

Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā

**Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā**  
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# Śrī Vyāsa-Pūjā

The Appearance Day of  
Our Beloved Spiritual Master

His Divine Grace Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad  
**A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPĀDA**  
Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness



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# Introduction

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From Abeokuta to Yogyakarta, from Adelaide to Washington, D.C., devotees around the world raise their voices once more to express their gratitude, praise, and prayers to Śrīla Prabhupāda on his Vyāsa-pūjā day. Some highlights:

Girirāj Swami focuses on the uniqueness of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s mercy. Echoing Uddhava’s statement about Kṛṣṇa at Śrīmad-Bhagavatam 3.2.12—“How shall I take shelter of one more merciful than He?”—Girirāj Swami recalls a story told to him by Nārāyaṇī Devī Dāsī:

You [Śrīla Prabhupāda] were giving a talk in which you said that in order to go back home, back to Godhead, one must be cent percent pure, cent percent free of material desires and attachments. When you saw that the devotees were discouraged, you said, “All right, 90%.” Still they were dejected. Then you said, “All right, 80%.” Still they were crestfallen. Then you said, “All right, 75%—but not less.”

After the talk, you commented, “If you just hold on to my lotus feet, I will take you back to Godhead. I have the key to the back door.”

The most dramatic and moving story of the last year was Jayapatāka Swami’s near-fatal stroke in October 2008 and his miraculous recovery to the point where he resumed some of his traveling and preaching. In his homage he expresses his gratitude to the devotees around the world for their prayers and help, and to Śrīla Prabhupāda for a chance to continue his service:

At the present time I am traveling to different places undergoing various therapies, trying to cure the problems I have encountered since the stroke. I hope I will soon be able to return to Māyāpur and spend time there. The doctors said that the six months after a stroke is the optimum time for getting physically recuperated, so I am trying to do this so I can do more useful service for Your Divine Grace. Many disciples have dedicated themselves to helping me in different ways, and I am grateful for all their help. Many devotees have prayed for me all over the world, and I am very grateful for their prayers and their kindness. I hope I will soon have a healthier body to engage in your devotional service in a more complete way, but in any case I am very grateful for this opportunity you have given me to continue serving Your Divine Grace.

Śivarāma Swami glorifies Śrīla Prabhupāda for what he considers Prabhupāda’s greatest achievement—delivering the holy name of Kṛṣṇa to the world:

In this meager offering I have touched but a molecular portion of the glories of the holy names of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and of the benefits they award to those who chant and hear them. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, fulfilled Lord Caitanya’s prophecy by giving the fallen people of this age the greatest of treasures. Therefore you are as glorious as the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa. And as everyone knows, like the holy names, you always deliver the goods, the crown jewel of those touchstone-like goods being pure affection for the holy names themselves.

This year we’ve added a new section: Ministries. Chāyā Devī Dāsī, longtime co-manager of ISKCON’s cow protection ministry, expresses her thanks to Śrīla Prabhupāda for the extended family of caring devotees he created, which provided essential help when her husband Balabhadra Dāsa and daughter Lakshmi were incapacitated:

Help came not only in the form of hands-on physical assistance, but also in the form of the heartfelt letters, phone calls, and visits from your devotees from all over the world. How little did we realize how immense a community of followers you have created with your loving example of pure love for Lord Kṛṣṇa! We have only received such attention and encouragement because

we are an active part of this community that is dedicated to you. You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are the inspiration encouraging these loving exchanges. Your exchange with us in the role of ever well-wisher and trusted friend is also the basis for our loving exchanges with the cows.

Finally, we have an excerpt from a letter sent to the ISKCON Prison Ministry (in the Others section) from Bhakta Julio in a prison in Muskegon, Michigan. He's appreciating a package sent to him by Śyāmapriyā Devī Dāsī, one of Śrīla Prabhupāda's staunch disciples who worked with the Prison Ministry for many years and passed away in April of this year:

During the week in which I received your letter I got a package from ISKCON Prison Ministry at Alachua, Florida. They sent me two books—The Bhagavad Gita As It Is and Bhakti: The Art of Eternal Love. They also sent me two issues of Back To Godhead Magazine. I am enjoying reading these books. This sacred wisdom fills my soul with an abundance of love and joy. Every day I dedicate time to drink the sweet nectar of the Bhagavad Gita. And throughout the day I contemplate what I've read and make the effort to apply these sacred teachings to every aspect of my life. I truly feel the Lord's Grace operating in my life. The more I dedicate my life to the Supreme Lord the more I'm realizing that I no longer desire to succumb to this material life. I feel a lot more detached from the illusions of the material world.

We see from this letter, and all these excerpts, how Śrīla Prabhupāda's mercy is flowing through this world in an ever-increasing stream, through his books, the holy name, the Deities, the many centers of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and most of all through his sincere followers. The Vyāsa-pūjā book records but a small fraction of the love Śrīla Prabhupāda's followers around the world feel for him, and of their profound appreciation for his boundless gifts.

Draviḍa Dāsa

Vyāsa-pūjā book editor

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# The Meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā

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Kṛṣṇa is the master of all such mysticism. It is to be understood, however, that as Arjuna was fortunate enough to understand Kṛṣṇa directly, so, by the grace of Vyāsa, Sañjaya was also able to hear Kṛṣṇa directly. Actually there is no difference between hearing directly from Kṛṣṇa and hearing directly from Kṛṣṇa via a bona fide spiritual master like Vyāsa. The spiritual master is the representative of Vyāsadeva also. Therefore, according to the Vedic system, on the birthday of the spiritual master the disciples conduct the ceremony called Vyāsa-pūjā. [*Bhagavad-gītā* 18.75, purport]

\* \* \*

In accordance with Bengali tradition, the mother had gone to the home of her parents for the delivery, and so it was that on the bank of the Ādi Gaṅgā, a few miles from his father's home, in a small two-room, mud-walled house with a tiled roof, underneath a jackfruit tree, Abhay Charan was born. [*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta, Chapter 1: Childhood*]

About two years ago I offered my full obeisances to the roots of that most fortunate jackfruit tree in the Tollygunge area of Kolkata. Almost leafless and withered, the tree now stands at a corner of two walls of a shack-home within a shack settlement. Since then, I have been praying for someone to save and take care of Śrīla Prabhupāda's jackfruit tree.

\* \* \*

The Absolute Truth is enshrined in the heart of Śrīla Prabhupāda, who is attractive to everyone by his behavior.

*dharmāsthāpana-hetu sādharma vyavahāra  
purī-gosānīra ye ācaraṇa, sei dharmā sāra*

“A devotee's behavior establishes the true purpose of religious principles. The behavior of Mādhavendra Purī Gosvāmī is the essence of such religious principles.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Mādhya-līlā* 17.185)  
Śrīla Prabhupāda explains in the purport:

[T]herefore Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu says, *dharmāsthāpana-hetu sādharma vyavahāra*: “The behavior of a devotee is the criterion for all other behavior.” Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu Himself followed the devotional principles and taught others to follow them. *Purī-gosānīra ye ācaraṇa, sei dharmā sāra*. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu personally followed the behavior of Mādhavendra Purī and advised others to follow his principles.

His Holiness Pārtha-sārathi Dāsa Gosvāmī commented in a talk in Durban, South Africa, on October 19, 2005:

Lord Caitanya says that the *Vedas*, the *Purāṇas*, and the great saints do not always agree with each other. Thus, *dharmāsthāpana-hetu sādharma vyavahāra*: real religious principles are established by the behavior of a devotee. Real religious principles, *dharmā*, are established, *sthāpana-hetu* (*hetu* means “cause”) . . . real religious principles are established, *sādharma vyavahāra*, by the behavior of devotees. Then Lord Caitanya said, “Therefore Śrīla Mādhavendra Purī personifies all religious principles.” . . . For us in ISKCON, Śrīla Prabhupāda is that example, and he personified real religious principles. So we are always quoting him, giving his examples, and trying to model ourselves after him. His activities and instructions are the essence of religious principles, *dharmā-sāra*. *Sāra*

means the essential ingredient, like the essential ingredient of milk is cream. So *dharma-sāra*, real religious principles, are shown, taught, and personified by the behavior of the devotee. Lord Caitanya immediately glorified Mādhavendra Purī, who happened to be his *parama-guru*, that he is the essence of all religious activities. For us, Śrīla Prabhupāda is the essence of all religious principles. So we try to invoke his remembrance and follow in his footsteps. Whenever we speak, if we can aptly quote something that Śrīla Prabhupāda said, it gives what we say authenticity, and this will be true for thousands of years to come. He is actually *śaktyāveśa*, fully empowered.

\* \* \*

Śrīla Prabhupāda's only desire is *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*, devotional service to the Lord, and to engage others in devotional service. That is why Śrīla Prabhupāda appeared in this world.

The special function of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī is to establish the feelings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. These feelings are His desires that His special mercy be spread throughout the world in this Kali-yuga.

*prthivīte āche yata nagarādi-grāma  
sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*

The desire of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is that all over the world everyone, in every village and every town, know of Him and His *sankīrtana* movement. These are the inner feelings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī committed to writing all these feelings of the Lord. Now again, by the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the same feelings are being spread all over the world by the servants of the Gosvāmīs, and devotees who are pure and simple will appreciate this attempt. As concluded by Śrīla Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja Gosvāmī, however, those who are on the level of hogs and dogs will never appreciate such a great attempt. Yet this does not matter to the preachers of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's cult, for all over the world they will continue to perform this responsible work, even though persons who are like cats and dogs do not appreciate them. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya-līlā* 1.117, purport]

\* \* \*

When people become devotees, we must take care of them and protect them in the greater family spirit with affection for one another. This was Śrīla Prabhupāda's deep concern:

Our ISKCON should be taken as being a family based upon love and trust, so as the father becomes unhappy when one of his children wishes to break family connections, I also become unhappy when there are difficulties within our ISKCON family. [Letter to Īśāna and Vibhāvati, 21 September 1970]

In a letter to me dated 26 January 2002, His Holiness Girirāja Swami wrote:

Guru Dāsa had been serving in Vṛndāvana for some time, when some devotees asked him to leave Vṛndāvana to travel with them and preach throughout India. Guru Dāsa was in doubt about what to do, so he approached Śrīla Prabhupāda. "Śrīla Prabhupāda, some devotees have asked me to travel and preach with them. But you know how attached I am to Vṛndāvana. At the same time, I do want to preach. What should I do?" Śrīla Prabhupāda replied, "You can stay in Vṛndāvana and preach to the devotees." Guru Dāsa Prabhuh said Śrīla Prabhupāda's words made a deep impression on him. He realized then that we are supposed to preach not only to new people but also to devotees—to take care of the devotees as well. So even now, as Guru Dāsa explained, although he preaches to new people whenever he can, he is most concerned about the devotees who have already surrendered to Śrīla Prabhupāda and Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and he tries especially to help them.

\* \* \*

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, who made a jackfruit tree most fortunate by allowing her to offer her cooling shade for the appearance of His Divine Grace!

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, in whose heart the Absolute Truth is eternally enshrined!

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, who attracts everyone by his behavior!

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, whose only desire is to render devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa and engage others in devotional service!

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, who is continuing to spread the inner feelings of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, under the divine order of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world through the International Society for Krishna Consciousness!

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, who wants us to continue to take care of each other in a family based upon love and trust!

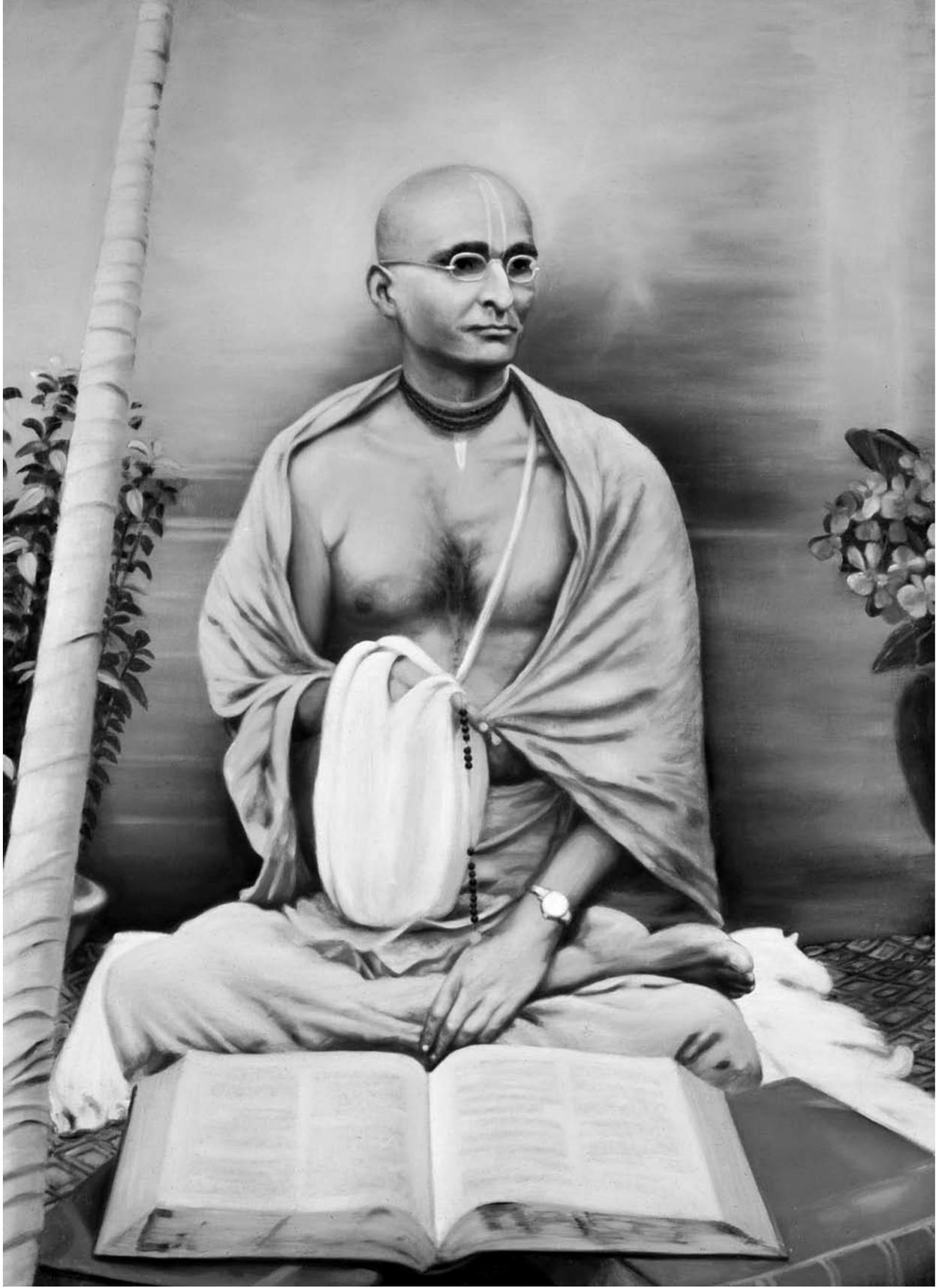
And we will have another ISKCON in the spiritual sky!

Why you only want to be in the spiritual sky with Siddhasvarupa? Why not all? If Siddhasvarupa can go, why not everyone? Siddhasvarupa will go, you will go, Syamasundara will go, all others will go. We will have another ISKCON there. [Letter to Tuṣṭa Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, 14 December 1972]

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Bṛhat-mṛdaṅga Dāsa

Co-Director, Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture



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# “Adore, Adore Ye All The Happy Day”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

