all of your original books! PDF & audio for free download is now online; Śrīla Prabhupāda’s Original Books Download ([prabhupada-media.net](http://prabhupada-media.net))

My offerings to you on this auspicious day:

1. Continue distributing your original, Macmillan ’72 edition, *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, hardbacks and pocket-size books
2. Distributing *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* Set [Original First Edition, 30 hardback books Volume set].
3. Distributing *Śrī Caitanya-caritamṛta* 17 hardback book Volume Set (1974 Edition).
4. Promoting your living *vāñī* presence.

Rascals label me “gullible”, “persona non grata” “anti-establishment” for distributing your unchanged books & promoting your living *vāñī* presence, no one stopping me, my favourite instruction from you to keep the faith;

If one thinks that there are many pseudo devotees or

non-devotees in the Kṛṣṇa Consciousness Society, one can keep direct company with the spiritual master, and if there is any doubt, one should consult the spiritual master. (Purport from *Śrī Caitanya-caritamṛta* original 1975 edition)

You keep directing me, year after year, decade after decade, I'm taking advantage of your books staying connected to you.

This is probably my last year in this old body, what a journey it has been, never forgetting you, always feeling your presence, as you instructed:

What is this alone? Vaiṣṇava is never alone. When I first came to the United States I was seemingly alone for one year. But I never felt alone. I always felt the presence of my Guru Mahārāja. Myself, I was cooking, I was printing books, I was selling books, everything seemingly alone. But I did not lose my determination. Actually you should know this, you are never alone. (Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, December 27, 1974)

On Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's 150th Anniversary, my humble offering to your guru on that auspicious day: Purchased a case of 96 books, English Macmillan *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, to send internationally, from India to Mauritius, pleasing both of you with our original book distribution, spreading the pure *saṅkīrtana* mission of Lord Chaitanya Mahāprabhu in the western countries.

My dear boys and girls, you are working so hard for broadcasting the glories of Lord Krishna's lotus feet and thus my Guru Maharaja will be so pleased upon you. Certainly my Guru Maharaja will bestow His blessings thousand times more than me and that is my satisfaction. All glories to the assembled devotees. (Letter to Boys and Girls, April 15, 1973)

My humble request, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are my Lord birth after birth, to come back in a devotee family, life after life for the next 10,000 years, continuing keeping intact your books and recordings, unchanged, unadulterated and unedited, for future generations, printing, distributing books & recordings with like-minded Śrīla Prabhupāda disciples.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for this important service.

*Your aspiring disciple,*

Rathayatra Dasa

Initiation: 1975, February—Chicago, USA

Current location: Bangalore, South India

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## Rādhā Kṛṣṇa Dāsa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances! All glories to you on Your Divine Grace's Appearance Day!

On September 17, 1965, an elderly Indian gentleman disembarked from the *Jaladuta* at Boston Harbor. Initially uncertain which direction to take – left or right – he faced a challenging year ahead. Struggling to find stable accommodations and sustain himself, he was driven by a profound mission – his spiritual master's wish for him to share Lord Caitanya's teachings in English with the Western world. Despite all the struggles and moments when he contemplated returning to India, he never gave up or boarded a ship to return. This was you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your determination led to the founding of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, marking the beginning of the world's most significant spiritual movement.

During the next eleven years, spent with your disciples, you circled the globe fourteen times, wrote several dozen books, visited a number of countries, opened temples, farm communities, and restaurants, and started the world's largest vegetarian food relief program – all of which laid the foundation for giving spiritual knowledge, Vaiṣṇava culture, and the opportunity for everyone who comes into contact with it to go back home, back to Godhead. What a feat! What a wondrous feat to achieve!

I'm serving you and the devotees in countries you never visited. Let me give three examples of how their dedication to you, their trust in your teachings, and the effort of the local devotees to satisfy and serve you know no bounds.

The first is from Turkey, where street book distribution is not possible, but still, the devotees find venues where they can get your books out: book fairs, online sites, yoga studios, and other such places. What to speak of the translation work and printing work ... We have our own Turkish publishing house and a dedicated BBT team, and furthermore, all the printing is sponsored by dedicated

devotees. At the present pace, we can do 4–5 books a year, including 2–3 volumes of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Book distribution here is growing by 20–30 percent each year.

The second example that I find humbling is the devotees' unparalleled desire to care for one another. In Romania, new frontiers started to open in Bucharest and a revived community in Timisoara. Under the dedicated care of Rādhā Govinda Prabhu, the devotees are being properly trained in Vaiṣṇava etiquette. They have the structure that gives regular study opportunities to devotees and steady preaching opportunities, which draw their strength from the care and love the devotees have for one another – natural and extremely attractive.

The third example is Hungary, where ISKCON is accepted by the highest realms of government, science, and society at large. Over the past fifty years, since 1977 and mostly since the late eighties, the devotees' efforts, under the careful guidance of Śivarāma Swami, reached a peak in recent years when the state, the scientific community, and the people at large recognized ISKCON's practices of sustainability and humanitarianism. We've become one of the most prominent religious organizations in Hungary working toward sustaining the natural environment and social good.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, although we did not have the chance to be with you in person, I still hope that by our efforts we can see the smile on the face of that gentleman who arrived at Boston Harbor on September 17, 1965, to fulfill his spiritual master's desire: to share Lord Caitanya's teachings in English with the Western world.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*Your servant,*

Rādhā Kṛṣṇa Dāsa

Initiation: 1975, March—London, UK

Current location: South Wales, UK

Contact: rkdhiggins@gmail.com

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## Medhavi Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. I had the special opportunity to visit Śrīdhāma

Māyāpur this spring. Your temple of the Vedic Planetarium rises above all other structures and the finishing of the interior halls is very “first-class.”

There is a special place on the campus where I was remembering my childish attempt to serve you back in March '75. Please tolerate as I describe. Before leaving from New York City for Māyāpur on the 1<sup>st</sup> 747 to land in Dum Dum, Kolkata. H.G. Harikeśa Prabhu gave the SB class in the New York temple. He mentioned that the devotees shouldn't go to India, thinking that they were going on a holiday or vacation. He advised that if the devotees wanted to really appreciate their time in the Dhāma, then they must look for service.

After arriving in Māyāpur, I joined with the devotees who swept and washed the temple room floor in the Lotus building after *maṅgala-ārotika* and before Deity greeting. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, after your long hours translating, would leave from your rooms upstairs to go on your morning walk, returning just in time to greet Śrī Śrī Rādhā Mādhava and Śrī Gaurāṅga. Then was the ecstatic bellringing and dancing while circumambulating Their Deity room. Followed by your class on the *Caitanya-Caritāmṛta*.

Then one morning before you left on your walk, one devotee remembered that you had instructed the previous morning for the steps to be swept, which hadn't been attended to. Knowing where the hand brooms were kept, I ran and got one to sweep the dirty area. Just as I began to sweep, you came down the steps around on the marble stairs. I decided that you instructed the steps should be swept, so I was going to sweep them. I didn't look up to gauge your expression and knew that I was obstructing your path, but I was sweeping as best and as fast as I could for a brand new devotee in India, neither which would have been acceptable. Devotees were yelling, “get out of the way, get out of the way.” But I continued til I completed and then scooted out of the way. I was too timid to even look to see your expression and kept my head down. But to this day, I wonder if you were pleased or displeased.

Be that as it may, there is no question of your position as the most important member of Lord Caitanya's associates for having brought Kṛṣṇa's Holy Names and His teachings of *Bhagavad-gītā* all around the world. Even though the world is faced with so much war and destruction, hate, violence and natural disasters – all the reactions for the sinful lives of its citizens. Still, *kaler doṣa-nidhe rājan asti hy eko mahān guṇaḥ kīrtanād eva kṛṣṇasya mukta-saṅgaḥ param vrajet*. [SB

12.3.51] The holy Names will change the course of history.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please allow me to continue to serve you in some small way for the remainder of this life.

*Your still aspiring servant,*

Medhavi Dasa

Initiation: 1975, April—Vrindavan, India

Current location: Cape Town, South Africa

Contact: michael.vyas396@gmail.com

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## Vimala Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracārīṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīṇe*

Recently, my husband and I have been absorbing your many letters to disciples, starting from the very early days of 1966. This has given us both a deep appreciation of the energy, commitment, determination and compassion that you displayed in starting and spreading your glorious mission. Although we know that there is always a time, place and context in every correspondence, we have found these letters are a rich gold-mine full of relevant and practical instructions for us all. We have learnt so much more about your mood and your mission, just by diving into the nectar of these divine exchanges.

In August of 1966 you were writing to your god brothers about the wonderful preaching field waiting in America, hoping they would be inspired to join you.

In one letter to Mādhava Mahārāja you described “I am asking people here to practice Krishna consciousness through music, dance, philosophy, science religion and distribution of Prasādam. I am asking them to become freed from all sorts of anxieties by practicing the transcendental sound vibration of Hare Krishna Hare Krishna and I am asking them to join the International Society for Krishna Consciousness Inc.”

One thing we also noted in your correspondence was how

kind, encouraging and merciful you were to your fledgling, but enthusiastic disciples. You answered all their questions, encouraged every act of devotion, and gave a myriad of instructions on how they could further their advancement...

One such example is in a letter to Jayananda, September, 1967...

In San Francisco while you were driving your car and I was sitting by you hearing your transcendental vibration, this very sincere attempt has enriched your consciousness and my only instruction is that you may constantly do this habit without fail.

Then there were the problems that you also had to deal with, and there were many. You never shirked from giving potent instructions on how to solve problems that arose. Sometimes this came in the form of gentle corrections or advice, and sometimes it took a stronger and more definite form.

For example, you advised Mukunda das in a letter of May 1967:

I learn that in the temple there are sometimes men with no work. This should not be allowed. Everyone must be busy with some work in Krishna Consciousness. Idleness is not Krishna Consciousness. Please take care of this omission I shall be glad to hear from you about this.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you consistently nurtured the ladies as well as the men in their Krishna Consciousness. You saw us all as pure spirit souls, trying our best to serve Krishna. In one letter to Kancanbala dasi in January 1968 you encouraged...

My sincere blessings are for you for your nice prosecution of Krishna Consciousness. Whatever you are doing at the present moment is approved by me and I think on account of your becoming a sincere soul, Krishna is dictating from within and you are doing things so nicely.

There was also lots of practical advice on things such as health, well-being and social dilemmas. You even signed your letters:

I hope this meets you in good health.

When you found that Jadurāṅī dāsī was working very hard, but not taking proper care of her health, you hand wrote a sign in the kitchen that said:



“Health is number one, chanting is number two, service is number three and then comes reading”, in that order.

You also gave a simple prescription for keeping good health once in a letter to your disciple Kaumudakī dāsī ...

Because this body belongs to Krishna, and we are using it in His service, it should be kept in good working order. A little dal, a little rice, some vegetable and a few chapattis is a substantial diet, along with a little fruit and milk. Two cups of milk a day is sufficient. The Ayurvedic system of eating is to decide how much you can comfortably eat, then take half of that amount, filling the remaining half one quarter with water and leaving one quarter for air. This simple, regulated diet along with strict cleanliness will keep one healthy, strong and free from disease.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, so far, in our reading of your letters in calendar order, we are only up to the end of 1969. We look forward to reading more and more of these loving and instructive exchanges and gaining wisdom from them.

On this, your divine appearance day, I pray that I may have a tiny drop of the caring, loving and selfless attitude towards others, that you showed us, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your merciful lotus feet!

*Your lowly daughter,*

Vimala Dasi

Initiation: 1975, April—Melbourne, Australia

Current location: New Zealand

## Chaitanya Swarup Dasa

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

My Tribute to you Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this day of your divine appearance. I pray that I can fulfil

the top most valuable gift given to us spreading the value of the chanting of the holy names and keep chanting the holy names until my last breath.

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

*Eternally grateful,*

Chaitanya Swarup Dasa

Initiation: 1975, April—Vrindavan, India

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## Lelihana Devi Dasi

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My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your beautiful lotus feet that never touch this material world.

At this time I am incapable of glorifying you due to a serious mental illness. But I can say that you are the greatest spiritual master ever. The entire *guru paramparā* is with you. Every word you speak, and write in your many glorious books, is the Absolute Truth. You are the most expert guru in guiding us on the path back to Godhead, to Krishna's transcendental planet, Goloka Vṛndāvana.

All glories to you millions of times for all eternity.

*Your sadly fallen disciple,*

Lelihana Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1975, April—Vrindavan, India

Current location: Karnataka, India

Contact: lelihana@gmx.com

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## Mokshalaksmi Devi Dasi

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My Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept my humble obeisances at your golden lotus feet. All glories to you my divine spiritual master.

As your Vyāsa-pūjā approaches and I am writing this offering to you, it has struck me that just eight months later it will be a whopping fifty years since Krishna Balarāma Temple opened. A great milestone in the history of your glorious life. A gift to the whole world. It was

an unforgettable day, the culmination being when you offered *ārati* to Krishna and Balarāma. I can never forget the look on your face as you turned to offer the peacock fan to the assembled devotees; a sublime smile decorating your golden face. A smile of pure pleasure at the successful ending to such a great and difficult endeavour. I see you as a transcendental Alexander the Great, conquering our hearts with love, conquering Vrindavan and conquering Māyā. As I looked at your lotus feet they seemed to be ankle deep in pink rose petals, in fact we were all ankle deep in rose petals. Such opulence for 1975 India. A perfect day in your perfect life. And of course the fun didn't end there, we had a procession from our then distant temple into Vrindavan. In carefree Vrindavan, where the belief of karma outweighs safety concerns, there were elephants and cows with big horns in the parade and lots of colourful flags. In one of the photographs of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this parade there, not far from you, is me waving a turquoise flag. I thank you for this gift. Amazing how a seemingly small thing can mean so much.

Fifty years later and, by your mercy, Krishna Balarāma Temple thrives. Due to immense construction, Krishna Balarāma Temple is no longer on the edge of Vrindavan, it can even seem like the centre of not just Vrindavan but the world, maybe even the universe.

Fifty years is such a long time, the majority of a person's life, and I keep praying I will live to see the momentous festivities the Vrindavan devotees must be planning to celebrate fifty years of Krishna Balarāma Temple. I want to be there to acknowledge your brilliant triumph, for once again I find myself in awe of your achievements particularly as circumstances dictated such a late start to your adventures. I remember that installation day so well clambering for a better position to watch you performing the *ārati*, you standing so straight next to Krishna and Balarāma with that unbelievable smile of triumph on your face. I can almost feel the rose petals beneath my feet as I remember that sacred day. And that magnificent parade where you walked so triumphantly.

That was the second time I had walked with you on a procession. The first being at the London Rathayātrā in 1973. Rejecting the seat arranged for you, you had marched, surrounded by your loving devotees, from Marble Arch to Trafalgar Square where the statue of Nelson, placed so high on its column, faded into obscurity compared to you. During this procession I was attempting to sell the specially produced magazine to the crowds. Suddenly, it was as if a bolt of

electricity had passed through my body as all the hairs of my body stood on end. Confused, I spun around to find you dancing, arms upraised, almost within touching distance of me, surrounded by devotees chanting ecstatically. I stood in awe of you appreciating the, what I would now call, cosmic experience you had allowed me to have. You were not of this earth, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I have been thinking a lot about gratefulness and the unpayable debt that is owed to you for sharing this greatest gift of Krishna Consciousness. Now I am at the 'fag end' of my life I can really appreciate the extra endeavours everything takes when youth has gone. As I see my own strength failing I often marvel to myself at your accomplishments and question how you managed all you achieved at your age. I always remind myself that you could have been in your perfect rooms in Vrindavan enjoying that wonderful Vrindavan atmosphere and darshans of the Goswami deities. Of course you carried Krishna with you wherever you went and, regardless of your surroundings, you were always in Vrindavan. My lamentations come from my own experiences of leaving Vrindavan which are obviously different from your own glorious pastimes. Which reminds me of the last time you left Vrindavan.

Your health had been failing and you went to Rishikesh for the agreeable climate. News came at midnight, with a knock on my door at the Goshala, of your imminent return in the morning. I rushed to your house to prepare it for your homecoming. Somehow I wasn't mentally prepared to see you being carried like a baby in arms the short distance from your car to your house. I had experienced joyful rushes to the Bombay airport to greet you where I ecstatically watched you taking strong strides that young people had difficulty keeping up with. This was a new experience for me. A very saddening experience.

That was the last time I cleaned your house. Things were different; talk was always about your health, what you had eaten, whether you should circumambulate Govardhan Hill. Then came the announcement that you were going to New York to preach. Incredible, nothing could stop our fierce preacher, our Senāpati Bhakta, off on a new adventure. You were catching a British Airways flight via London that entailed leaving Vrindavan at midnight. Of course the whole temple stayed up to wave you off, and that is when something I regard as very special happened to me. I was standing on the side of the road outside Krishna Balarāma Temple seeing

you off when your car suddenly stopped in such a position that I was looking directly down at you and you were looking directly up at me with our eyes meeting. It was a real wake up call for me as it showed me just how sick you were. There you were literally just skin and bones lying on top of two guest house mattresses. I always remember the awe I felt for you in that moment seeing your fragile bodily condition, literally no fat or muscles, just skin on top of bones. It has left a lasting impression on me, the sacrifices you made to benefit all of humanity. One of life's more sobering moments. You could even say a life changing moment because it was so easy in that moment to see just how deeply your love and mercy to not just your devotees but all living entities was by you travelling in such a condition. It also perfectly illustrated your determination to preach in the western countries as directed by your own much loved spiritual master Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswati. This example of love and determination that you showed has stayed with me always.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for the mercy you showed me. It has sustained me through many difficult times.

I beg to remain always in your service.

*Your unworthy servant,*

Mokshalaksmi Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1975, April—Vrindavan, India

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## Adikarta Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please accept my obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories, all glories, all glories to your divine self.

Your gift to the world is incomparable. There is nothing of value in this world. All the money in the world, all the most expensive cars, most exquisite jewellery, luxurious houses, most beautiful women, have no value at all, unless employed in Krishna's service. Any other so-called religion, or philosophy, is so paltry compared to Krishna culture. The gift of eternal life in Krishna's abode is the supreme gift, and most treasured possession. Who can possibly be happy or satisfied without loving Krishna, the most charming and greatest friend of all living beings?

It's inconceivable how we thought we could be happy without

Krishna. This present world is so harsh and polluted, that for anyone without a glimpse of Krishna, it's definitely a challenge just to survive, as you reminded us, of so many times. The only hope is Vedic culture. Without it, the world is destined to plummet to even lower realms of misery.

Your ISKCON movement is really the only hope for this forlorn place. Without us working together, in a friendly, humble manner, how can ISKCON progress, as you desired.

Fortunately, because of the efficacy of Vedic culture, India's prominence is becoming more pronounced. It is apparent that because Bharat Varsa, India, is Krishna's preferred place to descend in His multifarious forms, Indian people often have certain nice qualities that other races don't possess. When an 8-year-old British Indian girl becomes a grand chess master, and a 15-year-old Indian boy defeats the world chess champion, it's clear that often they are not like other races. This was also noted by one American Congressman who remarked in Congress, that, "If I want a doctor, I get an Indian doctor, if I want a lawyer, I get an Indian one, if I want an engineer, I get an Indian one, and finally, since I volunteer in an Emergency health clinic, I never see Indians overdosing on drugs or alcohol." So it seems apparent that India's influence is gaining momentum.

Recently the new temple to Sītā Rāma was opened in Ayodhyā, to the great joy of many millions of Indians, worldwide. It was a huge event which was catered for by your ISKCON devotees, who seemed to have mastered the knack of cooking for huge numbers. Since we believe that Lord Rāma appeared millions of years ago, it just proves that this really is Sanātan Dharma, the eternal religion. Especially when we compare it to the United Kingdom, where I was born, and the meagre numbers that go to worship in the often very beautiful churches and cathedrals.

My prayer is that I may play a small part in the spreading of Krishna consciousness. I say small part, because I really am very insignificant. Despite my unlimited shortcomings I pray that I can remain a cooperative, productive member of your movement; which you described as your body. I have no other desire than to see the world dance in ecstasy at your lotus feet, and see an oceanic smile on your face. Of course I am also hoping to join Krishna's dancing party by the bank of the river Yamunā, but I fear that may take many millions of lifetimes.

Please bless me, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with a drop of your

compassion and potency for bringing the unfortunate miserable living entities to Krishna. That would be my greatest good fortune.

*Your eternally aspiring foolish disciple.*

Adikarta Dasa

Initiation: 1975, May—London, UK

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## Sandamini Devi Dasi

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To hear your voice, a penetrating sound  
Straight from Goloka, homeward bound  
Your conviction & purpose, so profound  
A greater treasure cannot be found.

When I'm missing you, I hear you speak  
When I'm struggling or feeling weak  
Your instructions are what I seek  
Without your words, life would be bleak.

Your words are frank, no compromise  
You are speaking the truth, and also advise  
Your guest may be trying to get a rise  
You show great qualities, so humble & wise.

New devotees join, soon they are quoting you  
'give up this nonsense of chewing the chewed'  
'Out of millions, there are only a few'  
'Make your life perfect, serve God who is blue'

Your purports are written just for this age  
Tremendous knowledge found on each page  
We are like actors, as if on a stage  
Ignoring the soul, only polishing the cage.

You sacrificed your life to give us the Lord  
Hearing from you, we are frankly quite floored  
To be given this gift, we truly have scored  
Let us commit our lives, for the most adored.

All the devotees here in Tucson, Arizona, like devotees all over the world, have as our overarching goal to surrender to your lotus feet.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please allow us to render some small service to assist you in the activities of your Kṛṣṇa Consciousness movement, bless us and empower us to please you and advance in this life and forever more.

Sandamini Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1975, May—San Diego, USA

Current location: Tucson, Arizona, USA

Contact: sandamini108@gmail.com

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## Sukhavaha Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Offering you obeisances with all due respect,  
Bowling to your prowess as a spiritual architect,  
Building the foundation for Śrī Caitanya's sect,  
You invited willing souls whom you did detect.

Thank you dear master for engaging my defects  
For giving a chance though my habits were suspect.  
Thanks for enlivening devotees despite any neglect.  
Your unconditional heart does Krishna's love reflect.

Especially you showed us how the Lord will protect.  
You cheered us on; our personal faith to erect.  
You showed us there's more than one type of "perfect"  
And wanted us always to use our best intellect.

As I look back over the years to discern and detect,  
I can see Krishna's mystical, loving hand in retrospect  
You have given us a path divine on which to select  
How to use all these principles to deeply introspect.

Teaching us the most simple method direct,  
Chanting the holy names, to the Lord we connect.  
Your encouraging words our hearts have infected  
Waking us from sleep, our soul-self resurrected.

Please keep me awake to any subtle covering aspect. So I may serve



all others with the greatest respect.

*Your ever grateful daughter,*

Sukhavaha Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1975, May—New Vrindaban, West Virginia, USA

## Mahakala Dasa

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My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

I'm writing you this letter in honor of your transcendental Vyāsa-pūjā day, which has been my source of inspiration and the most significant day of my life ever since I came across your wonderful Hare Kṛṣṇa mission. You have given me so many opportunities to serve your lotus feet along with my godbrothers and godsisters. You have blessed me with your perfect guidance, with your wonderful Gauḍīya-Vaiṣṇava literature. You have also been my perfect loving father, my endless source of good humor, my best analyst of issues according to time, place and circumstances, my "all I should focus on!" So, on this auspicious day, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I'm writing you to let you know that your famous strategy of simple living and high thinking has played such an important role in my life. Your emphasis on reading *śāstra* and trying to preach accordingly has saved me on so many occasions, and I have never identified so fully, lovingly and respectfully with anyone other than you!

Please bless me that I may be in your company wherever and whenever you are. Please bless me that I may serve your lotus feet, your books, your transcendental moods and everything else you may desire.

*A particle of dust at your soft lotus feet,  
Always begging for your mercy,*

Mahakala Dasa

Initiation: 1975, June—Brazil

Contact: mahakala.dasa2@gmail.com

## Ambarisa Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept my most fallen obeisances.

You are the most merciful representative of Lord Chaitanya for all the misguided victims of Kali.

Without your love, wisdom, and kindness, I would be finished.

Please continue to bless our efforts in Śrīdhām Māyāpur.

Pleasing you is all that we strive for.

*Your very fallen and lowly servant,*

Ambarisa Dasa

Initiation: 1975, July—Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Current location: Alachua, Florida, USA

## Gauridasa Pandita Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to you!

I'm sending my song about Rathayātrā as it is so dear to you.

Rathayātrā was a major part of your pastimes starting in your young childhood. Rathayātrā continues to bless the world in every major place. You brought our sweet Lord to the whole world!

Thank you so much for your mercy and your divine love which continues to bless us all.

*Your eternal servant,*

Gauridasa Pandita Dasa

### **RATHAYĀTRĀ DAY**

On Rathayātrā Day  
The Lord will come to play  
He's going all the way  
To Vṛndāvana

The Lord will liberate  
Everyone  
On the way  
To Vṛndāvana

We are gonna pull the carts  
From the start  
To the end  
In Vṛndāvana

We're going to take the Lord  
All the way  
To the land  
Of Vṛndāvana

There's Rādhā, and Lalitā  
Vishaka and Vrindādevī  
Yaśodā, Mātā  
Nanda, Mahārāja  
There's Śrīdhara, and Subala  
And Madhu Maṅgala

We're going to meet our friends  
And family  
We'll have a lot of fun  
In Vṛndāvana

There's the cows,  
And monkeys too  
Parrots and peacocks

On Rathayātrā Day  
Watermelon and curd steaks  
On Rathayātrā Day  
Pizza and pakoras

Ecstatic Chants  
We'll sing and dance  
All day long  
It's Vṛndāvana!

You can watch a play  
Listen what they say  
Have a wonderful day  
At Rathayātrā

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa  
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare  
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma  
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

(Repeat to ecstasy!)

*Hoping this meets you well,*

Gauridasa Pandita Dasa

Initiation: 1975, July—Chicago, USA

Current location: Oregon, USA

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## Karnapura Dasa

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In my offering for Vyāsa-pūjā, I want to tell a tale,  
Of Śrīla Prabhupāda's essence, beyond the veil.  
Like Arjuna questioning Krishna, I ponder how,  
In divine consciousness, one acts in the here and now.

Prabhupāda's life was a tapestry, woven with skill,  
Contrasting hues of qualities, fulfilling his guru's will.  
As Ācārya, he showed perseverance through thick and thin,  
Preserving tradition, yet implementing  
innovation, a new twist he did spin.

In the face of adversity, he stood firm and bold,  
Even while adapting, his resolve never sold.  
Hard as a thunderbolt, yet soft as a rose in bloom,  
His words pierced like arrows, yet eased sorrow's gloom.

Thinking big, yet conscious of detail in his quest  
To bring about a world where Krishna's  
message would crest.  
Scholarly and street-wise, a manager supreme,  
Defeating arguments, like a river's ceaseless stream.

With depth in his prayers, he sought spiritual grace,  
But his heart bled for humanity, in every place.

In him, these traits converged, a harmonious blend,  
A *Sāragrāhī Vaiṣṇava* from appearance to end.

So as I reflect on his life's story,  
I see the divine dance, in all its glory.  
For in Prabhupāda's being, I find the key,  
To living in Krishna consciousness, steady and free.

*A servant of the servants,*

Karnapura Dasa  
Initiation: 1975, July—Chicago, USA  
Current location: Alachua, Florida  
Contact: ragatmika@gmail.com

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## Nandapatni Devi Dasi

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer you my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet, on this the most auspicious of days, your Vyāsa-pūjā.

All these years have flown by since your courageous journey to the Western shores. And now we see the ever burgeoning of your sacred movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Every corner of the earth is being touched by your books.

Every corner of the earth is seeing the beauty of Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura Nitāi, Jagannātha, Balarāma and Lady Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Rādhā Kṛṣṇa.

Every corner of the earth is being graced by the Holy Names in *Harinām Saṅkīrtan*. Beautiful mandirs are being maintained and new ones built. Sacred *prasādam* is being honored and distributed and your faithful disciples and grand disciples act as your emissaries. And all this because of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Because you stepped on the *Jaladuta*, you weathered the storm, you tolerated the hazards

of New York and the discomfort of the crazy west. How you made us crazy to serve you, and how we see the astonishing unfoldment.

The fact that you have blessed me with *dīkṣā* is beyond measure. Although I floundered for years in a swirl of *maya*'s grip, I now run ever closer to your lotus feet.

Your gift to me is of such enormity and I feel blessed and guided by so many of your disciples and *śikṣās*. The deepest treasures that could ever be, you have afforded us. Our debt of gratitude is to be at your heels, serving your wishes.

I pray to remain at your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, life after life, trying to embrace what you yourself exemplified; honoring the order of your spiritual master.

May I stay closer and closer to your orders. May I never stray.

And may I always remain in the beloved association of the Vaishnavas.

*Your aspiring servant*

Nandapatni Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1975, July—Vancouver Temple, Vancouver, Canada

Current location: Vancouver, Canada

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## Satyaṛāja Dāsa

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My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda

I, who have undoubtedly reserved a place for myself among your least qualified disciples, offer my sincere obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. Again. And. Again.

Unable to muster any original and thought-provoking ideas, I look at earlier Vyāsa-pūjā offerings, not only those written by my godbrothers and godsisters in ISKCON, but also those found in old issues of *The Gauḍīya*, where your own godsiblings have glorified your illustrious spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. Therein I find seeds of various offerings that I am inspired to reconstruct and apply to Your Divine Grace, for you so perfectly follow in your Guru's divine footsteps.

As I sit here trying to express my appreciation for Your Divine Grace, my mind first of all races to a recurring and gnawing question: Who has the right to perform Vyāsa-pūjā, or glorification of the spiritual master? Can someone so great really be exalted by

someone so small? Wouldn't it take a highly qualified Vaishnava to do so? I pray not.

Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī has assured us: *bhaktau nṛmātrasyādihikāritā* — “Every human being is worthy of *bhakti*, a tendency found within the soul itself.” And as you have taught us, *jīvera 'svarūpa' haya* — *kṛṣṇera 'nitya-dāsa'*, i.e., it is our constitutional position to be an eternal servant of Krishna. (Cc Madhya 20.108)

And so, shamelessly, I proceed with this offering.

Some 128 years ago, on Tuesday, September 1 — on the auspicious day of Nandotsava, underlining your eternal relationship with Vrindavan — Lord Krishna Himself carried you to the shores of the Hooghly River, unveiling a new dawn of pure *bhakti* that was destined to spread worldwide.

No doubt, your sunlike appearance was noted by Brahmā, Śīva, and other highly posted living beings, as your work eventually shone across the skies of Gauḍa, Vraja, and Purī, and — dare I say it? — even in places like New York and London, where the sun often hides.

The beams of your divine light would soon evaporate all unfortunate and perverse conclusions throughout the world — not only the long established Cārvākiean atheism and Śaṅkarite Māyāvāda of the East, but also the more crude forms of these deviations found in the West. Sincere souls, at least, would feel the warmth of your contribution, the purifying effects of your devotion, enabling them to overcome the darkness of these philosophical transgressions.

After Mahāprabhu and His associates saw fit to conceal their pastimes, as did the succeeding generations of *ācāryas*, from Śrīla Narottama Dasa Ṭhākura to your beloved Gurudeva, Śrīla Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, a profound darkness overtook the *pāramārthika* kingdom, making transcendence appear like little more than a fantasy, or mere wishful thinking. This was true even in India, where small pockets of genuine devotees were certainly existing, even if they were few and far between.

It was at that time, as if to breathe new life into the words of Mahāprabhu — *ṛthivōite āche yata nagarādi grāma, sarvoatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*, i.e., “In every town and village throughout the world, the chanting of My holy name will be heard” [CB Antya 4.126]— that you appeared among your loving Western children, dispelling the fog of materialism in such a way that it would soon travel East, benefitting one and all by coming back to the land that birthed it.

By Your Grace, the entire world now has access to superior,

spiritual knowledge (*parā-vidyā*) and the specifics of transcendental practice (*sādhana*). Indeed, your mercy had arrived just in time, for those of us taking birth in this late episode of earthly era had begun to quake from the devastation of deceitful dharma. Before meeting Your Divine Grace, we knew too well the ugliness of misconception, both East and West: full-blown materialism (*jaḍa-vāda*), atheism (*nāstikya-vāda*), the misleading notion of many gods (*bahu-īśvara-vāda*), the Godless ritualism of *smārta-vāda* (rigid reliance on rules and regulations), and formless (*nirākāra*) *brahma-vāda*, or impersonal (*nirviśeṣa*) *māyāvāda*, all of which are more than mere obstacles to spiritual life. Indeed, they tend to send their votaries headlong in the opposite direction.

You mercifully brought us into your “Krishna Consciousness” movement, a slightly veiled “Śrī Śrī Viśva-Vaiṣṇava Rāja-sabhā,” established by the Gosvāmīs and led by Śrī Rūpa, Śrī Sanātana and Śrī Jīva, and then carried on by Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura — the intimate servants of Śrī Caitanya, the savior of Kali-yuga. In order to propagate the message of that *sabhā* throughout the world, you appeared before us on the throne of Vyāsa, as the most deserving Pātrarāja (“the king of the assembly of Vaishnavas”).

More than a mere Pātrarāja, you are the unequalled *Ācārya-rāja* (“king of preceptors”)! As Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmi said to Śrīla Haridāsa Ṭhākura, *tumi sarva-guru, tumi jagatera ārya* — “You are the guru of all the universe; you are the most venerated in all the world.” Indeed, you are Śrīla Prabhupāda, fulfilling the purport of that name like no other! Let it be said: Your *kathā* is *mṛta-saṅjīvanī*—it brings the dead back to life; and it resounds like the gentle rumbling of a Krishna-soaked raincloud.

For those *jīvas* who are *sukṛta* (who have done good, pious deeds), and even for those who are not so fortunate, like myself, this rumbling will, before long, break our slumber. The inhabitants of the world will, with stunned, astonished, and trembling vocal cords, sing your glories in unison with your intimate devotees, raising a victory call that pierces the sky. It has already begun, and it will only increase. *Kī Jai!*

Thus, you are the personified form of *parā-vidyā-vāṇī* (the message of spiritual knowledge), which shows all living beings how to perform *kṛṣṇa-bhajana*. By the power of your words, which are surcharged with *cetana* (spiritual consciousness), hundreds of thousands — if not millions — have already become seekers of the



highest truth and have engaged themselves in *hari-bhajana*. This is unprecedented, and can never be surpassed, and yet the seeds you planted continue to grow.

There is more to say, but I will end here. If I were to express it all, I would have to live for unlimited lifetimes, and even then, I would fall short. Jai Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*dīnātidīna*—the most fallen of the fallen, *śrī-carāṇa-reṇu-bhikhārī*—a beggar of your sacred footdust as one of your unworthy children, *dāsānudāsa*,

Satyarāja Dāsa

Initiation: 1975, July—Chicago, USA

Current location: New York, USA

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## Vaiyasaki Dasa

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Guru and Gaurāṅga.

This is my 52nd year serving your mission, and I am still traveling around the world doing as you were doing – spreading the teachings of Lord Chaitanya’s mission. Because of your mercy upon me I have spent the majority of this life executing devotional service to the Supreme Lord.

Devotees are always inviting me to lead *kīrtana*, give *Bhāgavat kathā* classes, and to share my Śrīla Prabhupāda memories. During this past year I have preached in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Russia, and India.

Now I am 81 years old. I am blessed to be able to continue spreading the glories of the holy name as best I can. My health is fairly good, but I do experience shortness of breath from time to time, which is not ideal for leading *kīrtanas*. I am also experiencing the deterioration of the senses and bodily energy, as you did, and as Haridāsa Ṭhākur did. Yet, I continue traveling to share the glories of

Krishna consciousness because it makes me very happy.

I remember what you taught from your bed in Vṛndāvana during the last days of your manifest pastimes, “Don’t think this won’t happen to you.”

I am grateful that I have lost interest and involvement in the desires of my youth. My *kīrtanas* are my way of saying ‘thank you’ to Rādhā-Dāmodara for all They have given me in this life. My talks are only to present the *divya jñāna* I received from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that I share with the next generation.

One devotee in Russia wrote to me, saying that, “I am very grateful to Krishna for meeting you, because it made me closer to Śrīla Prabhupāda. I can see him in your eyes.”

May I request your blessing, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that I can continue preaching for another 20 years before I depart this world. I want to continue to bring your teachings, and your pastimes, to the younger devotees.

Begging for the shelter of your lotus feet, I strive to remain your surrendered servant.

Vaiyasaki Dasa

Initiation: 1975, July—San Francisco, USA

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## Dayanidhi Dasa

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my most respectful *daṇḍavats* at the dust of your Divine Lotus Feet!

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktioedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are such eminent devotee, that even only to offer my obeisances to you is such an honour for me! To have been in your divine presence is a such a privilege for me! You are so kind that you accepted such stobber materialistic person like me and engage me in your Mission in many places and now in Greece! Thank you so much. To give my entire life to your service and Mission will be not enough. It is nothing compared to what you have given me!

This year is a very special year for me. It's 50 years ago that in the end of May you visited us in Rome. I met you the year before in the form of *vāṇī*, and now I saw you directly! I was constantly engaged in the service of the instructions of your devotees! Like I'm even today doing after 51 years! Service to your servitors is been always my priority in our ISKCON Mission! Somaka Prabhu committed me to support the back of your newly done *vyāsāsana*. We were afraid that he couldn't support you. I remained for a long time with my arms raised to support the Vyāsāsana backrest. Thank you for accepting my little service during your preaching! I know how much you sacrificed for us, your disciples! How much you love us! You personally wrote 26/12/71 to a disciple:

“You are more dear to me than my own sons and daughters!”

Your sacrifices for us are deeply impressed in my heart. I'm now 70 years old, and the last part of my life is beginning. Fortunately my health is steel strong like a young *brahmacārī*, and please Śrīla Prabhupāda I want to continue in your Mission like now I'm in Greece and going out every day distributing your *Bhagavad Gītā* explaining your glories to everyone I meet! Please give me this privilege till the last breath with complete faith in your words as you did for your Spiritual Master! I don't need anything else: *parā bhaktir*, supreme faith in your instructions! Please, please, please Śrīla Prabhupāda grant me this privilege life after life. Where can I be without you?!?! Without speaking about you to everybody, without distributing your *Gītā*, without endeavouring for your Mission, where I can go, where I can be? Nowhere! You are my life and soul, dearest Lord and Master! I know that these are big requests for an insignificant insect like me! I know this very well! But my stubbornness for your lotus feet gives me no relief!

Please dear, Śrīla Prabhupāda, give me relief and keep me at your door forever and wherever you go! I don't have any other hope and I don't want to have any other hope than you! Studying the *Bhagavad-gītā* and the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* very carefully every day, year after year, I see in you the representation of the *Bhāgavata* person! *Vede gāya janhāra carito!* It is about you that the Vedas speak!

*Your unworthy but very determined servant of your servants,*

Dayanidhi Dasa  
Initiation: 1975, August—Paris, France  
Current location: Athens, Greece  
Contact: dayanidhidasacbsp@gmail.com

## Anandamaya Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Although you saved us (your disciples) from voidism and impersonalism, currently the western world is beset by creeping atheism, rampant sense gratification, increasing immorality, whimsical (concocted) religiosity and incomplete theistic conceptions since it lacks the conception of a Purushottama, a Supreme Personality of Godhead.

I thank you millions of times for your wondrous books; your *Kṛṣṇa* book saved my life by kindling my dormant Krishna consciousness. Otherwise, I was and likely would have remained merely another lost soul. I am not particularly studious and only occasionally study your books in a systematic manner. However, I am fond of opening them and reading a few paragraphs or pages. Everytime I do this, Krishna directs me to exactly what I need to hear from Your Divine Grace. Some might say that to read in this manner is “random,” but we as Vaishnavas do not believe in “random,” which my dictionary defines, in part, as ‘lacking a definite plan, purpose, or pattern. Nay, this is not random, this is Krishna’s hand writing directly through your hand and it is my great good fortune to somehow come into contact with such a divine plan and divine purpose as espoused by your glorious divine self.

By following your instructions, though admittedly imperfectly, I definitely feel that I am slowly coming into alignment with Krishna’s divine plan and that some day I will fully harmonize with it and serve it in complete purity. For now, I attempt to emulate your magnanimous mood by continuing to distribute your books

to the Little Free Libraries in my locale, and I occasionally receive an opportunity to not only leave a book, but to distribute one to a person right at the book box or elsewhere.

Gaura Hari Bol! Pranams.

*Your disciple and servant,*

Anandamaya Dasa

Initiation: 1975, October—Vancouver, Canada

Current location: Soquel, CA, USA

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## Sriniketan Dasa

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- Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your divine appearance day on this planet.

You have appeared to spread the Saṅkīrtana movement of Lord Caitanya and to fulfil the prediction that Mahāprabhu Himself made...that His name would be chanted in every town and village of the world. This prediction has been there for more than 500 years.

But for some reason or other no one ever thought that this prediction could be fulfilled – that is except Śrīla Bhaktinoda Thakur and Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thakur. For the great majority of Vaiṣṇavas during the ages, it was more like wishful thinking. And so it remained until your Guru Mahārāja took up the mission of Lord Caitanya and started Gauḍīya Math.

Even on your first meeting with him he instructed you to preach this message to the English speaking world. That means he had been waiting for the right person to turn up who could take up this “impossible” task.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta planted this idea in your heart, and you could never forget it. You kept meditating and trying to find a way to execute this order of your Guru Mahārāja.

Eventually, after struggling for over 40 years you managed to get a passage on the *Jaladuta* to New York. A few days before you embarked on your voyage you went to Advaita Bhavan in Shantipur to seek Lord Advaita Ācārya’s mercy. Upon being questioned by the inquisitive *pūjārī* you replied, “My Guru Mahārāja has given me an impossible task”.

You set off from Calcutta, and with much difficulty you reached

your destination in September 1965. Poor, without a fixed place to stay, with no support from anyone, alone in a strange city you wandered through Manhattan, observing the situation Lord Krishna had placed you in. A few times you were on the point of returning to India on the next boat. And on top of everything you were forced to cohabit with a Māyāvādī preacher.

In 1966, however, Krishna turned the tide and things started to look more promising. Some young people, attracted to the kirtan, started to join up with you, and you registered The International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Fast forward to 1976, ten years later, Now your ISKCON owned a skyscraper in Manhattan. There were hundreds of devotees in the temple, and Rathayātrā was going to be held, parading down 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the most important street in the most important city of the world.

You rode on Lady Subhadrā's 55 ft tall cart. Hundreds of devotees were chanting and dancing for your pleasure. It was truly miraculous.

The Swami, who in 1965 walked aimlessly around the city with hardly a few pennies in his pocket was now riding down 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue on a huge cart! It was something to be proud of!

Reflecting and meditating on this makes my hair stand on end. What a chance I had that you accepted me as your disciple.

I can only beg you on this day to engage me in your service, life after life. There is truly nothing else worth living for. Let me always be able to meditate on your glorious presence and activities while you were on this planet among us.

Thank you for fulfilling this desire.

P.S. As I get spiritually enthused by remembering these wonderful activities of yours, please give me the capacity to inspire and motivate others about your pastimes.

*Your aspiring servant,*

Sriniketan Dasa

Initiation: 1975, October—Mauritius

Our dearest divine Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to YOU, our spiritual master, our Founder-Ācārya and ever well wisher always.

Your Vyāsa-pūjā is the perfect time of the year when we can all meditate on you more deeply. When all the cherished remembrances and sweet memories are churned up once again. These memories strengthen our resolve, awaken our glories of you and allow us to come face to face with how much our love for you has deepened over the years.

I remember sitting at your divine lotus feet when you were giving *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* classes daily in Hawaii. I would get fixated on your hands that moved with such grace as you spoke of other universes, other millenia while stating such deep personal knowledge of every aspect of Krishna consciousness.

You said, "There are many universes and in each of these universes, there are millions of planets. And on every planet there is *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. And in each *Bhāgavatam* there is mention of our ISKCON movement – where the *mlecchas* and *yavanas* are joyfully singing and dancing with the Holy Names in their hearts and on their tongues!"

I will never forget that moment as well as so many others like the time you had just finished translating the 4th canto and talking about the living entities, their desires as they roam, life time after life time, propelled by those desires of the material realm.

Nārada Muni was speaking to King Prācīnabarhi and as you related this, I began to feel little taps upon my forehead just like you were tossing ping pong balls against my head to garner my attention. With your words floating all around me, I also felt like your hands were inside my brain stretching and pulling one way and then another, just like someone pulls taffy or stretches dough. Next there were popping, quietly exploding sounds inside my brain just as if all my synapses were waking up to your magical, musical, potent sentences.

One time Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were speaking about what an exalted devotee Devahūti was – born a princess, raised in a palace with so many maidservants, jewels, great wealth and a comfortable life.

Yet she married a humble Sage, Kardama Muni, and had to

adjust to living in a thatched hut by a river.

She had to do all the cooking, laundering, gathering wood, building fires and other household duties. But she did it all with determination and a cheerful attitude. You remarked first about her positive attitude, when detailing her spiritual progress. First, because of her simplicity, humility developed. That humility grew and produced purity.

Due to her purity, realized spiritual knowledge was bestowed upon her which became spiritual advancement with strong faithfulness—ultimately resulting in her total surrender to the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

Your words were powerful and each word was landing deeply in my heart, moving me to tears. First, a good attitude. Then simplicity, humility, purity, self-realization, deepening faith, and culminating in full surrender. What a great devotee she was, I was thinking. What a great example she was for us all.

I was sitting in the corner furthest away from you at the very back of the room. I had my sari headpiece pulled down over my face, covering my eyes with tears that were flowing down my cheeks while weeping silently.

Then I heard you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, say something astounding, as if you were speaking right to me. You stated just as strongly, “These tears are putting OUT the Fire of material existence.”

You repeated it again. “These tears are putting out the fire of material existence.”

So I thought maybe some others were crying also.

It was always so wonderful to be in your presence, to hear your classes that did stretch my brain in many ways and the charming way you made jokes, so very cherishable. I miss your humor so much too. Your unique way of pronouncing certain English words. All of it was so enjoyable.

I listened to the stories of all the devotees that came before me “in the early days of the 60s”, so that I can remember and relive again through them your ecstatic presence, your speech, pure knowledge, your devotion and the mantle of unmistakable honesty and TRUTH that you always carried with you!

My goal is to always be with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda – near your lotus feet eternally.

While I am not worthy of your divine association and relationship, I am trying to please you in my service to you. With



just my poor attempts at this service, still I am filled with gratitude for being your disciple.

May I one day wake up to the full knowledge of your magnificence and be filled with gratitude for having you to guide me in all the rest of my lives into the future.

*Your humble servant,*

Mahavisnupriya Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1975, November—Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Current location: Alachua, Florida, USA

Contact: mvp1081@gmail.com

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## Narakantaka Dasa

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble and respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. That spiritual dust carries with it the transcendental aroma of Śrī Krishna's Holy Dhāma – Śrī Vṛndāvana.

You are fearless.

Your lotus-like feet are always uncontaminated, above the muddy waters of the modes of material nature.

Your Bhaktivedanta purports are like the hot sun who clears away the fog. They sweep away the foggy impersonal and nihilist philosophies and establish pure devotional service to Lord Śrī Krishna as the ultimate Vedic conclusion.

You are Śrīla Prabhupāda. All the Prabhus are sitting at your divine lotus feet.

His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī, jaya!*

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You are Abhay, the fearless Hero,  
Whose words, ringing through his ear,  
Make the rascal *māyāvādī*

Run and flee fueled by fear.

Burning deep, with fiery ink  
Flowing from your every page,  
Your “purports”, severe and daring,  
Scare this dreadful Dark Age.

Yes, this fierce Material Ocean  
Is itself fearing your fame,  
Since you’re shrinking it to nothing  
Chanting Krishna’s Holy Name.

Lord Śrī Krishna is your shelter,  
Your true love for Him is pure,  
That is why you fear no one  
And your triumph is assured.

Yours are *Caraṇāravinda*,  
-Lotus-like soft tender feet-  
Whose soles’ dust bestows your mercy,  
To everyone, fit and unfit.

Holding in their mind’s quiet lake  
Your lotus feet like precious gems,  
Devotees, just like the swans,  
Twine their thoughts around those stems.

‘Cause your transcendental feet,  
Like that raised lotus bud,  
While on these Material Waters,  
Are untouched by *māyā*’s mud.

All the people who board your  
*Caraṇāravinda* vessel,  
Cross this sea of brawls with ease.  
Out of this eternal wrestle.

Your name is “*Bhaktivedānta*”;  
Bhakti marks all Vedas’ ends.  
Pure devotion to Lord Krishna,  
Is where Absolute Truth stands.

*yām imāṁ puṣpitām vācam,*  
All those flowery *Vedas'* words,  
Can confuse men of poor knowledge  
Who just hunt paltry rewards.

They will never get the point,  
Wasting thus their precious time  
Either by worshipping *devas*  
Or the light from the Sublime.

Every verse of Vedic wisdom  
Aims at Krishna, at all degree.  
Only a true *Bhaktivedānta*  
Has the right eyes to see.

All the saints, *sādhus* and *bhaktas*,  
Of all castes, sects and creeds,  
Bow down at your holy feet,  
In awe of your stunning deeds.

That's true not just for us, *śiṣyas*,  
But it's true for all those who  
Are not blinded by false ego  
And are not envious of you.

Inspired by your pure devotion  
To Lord Krishna's Holy Name  
Many are following your footsteps  
Gaining their spiritual fame.

For the pleasure of Śrī Kṛṣṇa,  
In this transcendental race,  
You shine on above the victors;  
**Prabhupāda! His Divine Grace!**

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Most merciful Lords Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi – Mahā-vadānyāya, this  
is my only prayer: "Please, never make me forget Śrīla Prabhupāda.

"Please engage me in the service of His Divine Grace's lotus feet  
life after life.

“Please do not let Your *māyā* deceive me.

“Please, make me always remember Śrīla Prabhupāda’s instructions and pastimes so that, no matter where I will be, I can live forever with His Divine Grace”.

*Your humble and respectful servant,*

Narakantaka Dasa

Initiation: 1975, November—Rome, Italy

Current location: Italy

Contact: segreteria@associazionevedica.it

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## Isvaripati Dasa

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīne*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We were recently reading from Satsvarūpa Mahārāja’s *Līlāmṛta* about your first airplane ride to San Francisco and the greeting you received at the airport from Mukunda, Jānakī, Sam, Melanie, and fifty or so hippies. Mukunda mentioned in the memoir that, “They were all chanting Hare Krishna to greet you without you having said a word.”

As we read that passage, I thought back to “our moment” in 1975 in Chicago, where I was mentally yelling at you to give me a sign of your validity as you began *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class. You had of course heard me and appeared to be a bit disturbed by the mental commotion I was making. You looked directly at me, and I immediately understood that you did hear me. As so many others have said, I felt as though you looked right through me. Thank you so very much for that moment!

As we read in the *Līlāmṛta*, it was said that you smiled at the devotees and hippies there at the airport, and they offered you flowers, and you offered them back. I was wondering, did you see through all of them as you did me in Chicago?

I can only assume that you could have seen through them too,

and did in some cases, seeing some future devotees in all their glory, seeing some that would have trouble along the path, and seeing yet others who would have much more work to do before taking up serious devotional service. There you were, appearing before them, smiling, beaming, touching their hearts, accepting their offerings and returning *prasādam* flowers back to them. I wonder, how many souls began their liberation at that moment?

As you progressed to Baggage Claim accompanied by the kirtan, it was said that some people there were amused, and others were feeling joy. So, there's another group of people whose hearts were touched by your presence.

This was just a snapshot in time of your stay here on the planet, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You circumnavigated the globe many times while you were here. How many hearts did you touch? How many people did you jump-start on their paths to pure devotional service? Certainly this is unfathomable to me, but I do know you touched many, many lives!

Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for touching so many lives and allowing me to be a part of this Śrī Krishna Saṅkīrtan! Thank you for lifting me up and opening my eyes! You are my lord birth after birth!

*Your eternal Servant,*

Isvaripati Dasa

Initiation: 1976, January—St Louis, Missouri, USA

## Drutakarma Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on your appearance day.

The time and place of your appearance in this world are worthy of celebration for me, because they made it possible that you could appear in my life. Exactly when and where was that? Was it in Berkeley in the late 1960s, as I was running down Telegraph Avenue, with tear gas burning my eyes, being chased by club-wielding police, along with other demonstrators, and I noticed your followers chanting the Hare Krishna mantra on the other side of the street? Or was it later, when I was sitting on a park bench in St. Petersburg,

Florida, and I was approached by a girl in a *sārī*, who offered me a copy of your *Back to Godhead* magazine, and I refused to take it? Or was it when I accepted a copy of your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* from your followers after giving them a donation at a Grateful Dead concert, and saw for the first time your name His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness? Or was it when I ordered a subscription to your tape ministry and heard for the first time your illusion shattering voice? Or was it in 1974 in New Vrindaban when I first saw you in your physical form? Whenever and wherever it happened, your appearance in my life is and always will be its most significant event.

I pray that I do not misuse the opportunity you have mercifully given me, to render you some service.

*I dare to call myself,  
Your servant,*

Drutakarma Dasa

Initiation: 1976, January—Miami, Florida, USA

Current location: California, USA

## Aniha Dasa

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*namaḥ om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale  
svāmī śrī-bhaktivedānta prabhupādāya te namaḥ  
guruvajñānāṁ śīrasi-dhāryaṁ śaktyaveśa-svarūpine  
hare kṛṣṇeti-mantrena pāścatya-prācyā tāriṇe  
viśvācārya pravaryāya divya kārūṇya-mūrtaye  
śrī bhāgavata-mādhurya gītā-jñāna-pradāyine  
gaura-śrī-rūpa-siddhānta-sarasvatī niṣevine  
rādhā-kṛṣṇa-padāmbhoja-bhṛṅgāya gurave namaḥ*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet, and at the lotus feet of all your disciples, my godbrothers and godsisters, who freely distribute your mercy.

*kṛṣṇa-preṣṭha, bhakti-śreṣṭha, nityānandāveśe  
patīta-durjana prema-saubhāg ya prakāśe*

“Śrīla Prabhupāda is very dear to Kṛṣṇa, and he is the best of millions

of devotees. He is empowered by Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu and he has manifest love of Kṛṣṇa to save the fallen souls.”

This is verse four of Śrīpad BG Narasingha Maharaja’s composition, ‘Śrīla Prabhupāda Āratī’, describing Śrīla Prabhupāda as the *śaktyāveśa* of Lord Nityānanda.

In connection to Lord Caitanya’s empowering of Śrīla Sanātana Gosvami, Śrīla Prabhupāda said:

“Without being empowered by Kṛṣṇa, nobody can preach the holy name of the Lord. *Kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe nāma pracāraṇa*. So without getting the power of attorney... Just like even one is qualified lawyer, he must get the power of attorney from the client, then he can speak. That is the law. Similarly, without being endowed with the power of attorney from Kṛṣṇa, it is not possible to preach.”  
(Lecture, *CC Madhya* 20.105, New York, 11 July 1976.)

Śrīla Prabhupāda’s preaching success was unprecedented. It is said the first senior devotee to declare Śrīla Prabhupāda as the *śaktyāveśa avatara* of Lord Nityānanda was his godbrother, Śrīla Bhakti Vichār Jājāvar Mahārāj, who had been present at Śrīla Prabhupāda’s *samādhi* ceremony and, returning to Nabadwip, conveyed his realisation to his godbrothers; Śrīla B. R. Śrīdhara affirmed his statement as truth and, as the most respected among the godbrothers, his affirmation that Śrīla Prabhupāda was the *śaktyāveśa* of Lord Nityānanda became accepted by all the senior disciples of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Thākura.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:

“He was so earnest in his prayer to Kṛṣṇa that he may discharge the duty that he has been given by his guru mahārāja, that divine force, power, came down to help him. Otherwise, it is impossible. It is not a thing of the ordinary level that anyone can do – take the highest thing to the lowest position so extensively. It cannot but be the divine power, embodied and in a great intensity and magnitude! So, *śaktyāveśa-avatāra*, I cannot but take him to be so.”

How do we please the *śaktyāveśa-avatar* of Lord Nityānanda? Lord Nityānanda’s instruction is as follows: *bhaja gaurāṅga, kaha gaurāṅga laha gaurāṅgera nāme, yei jana gaurāṅga bhaje sei amāra prāṇa!* “Worship Gaurāṅga speak of Gaurāṅga, chant Gaurāṅga’s name. Whoever

worships Śrī Gaurāṅga is My life and soul.”

*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 11.5.32 tells us that worship of Gaurāṅga is achieved by the process of *Harināma Saṅkīrtana*. By *Harināma Saṅkīrtana*, Śrīla Prabhupāda made the Hare Krishna movement known all over the world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, may we always remain insignificant servants in your mission to bring *Harināma Saṅkīrtana* to every town and village.

*Your fallen servant,*

Anīha Dasa

Initiation: 1976, February—France

Current location: Leicester, UK

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## Hansarupa Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to your sweet lotus feet and the sincere devotees who take shelter there.

I remember hearing your statement, as you were preparing to conclude your manifest pastimes and return to your beloved Lord, “don’t be surprised who leaves, be surprised who stays”. At the time it was difficult for me to comprehend all of what you meant by foretelling that scenario, but I took it to mean that one’s perseverance and tolerance would be tested. So, I prayed to you and begged for the resolve to be determined, not a deserter who leaves the field of battle.

So many justifications have been put forward to excuse one’s departure from your beloved ISKCON, for this reason or that. But it comes down to this; it is always our choice whether to stay or to leave.

Now, after so many years have passed since your departure, a new meaning has come to mind; one that I never considered during our younger days, and that is how many of our godbrothers and godsisters who were your frontline disciples are leaving to be with you. This is certainly a concern, because I don’t know your plan for those of us who remain.

There are others who have declared, “I didn’t leave ISKCON, ISKCON left me...” Regardless of the semantics, I feel more determined than ever to protect ‘your’ Society from any threats, internal or external, in order to preserve what you gave us and allow



the next generation, who are again joining in numbers reminiscent of the 1970s, a chance to implement their realization of your sublime instructions carefully preserved in your books and lectures.

This is the least I can do to try and honor the debt I owe to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. I know full well that I can never repay the undeserving mercy you have bestowed upon this fallen servant. I therefore solemnly pledge on this, your 128th appearance anniversary, to continue serving Your Divine Grace, with all my heart and soul, no reservation; until I am no longer fit to do so. Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī*, Jai!!!

*Begging to remain in your service birth after birth,  
Your aspiring servant,*

Hansarupa Dasa

Initiation: 1976, March—Vrindavana, India

Current location: Radha Govinda Temple,  
Brooklyn, New York, USA

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## Haridasa Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you on your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration day.

Perhaps on Tuesday, September 21, 1965, the day after you arrived in Butler Pennsylvania, Gopal Agarwal showed you the local newspaper, *The Butler Eagle*. The front-page headline reported skirmishes between India and Pakistan on the eve of their signing a truce the next day. That would be Wednesday, September, 22<sup>nd</sup>, the same day a feature article would appear reporting the arrival in Butler of the *Ambassador of Bhakti Yoga*, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swamiji, who “. . . is now fulfilling a commission from his spiritual master to enlighten English-speaking people regarding their relationship with God.” When all other news reported over centuries by the *Butler Eagle* has long since faded from memory, this article about you, which is quoted in the *Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛita*, will still be remembered for millennia.

The *Butler Eagle* regularly published “A Prayer” on its front page and on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, it read:

OUR HEAVENLY Father,  
teach us the value of little  
deeds as well as bigger ones.  
Forgive us our neglectfulness  
when there have been worth-  
while things to do. Too often  
we interpret our deeds in  
terms of our benefit. Help  
us to see that love is the motive  
for true service. This we  
ask in the name of Christ.  
Amen.

This thoughtful, little prayer was written by Mrs. Penny Ritts, a reporter who wrote the daily prayer for the *Butler Eagle* for many years, and who would the next day write the feature article about you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Mrs. Ritts interviewed you at the Agarwal's home, and whether she sensed it or not, because *vapuh* association may or may not be appreciated, her prayer of the day before had received a quick reply. For you were the ideal person to help Mrs. Ritts, and all of us, "... see that *love* is the motive for true service."

Your mission of "reviving a people's God consciousness," as you described it to Mrs. Ritts, was grounded in love for your spiritual master and Śrī Krishna. It was love manifested as duty that brought you to America just five days before this first article publicly announced your mission.

This *little* prayer published in a small-town newspaper received a *big* answer that I trust helped Mrs. Ritts, and all others, see that your motive of love manifested as true service could perform miracles by changing hearts, saving souls, and spreading Lord Caitanya's *Saṅkīrtan* movement all over the world.

*With great respect, a servant of your servants honors you today.*

Haridasa Dasa

Initiation: 1976, March—Māyāpur, India

Current location: FV

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda

On this auspicious day I offer my obeisances unto your Lotus Feet. All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā Rāsabihārī and all glories to you.

This year we went traveling by car to many of your temples in India. We went from Mumbai to Nasik, Kargoan, Ujjain, Jhansi, and finally came to Ayodhyā. In Ayodhyā where Lord Rāmachandra's temple opened, we stayed 7 days. In those 7 days we had Darshan of Lord Rām and also participated in Hari Nām Saṅkīrtan. Your ISKCON had a camp that distributed *prasādam* to thousands of people every day. Also, over 200 thousand *Bhagavad-gītās* were distributed in one month. The Padayātrā Deities were carried on the bullock cart and the devotees performed Saṅkīrtan. Everyday thousands of pilgrims heard the Holy names and got your transcendental literatures.

In Jhansi, where you started the League of Devotees, the preaching is doing very nicely. This is your causeless mercy, for without your mercy this preaching would not be possible.

Mahāprabhu predicted in *Chaitanya Bhagavata* [Antya 4.126]:

*Prthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma.*

My name will be chanted in every town and village.

In Māyāpur, people are coming like anything to have darshan of Pañcatattva, Rādhā Mādhava, and Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva. Those who come are very blissful to see the Deities. Many people come with their whole family and stay in the guesthouse.

In Māyāpur this year the opening of the Nṛsiṁhadeva wing in the TOVP was celebrated. Devotees from all over the world participated in the festival.

After the opening, the *abhishek* of the Pañcatattva Deities was gorgeously performed.

Every Saturday there is a procession taking small Rādhā Mādhava on the elephant's back. The Gurukula boys play drums like the military. Gaura Nitāi, from the *bhajan kuṭir*, ride on a bullock cart. The devotees make *raṅgolī* on the road and offer various kinds of foodstuffs to the Lord. People come from far off places to see the procession. Different householders make offerings and do *ārotik* and the elephants only take some of the offerings after the items become *prasādam*.

Before the Gaura Pūrṇimā festival, the devotees took the Lord for a boat ride in the pond near the Samādhī. The boat was nicely

decorated with flowers and lights. After the boat festival the devotees take the Lord for the swing festival. Devotees were enjoying one after another festival.

There was a drama directed by Bhaktimārga Swami, The age of Kali, which the devotees performed for 6 days to a full house crowd. The play was received by the devotees with appreciation.

You Spiritual Master Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saravatī Goswami Ṭhākura was taken in a grand procession to celebrate his 150<sup>th</sup> appearance day anniversary. Later in a pandal program many leaders from ISKCON and the Gauḍīya Math spoke about the glories of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Goswami Mahārāj, your glorious master.

On Gaura Pūrṇimā day the temple was full of public and devotees. *Prasādam* distribution was well organized on that day. The devotee performed *abhishek* for the Pancatattva and Mahāprabhu.

In the places Lord Chaitanya visited in Vrindavan His Holiness Jayapataka Swami established 34 Lord Chaitanya Pādapīṭam. Surely this could only happen by your causeless mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the devotees from around the world distributed over 5000 sets of *Chaitanya Caritāmṛta* for your pleasure.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we need your mercy every moment so we don't fall into Māyā. Please continue to shower your causeless mercy on us birth after birth.

*Your servant,*

Jalatala Devi dasi

Initiation: 1976, March—Māyāpur, India

Current location: India

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## Arjuna Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīnī*

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

On this most holy of all days, O beloved Lord and Master, we again feel so blessed to be able to glorify you and worship your lotus feet.

Thank you for always engaging me in service to your lotus feet and to your glorious ISKCON.

In your astounding *Chaitanya Charitāmṛta*, Ādi-lilā chapter 7, verses 13 to 31, you have written:

“Śrī Advaita Ācārya is Lord Caitanya’s incarnation as a devotee. Therefore these three *tattoas* [Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda Prabhu and Advaita Gosāñi] are the pre-dominators, or masters.

*eka mahāprabhu, āra prabhu duijana  
dui prabhu seve mahāprabhura caraṇa*

One of Them is Mahāprabhu, and the other two are *prabhus*. These two *prabhus* serve the lotus feet of Mahāprabhu.

“The three pre-dominators [Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda Prabhu and Advaita Prabhu] are worshipable by all living entities, and the fourth principle, Śrī Gadādhara Prabhu, is to be understood as Their worshipper. There are innumerable pure devotees of the Lord, headed by Śrīvāsa Thākura, who are known as unalloyed pure devotees.

“The devotees headed by Gadādhara Paṇḍita are to be considered incarnations of the internal potency of the Lord. They are confidential devotees engaged in the service of the Lord. The characteristics of Krishna are understood to be a storehouse of transcendental love. Although that storehouse of love certainly came with Krishna when He was present, it was sealed. But when Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu came with His associates of the Pañca-tattva, they broke the seal and plundered the storehouse to taste transcendental love of Krishna. The more they tasted it, the more their thirst for it grew.

“Śrī Pañca-tattva themselves danced again and again and thus made it easier to drink nectarean love of Godhead. They danced, cried, laughed and chanted like madmen, and in this way they distributed love of Godhead.

“In distributing love of Godhead, Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His associates did not consider who was a fit candidate and who was not, nor where such distribution should or should not take place. They made no conditions. Wherever they got the opportunity, the members of the Pañca-tattva distributed love of Godhead.

“Although the members of the Pañca-tattva plundered the storehouse of love of Godhead and ate and distributed its contents, there was no scarcity, for this wonderful storehouse is so complete that as the love is distributed, the supply increases hundreds of times.

“The flood of love of Godhead swelled in all directions, and thus young men, old men, women and children were all immersed in that inundation.

“The Krishna consciousness movement will inundate the entire world and drown everyone, whether one be a gentleman, a rogue or even lame, invalid or blind.

“When the five members of the Pañca-tattva saw the entire world drowned in love of Godhead and the seed of material enjoyment in the living entities completely destroyed, they all became exceedingly happy.

“The more the five members of the Pañca-tattva cause the rains of love of Godhead to fall, the more the inundation increases and spreads all over the world.

“The impersonalists, fruitive workers, false logicians, blasphemers, non-devotees and lowest among the student community are very expert in avoiding the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, and therefore the inundation of Krishna consciousness cannot touch them.

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

Your Divine Grace is the principal canal that Lord Nityānanda has cut from the reservoir of that love of Godhead and you expertly spread that Vanyā or flood of Their love around the whole world, and you are most kindly still doing so. Your love was constantly visible for those of us who had the highest good fortune to have seen and served your lotus self.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are also one of the principal means that Lord Chaitanya devised by sending you to this miserable material world to save us fallen fools who are wallowing like hogs in the stool of sense gratification. You are His Senāpati, the great general in His army of devotees. You have convinced us all and are still convincing everyone who sincerely reads your BBT books to seriously take up following Lord Chaitanya’s liberating instructions and thus perfecting our lives. In your purport to Ādi-līlā, 6.28, you instruct us, “The Personality of Godhead and His different incarnations and forms played the parts of devotees to instruct the conditioned souls how to approach the transcendental stage of devotional service. Advaita Ācārya especially intended to teach the

conditioned souls about devotional service. The word *ācārya* means “teacher.” The special function of such a teacher is to make people Krishna conscious. A bona fide teacher following in the footsteps of Advaita Ācārya has no other business than to spread the principles of Krishna consciousness all over the world. The real qualification of an *ācārya* is that he presents himself as a servant of the Supreme.”

Thus Your Divine Grace is the quintessence of all Ācāryas personified. When I read Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī’s *Sārārtha Varṣiṇī Tīkā* commentary of *Bhagavad-gītā* by your most excellent disciple H. H. Bhānu Mahārāja, I got a shock. I realized how if I had read that commentary, I would not have become a devotee. The shock was realizing that you were a greater teacher than that venerable Ācārya Thakur. Śrīla Siddha Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī, in his instructions for his disciples, taught, “You must avoid women, men who associate with women, or even with a man who in any way associates with a man who associates with a woman.” But your most influential representatives who helped you expand your preaching movement were your female disciples like Yamunā, Mālatī, Jānakī, Govinda dāsī, Kauśalyā and countless others, who convinced most of your male bodied disciples to surrender unto your lotus feet. You taught us the highest truth that we are all *prakṛti* as *jīva* spirit souls; we are all female, Krishna being the only *puruṣa* or male. There are never any other males present in Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā Krishna’s *rāsa-līlā*. Thus you crush the false pride or the *abhimāna* of the *puruṣa* conception of your male-bodied disciples with their *ahaṅkāra* – *aham-kāra*, “I am the doer” mentality. *Ahaṅkāra-vimūḍhātma kartāham iti manyate* [Bg. 3.27].

Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja taught, “Never forget Gaura who is more merciful and benevolent than Krishna. Krishna is like a just ruler who takes into account your offences in His administration of justice. Gaura does not take your offences into account. Whereas, Krishna is more interested in the dispensation of justice, Gaura is more interested in the distribution of mercy. From this point of view, Gaura-kīrtana is more useful than Krishna-kīrtana.” And “Krishna is the *avatāra* of Dvāpara-yuga. Gaura is the Kali-yuga *avatāra*. We should sing the name and glories of the *avatāra* in whose yuga we live, just as in a kingdom we praise the ruling king.” But you once sent Harikeśa Swami to stop the kirtan and instructed that the Pañcha-tattva mantra should only be chanted three times in kirtans. Why? You knew that the Pañcha-tattva prefer hearing the *mahā-mantra*

instead of their own names being chanted. Which means you are always aware of Their presence because you always see Them and live with Them while most of the rest of us remain stuck in this external illusory reality. Thus you are the greatest Ācārya who has ever lived, truly Mahāprabhu's Senāpati envoy to save the world!

All glories to Your Divine Grace *om viṣṇupāda paramahaṁsa parivrājakācārya aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad Abhaya-caraṇāravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, patita-pāvana śrī-sad-gurudevāya, loka-traya-mohānta-guru jagater-nātha, mahāśaya parama kṛṣṇānandāya karuṇaika-sindho! Tavaivāsmi! tavaivāsmi* dearest Guru Mahārāja! *Nityo namo namaḥ!* I am yours!

*Thanking you from the bottom of my heart and humbly begging Your Divine Grace to kindly allow me to eternally remain your servant and your servants' servant,*

Arjuna Dasa

Initiation: 1976, April—Vrindavan, India

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## Jagannathesvari Devi Dasi

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To my dearly beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, I offer my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Please accept this humble offering on the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration 2024.

Forty-six years have passed since your departure from this world, and every year that goes by, we miss you more. For those of us who love you, you become closer and closer to our hearts every year that passes. You are still overseeing our progress from afar and urging us to continue carrying out your mission.

You risked everything to find us and bring us back from darkness to the path of devotional service. We owe you our lives. The best way that we can try to repay you is by assisting you in your mission, which is to deliver the Western countries from impersonalism and voidism. This will please you more than anything else because your heart is always anxious to deliver the lost souls who are suffering in this material world.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please keep me always engaged to assist you in whatever way I can. My only desire is to please you in this



way. Thank you for accepting me as your eternal servant. Please allow me to serve you eternally.

*Your insignificant daughter,*

Jagannathesvari Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1976, April—Vrindavan, India

Current location: Watford, UK

## Atitaguna Devi Dasi

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

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

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

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I offer my most humble and sincere obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

We all want love. Fortunate souls who have the opportunity to associate with you in some way have an inkling of what real love, divine love, is.

Not just your radiant presence in person, but your radiant presence in the form of your purports will always inspire the conditioned souls to reach out and cast away preconceived ideas and attitudes and want to touch Krishna's Lotus feet.

That is real love and that is the platform that you want to bring us to. We needed to give up our childish notions concerning material love (which is ultimately selfishness) and grab your golden lotus feet to become spiritually situated.

How to know divine love? You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, completely know Krishna and so you guide us conditioned souls to realize our real position as spirit souls and learn to love Krishna through chanting Krishna's supreme name and by doing devotional service.

I can only begin to repay you with my heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the gift you have given me and all of mankind.

I rejoice at your selflessly coming to the *mleccha's* shores to try to enlighten and inspire us about Krishna consciousness. Oh, happy day, when you arrived in the Western countries, in New York City. What would have been our fate if we hadn't met you? It's hard to say.

The spiritual process is austere but so relishable.

Thank you again for your compassion and willingness to help us suffering individuals. Thank you for helping situate us on the path to learn to love Krishna.

Śrīla Prabhupāda – savior of the whole world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī, jaya!*

*Your trying to be humble servant,*

Atitaguna Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1976, April—Australia

Current location: ISKCON NYC, USA and ISKCON Māyāpur, India

Contact: atita108@gmail.com

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## Damayanti Devi Dasi

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmīne*

*namas te sāravate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Today on your Vyāsa-pūjā day we lovingly worship you and express our deepest gratitude for having saved us from so much unnecessary suffering.

Presently, I am recovering from a serious accident and healing a fractured left leg tibia since December 16, 2023. This stage of healing and learning to walk again after surgery has been a huge challenge with pain management. Thankfully, each day during prayer and *japa* times you show me how to transcend and trust the process. The accident happened during your 2023 book distribution marathon month and actually saved me from making a rather large mistake. Painful lesson but one that has allowed time to intervene as a blessing in order to dive deep in personal inventory. This blessing arrangement was needed in order for Lord Krishna to show

my weaknesses and once again purify my consciousness to better serve your mission.

This last stage of *vānaprastha* ashram continues to free this stubborn soul from the grips of material temptation and now, only by your grace will I be able to carry on with renewed faith in this divine Bhakti yoga path.

Reading this week from a book by Agnidev Das called *Smaraṇam* (*A Garland of Kīrtan*), very inspiring. I pray one day to be able to glorify you more by offering hymns. In the meantime, via the zoom platform, a bhajan singer friend from our choir days together in New Vrindaban have come together to sing and learn the many glorious translations of songs to glorify you and the former *ācāryas*. Another inspired project is to finish a pamphlet book for the children, parents and teachers of your schools – a book to educate with tools how to transcend and process difficult emotions, purified by the Holy Names. Praying for your special mercy each day to complete these projects designed by the Lord.

Please forgive any offences, as I will continue to try my best to share your sacred books with the world; stay connected to “end of life” care and devotee care; run after “Krishna Kīrtans” and try to stay on the pulse of the CPO. Mostly, look forward to being with you once again in the future – for this I pray.

*A soul surrendered to Your Lotus Feet . . .*

Damayanti Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1976, April—Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Current location: Canada/India, presently  
residing in Cowichan Bay, B.C., Canada

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## Gaura Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīnī*

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

You instructed your disciples to visit Mayapur-Vrindavan every

year. I tried to find the exact quote, but was not able. Pragoṣa Prabhu shares:

Pragoṣa das: I walk forward to Prabhupāda sitting at his desk and he was going to drink some water, and I stepped forward and I said, “Śrīla Prabhupāda,” and he was just about to drink and he said, “Yes” I said, “I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for bringing us all here to Mayapur.” Prabhupāda sipped a little water and he said, “Oh, I have not brought you. Chaitanya Mahāprabhu and my Guru Mahārāj, they have brought you.” He said, “Mayapur, Vrindavan, this is your home. The West, that is for preaching.” Then he drank some water. When he stopped drinking the water, he looked back at me and he smiled and he said, “Or for sense gratification.” He said, “So you come every year, take inspiration here in the holy *dhāma*, and then go back to the West and preach vigorously. And then come back again and take inspiration.”

I chose not to come to Mayapur-Vrindavana the past four years, because the globalist *asuras* were forcing people to inject bioweapons, masquerading as ‘vaccines’ which proved to kill millions.

I followed your example to not have blind faith in the philanthropaths, pseudo-scientists and money-hungry “doctors”. Now that the pharmaceutical Rākṣasas made a trillion dollars from their manmade disease, and temporarily stopped bullying people, I thought I better take the opportunity to visit India, and get some devotee association, before they again create artificial restrictions. Who knows, it might be the last opportunity to visit, until they lock us all down again. Initially, I wanted to go on a South India tour, following Lord Caitanya’s pada-yātrā route that I first read about while reading your *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* the first time. I remember as a young *brahmacārī* in 1976 becoming very intrigued to visit the amazing places that Lord Caitanya visited, and now that 50 years have gone by, realize that time is running out, and I better get focused on achieving that goal. This material world is a planet of distractions. If I fail to plan, then I plan to fail. I went out on book distribution for a couple of months in November and January, to raise the funds for the cost of a flight, and a few friends donated towards my airfare and accommodations. After I flew to your hometown of Kolkata at the end of January, I proceeded to Jagannatha Puri for ten days, remembering the three other ecstatic times I had come there. I was also reminded of the bias that the Jagannātha *sevakas*—the have against those who are not “Hindu.” Bhakti-tīrtha Swami expresses

this very well. The main point I got from this is your loyalty to your disciples, by not going into the temple because of the Vaishnava *aparādha* being committed towards them:

Bhakti Tīrtha Swami: Śrīla Prabhupāda’s missionary efforts have resulted in large numbers of “non-Hindus” adopting the path of Vaishnavism. Predictably, many of these foreign devotees have tried to negotiate entry into the Jagannāth temple. Most importantly, the celebrated spiritual master, Prabhupāda himself, visited Puri on January 26, 1977, and although he, being Indian, was personally allowed to enter, he came there only to implore temple authorities on behalf of his Western followers. Prabhupāda argued as follows:

This stumbling block should be dissolved. You want to pack Jagannāth Swami up inside your home, and do not want to allow His mercy to expand. He is Jagannāth, the Lord of the Universe, not only the Lord of Puri, or the Lord of Orissa. He is Jagannāth. Krishna declares in the *Bhagavad-gītā* that He is Lord of all. So why should you deny the inhabitants of the world? Why not allow them the darshan of Jagannāth? Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu never approved such denial. He said, “My name will be spread throughout every town and village in the world.” Now this is being done and people from all over the world are eager to come here. So why do you restrict them?

Of course, if you do not allow these foreigners to enter the temple, there is no loss for them, because Jagannāth has already come to them, and they are worshipping Him. But it is the proper etiquette to show respect to the Vaishnavas. Mahāprabhu has condemned offenses to the Vaishnavas. Since these Vaishnavas are so eager to come to Jagannāth Puri and to see Jagannāth, you should welcome them. I have thus come to specifically request that you remove this restriction and that you be friendly to the foreign devotees.

While Prabhupāda’s words fell on deaf ears, he staged a personal protest that was indeed heard by temple authorities – he refused to go into the temple himself. (*Black Lotus – The Spiritual Journey*)

I met two wonderful devotees in Jagannātha Puri, Raseśvara Gopāl Prabhu and Sahiṣṇu Nitāi Prabhu, who took me around by moto rickshaw or scooter to Śrīla Haridāsa Ṭhākura's Samadhi, Śiddha Bakula, the three *sarovaras* or lakes, such as Indradyumna Sarovara, and the Alarnātha Temple where Lord Caitanya would go when Lord Jagannātha was "ill" for a couple of weeks. I met one godbrother that has been serving there for 35 years, Māyāpuracandra Prabhu, who worships Śrī Śrī Gaura Nitāi there at his center. He also does *seva* at Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya's house, and he reminded me how opening a major temple in Jagannātha Puri was just as important to you as your temples in Mayapur, Vrindavan and Mumbai, but that the *paṇḍas* have interfered with our getting the land required.

After this I went to Mayapur and was hosted very kindly by Śikhi Māhiti Prabhu, who was also a confidant like Rāmāna Prabhu, who I first met at your Chicago temple in 1975. I was able to have darshan of Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva, Pañca-tattva and Rādhā-Mādhava and the Aṣṭasakhīs every morning which was a feast for the eyes, and hear *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class from a wide variety of devotees. More and more godbrothers arrived as the time for the GBC Meetings arrived, and I realize that if I want more association, then I need to organize my schedule to stay longer next time. I learned that about another 45 million dollars is still required to complete the TOVP project.

I proceeded on to Mumbai, where your Life Member, Vaidya Vijaya Kushvaha, made arrangements for me to reside, while I received dental treatment at your Bhaktivedanta Hospital. I resided at the Rādhā-Giridhārī Temple across the street from the hospital for a few weeks and was treated with great kindness and hospitality. I had lots of opportunities, every day, to give classes, lead kirtans, and really feel like a full-time devotee of Lord Caitanya's Sāṅkīrtana Movement. I also visited Govardhan Eco Village which was amazing, visiting the 45 diorama exhibits of Lord Krishna's *līlās* as you have given us in *Krishna* book, as well as replicas of temples in Vrindavan like Madan Mohan Temple and Rādhā Dāmodara. Thank you very much Śrīla Prabhupāda for creating all of these wonderful facilities, where we can feel at home in Krishna consciousness, and where we can recharge our spiritual batteries to come back to the west and continue to spread your mission for others to receive your books and hear the chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra, and receive Krishna *prasādam*.

*I beg to remain your servant, life after life, wherever you want me to serve.*

Gaura Dasa

Initiation: 1976, June—Detriot, Michigan, USA

Current location: Erin, Ontario, USA

Contact: gauradasa2@gmail.com

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## Cakri Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

You have given us the greatest treasure of the Holy Names, which enables us to realize Krishna's Divine Form, Qualities, and Pastimes. Everywhere, devotees and non-devotees, are chanting with great enthusiasm. All over the world there are large festivals where devotees chant for many days, and hours. Here in Dallas, Texas, our kirtan festival had 3000 attendees. You showed by your personal example, starting the Hare Krishna movement, by chanting Hare Krishna in a park in New York City. That chanting is still going on there by dedicated devotees who chant there every day, and even go underground in the subway, when necessary. Now, even non-devotees are chanting and dancing in great ecstasy, at many kirtan festivals, yoga festivals, and spiritual gatherings. It is very inspiring to see how the Holy Names are being chanted by so many different people, by your mercy.

Along with the Holy Names. you gave us everything we need to be fully Krishna conscious. You made it so easy for us to achieve full perfection. You used to say that Krishna consciousness is simply recreation; chanting, dancing, and feasting.

You gave us a complete, ready made recipe and formula for becoming fully conscious of Krishna and returning back to the spiritual world. The morning program, chanting *japa*, reading your books, distributing your books and going on *Harinām Sankīrtan*, are some of the practices that you gave us to achieve complete perfection. And also, of course, *Krishna Book*, in which you said we would evolve to the transcendental nature just by reading this book. You taught us everything; how to eat (*prasādam* only), how to sleep (not too much or too little), how to walk (in the footsteps of the previous *Ācāryas*), and how to talk (only about devotional service). You turned Hippies

into 'Happies', and ordinary, worldly people, into saints, *sādhus*, and 'Vaikuṅṭha' Men and Women.

For everything you have given us you only asked for two things in return. You asked us to please take up this Krishna consciousness seriously, and then give it to others. And by distributing it, we would experience it even more, ourselves.

Please bless me that I can be a fully surrendered disciple. And fully dedicated to your mission of spreading the Holy Names everywhere, and distributing your books.

*Begging to be your servant,*

Cakri Dasa

Initiation: 1976, June—Detriot, Michigan, USA

Current location: Dallas, Texas, USA

Contact: chakridas@yahoo.com

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## Drumila Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your transcendental lotus feet!

There is true and pure unconditional love in this world. I'm 100% convinced of this, because I have experienced it with you. You have stood by me, thick and thin (mostly thin in my case), unfortunately. I cannot believe how you've tolerated me, as a so-called disciple. I imagine I must be perceived by you, as a big disappointment as I look back at my life as a devotee in this great movement you began. And yet I take great comfort and solace in hearing your transcendental voice, and see your grave, and sometimes beautiful smiling face while contemplating your divine values and form in pictures, *mūrti's*, etc...I'm most fortunate to have come in contact with you in this life. I was personally present, at times when you walked among us!

On your holy appearance day, I pray for your mercy, that I can somehow always be pleasing to you, by my words and actions. And, that I can give up my long, cherish desire to want to imitate Krishna, and be the lord of all I survey, the supreme enjoyer.

Living entities are surely suffering greatly in this worst of ages, Kali-yuga. You don't need me, as I am insignificant. But it would



be a great privilege, honor and great opportunity if you would kindly, please, please, please, allow me to be your instrument for relieving the great suffering of the poor fallen souls of this horrible age. Kindly allow me to please rededicate my life to your book distribution, and *prasādam* distribution. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! You were saving fallen humanity, and the world will one day soon, hopefully acknowledge all your great sacrifices, contributions, and achievements, in saving mankind in its darkest hour. Śrīla Prabhupāda *kī*, Jaya!

*A most insignificant fallen servant,*

Drumila Dasa

Initiation: 1976, June—Los Angeles, California, USA

Current location: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Contact: drumila@gmail.com

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## Ramiya Dasa

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīnī*

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

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

On this most glorious occasion of your appearance, I am eager to present my offering unto you for your pleasure. I humbly submit this offering.

You are most merciful and tolerant. In spite of so many disqualifications, shortcomings and in the absence of good qualities, you continue to engage me in your service. All challenges and struggles are just further opportunities to take deeper shelter of your instructions and example.

As I look back over my many years in ISKCON I see one consistent thread – your merciful guidance and patient engagement in serving your mission. You have an expansive vision of saving the fallen souls of Kali-yuga for the next 10,000 years. The world desperately needs

this as all standards of behavior and all knowledge of God becomes lip service at best as they plunge into ignorance. You have shown us the real knowledge of our spiritual existence and how to remain absorbed in it. Such kindness is rare in this material world. Help us to take the steps to train the newer devotees to carefully follow you and preserve your instructions and standards and remain focused on fulfilling your desires.

Your mercy is so great that not only your disciples can take shelter of it, but by carefully following everyone can gain that shelter. I personally am quite insignificant and struggling to keep up with my services in the face of health challenges. Māyā is ever vigilant and strikes us at moments when we think we have achieved some victories. We underestimate her power due to our conditioned nature. From time immemorial we have been accepting all her offers with great eagerness. Now let our face be turned away from her alluring charm and be directed to service to Krishna at your lotus feet. Your mercy is all that we are made of. Thank you for bestowing that mercy on us without considering our qualification.

We hope that this offering is pleasing to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please bless our efforts to preach to the devotees in the North Florida communities. We continue to beg for your mercy so that we can continue to expand the glories of the Supreme Lord Krishna and bring more and more conditioned souls to surrender at your lotus feet.

*Your humble servant,*

Ramiya Dasa

Initiation: 1976, June—Detroit, Michigan, USA

Current location: North Florida and Alachua, Florida, USA

Contact: ramiyadasa@gmail.com

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## Hari Cakra Dasa

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

From your Holy Dhām of Māyāpur, I send you my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

This new year of Gaura Pūrṇimā, I have been able to greatly appreciate your wonderful and impressive work that you did for all of us....!!

I just have to recognize eternally that there will never be a person or human being in this world who can follow you, much less equal you...!!

Many of your disciples, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc., are very happy because you left us these beautiful legacies of love.....and my Lord Krishna adores you, for your great dedication of service to suffering humanity.

Thank you very much, our Beautiful Lord, for being the eternal sustenance of millions and millions of beings who surrender to your blessed Lotus feet.....

*Your limited little servant,*

Hari Cakra Dasa Brahmacari

Initiation: 1976, July—Caracas, Venezuela

Current location: Centro Cultural Hare Krishna, Malaga, España

Contact: jivapavanadas@gmail.com

## Brahmatirtha Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

My obeisances at your feet. You are the well-wisher of everyone.

Forty-seven years ago, just one month before you left us, I was a presenter for the Bhaktivedanta Institute at the First International Conference on *Life Comes from Life* held at the Krishna Balarama Temple in sacred Vrindavan. Though you could not physically attend our sessions you invited your scientists each night to visit you in your bedroom and report our '*saṅkīrtan* scores'. For us, the scores were our arguments in the conference in opposition to the atheistic paradigms. You were quite pleased, which gave all of us great encouragement.

Now, somehow or other, I have become the Director of the Bhaktivedanta Institute for Higher Studies (your original name for the Institute). The five of us in 1977 have grown to a hundred scientists and philosophers taking an interest in our efforts to

establish that 'Life Comes from Life'.

The challenges are great. The citizenry trusts science and often trusts that science can solve the problems of life and even death. Yet the pinprick in their paradigm is present and more and more of the educated are becoming aware that a physicalist view or reality is woefully incomplete.

At the BIHS we are teaming with other institutes of qualified scientists who understand that consciousness, rather than matter, is fundamental. These scholars offer evidence of the supremacy of consciousness. We offer the insights of the *Bhāgavatam* to explain how to understand consciousness. By teaming with great scholars, as our beloved Swarūpa Dāmodar Goswami did, we can produce significant literature to impact society. We also build on the absolute genius of Sadāpūta Dāsa in establishing that life must come from life. With the support of our great mentors Sadāpūta and Swarūpa Dāmodar Goswami we pray for your blessings to produce something wonderful.

*On behalf of your servants at the Bhaktivedanta Institute for Higher Studies,*

Brahmatirtha Dasa

Executive Director

Initiation: 1976, July—Houston, Texas, USA

Current location: Gainesville, Florida

Contact: bobcohen@ivs.edu

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## Jaya Madhava Dasa

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My Offering to my Wonderful Spiritual Master

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Written on March 25th, 2024 – Appearance Day of Lord Caitanya, Gaura Pūrṇimā – from Novosibirsk, Russia.

My Dear Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda, My Eternal Obeisances to your lotus feet. On your Most Holy Appearance day in 2024 How unbelievably fortunate I am that you accepted such a fool like me! Thank You forever. Śrīla Prabhupāda. My Home is with devotees – in ISKCON and wherever the sincere real followers and disciples of you exist !

Fifty years ago... You warned us of a coming WW3 and the fall of America and the West. We are seeing this happen before our eyes.

Pure devotees speak only TRUTH. No matter how harsh it sounds, I have full faith in all your instructions and teachings. I have faith in your predictions for the future.

I preach to Russian devotees to follow your Krishna Consciousness strictly ! As you gave it to your disciples! Many times, you emphasized the gravely seriousness of danger we are in as we are Living in The Material World, we are living in unprecedented grave times now. We see it unfolding right now....In the Year 2024 Also at this late time, 2000 ++ Many of my beloved and wonderful godbrothers and sisters who you love and care for so much and you worried about are leaving us and at an ever-increasing rate and I pray for them. I will miss them. I miss your transcendental personal association; However, I find you my godbrothers/sisters in your original books and instructions. All the time. I see you in the new devotees, those who are sincere! I can't think and love you without thinking about your disciples. My godbrothers/sisters who gave their youth and so much of their energy and sincere dedication for your Krishna Consciousness Mission.

Please remember them in these late years as they pass away and face difficult times....Their past and present glory is a mark of your immense glory. The fact is How you took us all unqualified westerners in Under your wings and preached to us the Absolute Truth. You gave us the process of Krishna Consciousness – the process of Love of GOD, Love of KṚṢṆA and the process of real Bhakti Yoga...(making Tapasya, Sacrifices ) Preaching! *Harināmas*, Book Distribution, Krishna Consciousness festivals, Varṇāśrama farms established.

You gave us all your causeless mercy and strict teachings. I'm so very grateful to be with devotees and especially with the wonderful Russian devotees...I'm forever grateful to be able to write this offering to you, today on your appearance day in 2024. I am Indebted to you Śrīla Prabhupāda – forever. Thank you again!

No one else took a boat on the ocean and suffered multiple heart attacks to come to the United States of America (only you). No one else gave us Mahā KṚṢṆA *prasādam* for our spiritual advancements. No one else translated *Bhagavad Gītā As It Is* – purely. With your trusted disciples, Hayagrīva dāsa prabhu and others, the magic is your pure words. They are KṚṢṆA speaking.....You told us so. You are the Founder-Ācārya. No one else translated *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya Caritāmṛta* and other books for the most fallen souls

in the West and elsewhere. No one else made so many Vaishnavas out of unqualified people in the West (ONLY YOU). No one else introduced Deity Worship and KṚṢṆA *prasādam* to the unqualified westerners, ONLY YOU DID IT! No one else trained us in REAL Krishna Consciousness....and real Vedic culture. Not *Pseudo...* compromised Bhakti....A Real Issue and problem arising after you left us. Only You gave us ISKCON and Temples / Farms to take shelter of when you came to the USA. No one else distributed purely the Mahā Mantra FREELY to Every Town and Village including Russia, and China...Asia. Back to A Fallen India etc etc. For your mercy is unlimited, like Lord KṚṢṆA'S Mercy. You came to the Earth Planet – A PURE DEVOTEE- ( Never in Māyā ) and Made Huge personal sacrifices – to Spread KṚṢṆA Consciousness AS IT IS – EVERYWHERE! You told us you did this with no changes or alterations...AS IT IS...That's a Fact.

My Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, on your appearance Day in 2024, I ask your mercy to me so I can inspire Your followers / grand disciples in Russia and preach /serve here more and serve them and encourage them in their 'KṚṢṆA Consciousness'.

(I am now a Russian Citizen By KṚṢṆA'S Mercy). Śrīla Prabhupāda, please give me your blessings for the rest of my life to properly represent your teachings to the end of my days.

Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please forgive me my numerous offences and drawbacks as your disciple and give me the intelligence and empower me to inspire Russian people to practice Krishna Consciousness and be happy.

You came to Russia for one week only, and now because of that I have seen Russia has bloomed everywhere in KṚṢṆA Consciousness and it has many thousands of sincere devotees, and it is growing. I have a last request again, and please forgive me for asking. Please bless and protect the Russian devotees and Ukrainian devotees in these difficult and scary times. Bless all your followers...wherever they may be. Thank You Once Again Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda – from the bottom of my heart.

*Your disciple,*

Jaya Madhava Dasa

Initiation: 1976, July—New York, USA

Current location: Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia

Contact: jayamadhavadas@hotmail.com / (+7) 8-926-879-7537

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Please accept my fallen obeisances at your most glorious and merciful lotus feet.

I want to thank you again and again for leaving your comfortable life and home in the sacred land of Vṛndāvana, India, to journey to the Western world solely on the order and with firm faith in your spiritual master's desire to preach to the people in Western world. Had you not come, Śrīla Prabhupāda, God only knows the mess and utterly miserable lives we'd be living right now.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, years ago, I was intentionally directed to this amazing story concerning circumstances which took place upon your 1965 arrival in the United States of America. I view this saving of humanity being arranged by the Supreme Personality of Godhead to ensure the success of your mission from the very start.

This story was told by one Russian devotee, whose uncle was a Soviet Army officer. In 1965 there was a cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union. At some point it was going to become a real war. Ballistic missiles were ready from both sides to attack. Everything was set up – which missile flies to which part of the United States. For each missile a separate red button. This devotee's uncle said they had been told that the war would start 99.99% for sure.

They were ready, sitting at the control, not sleeping for 24 hours. His hair became white that night. Finally, they got an order – the missile launch was cancelled. It was a great relief!!!

Later, his nephew became a devotee and gave him a Prabhupāda biography book. He started reading it and at one moment called his devotee nephew in great excitement. He said he remembered that day at the missile controls very vividly. And that just now in the Prabhupāda biography book, he read that the very day the missile launch was canceled in 1965 was the exact same day Śrīla Prabhupāda first stepped on the land of the United States of America!!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, even though by our limited vision, you left us on November 14, 1977, that's just not true. You've never left us...you live eternally in your *vāñī* form, your teachings. How fortunate the citizens of planet Earth have now become to have your association at will. You had the vision to record your lectures, morning walks, room conversation with thousands of them easily available for all the world to take advantage of. Then you've left behind all your

volumes of books scattered practically in every corner of the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you pushed us out of our comfortable temple life and out on the streets to assist you in reclaiming the lost souls back to their original Kṛṣṇa consciousness and start their way back home, back to Godhead.

I pray you never allow me to forget this good fortune awarded by your pure unalloyed *vāñī* association. Śrīla Prabhupāda, time is racing by and my limited time here is fast approaching. So, if you so desire, despite all my shortcomings please have mercy on me. I know if you put in even one nice word for something I have done to help your mission, then Lord Kṛṣṇa will consider your testimony and have mercy on me, because His love for you knows no bounds.

Śrīla Vṛndāvana dāsa Ṭhākura has sung that the devotees of Lord Caitanya are so powerful that each one of them can deliver a universe. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.24.58, Purport)

Pure devotees of the Lord are more powerful than the waters of the sacred river Ganges. One can derive spiritual benefit out of prolonged use of the Ganges waters. But one can be sanctified at once by the mercy of a pure devotee of the Lord. (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.15, Purport)

*śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu  
adhama janāra bandhu  
lokanāth lokera jīvāna  
hā hā prabhu koro doyā  
deho more pada-chāyā  
ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvāna*

‘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.’

Begging for your mercy and association life after life.

*Your aspiring disciple and servant,*

Palaka Dasa

Initiation: 1976, July—Washington, USA

Current location: Rockville, Maryland, USA



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

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Chaitanyadeva and delivering Western countries from the calamity of impersonalism and voidism.

For about a year I have been engaged in door-to-door distribution of the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in Prague, Czech Republic. The first time I distributed *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* was in Geneva, Switzerland, back in 1975. I dressed in a shirt, coat and pants, like Prabhupāda's BBT Library Party members in 1975 and 1976. Śrīla Prabhupāda once said, "dress – then address!"

I also introduce myself on behalf of the BBT. I approached all kinds of people – lawyers, doctors, entrepreneurs, directors of secondary schools, professors, librarians, shop owners, etc. I usually offer them the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in Czech language and an audiobook in Czech. We have been publishing Krishna conscious audiobooks for children (not only devotee children) for over twenty years. Some prominent Czech actors have played the roles of narrators. Devotees as well as their children play the various characters. We have our recording studio and our own label called "NAMA Productions Prague". Our audiobooks for children (from age 5 to 95) include lovely illustrations and devotional songs sung in Czech language to beautiful melodies. A competition for the best audiobook in Czech language is organised each year by the Czech Audiobooks Publishers Association. A few years ago our audiobook about King Parīkṣit was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> overall prize in the category of audiobooks for children.

I experience events that were described by Yamunā Devī as "Krishna magic" on a daily basis – Krishna being Yogeśvara, the master of all magic. Recently, I visited a lawyer in downtown Prague, in the historic quarters near Prague's Old Town Square. He wasn't at his office. I returned a week later. As I was in the elevator going to his office, I saw a man going down the stairs. I thought, "maybe it's my lawyer". Sure enough, when I rang the bell at the door of his office a colleague of his opened and told me that he had just left a minute ago. I ran downstairs and saw the gentleman I assumed

was “my lawyer” standing in front of the building. I asked him if he was Mr. such and such, and he nodded. I told him I wanted to meet him last week to offer him a *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. He was surprised. He immediately took the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and an audiobook, and gave a nice donation. As it came out, he has visited India several times. We had a nice discussion about the *Bhagavad-gītā* and the Vedic culture. I will visit him again and cultivate him, perhaps give him a set of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and invite him to our Govinda’s restaurant.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, my eternal father, spiritual master and guide. You are ever present in Your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. Please always keep me engaged as your post-peon (mailman).

*Your humble servant,*

Jayagurudeva Dasa

Initiated: 1976, August—New Māyāpur, France

Current location: Prague, Czech Republic

Contact: krisnafolk@gmail.com

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## Gaura Keśava Dāsa

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*oṃ asmad gurubhyo namaḥ |  
asmad paramagurubhyo namaḥ |  
asmat sarva gurubhyo namaḥ |*

“My respects to my teachers, My respects to their teachers, My respects to all teachers.”

*rādhā-kṛṣṇa samārambhāṃ  
kṛṣṇa caitanya madhyamām |  
bhaktivedānta paryantāṃ  
vande guru paramparām | |*

“I offer my respect to that guru *paramparā* which starts with Śrī Śrī Rādhā Kṛṣṇa, with Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya in the middle and progresses to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda.”

*nṛ-deham ādyaṃ su-labhaṃ su-durlabhaṃ  
plavaṃ su-kalpaṃ guru-karṇadhāraṃ |  
mayānukūlena nabhasvateritaṃ  
pumān bhavābhirṃ na taret sa ātma-hā | |*

“The human body, which can award all benefit in life, is automatically obtained by the laws of nature, although it is a very rare achievement. This human body can be compared to a perfectly constructed boat having the spiritual master as the captain and the instructions of the Personality of Godhead as favorable winds impelling it on its course. Considering all these advantages, a human being who does not utilize his human life to cross the ocean of material existence must be considered the killer of his own soul.” (ŚB 11.20.17)

*tasmād gururṁ prapadyeta  
jijñāsuḥ śreya uttamam |  
śābde pare ca niṣṇātari  
brahmaṇy upaśamāśrayam | |*

“Therefore any person who seriously desires real happiness must seek a bona fide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation. The qualification of the bona fide guru is that he has realized the conclusions of the scriptures by deliberation and is able to convince others of these conclusions. Such great personalities, who have taken shelter of the Supreme Godhead, leaving aside all material considerations, should be understood to be bona fide spiritual masters.” (ŚB 11.3.21)

*Your servant,*

Gaura Keśava Dāsa

Initiation: 1976, August—Sydney, Australia

Contact: jay.greg@gmail.com

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## Jayagauri Devi Dasi

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīnī*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracārīṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīṇe*

My dear Gurudeva, Śrīla Prabhupāda,

All glories to you!

As the years roll by, my appreciation for your kind service to humanity at large increases exponentially. My good fortune to have

been within your bright and shining aura while receiving *gāyatrī mantra*, feeling the coolness and the absence of fear that emanates from you; the ever so personable interaction making me feel at ease in your presence; our moments when we connected through a flower offered during *guru-pūjā* that miraculously landed right on your lotus foot at the Vṛndāvana *vyāsāsana* which made you open your eyes and look lovingly at me. These, and more snippets of time feed the fire of desire alive in me to serve you now and forever more.

Thank you for giving me the seed of *bhakti*! I have been doing my best to water it daily, pluck out weeds around it, and nourish it by the mercy of the holy names.

Your Hare Krishna movement is reaching so many! *Harināmas*, Rathayātrās, book distribution, Prasādam distribution, all by the mercy of your followers, these dedicated souls who exude enthusiasm to serve your lotus feet. Jaya! All glories to you!!!

I pray to stay under the shelter of your soft lotus feet now and forever more! Oh Gurudeva, please remember me and never forget me! I have no reason to live but to serve your lotus feet. Thank you for being so present in your instructions. Thank you for the wisdom to see the modes of nature acting, knowing that I, the spirit soul, am the observer. It is such a relief to know I am not this body, I am spirit, part and parcel of Śrī Kṛṣṇa!

*I beg to remain a servant of the servant of your servants,  
In deep and complete gratitude,*

Jayagauri Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1976, August—Nouvelle Māyāpur, France

Current location: Florida, USA

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## Atmatma Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda

Please accept my Humble obeisances, all glories to your Lotus feet. Please accept this offering on the occasion of Your Divine appearance.

Seeking seeking everywhere the reason for being, now at journeys end I found the answers to this life in your books of such clear vision.

Miracle done His Divine Grace has come

That searching had found its mark and that is You, the Divine full of great knowledge, insight and compassion, you appeared the messenger of the Lord. You picked me up from the grasp of Māyā.

*Kṛṣṇa Book* so full of Light and the *Gītā*.

Ignorance has been dispelled and that was just the beginning.

So many now have come to see with clarity and vision.

A New Age has come with answers clear, in the books you have written.

The order given and you have risen to the impossible task.

Hand in Hand with the Lord of all and the Truth it has been written.

And now so many have found the path, it's clear and not hidden.

Chant Chant the Holy Names so simple and sublime.

For the Lord is There so don't despair and avoid those things that are forbidden.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your clear vision.

By Your Divine Grace we have the link to the Mission.

The Holy Names are the way and your books with such clear vision.

Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare  
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare.

*Your eternal servant,*

Atmatma Dasa

Initiation: 1976, September—London, UK

Current location: Alresford, Winchester, UK

Contact: atmatma@gmail.com

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## Janaki Devi Dasi

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

This spring, a momentous occasion took place in the town of Stoke in the Midlands – the local devotees there held an exciting festival to welcome the life-size divine *mūrti* of Śrīla Prabhupāda to their centre. It has been a number of years since such a deity has been installed anywhere in the UK. Enthusiastic *kīrtan* welcomed him, and an elaborate installation bathing ceremony took place.

A special *vyāsāsana* had been prepared and after the *abhishek* and dressing, His Divine Grace was garlanded with most beautiful flower garlands, whilst the very first *guru-pūjā* was performed. Devotees had gathered from all over the country to join with the local devotees, the hall was packed, the *kīrtana* was ecstatic, the talks were enlightening and the *prasāda* was first class. Śrīla Prabhupāda would surely have been pleased to accept the devotional service from the loving, enthusiastic devotees in attendance. It is a sure sign of even more good things to come. Now Krishna consciousness is once again extending its magnanimous arms to enfold more people under its shelter.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to HDG Śrīla A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda for all the sacrifices he made to bring this message of Krishna consciousness to all – this message of Chaitanya Mahāprabhu, who predicted 500 years ago, that this chanting of the *mahā-mantra* would go to every town and village around the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda is the great ambassador of the spiritual world, who has taken the time and trouble to assist Chaitanya Mahāprabhu in making this prediction come true. On the order of his own spiritual master, HDG Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākur, who instructed the young Abhay Charan (as he was then known) on their very first meeting – to take these teachings to the English-speaking people of the world. Later, in a letter when Śrīla Prabhupāda again asked his spiritual master – “how can I serve you”, this same instruction, to teach this message of Mahāprabhu, was given to our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Fulfilling the desire of the bona fide spiritual master is the key to success. Real success is freeing ourselves from the endless cycle of birth and death in this material world, purifying our lives, raising our consciousness so that we may once again enter into the eternal service of the Divine Couple, Śrī Śrī Rādhā Kṛṣṇa.

There is a beautiful verse *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.18.13, which is one of the many wisdom scriptures that Śrīla Prabhupāda painstakingly translated from Sanskrit to English and gave extensive purports to:

*tulayāma lavenāpi  
na svargaṁ nāpunar-bhavam  
bhagavat-saṅgi-saṅgasya  
martyānām kim utāśiṣaḥ*

“The value of a moment’s association with the devotee of the Lord, cannot even be compared to the attainment of heavenly planets or liberation from matter, and what to speak of worldly benedictions in the form of material prosperity, which are for those who are meant for death”.

So, we can understand, that the highest welfare work is to free the soul from the struggle for existence in this material atmosphere and to awaken it to its spiritual nature, in connection with the Supreme Soul Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

And that is exactly what Śrīla Prabhupāda came to give us – “I have come to teach you what you have forgotten” – he once said in an interview. Pious activities, altruistic work, may help us gain credit to ascend to the heavenly planets – yogic practice and austerities may bring us mystic power and even liberation by merging into the Supreme. But Śrīla Prabhupāda has taught us that we have an eternal, loving relationship with the Divine, with the soul of our soul – Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the source of all spiritual and material realms, the cause of all causes and all that be. That gift he has freely given us – now it is up to us to make use of that gift, to try to repay him for that gift by offering our very selves to him in loving service. For that, he explains, is our eternal nature, our *svarūpa*.

I feel very blessed to have had the association of such a pure and empowered personality, by being in the divine presence of Śrīla Prabhupāda when he visited Bhaktivedanta Manor on two occasions whilst I was living there in the 70s. I had been staying at the ashram for a few months, studying the books and following the process of *bhakti-yoga*.

When we heard that Śrīla Prabhupāda was coming to visit, there was such a buzz of energy and activity, with everyone striving to make the place ready for his visit. Devotees gathered from all over Europe to welcome His Divine Grace and to have that special “moment’s association” in his presence.

He stayed for about a week, and we had the opportunity to hear his talks, perform Guru Pūjā to him, make his garlands, and perform so many services. But what pleased him the most was hearing about how devotees were cooperating together to print and widely distribute the books that he was continuously writing, as well as to teach others about this great wisdom.

He was keen to inspire and encourage us to work together to establish ISKCON as a dynamic movement that could educate all

types of people on the science of the soul. Bhaktivedanta Manor at that time had 17 acres, in 1973 he had personally installed the Deities of Rādhā Gokulānanda. He was pleased to see the *pūjārīs* engaged in serving them very nicely. He often stressed cleanliness and punctuality as very important aspects of Deity worship. He advocated simple living and high thinking – encouraging us to grow our own fruits, flowers and vegetables, as well as to engage in cow protection. He wanted us to develop good values and character, to be gentlemen and gentlewomen and he stressed that by following the process of *bhakti-yoga* and carefully studying the wisdom scriptures, all good qualities would develop.

So, we thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for opening our darkened eyes with the torchlight of knowledge and wisdom. For offering us the greatest gift imaginable, the gift of regaining our true spiritual nature.

We thank the local devotees, friends and well-wishers in Stoke who invited Śrīla Prabhupāda to grace us all with his presence in the form of his deity. We pray that he may be pleased to bestow his merciful glance and blessings on all, so that together, we may continue to serve the community at large, by making Śrīla Prabhupāda and his teachings accessible for all.

Hare Kṛṣṇa! His Divine Grace Śrīla A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda *kī, jai.*

*Your servant,*

Janaki Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1976, September—London, UK

Current location: ISKCON Leicester, UK

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## Yogindra Dasa

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... *Sthāne sthitaḥ śruti-gatām tanu-vān-manobhir. Sthāne sthitaḥ.* You, whatever you are, there is no need of change, because it is very difficult to change position. Better remain your position, but you hear about Krishna. That is our movement — Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.25.44, December 12, 1974, Bombay.



As soon as I emigrated to Sweden in 1975, I fortunately met a *vartma-pradarśaka-guru* who kindly guided me to the ISKCON temple in Stockholm. I was attracted to join the movement. As a foreigner, I needed, however, a Swedish residence permit. By Krishna's grace, I found a well-wishing employer who hired me informally and meanwhile applied with the Swedish Labor Union to get me a formal job offer. The Labor Union agreed. Swedish law stipulated, however, that an application for residence and work permit be made from a Swedish embassy outside Scandinavia. My well-wishing boss kindly sent me to Germany to (informally) work at his filial there while I applied at the Swedish Embassy in Bremen. While the application process was in progress, my boss brought me back to Sweden and on weekends when I was off work, I visited the Stockholm temple. During Christmas 1975, I stayed in the *brahmacārī* ashram for over a week and attended the morning and evening programs, and fell in love with *prasādam*, as well as hearing and chanting. At that time, I promised myself (and Krishna) that if my Swedish residence and work permit is approved, I will immediately join the movement full time, (despite the fact there was only cold water in the shower at the *brahmacārī* ashram). In due course, my application was approved, and I informed my boss that I immediately quit. He understandably felt cheated. Burning my bridges, I joined the *brahmacārī* ashram in the Stockholm Temple full time. Half a year later, in July of 1976, the Stockholm Temple president, Vegavan Prabhu, recommended me to Śrīla Prabhupāda, and His Divine Grace kindly accepted me as a disciple by letter, dated August 3, 1976.

My understanding in retrospect is that I made a deal with Krishna. I wanted a Swedish residence permit and offered to surrender to ISKCON in return. Krishna arranged that my employer facilitated the permit, and Śrīla Prabhupāda consolidated the deal by initiation. The lesson I draw from this nearly five decades later is that if you make a deal with Krishna, a deal is a deal. Krishna kept me here in Sweden. I am supposed to do my service here in my *prabhu-datta deśa*, as Śrīla Prabhupāda defines it in the purport to *Caitanya Caritāmṛta*, Antya 4.144: "... the places of residence given by the spiritual master or Lord Krishna". I acknowledge that Śrīla Prabhupāda uses the plural form, "... places ...", encouraging his disciples in the purport to the above-mentioned verse that they "... must go to different parts of the world and preach, as ordered by the spiritual master". I take it, nonetheless, that Śrīla Prabhupāda

placed me here in Sweden and that Sweden is where I am meant to stay. This conviction was confirmed some decades ago. Our deeply respected godbrother, Pañkajānghri Prabhu visited the ISKCON farm outside Stockholm while arranging a renewal of his Indian visa (or perhaps a pair of visas). I told Pañkajānghri Prabhu that I wanted to retire in Māyāpur as our local GBC had kindly invited me to do so. I expected Pañkajānghri Prabhu to welcome me. To my surprise, Prabhu told me rather that there are so many devotees in Māyāpur, that I should continue steadily doing my simple service here in Sweden. Again, a deal is a deal.

I feel blessed. As far as we know, Sweden is the northernmost country that Śrīla Prabhupāda ever visited, hundreds of kilometers above Moscow, Scotland or Montreal. Since it seems to me to be Śrīla Prabhupāda's order, please, dear Lord Krishna, let me serve your empowered devotee's mission here in this corner of his global preaching mission until my final breath, if that be Your will.

Yogindra Dasa

Initiation: 1976, September—Stockholm, Sweden

Current location: Sweden

Contact: yogindra.acbsp@pamho.net

## Atmarama Dasa

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīne*

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

This year, 2024, marks the 150th anniversary of the appearance of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and the 100th anniversary of the first ever official Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony of the modern Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava movement. This grand ceremonial took place in 1924 on the 50th anniversary of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta's appearance, and it marked a significant milestone in the development of a movement that would eventually become a global phenomenon.

The more we understand about the Gauḍīya mission formally set into motion by Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta in the early part of the twentieth century, the more it becomes obvious that in executing his

own missionary service some 40 years later, Śrīla Prabhupāda was not inventing anything new. Rather, he was following the exact same formulas first established by Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī so many years before. Though creative in his own right, everything Śrīla Prabhupāda did in developing ISKCON in the '60s and '70s was essentially based on what he had learnt by listening very attentively to the words of his spiritual master, and by observing closely his personal activities in spreading Krishna Consciousness. It was from Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī that he imbibed a preaching style that was direct and uncompromising; that he gained the strategic insights needed to develop a dynamic yet unified missionary movement; that he acquired the vision of a broad-based universal reform; and that he learnt to be utterly pragmatic in his approach to spreading the message of Lord Chaitanya in a modern world.

The philosophy of the Supreme Absolute is not uniquely the privilege of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, though certainly Lord Chaitanya's singular contribution has elevated the transcendental discourse to a level far beyond what any *Ācārya* had previously conceived. What sets a particular *Ācārya* apart therefore is not so much their presentation of philosophy. Rather it is their individual serving mood along with their particular emphasis in executing the purposes of the *sampradāya* – generally in some exceptional way – according to the time, place and circumstance.

In the latter part of the 19th century, during the socio-political ascendancy of the Christian based British Raj, and in the face of enormous internal socio-religious obstacles, it was the prodigious efforts of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura that restored the philosophical and moral credibility of Lord Chaitanya's Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava movement. In turn, it was the unrivalled contribution of his son, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, which reignited a Gauḍīya-led spiritual and cultural revolution not seen in India since the time of the Goswamis.

A generation later, Śrīla Prabhupāda undertook the radical and monumental step of expropriating that same reformist movement from its traditional setting in India and transplanting it to the epicentre of the Western universe, New York City, from where its branches, creepers, fruits and flowers have continued to spread all over the earthly globe; all unprecedented, unimaginable, unheard-of.

Back in the early 1900s Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta set about remoulding Lord Chaitanya's nascent movement into a potent

outreach phenomenon and, by so doing, dragged it – kicking and screaming, one might say – into the post-industrial era of the 20th century. In execution of Lord Chaitanya’s grand transcendental vision, he virtually single-handedly created a cohesive, almost militarist-style organisation based on methods, technologies, and perspectives that were – certainly in contrast to traditional India – distinctly modern in tone. As Śrīla Prabhupāda later described it, “The oldest of all, but in new dress.” The resulting impact of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī’s Gauḍīya revival was certainly explosive on a national scale. Moreover, it laid the foundations for the even greater explosion on a global scale of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s ISKCON some 50 years later.

The parallels between the early days of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gauḍīya Math and the early days of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s ISKCON are as remarkable for their consistency, as they are striking for the nature of their revolutionary impact. It was very much a case of ‘like father, like son.’ Although Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta had many disciples and followers, it seems that Śrīla Prabhupāda uniquely possessed the capacity to carry on his will and emulate his success. It was as if, of all his godbrothers, he alone seems to have truly heard what his spiritual master was saying, and truly observed what his spiritual master was doing. Though by no means the best-placed person to have gleaned such insight – there being many disciples with far more direct association and possessing far more organisational authority than Abhaya Babu – somehow Śrīla Prabhupāda’s capacity to fully realise and integrate the words, actions and desires of his spiritual master proved exceptional.

Accordingly, when circumstances finally compelled him to act – essentially in unilateral fashion – Śrīla Prabhupāda was able to do so with such unparalleled clarity and force that he single-handedly transformed the legacy of his Guru Mahārāja into a phenomenon – not just to local effect – but of worldwide, international consequence.

The open secret of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s success, which he discussed many times, and wrote about in his books, was his exclusive focus on executing his spiritual master’s instructions – without any “second opinion.” As he writes in *CC Ādi-līlā*, chapter 12, “When disciples do not stick to the principle of accepting the order of their spiritual master, immediately there are two opinions. Any opinion different from the opinion of the spiritual master is useless.”

When such a “difference of opinion” later arose within the

Gauḍīya Math it “created schism.” Śrīla Prabhupāda writes, “Consequently, both factions were *asāra*, or useless, because they had no authority, having disobeyed the order of the spiritual master.” He goes on, “Therefore, we do not belong to any faction. We took up the mission of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura and Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura to preach the cult of Chaitanya Mahāprabhu all over the world, under the protection of all the predecessor *ācāryas*, and we find that our humble attempt has been successful.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda thus states the matter very directly. There is no mystery, nothing cryptic, no need for interpretation. Adhering faithfully to the direct instructions and example of his spiritual master, avoiding “any faction,” Śrīla Prabhupāda – with, as he also writes, “staunch faith in the words of the spiritual master and the words of the Supreme Personality of Godhead” – set about executing his own service in furtherance of his guru’s mission. And so it came to pass, by the grace of Prabhupāda alone, that we have all been brought into the fold of service to the most exclusive manifestation of the Godhead, Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu.

It is said that those who do not remember the mistakes of history are doomed to repeat them. Privileged as we all are – those of us still left, at least – to have lived and learnt through the many mistakes of history, especially our own Gauḍīya history; to have been educated and trained under Prabhupāda’s personal auspices, to have observed and heard from him directly, how could we who should know better, i.e., “with knowledge of the sin”, do other than follow in Śrīla Prabhupāda’s footsteps exactly as he followed in those of his spiritual master – without any “second opinion”?

Śrīla Prabhupāda writes, “Persons who strictly follow the orders of the spiritual master are useful in executing the will of the Supreme, whereas persons who deviate from the strict order of the spiritual master are useless.” It hardly matters whether one’s achievements are big or small. As Śrīla Prabhupāda said, “success or failure, that is ultimately up to Krishna.”

But it does very much matter whether we, in our turn, follow well the clear intentions and instructions of our spiritual master as he so obviously followed his, thereby remaining “useful.”

On this sacred day therefore, the Vyāsa-pūjā of Śrīla Prabhupāda, the current Gauḍīya Sampradāya Ācārya, in the all-auspicious centenary year of such formal celebration, let us pray that we may indeed remain inherently useful. That we may adhere as faithfully

to Śrīla Prabhupāda’s particular example, and his particular instructions, as he did those of his Guru Mahārāja. Above all let us pray that we may never, by dint of cultivating a “second opinion,” lose “authority” and thus come to be associated with that most hateful – and for a disciple, fatal – of all appellations: *asāra*, “useless.”

*Your humble servant,*

Atmarama Dasa

Initiation: 1976, November—Melbourne, Australia

Current location: Sydney, Australia

## Ananda Dasa

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*Mahā Bhāgavata*, a pure devotee  
Torchlight of knowledge, for all to see  
Guru Master Loving Guide  
Your lotus feet calms our pride

On His order you came to the West  
Regulative principles a telling test  
Bhakti yoga and sixteen rounds  
Distinguishing humans from the hounds

Accepting the most fallen to spread the Holy Name  
Without your mercy we are inept and lame  
We pray for help to achieve the goal  
Magnanimous endeavor cleaning the coal

Amazing *Ācārya* and Kṛṣṇa’s dear friend  
Surrendered disciples and those who pretend  
Time is pulling and you know the score  
Please, I am begging for just one more

O Master, O Lord, Kṛṣṇa has sent  
Not too long you came and went  
Books and instructions your presence is here  
Holding on tightly nothing to fear

Shower your mercy upon this motley crew

Lotus or mace you know what to do  
Handle us roughly with your embrace  
Hoping to see you in the next place.

*Your servant,*

Ananda Dasa

Initiation: 1976, December—New Orleans, USA

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## Nidra Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Thank you for empowering so many to increase yearly global book distribution marathons; to open the Lord Nṛsimhadeva Wing of TOVP; to complete and open the entire TOVP; and to empower those who are opening centers and temples and helping to engage many souls.

Thank you for blessing us to keep striving to be pure instruments for the Saṅkīrtana Movement. Your entire life was showing us the best example of being such an instrument in every phase of your life. Especially for the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas, you are the hero for spreading the holy names. Your every moment of life was the topmost glorification of Gaurāṅga and Nityānanda.

Begging to serve the long line of servants of your servants' servants, for your pleasure.

*Your aspiring disciple,*

Nidra Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1977, January—Denver, USA

Current location: Denver, Colorado, USA

Contact: [nidra.devi@gmail.com](mailto:nidra.devi@gmail.com)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

It is understood that the disciples cannot adequately “payback” for the mercy shown by the Spiritual Master in accepting them, providing them guidance on the Spiritual Path and enabling them to go “Back Home, Back to Godhead.”

In our congregation, the majority of them are under the age of fifty. Many are yet to get the *harināma* initiation. Should there be a question, “can these people be counted as your disciples? For me, the answer is a resounding YES. As the Founder Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), YOU ARE the *Śikṣā Guru* for all the people who learn even theoretically, the basic tenets of our glorious “Gauḍīya Vaishnava” lineage. I understand these tenets to be:

- Lord Śrī Krishna is the Source from Whom all HIS Energies manifest in different ways.
- Lord Śrī Krishna is the Supreme Proprietor, Controller and Enjoyer of all His Energies.
- Every individual Jīva or Soul is part and parcel of Lord Śrī Krishna as His Energy.

The Constitutional position of the individual Jīva or Soul is to be engaged in the service of Lord Śrī Krishna in various ways, according to one’s own capacity. Such service is to be rendered with heartfelt desire / intention to please Lord Śrī Krishna.

This service always includes the chanting of Lord Krishna’s many different names. The Hare Krishna Mahā-mantra is the primary Mantra, to be chanted with a *japa-malā*, a string of 108 beads with both ends tied together by a bigger bead called the Head bead. This mantra can also be sung in different melodies as a Call and Response group chant.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught your early disciples not only



through your talks and writings but also by actually living yourself as an exemplary servant of Lord Krishna.

Moreover what all you said or did were consistent with the three way cross check of “Guru, Sādhu and Śāstra”. Again it is only through you we come to understand such demonstrative evidence very much needed to walk the Spiritual Path “Straight and Narrow”, lest we may miss the Path and end up in some undesirable situations.

Śrī Krishna Chaitanya Mahāprabhu made two predictions, over five centuries ago:

- His name “Krishna” would be heard in all “towns and villages on this planet Earth.”
- Soon a great person, called as “Senāpathi Bhakta (or Devotee General,) would appear to spread Krishna Consciousness all around the world.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, most of your disciples know that you are that Glorious Person, whose appearance Śrīman Mahāprabhu foretold centuries ago. You were incredibly committed to execute the order of your Guru Mahārāja, Vishnupada Paramahansa ParivrajakĀcārya 1008 Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākur Mahārāj. At the very first informal meeting, even before knowing your name, Śrīla Saraswatī Ṭhākur told you to bring the message of Godhead to the English speaking world. Later over a period of 14 or 15 years, you wrote to him twice about how you may serve him. Both the times he replied asking you to print books. It seems to me that in reciprocation with your incredible commitment to your Guru Mahārāja’s order, Lord Śrī Krishna, as *Paramātmā* in everyone’s heart, through the many people you met, orchestrated through each of them many things to facilitate your journey to the USA. There again Lord Śrī Krishna brought many young people looking for a meaningful lifestyle to your direct association. What you, along with the group of those young people accomplished in a short period, is the amazing story of formation of the worldwide community of devotees of Lord Śrī Krishna or better known as the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

Now about the “*Harināma* to be heard in all towns and villages of this earth.” This is evident from the number of *Sat Saṅgas* and *Kīrtan-melas* that are taking place in various locations around the world, apart from the *Street Saṅkīrtana* in various cities and towns. You are a pioneer of the public chanting of *Harināma Saṅkīrtan* because you introduced it very early on, with only a handful of devotees going

out from 26 2nd Ave. in Lower East Side in New York City, the first ISKCON temple in its history. *San̄kīrtana* is not simply chanting some words, but it is the spiritual sound of the *Mahāmantra* that awakens Krishna Consciousness in the masses and also brings joy to the chanters and hearers.

Again on the question of “payback”, it is clear to us not only “we cannot payback”, we find ourselves in the situation “we cannot even adequately thank you”, for all the gifts you have given us for our progress on the spiritual path leading us to “Back Home, Back to Godhead”.

Having stated the above, let me try to follow your instructions to remain steady in the association of devotees and do my *sādhana* and service to please you. I want to do so in the spirit of the third *śloka* of the *Sikshashtakam*. I fervently pray for your mercy.

*Gurudev! Kṛpā-bindu diyā, koro' ei dāse, tṛṇāpekḥā ati hīna  
sakala-sahane, bala diyā koro nija māne sprḥā-hīna*

“Gurudeva, give to this servant just one drop of mercy. I am lower than a blade of grass. Give me all help. Give me strength. Let me be as you are, without desires or aspirations.”

All glories to Your Divine Grace and All glories to all the devotees engaged in your service!

*Your aspiring servant of your servants,*

Guruprasad Dasa

Initiation: 1977, January—Montreal, Canada

## Tamra Dasi

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*nama om̄ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The dear associate of Lord Gaurāṅga, Narahari Das, wrote about Him:

*(yadi) gaurāṅga nahita, tabe ki haita, kemane dharita de?*

*rādhāra mahimā, prema-rasa-sīmā, jagate jānāta ke?*

If Śrīmān Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu had not appeared, then what would have become of us? How could we have tolerated living? In this universe, who would have ever come to know the glories of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and the topmost limit of *prema-rasa*?

We feel this about you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! If you had not come to the west with the treasure of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, the Holy Names, *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Caitanya-Caritāmṛta*, *sādhu-saṅga*, chanting, dancing, and the highest aim of *Kṛṣṇa-Prema*, then what would have become of us? How could we have gone on living? How could we have ever found the value of our existence?

Though you have spread the sunlight of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness to multitudes of humanity, you still appear as the closest guardian to each one of us. Closer than our eyelids, you watch over us, protecting our faith and making it grow. Your loving guardianship is the armor that protects us in our quest for eternal loving service through so many obstacles.

My prayer to You on this Vyāsa-pūjā day is that I may genuinely embrace *trṇād-āpi sunīcena* and develop taste for chanting Harinām incessantly.

Though I feel ineligible to even be called your disciple, the urgency to be in your lotus feet shelter and service without cessation is growing within. This can only be by Your mercy.

When I came to your shelter, everyday at maṅgala āraṭi I would feel such relief and joy thinking how You came to save us. I would wonder at the miracle of how our Param Gurudev, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Prabhupāda, knew that we were so desperately waiting for you.

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

As for myself, though given such great fortune, my quiet nature has not come forth to spread this treasure to others as much as You desired. Please give me your grace that I can please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. When the time comes that I may be able to see you again, I want to have been able to please you a little.

*Your unworthy disciple,*

Tamra Dasi

Initiation: 1977, February—Seattle, USA

## Karunaksi Dasi

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Beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīne*

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

My heart-filled obeisance ever at your precious feet that traversed the paths of the world for hearts to be processed by your pure, dynamic bhakti, in total surrender to your powerful Śrī Guru, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda.

My two little girls and I saw you on your last L.A. visit as you offered your *daṇḍavat praṇām* at the lotus feet of the Deities each morning, then threw up your arms in tumultuous exultation of Them—with the resounding “Haribol!” of all your devotees gathered there; we were blessed to get *prasāda* from your hand! You are the gift from God that blessed the story of our lives!

The Ṭhākura’s empowered mission to awaken the world from its sleepy, sinful state required divine intervention by the right person—going to the West—for reaching all the world...!!

...You were that person, Śrīla Prabhupāda!!—Nitāi’s choice for taking to the West Śrī Gaura’s firm Order: that only by immersion in the transcendental Names of God can freedom to love be won by us bound souls.

*Śaraṇāgati* at your dear lotus feet, my only prayer—your divine way—Thus you continue to arrest and move me forward with your grace.

I try to hold my little candle to the shimmering glory of your divine projection of pure love on this sad world!

*In humble obeisance,*

Karunaksi Dasi

Initiation: 1977, February—Seattle, USA

Current location: Gopinath Bhavan, Bay Area Vaiṣṇava Sanga, USA

Contact: msdidimaa@yahoo.com

## Kilimba Dasi

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Profuse prostrations from within my heart

Unto You, O Śrīla Prabhupāda!

The most profound pivot of my entire life was

Meeting your gracious glance.

Expectations in meeting You were not built up in my mind;

At 13, though Your glance was grave, it was felt by my soul as most kind.

Thus it was thereafter, that we decided to enter Your school!

Your divine light and love, channeled within from above,

Offered guidance like Moonlight.

Undergoing spiritual practices and building strength in controlling our minds;

Rigid adherence to regulations You'd set became rather sweet in time!

February 2<sup>nd</sup> in '77, I now remember it well;

Entering our hearts was the *Kṛṣṇa-seva-vasana*; by Your Grace—Śrī Harināma;

Even though You were physically in Bhubaneswar Dhāma.

The letter You'd sent to our Temple President expressed Your divine will so well.

Such a treasure it's been and still is, O Śrīla Prabhupāda, discovering what You gave and keep giving—the hope to gain what is rare to attain by Your guidance in my heart that's living:

One day—Śrī Kṛṣṇa-prema, pure Love for the Lord, via Your Grace:

Offenseless, loving service to the Holy Name!

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare*

*Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*

*Your grateful, eternal servant, begging for Your causeless mercy,*

Kilimba Dasi

Initiation: 1977, February—Seattle, USA

Current location: Oakland, California, USA

## Manoharini Devi Dasi

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

*namaste sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.

As the years go by, I become more and more grateful for your unending mercy. Due to your enormous sacrifices I am able to know what is the real meaning of service and devotion as you have shown us time and time again in your teachings and instructions.

In *Matchless Gifts* (p. 24) you state:

If we want Kṛṣṇa, He will give us a chance to have Him,  
and if we don't want Kṛṣṇa, He will give us a chance  
to forget Him. If we want to enjoy life forgetting Kṛṣṇa,  
forgetting God, Kṛṣṇa will give us all facility so that we can  
forget, but if we want to enjoy life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness,  
Kṛṣṇa will give us the chance to make progress.

Thank you for your gift of helping this fallen soul try to remember Kṛṣṇa through chanting my daily rounds, reading, and distributing your books to people I know and meet along my journey in this lifetime. Your grace is the only chance of me making any progress.

Fifty years have flown by since the first time I saw your beautiful glowing face inside the cover of *Back to Godhead* magazine...a magazine a few years later I would have the mercy of blissfully distributing at the O'Hare airport in Chicago to many fortunate people. I had the blessed opportunity of working with BTG's office in San Diego as an administrator, accountant, and transcriber. Gurudeva, thank you for allowing me to render this service and so

many other services to you and Their Lordships over the years.

My soul was awakened immediately when I first saw your effulgent radiance. You unfolded the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness through *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Caitanya Caritamrita*, and so many other timeless transcendental teachings.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!!!

*I bow down to your divine lotus feet as your humble eternally grateful servant,*

Manoharini Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1977, March—Scarborough, Canada

Current location: Ontario, Canada

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## Shyamasundara Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to you who are very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Recently, I was watching a popular TV series about the life of the *śaktyāveśa-avatāra* Jesus Christ and his apostles. It was very inspiring and I found myself thinking several times that I wished I had been able to associate with Christ and how fortunate his disciples were.

But then Paramātmā reminded me that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are also a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra* and that I don't realize just how fortunate I am to be your disciple. That you did miraculous deeds impossible for a mere mortal. Arriving in the West at an advanced age and in poor health, devoid of resources or connections, you initiated a global mission, authored over 60 books, and established over 100 temples, etc.

Christ only had 12 disciples and preached for three years, yet it had a profound impact felt even today, 2000 years later. While you preached for 12 years with thousands of disciples and most importantly all your books.

We don't realize that we are living at the beginning of an epoch in history that can only be truly understood by future historians who will look back and see what a great impact you had and will continue to have for the proverbial "10,000 years."

While the number of your followers is small in comparison to Christians, Muslims, and atheists (Marxists) the impact of your message is greater than theirs, and already having a remarkable

effect. Why? Because of the superior knowledge contained in your profusely distributed books.

When you came to the USA in 1965, concepts such as yoga, karma, reincarnation, *avatar*, vegetarianism, Āyurveda, and Vedic astrology were unknown to the general public but are now widely known and mainstream. Modern cinema is now replete with plots centering around reincarnation and karma, with even renowned directors like James Cameron (*Avatar* franchise) acknowledging their debt to Vedic concepts. In less than six decades, your mission has orchestrated a profound cultural metamorphosis, a veritable “cultural conquest.”

And now a new generation of young devotees are sincerely taking up your mission and distributing your books, especially *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, profusely and in the process making new devotees who also enthusiastically distribute your books. Considering what has already happened we can only expect that what the stated purpose of the *Bhāgavatam*, “to bring about a revolution in the impious lives of this world’s misdirected civilization” (SB 1.5.11) will surely come true.

So, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I didn’t miss out by not being an associate of Christ, but I am more fortunate by being a small part of Lord Caitanya’s mission which *you* have brought to the whole world. I just pray that I will be a credit to you and somehow please you and get your blessings. Your mercy is all that I am made of. Praying to get your mercy.

*Your insignificant servant.*

Shyamasundara Dasa (Jyotisi)

Initiation: 1977, March—Māyāpur, India

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## Nrisimha Dasa

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,



You are indeed the light that dissipates the darkness of my ignorance.

Since you instructed me to always chant the holy names back in 1971, I have been trying to comply with your instruction to the best of my abilities.

I am a very fallen soul, and I know for sure that I disappointed you many times throughout the years. But I always try to go back to the original path of serving you and Mahāprabhu in the best way I can.

For the last 13 years I have been endeavoring to establish preaching centers in various cities and countries with the help of my wife and son. Very often I feel lonely, frustrated and very, very tired, and it is in those moments when I remember all the struggles that you underwent in your preaching, and how completely surreal it looks, the amazing acts that you performed.

Much older than me, having already suffered 2 strokes before even starting your preaching work and with no money or friends.

In a completely alien culture that must have looked to you at the time, after living quietly in Vrindavan, as another planet, a hellish one.

When I reflect about all the hardships that you overcame to please your Guru Mahārāj and all the incredible things that by your pure devotion and Krishna's mercy, you accomplished, I realize how little I have done and how much more I have to do just to follow in your footsteps, even if from a great distance. You are the light and torch that illuminates my life and the life of countless conditioned souls. I pray for your mercy and for your blessings as I carry on trying to live in a way that you could feel proud of me. No more complaints about petty things and just rejoice in the blessing that I receive by trying to be your disciple.

*My humble obeisances to your feet from your unworthy aspiring servant,*

Nrisimha Dasa

Initiation: 1977, March—Caracas, Venezuela

Current location: Pamplona, Norte de Santander, Colombia

Contact: lafundacion108@gmail.com

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīne*

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

As stated in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Antya-līlā 7.11):

*kali-kālera dharma — kṛṣṇa-nāma-saṅkīrtana  
kṛṣṇa-śakti vinā nahe tāra pravartana*

In this Age of Kali, real religious propaganda should induce people to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. This is possible for someone who is especially empowered by Kṛṣṇa. No one can do this without being especially favored by Kṛṣṇa.

As an empowered representative of Krishna, you are imbued with all kinds of opulences, wonderful qualities and abilities which help you to manifest fully the preaching mission of Lord Chaitanya on this earth. This empowerment allows you to do feats, both material and spiritual, which seem miraculous in all senses of the word. Your soul-stirring *bhajans* and kirtans, your wonderful commentaries on the Gaudīya scriptures, your innovative preaching, your managerial expertise, your unbounded enthusiasm to speak the Absolute Truth, your tremendous determination in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, your courage and strength of heart, your indefatigable energy, your fathomless compassion for the conditioned living beings hopelessly entangled in the cycle of *saiṅsāra*, and this list is just a beginning. As Lord Ananta goes on unlimitedly glorifying the qualities of Lord Krishna, we, your grateful disciples, can continue unlimitedly glorifying your Divine Grace and never come to the shore of your divine qualities.

Even though you did so much in such a short time and was so astoundingly successful you did not take any credit for it. You said it was simply the mercy and kindness of your Guru Mahārāja upon you and, if there was any credit you could claim, it was simply that you strictly followed the instructions of your Guru Mahārāja. Thus, you set the highest standard of humility. A standard that we, all your followers, now have as a shining amulet that will protect us as we

endeavor to purely act as your servants delivering Lord Chaitanya's message as widely as possible.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are a spiritual touchstone. All who sincerely endeavor to surrender to you, are by your mercy, indelibly decorated with the ornaments of divine understanding and spiritual hankering. Together, these two things powerfully thrust them into the spiritual firmament heading to the lotus feet of Rādhā and Krishna in the Chintāmaṇi abode of Goloka Vrindavan.

You have the wealth of Krishna Consciousness, and you travelled all over the world, generously distributing it with great liberality and kindness. Even though you are no longer physically with us your gifts are our inheritance, and we simply have to continue following in your footsteps to make manifest your promise of divine love.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am very fallen and wretched and devoid of any good qualities and on this day, I beg that you grant me the strength with which to firmly grip the rope of your mercy so that I can continue to be pulled closer to the shelter of your lotus feet.

*Your eternally grateful servant,*

Ankoththa Dasa

Initiation: 1977, March—London, UK

Current location: Kansas, USA

Contact: onkarankotthasandal@gmail.com

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## Damodara Dasa

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### King Of My Heart

What does it matter how much I know –  
philosophical heights, demons below.

Unless I serve you all is lost.

Dear Śrī Guru, I'll pay the cost,  
walk away from treasures gathering dust,  
material pleasures of greed-anger-lust.

It's inconsequential, all destruction.

My only life is your instruction  
to do what you do – save the souls  
caught up in illusory material roles.

What else can I offer you? This is all –  
my bittersweet longing to hear your call

to come to the temple and your *vyāsāsana* seat  
and bow down forever at your lotus feet.  
Even eternity is not long enough  
to give all you deserve of faithful love.  
Oh Bhaktivedanta, King of my heart!  
You are my goal and you're where I start.

*Your servant,*

Damodara Dasa

Initiation: 1977, March—Māyāpur, India

Current location: Florida, USA

Contact: danielcooperclark@gmail.com

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## Indranuja Dasa

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*evam janam nipatitam prabhavāhi-kūpe  
kāmābhikāmam anu yah prapatan prasaṅgāt  
kṛtvātmāsāt surarṣiṇā bhagavan gṛhītaḥ  
so 'ham katham nu visrje tava bhṛtya-sevām*

**My dear Lord, O Supreme Personality of Godhead, because of my association with material desires, one after another, I was gradually falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the general populace. But Your servant Śrīla Prabhupāda kindly accepted me as his disciple and instructed me how to achieve this transcendental position. Therefore, my first duty is to serve him. How could I leave his service? [SB 7.9.28]**

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I prostrate myself at your lotus feet in the hopes you will acknowledge this foolish disciple. Service at your feet is my only hope. As Prahlad Mahārāja states above *Therefore, my first duty is to serve him. How could I leave his service?* This verse is an essential verse so much so that you quoted this in the poem you wrote as you approached Boston Harbor in 1965. Despite your difficult journey, this verse came to your mind as you transitioned from the first part of the poem to the second, which I'm sure many devotees found curious. The first time I heard your poem was in 1976 on the anniversary of your arrival in Boston in 1965. That was just 11 years

after you first arrived, and I marveled not only at the poetry but what you had accomplished in such a short amount of time. I was a new devotee, but so were most of my peers. I remember helping Mukunda (now Mukunda Mahārāja) fix his car and thinking *this is one of the very first devotees*, and by your mercy how sweet a devotee he was. You had just been to the Manor, and I had sat at your feet basking in your goodness. That memory has sustained me all these long years, and I pray when it comes time to leave this body I can be looking into your loving visage and praying once more to sit at your lotus feet.

*Praying for mercy I remain,  
Your eternal servant*

Indranuja Dasa

Initiation: 1977, March—London, UK

Current location: Bhaktivan, Kansas, USA

Contact: edmacmillan@yahoo.com

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## Jiva Pavana Dasa

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-śvāmīnīti nāmīnī*

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

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Without *guru-niṣṭhā*, full faith in and attachment to the spiritual master, no one can have any kind of *bhakti*. You have also stressed the importance of elevated Vaiṣṇava association.

“*Sādhu-saṅga* is very important. If we can associate with real *sādhu*, means real devotee, unadulterated devotee, *anyābhilāṣitā-śūnyānī*

*jñāna-karmādy-anāvṛtam* (Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu 1.1.11), then the recommendation is that simply by associating with *sādhu* all perfection will come. By simply associating... *Sādhu-saṅga sādhu-saṅga sarva-śāstre kaya, lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi*. So this is very practical. We have got little experience how *sādhu-saṅga* is powerful. So *ātau śraddhā tataḥ sādhu-saṅgaḥ*. First thing is faith.

*ātau śraddhā tataḥ sādhu-saṅgo 'tha bhajana-kriyā  
tato 'nārtha-nivṛttiḥ syāt tato niṣṭhā rucis tataḥ  
athāsaktis tato bhāvas tataḥ premābhyaudañcati  
sādhakānām ayaṁ premṇaḥ prādurbhāve bhavet kramaḥ*  
(Cc. Madhya 23.14–15)

These are the steps, *krama*. *Krama* means one after another. So our, this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is enacted just to create little faith in Kṛṣṇa. Then the person whom we are trying to help, his business is to associate with *sādhu*. *Satām prasāṅgān mama vīrya-saṁvido bhavanti hṛt-karṇa-rasāyanāḥ kathāḥ* (SB 3.25.25). *Satām prasāṅgāt*. If we discuss Kṛṣṇa consciousness... *Bodhayantaṁ parasparaṁ tuṣyanti ca ramanti ca*. Everywhere, the same thing. So *śraddhā* is required. Then *sādhu-saṅga* (Cc Madhya 22.83), then *bhajana-kriyā*. If anyone actually seriously associates with *sādhu*, the next stage will be *bhajana-kriyā*. How to worship. *Bhajana-kriyā. Tataḥ anārtha-nivṛttiḥ syāt*. Then *anārtha*. *Anārtha* means unnecessary things. We have practiced so many unnecessary things in our life. Unnecessary things, when they are too much strong, that becomes sinful life. Unnecessary. The modern civilization is simply meant for creating unnecessary necessities of life. That's all. So we are becoming deviated from God". (Lecture on Bg. 6.47 — Ahmedabad, December 12, 1972)

Thank you for the holy names and saving me in the 70s. You have guided me always from within and through your books. I pray that you continue to send me good association so that I can advance in devotional service.

*sādhu-saṅga', 'sādhu-saṅga' — sarva-śāstre kaya  
lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya*

"The verdict of all revealed scriptures is that by even a moment's association with a pure devotee, one can attain all success".

Although spoken by the Gopīs in the Tenth Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* for the glorification of Krishna, the following words equally apply to you.

“Nectarean discussions about You are the life and soul of those who are tormented by separation from You, and greatly learned personalities, such as Brahmā, Siva, and the four Kumāras, sing of them. Those narrations vanquish the distress of past sins. Immediately upon being heard, they bestow the highest auspiciousness, and especially the wealth of *prema*. The nectar of Your narrations is expanded by those who glorify Your pastimes, and therefore such narrators are truly the most generous benefactors in the world”. (SB 10.31.9)

All glories to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Sincerely,  
Dasanudasa*

Jiva Pavana Dasa  
Initiation: 1977, March—RDTSKP  
Current location: UK  
Contact: jivapavana@gmail.com

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## Mahendrani Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This year life is full, and I was not able to give you a well thought out offering for Your Vyāsa-pūjā.

So, I am offering only a few petals of gratitude at your lotus feet.

Thank you for all your mercy and blessings over the last year. I am particularly grateful for how clear you made it that you are always with me guiding me and supporting me on the Bhakti journey, despite all my shortcomings. There were so many miracles along the way. So many expressions of your unconditional love for me coming directly and also through your disciples and grand disciples.

Please bless me to progress more steadily on the path of Bhakti, to your full satisfaction, and be able to happily live a Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava day that is pleasing to you.

Your servant,

Mahendrani Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1977, March—Trinidad

Current location: Alachua, Florida, USA

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## Pancagauda Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you Śrīla Prabhupāda!

You are carrying and spreading the message of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, under the order of His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Mahārāja all over the world. Your books are the driving force keeping all your followers enthusiastic and determined to assist you with massive book distribution and *prasādam* distribution.

Your Krishna Balaram Project is attracting visitors from around the world, showing everyone the beauty of Śrī Śrī Krishna-Balarāma, Gaura-Nitāi and Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, also bringing so many fortunate visitors to hear the holy names of the *mahā-mantra*, which moves and inspires others to take up this Krishna consciousness.

We are developing a project to give facilities to our devotees from around the world to visit Śrī Vrindavan Dhām and stay with us in a beautiful new guesthouse, Govinda's, and many different preaching arrangements for book distribution, *prasādam* and devotee care.

Thank you for giving us this wonderful opportunity to purify ourselves by rendering some small service at your lotus feet.

Your servant,

Pancagauda Dasa

Initiation: 1977, March—Miami, Florida, USA

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## Matsya Avatara Dasa

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa preṣṭhāya bhū-tale*



*śrīmate bhaktivedānta svāmin iti nāmine*

*namaste sārasvate deve gaura-vāṅt-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

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

With immense gratitude, from the depths of my heart, I offer you some thoughts, reflections, and memories. Forty-eight years have passed since the first blessed darshan you bestowed upon me, and I am still contemplating the numerous blessings you have poured into my life. I realize that words and actions alone cannot fully express the depth of my feeling of gratitude.

You have been and continue to be my guiding light, the beacon illuminating my path throughout this earthly existence. From you, I have learned so much, much more than I could have imagined. You have opened my eyes to the beauty of spiritual life and taught me the supreme purpose for which to live. Thanks to you, I have understood that the goal is visible not only in dreams but also in everyday reality, one just needs to know where to look.

Amidst the socio-cultural chaos of the 1970s, to the extreme consequences of our threatening present where propaganda has polluted all information, you have been my safe haven and have shown me the hidden order behind every appearance. You have awakened my soul and revealed to it the coordinates to navigate through the turbulent waters of incarnate life, teaching me to understand circumstances and to discern between action and abstention.

In that first darshan, you explained to me that modern society does not believe in God hence it is always in chaos, and that so-called progress is simply the pretense of a society of ignorant people who plunder nature and fill their lives with artificial needs. Two years earlier, you prophetically expressed as follows:

Vṛndāvana, March 12, 1974, Prabhupāda:

Their business will be to exploit the poor citizens. And they will be embarrassed and harassed so much – by one side, no sufficient rain, and therefore scarcity of food; and the other side, taxation by the government. In this way, the people will be so much harassed that they'll give up their home and go to the forest. Very piti... Unless they take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, they'll not be saved. The

*varṇāśrama* college has to be established immediately. Everywhere, wherever we have got our center, a *varṇāśrama* college should be established to train four divisions – one class, *brāhmaṇa*; one class, *kṣatriya*; one class, *vaiśya*; and one class, *śūdra*. But everyone will be elevated to the spiritual platform by the spiritual activities which we have prescribed. There is no inconvenience, even for the *śūdras*.

In the last years of your earthly life, you stated on several occasions that you had only completed half of your preaching project, and that the remaining part was to spread the philosophical principles of *Varṇa-Āśrama-Dharma* in society. Inspired by your words and moved by the deep desire to humbly attempt to serve the realization of your project, I have established a department dedicated to *Varṇa Āśrama Dharma* within the *Centro Studi Bhaktivedanta*. The aim is to develop an academic theoretical model and practical application that can offer concrete solutions to the problems of an increasingly homologated, desecrated, reductionist, deterministic, and nihilistic society, recovering lost ethical-spiritual values and promoting authentic individual and social well-being functional to the higher purpose of human life: spiritual realization and the rediscovery of the eternal loving relationship of Love with Bhagavān Śrī Krishna. We are collaborating with universities and other international institutions interested in the project.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for constantly inspiring me, and humbly ask for your blessings so that this service I am offering you may fulfill your desires and help as many people as possible to awaken to the bhakti you inspired in us.

Your spiritual vision, sweetened by love for Śrī Krishna, has enlightened me, allowing me to see every crisis as an opportunity to overcome my limitations and offer my contribution to the spread of Krishna Consciousness, accepting appearances, which are temporary by nature, and cultivating that which is eternal with love and devotion.

Your greatest lesson was to place Śrī Krishna at the center of every relationship, teaching me to relate to every creature with love and respect.

But what has deeply touched me has been your personal example. You lived what you taught, embodying every virtue you preached. It was through your example that I have found the strength and inspiration to shape my life based on the principles you transmitted.

Every day, I strive to honor your teaching by living a life of virtue and love, spreading the light you have ignited in me to every soul I encounter. If there is a way I can reciprocate even a fraction of what you have given me, it is to live according to your teachings, spreading your wisdom and, above all, your love in the world as an antidote to the dire egoic belligerent spirit, the source of all human calamities, including wars.

Although you are physically absent, your luminous example still shines within me, guiding me and illuminating my path.

I will be eternally grateful for everything you have done for me, for the world, and for all humanity.

With infinite gratitude and love, imploring you to continue to correct and inspire me,

*Your affectionate servant,*

Matsya Avatara Dasa

Initiation: 1977, May—Rome, Italy

Current location: Pisa, Italy

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## Gopimata Devi Dasi

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī itī nāmīne*

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracārīṇe  
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīṇe*

I remember that when I first moved into the ashram at Bhaktivedanta Manor, I often heard the devotees saying, “Kṛṣṇa’s arrangement”. Your disciples would casually insert it into a conversation or simply say it on its own when something happened, either “good” or “bad”. Such a small package of words containing an infinity of wisdom! The tip of the iceberg of understanding the mystery of all mysteries. It was one of the first lessons in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness I was able to understand and the beginning of my appreciation of how beautifully you have made Kṛṣṇa Consciousness accessible even to people like myself.

The most wonderful arrangement Kṛṣṇa makes for a conditioned

soul is to bring us to the feet of our spiritual master. He gives each of us unique hints to wake us up. We may have experienced a series of seemingly unrelated occurrences that made it possible for us to meet you that can only be seen clearly in retrospect. Some saw your handwritten sign in a store front window – why did they choose to walk down that street? Some heard your devotees chanting, some saw your books, some tasted *prasādam*, some saw you in dreams. These are things that we may have taken for granted until we were fortunate enough to see that the Lord’s hand was behind every detail.

After so many lifetimes of crying out of pity for ourselves and others, we begin to cry for truth – for the lasting solution and lasting love. The *Caitya Guru* within our heart hears our sincere call and guides us to you, the bona fide spiritual master. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were also wandering in this world looking for us, and you were prepared to go to any lengths to make the connection. Sometimes you would recognize your disciples before they even knew they were meant to be your disciples! And then, magic happened – you spoke Kṛṣṇa’s words and we heard.

Even though we are not yet qualified to see Kṛṣṇa, He sends you to qualify us. Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura says, “*Yasya prasādād bhagavat prasādo yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto ‘pi* – If I can satisfy my spiritual master, then I understand that Kṛṣṇa is satisfied, and if I cannot satisfy my spiritual master, then I have no other way to approach Kṛṣṇa”.

So, Kṛṣṇa wants to know, what is *our* arrangement for *Him*? What is our arrangement for satisfying you? You are both waiting to find out how we are going to reciprocate with this most incredible rescue mission.

May we never get lost again, but instead come to align ourselves with what is in your heart of hearts. If we could somehow or other come to deeply understand how to please you, that would be the perfection of ‘Kṛṣṇa’s arrangement’.

*Yours forever,*

Gopimata Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1977, July—London, UK

Current location: Baldwin, Kansas, USA

Contact: [gopisandal108@gmail.com](mailto:gopisandal108@gmail.com)

## Nanda Kumar Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

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

### MY PRAYER

As flower pollen eventually becomes the cause of many other flowers, the dust of Śrī Krishna’s lotus feet imbues *rati* in those fortunate souls who contact them. Although flowers grow where their seeds are planted, the superior nature of this dust caused *rati* to appear in the distant heart of a devotee.

You so mercifully planted the seed of devotion in my heart. Unfortunately I neglected to water this most precious seed, but I remain hopeful that the glance of your mercy carried by the wind of time will fall upon this seed and bring it back to life.

As the all powerful sun is always in the sky but only periodically visible, *kāma* always shines in the *gopīs’* hearts, although not always manifest. Under the influence of dawn, the sun invariably rises over the horizon for all to see. Similarly the sound of the flute always brings forth *kama* from the *gopīs’* hearts, causing its symptoms to appear within their limbs, words and behaviour.

May your words of unconditional love and compassion continue to remain deeply embedded in my consciousness so they become visible at the time of the setting sun of my life.

“The most exquisite part of Krishna’s form is His radiant face. The sweetest part of Krishna’s moon-like face is His enigmatic smile, which is the silver moonshine of His countenance and spreads its nectar throughout the world. Without the radiance of Krishna’s smile, sugar would be

bitter, honey would be sour, and nectar devoid of taste.

May the sweet and nectarean *līlā* of your life as the exemplar of devotion be forever etched in my heart as the moonshine of your mercy soothes and purifies and creates a rising tide.

As words carry the purport of thought, as the mind is understood through the eyes, as a smile conveys the feelings of the heart, similarly, the flute sound transmits the beauty of Krishna. It enters through the ears and instals Him in the temple of the heart.

May the beauty of your words, the love in your eyes and your smile of good fortune be my constant meditation and worshipped in the temple of my mind.

As there are many waves in the ocean, so there are countless waves of spiritual emotion in the ocean of devotional service. Impelled by the currents of attachment to Śrī Krishna, the *gopīs* float from wave to wave experiencing one sentiment after another.

Tossed and turned by the waves of illusion and pulled by the current of material desire, I pray I do not drown but remain afloat by the golden rope of your mercy.

*Your servant,*

Nanda Kumar Dasa

Initiation: 1977, September—Durban, South Africa

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## Prahlada Bhakta Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

Each year allows me the opportunity to speak directly to you concerning the state of the union between us.

As I grow close to death, my perspective on what matters to me narrows considerably. I hear of the vast expansion of ISKCON and some of the difficulties that ensue therefrom; but for me they are almost like something I hear on the radio when I listen to the News broadcast. Those are things that happen to other people.

For me, I need to concentrate on issues that affect me directly in

our local community. Maybe I can serve you better in that small way.

That is about me....But Vyāsa-pūjā is about you. However, the only reason I have something to say about me is because of you. So, instead of wasting my time in some pointless way just waiting for death, you have allowed me the unimaginable and undeserved opportunity to spend my final term in something of immeasurable value.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

*Your ever-grateful servant,*

Prahlada Bhakta Dasa

Initiation: 1977, September—Sydney, Australia

Current location: Ireland

Contact: murphypjb@gmail.com

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## Amrita Keli Devi Dasi

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī iti nāmīne*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.

All glories to you and your followers.

You are always there for me whenever I call upon you for blessings. You immediately reply through your lectures and books.

In real words you are Jagat Guru, as you have preached the Hare Krishna *mahā-mantra* all over the world and taught the philosophy to everyone without any discrimination. Your selfless, unconditioned love was so prominent that irrespective of different cultures and countries, people became Krishna conscious and were ready to sacrifice everything by listening to your words. *Krishna prema* overflowed in your heart and that brought a flood to all of the devotees who followed your instructions.

You are so powerful that many people, despite not following four regulative principles, become pure devotees just by a few days of association with you. There are many devotees who even didn't

get a single *darshan* of you but they got your blessings through your disciples. They studied your books and took up Krishna consciousness seriously and have joined in preaching to others to taste the pure love of Krishna. It proves how your words changed them into a pure devotee of the Lord.

Your walk, your talk, your glance, your words, books, every single thing associated with you is so precious and dear to every devotee. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your glories are spread in all the three worlds, and your qualities are unlimited.

The contribution you have given to mankind is the best gift one can ever give. You have provided us the full package – all guide books and roadmaps to reach our topmost destination to go back to Godhead.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have lots of compassion in your heart for all the living entities. To deliver all fallen souls, you trained your disciples how to conduct Rathayātrā, Shobha yātrā and Harināma Saṅkīrtana. You are a living Mahā-Bhāgavata and through your example, showed how to live as a true well wisher and friend of every living being. The genuine essence of all spiritual teachings can be understood by observing your qualities, hearing your words and reading your books.

Thank you for giving *Gurukulas*, Temples, Vedic life, Kirtan, Lectures, Deity worship training and everything to get *Krishna prema*.

On this special occasion of your appearance day, I pray at your lotus feet to give me a boon so that I can live every moment to fulfill your order of preaching.

All glories to you. Thank you very much.

*Your servant,*

Amrita Keli Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1977, September—Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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## Kratu Dasa Adhikari

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

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṅī-pracāriṇe*



Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.

All glories to you and your followers.

I am very very grateful that you have mercifully given your unlimited blessings upon me by accepting me as your disciple. You have brought *anarpita-carīm cirāt* mercy and *Krishna prema* to the whole world. You are the real representative of Lord Nityānanda and your qualities are unlimited. Your divine presence made lots of difference, even in western countries. You introduced devotional life to all without any discrimination. You distributed love of Krishna liberally just like Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu and Lord Nityānanda instructed: '*Jare Dekho Tare Kaho Krishna Upadesh*'.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this special occasion of your appearance day, I am trying to glorify you with a few words, kindly give me your blessings.

The selected Commander of Chaitanya Mahāprabhu: As Chaitanya Mahāprabhu said, you are the commander of Mahāprabhu's mission... *mora Senāpati bhakta*. Lord Chaitanya chose you to spread Harināma all over the world... *prithibite ache joto nogor adi gram sarvatra prachaar hoibe mor naam*.

Attitude of Gratitude: Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were always in the mood for the project of Mahāprabhu and brought a tremendous difference to the whole world. But you have given all credit to your guru, that HH Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswati Prabhupāda sent you devotees to help in this mission. You have said that whatever success you have achieved is due to your deep faith in your guru's words. Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your tireless efforts in spreading the teachings of Lord Krishna all over the world. Due to your selfless dedication in establishing ISKCON and making the teachings of Bhakti yoga accessible to people from all walks of life, many fallen souls must have reached Goloka Dhām and the path is always open for whoever takes your words seriously.

Inspiration: Śrīla Prabhupāda, your teachings and personal example have inspired us to lead a more spiritual and meaningful life. Your surrender to your guru is exemplary. You tirelessly preached all over the world just to please Guru and Krishna.

It's my fortune that I got some personal association with you during your morning walk and lectures. When you asked me what I do and I replied that I am an engineer, you said, "There are lots

of doctors and engineers, why don't you become a preacher." I felt lots of blessings that day receiving your instruction. You are sitting in my heart as Guru and have inspired and empowered me to take the decision to give up the job immediately. Just one incident with a great personality like you is enough for an entire life. There is lots of love, lots of care and lots of power in your every word.

Guidance: Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your continuous guidance through your books, letters, lectures, etc. Thanks a lot for being my spiritual guide and mentor, and for giving us devotee association via ISKCON. I seek your blessings and guidance forever for my spiritual practices and lifetime preaching. I rely on your wisdom and teachings completely to navigate the challenges and obstacles that come on the path of devotional service.

Love and care: You are such a loving and caring spiritual father that inspires us to work in Krishna consciousness forever. In the case of compassion, you are like a mother who is very compassionate to her child and always protects from all kinds of dangers. I offer my heartfelt prayers and surrender to your lotus feet. Kindly give me a boon on this auspicious occasion that I can follow your orders and preach my whole life as an offering to you.

*Your servant,*

Kratu Dasa Adhikari

Initiation: 1977, September—Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Current Location: Vrindavan, India

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## Dhira Dasa

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My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of Vyāsa-pūjā, who have so kindly come to the Western countries on the paramparā order of Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda to deliver all of us fallen, conditioned souls from the degradation of impersonalism and voidism. *Nirviśeṣa śūnyavādi pāścātya deśa tāriṇe.*

Now, 50 years later, many of your dear disciples are wrapping up their sojourn in their current bodies after a lifetime of service and surrender at your lotus feet. All have sacrificed much to try and spread the glories of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission all over the

world at your request. Although we may have executed many things imperfectly, your benediction and mercy is so powerful that we still see people taking up this process of chanting the Hare Krishna Mantra and dancing in ecstasy by the thousands today. This is truly wonderful in this dark, confusing age of Kali-yuga. Thank you for taking all risks on our behalf.

Even after suffering two heart attacks on board the *Jaladuta*, you persevered in the Lower East Side of New York, preaching and teaching Krishna Consciousness among so many drunks and crazy drug addicted hippies, all the while wondering why Krishna had brought you to such a degraded place. It would have been so easy for you to give up and head back to Vṛndāvana, where you could have lived comfortably at Rādhā Dāmodara Temple in the association of Krishna loving saints and *sādhus*. You made that incredible sacrifice to try and establish this International Society for Krishna Consciousness all over the world.

Now this movement is well established all over the world. We simply pray for your causeless mercy that it can go on spreading according to your infallible instructions, thus establishing a Satya-yuga even during this most horrible Kali-yuga. Thank you for all the hard work you put in: translating *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Caitanya Caritāmṛta*, *Nectar of Devotion* and so many other transcendental literatures for our benefit. I pray for your mercy upon all young devotees to take up the distribution of your books, as devotees, in full sets, just as they are now doing in Atlanta and other places around the world. It is truly wonderful to witness your mercy manifesting in this way!

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

“Unto those great souls who have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master, all the imports of Vedic knowledge are automatically revealed.” (*Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* 6.23)

*Now moving closer,*

Dhira Dasa

Current location: Orange Park, Florida, USA

Contact: dnrealtor@gmail.com

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you on your appearance day.

I can vividly remember the day you appeared into my life. It was in the form of your books, your writings and your photo! That was 49 years ago when I was truly saved! I accepted you in my heart and soul even though we had not met in person – we met on a higher level! Looking back on my journey over the years I feel that I haven't gone too far...nor have I achieved very much. However I am so eternally grateful for so many things that I am bursting to share with you. Without you none of this would be relevant or possible.

After 49 years I still feel grateful

That I have a taste for the holy name and the sweet waves of immersive kīrtan that carry me to a beautiful place

- For the community of friends, family and well wishers that have rallied around you and your organisation
- That I have some physical energy still to engage in some service
- For the reading groups with soul sisters where we can discuss books and delve deeper into the philosophy of bhakti and the relish the Lord's incredible pastimes
- For the opportunities – when they come to share my realisations - and support others on the path
- For the beauty and sanctuary of Bhaktivedanta Manor – an island oasis in a sea of stormy waters
- For the never ending adventure which is Krishna consciousness – a magical ride
- For the moments when I can actually see yours and Krishna's hand in my life
- That I am still here and able to speak a few words in your glorification on your Vyāsa-pūjā day
- For the service and privilege of sharing Bhaktivedanta Manor with so many wonderful guests that visit daily
- For my children who have accepted the path of bhakti in their lives
- For giving us the knowledge of simple living and high thinking
- For you modelling selfless love and kindness

None of this would be possible if you had not made the sacrifices that you did to bring Bhakti to the West. We aim to keep your ISKCON alive and healthy. I pray that I can remain not only connected but the connection and relationship with you will grow stronger in my remaining years on this planet.

When I am in my garden I am constantly battling with the bind weed....It is a weed that wraps itself around healthy plants and eventually squeezes and strangles them. It is a graphic illustration of how *anarthas* and offences can strangle the growth of bhakti. In my heart I pray that my taste for material enjoyment and my offences to the devotees will not strangle my *bhakti-lata-bija* and that my love and attachment to you and your instructions will remain strong. Serving you not only brings the greatest pleasure but also the greatest success in life. We are a relatively young movement and sometimes decisions that are made and the way affairs are managed can be disappointing and frustrating. We still have so much to learn! Please give us the intelligence to act when appropriate and the wisdom to understand how to truly show love, kindness and shelter to one and all to allow this movement to fully blossom.

*I remain a soul surrendered to you,  
Your servant,*

*Guru Carana Padma Dasi*

Initiation: 1977, September—Chicago, USA

Current location: Watford, UK

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## Devadeva Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Association with Kṛṣṇa consciousness is awakening my understanding.

Therefore, I am offering my sincere obeisances respectfully. Making advancement spiritually while navigating my path. Presumed tragedy in family, situations arise fraught with complexity. I shall remain on the *Bhakti Mārga* and continue to advance.

While playing my material role, I strive to be exemplary. I receive so much support from my family and community to assist me

in this endeavor.

*Your servant,*

Devadeva Dasa

Initiation: 1977, October—Vrindavan, India

Contact: dfour108@gmail.com

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## Sarnga Thakur Dasa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. An offering of love and wonder.

How is it possible?

After years of preparation – writing and preaching in India, in 1965, a venerable *sādhū*, apparently alone, crosses the vast ocean, bringing knowledge of Krishna to the West. In this place, the true nature and the personality of the Supreme Lord was virtually unknown.

By his deep unswerving dedication, his purity, potency, and faith – transcendental in all respects, he spread the glorious chanting of Hare Krishna all over the planet.

Over one hundred temples sprang up in faraway places. Millions of books – divine literature – revealed by His Divine Grace, went out to dispel the darkness. *Prasādam* enriched each starving soul, who accepted the mercy. How was it possible?

Śrīla Prabhupāda has saved countless souls, and continues to do so. Full of divine vision and compassion, he raised those of us practically dead to the realities of spirit and devotion, and gave us the ability to live his instructions and carry on his mission.

He is still guiding, correcting, and empowering us within and without. From the beginning, he carried a timeless tradition and wonderful vision in his heart, that will take generations to fulfill, if ever.

From all points of view, Śrīla Prabhupāda is the answer to how all this is possible. His qualities and character, his expertise, his words and behavior – every aspect of his life, points to his being the empowered representative of the Lord in this age. Krishna has come as the *jagat guru*, to carry out an otherwise impossible task.

We fall at your lotus feet Śrīla Prabhupāda, and beg for service.

*Your humbled servant,*

Sarnga Thakur Dasa

Initiation: 1977, October—Potomac, MD, USA

Current location: Alachua, Florida, USA

Contact: thakur853@gmail.com

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## Satyavati Devi Dasi

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To Śrīla Prabhupāda

This year 2024 marks the 49th anniversary of my meeting with you in person, and it feels like a blink of an eye. Many years have gone by, and in not a single year have I failed to try to follow your instructions to the best of my ability.

This year I attended the opening of the new temple in Washington, DC, USA, and as I marvelled at the beautiful construction I thought about how pleased you will be. Thousands of devotees attended the festivities and took *prasādam*.

Meanwhile in our own temple in Alachua the community is increasing under the care of Mother Mukhya.

And in Gainesville Hridayānanda Swami has opened the Bhaktivedanta Institute attracting the highly educated people to Krishna consciousness.

I often get asked the question, do I feel more Krishna conscious now after 49<sup>th</sup>? My answer is when you, my Guru Mahārāja, my source of inspiration and love, Śrīla Prabhupāda, were physically present, I felt empowered; I could do anything for Krishna. Now after a blink of an eye my conviction and faith in the holy name has increased; I find myself spontaneously preaching. Being old and closer to death helps.

As I got news from my family that my two brothers Arturo and Mario have died, I am reminded of my dedication to your service, the pure devotee of the Lord, and how to serve to benefit others by them indirectly thinking of you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you continue to be the spiritual inspiration for generations to come. May I have the mercy to be carried away by your infinity mercy, towards you, just like back in 1975; it seems then that all the gears of a time machine have stopped, my senses are failing, and you are my only hope. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the Lover of the Lord.

Yours truly,

Satyavati Devi Dasi

Initiation: 1977, October—Mexico

Current location: New Raman Reti, Florida, USA

Contact: maricelasilberman@gmail.com

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## Mahapurāṇa Dasa

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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmīnī*

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

I hold tightly onto the sacred Tulasī *mālā* as I chant Krishna’s Holy Names, & follow Your Bhakti guidelines for true health & true happiness, poised to hear the Names, Who are directly the Lord Himself, I daily practice real meditation & day by day the noise becomes a little less noisy, & I swallow *caraṇāmṛta* & take *prasāda* to purify my mind & senses which have minds of their own, & with my tiny faith, each day I continue on the path back home to “You”!

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue to guide & protect me!

Your servant,

Mahapurāṇa Dasa

Initiation: 1977, November—New Orleans, USA

Current location: USA

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## Haridasas Thakura Dasa

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My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

When I first met you in 1975 in your book, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, I knew that you were my guru. I had been searching for the truth for a long time. I immediately accepted you, and you accepted me, and that is as I now understand it...an affair of the heart. It was not a sentimental or a material experience, it was a spiritual one.



At that time I knew that I was not this body. I knew that my path was a progressive one. Until that time I was an independent traveller who shunned groups like the plague.

My upbringing was a difficult one. I was in homes from the age of four, and from six until fifteen, I was in foster care. I rebelled against authority, and I was often in trouble with the law. I was heading for disaster (as Maggie Bonner, a well known palmist from Malvern told me in 1983). She said that someone came into my life in my mid-twenties, and if it weren't for them I would have been murdered, committed suicide, or be doing life in prison.

Of course you know all of this, Śrīla Prabhupāda. It was you that saved me.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!!!

I won't detail my life story here, but for what it's worth I owe you a huge debt.

I was serving 3.5 years for hashish importation. I was moved around within the prison system due to my being a Hare Krishna (the vicar feared me as a bad influence), and the fact that I didn't really fit in. I ended up at HM Prison Camp Hill on the Isle of Wight.

I became the vegetarian cook which still amazes me to this day. I would offer all the meals that I cooked for the vegetarians. I would often chant 50 rounds a day and on some days read for up to seven hours.

I was paroled after two years for good behaviour, and as I walked out through those wooden gates, Rohinandana and Shastra Chaksus were waiting for me. They garlanded me and popped a *maṅgala āraṭi* sweet into my mouth. I was free at last!

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!!! All glories to you!!!

Haridasas Thakura Dasa

Initiation: 1977—London, UK

Current location: Watford, UK

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