

# Homages



Other Sources





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# Ātmā Yoga

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your transcendental mission!

After we had spent lifetimes searching for truth and happiness, Your Divine Grace finally provided us with a connection to the Absolute Truth, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Kṛṣṇa. For this we are eternally indebted to you. No words can fully express our gratitude. We can, however, endeavor to demonstrate our gratitude by using our lives to further your mission.

Please give all of us involved in this outreach program the humility and intelligence to serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa and please the devotees. Please accept our efforts, no matter how small and meager, which are offered to you the same way a child offers the father a useless stone, all the while yearning for his love and affection.

We are all so eager to move your mission forward and pray to always be under your divine guidance.

*Your servants at the Ātmā Yoga Program.*

(written by Ātmānanda Dāsa)

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## Austin Nāma Haṭṭa Center

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is difficult to even imagine the mercy you showed us by giving us such vast knowledge and a practical approach to every situation in life. Your knowledge guides us at every step, whether we're trying to meet the demands of raising a family, working a job, or doing service in the temple.

Though I am an insignificant devotee, having hardly tasted the nectar of your teachings, I can see how practically applying them not only helps me progress spiritually but makes it easy to face the ups and downs of material life.

As a mother trying to raise my child in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, I find that your teachings guide me in every step. I can always answer my son's question with "Śrīla Prabhupāda said . . ."

As a medical doctor, I see how we get entangled in the concept of "I am this body." I see how this body makes us suffer in this material world and how we still get more and more attached to it. We just try to treat the symptoms but never address the actual problems of life, *janma-mṛtyu-jarā-uyādi*. Your teachings help us realize the real treatment for all sufferings.

As a budding devotee, I am very much indebted to you for giving me my spiritual master and all the senior Vaiṣṇavas who strictly follow in your footsteps. On this most auspicious day I seek your blessings and guidance in following your disciple, my spiritual master.

*Your servants at the Nāma Haṭṭa Center in Austin, Texas, USA.*

(written by Guruvāṇī Devī Dāsī)

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# Back to Godhead (India)

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*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You gave us the definition of the word *ācārya*. An *ācārya* is one who preaches not only by words but by action also. You have done that. When we read the section in your biography (*Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta*) titled “Crying Alone in the Wilderness,” we cannot but cry along with you. Reading about how desperate you were for people to read your magazine jolts us out of our slumber and makes us aware of the difficult task ahead. We realize how far we are from even coming close to your desperation. The sincerity that you possess for getting the bona fide message across is heartfelt. Unless we adopt the same mood, it is difficult for us to do anything substantial. For this, we again turn to you. Please guide us and direct us so that we can develop the same sense of urgency that you felt in helping the people of this world achieve shelter at the lotus feet of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

In our meager attempts to please you, we have been trying out different tactics to increase the circulation of *Back To Godhead* magazine. We have tried out special issues on topics like the guru, Deity worship, and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, to name a few. In these issues we have tried to cover the topics from a variety of angles, and people liked it. Often they have become collector’s items, with people happily preserving them for posterity. We have also toured some parts of the country over the past two years, trying to hold programs to increase awareness of the advantages of reading BTG magazine. In the same way that temples organize book distribution marathons in December, we have organized *Back to Godhead* subscription marathons. For a month, devotees go all out to secure subscriptions for our magazine. It really works. Many newcomers get a first-time peek into spiritual life by poring over the beautiful and realistic illustrations that you called “the windows to the spiritual world.” Many read about Lord Caitanya for the first time and are bowled over by His mercy. For many, this is also their first meeting with you. Many have read your books, but few know about your personal life. Their thirst is quenched only through this magazine.

The prospects are many, the abilities are few. Hopes are high, capabilities are few. But on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we are hopeful that when you see our efforts to please you, you will bestow your favor on us in the form of your blessings and encouragement. Then we can become humble and transparent instruments of your compassion on the people of this world.

*Your servants at Back to Godhead magazine, India*

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# Back to Godhead (USA) and Krishna.com

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*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

You assured your disciples that you and they would all “be packed up together” through the chanting of the holy names:

Swamiji says in the taxi, “There is no question of separation. The sound vibration fixes us up together, even though the material body may not be there. What do we care for this material body? Just go on chanting HARE KRISHNA, and we will be packed up together. You will be chanting here, and I will be chanting there, and this vibration will circulate around this planet.”  
[“Swamiji’s Departure,” by Brahmānanda Dāsa, BTG #16, 1968]

Before encountering your movement, many of us felt great unease in this world. Our closest family and friends often couldn’t understand us. Our relationships were stuck in the mud—not going anywhere. It took tremendous energy to attempt to connect on any level.

We were longing for something we had no words for, and nowhere around us could we find sympathy.

Kṛṣṇa consciousness changes all that. Anyone, anywhere who reads your books and chants Hare Kṛṣṇa can relate to (almost) anyone else doing the same—on the deepest level—regardless of age, nationality, educational background, or any other barrier that usually hampers meaningful human exchange.

I’ve seen your devotees resume lively conversations—begun years earlier—as if they’d never been apart. By spreading Kṛṣṇa’s names and teachings all over the world, you’ve given us a taste of the kind of eternal, close relationships we all long for—the kind available in the spiritual world.

There are now 1.6 billion people online. The Internet, an invention intended to facilitate communication, has become a virtual world, where people spend many hours a day trying to find “something or other” and attempting escape from “whatever.”

As a result, people often become more isolated; their demands for faster and more easily available information and/or sense gratification only increase, causing more frustration in their lives than ever before.

By spreading Lord Caitanya’s movement, you showed us how to truly unify people—which the World Wide Web can’t do. The holy names of Kṛṣṇa are your prescription. What you said in 1968 is as true as ever: by chanting Kṛṣṇa’s names we are truly together, though physically separated by thousands of earth miles,

At BTG/Kṛṣṇa.com, we are trying to make your association available to the often-lonely virtual world of the Internet.

By your grace, many people in every nook and corner of the world can now read your books, hear the chanting of Kṛṣṇa’s names, and see the worship of Deities you or your followers have established. Where there are no temples, where devotees haven’t even visited, Kṛṣṇa.com is able to go.

Please bless us that we may be able to increase our service and faithfully continue to present what we’ve learned from you, so that more and more of us can be packed up together by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa.

*Your servants at BTG/Krishna.com.*

(written by Ekendra Dāsa)

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## Bhaktivedanta Archives

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*nama om̄ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

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Our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Before you had disciples in the West, before the start of ISKCON, you purchased a tape recorder to set down the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. This endeavor was but another step to fulfill the request of your beloved *gurudeva* to preach in English. That first recording survives, along with your handwritten notation on the back of the box: “19/2/66 Introduction to Bhagwat Geeta.”

When we listen to the recording it is easy to overlook the hardship and sacrifice you endured to come and take up residence in this foreign land. To think of you sitting at a microphone in a bare office space on New York’s West 72nd Street in winter, the 7-inch reels slowly turning, sliding a thin tape across the recording head to be impregnated with the magnetic words of the pure devotee. Words born from the collective writings of the past *ācāryas*, indeed words whose provenance can be traced back to Kṛṣṇa Himself. Of course, the recording does not give the impression of hardship, nor would you have wanted it too, as serving your spiritual master was always paramount. So instead, we the listeners are elevated into another realm by the slow lyrical opening lines, *om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā/ caḥsur unmlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*.

We are immediately aware that this invocation is a precursor to something far larger. Even the way you recite this invocation is different from any later rendition. We now know that this recording was the opening salvo in your transcendental battle to bring about a cultural and spiritual enlightenment not seen before in the Western hemisphere.

However, even if one does not hear the recording, the words printed on the tape box give one a sense of the supernatural treasure contained inside, in much the same way that the words written above the window of the storefront you rented on Second Avenue in New York—“Matchless Gifts”—suggested to passersby that if they came inside they would find the one gift that cannot be matched. In another quirk of naming fate, Cavalier, the manufacturer of the recording tape, had these words printed boldly on the box: “Sound Magic.” Once again, what a prophetic statement! We have all heard from your lotus lips the sound magic that cleanses our hearts and clears our eyes of multilayers of material cataracts. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the transcendental magician of our time, and every word you spoke was indeed magical, and we are all eternally indebted to you. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your magical sound vibration, your *vāṇī!*

*You’re most humble and obedient servants at the Bhaktivedanta Archives.*

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## The Bhaktivedanta Center

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Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our *danḍavats* at your lotus feet. What life we have is owed to you.

Lord Caitanya desired that the *mahā-mantra* be spread to every town and village on earth. But it was not until you made that fateful transatlantic voyage that His prophetic desire began to be fulfilled. In a few short years you established the chanting in temples in most major American cities and in many, many others around the world. When you left us, the torch was passed to your disciples to continue the race.

In 1993 we left the security of one of your centers to bring the holy names to Virginia, thinking it was time to again take up your missionary spirit and add another town to the fulfillment of the “every town and village” prophecy. We opened a small center here in Charlottesville and established a Bhakti Yoga Club at the University of Virginia.

During the first few years there were some weeks when no one came to our Sunday programs. When

that happened we remembered how you gave some classes in Jhansi that no one attended, and we were (and remain) inspired by your vision and steady determination. On those days we nevertheless held the program and made up plates of *prasādam*, taking them to neighbors.

Now, sixteen years later, only through your mercy, several *bhaktas* who joined here have received *dīkṣā* from your disciples. Many more young people have taken the process of *bhakti-yoga* into their hearts, and it has changed them in positive ways. Many who leave the area stay in contact with us and continue to take guidance from your books. Our programs are filled with young Americans each week, all seeking spiritual life. Some weeks we barely have enough space for them all to sit. We still thrill at the sound of a young voice chanting the *mahā-mantra* for the first time, or at the sight of young people taking notes in *Bhagavad-gītā* class, honoring *prasādam*, and chanting *japa*. Teaching from your books never gets old for us; rather, we are continually inspired by it, by the process of showing young people the relevance and importance of your teachings.

We cannot even imagine how we would have wasted this human birth if we had not come in contact with you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. It is only under your care that we have found true meaning. You exemplify infinite compassion. We are grateful beyond words. We miss your *vapu*, but through teaching what you taught us, we feel closer to you with every passing year. “Thank you,” dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, doesn’t come close to expressing our gratitude.

Please bless us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, your disciples, and granddisciples here in Virginia, that we may please you with our simple service. Please bless us with continued enthusiasm and resolve to make our best effort to always act in a manner pleasing to you. We pray that you are pleased when you hear the joyful chanting emanating from the mountains of Virginia! It is only by your efforts and mercy that it occurs.

Hoping to eternally serve you, we remain

*Your disciples, granddisciples, and followers at the Bhaktivedanta Center and the University of Virginia Bhakti Yoga Club, in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.*

(written by Māyāpriyā Devī Dāsī)

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## Bhaktivedanta College (Budapest)

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your beautiful lotus feet, where all souls who are seeking the final goal of life may find shelter.

Although I can see day by day with what devotion your granddisciples serve their spiritual masters, I still feel some awe and amazement when I experience the depth of attachment and love that your disciples feel for you. Their matchless faith in you and their strict following of your instructions repeatedly enable them to accomplish materially impossible missions. Sometimes I feel sad because I do not have such decisive and one-pointed faith on the path of fulfilling the desires of my spiritual master, revealed through his instructions. When I reach this point in my meditation, you appear to me in the form of my favorite picture, standing with dignity and holding your *sannyāsa-daṇḍa*. This huge picture of yours hangs in the most prominent place in the assembly room of the Bhaktivedanta College, and it reigns over the whole college. Indeed, Bhaktivedanta College is your college in every respect. When I’m sad you remind me of that and not only dispel my sadness but also fill my heart with inspiration, with the strong conviction that without your mercy nothing is possible but with your mercy anything is possible. The best example is the Bhaktivedanta College itself, which has its tenth anniversary this year.

I will never forget the day when with Rādhānātha Prabhu and our lawyer we created the Bhaktivedanta Foundation, the basis of the college, and as we walked home on the Chain Bridge we were saying that it would be an unmitigated wonder if it would ever become a state-accredited college. We had nothing,



from the material point of view, and we had a good laugh due to the excitement of the challenge. We already had the essence, though: we firmly believed that since our Guru Mahārāja wanted the college, if we did our best, then despite our shortcomings his will and mercy would be more than enough for success. We could feel the transcendental power of the guru's will and mercy.

As the project advanced, our way was dotted with successes and failures, and then at one point the certainty came to the surface of my heart, like a spring rising from the ground, that not only did my Guru Mahārāja want this college but you did also, and if it were possible you would like it to become a reality more than he did, since you were inspiring him above all. Since then you have directly given me obvious and continuous encouragement in my service connected to the college. I have never experienced any more inspiring feeling than when I have been able to clearly perceive how happy you are with the minor and major successes of the Bhaktivedanta College. And although as bigger challenges have come I have seen even more clearly that my abilities and energies are hopelessly short of what are required, I am as firm as a rock in one respect: as long as you and my Guru Mahārāja want this college, and as long as the main motivation of the devotees serving here is to please you and him, no shortcoming of mine will be a bar to success.

*Your servants at the Bhaktivedanta College, Budapest, Hungary.*

(written by Mahārāṇī Devī Dāsī)

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## Bhaktivedanta College (Radhadesh)

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The staff and students of Bhaktivedanta College offer our repeated obeisances at your lotus feet. We can hardly believe our good fortune at being allowed to participate in an institution of higher education that boasts your title, and we recognize the responsibility that such a privilege entails. At Bhaktivedanta College we receive the opportunity to apply what you advised in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.1:

Within the past five hundred years, many erudite scholars and *ācāryas* like Jīva Gosvāmī, Sanātana Gosvāmī, Viśvanātha Cakravartī, Vallabhācārya, and many other distinguished scholars even after the time of Lord Caitanya made elaborate commentaries on the *Bhāgavatam*. And the serious student would do well to attempt to go through them to better relish the transcendental messages.

By being exposed to the insights of these great souls, we are delighted to recognize how so much of what they have written is interwoven in your Bhaktivedanta purports. It is like meeting old and dearly loved friends in another sacred place. If we had not already heard from Your Divine Grace, however, confusion could easily arise at what at times appears contradictory. How seamlessly and conclusively you have inculcated in us the principles of Kṛṣṇa consciousness! We are eternally grateful to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

While endeavoring to study and promote your divine teachings in the context of academia, we are also confronted with many pages of scholarly speculation concerning the actual import of the *Vedas*. In your Bhaktivedanta purports you anticipate and authoritatively address all these doubts and challenges. The *Vedas* are certainly a desire tree, but who actually knows the supremely desirable fruit hidden within the branches of the *Vedas*? If Your Divine Grace had not so painstakingly delivered this fruit, how many of

us would have even cared to know? Not only have you delivered this “semisolid and soft and therefore easily swallowable” fruit, but you also epitomize the perfection that results for one who has tasted and fully assimilated it. By your sublime instructions and example you awaken within in us an attraction for the sweetness of *bhakti* and provide the means by which we may strengthen our capacity to imbibe it. How grateful we are to have received from Your Divine Grace the ultimate, all-attractive conclusion of the Vedic scripture!

The highlight of being a student or staff member of Bhaktivedanta College is the continual flow of scholar-devotees from all over the world who mercifully bless us with their devotional realizations and cutting-edge academic contributions. Expert at extracting the essence of both spiritual and academic knowledge, they are training us to be able to do the same, so that we may also participate in the adventure of preaching to the educated class of men. As we strive within your college for devotional and academic excellence, our greatest hope is that we may be empowered by Your Divine Grace to participate in and contribute to the distribution of the supremely perfect knowledge you have entrusted to us.

*Your aspiring servants at Bhaktivedanta College in Belgium.*

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# Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Loving Grace! All glories to the blessed event of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā!

Śrī Nārada felt great anxiety for Kali-yuga’s people;  
Deliverance from their sins seemed inconceivable;  
Your efforts were the salve for such anxiety,  
Preaching boldly with great dexterity.

You conquered hearts with your purity,  
Transforming lives, an effort extraordinary,  
Never deviating from your Guru Mahārāja’s mission,  
Offering the glory you received to him in submission.

External representation of the Supersoul.  
Answers to our doubts your purports hold.  
Pre-eminent *śikṣā-guru* for the next ten thousand years;  
Full protection guaranteed for anyone who your lectures hears.

Defeating Māyāvādī philosophy  
Your morning conversations accomplish thoroughly.  
Resolute in determination, you executed your service;  
Selfless were your attempts, full of self-sacrifice.

Driven by compassion for all conditioned souls,  
You left your books as maps to reach the ultimate goal.  
To study them diligently was your advice;  
In their distribution you did rejoice.

To serve your instructions is our mission.  
To be your instruments is our ambition.  
We strive to spread your teachings through structured courses,  
Delivering internationally your teachings through discourses.

On this auspicious day we pray  
That we never from this path stray.  
May our humble attempts be pleasing to you  
And inspire others to also take shelter of you.

Preaching Report: For your pleasure we humbly submit that in the past year courses were conducted in Brampton, Durban, Houston, Inisrath, Johannesburg, London, Mauritius, Midrand, Nairobi, the Philippines, Pietermaritzburg, Pretoria, San Diego, Toronto, and Vancouver. Since July 1991, 13,470 students have passed through Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture (BCEC), made possible by your divine mercy.

*Your servants at Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture, Johannesburg, South Africa.*

(written by Mādri Devī Dāsī)

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# Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you!

It is affectionately said that a teacher's heart is slightly bigger than the average human heart. This led me to wonder about your heart.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your heart is . . .

Bigger than the oceans and mountains high,  
Bigger than the vastness of the sky,  
Bigger than the all the lands on earth,  
Bigger than six billion smiles of mirth,

Wider than the horizons at the end of day,  
Wider than the wings of birds of prey,  
Wider than the line from east to west,  
Wider than the widest of the best,

Deeper than the sounds of the thunder above,  
Deeper than the deepest claims of love,  
Deeper than the center of the world,  
Deeper than the deepest truths unfurled,

A heart so big it cannot be measured,  
A heart so big, an extraordinary treasure,

A heart which opened up to those  
Who came to serve, to learn, who chose

To take what Prabhupāda came to give—  
Pure love, by which we began to live  
A life transformed, a life awake,  
A loving connection to partake.

Prabhupāda’s heart a wonder to behold,  
Prabhupāda’s heart a story to be told,  
Prabhupāda’s heart will never let us fall,  
Prabhupāda’s heart, the biggest of them all.

*Your servants at Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School, Vṛndāvana, India.*

(written by Ānanda Vṛndāvaneśvarī Devī Dāśī)

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## Boulder Krishna House

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

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

We offer our 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 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,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

In the past several months two themes have consistently manifest in our thoughts as we pray for guidance on how to better assist your mission. The first should be obvious by the nature of your journey to New York in 1965: we should endeavor to introduce people to the sublime science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. There are many venues now by which we can do this. There are distribution of your transcendental literature, public *harināma* chanting parties, lectures on college campuses, etc. And for most of Boulder Krishna House’s five-year existence, we’ve focused on these. We’ve had somewhat traditional weekly Hare Kṛṣṇa programs in our homes, advertised with flyers posted around town and on the local university campus. In the warmer weather we’ve had outdoor *harināmas* on the Pearl Street Mall (a popular outdoor pedestrian mall), at the farmer’s market, and at the annual Boulder Creek Festival (an annual arts-and-crafts event that draws an estimated 250,000 attendees). At times we’ve had book tables on the Pearl Street Mall and the local University of Colorado campus. Tapping into the current popularity of *kīrtana* in society at large, we’ve had numerous (and popular) *kīrtana* events in local yoga studios, Co-ops, and Community Centers. For the past several years we’ve participated in the annual Rocky Mountain Kirtan Summit—a jamboree of local *kīrtana* leaders. (In Boulder there is a *kīrtana* in town somewhere almost any night of the week—often more than one. To our knowledge, however, ours is the only one led by Vaiṣṇavas; all others are led by people of different spiritual persuasions—generally

with an impersonal slant and eclectic in nature. Quite often we hear comments about how our *kīrtanas* are better or “different in a very positive way” from the other *kīrtanas*. We generally attribute this to the fact that we are practicing Vaiṣṇavas and we have some limited understanding of who we’re chanting to—we know Kṛṣṇa really is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and we’re engaging in *kīrtana* because we want to glorify Him. Because of this, He sometimes reciprocates and shows us mercy, making the *kīrtana* special.) Most recently we’ve also started holding regular weekly programs on the University of Colorado campus.

Yet still there’s another thought that has been persistently appearing in our minds as we pray for guidance on how to best please you. That is that we must also have something set up to educate those who come to us for shelter, that this is an important, actually essential, element in ensuring that devotees are able to practice devotional service for the remainder of their lives. We don’t have facility to give newcomers fulltime shelter (we’re a household couple who both have to work secular jobs while maintaining two growing children), but we can share the transcendental knowledge contained in your books. With that in mind, we began holding biweekly study programs for those who are willing to make some commitment to the *bhakti-mārga*. The results have been phenomenal. Everyone has increased his or her enthusiasm to engross themselves further in the study of your books.

This enthusiasm to increase our study of your books has in turn spawned renewed enthusiasm to share them with others. Thus most Fridays one core congregational member sets up a book table on the University of Colorado campus, and we’ve finally been able to establish a steady weekly evening program on campus (previously there had been a few attempts, all of which petered out rather quickly).

And as the Bhakti Yoga Club on campus has continued to grow, we’ve experienced yet another increase in our resolve and enthusiasm to deepen our individual practices. Thus we’ve come to realize that these two aspects (making devotees and maintaining devotees) feed each other, generating increased enthusiasm. By going out and sharing Kṛṣṇa consciousness with others and seeing them take up the process, we become enlivened. And then to help them make the necessary life adjustments, we need to provide some with philosophical training in order for them to be able to discern between material and spiritual, the temporal and the eternal, as they navigate through the material creation. This education then creates an atmosphere conducive to long-term spiritual growth, both individually and communally. This atmosphere then generates increased enthusiasm to reach out to more people, and so the cycle continues.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on your divine appearance day we pray that you bestow your mercy upon us, that you guide us and give us the intelligence and compassion to be the most effective instruments we can be.

*Your servants at the Boulder Krishna House, Boulder, Colorado, USA.*

(written by Jayaśacīsuta Dāsa)

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## Centro Cultural Bhaktivedanta

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble and respectful obeisances to the dust of your lotus feet.

Today I learned something new, that being alive is not just breathing but experiencing happiness, and that real happiness is not of this world of the spiritual world. In fact, I’ve felt real happiness only since coming in contact with the books written by Your Divine Grace. When I read the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the most beautiful gift anyone can ever receive, all my nightmares are dissipated just by seeing Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet—in my heart and everyone else’s heart. From reading your books, Śrīla Prabhupāda, chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, and performing the other practices of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you gave us, our attachment grows for Sri Kṛṣṇa and His service. All these are the most wonderful experiences that have ever happened to me, and this is due only to your divine mercy. Without any hesitancy let us all taste the great

treasure of Kṛṣṇa consciousness you have given the whole world.  
Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*Your servants at Del Centro Cultural Bhaktivedanta, Colombia*

(written by Acyutānanda Dāsa)

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## Centro Studi Bhaktivedanta

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*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

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

*om̐ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā  
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Thanks to God's mercy, upon the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā anniversary I am once again given the most precious opportunity to express to you my thankfulness, absorb my mind in purifying remembrance of you, and more and more deeply reflect upon your gleaming spiritual greatness. With a special awareness, on this sacred day I devoutly bow down at your holy lotus feet, asserting my profound admiration and endless gratitude for the teachings I received from you, for your exemplary life model, and for all the inestimable deeds you carried out for our spiritual evolution.

Among your countless and important teachings, the most recurring were to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, study the *Bhagavad-gītā*, become a devotee, spread Kṛṣṇa's message, and be happy.

Your steady faith in the potency of the holy name inspired me and brought me to make it the center of my spiritual practices. Although I rarely taste its endless sweetness, I have ascertained its beneficial, transforming, and purifying power, and I believe that by your mercy and divine grace, and by my constant practice, one day I'll be able to become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious and dip into the ocean of love for Kṛṣṇa.

Among your visible spiritual qualities were compassion and mercy, humility and perspicacity, the ability to take the long view, genial creativity, fearlessness and boldness, managerial ability, faith in Kṛṣṇa's support, possessing the pure desire to serve Kṛṣṇa by spreading His glories, and empathy for every living being. All these make you a shining example of an *ācārya*.

Among the many important deeds you accomplished, the most precious was the transformation of the consciousness of innumerable men and women, whose spiritual re-education is one of the most meaningful contributions to the evolution of all humanity.

Your life was a tangible example of high humanity and spirituality, expressed as pure devotion to God. I fervently pray for your life to be my constant inspiration to become completely aware of my real nature and of my relation with God.

With an intense desire to serve you in the most genuine *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* spirit, I rely on your indispensable mercy to let me be one of your humble and useful servants.

With boundless affection and gratitude,

*Your insignificant devout servants at Centro Studi Bhaktivedanta, Italy.*

(written by Matsya Avatāra Dāsa)

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# Debrecen Nāma-haṭṭa

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. Please allow us to attempt to show our gratefulness for that privilege.

You have given us a chance to take part in Lord Caitanya’s preaching mission. Thank you for showing us that in life there is a goal for which it is worth endeavoring.

The first book distributors appeared in our town in 1990 to share Lord Caitanya’s message with the local people. Soon a very enthusiastic *saṅkīrtana* party developed, and preaching activities improved for years. But later new preaching centers and temples were established all over the country, and most of our experienced devotees were given services in those temples and centers.

However, a mostly *gṛhastha* congregation remained here, the members of which, under the careful guidance of your sincere disciple His Holiness Śivarāma Swami, are still trying to look after the treasure they were given by those preaching devotees.

In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (*Madhya-līlā* 7.128), Lord Caitanya imparts this essential instruction:

*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.” We are trying to follow this instruction more and more.

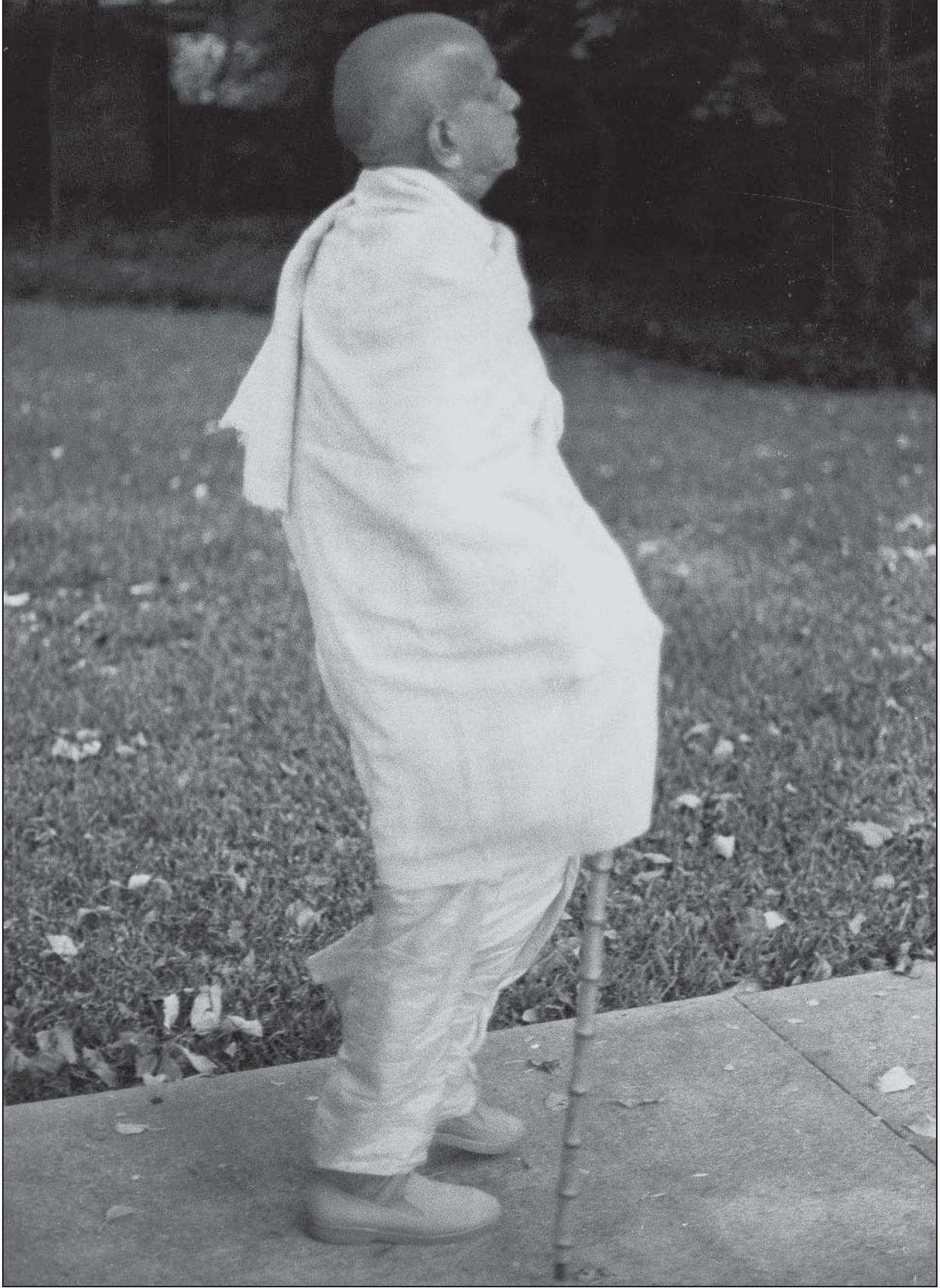
We have heard from you many times that householders should cooperate and start a restaurant where they serve *prasādam*. For years people of the town have regularly come to us for lunch, and this year we finally managed to get the permits to open our Govinda’s restaurant. You were right: by opening our restaurant, we have begun a new stage in our preaching. More and more people visit us, coming in touch with Kṛṣṇa consciousness and getting the mercy of Lord Caitanya and His associates.

We also have hold various programs here: Indian dance and *mṛdaṅga* lessons in the evenings, and congregational and preaching events for those who are interested. We also started yoga and cooking courses. We go regularly to the city center with our *bhajana* party, and we try to take part in local events to spread the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In your lectures and correspondence you always emphasized the importance of book distribution. As we experienced the power of your books, we know it is important to get these books with your translations and purports to more and more people. So a few months ago our community joined the Club of Weekend Warriors so that our congregation can systematically take part in the mission of book distribution. We pray to you for the qualification to be able to distribute more and more of your books and thus transmit the knowledge and faith we have received from you and your books.

Every little result we get is nothing but your mercy, as you are the one who has shown us the way, either directly through your books or indirectly through your disciples. Every day we pray that we will be able to represent and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in an authorized way and that we will keep its principles till the end of our lives, as strictly as you always stressed. We are sure that if we can please you, our lives will be successful.

*Your grateful servants in ISKCON Debrecen, Hungary.*



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# Festival of India

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*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

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

## Eternally Serving

From tip to top and coast to coast,  
We're the crew that moves the most.  
We work while others snore;  
We will admit—it's *not* a bore.

Serving cities on our East- to West-Coast run,  
We may find test and trial but never lack of fun.  
On the days we meet with temple authorities,  
They say, "Keep crewmen apart from our Mātājis!"

The classes we give are well attended.  
Some are satisfied, some offended  
By our wild-abandon *kīrtan* styles,  
Endless appetite, or winning smiles.

Some may complain about how few services we did.  
But, there's no major trouble—most of us were hid.  
Yes, hidden in a cool dark room staring at a screen,  
Or nose in book, of sorts—we're hardly on the scene.

Perhaps we should make a better show of it,  
But most simply choose to park and sit,  
Or lounge on lawns, all stretched out,  
Till we hear the call for another bout.

That day pre-dawn, a foreign hour to most,  
The crew rolls out to the site, not to boast.  
We start our services for hours long,  
Knowing "He is the strength of the strong."

Tents and signs aligned, a grassy edge,  
Roped and tied with stakes and sledge.  
Hammers ring their tunes, a steady beat.  
The sun arises, cool replaced by heat.

Exhibits marching, standing, pinned in place,  
To glorify the will of His Divine Grace,  
With stage and sound to spread his fame.  
The clear skies fill with the holy name.

The festival opens with blissful expression  
Of chanting and dancing, a glorious procession!  
New guests and congregation cheer—a joyful horde,  
Pushing and pulling and carrying the Lord!

Dance and drama graced the stage,  
Songs of love from the timeless age.  
The pleasures there—they never ceased,  
Nor did those who served the *prasādam* feast.

Was it not the will of Him whom we adore?  
Ah, yes, it is true, but there is even more!  
Clouds the color of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s face,  
Thunder resounding as Kṛṣṇa’s grace!

Some may have prayed for something cooler, all around,  
When dark clouds emptied, flooding the ground!  
With lightning’s flash and heaven’s roar,  
Wind blew strong with a hard downpour.

Everyone enjoyed, all were entertained;  
Steadfast devotion, even though it had rained.  
Devotees of all sorts, ages one to ninety-three,  
Happy as small children upon their father’s knee.

The move to wind it up at last began:  
Everyone helping—woman, child and man.  
All worked until the tasks were through  
And nothing more remained to do.

Every person had done their bit.  
The truck and field were now star-lit.  
Reclining on the rain-washed site,  
We spoke of Kṛṣṇa into the night.

Next morn, after dawn, well rested and fed,  
We fastened our seatbelts and tearfully said,  
“Goodbye and obeisances unto you!”  
Your ever-traveling Ratha-yātrā crew.

Their Lordships Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā-*kī jaya!*  
Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu-*kī jaya!*  
Śrīla Prabhupāda-*kī jaya!*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

It is a given that you have given us the vision of eternal festivities . . . an unending exuberance involving each member of each generation . . . each festival-goer, each fortunate soul, who breaks out of his or her mundane sphere bathes in the current of the cleansing culture of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

It is a river of mercy that gives enlivening opportunities to serve the Supreme Personality of Godhead, an environment that enthuses every person.

No one is excluded from participating, be they babe in arms, toddler, little child, the whole spectrum of youth, those hanging on to youth, all adults, and those who may conceive of themselves as retired but

who by the smiling face of His Divine Grace find themselves not swept away but swept into devotional services' transcendental realm.

Thank you for letting us remain in the association of your disciples and followers. Hare Kṛṣṇa!  
Certainly, we are blessed.  
Prayerfully yours,

*The Festival of India 2009 crew.*

(written by Phaṇi Bhūṣaṇa Dāsa)

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# Global Varnāśrama Educational Social and Cultural Organization (GLOVESCO)

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

*śrī-caitanya-mano-'bhīṣtam sthāpitam yena bhū-tale  
svayam rūpaḥ kadā mahyam dadāti sva-padāntikam*

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

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

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet, which remain a source of inspiration to hundreds and thousands of devotees.

This will likely be the last offering under the heading GLOVESCO, but the same topic will now come under ministries promoting the *varṇāśrama* mission. Since 2002 the Global Varnāśrama Educational Social and Cultural Organization (GLOVESCO) has served to spread an awareness of the *varṇāśrama* mission. By your kind mercy this awareness is gradually increasing. For those who have been involved with the activities of GLOVESCO, either through the website or through direct services offered within the organization, we will now get an opportunity to render such service within ISKCON national ministries established specifically to promote the *varṇāśrama* mission.

Since here in India we were fortunate to establish the Varnāśrama Development Committee in 2007, it was most natural that out of this committee a proposal be formulated to establish the first national ministry in India in April of this year. The need to establish such national ministries had also been expressed by some senior members of the Society. We should also note that this year's GBC resolutions pertaining to farming are very supportive of the efforts by various individuals and projects around the world to advance the cause of the *varṇāśrama* mission. We therefore have within our ISKCON society the first national ministry for *varṇāśrama* development, called the Varnāśrama-Based Rural Development Ministry for India. Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am sure you will be pleased by such developments. Much help will be given to the cause if we can see more national *varṇāśrama* development committees established around the world; these can

then gradually transform themselves into national ministries for the *varṇāśrama* mission.

The *varṇāśrama* mission is still very much in its beginning stage. There is a very great need for devotees around the world to help establish such national ministries so that the efforts of *varṇāśrama* development can be taken up in a very systematic and methodical way. In the Founding Document of Association, the *varṇāśrama* mission has been clearly identified as the first item of the secondary objectives of the Society.

Among the secondary objectives of the Society, it shall undertake the following activities:

1. To revive the scientific system of social orders of classification based on intelligence, martial spirit, productivity, and common assistance, generally known as the four castes, with reference to quality and worth for the common cause of world society.
2. To discharge as a matter of course the vitiated system of supremacy of one man over another by false prestige of birthright or vested interests.

By stressing this secondary objective, we do not intend to artificially promote it as a primary objective. However, within the larger framework of our ISKCON society, since this secondary objective has been very much neglected, a serious endeavor is needed to give it proper attention. As we begin to actually understand more clearly the position of *varṇāśrama* within our own ISKCON society as well as within the general society, we will come to understand how essential it is for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness on a larger scale.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your kind mercy. May we take to heart more and more all of your precious instructions and thus assist you in spreading the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

*You humble servants at GLOVESCO.*

(written by Bhakti Rāghava Swami)

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## Hare Krishna School

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

All devotees serving in ISKCON do so as your humble servants. They show this through their dedication, co-operation, and chastity to your instructions, your example, and your mission. Everything we do in the name of ISKCON is carried out as our humble offering to you. We have no independence to claim proprietorship over our successes, our dependents, our members, our temples, our organizations, or our programs. All that we experience and enjoy within our service is made possible by your insights, purity, direction, and guidance.

The recent resolution passed by the GBC that emphasizes the pre-eminent position of our founder-*ācārya* is a reminder to us all that we are your dependent servants and not independent controllers. If we serve your mission as humble servants, we have a chance to overcome our propensity to exploit others and to assert our superiority as someone very special, someone with a unique insight, realization, and revelation of the Absolute Truth. By the unimaginable good fortune of your intervention, we have come in contact with the transformative process of devotional service. We have been given the chance to become free from envy, anger, greed, madness, illusion, and lust.

On this special day of meditation on your sublime and unlimited exalted qualities, I pray that we may constantly live in awareness of the special mercy you bestowed upon mankind, on your pure devotional sentiments, on your keen intellectual insights, on your practical direction and guidance, on your ever-endearing humility, on your oceanic smile, on your witty sense of humor, on your unconditional love for

all beings, on your decisive sense of discrimination, on your astute dealings with worldly-minded people, on your intimate exchanges with disciples and well-wishers, and most of all on your pure and unalloyed love for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Kṛṣṇa.

May this remembrance become my constant meditation, and may I learn to act on a daily basis in the mood of gratitude, humility, and appreciation of all that you have given to us.

*Your servants at Hare Krishna School, Auckland, New Zealand.*

(written by Prāṇa Dāsa)

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## ISKCON Prison Ministry

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble respects.

I have always said that our ISKCON Prison Ministry preaching is easy. The reason it is easy is because your books are touchstones of love of Godhead and have a remarkable effect on incarcerated souls. But our preaching is a fight, too—to establish the culture of *sanātana-dharma* in our own way.

Some chaplains are helpful, others are not. We fight to get the nonviolent, alternative vegetarian tray for our Kṛṣṇa boys, and at one point the Federal Bureau of Prisons finally began to provide adequate vegetarian meals for inmates connected to the ISKCON Prison Ministry and others in all of their ninety-seven institutions, leaving a small army of government constitutional lawyers frustrated. But, Śrīla Prabhupāda, no one gave them more trouble than your incarcerated grandsons, our IPM Kṛṣṇa crew. We are all fighting for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to establish your mission in the world. We fight to get inmates *japa* beads, and it is a miracle that Śyāma-priyā Devī and Bhaktin Heather are so successful, since the beads, strung on nylon cord, could be seen as a weapon by prison officials. And even if *japa* beads are sometimes denied, the sincere and serious Kṛṣṇa *bhaktas* in jail find ingenious ways to count their mantras. They use stones or beans, paper or leaves to complete their sixteen rounds—and Kṛṣṇa is watching and hearing.

We fight to establish Hare Kṛṣṇa programs. The inmates are on the front lines of this battle, and IPM team members also go in to establish solid Kṛṣṇa conscious programs. We fight to maintain our book supply and requisite devotional paraphernalia for our fledgling devotees. And the postage! O, Govinda! We fight to recruit and co-ordinate IPM preachers worldwide. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we arrange things so each inmate can write several IPM teachers. In this way the inmates can have a varied and balanced perspective on Kṛṣṇa consciousness. By the mercy of Lord Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, we always fight to accurately present the Gauḍīya *siddhānta*. Our team of teacher/guides delineates the position of Śrī Gaurāṅga, Vedic cosmology, the origin of life, and Lord Kṛṣṇa as He describes Himself in the *Gītā*. We must fight all the hackneyed theories of “I am God.” And all varieties of impersonalism. Such concocted conceptions are easily defeated by the mercy of Lord Caitanya:

*śrī-caitanya-prabhurṁ vande bālo 'pi yad-anugrahāt  
taren nānā-mata-grāha- vyāptam siddhānta-sāgaram*

“I offer my obeisances to Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu, by whose mercy even an ignorant child can swim across the ocean of conclusions about the ultimate truth, which is full of the crocodiles of various theories.”

We fight to keep new *bhaktas* enlivened and enlightened despite their living in extremely difficult situations. Bhakta Jerry, a former inmate, fights to place your books in prison libraries all over the country, and we fight to spread IPM to other countries around the world so they can place books in their own prison libraries. Sometimes we fight to defeat bodily disease, emotional and mental upheaval, or periodic

family turmoil, and all the while we must maintain our solid *sādhana* and loving devotee relationships. But we are happy to enter this preaching combat for you. Didn't you fight for us?

All the troubles encountered in your service shall be the cause of great happiness, for in your devotional service joy and sorrow are equally great riches. Both destroy the misery of ignorance. [Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *Śaraṅāgati* 2.8.4]

I hate to call these things “troubles.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, please just tell us what to do. We will go to hell for you. Even in 2009 you continue to guide and counsel souls in jail with your *vāñī*. You bring peace to inmates and in this way bring peace to the greater society. The character of the inmates changes and their family's hearts are touched. Even prison guards are learning of Kṛṣṇa from you, and the process of Vaiṣṇava outreach increases the respect for your ISKCON. O Guru Mahārāja, you are the great king of our hearts.

Your transcendental influence is worldwide, in and outside of prisons, in wonderful festivals, your liberating books, the merciful Deities, *harināma*, and many other ISKCON projects of compassion. Others have tried to capitalize on your success by eating the remnants of your preaching. I shall not walk on your head to a “higher” guru. You are my everything—father, guru, protector. There is no other Bhakti-vedanta for me. My allegiance to your branch of the Caitanya tree shall not waver. Your order is my primary focus in life, and your books are worshipable for me. I have a lifetime of reading ahead of me. That will be the day I need “higher,” more esoteric stories of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. Everything is in your books—*ātma-tattva*, the summum bonum. *Rasa, ruci, bhāva*, the perfection of religion, Kṛṣṇa and the *gopīs, jñāna* and *vijñāna*. Kṛṣṇa manifests in your books. I am fallen and rotten and I need real spiritual shelter. You picked me up and gave me all protection so long ago. For me there is nothing beyond your books and *seva*. You are the sun of my life and pull my creeper of devotion toward you due to your nurturing affection. As your servant I should control my senses, eat meagerly, stay healthy, and live long to serve your mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it would take pages to tell you of all the wonderful ISKCON news over the last year. I will just tell you that IPM has its own programs developing in America, at Makati City Jail in the Philippines, in Gualior and Ludhiana in India. The Vṛnda Kuṇḍa prison preaching headed up by Dīna-bandhu Prabhu goes all over Uttar Pradesh—to Agra Central Jail, to Mathurā, where Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa appeared in jail, and to the Tihar Prison outside Delhi, where you taught Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the early sixties. At the Dasna Jail in Ghaziabad there is regular *kṛṣṇa-bhajana* and discussion of the *Bhagavad-gītā*. In Agra Jail Bhakta Chote Lal chants sixty-four rounds a day. There are other prison programs going on around India for ladies, juveniles, and men. For twenty years our ISKCON Prison Ministry Freedom Newsletter has been sent out and now goes to 552 active incarcerated devotees and 220 friends of our humble ministry on the outside, just in America.

We just received this letter from a fortunate inmate:

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.

What I desire the most in my heart is to serve the Lord. I spend most of my time doing my spiritual studies, contemplating, praying, and meditating. I humbly admit that there are some things that I struggle with, but I do have the faith that as I continue to devote my life to the Lord the things that I struggle with will gradually dissolve. I do understand the importance of having patience and determination—for these are the qualities that have helped me along the way. I already wrote a letter to the ISKCON Prison Ministry in Florida to let them know that I received the materials they sent me and also to express my gratitude for their priceless gift.

As far as sharing the teachings with others, I enjoy doing such things, but as you already know, most people in the western hemisphere have been conditioned to be skeptical in regards to other religions. It can be challenging at times, so I usually share this wisdom with those who are receptive. From personal experience, I have discovered that one of the best ways to share this sacred wisdom with others is by embodying the teachings within one's heart. When we apply these sacred teachings in our own life, we automatically inspire others to a higher way of living.

There are a few brothers here who are already in tune with ISKCON, and they have read some of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. We are in different housing units, so it is a little difficult for us to meet with one another, especially now that the weather is very cold outside. Yesterday I talked with one of the inmate Brothers briefly, and told him that I would like to meet with one of the other Brothers on the yard so that we can have spiritual discussions on the Kṛṣṇa Consciousness books that we are reading. So by the Grace of the Lord we will get the opportunity to share with one another.

As I've been reading the *Bhagavad Gita* I've noticed that on a number of areas it talks about following the Regulative Principles. I would like to receive some understanding in regards to these Regulative Principles and how to incorporate them into my life. My Brother, I would like to keep on growing in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, and I'm thankful to have you as a spiritual guide. I would like to stay in touch with you or any of the devotees from the ISKCON Community. It's a great blessing to be able to associate with great beings who are dedicating their lives in the service of the Supreme Lord. Most of the people in this place are in a deep state of darkness. There is so much negativity around me, and this is why it is so important for me to keep the company of great beings.

Your Servant,  
Julio Martinez  
Muskegon, Michigan

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the Lord's grace operating in the life of Bhakta Julio and ten million other jubilant souls in and out of jail across the planet. We are dancing for joy because you have brought Śrī Nāma-bhajana to the lost souls of the West and all others.

In this absolute endeavor, opposites reconcile. We are inmates of ISKCON, bound by your love, and yet serving your mission of compassion is our freedom. You freed us from hopelessness, fear, bewilderment, darkness, and isolation, and yet as long as one soul remains in the prison of delusion we are not free. We shall continue fighting for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Despite ourselves, you are taking us to the pastures of Vraja. How beautiful that place must be, how peaceful. I can almost hear the flute echoing within that primeval forest. Within the prison of Durgā the conditioned souls are bound by layers of chains and allurements, but who, being loved by you, is not free?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the greatest treasure of our lives. We will continue to fight for you. Take us to the next battlefield or back to Godhead as you like, but please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, take us to you.

*Your servant inmates of the ISKCON Prison Ministry.*

(written by Candraśekhara Dāsa)

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## ISKCON Resolve

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*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in your later instructions to us you suggested that we show our love for you by cooperating together. In your final pastime with us you churned our love in intimate reciprocation with us. Yet as a society we sometimes are part of the drama of Kali-yuga: conflict, quarrel, and mistrust. You explained that just as the hand and stomach are not independent and must work together for the sake of the body, similarly we must cooperate in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This is your unequivocal instruction, yet the “how” of cooperation is elusive. ISKCONResolve was formed to assist your society with the “how.”

There are many expected tensions in a religious society: hierarchy vs. equality, preservation of tradition vs. adaptation to the times, religiosity vs. spirituality, institutional necessities vs. individual needs, and the list goes on. Though these dichotomies are predictable, they can also be divisive and destructive. At ISKCONResolve we are dedicated to assisting your devotees in resolving their differences in ways that preserve the integrity of the society, the individuals, and, most importantly, your teachings. We understand that differences of thought are not only natural but necessary for a healthy, dynamic society. We are not nearly as adept as Your Divine Grace in maturely dealing with our various tensions. For example, Your Divine Grace brilliantly set up a framework to preserve tradition while dealing with time, place, and circumstance. Nevertheless, our society is often at loggerheads on issues of adaptation, with frequent cyberspace battles.

Under the sanction of the GBC, ISKCONResolve functions as the movement’s resource for confidential mediation and ombudsman services. Through the mechanism of *guhyaṁ ākhyāti pṛcchati*, our mediators assist devotees in developing understanding and trust and rising above the waves of the *yuga* for the sake of your service.

It is our experience that your devotees are by and large sincere, dedicated, and anxious to serve. With the help of a neutral empathic party, most disputes can be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the parties. This is not our boast; rather, it is our humble experience. It is not our mediators who have the ability to bring conflict to closure; rather, it is the devotees’ sincere desire to serve which we, as mediators, may catalyze.

In order for our service to be pleasing to you, we must ourselves resolve to be Kṛṣṇa conscious in all regards so that with genuine humility we may serve your dear devotees.

*Your servants at ISKCON Resolve.*

(written by Brahmātīrtha Dāsa)

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## The Krishna Center

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

This most auspicious day of your appearance is both inspiring and enthusing to me, not because of the opulent offerings of fruits, flowers, and foodstuffs, but because of the wonderful arrangements made which allow all of us to hear about you and thus feel your presence.

After obtaining your shelter as your disciple, I was perhaps in your physical presence for a total of five hours. This lack of association has at times been the cause of great lamentation, but in reality, by your perfect arrangement, our training was to hear from you at least two to three hours per day, and thus we felt happy and transcendently satisfied that we were indeed personally related to you through sound vibration.

I have over the years gained much appreciation of what is perhaps the greatest benediction of modern technology, that is, the opportunity to hear hundreds of hours of your recorded lectures, conversations,

and *bhajan*s. You said, “If you want to know me, read my books” and “I will live forever in my books,” so what to speak of your recorded voice! “To hear and explain them [*śāstras*] is more important than reading them. One can assimilate the knowledge of the revealed scriptures only by hearing and explaining.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.6)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I may not be able in this lifetime to be a “big devotee” in your movement. I’m not a manager, a wonderful *kīrtanīya*, or an erudite *brāhmaṇa*, like many of your disciples. But I know I am most happy when I can hear from you and encourage others to hear from you. You have nicely explained this enlivening science of hearing thus:

The transcendental vibration from the mouth of a pure devotee is so powerful that it can revive the living entity’s memory of his eternal relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In our material existence, under the influence of illusory *māyā*, we have almost forgotten our eternal relationship with the Lord, exactly like a man sleeping very deeply who forgets his duties. . . . The Lord asks every sleeping living entity to get up and engage in devotional service so that his mission in this human form of life may be fulfilled. This awakening voice comes through the mouth of a pure devotee. . . . A pure devotee always engages in the service of the Lord, taking shelter of His lotus feet, and therefore he has a direct connection with the saffron mercy-particles that are strewn over the lotus feet of the Lord. Although when a pure devotee speaks the articulation of his voice may resemble the sound of this material sky, the voice is spiritually very powerful because it touches the particles of saffron dust on the lotus feet of the Lord. As soon as a sleeping living entity hears the powerful voice emanating from the mouth of a pure devotee, he immediately remembers his eternal relationship with the Lord, although up until that moment he had forgotten everything. 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. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.25, purport]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as Pṛthu Mahārāja prayed in the verse to which the above excerpt forms part of the purport, “My dear Lord, I therefore do not need any other benediction but the opportunity to hear from the mouth of Your pure devotee.” So I would like to pray that you please eternally allow me to hear your transcendental voice, and please especially engage me in the service of connecting others to you through the same.

Please keep us, your disciples and followers at The Krishna Center, as your eternal students.

*Your servants at The Krishna Center, Urbana, Illinois, USA.*

(written by Pṛthuśrava Dāsa)

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## Māyāpur Institute for Higher Education and Training

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances on this most auspicious day of your appearance celebration. All glories to you, who have saved your followers from the hellish conditions of Kali-yuga and given them the greatest and most incredible gift of *bhakti*.

In the Introduction to *The Nectar of Devotion* you write:

The author of *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu*, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, very humbly submits that he is just trying to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, although he humbly thinks himself unfit for this work. That should be the attitude of all preachers of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, following in the footsteps of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī. We should never think of ourselves as great preachers, but should always consider that we are simply instrumental to the previous *ācāryas*, and simply by following in their footsteps we may be able to do something for the benefit of suffering humanity.”

Our team of Māyāpur Institute educators very much identify with the mood you have expressed here in paraphrasing Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī. We are a small team with limited competencies and resources, and the challenges we have faced in trying to establish systematic śāstric training have seemed crushing at times. Every year we have scores of devotees from many different cultures, with different first languages and multiple levels of spiritual advancement, coming to us for guidance and inspiration in studying your books. It is as if a tsunami of ecstasy crashes on our heads at the end of Kārtika every year, when our high season begins, sometimes knocking us over and sending us tumbling over and over in overwhelming currents of purification. We never seem to have enough funding or human resources, but somehow, Śrīla Prabhupāda, what happens in our classrooms is incredible. Our students go through life-transforming experiences that move them to the very core of their hearts.

Why are our students’ experiences so intense?

Our teachers, your senior followers, guide them in accessing your personal ecstasies, the Bhaktivedanta Purports. Our students then begin to experience transcendental tastes they never dreamed possible and begin to realize the depth of your compassion and the depth of what you have given us. You fill our students’ hearts with an intense desire to become strong devotees and strong servants of your mission. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are so potent!

You always made it clear that your biggest contribution is your books. You have continuously reconfirmed this position and demonstrated tremendous *śakti* in reciprocating with your book distributors by showering them with bliss as they endeavor with heart and soul out on *saṅkīrtana*. What amazes us is that the same reciprocation you bestowed upon us abundantly when we distributed your books you bestow upon us now as we endeavor to “boil the milk” by facilitating devotees’ study of your books.

Please give us the strength to withstand Māyā’s tests and the determination to fulfill your desire for a Kṛṣṇa conscious university in Māyāpur.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all that you have given and continue to give us.

*Your humble servants at the Māyāpur Institute.*

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## Māyāpur Media

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My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances thrown repeatedly in the dust at your lotus feet.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn 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 sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe  
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-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.”

O great master, O supreme servitor of Godhead, on this day, the most auspicious anniversary of your appearance in this world, please accept my humble attempt to glorify Your Divine Grace.

What you have done to benefit the planet is truly unfathomable. If it were not for you, the world would be entirely without hope. In the present dark Age of Kali, there is no guiding light except the pure devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa, the *bhāgavatas*. Among the other *bhāgavatas* in the universe, you are the one under whose lotus feet they all seek shelter. Among all those greatly elevated *ācāryas*, you are considered a great king. What you have done, namely, set in motion a movement for the spiritual revitalization of mankind, a movement that will last for ten thousand years of this age, is nothing short of one of the great milestones in billions of years of Vedic history.

As for us, if it weren't for you we wouldn't even know who Kṛṣṇa is, or what a pure devotee is, or what devotional service is. We wouldn't know what the *Vedas* are or what Vedic knowledge is. As it stands, we wouldn't know much of anything of value if it weren't for you.

We wouldn't have the *Bhagavad-gītā* or *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* or *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* or any of the other Vedic literatures you translated and commented upon. They form an immense treasure house of knowledge, both material and spiritual, and they are destined to become the law books of mankind for the next ten thousand years. Without these books the world wouldn't even have a viable standard for understanding the reality we live in.

It is only because of you, and no one else, that we know what is what. You are the only one who told us the truth. Nobody else before you ever told us the truth. What could be more profound than that?

If it weren't for you, the message of your own divine master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī, and all the *ācāryas* before him would not have been brought to the world outside India. Certainly no one in the Western countries would have known about it.

If it weren't for you, we wouldn't know that Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, nor would we know the mercy of the Pañca-tattva. And let us not forget that it was you alone who brought us the unlimited mercy of Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu.

It is only because of you that we have an international society of devotees who are our real family, and without which we are bereft and lost in the world.

If it weren't for you we would have no systematic, regular organization for the worldwide propagation of the *saṅkīrtana* movement of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

If it weren't for you, we wouldn't have ISKCON and the association of real, pure devotees. In other words, if it weren't for you we would still be rotting away in material existence without any hope of deliverance.

You are the only one who did all these things on behalf of Lord Kṛṣṇa and the *ācāryas*. Nobody else before you ever did what you did—preaching to the *mlecchas* in their own Western countries and converting their children to the course of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. What could be more mystical or revolutionary than that?

O Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us that we may become fit instruments in your hands to take this most precious, rare gift of pure devotional service to Their Lordships Rādhā and Mādhava to all the countless living entities in the modern, demoniac culture who, ignorant of their own welfare, are on the path straight to hell.

Please be kind to us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and bless us that we may become steady, pure devotees in this lifetime. That is all we ask from you on this most auspicious day of your divine Vyāsa-pūjā.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for everything you so laboriously prepared a whole lifetime to give us. Again and again, from all directions, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please make us your worthy followers life after life. We have no other desire than that.

*Your eternal servants at Māyāpur Media.*

(written by Jahnudvīpa Dāsa)

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# Padayātrā India

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet on the occasion of your 113th appearance anniversary. All glories to you, our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda!

This year is the 50th anniversary of your taking *sannyāsa*. You are the quintessential *sannyāsī*, for you completely dedicated your body, mind, and words to helping suffering humanity come back to Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet. You personified the great souls' selfless preaching mood described in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (3.5.3):

*janasya kṛṣṇād vimukhasya daivād  
adharmā-śīlasya suduḥkhitasya  
anugrahāyeha caranti nūnaṁ  
bhūtāni bhavyāni janārdanasya*

“O my lord, great philanthropic souls travel on the earth on behalf of the Supreme Personality of Godhead to show compassion to the fallen souls who are averse to the sense of subordination to the Lord.”

As a *sannyāsī*, you traveled far and wide, fourteen times around the world. Of course, as a jet-age *parivrājakācārya* you traveled by using modern means. Utility is the principle, you taught us. The mercy you showered on the world during your whirlwind twelve-year traveling and preaching tour is unparalleled,

You also asked us, your followers, to do “down to earth” traveling on foot via *padayātrā*. Indeed, traveling on foot was the means adopted by Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu for preaching. Thus Lord Gaurāṅga, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is the original *padayātrī*. This year is also the 500th anniversary of His taking *sannyāsa*. For six years after taking *sannyāsa*, He traveled extensively, distributing love of Godhead.

He appealed to one and all to join him in distributing the fruits of love of Godhead:

*ekalā mālākāra āmi kāhān kāhān yāba  
ekalā vā kata phala pādīyā vilāba*

“I am the only gardener. How many places can I go? How many fruits can I pick and distribute?” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā* 9.34)

Our humble attempts at *padayātrā* preaching are thus in pursuance of your instructions, following in yours and Lord Caitanya's footsteps. We would like to dedicate 25 years of our *padayātrā* in India as our offering on the occasion of the 113th anniversary of your divine appearance in this world. We started the *padayātrā* on Rādhāṣṭamī, September 2, 1984, embarking from Dvārakā and arriving in Māyāpur to commemorate the 500th birth anniversary of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. The grand success of this 8,000 km *Padayātrā* inspired, nay compelled, us to go beyond Māyāpur, which we had originally planned to be our final destination. Since then, dedicated and determined devotees have persistently stayed on Indian roads, visiting thousands of towns and villages with the Deities of Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurasundara presiding over an ox-cart accompanied by the devotees chanting the holy names, distributing your books, holding festivals practically every night, earning good coverage in the media, and gaining good will from the public.

Now it's time to celebrate this occasion of the completion of the first twenty-five years on the road. And these are just the foundational years of *padayātrā*. We would like to use this as a springboard for *padayātrās* into the future, for hundreds and thousands of years to come, till the Śrī Gaurāṅga's holy name reaches every town and village.

*Padayātrās* are gradually being introduced in countries around the world. This summer, *padayātrās* are planned in Poland and Denmark. Besides the main *padayātrā* party in India, there are several other occasional *padayātrās* being conducted here.

As mentioned earlier, this year marks the 50th anniversary of your *sannyāsa* initiation and the 500th anniversary of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s *sannyāsa* initiation. A *sannyāsī* is one who travels far and wide for the benefit of others. So, we would appeal to your followers, the followers of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, to follow in your and His footsteps and organize more *padayātrās*. Let’s expand the network for distribution of the gift of the holy name, which Lord Caitanya brought from the spiritual sky—*golokera prema golokera prema-dhana, hari-nāma-saṅkīrtana*. By organizing more *padayātrās*, devotees would wonderfully celebrate the 500th *sannyāsa* anniversary of Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the 50th anniversary of your *sannyāsa*, and the 25th anniversary of Padayātrā India.

*Your servants at Padayātrā India.*

(written by Lokanāth Swami)

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## Padayātrā Worldwide

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet on the occasion of your 113th appearance anniversary. All glories to you, our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda!

I came across an article in a health journal entitled “Walk and Stay Healthy . . . Physically and Mentally.” An excerpt:

Walking is one of the simplest and best ways to maintain good health and increase one’s duration of life. It is also an easy exercise. The increase in automobiles in today’s world has drastically reduced the average time people spend walking. As a result, man is being tormented by many physical and mental diseases. For maintaining good health, there seems to be no other alternative than to walk.

In the US there are a thousand cars for every thousand adults. In Germany it’s 550 cars for every thousand adults.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have long ago shown this fallacy of modern civilization:

What is this nonsense life—big, big cities and always people busy? If he wants to see one friend, he has to go thirty miles. If he has to see a physician, he has to go fifty miles. If he has to go to work, another hundred miles. So what is this life? This is not life. Be satisfied. The devotee’s life should be *yāvad artha-prayojanam*. We require material necessities as much as it is required, no artificial life. That is spiritual life. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* class, New Orleans farm, August 1975)

The article continued:

By walking, not only do we get the benefit of doing exercise, but also our mind remains peaceful. By seeing natural beauty, our eyes become joyful, our muscles are rejuvenated, and our enthusiasm is increased. Walking boosts our thought process, as a person starts contemplating while walking. His brain becomes more active and he gets more oxygen, causing him to become alert and enthusiastic. Walking removes all our mental stress and makes us joyful. Walking is very helpful for patients suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes. . . . One’s digestive system remains strong and one’s body attains equilibrium. Walking is the best exercise to reduce weight; it triggers positive thoughts.

This article emphasized the physical and mental health benefits of walking. But if walking is done for

a spiritual purpose, as in *padayātrās*, then it benefits the soul along with the body and mind.  
Today people are too lazy to walk, but the result is that they are always disturbed:

*prāyeṇālpāyusaḥ sabhya kalāv asmin yuge janāḥ  
mandāḥ sumanda-matayo manda-bhāgyā hy upadrutāḥ*

“O learned one, in this iron Age of Kali men have but short lives. They are quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky, and, above all, always disturbed.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.10)

People often say, “We have no time for Kṛṣṇa or for chanting.” But if they would just take an easy-to-do *japa* walk, they would, in one stroke, benefit their body, mind, and soul.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you also mentioned how your daily morning walks and massage extended your life by ten years. Of course, you spiced your walks with Kṛṣṇa conscious talks.

Sometime ago I read an advertisement which said, “Char Dham Air Yatra.” It was an advertisement for a pilgrimage to Jagannātha Purī, Rameshwaram, Dvārakā, and Badrinath by air. Once upon a time people used to walk on foot to these places of pilgrimage. I remember my father, along with group of villagers, walking 100 km to Pandharpur and back.

However, your *padayātrīs* have, in your service, gone on pilgrimage to these four holy *dhāmas* on foot five times, making five rounds of the continent, over the past twenty-five years with devotees from all over the world. The *padayātrā* party’s health bills, as compared to temple devotees in ISKCON, have been very, very low. So probably we could say, “Walk with Padayātrā and Stay Healthy—Physically, Mentally, and Spiritually.”

*Your humble servants at Padayātrā Worldwide.*

(written by Gaura Kṛṣṇa Dāsa)

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## Prabhupāda Manor

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*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious day, please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Looking back in history, we see a plethora of change, whether it’s fashion, friends, “science,” technology, etc. This material world plays upon our desires for change and novelty, making sense gratification easily accessible. We are looking for shortcuts in our endeavors for sense gratification due to our laziness. If someone is hungry, he can make a phone call and a pizza will be on his doorstep within a half hour. I heard you laugh on a morning walk when a devotee told you about people being so lazy that they designed an electric toothbrush so they wouldn’t have to manually brush their teeth.

Technology has been the hope for many people to escape the suffering of this material world and ease the struggle for existence. Śrīla Prabhupāda, the one thing that comes to mind that proves your authenticity is that you were never lazy; you never compromised your values or changed anything. You knew this process was already perfect, and you delivered it as it was handed to you. If something isn’t broken, why fix it? You said the disease of us Westerners was that we always wanted to change things. We appreciate your conviction that the simple process you gave us—chanting, dancing, honoring

*kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, partaking of devotee association, reading your books, etc.—was all we needed. If even the laziest person wants real relief from suffering, then he can participate in the process you gave us. Who can't eat *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*? Who can't sing the holy name? Who can't associate with devotees and hear *kṛṣṇa-kathā*? As we see society as a whole trying to escape the threefold miseries, we gratefully thank you for opening our darkened eyes with the torchlight of knowledge. As technology constantly changes and continues to promise us a better tomorrow, please bless us so we will use it only in the Lord's service, under the guidance of Your Divine Grace. We love you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

*Your eternal servants at Prabhupāda Manor, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.*

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## Prabhupāda Village

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrate obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. And please accept these thoughts of appreciation on your holy appearance day, so that we may draw ever closer to your association and service.

To nurture a mood of loving cooperation in your society, we find it helpful to reflect upon our good fortune to be in the company of those extraordinary souls whom you have accepted as your disciples. It is not the result of past piety that has brought us to you, to each other, and to devotional service. As you said, you created our good fortune. Today, on your appearance day, let us reflect on the rarity of the association of your disciples, which is but one of your many gifts.

In a simple clod of earth there are tens of thousands of living beings—bacteria and many other varieties of invertebrate life. Within the air also, and within the seas, and even within fire there exist millions of species of nonhuman life forms spread throughout the universe. Human beings are in the minority. And among the few souls who have achieved a human body, only a portion can be called civilized. Among the civilized section of human beings, only a few acknowledge a relationship with God or accept a system of religion. And those who count themselves among the believers are for the most part heavily influenced by the lower modes, passion and ignorance, and have no connection with Vedic knowledge. The followers of the Vedic tradition can be further categorized as *brahmavādīs*, *yogīs*, *karmīs*, *jñānīs*, those devoted to worshiping various demigods, and Vaiṣṇavas. A Vaiṣṇava is indeed a rare soul. And even among the Vaiṣṇavas there are many sects and sub-sects. The followers of Śrī Madhvācārya and Śrī Rāmānujācārya devotedly worship Lord Viṣṇu, considering Him the original personality of Godhead. Others devote themselves to other *avatāras* of the Lord. All are surely fortunate to have reached that stage of spiritual evolution and are destined to reach the respective abodes of the object of their worship.

The most fortunate Vaiṣṇavas, however, are the devotees of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, as they are destined for Goloka *dhāma*, the most personal, intimate residence of the Lord. Śrīla Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura sings, *gaurāṅgera duṭi pāda, yāra dhana sampāda, sei jāne bhakati-rasa-sāra*: “One who has accepted the two lotus feet of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu as the topmost treasure of life can understand the true essence of devotional service.” When commenting on this beautiful *bhajana*, you said, “Devotional service is very difficult. It cannot be understood by an ordinary man.” Yet one who takes shelter of Lord Caitanya and follows in His footsteps can understand the essence of devotional service. There is no greater achievement for a human being. The value of the process of devotional service offered by Lord Caitanya can't be measured except by the result it will bring. We therefore offer our respectful *praṇāmas* to those uncommon souls who are worshipers of Mahāprabhu and distributors of His mercy.

And yet, there is another exceptional category, the most blessed thing that can come to any soul's life. And that is to be associated with the rarest personality, a *nitya-siddha* devotee like you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who descended from Goloka just to break our rebellious attitude and relocate us there in our original service position. Even without our asking for it, and without our deserving it, and in spite of our having lived lives of spiritual darkness, somehow or other, showing the world the meaning of

“causeless mercy,” you accepted us as your disciples. This is the glorious culmination of millions of births and deaths in the material world. We feel that there is no greater gain, no greater achievement, and no greater blessing obtainable than to be accepted as your disciples, your followers, and your eternal servants. Please bestow upon us the vision to see each other in this way also, as the most fortunate souls in the universe, so that we may learn to be accommodating, respectful, and cooperative in our dealings with each other. In this way you may become pleased with us, and one day your glories may be spread all over the three worlds.

*Your servants at Prabhupāda Village, Sandy Ridge, North Carolina, USA.*

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# Radio Krishna Centrale

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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-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Most dear and beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our prostrated and respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Grace, whose transcendental voice, resounding forth from your transcendental books, your recordings, and the mouths of your chaste and faithful disciples, is awakening the sleeping souls from their māyic slumber and bringing them back home, back to Godhead, into the pure devotional service of the Supreme Lord Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi.

*Jiva Jāgo!*

The Lord asks every sleeping living entity to get up and engage in devotional service so that his mission in this human form of life may be fulfilled. This awakening voice comes through the mouth of a pure devotee.

A pure devotee always engages in the service of the Lord, taking shelter of His lotus feet, and therefore he has a direct connection with the saffron mercy-particles that are strewn over the lotus feet of the Lord. Although when a pure devotee speaks the articulation of his voice may resemble the sound of this material sky, the voice is spiritually very powerful because it touches the particles of saffron dust on the lotus feet of the Lord. As soon as a sleeping living entity hears the powerful voice emanating from the mouth of a pure devotee, he immediately remembers his eternal relationship with the Lord, although up until that moment he had forgotten everything.

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. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.20.25 purport]

The Lord calls, “Wake up, sleeping soul!  
Devotion makes your life sublime.  
Don’t waste your given span of time,  
To fall again in this dark hole.

Endowed with precious human form,  
Get up and your mission fulfill:

Swiftly surrender to My will,  
Shelter from this material storm.”

Please let not one of us forget  
That this loud voice is coming through  
The mouth of one whose love is true  
And whose devotion is perfect.

Carrying with it the saffron dust  
Strewn over Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet,  
This sound, transcendently sweet,  
Transforms and sublimates our lust.

Dear Prabhupāda, master and friend,  
Sometimes your absence from our view  
Makes us your message misconstrue,  
With our opinions to defend.

Your mighty books are casting light.  
We must be careful not to shade  
Your purports with some masquerade,  
Thus leading souls into the night.

If only you would come again  
At times like these, within this world,  
With your conclusive words unfurled,  
We'd not hear arguing in vain

About new things to fabricate  
Or about something else to teach,

But only your method to preach,  
Curbing the urge to speculate.

It's mandatory to hear from you  
For souls to awake from māyic slumber,  
To increase the pure devotees number  
And take home more than just a few.

We fallen souls miss your embrace,  
Your sweet smile and your divine touch.  
Please let me, free from Māyā's clutch,  
Never forget Your Divine Grace.

Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, *mahā-patita-pāvana*,  
allow us to remain fixed firmly to your divine lotus  
feet and never let us go astray.

*Your menial servants at Radio Krishna Centrale,  
Terni and Pisa, Ital.*

(written by Tridaṇḍi Dāsa)

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## Śaraṇāgati Village

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

The sixth part of your seven-part statement of the purposes for ISKCON is: "To bring the members closer together for the purpose of teaching a simpler and more natural way of life."

Śrīla Prabhupāda, here in Śaraṇāgati Village we've built our own houses and piped in mountain-stream water for our homes and fields, and are creating our own electricity and growing fruits and vegetables. As you desired, we're living a simpler and more natural way of life.

There's a long, flat road that winds through our valley where you would enjoy taking your morning walks. Young, enthusiastic devotees reside here who love to sing the *mahā-mantra*, put on Kṛṣṇa conscious plays, and dance in the Bhārata Nāṭyam style for your pleasure. And senior devotees who are serious and sincere, who are great company, and who have not floundered in their dedication to you have made Śaraṇāgati their home.

Our Śaraṇāgati summers bristle with activity: Ratha-yātrās, weddings, *japa* retreats, busloads of guests, morning and evening programs at Śrī Śrī Rādhā Banabihārī Mandira with Dinatārine and Yamunā Prabhus, and Vaiṣṇava festivals and Sunday feasts at Śrī Śrī Gaura Nitāi Mandira with Kulaśekara Prabhu.

As the days shorten and become cooler, Śaraṇāgati's rhythm slows: the children go to school (right here in the valley with a devotee teacher), adults eke out a living, and everyone braces for what the climate

sends. Winters can be austere (outsiders are afraid of our winters), but that austerity strengthens us, bonds us, and makes us grateful for the quintessential blessings of devotee company, devotional service, and the chanting of the holy names of Kṛṣṇa.

The powerful mountains that flank us on the east and west are the protective arms of the Lord, the evergreen trees that cover those mountains the hairs of His body, the sun and moon in the huge sky overhead His eyes, the many birds His artistic sense. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have settled in this pristine remote spot only for you. As you preached with your life, in our humble way, a way authorized by you, we want to preach with our lives. Our mission is your mission: to live and teach a simpler and more natural way of life.

You write, “When one becomes serious to follow the mission of the spiritual master, his resolution is tantamount to seeing the Supreme Personality of Godhead.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.28.51, purport) If we are serious to follow your mission, Śrīla Prabhupāda, then perhaps that resolution will also allow us to see you. In the words of Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, *boshechi saṅgera āśe*: we have sat down here hoping to have your company. There is nothing greater we can hope for.

*Your servants at Śaraṅāgati Village, Ashcroft, British Columbia, Canada.*

(written by Viśākhā Dāsī)

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## Śrī Śrī Gaura-Chandra Ashram

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

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

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet, which are full of mercy. We don't have any words to describe your glories. Although we can't get your association physically, we know your glories from your books, which you have mercifully bestowed upon us. We have never seen a person as pure as you. By the causeless mercy of your lotus feet, you saved human civilization in this Age of Kali.

All glories, all glories to your lotus feet, which give all shelter to the fallen souls!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, empowered by Caitanya Mahāprabhu, you went to the West and spread the nectar of pure love of God to the fallen souls. You did that to satisfy your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and to fulfill the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. By your *bhakti* you enlightened the fallen souls and gave us the matchless gift, *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*.

All glories, all glories to your lotus feet, which give all shelter to the fallen souls!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you saved our lives. You gave your causeless mercy to us in the form of your books and your disciples, who try with all their energy to continue your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, from the big cities to the small villages. By your causeless mercy we are able to take part in this *saṅkīrtana* movement, the life and soul of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

All glories, all glories to your lotus feet, which give all shelter to the fallen souls!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in a short time you spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world, fulfilling the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and satisfying your spiritual master. All over the world you established dozens of temples and Vaiṣṇava villages, where fallen souls like us can take shelter and begin our spiritual lives.

All glories, all glories to your lotus feet, which give all shelter to the fallen souls!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it is a great inspiration for us to know that you never gave up striving to fulfill your spiritual master's order. You are like a *cintāmaṇi* gem, which can change anything it touches into gold, because you changed even *mlecchas* and *caṇḍālas* into devotees of Kṛṣṇa, and you can even change them into pure devotees.

All glories, all glories to your lotus feet, which give all shelter to the fallen souls!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, by your causeless mercy, in this Age of Kali, when human civilization is getting worse very rapidly, we have been given the chance to take part in this *saṅkīrtana* movement and feel the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. This is all because of your kindness, Śrīla Prabhupāda. And to help us continue our *bhakti*, you have given us many facilities—temples and *āśramas*, where we can get the association of other devotees, and your many books, through which we can get the association of you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Many scholars and scientists glorify your purity after reading your books.

All glories, all glories to your lotus feet, which give all shelter to the fallen souls!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, because of your mercy the devotees in Bumi Gora (Lombok, Indonesia) have been able to establish a very simple temple, a place where the devotees in this small city can come together and associate. And it is also by your mercy that we were able to hold a Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā festival in the city. But we know our efforts are minuscule compared with what you have done, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please always give your mercy to us, so we can always remain on this path of *bhakti* and distribute your matchless gifts, your books. Those who read them will then taste the nectar of devotional service to Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

All glories, all glories to your lotus feet, which give all shelter to the fallen souls!

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda-*kī jaya!*

*Your servants at Śrī Śrī Gaura-Chandra Ashram, Bumi Gora, Lombok, Indonesia.*

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## The Ultimate Self-Realization Course

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories unto you!

On the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of your divine appearance, I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude unto you. You changed my life by making it meaningful and happy. I can't think of any better benefit one could get in one's lifetime, and therefore I bow to your lotus feet and beg for your never-ending mercy so I may continue to serve your mission somehow or other.

In the modern world there are so many elaborate systems to assess and compare the achievements in almost every field. There are the Grammy Awards for outstanding achievements in the music industry, the Oscars to recognize excellence in the film industry, the Pulitzer Prize for literary achievements, Olympic medals for distinguished athletes, and the Nobel Prize, which is widely regarded as the most prestigious award one can receive in science. People believe that nowadays they can understand the greatness of any personality or any achievement just by knowing the number of these awards, prizes, or medals.

Can one apply this approach to understanding your greatness and your achievements, Śrīla Prabhupāda? No, one can not. Then how can one spread your glories in an understandable way? My approach

is very simple. Actually, it is not even an approach. It is just one sentence I repeat again and again: Śrīla Prabhupāda changed my life by making it meaningful and happy. None of the movies that have won an Oscar was able to depict the life I would be willing to live. None of the books awarded with the Pulitzer Prize was able to answer my questions. None of the Olympic gold medalists was able to inspire me with his or her character. And none of the Nobel Prize winners has ever proved to know the Absolute Truth.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, your life is more exciting and inspiring than all the Oscar movies put together. Your books have answered all my questions. By your determination, resolution, and willpower you have outperformed and left behind all the Olympians. And above all, by your life and works you have proven that you know the Absolute Truth.

They say that the proof of the pudding is in the tasting. By your causeless mercy and that of your dear disciple His Grace Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa Adhikārī, my spiritual master, I was given a chance to taste the nectarean pudding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and I can testify as loudly as I can, Yes, it is sweeter than anything I have tried before. Yes, it is making my life more and more meaningful and happy at every minute.

But what should one do when one gets such a wonderful life? You answer this question in the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*:

No one can be truly happy within the material world. Śrīla Nārada Muni, in order to enlighten the miserable inhabitants, wanders everywhere. His mission is to get them back home, back to Godhead. That is the mission of all genuine devotees of the Lord following the footsteps of that great sage. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.6.38, purport]

What a challenge! This must be the supreme mission, offering the supreme adventure, the supreme excitement, the supreme thrill, the supreme joy, and the supreme happiness.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us and give us the sincerity and intelligence to keep going in our spiritual duties so that one day, by becoming genuine devotees of Kṛṣṇa following in your footsteps, we can experience the nectar of your mission fully.

*Your servants at The Ultimate Self-Realization Course.*

(written by Guru Dāsa)

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## Vaiṣṇavas C.A.R.E.

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*nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale  
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn̄ iti nāmīne*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this, your auspicious appearance day, we prostrate ourselves at your lotus feet and beg to remain always in their shelter.

Gurudeva, how is it that we feel your presence so strongly yet miss you so terribly? We feel your loving guidance in our service and even perceive your beautiful smile when we accomplish our devotional goals. Still, there are times when we feel a hole in our hearts, a deep sadness, feeling your absence from this world.

With the passing of time we realize more and more the sacrifices you made for us and the gifts you left us. You are *para-duḥkha-duḥkhī*. You felt our suffering and changed the course of our lives, guiding us, prodding us, awakening our souls and inspiring us to remember and serve our eternal Lords, Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

You often warned of impending death, the unavoidable fate of all embodied beings. Death is a fearful topic for nondevotees. Some even believe that speaking of death invites death. People cling to life at all costs, regardless of how miserable. Today in the US, we see many cement buildings built just for the purpose of housing end-of-life patients on ventilators. These ventilators artificially prolong the amount of time one can remain in the body. Patients are given drugs to paralyze their throats and narcotics to withstand this procedure. Fifty percent of all Medicare money in the US is spent on such abominable end-of-life treatments.

But for one who follows your instructions, death is a peaceful transition to Kṛṣṇa's eternal abode. Kṛṣṇa says in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (8.5):

*anta-kāle ca mām eva smaran muktvā kalevaram  
yaḥ prayāti sa mad-bhāvaṁ yāti nāsty atra saṁśayaḥ*

“And whoever, at the end of his life, quits his body remembering Me alone at once attains My nature. Of this there is no doubt.”

In a humble attempt to follow your example of limitless compassion, for the past seven years Vaiṣṇavas C.A.R.E (Counseling, Assistance, Resources, and Education) has been assisting Vaiṣṇavas and their loved ones by offering financial, emotional, and spiritual support during times of terminal illness. By your grace, this service to the Vaiṣṇavas has brought us many realizations about the process of death for devotees. We have witnessed happiness and tranquility permeating the devotees at the time of their departure from this world, and felt your hand reaching for them.

Our website ([www.vaisnavascare.com](http://www.vaisnavascare.com)) contains health tips, devotional articles, and lessons about hospice care. This year devotees from Eastern and Western Europe, Australia, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, Malaysia, the United States, and India have taken the Vaiṣṇavas C.A.R.E. Distance Learning Course to learn the basics of end-of-life care. Many of these devotees have written letters expressing their desire to provide end-of-life support to devotees in their communities. The website also provides information on how to become a V.C.A.R.E. volunteer. Devotees from around the world have volunteered to become “Prayer Partners,” writing prayers to help support those in need.

We also conduct V.C.A.R.E. seminars to provide basic information about compassionate end-of-life care. These seminars encourage devotees to form V.C.A.R.E. teams in their temples and communities. We are receiving letters from devotees of all ages who want to form V.C.A.R.E. teams. This past year, teams were formed in Philadelphia and Houston, and one is starting in Mauritius. These teams offer emotional and spiritual support for terminally ill devotees and their family members. If needed, V.C.A.R.E. can walk a family through the process of finding and registering with a licensed hospice agency, which provides visiting nurses, nursing assistants, and a hospice doctor. As desired by the patient, the teams organize regular *bhajans*, read to the patient, chant with them, and bring *prasādam*, garlands, etc. The teams provide the Kṛṣṇa conscious aspect of hospice care.

Our teams are not limited to care for the terminally ill; they also reach out to hospitalized or incapacitated devotees by calling, visiting, sending get-well cards or flowers, bringing *prasādam*, providing child care, etc. In this way, the devotees feel loved and cared for during what may be a very difficult time. One team reported that, aside from the satisfaction they are feeling from serving the devotees in this way, they are experiencing a greater sense of unity and love within their community.

It is our heartfelt desire to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by serving the Vaiṣṇavas as they prepare to leave their bodies. We strive to ensure that each and every devotee has the association of other Vaiṣṇavas at the time of his or her “final examination.” In this endeavor we pray to become the instruments of your compassion.

*Your eternal servants at Vaiṣṇavas C.A.R.E.*

(written by Jagariṇī Devī Dāsī)

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# Vṛndāvana Institute of Higher Education

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Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your Bhaktivedanta purports!

When I was a teenager, I came to hear that besides the Bible there were some other scriptures known as the *Vedas*. The word *veda* attracted my mind. I wished I could one day read the *Vedas*. Later, as I learnt the basics of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Athens, Greece, I developed a strong liking for the song devotees sang during *guru-pūjā*. I especially liked the line *vede gāya jahāra carito*. In all the *Vedas*, the glories of the spiritual master are sung; one who serves him will have a change of heart and be blessed to resume the awareness of his spiritual identity, beyond dualities. To have faith in you and in those who follow you is the essential ingredient that propels an ISKCON member forward toward the transcendental goal of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet, and sustains the determination required daily to overcome obstacles on the way.

*Nigama kalpa-taru*—the aggregate of Vedic literature is a desire tree, and so are your books. According to one's nature, one's level of spiritual awakening, and the order of the guru, one will be attracted and receptive to particular types of instructions, which in turn will mold one's thoughts and life. Just as Kṛṣṇa displays a broad variety of pastimes to attract people of all kinds and tastes, your books similarly offer all types of people an array of Kṛṣṇa conscious propositions for living in this world while developing *kṛṣṇa-bhakti*. Varied we stand, your followers, united at your feet. All together we form your International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

That we remain within the circle of ISKCON devotees and work together is your desire. But this does take a deep realization of what we are here together for. Without that insight, schism and defection are waiting at the door. In *Śrī Īsopaniṣad* you describe the essence of oneness to be that of interest. The cultivation of the inner understanding of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not an option. It is the means by which we can cooperate. The need for space for all to exist is also not an option. It is the necessary frame within which we can accommodate all angles of vision and respect each other.

Everything evolves from sound. Your Society, with its multi-faceted aspects and projects, is manifesting from your instructions. The publication, distribution, and daily study of your books build temples in cities and villages, and in our hearts. As we study your books and let the transcendental sound permeate our consciousness, we become instruments for you to manifest the variety that will allow us to remain united. Our aspiration is to become effective tools to make your Bhaktivedanta purports vibrate and enter the hearts of your followers.

Today I am writing to you from Surat, Gujarat, where we have just started yet another batch of Bhakti-śāstrī studies. Forty devotees are attending daily, relishing the meaning of *Śrī Īsopaniṣad* and other books. Each time it is the same experience—they come in a little tense, curious, sometimes confused, yet eager, but unaware of the actual wonderful transformations that hearing your books will bring. And in the end, they look like sunflowers in the morning, full of hope and renewal, ready to serve, together, in their various capacities. We beg for your blessings and inspiration to continue hearing your message and become further instrumental in spreading the systematic teaching of your books. Kindly give us the intelligence, strength, and purity to develop the second level of the śāstric courses, Bhakti-vaibhava, so the light of the *Bhāgavata* may enlighten our hearts—teachers' and students'. We plan to resume and further expand the course in 2010 in Vṛndāvana.

With deep gratitude and a request for your kindness upon our heads,

*Your servants at the Vṛndāvana Institute of Higher Education.*

(written by Praśāntā Dāsī)