



Homages



Publishers



Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North America)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*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*

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to you, our guiding light in life's journey across the vast ocean of nescience!

I beg Your Divine Grace for inspiration as I make this attempt to glorify you, a great Vaiṣṇava representative of Vyāsadeva. Although I have no qualification, I will offer something from my heart and pray you accept it.

In my attempt to glorify you, I would be remiss in my duty if I did not make the effort to rightly glorify your disciples here at the BBT who have taken the *saṅkīrtana* mission as their life and soul. Your potency, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is most evident as I watch with amazement how these devotees, for decades, have not given up the fight and gone away. They are so devoted to your mission that they endure many hardships to help dispel the dense darkness of irreligion by printing and distributing your transcendental literature. Their service is unmotivated and uninterrupted, their only desire being to please you and, in so doing, to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

In a letter written in 1839, the American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "The apple never falls far from the stem." Here Emerson is describing the tug that often brings us back to our childhood home. As Vaiṣṇavas, we can understand this saying to mean that no one should remain in this temporary world, full of miseries, but should go back home, back to Godhead. You came to this Western world to renew our eternal relationship with the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa and take us home. Your books are the branches of the tree of Vedic knowledge, and by attaching ourselves to you through your words we feel the tug that will one day help us transcend this material existence and go back home, back to Godhead.

Who in this material world is not suffering? Every day we receive calls and letters from people in mental institutions, prisons, and hospitals, from the elderly and sick. And youth is no bar against suffering: many young or relatively young people have had their hearts broken so that formerly sweet relationships are dead, or their homes are in turmoil, or they're strung out on drugs or alcohol. And everywhere there is the thick malaise brought on by the worldwide economic crisis. The fire of material life is burning everyone who comes to this material world. If we think that just a little enjoyment apart from Kṛṣṇa will not burn us, we're like the fool who lights just the corner of a pan of gasoline, hoping not get scorched. Everyone here is suffering, and only those who are fortunate enough to come in contact with a devotee who has taken to the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness will finally have their questions answered and feel some cooling relief. As you wrote, "The Vedic instructions are like nectar and cool water for one suffering from scorching heat." (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.12.3)

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for bringing us devotional service and giving us the answers to the questions that have plagued mankind for centuries. We hear these questions all the time. Why does a loving God permit war? Why is there disease? Why do babies die? Why do bad things happen to good people, and, even more interesting to some, why do good things happen to bad people? Thank you for giving us not only a vast storehouse of knowledge through your books but a way to disseminate this knowledge to all the conditioned souls.

You are *patita-pāvana*, the most compassionate servant of the Lord and the greatest benefactor of human society. Because of you, the entire society has been given a way to progress toward the highest



perfection of life. We must take advantage of this great benediction.

Though my role here at the BBT is insignificant, I feel intense gratitude for the mercy you rained down on my head to wake me up to a greater purpose and plan for a life that would have otherwise ended in despair. I thank Kṛṣṇa for bringing me to the devotees who have followed in your footsteps, and I thank you for bringing us Kṛṣṇa.

Knowing that your success came from your unmotivated and uninterrupted service to your Guru Mahārāja, we pray that we may continuously serve your mission so that it will go on and on and one day be handed over to other souls who have also, somehow or other, received your mercy.

Your words are clear as crystal: “There is nothing new to be said. Whatever I had to say I have already said in my books. Now you must all try to understand it and continue with your endeavors.” (*Śrī Nāmāmṛta*, Preface)

All glories to the *saṅkīrtana* movement! All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day!

Your servants at the North American offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, Los Angeles, California, USA.

(written by Dvārakārāṇī Devī Dāsī)

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Northern Europe)

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
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In a remote and cold corner of the world, in the Northern Hemisphere, a small group of devotees feel truly blessed. We feel like every day is an offering at your feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Surely all devotees feel the same, but we feel especially lucky because we get to work directly with and for your books. Every day.

Luckily there are so many of your divine books and so many languages into which they need to be translated that we will be busy for the rest of our lives. At times the task seems overwhelming, but that feeling is soon overridden by another feeling, the feeling of gratitude for the opportunity to serve you in this way. For this we thank you.

To work on your books feels like getting your very close association. Most of us were not around during your glorious presence, but now we get to make up for that by helping you spread your books all over the globe. At the end of each day we know that our efforts are worth something and that we are part of something revolutionary and important. As we sit in our small offices and work on translations, graphic design, layout, etc., we are always aware of our transcendental boss—you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are always present in everything we do.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

With great gratitude, humility, and eagerness to serve you, we remain

Your devotees at the northern European offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, Korsnäs Gård, Sweden.

(written by Puṣkariṇī Devī Dāsī)

